

RIVER EAST

## News Bulletin

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

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**Longtime Coach Honored...** Colchester resident Dave Zettervall, who passed away in 2010, was posthumously inducted into the Connecticut Girls' Soccer Coaches Association Hall of Fame last weekend. His sons, Eric Zettervall and Sean Zettervall, were presented with their father's Hall of Fame plaque at a ceremony at the Aqua Turf in Plantsville. See a full story on page 13.

## Portland Looks Towards River Access

By Anne Lilburn

More than 30 years after local officials first started talking about it, and about eight years after the idea was revived, Portland will finally be making public access to the Connecticut River a reality.

Portland contains roughly nine miles of riverfront property, more than any other town in the state, but the vast majority of that land is privately owned. With this new riverfront access project, which is already under construction and is slated to open sometime in late spring, Portland residents will have a public boat launch, suitable for launching small, non-motorized boats, such as canoes or kayaks.

The site, which is called River Bend Landing, is located towards the end of Airline Road, near the Tilcon property, and the eventual plan calls for not just a boat launch, but a park area, with picnic tables, walking paths and native plants to attract wildlife back to the area.

For former Portland selectmen and Riverfront Access Committee co-chairs Rick Sharr and Louis Pear, seeing the project finally come to light is gratifying. Both men have lived in

the town for roughly 50 years and both are outdoorsmen and kayakers who have spent a lot of time on the river. They started working on this project under former first selectwoman Susan Bransfield, and are now continuing it under current First Selectman Mike Pelton. Both Sharr, a Republican, and Pear, a Democrat, emphasized that the project, like many others in town, was a bipartisan effort where everyone worked together to achieve a goal that is now finally coming to fruition.

"I just always felt it was like an injustice to the town," said Sharr, "that we have all this river frontage, and you come to Portland and the first thing you see are oil storage tanks and asphalt plants and industrial stuff, and that's really not what the town is all about."

"The town's beautiful. It has all this woods and river frontage and forest," he added. He called it a "hidden gem."

Sharr said that originally, town leaders had explored locating the park near Wangunk Meadows, where the town owned a parcel of riverfront land, but plans for construction of an

## Tension Erupts Over Colchester BOF Vote

By Toriana Williams

The Colchester Board of Finance meeting on Jan. 14 was marked by sharp political division, vocal public reaction and an applicant's abrupt departure, following the board's decision to appoint Republican Donna Antonacci to a vacant seat.

While the board addressed routine financial matters and ongoing projects during the meeting, the appointment – which was necessary to fill the seat vacated by Tim Vaillancourt after his election to the Board of Selectmen – became the focal point of the evening and prompted visible discord among board members and attendees alike.

The vacancy attracted two applicants: Antonacci, a former Board of Education chair, and fellow Republican Michael Dubreuil, who was endorsed by the Republican Town Committee. Since the seat had been held by a Republican, town charter mandated that it needed to be filled by a Republican.

According to a statement later provided by Board of Finance chair Karen Belding, a Democrat, the board sought candidates with experience as elected officials who could disagree respectfully, act honestly even when views differ, understand how to function effectively within a board structure and demonstrate familiarity with fiscal management, budget negotiations and fiscal decision-making.

Belding stated that Antonacci was selected based on her experience on the Board of Education, including overseeing budget cycles, her

willingness to maintain principled positions even when unpopular and her direct, candid responses during the interview process.

By contrast, Belding stated that Dubreuil's past actions weighed heavily in the board's deliberations. She cited what she described as a history of spreading misinformation about the finance board, as well as a time when Dubreuil had "dragged our board into an unnecessary FOI dispute," and said he'd publicly accused board members of misconduct while the interview process was still underway. According to Belding, these actions raised concerns about Dubreuil's ability to work respectfully and collaboratively with town boards and officials.

"It's easy to answer a few short questions in an interview well, especially when you get a chance to hear them ahead of time and practice," Belding explained after the meeting. "What's harder is overcoming years of showing exactly how you will perform based on your own actions."

Public comment preceding the vote reflected strong feelings on both sides. Several residents spoke in support of Dubreuil, emphasizing his Republican Town Committee endorsement and arguing that the committee's recommendation should carry decisive weight. Others spoke in favor of Antonacci, citing her experience, her prior budget votes on the Board of Education and her willingness to work across party lines.

When the board moved to a vote, a majority supported appointing Antonacci, 4-1, with

*See Colchester BOF Vote, page 12*

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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.

Andover • Andover • Andover • Andover • Andover • Andover • Andover

## Library Friends Annual Appeal and Membership Drive

Library Friends acting president Julie Victoria and membership chair Gretchen Stein announce the launch of the annual appeal and membership campaign in support of the Andover Public Library. They call on all community members, including already lifetime members, now 72 in number, to consider joining, renewing and giving generously.

Established in 1989, the Library Friends provide ongoing financial support for regular, large print and audio books, DVDs, children and adult programming, a \$1,000 educational scholarship for an Andover high school senior, a free summer concert, subscriptions, equipment, supplies and facility enhancements beyond the library's current budget.

Again this year, there is no increase in fees. A donation is all that is required to become a member of this 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization: \$3 senior or student, \$5 individual, \$10 family, \$25 business, \$150 lifetime, \$500

patron. Donations of any amount are appreciated and can be mailed to: Andover Friends of the Library, P.O. Box 117, Andover, CT 06232.

Membership forms are emailed to current and former members and are also available by visiting the library at 355 Route 6, or by calling 860-742-7428. For a copy of the form online, visit [tinyurl.com/457f2e4w](http://tinyurl.com/457f2e4w).

Included on the form is a section to volunteer, from baking, gardening, book sales and tech support to serving on a committee or sharing a talent or hobby via a program. The Library Friends welcome ideas and suggestions by emailing [andoverfol@gmail.com](mailto:andoverfol@gmail.com)

Library hours are Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m., and Saturday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. For library news, updates and photos, visit [www.andoverconnecticut.org/library](http://www.andoverconnecticut.org/library) or look for the library on Facebook at [facebook.com/AndoverPublicLibrary.CT](http://facebook.com/AndoverPublicLibrary.CT).

## Preschool Openings

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

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

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

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

## Scholarship Opportunity Announced

The East Hartford Garden Club has announced the availability of one \$1,000 scholarship to any full- or part-time student who is a resident of Andover and is majoring in horticulture, floriculture, landscape design, conservation, forestry, environmental concerns, botany and other allied subjects.

Students from Bolton, Bloomfield, Coventry, East Hartford, East Windsor, Glastonbury, Manchester, Middletown, Vernon, Storrs and Windsor Locks are also eligible for the scholarship.

Applications with the submittal instructions are available at the guidance department of the attending school. All completed applications must be received by April 1 to be considered.

## Congregational Church News

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

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

A week ago at this time, visions of a Buffalo Bills-Chicago Bears Super Bowl matchup were still dancing in my head.

When you choose to suffer through life as a New York Jets fan, you need to have post-season football teams to root for you. In recent years, that team has been the Kansas City Chiefs. But Patrick Mahomes & Co. relieved me of that responsibility when they turned in a lousy season this year and missed the playoffs altogether.

So my eyes turned to the Buffalo Bills. I've long had a soft spot for the Bills, who have never, ever won a Super Bowl. (Even the Jets have done that.) The last several seasons in particular, they've come close but have never been able to reach the top of the mountain. Usually, their January downfall has been at the hands of the Chiefs, so I was hoping, with KC out of the picture, that this might finally be their year.

And if they were going to play in the Super Bowl, what better opponents to have than the Chicago Bears, who hadn't won a Super Bowl since 1986? The Bills vs. Da Bears; it would've been a heck of a matchup.

Alas, it wasn't meant to be, as both teams suffered crushing losses in their respective playoff games last weekend. Yes, you could argue neither of the games should've gone to overtime to begin with, as both of the teams had chances to win in regulation. Buffalo quarterback Josh Allen turned the ball over a bunch, including on a particularly ill-advised run in the closing seconds of the first half.

The Bears, meanwhile, left points on the table multiple times in the first half of their game, opting to go for it on fourth down when they really should've just kicked the easy field

goal. (My general feeling is there's no reason to go for it on fourth down in the first quarter of a scoreless game.) They only made overtime when quarterback Caleb Williams made an amazing – AMAZING – touchdown pass at the end of the second half. Seriously, if you haven't seen that throw yet, head over to YouTube and check it out (after you finish reading the *Rivereast*, of course).

The Bears' loss in overtime was fairly routine – at least as routine as an overtime loss in a playoff game can be. The Bills' defeat, though, featured a highly controversial call in which a ball that sure seemed like a catch was unfortunately ruled an interception by the opposing Denver Broncos. I'm no official, but like I said, it looked like a catch to me – and to millions of others across the country. It didn't, however, to the referees, and ultimately those are the ones you need to impress. Instead of leading to a game-winning field goal for the Bills, the ball instead went to the Broncos, who never looked back.

Bills fans, not surprisingly, took to social media in droves after the game, with many alleging that the game was fixed, that the NFL wanted the Broncos to win and thus saw to it that they did. I just.....don't see that. Sometimes a bad call is just a bad call. In fact, most of the time a bad call is just a bad call. And what happened last weekend was simply a bad call. It stinks, but hopefully the Bills will be back in the playoffs next year – and maybe this time, they'll reach the top of that mountain.

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As I write this Tuesday night, the jury is very much still out in regards to whether we've

**Editor's Desk continued on page 6**

## Bulletin Board

I saw recently that National Geographic plans to screen an upcoming film about Jim Morrison.

Now I think The Doors was a great band back in the day, but I couldn't for the life of me understand why National Geographic would put together a film about a dead rock musician who sang about hitchhikers whose brains were "squirming like a toad." As for Morrison's affection for the Great Outdoors, it's my understanding that the only time the guy went outside was to buy heroin.

Well, it turns out there's another Jim Morrison. This Jim Morrison is a 50-year-old mountaineer who is presently being lionized in the press as the first person to ski down the Hornbein Couloir on the north face of Mount Everest. That's right, he donned a pair of skis and launched himself down freaking Mount Everest.

An internet entry under "Historic Achievements" observes that Morrison's route "is known for its steep and treacherous conditions with a slope of up to 50 degrees." The descent took over four hours and was documented for the National Geographic film.

I'm not sure this sort of insanity merits commemoration as an "historic achievement," but I will admit that the film clip of this guy skiing down an impossible slope is pretty impressive. At least one recent newscast went so far as to laud him as a "hero."

Right.

Now I've read about any number of heroes and even met a couple, and if you want my opinion, some nut who launches himself down Mount Everest on a pair of skis isn't a hero.

He's an imbecile.

Furthermore, I think it's terribly insensitive to go merrily skiing past the frozen corpses of dozens of unprepared optimists who, having paid tens of thousands of dollars for the privilege, started up Everest with the cheery observation, "What could possibly go wrong?"

Perhaps a more appropriate question would be, "What is the point?"

Yeah, it's true. I hate to be a killjoy, but I'm not an admirer of the Mount Everest quest—neither climbing up nor skiing down. I just don't get it. Particularly now that the "quest" to get to the top of the world seems to have turned into an assembly line commercial venture. Which doesn't mean you shouldn't make sure your life insurance policy is fully paid up—assuming you can even get one.

I tend to take a more mature view of these so-called "challenges." As a gutless coward who is afraid of heights and isn't too crazy about snow and cold in general, I'm more likely to meet my end in less spectacular fashion, perhaps in a slip and fall on my way out to the mailbox, or (more likely still) by choking on a potato chip or piece of cheese while chortling over one of my own jokes at some family gathering.

But while I'm personally in no danger of ever perishing on Everest (trust me), I fear Morrison's exploit is likely to encourage imitators who may not be so lucky. With this in mind, a recent online review of Morrison's feat felt compelled to offer some cautionary advice to those who may now be inspired to retrieve their dusty old skis from the basement or garage and hop on the next flight to Nepal.

The article warned that skiing down Everest involves harsh weather, high altitudes, incredible cold, altitude sickness, and a 'death zone' above 8,000 meters that presents "significant risks" (which I guess is why they call it the "death zone"). The article suggested skiers should have a well-planned ascent and descent strategy, use appropriate gear, and be prepared for sudden weather changes."

Or, if you simply must go skiing, you could just drive up to Stowe for the weekend. National Geographic won't be interested, but your insurance agent would certainly be happier.

As for me, when the time comes, I plan to stay home, turn up the heat to a comfortable level and watch Jim Morrison's failed suicide attempt on television from my favorite overstuffed chair. The visuals should be spectacular. And who knows? Maybe the film features a soundtrack from The Doors.

Jim Hallas

## Rivereast Hours of Operation

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



**Playing at Gampel!...** On Jan. 10, two fifth-grade girls basketball teams – one from East Hampton and one from Portland – played an exhibition game at Gampel Pavilion at the University of Connecticut in Storrs. The game was filled with energy, excitement and smiles, giving the players a rare opportunity to experience the sport in an iconic setting. The Portland team consists of: Alina Aquino, Emily Bolstridge, Gretta Chenier, Lindsey Dickson, Phin Kelley, Jezebelle Khim, Sophia Kurys, Callie Lawrence, Celia Morales, Grace Reilly, and coaches Stephanie Bolstridge, Lynn Lawrence and Caitlin Reilly. The members of the East Hampton team are: Izzy Connor, Kimberly Cruz, Riley Ellis, Madalyn Kinsey, Chloe Krepco, Victoria Kutsukos, Colbie Manfredi, Sophie Paresi, Kylie Russo, Hailey Sinsigalli, and coaches Valeri Cruz, Mikael Russo and Nick Sinsigalli.

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### This is Unacceptable

To the Editor:

Hebron is now staring down a projected \$27.8 million price tag to rebuild the DPW facility on its existing site. This number does not include the additional expenses we will all be forced to absorb: temporary DPW relocation (@ an estimated \$5 million based on a report in 2022), two years of curbside trash pickup, and the loss of access to our recycling center during construction.

It bears repeating how we arrived here.

In 2019, the town purchased the Horton Property for \$600,000 with the stated – and approved – intent of building a new DPW facility. Three years later, as plans for the new facility were revealed and discussed (and \$250,000 was spent on those plans and property analysis), a very small number of nearby residents began loudly, and repeatedly, warning of catastrophic impacts to bedrock water and private wells. Week after week, they filled this paper with lofty rhetoric about environmental tourism, stone wall laneways, and the "historic nature" of a multi-acre parcel that, to this day, serves no functional purpose for the town.

After months of this pressure, a survey was conducted in 2023 to "assess town interest." In a town of roughly 9,000 residents, 92 people responded, and 69 said no to the Horton Property

DPW plan. Less than 1% of our town's population is driving this controversy. That is the thin reed on which a multimillion-dollar decision now rests.

We are now told the Horton Property should be preserved for environmental tourism – with no plan, no funding source, and no honest discussion of what that would cost taxpayers. If the new DPW facility is approved it is unlikely the over-burdened taxpayers in Hebron will ever agree to this.

This is not responsible governance. It is not environmental stewardship. And it is certainly not fair to the thousands of residents who did not realize that silence would cost them tens of millions of dollars.

In fact, the town would have every right to try to recoup its nearly \$1 million investment in the Horton Property by selling it to a developer who could build affordable housing units. That would be one way Hebron could comply with the State of CT mandate on this subject.

We should be honest about what happened here: a small, vocal group stopped a necessary project, and now the entire town is being asked to pay for that obstruction — financially and operationally — for decades to come.

That is unacceptable.

Sincerely,

Jim & Kris Payant, Hebron

### RIVEREAST

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**'Teach Your Parents Well'**

To the Editor:

Martin Luther King Jr. Day dawned peacefully. The puffs of snow, undisturbed by wind, created a cover on the trees not unlike foliage. I was up before the crows. All was calm. All was bright. It was as if Earth herself was paying homage to a man of peace and courage.

The *Rivereast* of Jan. 9 had three great reads. The first, was the cover story about saving land associated with the Girl Scout Camp in Lebanon.

The second was a letter to the editor reminding us about the Jan. 29th town meeting, at the Douglas Library at 7 p.m. At this meeting residents can vote on whether, or not, Hebron should purchase a piece of land, not for Open Space specifically, but open land for possible future town use.

The third story was about Hebron's Green Committee and their commitment to recycling including, repurposing kitchen waste. Elementary school is a terrific place to start. Little kids speak with wisdom and are not yet afraid to correct or teach adults. Teaching kids about ecology, composting and recycling, at any age, makes responsible actions an integral part of their present lives and their futures as well. The late David Crosby might agree that parents teaching their children, who then teach their parents, is a great way to grow up.

Jan. 16th brought an interesting letter from a member of the DPW Action Committee speaking as a resident. I was thrilled to read the suggestion of selling the 88.6 acres, known as 17 Kinney Rd., to us, at #save17. It would be an honor and an adventure to own this property. We could put up a sign, The Raymond Brook Park Extension. I would dedicate the park to the memory of Andrea Lattanzi. Her support with #save17, especially during my melt downs, will never be forgotten. Fare thee well kind lady, may our paths cross again...maybe even.... right here... on Kinney Rd.

#save17 is flattered but there are better qualified organizations namely Hebron's Open Space. Hebron could not have purchased 17 Kinney Rd. without the generous support of Open Space and this is where it belongs. Perhaps we could have a fundraiser for the balance due, thus keeping it "in the family." The property has such potential to be a show-stopper with QR hitching posts and trails. A great place for people of all ages.

Jean Tulumieri, Amston

**Dementia Talks No. 46**

To the Editor:

One question I hear now and again is "should we" celebrate [insert the "it" here]? Typically, the question comes when there is a significant date sitting on the calendar. It could be a birthday, anniversary or something else that has been significant in the past. Significant to your loved one, to you, to your family, to friends. The "it" can run the gamut.

Most of the time folks mull over the question because their loved one will likely forget the event even took place.

My typical response is to find out more about the "it," then ask a question: "Why not celebrate?"

Of course there are all kinds of layers to be peeled back, but in the end "why not" do it? With a quick follow up to say – the actual day of the celebration isn't as important in comparison to the who, the time of day and the place. And ask yourself what outcome would be the best for your loved one?

The phase of your loved one's dementia journey can help guide and inform you as to the who, the time of day and the place.

I'll use my mom's birthday as an example. Last January we did a 'party' with her friends in memory-care, my sister, myself and my husband – all in all, around 15 people. This year, we dialed it back to just the four of us. There wasn't much planning, it happened organically, and it was simple. My sister made the cupcakes; we did it during Mom's lunch time and we leveraged one of the family spaces in the building. It was perfect for all of us.

The outcome we were seeking was simple – togetherness. Which just happened to include a "Happy Birthday" song and homemade dessert. In the moment we all connected, enjoyed each other's company, laughed, sang and celebrated in our own way. Mom participated and enjoyed herself – if she is laughing and smiling, she is happy.

I recall the last year of my dad's life (cancer), it seemed we celebrated everything! If the coffee brewed – we celebrated!

If the date was something your loved one celebrated, I say "why not do it?" So, take a breath, think simple and enjoy your time with your loved one.

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

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Tonya Maurer – Amston  
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**DPWAC Update**

To the Editor:

Hello Hebron residents! I am back speaking as the Vice Chairman of the DPWAC. By the time you read this, we as a committee will have had our regular meeting on Jan. 20th, and we will have made a presentation to the Hebron Town Council at their regular meeting on 1/22/26.

Here's what's new: Our DPWAC had a special meeting with the town attorney regarding how to legally, best get the word out to the residents about the old facility and the proposed new/rebuilt facility. We as a committee are not allowed to show favoritism (advocacy) for this project, nor can we dissuade people from it either. Hence the reason my letter last week was from me, speaking as a resident. At our meeting a Political Action Committee (PAC) was suggested as the best way the information could be shared with Hebron residents. This without the fear of being fined for showing advocacy. As a town appointed committee, we are charged with gathering information and presenting it to the Town Council. Once they have the information they have requested of the committee, they authorize the town manager to move forward.

FYI, this is the first time in 15 years that actual site analysis, schematic design plans, and building plans have actually happened. All of the past ideas had not come this far.

An RFP will be published soon for town trash service. The cost to the town of Hebron for curbside pickup of MSW and recyclables, as well as a plan to handle our bulky waste. Bid to be to the town by 2/6/26.

As a member of the DPWAC, I have learned firsthand how the town government process works. Governments have to be transparent, share things and vote to make things happen. Businesses can be much nimbler, getting multiple plans together for a project and making the best decision for the company. We, as a town, had to go to a town meeting in the library and vote to spend \$1.5 million (approximately \$750,000 up front, and \$750,000 rolled into the build) to assess just this one project. Thank you all for reading along, as always, please email me at: thabicht@hebron.gov with any questions or comments that you may have.

Sincerely,  
Todd Habicht, Vice Chairman  
Hebron DPWAC

**A Worthy Project**

To the Editor:

Last week's *Rivereast* brought up the issue again of what to do with the Horton property (Governor Peters' farm /#17 Kinney Road). Unfortunately, the town has not fulfilled its State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Archaeological Reconnaissance Survey obligations which clearly states "plans should include additional title search into Gilbert and Backus landholdings." The report was prominently published on the town's webpage for almost a year, but no action was taken. SHPO only approved development of a very small portion of the Horton property based on archaeological investigation and pending a thorough title search. The Horton property includes Governor Peters', Sylvester Gilbert's and Levi Backus' farms which SHPO never cleared for development.

Given this mandate from SHPO, Hebron's Historic Properties, Town Historian, Zoning Commission, and Town Planner should be actively involved in researching the land's connection to Hebron's past. Governor Peters' connections to the land are well researched. However, many other questions need to be researched and serious consideration given to rezone this property adding it to Hebron's abutting National Register Historic District and Raymond Brook Preserve.

Preliminary findings strongly indicate that the land is of great local historical importance and should not be developed. It is currently farmed and has been for over a millennium. In its earliest days, it augmented Hebron's town center, is associated with three historically significant Hebron families and has a Revolutionary War connection. Given that information, the land deserves to be considered as a Hebron Historic Property. Undoubtedly, additional research would provide other significant findings. The land deserves to be treated respectfully and left alone to preserve Hebron's "rural, historic character."

Rather than compromising the Horton Property, if anyone really wants to consider an alternative site for relocating the Hebron Transfer Station/Public Works Complex, the town owned old Hebron landfill on Mill Stream

See Letters, page 6



**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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**Prizes for Best Team Theme, Best Costume and Most Funds Raised Individual & Team**

CIT1-22-26

## ★ Letters cont. from page 5

Road would be a good choice. It has never been properly sealed and leaches into Amston's water supply. Environmental remediation could be combined with building plans. Given these circumstances, Old Colchester Road still seems like the better choice.

The Horton Property is historically, agriculturally and ecologically significant. It should be at the center of town government's Hebron250 initiatives. After all, the Horton Property visually introduces Hebron's Historic District and Preserve America designation to motorists on Route 85. First appearances are important and make a statement about a town's priorities!

John Baron  
Hebron

## Nostalgia is Great, But....

To the Editor:

It was with great delight and much nostalgia that I read in the *Rivereast News Bulletin*'s Jan. 2 issue 'A Holiday Love Letter to Connecticut.' We do live in an extremely unique community, this town of Hebron.

But I wanted to address a couple of statements in the letter. The first is: "no one longs to live here for the public works facilities." While I understand what is being said here, I would like to say that no one longs to live in a community with a dysfunctional facility. It is my opinion that the current facility should have been condemned over a decade ago and the town is remiss in its stewardship of worker safety by allowing employees to continue to work there.

On a different note, the author notes that

"Their parents cared, their grandparents cared, they care, and their children care." I agree with this statement. I've hardly ever encountered a citizen of this town that does not care. But I want to look at the tense of this sentence: their parents and their grandparents cared – past tense. "They care, and their children care." And while this is most probably true, current demographic trends, as reflected in the Hebron 2024 Plan of Conservation and Development, show that this 'caring' seems to wear thin as most of the children that reach their 20s and most of the 45-55 demographic move out of town.

I'm thinking this nostalgic view of life has diminished as the economic demands of this century weigh on young adults looking for work and a place to live – and who increasingly do not find those opportunities in the town of Hebron. As that reality sets in, many parents also begin to recognize that their children are unlikely to return, and they too start looking for another place to live.

Nostalgia is a wonderful thing. But I think economics and infrastructure win out in the end.

Terry McManus  
Hebron

## No Kings

To the Editor:

At the Jan. 14, 2026 Board of Finance meeting, Bernie Dennler's Democratic administration made one thing painfully clear: they have little respect for the voice of Colchester voters.

That night, the board appointed former Board of Education member Donna Antonacci to fill a vacant Republican seat on the Board of Finance, passing over Michael Dubreuil. This was not a judgment call made in a vacuum. Voters had already spoken, loudly and recently.

Just three months ago, Donna Antonacci was on the ballot. Voters rejected her. In fact, she was the lowest vote getter in the entire election, failing to receive even 800 votes. Michael

Dubreuil, meanwhile, had the second-highest Republican vote total overall and was the top Republican vote getter for the Board of Finance. He received nearly three times the votes Antonacci did.

Republicans in town were even clearer. The Colchester Republican Town Committee unanimously voted to endorse Mr. Dubreuil to fill the vacancy. They also resoundingly rejected Donna Antonacci as a representative. She was removed from the RTC over two years ago, was not reinstated this year, and was not nominated by Republicans to represent them in the November election.

Yet Democrats ignored both the electorate and the local Republican Party. Why? We were told why during the meeting itself. Jillian Vinci was heard saying, "They did this to us." This decision was not about what was best for Colchester. It was about political payback.

It certainly was not about the interviews. Nobody who watched them walked away believing Donna Antonacci was a strong candidate, let alone the better candidate. Perhaps performance matters less than socializing with the people who get to decide.

I was also told by a Democratic friend on the BOF that they believed Antonacci would be detrimental to the town. That they could not, and would not, vote for Donna and that at least one other member shared that view. However, Bernie and other Democratic leadership refused to allow Mr. Dubreuil to serve on the board.

Democrats chose loyalty over integrity. They ignored voters, ignored Republicans, and ignored their own stated beliefs. They followed party politics, not their constituents. This is completely juxtaposed by the Republicans' handling of Bernie Dennler's previous BOF appointment.

Here I thought Democrats were against kings. It turns out that for local Democrats, it's not "No Kings" but "as long as we're King".

Jason LaChapelle, Colchester

A Holiday Season  
Thank You

To the Editor:

As we turn the page on the holidays, I want to thank our customers in Andover for the kindness and support you showed our local Postal Service team during the busiest mailing and shipping season of the year.

Our carriers, clerks, and plant teams worked hard to keep mail and packages moving for families, small businesses, and neighbors who rely on us. Behind every delivery is a local employee who lives here, shops here, and cares about getting it right.

Now that the holiday rush is behind us, our focus is simple: steady, dependable service every day – along with continued improvements that help us handle today's mix of letters and packages more efficiently.

If you had a great experience with your local Post Office this season, I hope you'll share it with our team. And if we missed the mark, please let us know so we can keep improving at usps.com.

Sincerely,

Kristen Fitzpatrick  
Postmaster, Andover

## Lamont Has Got to Go!

To the Editor:

Our governor is attempting to push more restrictive gun regulations on our law-abiding Connecticut residents! Our senators, Murphy and Blumenthal, are no better. They are trying to disarm us, too.

Our governor and our Democratic so-called leaders want more restrictive regulations. Some examples: Legislation to make gun owners liable if a thug steals one of your guns and uses it in a crime! (HB-5487); Legislation forcing in-home daycare operators to disclose that they have firearms in their home or close down! (HB-6180).

These Democrats pass laws that do nothing to stop crime! A ban on the sale of AR-15 rifles, our 'Red Flag Gun Seizure,' our age requirements to own guns, our ban on private ammunition sales, our ban on open carry, our magazine limits – none of these laws have stopped crime in Connecticut! They limit our citizens from protecting themselves and their families! Criminals don't obey any laws!

How about an automatic death penalty within seven days of being found guilty of anyone attempting to murder someone? How about shipping all criminals to a prison in a foreign country? A country that feeds prisoners only bread and water. A country that does not give free dental and free medical. No gym to go to daily, etc. Let's give these a try and see if it affects our crime rate.

Next election we have to flush the toilet!

Frank Blume, Colchester

## Editor's Desk continued from page 4

got a monster snowstorm coming this weekend. One thing's for certain, though: It's going to be really freakin' cold. Like, wind chills of 15 to 20 below zero cold. Air temps won't be much better, hovering around or even below zero. It's going to be bad.

I won't blame any of you, then, for thinking of spring. Instead of seeing a frozen wasteland when you look out your kitchen window, perhaps you'll see a blossoming garden, beautiful green plants, and happy honeybees buzzing around.

The arrival of spring may still be a couple of months away, but the sights – and yes, the smells – of the season will be on full display at the annual Connecticut Flower & Garden Show, which will return to the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford from Thursday, Feb. 19, through Sunday, Feb. 22.

The theme of this year's show is "A Storybook Garden." Featured will be 150,000 square feet of expansive live gardens, nonstop seminars and demonstrations, the Feder-

ated Garden Clubs of Connecticut's annual Standard Flower Show, and hundreds of exhibitors selling not just plants, but everything outdoorsy – garden ornaments, metalwork sculptures, patio furniture, lawn/garden tools and equipment, and more.

If you're curious about what may be best for your particular yard, you can even bring half a cup of soil for free testing to UConn Home & Garden Education Center booth.

Discounted admission tickets – at \$17 for adults and seniors – can be purchased now at [www.CTFlowerShow.com](http://www.CTFlowerShow.com). A full schedule of seminars and demonstrations is also available on the website.

Do you have your own business and perhaps want to exhibit your wares at the show? You can do that too! Just go to the website, look for "CT Flower Garden Show" on Facebook, or call 860-844-8461.

\*\*\*

See you next week.

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**Thanks for Donation**

To the Editor:

Thank you to the Portland Farmers Fish and Game Club for their very generous donation to support the Portland CT America 250 celebrations. Your contribution helps us bring our community together as we honor 250 years of American history, resilience, and shared heritage here in Portland.

We deeply appreciate your commitment to our town and your partnership in making these celebrations possible.

Sincerely,  
The Portland CT America 250 Committee

**DPW Action Committee Remains Focused**

To the Editor:

The Hebron Public Works facility project continues to move forward thanks to the diligent efforts of the DPW Action Committee. Tasked with facilitating the rebuilding of the existing Old Colchester Road (OCR) facility, the committee has approached its work with fiscal responsibility, public safety, and the public's best interests firmly in mind. Committee members have devoted significant time to evaluating the condition of the current facility, the operational needs of the DPW, and the financial impact of various options.

While some residents continue to advocate for relocating the facility to 17 Kinney Rd., that location plays a vital role in preserving well water sources for surrounding properties and protecting overall water quality. The land also carries historical significance spanning hundreds of years, making its preservation especially important to the character and sustainability of the area. Reinvesting in the existing site avoids unnecessary costs, environmental risk, and the loss of valuable natural and historical resources.

The DPW Action Committee's work reflects a strong commitment to smart planning and responsible stewardship. Residents are encouraged to support the committee's efforts and the meaningful progress already achieved, ensuring this critical project remains focused on facts, collaboration, and the long-term interests of the entire community.

Greg Shortell  
Amston

**Quilt Project Thanks**

To the Editor:

A little over a year ago, while working at Colchester Mill & Fabrics, I was inspired by a group of women from Bozrah that had designed and made a quilt with subject matter relating to their town. They had raffled off the quilt and the proceeds went to support a community organization. What a creative way to honor your town. I wanted to do something like this for East Hampton, specifically to benefit the East Hampton Food Bank; but I needed help. At the fabric store I began recruiting quilters who might be interested in working on this project and were from East Hampton. Over the next few months, I gathered a group of women. Now the real work began.

We took pictures of notable local spots and historic sites; some of our pictures came from the local historical society. Pictures got traced to paper, fabric got picked out and traded among the group. Some fabric even went to England where the Lake Pocotopaug block was made. Each of us spent hours creating our squares. We consulted with each other, learned new things and helped each other along the way. This quilt was truly a labor of love.

I would like to thank everyone involved in helping complete the East Hampton Quilt. To the quilt designers - Joanne Barmasse, Jean Cote, Sylvia Demore, Lori Harris, Stefani Lowe, Cynthia Masters-Waage, Sharon Owen, Terri Pangratic, Carlie Williams and Katie Williams - thanks to all of you on your hard work on this project! I would also like to thank Cheryl Dolloff, owner of Colchester Mill & Fabrics for donating materials for this project. A very special thank you to Joanne Barmasse, who was instrumental in getting this project complete. Her attention to detail, sewing experience and networking abilities are second to none! I could not have done it without you. Thank you to the Rotary Club for your match of our raffle ticket sales. Also, thank you to the East Hampton community for your generous support. The final benefit to the East Hampton Food Bank from this project was \$9,066.

Finally, congratulations to Gail Cavanaugh, owner of The Hairitage, who was the winner of the quilt.

Kim Gagliano  
East Hampton Quilt Project

**Minority Representation Matters**

To the Editor:

Jan. 14, 2025, should concern anyone who values fair process and representative government in Colchester. On that evening, a vacant Republican seat on the Board of Finance was filled without the support of the Republican Party or the voters of Colchester.

Two candidates were considered. One was selected by the Democratic majority. The other - myself - was the candidate endorsed by the Republican Town Committee and supported by voters, having earned thousands of votes in prior Board of Finance elections. I participated fully in the interview process, presented my qualifications, and answered detailed questions from the board.

The outcome made clear that the interview process did not meaningfully factor into the decision. Regardless of qualifications, endorsements, or demonstrated voter support, the selection reflected a predetermined outcome rather than an open evaluation of candidates.

The candidate selected by Democrats is described as qualified based on her prior service on the Board of Education. During that tenure, significant staffing changes affecting the town's finance operations occurred with the Board of Education's knowledge, resulting in the loss of experienced personnel and contributing to financial and operational instability for the town. She also supported a rule change that limited the ability of citizens to bring matters directly before the Board of Education.

While she is registered as a Republican, she is not among the 50 members of the Republican Town Committee, the body charged with representing Republican voters and endorsing candidates for Republican seats. Her record reflects a longstanding unwillingness to work collaboratively with Republicans on local issues - so much so that she was removed from the Republican Town Committee years ago and was not endorsed by Republicans in the 2025 election.

Party registration alone does not make someone representative of a party's values or its voters. When a governing majority fills an opposition seat with a candidate rejected by that

party and its electorate, it undermines public trust and weakens the legitimacy of the process. Reasonable people can disagree on the final selection, but not on the importance of a credible and transparent process. Local government works best when decisions are made in the open and confidence in the process matters more than which party benefits.

Colchester residents deserve a local government that respects voter intent, values open process, and treats minority-party representation as a safeguard - not an inconvenience.

Respectfully,  
Michael Dubreuil  
Colchester

**Hebron DPW Project**

To the Editor:

There has been a flurry of letters recently with numbers and estimates related to the building of a DPW facility at either Kinney Rd or Old Colchester Rd. The tone of some of these letters has the classic New England resistance to governance. A healthy dose of "Don't Tread on Me" and "The Government Lies!" is what has kept our form of governance the town meeting in New England long after the rest of the country moved on.

People have come to meetings and asked, "What about Plan B?" The fact of the matter is that OSHA and the employee unions are taking action. The town has already incurred fines from OSHA and will continue to do so until the facility is fixed. Union legal action is on the horizon if we don't start making good faith efforts to improve the facility. Repairs in a building this old and undersized will only postpone the inevitable. A new building will have to be built at some point. The longer we kick the can down the road the more expensive it will be. We have already experienced that lesson once. Let's not do it again.

I have been elected to represent the residents of this town and to try to make the best decisions for the town. Now this may not always be the best decision for an individual person, that's not how community works. Not everyone gets their way every time. I want to assure you that I will have your financial interests in mind any time I make a decision for our town. Making

sure your tax dollars are spent prudently and that you get the best return on your investment in this community are my only goals.

I understand the hesitancy to believe me; it's what we do in Connecticut. Please, please, come to a meeting, email any of the council or board members, review the videos and agenda packets online that contain all the documentation, and ask questions in a place where they can be answered. I am confident that in the end you will see that we made the most prudent decisions and made every effort to save everyone money on something that can't continue to be kicked down the road. To vote no on this just to spite the system will end up costing us all more in the long run. We can't keep sacrificing the future to make the present more comfortable. Just like when we put forth the town budget, there is no second option. Participate in the process, and in the end trust your elected officials to serve you.

Keith Petit - Hebron  
kpetit@hebronct.gov

*Note: Petit is a member of the Hebron Town Council and the DPW Action Committee, but said he is speaking as an individual.*

**Misinformation in Hebron**

To the Editor:

Thank you to the Department of Public Works Action Committee for acknowledging significant misinformation contained in a letter to the editor published in the *Rivereast* on Jan. 9th. At the DPWAC meeting on Jan. 13th, the committee specifically identified the statement of an \$8,725,000 cost for the DPW project at Kinney Road as "very serious misinformation." The committee corrected the record by stating that price was BL Architects' estimate for the DPW garage building ONLY! There were no site work costs or other infrastructure included. The committee continued to confirm the 2018 estimate for the total project was \$18 to \$20 million. Given the increase of construction costs following Covid and additional tariffs, the current estimate by Silver Petrucci + Associates for \$27,800,501 is well within expectations. The DPWAC went on to clarify that the Kinney Road site may in fact cost more than the present plans for Old Colchester Road. This is a major

*See Letters, page 25*

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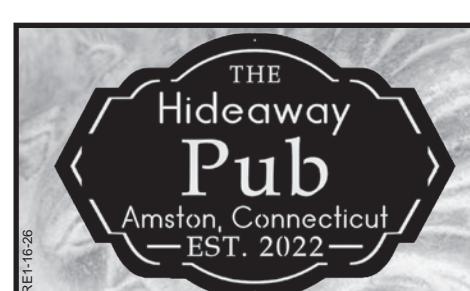
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## Where in the World is the *Rivereast*?

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



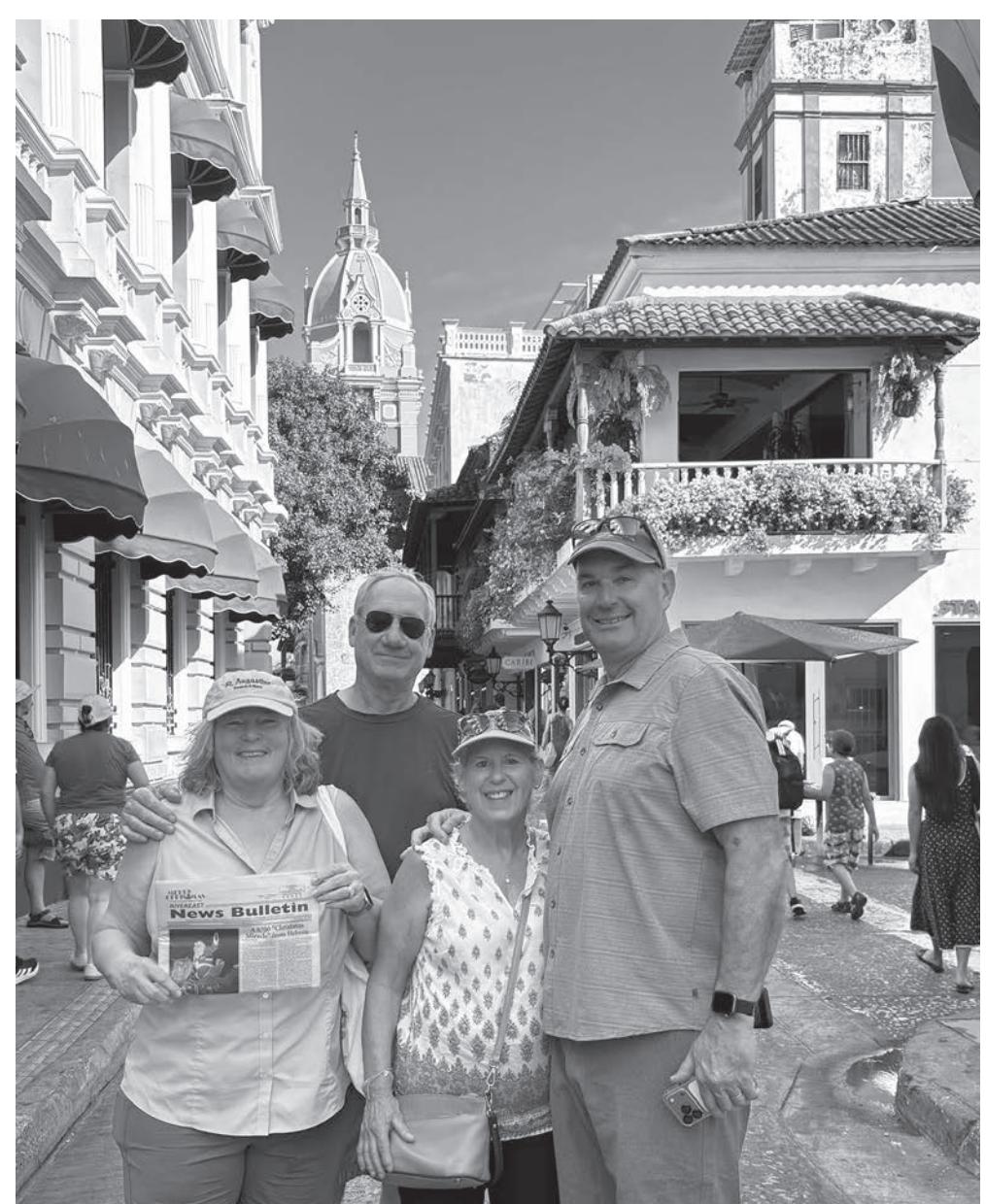
*Greetings from Old San Juan!...* It was Ladies Day in Old San Juan recently, as Jane Muskatallo and Jeanne Bishop of Portland, and Bonnie Breinburg of New Jersey, enjoyed a day of shopping and lunch.



*The Medveds in Mumbai...* Peter Medved and wife Tamara Medved, of East Hampton, traveled to Mumbai in December for their son Sagan Medved's wedding



*Palm Springs Greetings!...* Arthur Engler (seated) and the Rev. Ron Kolanowski, from St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Hebron, sent their Connecticut friends New Year's greetings from Palm Springs, Calif. They're shown here visiting the Agua Caliente Museum, celebrating Caullia Indian culture.



*Cruising with Friends...* Pam and Gary Greenwald and Maureen and Jim Curtis brought along the *Rivereast* to Cartagena, Colombia – a stop on their Panama Canal cruise!

Where  
in the  
World? ?

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

Submit your travel photo holding the *Rivereast News Bulletin*, and you will win a \$25 Gift Card to Campagna Restaurant if your photo is one the four entries selected!

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## Benefit Dinner for Fitzkee Family

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

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

can be sent to Freestone Council, P.O. Box 7, Portland CT 06480. Your tickets will be held for you at the door.

Tickets are also available at 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.

## 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 are Tuesdays from 6:45-9 p.m., at St. Francis Church's Msgr. Fox Parish Hall, 10

## PHS Class of '76 50th Reunion

The Portland High School Class of 1976 50th Reunion will take place Saturday, June 13, at Terrazza Quarry Ridge Golf Club, located at 9 Rose Hill Road in Portland. Cocktail hour will begin at 5 p.m.

Also, there is an optional opportunity to attend graduation for the Class of 2026, to celebrate the Bicentennial class with the Class of 2026's Semiquincentennial ceremony. Graduation is scheduled for Monday, June 15.

Anyone with contact information for classmates Betsy Bransfield Rose, Alex Castelli,

## 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. 25, Cooke will preach on the topic "Career Choices."

Also at 10 a.m., elementary aged children will meet for Church School in the newly renovated classroom, and the middle school class will meet

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## Exchange Club Bingo Night

The Portland Exchange Club will hold their next BINGO Night on Thursday, February 5th at Concentric Brewing, located at 91 Main St. Card sales start at 6 p.m., and games start at 7 p.m.

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

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

can be sent to Freestone Council, P.O. Box 7, Portland CT 06480. Your tickets will be held for you at the door.

Tickets are also available at 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.

Elm St., Middletown. MHVC is currently preparing for its 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 [vocal-chords20.org](http://vocal-chords20.org) or call 860-342-3120.

Carol Clausi Karnilowicz, Marc Coman, Amy Dooley Lockmer, Richard Kearney, Laura Klemba, Michael Munrow, Richard Pawoiczik, Mark Pierini, Frank Sanchez, Thomas Savage, Cameo Thorne Smith, Kevin Tolman or Mary Unikewicz Opalacz is asked to email Mary Linda Eccles/Reitz at [mlreitzphs76@gmail.com](mailto:mlreitzphs76@gmail.com) or message her on Facebook: Portland high class 76.

Classmates can also verify current contact information and obtain information by contacting Reitz.

**Dean's List**  
Mauricio Reyes of Portland made the fall 2025 Dean's List at Southern New Hampshire University.

**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](http://firstchurchportlandct.org).

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## '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.

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

## 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.

Thanks to sponsors Burpee Seeds, Harts Seeds, NE Seed, MI Gardener, and Baker Creek Seeds, the club has a large selection of seeds available for people to take and swap. You can also bring labeled seeds saved from your garden or unopened seed packets from last year.

Club members will be offering demos on

## 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

*Members of the public are invited to*

## CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

**State Project No. 0172-0550**

**Traffic Control Signal Replacements in Eastern Connecticut**

**(Groton, Killingworth, Ledyard, New London, Norwich, Plainfield, Preston, Stonington, Windham, and Woodstock)**

**Tuesday, February 3, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.**

**Learn More & Register:**  
[portal.ct.gov/DOTEasternCT0172-0550](http://portal.ct.gov/DOTEasternCT0172-0550)

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

The purpose of this project is to replace aging traffic control signal infrastructure with modern equipment to current standards in order to maintain reliable operation at project intersections throughout Eastern Connecticut.

Right-of-way impacts are expected to be minimal around new signal equipment and newly installed sidewalks at some project intersections.

Construction is expected to start in spring 2028. The estimated cost is \$14 million with 100% state funds.

The public can submit comments and questions during the two-week public comment period following the meeting. Please direct comments and questions to Tuesday, February 17, 2026, to [DOTSignalReplacements@ct.gov](mailto:DOTSignalReplacements@ct.gov) or (860) 594-2189.

### ACCESSIBILITY

Non-English language closed captioning will be available on Zoom. The recording will also be posted following the meeting in CTDOT's public meeting playlist at [portal.ct.gov/ctdotVPIArchive](http://portal.ct.gov/ctdotVPIArchive).

For limited internet access, call (877) 853-5257 with Meeting ID 852 7548 4418. Project information can be mailed within one week by contacting Kaethe Podgorski at [DOTSignalReplacements@ct.gov](mailto:DOTSignalReplacements@ct.gov) or (860) 594-2020.

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

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**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](http://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. **Monday, 1/26: Light Aerobics**, 9:30-10:30 a.m.; **Tuesday, 1/27: Bears on a Journey**, 9:30-11 a.m. – to donate light fleece for making teddy bears for cancer patients, call 860-342-0809; **Watercolor Class**, 9:30 a.m. – for more info call Bivenne at [bivenne@yahoo.com](mailto:bivenne@yahoo.com); **Congregate Meal**, noon. Cost is \$3 suggested donation (must fill out form). Menu: roasted salmon, roasted squashes, scalloped potatoes, roll and butter, string cheese, raisins; **Coupons for Troops**, 1-4 p.m.; **Setback**, 1 p.m.; **Syncocize**, 5-6 p.m., fee is donation to instructor.

**Wednesday, 1/28: 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.

**Thursday, 1/29: Stretch & Tone**, 9:30 a.m.; **Knit & Stitch**, 10 a.m.; **Congregate Meal**, noon. Cost is \$3 suggested donation (must fill out form). Menu: BLT on whole wheat bread, broccoli cheddar soup, string cheese, peach cup; **Mahjong (FULL)**, 12:30 p.m.; **Scrabble**, 1 p.m.

**Friday, 1/30: 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 and February Special Events:** Unless noted, programs are free and registration is required. **Monday, Jan. 26:** Hair by Jessica. Men's/women's shampoos, cuts, styling all offered. Call Jessica to make your appointment at 860-751-9215. Future date: Monday, Feb. 23.

**Monday, Jan. 26:** Technology training presentation at 11 a.m. A range of technology topics will be discussed and the center said it needs your input to help create an engaging and helpful learning experience.

**Monday, Feb. 2:** Cooking for One with Mari-

lyn, 11:45 a.m. On the menu will be individual quiches. Fee is \$10.

**Tuesday, Feb. 10:** Bingo with Sean from Ageless Insurance, 1:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, Feb. 11:** Cooking with Mary Brody: Easy Recipes with Chocolate. Time is 1:30 p.m. Fee is \$10.

**Thursday, Feb. 12:** The Heart of Health & Community Wellness Series. This series will include a blood pressure clinic from 10:45-11:45 a.m. and Chatting with Chatham Health wellness presentation at 11:15 a.m. Don't forget to sign up for the congregate meal at noon. (Must sign up by noon the day before to attend lunch; suggested donation is \$3 for meal, and you must fill out form.)

**Thursday, Feb. 12:** Sweet Treats and Conversation with Community Leaders, 1 p.m. This month's community leader is to be determined.

**Friday Feb. 13:** Family History Fun with Ken Doney, 10:30 a.m.

**Monday, Feb. 16:** Closed for Presidents Day.

**Wednesday, Feb. 18:** Shopping Trip to Rocky Hill: Walmart, Stop & Shop, T.J. Maxx and Marshalls, followed by lunch of choice. Leave the center at 10 a.m. There is a \$5 ride fee.

**Friday, Feb. 20:** CT Flower & Garden Show. Admission at the door is \$20.80. There is a \$5 ride fee. Leave the center at 9 a.m.

**Wednesday, Feb. 25:** Lunch at Lenny & Joe's. Leave the center at 11 a.m. There is a \$5 ride fee, and you pay for your own meal.

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

**Book Clubs: Talk About Books:** Tuesday 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.

**Dean's List**

Nathan Nadolski of Portland made the fall 2025 Dean's List at Bucknell University in Lewisburg, Pa.

Nadolski is a member of the Class of 2028.



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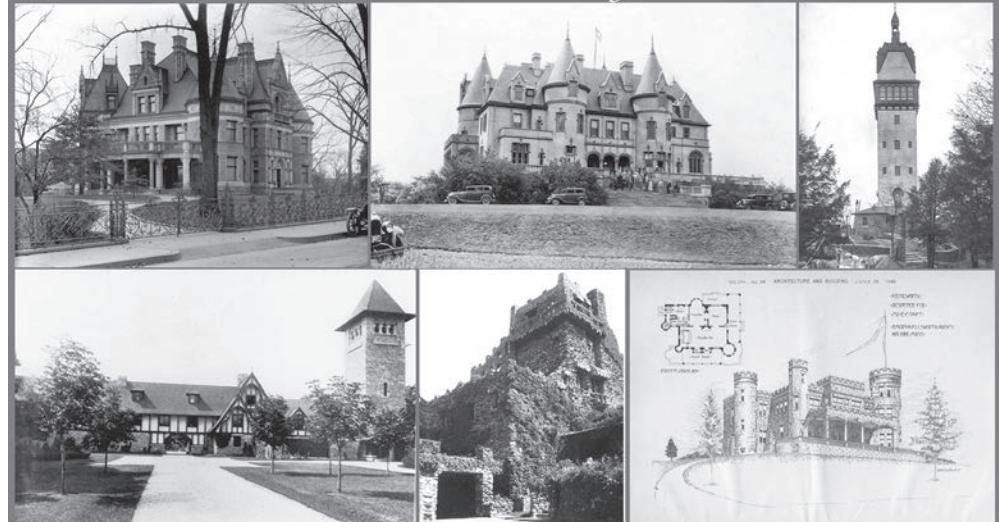
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**Connecticut River Valley Castles**

**The Portland Historical Society will hold its Annual Meeting this Sunday, Jan. 25.** The gathering will feature a program, "Castles Along the Connecticut," presented by local resident and society member Alain Munkittrick. The program will highlight a selection of historic houses of the Connecticut River Valley inspired by castle architecture, including William Gillette's "Seventh Sister" in East Haddam and Portland's St. Clements.

**Historical Society Annual Meeting**

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 William 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.

**St. Mary Church News & Notes**

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.

**Little League Trivia Fundraiser**

Portland Little League will hold a Trivia Fundraiser Friday, Jan. 30, at 7 p.m., at Concentric Brewing, 91 Main St. Tickets are \$20 and are available at [tinyurl.com/4bujwfb6](http://tinyurl.com/4bujwfb6).

Food and beverages will be available for purchase. For more information, email [ksbelieve@gmail.com](mailto:ksbelieve@gmail.com).

**Dean's List**

Parker Thompson of Portland made the fall 2025 Dean's List at Assumption University in Worcester, Mass.

\*\*\*

Avery Quesnel of Portland made the fall 2025 Dean's List at Nichols College in Dudley, Mass.

**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.

**Kindergarten Registration**

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

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

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

Portland • Portland

## 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](http://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 Alixia:** Various programs are available for participants as young as 13 months old.

**Winter Break Art Program by Abrakadoodle:**

## 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.portlandlibrary.org](http://www.portlandlibrary.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 Closing:** The library will be closed Monday, Feb. 16, for Presidents 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.

**Write Like a Founding Father:** Thursday, Jan. 29, 3:30 p.m. This program is designed to teach the basics of cursive writing, including forming letters and connecting them to make words. Registration is required.

**Take Your Child to the Library Day:** Saturday, Feb. 7. There will be crafts, a special scavenger hunt – and a Bubble Poppin' Boogie from singer Joy Blooms at 11 a.m. Designed for children ages 1-8 (and their grown-ups). Registration for Bubble Poppin' Boogie is required.

**Snow Day at the Library:** Tuesday, Feb. 17, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Drop in during the day for a variety of snow day fun. Practice ice skating, have a snowball fight, create some winter-themed crafts, and sip on some hot cocoa. No registration is required.

**Family Craft Night: Kiss-ing Booths:** Monday, Feb. 9, 6:30 p.m. Do some building, painting, decorating, and possibly snacking as you create (Hershey's) "Kiss-ing booths." This activity has steps that are appropriate for all ages, but a parent or guardian must be with children to help with supervision. Registration is required.

**doodle:** 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.

and opens Monday, Feb. 2, at 10 a.m.

**Crimelab!** Friday, Feb. 13, 11 a.m., for grades 3-6. Learn the basics of forensic science as you decode fingerprints, examine soil and analyze ink composition. This program is presented by the Children's Museum of West Hartford. Registration is required and opens Monday, Feb. 2, at 10 a.m.

**Wildlife Detectives:** Thursdays at 3:30 p.m., Feb. 12, 19 and 26, for grades K-2. Each week in this three-week series will feature a new way of learning about animals. Explore camouflage and why it's important, dissect owl pellets to learn about a predator's diet, and the CT Science Center will stop by for a Picnic Capers program, during which you'll examine track marks, feathers, bite patterns, and even scat to identify which animal has left behind a mess. Registration is required and opens Monday, Feb. 2, at 10 a.m.

**Teen Program: Cupcake Wars with Britt's Baking Company:** Monday, Feb. 23, 3:30 p.m. Learn about frosting styles and designs. Each participant will then be given three cupcakes and three decorating challenges. Who will be crowned the cupcake champion? Registration is required and opens Monday, Feb. 2, at 10 a.m.

**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.

**Adult Craft Program - Framed Clay Roses:** Thursday, Feb. 12, 6 p.m. Sculpt roses and leaves from air-dry clay, then paint them with translucent watercolor paint. The finished flowers are set in a painted wooden frame and topped with a ribbon hanger, creating a handmade piece of wall art. Registration is required and opens Monday, Jan. 26, at 10 a.m. Space is limited. Snow date is Monday, Feb. 23, at 6 p.m.

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

**Book Clubs: 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. **Mystery Lovers Book Club:** Tuesday, Feb. 17, 1 p.m. *The Long Call* by Ann Cleeves will be discussed.

## Injured Teen Expected to Make Full Recovery

By Anne Lilburn

Residents who may have seen or heard a LifeStar emergency medical transport helicopter landing at Gildersleeve Elementary last Friday night will be relieved to find out that the 14-year-old who was injured is expected to make a full recovery.

Portland Police said that they responded to the scene after the teenager suffered a head injury around 9:23 p.m. while hanging out with friends.

EMS, fire and police personnel were dispatched, and Portland Police Officer Paul Liseo said that, due to the young age of the victim and the potential seriousness of the injury, a LifeStar helicopter was requested "out

of an abundance of caution." The juvenile was then transported via helicopter to Connecticut Children's Medical Center in Hartford.

On Facebook, residents reported seeing the helicopter and expressed concern about the injured youth.

Liseo said that the juvenile had been with friends when he fell and hit his head and that the playground was not a cause. Police said that the school was closed and that there were no after school activities planned. They also added that the incident did not involve any criminal activity and reaffirmed the juvenile's injuries were not as severe as initially feared.

## AARP Tax Return Prep

AARP Tax Return Preparation will be available by appointment every Wednesday from Feb. 4 to April 8 at the Portland Waverly Senior Center, 7 Waverly Ave. This service is free and open to everyone, not only to senior citizens.

Bring your tax return from last year, an ID, and your Social Security card if you have one. Additionally, fill out and bring form 13614-C to your appointment – copies of this form are available for pickup at the senior center. Make

sure you have all your paperwork before scheduling your appointment. All appointments are on Wednesdays from 9 a.m.-noon.

If there is inclement weather conditions and Portland schools are closed, you will be contacted to reschedule. Call 860-342-6761 to schedule your appointment.

**New this year:** Due to IRS changes, refunds will only be issued by direct deposit; paper checks will not be given.

## Zion Lutheran News & Notes

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

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

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

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

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](mailto:zion.lutheran@snet.net), or visit [zionlutheranportland.org](http://zionlutheranportland.org).

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# Standout Athletes of the Week

By Josh Howard

**Jocelyn Gustavson – East Hampton High School (Track & Field):** Gustavson took home a pair of gold medals at the ninth annual James Barber Invitational at Southern Connecticut State University on Jan. 14. Gustavson, a senior, finished first in the 1,000 meters with a time of 3:23.78, defeating runner-up Rory Monahan of Cromwell by over six seconds and well in front of the rest of the field, featuring 23 other competitors. She then joined forces with Brianna Gustavson, Abigail Hambridge, Shannon Mahoney as the Bellringers 4x800 relay team also took first with a time of 11:16.11.

**Aaron Ciarleglio – Portland High School (Basketball):** Ciarleglio scored 16 points as the Highlanders traveled to Clinton and beat Morgan, 63-62, in a Shoreline Conference clash on Jan. 13. Ciarleglio, a senior, has assumed a bulk of the offensive load this season, also pouring in 30 points during the team's 51-47 road victory over Coginchaug on Jan. 6. The Highlanders, currently 4-5 overall, will next welcome Valley Regional to Portland High School tonight (Friday, Jan. 23) for a game at 7 p.m.

**Roger Pryor – RHAM High School (Track & Field):** Pryor took home a pair of wins at the Wesleyan Red & Black Qualifier meet on Jan. 14. Pryor, a senior, won the 55-meter dash with a personal record time of 6.87, besting a field of 76 runners. He then teamed with Cash Wil-

son, Brody Kokofski, and Danny Mantilla on the Raptors 4x200 relay team that also crossed the finish line first with a time of 1:40.03, ahead of ten other squads at the Bacon Field House in Middletown.

**Valerie Luizzi – Colchester/Keene State (Basketball):** Luizzi surpassed 1,000 career points on the college courts, becoming the 22nd player at Keene State University to eclipse the four-digit scoring mark. Luizzi, 2022 graduate of Bacon Academy, hit the mark during a 14-point performance in a 75-49 win at Plymouth State University on Jan. 6. In the contest, Luizzi also grabbed her 400th career rebound, becoming only the ninth player in program history to reach both the 1,000-point milestone and 400-career rebound mark. During her senior season in New Hampshire, Luizzi is averaging 17 points, 8 rebounds, 3 assists, and 2 steals per game for an Owls team that has an overall record of 11-5 as of publication. Prior to college basketball, Luizzi was an all-conference player for a Bobcats basketball team that made the state championship during her senior season at Bacon Academy.

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

## Xavier Honor Roll

**Hebron: High Honors:** Freshman Ryan Bush; junior Redmond Day. **Honors:** Junior Dylan Bligh.

**Marlborough: High Honors:** Junior Nicholas Palifka. **Honors:** Freshman Papa Yaw Okyere-Akoto; senior Colin Tracey.

**Portland: High Honors:** Freshmen Krystof Lukas and Owen Pandolfo; sophomores Alex Brown, Miles Matterfis, Ryan Nadolski, Finn O'Shea and Luke Thompson; juniors Max Bernard, Daniel Glezen and Danesh Raza; senior Andrew Sobieski. **Honors:** freshmen Brennan O'Connor and Ian Xiao; sophomores Ian Binnington, Lucas Bolstridge and Joseph LeCara; juniors Lucas Michalewski and Zain Raza; senior Chase VanDeventer.

The following area students made the Xavier High School honor roll for the first term of the 2025-26 school year:

**Amston: High Honors:** Freshman Jack Wickland.

**Colchester: High Honors:** Sophomores Wesley Engleman and Noah Garvie; senior Corbin Engleman.

**East Hampton: High Honors:** Freshmen Patrick Adams and John Perez; sophomores Holden Hines, Jason Hurt, Gavin King, Nethum Nakandala and Hunter Steiner; seniors James Haslam, Andrew Hawk, Cael Lumbra and Benjamin Romero. **Honors:** Freshmen Alex Beauville and Grady Ottone; sophomores Cameron Correa, Caden Lee, Jack Morrell and Worthington Zinkerman; junior Darren Schwedler.

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## Radon Test Kits Available

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

One test kit is available per residence for those living within the district. Once the test is complete, you will need to mail the kit in for analysis at no charge to you. The results will be

sent to you and will not be public information.

Please only take a test kit if you are committed to following the directions and mailing it out. If you are interested in a test kit, please call 860-365-0884.

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

Cover Story • Cover Story

### \* Colchester BOF Vote, cont. from page 1

member John Thomas, a Republican and chair of the Republican Town Committee, as the lone dissenting vote. Following the decision, Dubreuil stood and left the meeting room. Almost immediately afterward, the atmosphere in the room escalated.

One attendee could be heard audibly responding to the appointment by saying, "What a joke." Thomas agreed with the remark, stating, "What a joke is right."

Earlier, Thomas voiced his objections at length, expressing concern about party balance and what he characterized as the board's voting tendencies. He stated, "As the sole Republican on this board right now, and knowing the track record of the voting candidate that has been recommended by two of our fellow board members, sounds like it's going to be a 5 to 1 and not a very fair board."

He alleged that Antonacci's voting record did not show a history of conservative decisions, "and I don't believe that's fair to the town of Colchester. ... Therefore, I would definitely not recommend Donna."

As Thomas spoke, and following the vote, additional comments were made from the audience. Among them was a statement made by an attendee, who could be heard saying that board members "don't care about all citizens of Colchester across party lines."

Belding attempted to restore order as comments continued, from attendees and board members alike, asking everyone to "stop" and urging everyone to "respect the protocols of the meeting." Her remarks were followed by continued interruptions before order was eventually regained.

Shortly after Antonacci was sworn in, a brief recess was requested before the meeting resumed its regular agenda. When the meeting reconvened, Antonacci took her seat at the table

and participated as a member for the remainder of the session.

Despite the contentious appointment, the Board of Finance proceeded with other business. The board reviewed departmental and financial reports, discussed ongoing budget monitoring and addressed capital-related matters. Among the items discussed were projects involving town and school facilities, including athletic infrastructure improvements. The board also reviewed resolutions related to bonding and capital planning, with members discussing affordability, debt service sharing between the town and the Board of Education and the importance of maintaining aging facilities.

The finance board also took several routine actions, including approvals of prior meeting minutes and procedural motions related to financial oversight. No final budget decisions were made during the session.

In a written statement submitted separately following the meeting, Dubreuil criticized the decision, stating, "The Democratic majority on the Board of Finance filled a Republican seat with a candidate who was not endorsed by Republicans and was opposed by the chairman of the Republican Town Committee, despite his clear vote against her selection."

He argued that the explanation offered for the appointment – improving coordination between the Board of Finance and the Board of Education – was unconvincing, characterizing the move as political gamesmanship and expressing disappointment that partisan considerations were prioritized over what he described as the will of Colchester residents.

Supporters of Antonacci and members who voted in favor of her appointment rejected that characterization, however, and pointed to prior instances in which town committee endorsements were not treated as binding.

Belding referred to a 2024 incident in which Thomas and Vaillancourt dramatically walked out of a Board of Finance meeting in protest of the Democratic majority's preferred choice to fill a vacancy, effectively blocking the vote from taking place. They later issued a joint statement saying they would not attend any future finance board meeting if a vote on the vacancy was included on the agenda.

"Both [Thomas] and [Vaillancourt] broke quorum so the board could not meet, could not vote on filling the seat, and further could not even conduct normal business that needed to happen, all to stop that applicant from being voted onto the board," Belding said. "So it seems quite hypocritical now that [Thomas] and others demand that the board must vote for whoever the appropriate town committee endorses this time."

While last week's meeting ultimately adjourned without further incident, the events surrounding Antonacci's appointment underscored ongoing political tension within the Board of Finance and among town residents. As the board moves into the upcoming budget season, it will do so with a full slate of members – and with lingering questions about governance, representation and process that were laid bare during a meeting marked by raised voices, a walkout and sharp disagreement.

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Colchester • Colchester

# Colchester's Hall of Fame Coach Honored

By Josh Howard

On Jan. 18, former Colchester resident David Zettervall was inducted into the Connecticut Girls' Soccer Coaches Association (CGSCA) Hall of Fame.

Zettervall, who passed away in 2010, was one of three Class of 2025 inductees that were honored at a ceremony held at the Aqua Turf in Plantsville.

Known as "Coach Z," Zettervall was the founder of the inaugural Norwich Free Academy (NFA) girls soccer program in 1985 and would go on to coach the Wildcats in Norwich until his death, amassing over 250 victories. His tenure included multiple conference championships and a pair of state quarterfinals appearances. Over his 25 years on the sidelines, his soccer squads only missed the state playoffs twice.

He was also heavily involved in athletics locally where he coached Colchester Youth Soccer and Colchester Little League. It was here that he had a chance to coach his two sons, Sean and Eric.



David Zettervall

Sean Zettervall, who now coaches youth sports in Colchester, reflected on his father's unwavering hard work to his craft and dedication to his community.

"He always wanted to be there for other people," he added. "Everybody remembers him as somebody that you could count on."

Eric Zettervall said he learned about "staying humble" from his dad, stating, "He taught us that you are only as good as your last game and now I try and live by that."

Throughout his two and a half decades coaching at NFA, Zettervall was regularly recognized for his ability to bring out the best in the team. In 2002, he was selected as the Connecticut High School Coaches Association (CHSCA) Girls Soccer Coach of the Year and a year later, he was the recipient of the 2002-2003 Gatorade High School Coaches Association Outstanding Coach award.

The latest honor is the second time Zettervall entered a hall of fame; he was also inducted into the Southeast Connecticut Junior Soccer Association Hall of Fame in the Class of 2009.

Born in Torrington in 1952, Zettervall went to Harvard University on a scholarship, where he received his bachelor's degree in Cambridge,

Mass. before returning to his home state to obtain his master's degree from the University of Connecticut.

He would later marry his wife, Diane, and the couple would live in Colchester with their two sons. He began working as a math teacher at NFA in 1980 and five years later would help launch the girls soccer program at the private school.

Zettervall would coach the Wildcats until his death in April of 2010 when he passed away at the age of 57 following a battle with cancer.

At last weekend's ceremony, several members of Zettervall's family were in attendance and his two sons accepted the Hall of Fame plaque.

Sean Zettervall said his father's latest honor is a reflection of the legacy that he left.

"Helping people was his passion," he added.

"I watched how hard he worked, so it's nice to know that he is getting recognized for it."

Former NFA soccer players were also on hand, which Eric Zettervall said was "special to see."

"It was stunning to see people who played on his teams in the '80s and '90s," he added. "It was a very moving moment."

The other two Class of 2025 inductees were a pair of players in Chloe Landers of Glastonbury High School and Alyssa Naeher of Christian Heritage School in Trumbull.

Landers was the state's Gatorade Player of the Year for the 2019-20 season before going on to play for the Huskies at UConn. Naeher played at Penn State University and is now playing goalie for Chicago Stars FC of the National Women's Soccer League (NWSL).

## Parks & Rec News & Notes

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

**Puzzelalooza:** Fridays, Jan. 23, 6-8 p.m., at Colchester Senior Center, 15 Louis Lane. Cost: \$25/ team. Preregistration required. A maximum of 10 teams of four will be allowed (one person per team should register). Come with a team or come alone and Parks and Rec. will connect you with people. Additional Puzzelalooza dates: Feb. 20, March 20 and April 24

**Commit Dance Fitness:** Wednesdays through March 4 (class started Jan. 14), 6-7 p.m., at Jack Jackter Intermediate School. For ages 15 and up. Cost for the program is \$80/resident, \$85/nonresident. Drop-ins are welcome, at \$12 per class. There is a minimum of four participants needed, and a maximum of 30.

**Self-Defense for Adults:** Ages 12 and up are invited to come try out Krav Maga and kickboxing to get a full body workout and learn practical self-defense. Class held Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30-10:30 a.m., from Feb. 3-March 5, at

360 Defense, 52 Mill St. Cost: \$120 (5 weeks, 2 classes per week). A minimum of one participant is needed, with a maximum of 12.

**Earring Making Class:** Make your own earrings using Wabi Sabi collage techniques. Wednesdays, Feb. 11 and 18, from 5:30-7:30 p.m., at Colchester Senior Center, for ages 15 and older. Cost is \$45/residents, \$50/non-residents. Minimum of five participants needed, with a maximum of 16 participants.

**Beginner Pickleball Lessons:** For new players only. Wednesdays, 7:30-9 p.m., Feb. 4-25, at Colchester Elementary School. Cost: \$55/resident, \$60/non-resident. Minimum of six participants needed, with a maximum of 12.

**Make And Take Painting Nights:** Wednesdays, Feb. 4 and 25, 6 p.m., at Colchester Senior Center, for ages 13 and up. Theme for Feb. 4 is "Marsh Colors," and theme for Feb. 25 is "Highland Sheep." Fee per class is \$40 per person. Minimum of five people needed for each class, with maximum of 15.

**Pinterest Crafting Class - Valentine's Cookie Decorating:** Wednesday, Feb. 4, 5:30-7:30 p.m., at Colchester Senior Center, for ages 15 and up. Cost: \$25 per person. A minimum of six participants are needed, with a maximum of 12.

## 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](mailto:cfc06415@gmail.com).

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

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

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

## Senior Center News & Notes

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

**Monday, Jan. 26:** 9 a.m., Making Memories, Exercise w/ Anne; 10 a.m., Sittercize; 11 a.m., Learn to Sign, Senior Spotlight; 11 a.m.-noon, Fitness Orientation by appointment; 12:30 p.m., Mah Jongg, Bridge, Set Back.

**Tuesday, Jan. 27:** 9 a.m., Making Memories; 9:45 a.m., Tai Chi; 10 a.m., Healthy Food Series: Snacks; 10:30 a.m., Book Club; 12:30 p.m., In the Know, Pinochle; 1 p.m., Cornhole; 1:15 p.m.

p.m., Bingo; 4-8 p.m., Wellness Nights.

**Wednesday, Jan. 28:** 9 a.m., Making Memories, Walking Group; 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Reflexology; 10 a.m., Adult Coloring, Hand and Foot Card Game, Sit & Be Fit Video; 10:30 a.m., Elder Law Presentation; 1:00 sew-cial Time; 1:30 and 2:30 p.m., Cardio Drumming.

**Thursday, Jan. 29:** 9 a.m., Exercise w/ Anne; 10 a.m., Sittercize, Wii Bowling; 11 a.m., Yoga; noon, Senior Benefits Counseling; 12:05 p.m., Chair Massage; 12:30 p.m., Dominoes; 1 p.m., Knit & Crochet; 4-8 p.m., Wellness Nights.

**Friday, Jan. 30:** 9 a.m., Social Service Hours, Open Art Studio; 10 a.m., Sit & Be Fit; 10:30 a.m., Choral Group; 11 a.m., Yoga; 11:30 a.m., Lunch Bunch; 1:15 p.m., Bingo.

## Abundant Life Church News & Notes

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

**Adult Sunday Bible School:** Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

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

**Healing Bible Study:** Every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

**Prayer Meetings:** Thursdays, 10 a.m. and Fridays, 6:30-8:30 p.m. There is also a brief meeting for pre-service prayer on Sundays at 10:15 a.m.

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

**Children's Church:** Meets Sunday mornings

after worship service.

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

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# Selectmen Advance Bacon Roof Replacement

By Toriana Williams

During the Jan. 15 meeting, the Colchester Board of Selectmen devoted the majority of its discussion to large-scale capital planning, including athletic facility improvements, the replacement of the roof and Bacon Academy and acceptance of a state grant aimed at reducing municipal solid waste.

## \$14.56 Million Referendum Authorized

The most substantial, and perhaps most well-known topic in Colchester as of late, was a proposed \$14,562,400 capital improvement project for athletic facilities at Bacon Academy and the town's recreational complex. After discussion, the board unanimously voted to move the proposal forward to a special town meeting on Feb. 10, followed by a referendum on Feb. 24.

The resolution approved by the board authorizes bonding for the full amount and places the question before voters. The ballot language states:

"Shall the Town of Colchester appropriate and authorize the Board of Selectmen to expend a sum not to exceed \$14,562,400 for capital improvements to the Town's athletic facilities located at Bacon Academy and the Recreation Complex and authorize the issuance of bonds and notes to finance the portion of the appropriation not defrayed from grants or other funds?"

Representatives from the building committee and FieldTurf were present to answer questions about schedule, construction phasing and risk factors. Regional Vice President Andrew Dyjak explained that the project would be phased, with the stadium field, track and surrounding amenities targeted for completion by early August 2026 to allow fall sports to proceed as scheduled. Additional work on baseball, softball and recreational fields would follow, with full completion anticipated by the end of 2026.

## 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

## Christian Life Chapel News

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

## Polish Dinner Jan. 30

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

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

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

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Concerns were raised regarding permitting delays and subsurface conditions. Dyjak acknowledged that unknown soil conditions could affect the timeline and stated that "you don't know exactly what's underneath the field in that large of a space," but added that contingency time and budget allowances were built into the estimate.

Board members raised the possibility of contaminated soil, citing a past example in another town. Dyjak responded that contamination testing had not yet been conducted but said that any testing required by local or state agencies would be completed immediately after a successful referendum. He stated that the high-end project estimate accounts for potential remediation.

Selectman Tim Vaillancourt, a Republican, said he was going to vote to send the question to referendum "and let the citizens decide."

### \$5 Million Bonding Proposal

The board next considered a \$5,000,000 bonding proposal for replacement of the roof at Bacon Academy, which was described during the meeting as actively leaking and at the end of its expected service life. The building is approximately 30 years old, and the roof is the same age.

The approved resolution authorizes bonding and places a separate question on the Feb. 24 referendum ballot. The ballot language reads:

"Shall the Town of Colchester appropriate and authorize the Board of Selectmen to expend a sum not to exceed \$5,000,000 for replacement of the roof and related improvements at Bacon Academy and authorize the issuance of bonds and notes to finance the portion of the appropriation not defrayed from grants or other funds?"

During discussion, concern was raised about the precision of the \$5 million estimate. Vaillancourt stated, "It concerns me to vote to bond

\$5 million on a 'maybe.'" He then requested more detailed written estimates and questioned whether the amount would be sufficient if costs exceed projections.

Selectman Art Shilosky, a Republican, responded that the estimate was based on square footage pricing and consultations with roofing contractors, and that the figure intentionally reflected the high end of the expected range. It was also explained that bonding for the full amount would allow flexibility to address related HVAC improvements if costs came in under budget.

The board discussed the possibility of pursuing state reimbursement through the Department of Administrative Services non-priority list, which would require the creation of a building committee. The resolution included language authorizing such a committee, with the Board of Education chair serving as an "ex officio" member to comply with statutory requirements.

Despite reservations expressed during discussion, the board voted unanimously to advance the roof replacement proposal to referendum.

### Pay-As-You-Throw

The board also unanimously approved acceptance of a \$99,556 grant from the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection under its Sustainable Materials Management Round 2 (SMMR2) program.

Planning Director Nicole Haggerty presented the proposal and explained that Connecticut municipalities face rising costs due to shipping solid waste out of state. She noted that Colchester residents either contract privately for curbside pickup or use the town transfer station under a pay-as-you-throw system.

The grant is structured in three phases. Phase one focuses on data collection to understand waste volumes and disposal costs. Phase two would explore improvements to the existing pay-as-you-throw system, including the possibility of town-branded trash bags purchases at retail locations. Phase three would involve implementation and evaluation, if the town chose to proceed.

Haggerty emphasized that participation is voluntary at each phase and that the town may stop after data collection with no financial penalty. She also noted that the grant could support exploration of food waste composting as a way to reduce disposal costs.

The board voted unanimously to accept the grant.

### Other Business

Earlier in the meeting, the board approved three contracts related to fire safety services at the Colchester Senior Center, including fire alarm monitoring, sprinkler inspection and extinguisher services.

The selectmen also conducted interviews with two applications for alternate positions on the Commission on Aging. Both applicants discussed backgrounds in senior advocacy, fraud prevention and volunteer work. No appointments were made at this meeting; selections are expected at a subsequent session.

Later agenda items included discussion of a proposed Parks and Recreation administrative assistant position to replace a vacant program specialist role. The change would increase the hourly wage. The discussion addressed budget impacts beginning in the next fiscal year, and no final action was taken.

## Senior Center Upcoming Trip

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

### Majestic Cities of Central & Eastern Europe

### Westchester Church News

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

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

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

### Outreach and Other Opportunities: Knit

## Help Plan America250 Celebrations

Colchester is participating in America250, the nationwide commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States – and the town is inviting residents, organizations, schools, and local businesses to help shape Colchester's celebration by hosting events and activities.

America250, also known as the United States Semiquincentennial, encourages communities across the country to reflect on America's past, celebrate the present, and inspire the future. Colchester's efforts will highlight the town's history, civic pride, and sense of community.

The town is seeking ideas for community-led events and activities. Some suggested activities include historical presentations, educational programs, cultural performances, exhibits, walking tours, service projects, student initiatives, and family-friendly celebrations that

## Ukrainian Catholic Church News

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

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

### Dean's List

Colchester residents Sydney Barber and Julianna Martino made the fall 2025 Dean's List at Assumption University in Worcester, Mass.

## Ahavath Achim Schedule

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

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

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

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

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## Middle Haddam Public Library News

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

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

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

**Chatham Chess Club:** Wednesdays, Feb. 4 and 18, 6-9 p.m. All ages and skill levels welcome, and lessons are available. For more information, email [pjhoffman@juno.com](mailto:pjhoffman@juno.com).

**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 [tensummitst@gmail.com](mailto:tensummitst@gmail.com).

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

## 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](mailto:triptofrance26@gmail.com) ASAP to get more information and a detailed itinerary.



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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](http://easthamptonpubliclibrary.org).

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

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

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

**Cookbook Club:** Tuesday, Feb. 3, 6:30 p.m. This month's theme is Dips. Bring a prepared dish, 12 copies of the recipe to share, and come hungry. Food should arrive ready to eat; the library will provide the plates and forks. Register or drop in.

**LibraYoga:** Tuesday, Feb. 10, 6:30 p.m. Yoga 200 certified instructor Amie Meacham leads an hour of gentle yoga for adults in the Library Community Room. All levels welcome; bring your own mat if you have one and wear comfy clothes.

**Teen Programs:** Magic: the Gathering (Grades 7-12): Saturday, Jan. 24, 1-3 p.m. Whether you already know how to play the card game, or want to learn, come together and play with people of all skill levels. Bring your own decks or use one of the library's decks.

**Snack Lab:** Grades 6-12: Wednesday, Jan. 28, 3-5 p.m. Learn how to make microwave treats perfect for after school, movie nights, or when you just need something fun to eat.

**Crochet with Keri:** Grades 5-12: Tuesday, Feb. 10, 6 p.m. Gather together in the Teen Space each month to create a tiny crochet project. All supplies and basic instruction included.

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

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

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# Economic Development Discussed at POCD Meeting

By Anne Lilburn

East Hampton hosted one of several planned community sessions to discuss the town's upcoming revision of its Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) this past Tuesday evening.

This first session focused on economic development, and residents had a chance to share their concerns and their visions for the future of the town with the POCD steering committee, including town planner Juliet Hodge.

The meeting involved thoughtful discussions from the public and the committee about the need for economic development in order to expand the town's tax base. Currently, the town's tax burden is weighted heavily towards residents, as opposed to commercial activity, and Hodge and others made the case for opening the door to smartly placed commercial development in order to take some of the pressure off of residential taxpayers.

Despite the acknowledgement that development might lead to lower taxes in the future, some in the audience worried that any moves to make the town more palatable to commercial enterprises might also cost money in the short term.

Residents voiced their concerns about overdevelopment and expressed fears that big box stores might arrive in town, but Hodge reassured them that this was unlikely, as East Hampton did not have significant enough traffic flow to attract bigger stores.

Several community members said they hoped

that the town might be able to attract businesses to vacant industrial buildings, including old mills and factories. They said they appreciated the buildings' charm and character, noting that they were common across communities in Connecticut and New England and emblematic of the area.

Residents wanted to know how the town could incentivize companies to move in and renovate the existing structures. While there is state funding available for remediation of brownfield properties, Hodge also pointed out that, for many businesses, including those like breweries and light industry, lack of public water sources at those sites held back development.

Throughout the meeting, Hodge, along with Town Council member Karen Wanat, went out of her way to try to steer discussion to practical ways that the POCD could steer and guide future planning decisions in the town. Hodge repeatedly asked community members to elaborate on what specifically they did and didn't like about certain types of development, and to specify what their concerns were. She encouraged community members to think about what things (including building design, location, size limitations, etc.) could help make a project more palatable.

One interesting idea that was spoken about at the meeting was the push to attract some tourism to the area, and the resulting need for a local

small hotel or bed and breakfast to support that type of development. Many supported the idea of small businesses in the downtown area and believed that promoting tourism could bring customers to these businesses. Residents also pointed out that local lodging would help them out as residents as well, with some pointing out the challenges they face when family visits.

Towards the end of the meeting – faced with residents who wanted to figure out how to get the businesses they wanted, but not those they did not – Hodge shared a bit of planning strategy with those who attended.

Noting that she and the town were required to approve any projects that adhered to existing planning regulations, Hodge said the best way to move forward to attract the type of development that people wanted, and to dissuade the

types of development that they did not want, was to make the planning and zoning regulations difficult to meet for the types of businesses they did not want, and easier to meet for those that they did.

She also encouraged residents to think about where they would be most comfortable seeing new development, adding that for many, placing development in areas where there already were businesses was more comfortable than intruding on open space or residential areas.

This was just the first of several POCD Steering Committee meetings that will seek to get community input, along with a POCD community survey that will also be available. The next community session will concern housing and will take place on Thursday, Jan. 29, at 5:30 p.m. at Town Hall.

## Haddam Neck Covenant Church News

Haddam Neck Covenant Church, located at 17 Haddam Neck Rd. in East Hampton, invites all to in-person and online worship Sundays at 9 a.m. Pastor is the Rev. Tom Cowger. Communion will be served this Sunday. Refreshments are served after the service.

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

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

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

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

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

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**Taxes Due Jan. 1**

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

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

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

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

Checks should be made payable to Town of East Hampton. Payments may be mailed to:

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

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

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

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**2026 Old Home Days Logo Contest**

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

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

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

shirts, signage, and promotional materials).

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

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

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

**Haddam Neck in Pictures**

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

**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. For more information, visit [epocharts.org](http://epocharts.org).

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## Donations Accepted for 'Bits and Pieces'

Haddam Neck Congregational Church is accepting donations of fabric, yarn and notions for the Bits and Pieces sale to be held during the church's 37th annual quilt show on April 11 and 12.

All proceeds support church outreach and maintenance. Call 860-993-5311 or 860-301-4994 for information on how to donate.

Hours for the quilt show are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on April 11 and noon-4 p.m. on April 12, at the church, 408 Quarry Hill Rd., Haddam Neck.

## MHVC Accepting Scholarship Applications

The Middlesex Hospital Vocal Chords (MHVC) Executive Board is now taking applications for the group's annual scholarships to be awarded to Middlesex County students pursuing a career in music or nursing. In its 35-year history, MHVC has awarded over \$90,000 in scholarship money.

Applicants must have been accepted at an accredited college or university with one of these majors. The Review Committee will consider academic record, extracurricular and community service activities, the student's ability to ar-

ticulate his/her career goals and the recommendations of the references. The scholarships will be paid directly to the recipients at the spring concert which will be held on Saturday, May 2, at Portland High School.

All applications must be postmarked by Saturday, March 14, and can be obtained at Middlesex County high school guidance offices or by visiting [vocalchords20.org](http://vocalchords20.org). If you would like to make a donation to the scholarship fund, visit the website.

## Spaghetti and Meatball Dinner

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.

## Christ Episcopal Church News

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

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

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

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

ticipating.

**Clothing Donations:** The church is collecting clothing for the area unhoused in conjunction with FOOD4LIVES. Please check your closet for surplus warm clothing in good condition; adult sizes only. A box will be placed in the Parish Hall for donations.

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

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

## Senior Center Upcoming Trips

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

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

**Fairytales at Pickity Place, Mason, N.H.:** Thursday, May 7. Visit this 1786 cottage for lunch followed by time to stroll the grounds and shop, explore the herb shop, gardens and greenhouse. Also, visit the Cathedral of the Pines in Rindge, N.H., for a guided tour. Explore the sanctuary, sacred spaces, monuments and burial grounds built as a memorial to those who have fallen in service to the nation. Cost is \$167.

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

**Newport Flower Show "Pearl of Newport":** Friday, June 19 departing the Stop & Shop parking lot at 8:30 a.m. The magnificent Rosecliff

Mansion is the backdrop for the Newport Flower Show where participants can stroll the first floor of the mansion and the grounds filled with floral arrangements, shop the marketplace and free time in downtown Newport at shops and restaurants in Bowen's and Bannister's Wharf. Cost is \$136.

**Boston Tall Ships:** Tuesday, July 14, departing from Stop & Shop at 9:30 a.m. Experience the fleet of international tall and military ships in Boston Port as part of Sail250; lunch at Jimmy Buffet's Margaritaville; browse Faneuil Hall then board the Charles I for a narrated cruise. Cost is \$183.

## Helping Hands Closed for February

Helping Hands will be closed for the month of February and reopen Saturday, March 7. It will then be open every first and third Saturday of each month. Donations will be collected on those Saturdays, as well as every Thursday from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Helping Hands is located at 27 Skinner St. For more information, call Beth Cunningham at 860-365-1054.

## Dean's List

Camryn Sprague of East Hampton made the fall 2025 Dean's List at Assumption University in Worcester, Mass.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.easthamptonct.org](http://www.easthamptonct.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 As-

essment 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.

## Senior Center News & Notes

East Hampton Senior Center, 105 Main St., announces the following. **Registration is required for all programs** unless noted; register at [myactivecenter.com](http://myactivecenter.com) or by contacting the center at 860-267-4426 or [seniorcenter@easthamptonct.gov](mailto:seniorcenter@easthamptonct.gov). Senior center hours are Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Visit [www.easthamptonct.gov/east-hampton-senior-center](http://www.easthamptonct.gov/east-hampton-senior-center) for more information and a list of regular weekly and monthly activities, including games, quilting, Bible study, monthly men's and women's groups, and more.

**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:** **Community Care Connection Program:** Tuesdays from 2 to 6 p.m. with Ria Irons, a certified community health worker. Call for an appointment – 860-267-4426.

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

**Community Care Connection Program:** Tuesdays from 2 to 6 p.m. Ria Irons, a certified community health worker, 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.

**Café Conversations with the Coordinator:** Tuesday, Jan. 27, 12:15 p.m. Chat with center director Holly Marrero and share ideas.

**Pretend Cooking Show:** Thursday, Jan. 29, 1:30 p.m. This no-cook, no-bake micro cooking class with center director Holly Marrero featuring pumpkin flatbreads. Limited to just eight participants, so register to secure your spot, and get ready to stir, mix, and sample. Cost is \$5.

**Friday Film Fun:** Friday, Jan. 30, 1 p.m. See the Alfred Hitchcock classic *Rear Window*, with Grace Kelly and Jimmy Stewart. In the film, a wheelchair-bound photographer spies on his neighbors from his Greenwich Village courtyard apartment window and becomes convinced one of them has committed murder. Sign up and let the center know if coming.

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

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## Arts Center Membership Drive

Marlborough Arts Center is holding its annual membership drive for 2026. New members are invited to join, while existing members are invited to renew their memberships.

Support helps maintain one of Marlborough's historical buildings along with providing opportunities for artists, musicians, art and music enthusiasts and patrons. The arts center hosts monthly concerts on the fourth Friday of each month, and provides arts and crafts classes, art shows, monthly email newsletters and more. The gallery and classroom in this historic building are also available to rent for the day or hourly for personal events (showers, receptions, meetings, etc.) by the public. Members receive a rental discount.

Memberships start at \$25 with benefits including: advance notice of popular classes that often fill up; solo shows at the center's second gallery inside Town Hall; an opportunity to display and sell art at the annual member's show; volunteer opportunities; and the chance to meet new friends and network with other artists, musicians and art collectors.

Visit [www.marlborougharts.org](http://www.marlborougharts.org) to join or renew securely online (debit/credit card or PayPal). Payment by check is available. Mail-in membership forms are on the website.

Marlborough Arts Center is a nonprofit regional Arts Center located at 231 North Main St., Marlborough. It has been in existence since 2007.

For more information, email [info@marlborougharts.org](mailto:info@marlborougharts.org), call the office at 860-467-6353 and leave a message, or visit [www.marlborougharts.org](http://www.marlborougharts.org).

## 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.

## Taxes Due

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

Failure to pay on time will be subject to interest of one and one-half percent per month reverting to the due date or 18% per year. If you do not receive a bill, please check online at [www.marlboroughct.gov](http://www.marlboroughct.gov), bill look up (online tax payments), or contact the Tax Office at 860-295-6205.

## Parks and Rec. Programs

p.m., at MES. Kids make mixtures and explore the science of motion and energy. Fee is \$142/resident, \$147/non-resident.

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

**Safe Sitter:** Saturday, Feb. 14, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., at the Marlborough Senior Center. This class is designed to prepare students in grades 6-8 to be safe when they're home alone, watching younger siblings, or babysitting. Students even get to use manikins to practice rescue skills like choking rescue. Registration fee is \$140/resident, \$145/non-resident.

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

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

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

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

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

## Congregational Church News & Notes

**Sunday Worship** at Marlborough Congregational Church, located at 35 South Main St., is held at 10 a.m. The service is also broadcast live every Sunday at [mcc.marlcongchurch.org](http://mcc.marlcongchurch.org) and recorded for later viewing. Church pastor is the Rev. Valerie Seaver.

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

**Seat of Our Pants** musicians will perform in the meetinghouse at the Marlborough Congregational Church on Saturday, Jan. 24, at 7 p.m. The public is invited with a free-will donation as the admission price.

**Jan. 25** service will be led by Seaver. Her sermon title is "Who Would You Follow?" After worship all are invited to Coffee Hour in the Thienes Lounge.

**Annual Meeting:** The 279th Annual Meeting of the Congregational Church of Marlborough will be held Sunday, Jan. 25, in the meetinghouse, at 11:15 a.m. Agenda items for church members to vote include the Approval of the 2026 budget, 2025 Statistics, 2025 Report of the Treasurer, and vote for the Rev. Bob Faulhaber Jr. to be Pastor Emeritus of the church.

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

**Outreach:** The church collects non-perishable food items year-round for Marlborough Food Bank with a basket located in the narthex for Sunday worshippers to bring donations. A

luncheon for Florence Lord Housing residents is held monthly. The next church-sponsored Drive Thru Café, for Marlborough Food Bank clients and their families with tickets will be Jan. 25, with Boy Scout Troop 39 providing the meal. First-quarter mission giving will go to Marlborough Food Bank.

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

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

**General Information:** Marlborough Congregational Church is an Open and Affirming faith community and all are welcome. The church does not pass a collection plate, but free-will giving boxes are found by the doors in the sanctuary. Donations can also be made through the church website, or mailed to the church at P.O. Box 57, Marlborough, CT 06447. For more information on the church or its programs, call Seaver's direct line at 860-295-0432, email her at [pastorval@marlcongchurch.org](mailto:pastorval@marlcongchurch.org), or contact the church office at [office@marlcongchurch.org](mailto:office@marlcongchurch.org).

## Red Cross Blood Drive

American Legion Post 197, located at 128 East Hampton Rd. (Route 66), will hold a Red Cross Blood Drive Tuesday, Jan. 20, from 1-6 p.m., in the main hall.

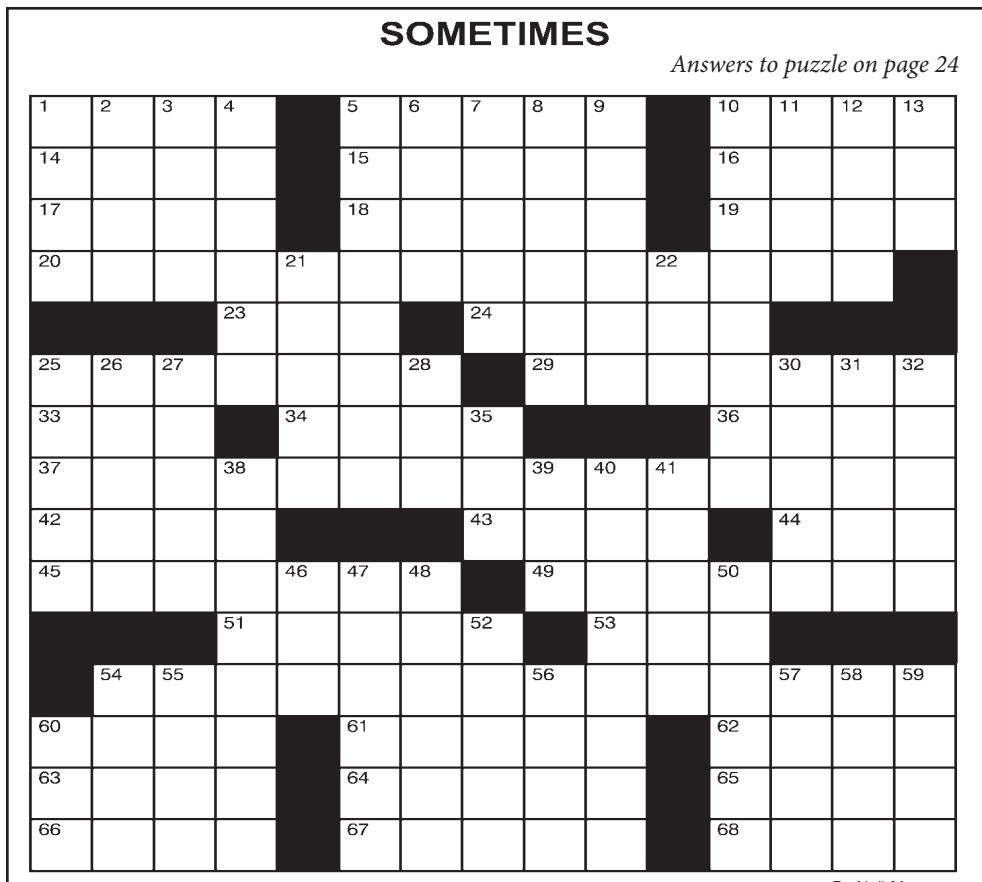
Donors can make an appointment by calling 1-800-733-2767, or to book online, visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) and enter "Marlborough."

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- 16 Follow orders
- 17 Iron and Bronze
- 18 Western movie
- 19 Nary a one
- 20 Spuds, sometimes
- 23 Flightless bird
- 24 Flask
- 25 Foundation, of a type
- 29 Tuscany, formerly
- 33 Exist
- 34 High schooler
- 36 Not more
- 37 Bell-shaped veggie
- 42 Fencer's sword
- 43 Garb for woman on her toes
- 44 Owing
- 45 Leaves on base
- 49 Sayonaras
- 51 Sharapova or Callas
- 53 Garland
- 54 Accountant, sometimes

### 60 Soft drink

61 Tapestry

62 Mustard family member

63 Mild expletive

64 Superman portrayer

65 Fashion mag

66 Not crazy

67 Affirmatives

68 Genuine

### DOWN

1 Not 68 Across

2 Robe of office

3 Molybdenite and galena

4 Home appliance

5 Play financier and supervisor

6 Harvest

7 Prohibit legally

8 Be very agitated

9 Narrow channel

10 Pearl Harbor's neighbor

11 Orchestra member

12 Refraction device

13 Tint

21 Act the ham

By Neil Manausa

Marlborough • Marlborough

**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](mailto:socialservices@marlboroughct.gov).

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

**Note:** As of Jan. 1, all events not regularly scheduled 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:** Wednesday, Feb. 11, noon-1:30 p.m. Join for Music by Bill Naughton Jr and light refreshments. Reminisce over classic love songs.

**Mahjongg Strategy Class:** Wednesday, Feb. 18, 9:30-11:30 a.m. Please RSVP. Some playing experience required. This class is free.

**Scam Prevention:** Friday, Feb. 20, noon-1 p.m. A financial advisor from Edward Jones will speak on how to prevent yourself from being scammed and protect your money.

**What I Need to Know About My Electric Choices:** Thursday, Feb. 26. AARP will share

instructions on how to compare and shop for cheaper electric rates and review your Eversource bill. If you qualify for the Eversource low-income discount rate, it can be added to your account on this day. Please note you are interested when you RSVP.

**Living Your Best Life:** Friday, Feb. 27, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Middlesex Hospital will be sharing healthy tips to live your best life.

**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](http://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 additional cards after are 50 cents; **Cards:** Mondays, 2-3:30 p.m., and Fridays, 1-3:30 p.m.; **Chair Massage:** Free 15-minute massages are offered Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Appointment required.

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

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

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

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

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

**Mahjongg:** 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.

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

**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.

**American Legion Setback Tournament**

There will be a Round Robin-style Setback Tournament Friday, Jan. 23, at American Legion Post 197, 128 East Hampton Rd. (Route 66), Marlborough.

Registration is at 6 p.m. and games start at 6:30 p.m. Cost is \$10 per person.

Prizes will be awarded for first, second and third place. There will also be raffles and a 50/50 raffle. All proceeds go to the ladies auxiliary.

For more information, call Sharon at 860-805-6917.

**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.

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**Donations Sought for Tag Sale**

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

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

Donations can be dropped off Saturdays,

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

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

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

**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 pm., at the center, 231 N. Main St.

The instructor, Sharon Leonard from Newington, has been making hand written eggs for over 40 years. She was inspired by her 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

**St. John Fisher Church News & Notes**

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

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

Faith Formation Programs: Classes are underway for this season. Cindy Bryan, Eileen Gilles and Helena Thomas lead the programs for grades K-10, to include a high school youth group. For more information, access the church website.

Ministry, Social and Parish Community Events: An adult choir practices weekly; men's and women's prayer groups, Knights of Co-

lumbus, 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.stjfchurch.org](http://www.stjfchurch.org), or look for the church on Facebook (Saint John Fisher Roman Catholic Church).

**Dean's List**

April Snyder of Marlborough made the fall 2025 Dean's List at Hofstra University in Hempstead, N.Y.

Snyder's major is criminology.

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## America 250 Kick-Off Event

The Town of Hebron and The Town Center Project invite the Hebron community to the America 250th Kick-Off Event on Saturday, Jan. 31, from 2-4 p.m., at AHM Youth & Family Services, 25 Pendleton Drive, Hebron.

This event will be the first of many celebratory activities planned during 2026 to recognize the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

Activities for all ages will include a train

## 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](http://hebronct.com/town-departments/senior-center).

**Exercise Class – FABBS:** FABBS stands for Flexibility, Agility, Better Balance and Strength. Classes held Wednesdays and Fridays through Jan. 30 (started Jan. 14) from 10:45-11:45 a.m. Fee for six classes is \$18.

**RHAM Bingo:** Monday, Feb. 9, 2:30-4 p.m. RHAM National Honor Society students come and call the games, provide refreshments, and prizes. You can play up to four cards for free, and they play a total of eight games. Next date is March 2.

**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 for the 2025 Year:** 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 Tuesdays from Feb. 3-March 31. Sign-up required, by calling 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.

ride, refreshments, children's games and craft activities. A proclamation adopted by the Hebron Town Council will be presented, committee reports will be provided introducing many of the fun, educational and historical activities planned for the year.

All are invited to attend the kick-off event and learn about the events planned for the year ahead to celebrate America's Semiquincentennial.

## 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/clchhebron/live](http://www.facebook.com/clchhebron/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."

## United Brethren Synagogue News and Notes

United Brethren of Hebron Synagogue, located at 10 Church Street (Route 85) in the center of Hebron, invites all to its next Shabbat service on Friday, Feb. 6, at 7 p.m. This service will be online only; if you wish to participate, email [ubofhebron@gmail.com](mailto:ubofhebron@gmail.com).

The annual Purim celebration will be on Sunday, March 1, at 4 p.m., when the synagogue will hold a carnival and costume party for the children as well as read the megillah, an ancient text that tells the story of Queen Esther. Also, the annual Maple Fest Bake Sale, which will include tours of the historic synagogue building, will be on Sunday, March 22, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

United Brethren of Hebron offers a flexible, in-

clusive approach to Judaism. The synagogue combines elements from both the Conservative and Reform traditions in its services, and its membership includes interfaith families and couples.

The synagogue said its historic building needs a new roof and other major renovations, and is looking for donations to its capital campaign. To learn more, go to [www.gofundme.com/f/support-united-brethren-hebrons-vital-work](http://www.gofundme.com/f/support-united-brethren-hebrons-vital-work).

If interested in becoming a member or would like to learn more about the synagogue, please visit [www.ubofhebron.org](http://www.ubofhebron.org) or email [ubofhebron@gmail.com](mailto:ubofhebron@gmail.com). Also, check out the synagogue's Facebook page for information about upcoming events and services.

Cover Story • Cover



More than three decades after officials first started talking about it, Portland is finally set to make public access to the Connecticut River a reality.

\* **Portland River Access, cont. from page 1** over the years, and that last fall, volunteers helped to clear out invasive plants, brush and garbage that had accumulated. More recently, construction equipment moved in to begin the excavation for the road and parking lot.

Pear said his eventual vision for the project would have the new park eventually connected to the town's existing Riverfront Park via pedestrian pathways, and also to the existing Air Line Trail, to allow an interconnected path that unites the riverfront with the town's other natural highlights. He said he hoped the new park would involve picnicking areas, hiking

trails, and fishing access, in addition to the boat launch. Sharr said he eventually hoped to see a boat house where residents could store kayaks and meet up as well.

Pelton has been involved in advocating for the project since taking office last year. In an earlier interview, Pelton emphasized that this was the first public access to the river in two generations, and said he was happy to see the town connecting with its waterfront.

Funding the project took some work, said both Sharr and Pear. To date, the project has received a \$4,000 grant from The Rockfall Foundation, which promotes environmental education and conservation, and a large, \$300,000 grant from the state. Sharr and Pear both credited state Sen. Norm Needleman (D-33) and state Rep. Christie Carpino (R-32) with helping the town to secure that state funding. Now, they are just trying to get across the finish line in time for a ribbon-cutting sometime in May or June.

"My kayaks are waiting," said Pear. "We're all excited and we're just kind of saying that once we get this done, we're gonna take those kayaks and we'll probably have, I don't know, maybe 50 people that would like to float our kayaks in the water on the day we have a ribbon-cutting ceremony."

The Riverfront Access Committee is still continuing to look for funding from a variety of sources, including small contributions from townspeople. So far, the town has raised over \$8,000 from small donors. Recently, Sharr himself offered up to \$10,000 in matching funds for any donors who contributed through the end of January. He said he was happy to commit to that donation.

"I lived in Portland, most of my adult life," he said. "I raised my family here. I had a business here. The town's been good to me, and I believe in community service and giving back to the community."

Pear emphasized that no donation was too small. Sharr said checks can be made out to the Brownstone Quorum with a memo note designating the Riverfront Access, and mailed to P.O. Box 402, Portland, CT 06480. Anyone who prefers to make a donation through an employer sponsored plan or Donor Advised Fund can contact Sharr at 860-836-8496 for further information.

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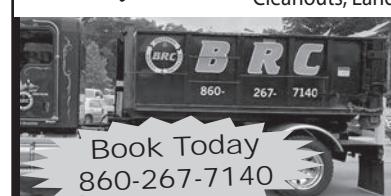
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## 9.1% Hike Proposed for School Budget

By Toriana Williams

The Hebron Board of Education has unveiled a proposed 2026-27 school budget that calls for a \$1.3 million increase in spending – a sharp 9.1% spike from the current year.

The increase, according to the schools superintendent, is driven primarily by rising special education costs, contractual salary and insurance obligations and enrollment growth in the district's youngest grades.

Superintendent of Schools Thomas Baird said the school board's primary concerns during budget development were maintaining reasonable class sizes and preserving student support and enrichment programs. He said the budget proposal was structured to balance staffing levels, special education services and academic enrichment while responding to enrollment changes and rising costs.

According to the district's budget presentation, the 2026-27 proposal is designed to continue the work outlined in the district's advancement plan, while meeting enrollment demands, maintaining class-size expectations, addressing the growing needs of students with disabilities and continuing academic, mental health and technology supports. Administrators also noted that the plan seeks to balance educational needs with affordability concerns and the district's long-term facility needs.

Baird cautioned that the overall percentage increase could be misleading if viewed without context. He said that if the unanticipated special education expenses incurred during the current year were removed, the year-over-year increase would be closer to 5%, which he said, "is about the average across the state."

The proposal maintains current programming while relying on some staff reorganization and the use of non-lapsing account funds for one-time curriculum, equipment and technology purchases totaling \$73,531. The budget assumes stability in special education outplacements, full funding of special education expenses, fulfillment of all union contracts and no increase in preschool tuition.

### Budget Drivers

District officials identified several major cost drivers contributing to the year-over-year increase. The largest single factor is contractual salary and insurance increases, which account for \$608,972, or 4.25%, of the overall increase. Special education expenses represent another significant driver, rising by \$586,613, or 4.09%.

Enrollment growth in kindergarten is also reflected in the budget, with \$102,940 allocated for the addition of a sixth kindergarten section. All other changes combined account for just \$5,482, or 0.04%, of the increase.

Administrators noted that these pressures come amid broader financial challenges, includ-

ing inflation's impact on supplies and equipment, higher rates for contracted services, the loss of certain grant funds and increasing concern within the community about affordability.

### Special Education Trends

Special education continues to place growing demands on the district's budget. Over the past 15 years, statewide data show a 53% increase in the number of students with disabilities and a 164% increase in students identified with autism. Locally, Hebron added 18 students with disabilities across all grade levels in the past year alone.

Currently, more than one in four students in the district receives support through an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or 504 Plan, totaling 182 students. The district's IEP prevalence rate stands at 17.4%, and officials reported that the proportion of students with autism and emotional disabilities continues to increase.

Despite these trends, the state has provided less reimbursement for special education costs, shifting a greater share of the financial burden to local districts. The budget proposal reflects an effort to fully fund required services while maintaining current special education staffing levels.

### Enrollment and Staffing

Overall enrollment is projected to reach 723 students in the 2026-27 school year, an increase of 24 students over current levels. Growth is concentrated in kindergarten, prompting the addition of one new section, while the district is budgeting for one fewer section in both second and third grade.

The budget maintains current levels of special education staffing to keep pace with increasing student needs but reduces intervention staffing due to the loss of grant funding. The district is also restructuring its payroll and accounts payable specialist position to part-time.

Proposed staffing changes include the addition of one full-time speech-language pathology assistant and the maintenance of one special education teacher position that is partially grant-funded, along with five special education paraeducators. At the same time, the budget reduces one classroom teacher position across kindergarten, second and third grade; one school psychologist; 0.4 of a social worker position provided through a contracted service; 0.4 of academic intervention staffing; four teacher leadership stipends; and 0.05 of the payroll and data specialist position.

Baird said the current proposal is designed to keep class sizes largely consistent, preserve enrichment opportunities and meet the needs of students with disabilities. He added that some student support services may need to be reorganized to ensure intervention needs are met, including partnerships with AHM, rather than eliminated outright.

### School Resource Officers, Public Safety

The presentation also addressed school safety and the role of school resource officers (SROs). District officials clarified that SROs are funded through the town budget rather than the school budget. While the school budget does not in-

clude funding for SROs, the district is requesting that the town prioritize funding for a second school resource officer.

The stated goal of the request is to ensure consistent safety and security coverage across Gilead Hill School, Hebron Elementary School and RHAM, particularly during staff absences, so that at least one SRO is available daily.

### Per-Pupil Spending and Comparison

Hebron's per-pupil expenditures remain below state and regional averages. Based on the most recently published data from the 2023-24 fiscal year, Hebron spends \$19,816 per pupil, compared to a state average of \$22,054 and a Region 8 district average of \$21,728.

District officials noted that Hebron spends the least per pupil on general, school-based and central office administration in the region. While Hebron consistently performs in the top third of its District Reference Group, its per-pupil spending ranks near the bottom of the group, a point administrators cited as evidence of efficient resource use.

### Statewide Context

As of mid-January, school budget requests across Connecticut showed a median increase of 5.13%. While some districts reported increases below 4%, others exceeded 7%, placing Hebron's proposal at the higher end of the statewide range but still roughly average compared to other school budgets.

### Budget Timeline

The budget process remains ongoing. Department-level budget development took place in October and November, followed by reviews in December. Preliminary budgets were presented in early and mid-January, with line-item reviews scheduled through February and March.

The Board of Education is scheduled to present the proposed budget to the Board of Finance on March 17. The Board of Finance is expected to finalize the town budget in April, with a town-wide budget referendum planned for May 5. Final adjustments would follow in May and June.

Asked about the district's flexibility if the BOF requests reductions, Baird shared, "I am optimistic that we will continue with the collaborative approach forged over the last several years."

As the budget moves toward review by the BOF and a potential referendum, Baird said residents should be aware that declining state reimbursement for special education has increasingly shifted costs to local communities, even as the number of students with more complex needs has grown. He said the board remains mindful of the financial impact on taxpayers while seeking to maintain high-performing schools, which he said contribute to long-term property values and community stability.

Residents are encouraged to submit questions and feedback to both the Board of Education and the Board of Finance as the budget moves forward.

## Arsonist Charged in Fire at Rectory

By Toriana Williams

A man has been charged in connection with a fire at the rectory of St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Hebron, though church officials say they remain unclear about why the incident occurred.

Sivan Cabranes Calderon, 45, of Willimantic, is charged with third-degree arson and first-degree criminal mischief, according to Connecticut State Police. Cabranes Calderon was arrested on Dec. 29, based on details of the pending case.

The Rev. Ron Kolanowski, rector of St. Peter's Episcopal Church, said the charges have not brought clarity to the church community.

"I have no idea who this person is and have not heard of a motive for why this happened," Kolanowski said. "We are puzzled as well."

The fire itself occurred on Tuesday evening, Nov. 4, at the church rectory located at 60 Church St. The Hebron Fire Department was dispatched at approximately 6:12 p.m. following a report of a structure fire. Firefighters arrived and were able to bring the situation under control quickly, extinguishing the blaze by about 6:30 p.m., according to the department.

No one was home at the time of the fire,

and no injuries were reported to residents or emergency responders. Fire officials said two pets inside the rectory were safely rescued by responding crews.

Kolanowski said the damage caused by the fire was limited. "The damage from the fire was not very extensive at all," he said, adding that the incident "made more smoke than it did real damage." He explained that the fire occurred on an exterior wall of a shed located adjacent to the rear of the rectory.

The incident took place on Election Day, and the rectory is located near Hebron Elementary School, a town polling location. Assistant Fire Chief Bill Schappert said the emergency response did not disrupt voting. Voters were still able to access the school, and "polls remained open the entire time," he said.

The Hebron Fire Marshal's Office investigated the fire with assistance from the State Fire Marshal. The Hebron Fire Department also acknowledged mutual aid from several agencies, including Eversource, the Columbia, Marlborough, Colchester, Willimantic and Bolton fire departments, Colchester Fire and EMS and Windham Hospital Paramedics.

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### Military Whist Tournament

There will be a Military Whist Tournament Saturday, Jan. 31, at 5 p.m., at Gilead Congregational Church, 672 Gilead St., in the Fellowship Hall. Reservations must be made by Saturday, Jan. 24.

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.

### Call for Local Artists Business Owners!

The Town Center Project Committee has announced an open call for local artists, crafters, makers and small businesses to participate in Hebron's Own Expo, a featured attraction at the upcoming 2026 Hebron Maple Festival.

This year, the Douglas Library will feature an indoor marketplace showcasing the works of local residents. The Expo will offer participants an opportunity to connect with hundreds of festival attendees and share their work.

Hebron residents will receive priority consideration, and space is limited. Interested participants are encouraged to reach out as soon as possible.

To apply, email [hebronsownexpo@gmail.com](mailto:hebronsownexpo@gmail.com) or text 860-368-9125.

For more information about the 2026 Hebron Maple Festival, visit [thetowncenterproject.org](http://thetowncenterproject.org).

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REB-7-25

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# DPWAC Discusses Letters, Legal Lines

By Toriana Williams

The Department of Public Works Action Committee (DPWAC) convened a special meeting on Jan. 13 to focus on two central issues: the legal boundaries between education and advocacy for committee members, and how to respond to recent letters to the editor criticizing the proposed public works facility project. While no formal votes were taken beyond adjournment, the discussion revealed the committee's ongoing struggle to balance transparency, accuracy and public communication amid heightened public scrutiny.

## Advocacy Vs. Education

The first major agenda item was a conference with the town attorney to clarify what constitutes permissible education versus prohibited advocacy by DPWAC members. This issue has taken on increased importance as public debate around the DPW project has intensified and committee members have become more visible in community discussions.

Early in the discussion, Town Attorney Ken Slater offered a straightforward framing of the issue, stating that "the simplest way to avoid the issue of advocacy by Committee members is to form a PAC (Political Action Committee)." This comment set the tone for a detailed exchange about the rights and limitations of committee members, particularly when acting in different capacities.

It was confirmed that committee members, even those who are also elected officials, are legally permitted to join a political action committee as private citizens. However, the distinction between acting as a private individual and

acting as a member of a town-appointed committee was emphasized repeatedly. The conversation returned again and again to intent, context and the use of public resources.

Committee members sought clarity on whether sharing information about the DPW project could be interpreted as advocacy. The distinction drawn was that providing factual, publicly available information – such as presentations already delivered to the Town Council – generally falls within acceptable educational activity. In contrast, sharing non-public materials, including internal architectural renderings or preliminary planning documents, could raise concerns if used outside official channels.

Another recurring theme was the use of town resources. Members discussed whether email systems, meeting time or committee titles could be used when communicating about the project in public forums. The consensus was cautious: while education is allowed, even well-intentioned communication could be perceived as advocacy if it appears to promote a particular outcome or influence voters.

Though no formal action was taken, the discussion underscored a growing awareness among committee members that their words, roles and methods of communication matter as much as the information itself.

## Letters to the Editor Take Center Stage

The second agenda item, which dealt with recent *Rivereast* letters to the editor, was the most pointed and arguably the most consequential portion of the meeting. Committee members turned their attention to public commentary

that they said contains factual inaccuracies about the DPW project, particularly regarding projected costs and planning alternatives.

DPWAC member Richard Steiner highlighted a specific claim circulating in print that placed the cost of the proposed Horton Boulevard facility at \$8 million. According to the discussion, this figure was drawn from estimates generated eight to 10 years ago and represented only a portion of the total expense. As stated during the meeting, that figure "was for building construction only, and did not include site work, site development or utility hookups, among other costs," he explained.

Members emphasized that more recent, though still unofficial, projections paint a significantly different picture. Full site development, including all associated infrastructure, was described as being "closer to \$17 million." The committee expressed concern that outdated or incomplete figures were being presented to the public as current and comprehensive, potentially skewing public understanding of the project.

The conversation then shifted to whether and how the committee should respond. While there was agreement that inaccuracies should be corrected, members were mindful of their earlier discussion about advocacy. Responding as a committee could raise legal or ethical questions, particularly if the response were perceived as promoting the project rather than simply correcting the record.

Another major topic within this agenda item was the recurring public demand for a "Plan B." Committee members explained that alternative site plans are not being withheld out of unwillingness or lack of creativity, but because of the substantial costs involved. Developing a second fully realized site plan would require significant additional funding, time and professional services, all without assurance that it would ultimately be used.

The committee discussed how this nuance is often lost in public debate, where the absence of an alternative is sometimes portrayed as a lack of diligence rather than a financial constraint.

Ultimately, the committee agreed on a cautious path forward. Rather than issuing a formal response as DPWAC, one member volunteered to draft a letter to the editor in a personal capacity. This approach was seen as a way to address factual inaccuracies while respecting the legal boundaries discussed earlier in the evening.

Taken as a whole, the meeting reflected a committee operating under increasing public pressure while attempting to remain within clearly defined legal and ethical lines. The dual focus on advocacy versus education and on responding to public criticism illustrates the complexity of overseeing a major municipal project in a politically engaged community. While the DPWAC did not take formal action on the substance of the project itself, the discussions made clear that how information is shared may be just as important as the information being shared.

## The Worship Center News & Notes

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

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

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

**Kingdom Women: Women's Bible Study:** The study will resume Feb. 5.

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

**One-to-One Confidential Christian Care:**

## 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 a.m. and 11 a.m. Refer to [www.goodshepherdct.org](http://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](mailto: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

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

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

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

**Youth Ministry: YG Fundraiser:** There will be a Bake Sale at 11:30 a.m. right after service on Sunday, Jan. 25, to raise funds for the youth retreat to White Mountain Camps in New Hampshire. Cash, checks and mobile payments available.

**Annual Church Business Meeting:** Sunday, Feb. 22, 4-6 p.m.; snow date is Sunday, March 1.

## Parks and Rec News & Notes

Hebron Parks and Recreation is offering the following. For full program descriptions – including costs – and to register, please visit [hebronrecdesk.com/community](http://hebronrecdesk.com/community) or call 860-530-1281.

**2026 Hebron Maple Festival Sap Run 5K:** Saturday, March 21. Fee is \$30. Register by Monday, Feb. 16, for a race T-shirt, at [runsignup.com/saprun5k](http://runsignup.com/saprun5k).

**Hatha Yoga – Session II:** Tuesdays, Feb. 24-March 31, 6:30-7:30 p.m., at Gilead Hill School. Newcomers and seasoned practitioners welcome.

**Training for Greatness Volleyball:** Hebron

## St. Peter's News & Notes

crafts for sale at the community events.

**Potluck Luncheon and Annual Meeting:** Sunday, Feb. 1, following the 10 a.m. service. All parishioners and visitors are welcome to attend to learn more about the church's plans for 2026.

**Book Club:** A new session will begin Monday, Feb. 2, at 1:30 p.m., in Phelps Hall. All are welcome to participate, as the club will read and explore Stephanie Spellers' book *Church Tomorrow*. For more information, call the church office at 860-228-3244.

**Outreach:** Food donations support the local food pantries. A collection basket is in the church and outside the parish hall. St. Peter's maintains a nature preserve in the center of Hebron for use by local nonprofits. The church is also a supporter of Project Hope homeless shelter in Willimantic.

**Recurring Meetings: Balance Class:** Mondays, 10:30-11 a.m., \$5; **Connect:** Mondays at 2 p.m.; **Choir:** Wednesdays at 6 p.m.; **Monthly Meetings:** Building and Grounds, Community Events planning, Finance, Liturgy, Pastoral Care and Vestry.

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**LEGAL NOTICE**  
**TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON**  
**ATTENTION TAXPAYERS**

Notice is hereby given to the taxpayers of the Town of East Hampton that the second installment of real estate, personal property, motor vehicle taxes in excess of \$500, and supplemental motor vehicle taxes levied on the Grand List of October 1, 2024, are due and payable on January 1, 2026. The last day to pay without penalty is February 2, 2026.

Real estate and personal property taxes are based on a mill rate of 39.71 mills, which equates to \$39.71 in taxes per \$1,000 of net assessed value. Motor vehicle and supplemental motor vehicle taxes are based on the state-capped mill rate of 32.46 mills. Supplemental motor vehicle bills will be mailed on or about December 12, 2025.

Late payments will be subject to an interest penalty of 1 1/2% per month or fraction thereof (18% per annum) from the due date, as required by Conn. Gen. Stat. §§12-130, 12-145, and 12-146. Payments legibly postmarked by the USPS on or before February 2, 2026 will be considered on time, regardless of when they are received by the Tax Office. Payments received—or postmarked—February 3, 2026 or later will be considered delinquent. The minimum interest charge is \$2 per bill. A returned-check fee of \$20 will be applied.

Taxpayers are responsible for ensuring that taxes are paid when due. Failure to receive a tax bill does not exempt the taxpayer from payment of taxes or interest should the tax become delinquent.

Checks should be made payable to Town of East Hampton.

Payments may be mailed to:

Collector of Revenue  
1 Community Drive  
East Hampton, CT 06424

Payments may also be made online at [www.easthamptonct.gov](http://www.easthamptonct.gov).

Hours of collection:

• Monday, Wednesday, Thursday: 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

• Tuesday: 8:00 AM – 6:30 PM

• Friday: 8:00 AM – 12:30 PM

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Kristy L. Merrifield, CCMC  
Collector of Revenue

3TB 12/26, 1/9, 1/23

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

A certified list of forty eight (48) Republican party-endorsed candidates for the town of Colchester for election as Members of the Town Committee At-Large is on file in my office at 127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, CT and copies are available for public distribution. The number of Town Committee Members to be elected, under party rules, is fifty (50).

A Primary will be held March 3, 2026, if thirteen (12) 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 Statute Section §§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 Julianne Shilosky, Republican Registrar of Voters, Town Hall, 127 Norwich Avenue. Gayle Furman, CCTC  
Municipal Clerk of Colchester

1TB 1/23

**LEGAL NOTICE  
Town of Andover**

A certified list of 20 Republican party-endorsed candidates for the Town of Andover for election as Members of the Town Committee At-Large is on file in my office at 17 School Road - Andover, 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 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 Wallace Barton, Jr., Republican Registrar of Voters, 17 School Road – Andover, Connecticut

Dated at Andover, Connecticut this 15th day of January 2026.  
Roberta Dougherty  
Town Clerk of Andover, Connecticut

1TB 1/23

**LEGAL NOTICE  
Town of Andover**

A certified list of 15 Democratic party-endorsed candidates for the Town of Andover for election as Members of the Town Committee At-Large is on file in my office at 17 School Road - Andover, Connecticut and copies are available for public distribution. The number of Town Committee Members to be elected, under party rules, is 20.

A Primary will be held March 3, 2026, if 5 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 Linda Derrick, Democrat Registrar of Voters, 17 School Road – Andover, Connecticut  
Dated at Andover, Connecticut this 15th day of January 2026.  
Roberta Dougherty  
Town Clerk of Andover, Connecticut

1TB 1/23

**MARLBOROUGH ZONING BOARD  
OF APPEALS COMMISSION  
NOTICE OF ACTION**

The Marlborough ZBA Commission, at its special meeting on January 14, 2026, took the following action:

APPLICATION APPROVED:

APPLICATION #ZBA-01-25 – Anne Amodeo (Applicant/Property Owner) 92 Lake Ridge Dr. - Installation of storage shed on property, limited locations available to install shed due to incline/other structures with modification, granting a 15-foot side yard along Lake Ridge Drive where 35 feet is required.

MATT WILSON, ZBA COMMISSION CHAIR

1TB 1/23

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

A certified list of forty (40) Democratic party-endorsed candidates for the town of Colchester for election as Members of the Town Committee At-Large is on file in my office at 127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, CT and copies are available for public distribution. The number of Town Committee Members to be elected, under party rules, is forty (40).

A Primary will be held March 3, 2026, if ten (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 Statute Section §§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 Sara Mussen, Democratic Registrar of Voters, Town Hall, 127 Norwich Avenue. Gayle Furman  
Municipal Clerk of Colchester

1TB 1/23

**TOWN OF HEBRON  
TAX COLLECTOR'S LEGAL NOTICE**

Pursuant to SS 12-145 of the CT Statutes, the undersigned Tax Collector of the Town of Hebron gives notice that she will be ready to receive Supplemental Motor Vehicle taxes and the second installment of Real Estate taxes due January 1, 2026 at the Tax Collector's office at Hebron Town Hall, 15 Gilead St, Hebron, CT on Mon-Wed 8:00-4, Thur 8:00-6 & Fri 8:00-1. Payments must be received or postmarked by 2/2/2026 to avoid interest.

All taxes remaining unpaid after February 2, 2026 will be charged an interest rate from January 1, 2026 at the rate of 1.5% for each month elapsing from the due date of the delinquent tax to the date of payment, with a minimum interest charge of \$2.00 per installment. SS 12-146

Failure to send out or receive such bill does not relieve the taxpayer of his/her responsibility for the payment of taxes or delinquent charges. SS 12-130

Dated at Hebron, CT this 3rd day of December 2025.

Brigit Tanganeli  
Acting Tax Collector

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

**TOWN OF COLCHESTER  
NOTICE OF SPECIAL TOWN MEETING — FEBRUARY 10, 2026  
NOTICE OF REFERENDUM — FEBRUARY 24, 2026**

A special town meeting of the electors and citizens qualified to vote in town meetings of the Town of Colchester, Connecticut, will be held at Colchester Town Hall, 127 Norwich Avenue, in the Town of Colchester, Connecticut, on Tuesday, February 10, 2026 at 7:00 p.m., for the following purpose:

1. To consider and discuss a resolution,

(a) To appropriate \$14,562,400 for costs related to capital improvements to the Town's athletic facilities at Bacon Academy and the Recreation Complex comprised of, but not limited to, (a) stadium improvements (consisting of new synthetic turf field, ball safety netting, scoreboard, new track and related areas, lighting system, bleacher and press box renovations, pavement, access paths, storage building and field house renovations); (b) baseball field improvements (consisting of new synthetic turf, ball safety netting, scoreboard, lighting system, dugouts, fencing, backstop, paving, press box, portable bleachers, and storage building); (c) softball field improvements (consisting of new synthetic turf, scoreboard, lighting system, dugouts, fencing, backstop, paving, press box, portable bleachers, storage shed and grass field improvements); (d) tennis and basketball court improvements (consisting of post tension concrete tennis courts, fencing, pathways, lighting system, resurface existing basketball courts, and additional post tension concrete basketball court); (e) pickleball court improvements (consisting of post tension concrete pickleball courts, fencing, pathways, lighting system, gaga pit relocation, and new concessions building); and (f) splashpad renovation and updates (together, the "Project"). The appropriation may be spent for design, planning and construction costs, materials, equipment, demolition and removal of materials, site improvements, engineers' and other consultants' fees, administrative fees, legal fees and other professional fees, equipment, materials, net temporary interest and other financing costs, and other costs related to the Project or its financing. The Athletic Complex Building Committee shall determine the scope and particulars of the Project as to reduce or modify the Project, and the entire appropriation may be spent on the Project as so reduced or modified;

(b) to authorize the issue of bonds, notes and temporary notes of the Town in an amount not to exceed \$14,562,400; to provide that the amount of bonds or notes authorized shall be reduced by the amount of grants or other funds received by the Town for the Project; and to authorize a majority of the Selectmen and the Treasurer of the Town to determine the amount, date, interest rates, maturities, form and other particulars of the bonds or notes;

(c) to authorize the Board of Selectmen, the First Selectman, the Treasurer, and other proper officers of the Town are authorized to take certain actions which are necessary or desirable to complete the project and to issue bonds or notes to finance the aforesaid appropriation.

No vote to approve or oppose the resolution will be taken at the Special Town Meeting.

2. To consider and discuss a resolution,

(a) to appropriate \$5,000,000 for costs related to replacement of the roof at Bacon Academy, and all other improvements related thereto, including HVAC improvements (the "Project"). The appropriation may be spent for design, demolition and construction costs, equipment, materials, site improvements, survey costs, architects' fees, engineering fees, other consultants' fees, legal fees, net temporary interest and other financing costs, and other expenses related to the project or its financing, including the preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications for the Project. The Bacon Academy Structural and Mechanical Improvements Building Committee is established as the building committee with regard to the Project, and shall determine the final scope and particulars of the Project. The Bacon Academy Structural and Mechanical Improvements Building Committee may reduce or modify the scope of the Project, and the appropriation may be spent on the Project as so reduced or modified;

(b) to authorize the issue of bonds, notes and temporary notes of the Town in an amount not to exceed \$5,000,000; to provide that the amount of bonds or notes authorized shall be reduced by the amount of grants or other funds received by the Town for the Project; and to authorize a majority of the Selectmen and the Treasurer of the Town to determine the amount, date, interest rates, maturities, form and other particulars of the bonds or notes;

(c) to authorize the Board of Selectmen, the First Selectman, the Treasurer, and other proper officers of the Town are authorized to take certain actions which are necessary or desirable to complete the project and to issue bonds or notes to finance the aforesaid appropriation.

No vote to approve or oppose the resolution will be taken at the Special Town Meeting.

3. To adjourn said town meeting at its conclusion.

**TOWN OF COLCHESTER  
WARNING OF REFERENDUM  
FEBRUARY 24, 2026**

Pursuant to Sections C-1103 and C-1109a of the Town Charter, a referendum vote of electors and persons qualified to vote in town meetings who are not electors will be held in the Town of Colchester, Connecticut on Tuesday, February 24, 2026 between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. Electors and persons qualified to vote in town meetings who are not electors will vote at the following polling place: Colchester Town Hall, 127 Norwich Avenue in Colchester, Connecticut. The aforesaid resolutions will be placed on the voting machines under the following headings:

"SHALL THE TOWN OF COLCHESTER APPROPRIATE AND AUTHORIZE THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN TO EXPEND A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$14,562,400 FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS TO THE TOWN'S ATHLETIC FACILITIES LOCATED AT BACON ACADEMY AND THE RECREATION COMPLEX AND AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS AND NOTES TO FINANCE THE PORTION OF THE APPROPRIATION NOT DEFRAYED FROM GRANTS OR OTHER FUNDS?"

"SHALL THE TOWN OF COLCHESTER APPROPRIATE AND AUTHORIZE THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN TO EXPEND A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$5,000,000 FOR REPLACEMENT OF THE ROOF AND RELATED IMPROVEMENTS AT BACON ACADEMY AND AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS AND NOTES TO FINANCE THE PORTION OF THE APPROPRIATION NOT DEFRAYED FROM GRANTS OR OTHER FUNDS?"

Voters approving said resolutions will vote "Yes" and those opposing said resolutions will vote "No." Absentee ballots will be available from the Town Clerk's office.

Dated at Colchester, Connecticut, this 16th day of January 2026.

Rob Poudrier, Amston

1TB 1/23

**Where Neighbors  
Become Friends**

To the Editor:

There is something quietly beautiful happening at the Senior Center, and I want to share it because I know how hard it can be to walk through a new door alone.

Many people tell me they are interested in joining but are hesitant because they do not know anyone, or worry they will not fit in, or simply feel unsure about trying something new. I understand that feeling more than most. Stepping into a new space takes courage at any age.

But here is what I see every day: friendships forming over shared lunches, gentle laughter during a card game, strangers becoming walking partners, people checking in on each other, and new members being welcomed as if they have been here for years. Several individuals who recently joined told me they wished they had come sooner. They found what so many of us are craving: connection, routine, and people who look forward to seeing them.

The truth is, you do not need to arrive with a friend to have one. You simply need to show up once, and the rest begins to unfold naturally.

Rob Poudrier  
Amston

## Obituaries

### Marlborough

#### James A. Reed Sr.

James A. Reed Sr., 87, of Marlborough, passed away Monday, Jan. 12. He was son of late Harold J. Reed and Louise Marie Reed. Jim was born Feb. 3, 1938, in Norton, Kansas.

Jim was assistant professor emeritus of mathematics at University of Hartford. He graduated with B.A., University of Connecticut; M.Ed., University of Hartford; M.S., University of Notre Dame.

He enjoyed University of Hartford & UConn women's basketball, traveling, photography, calligraphy, camping, and long woodland walks with his dog, Dusty.

Jim leaves his son, James Reed Jr. of Marlborough; daughter, Karen Reed of Arlington, Va.; sister-in-law, Kathleen Csaszar Hockla of Ashford; a brother-in-law, Charles Csaszar, Venice, Fla.; and many nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his wife, Barbara (Csaszar) Reed, and sisters, Joanne Brown, Mary Szepanski and Mildred Lucas.

Burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Jim's memory to Roy B. Pettengill Ambulance Association, PO Box 308, Marlborough, CT 06447

For online condolences, please visit [www.pottersfuneralhome.com](http://www.pottersfuneralhome.com).

### Colchester

#### Heidi Palmes

Heidi Palmes of Colchester passed away at Backus Hospital in Norwich on Friday, Jan. 16, due to an extended illness that began several years ago with early onset of Alzheimer's disease. She was 60 years old.

Heidi was raised in Colchester by her grandparents, Lydia and Michael Kmick. She married the love of her life, Duane Palmes, on Dec. 24, 1997. The couple remained in Colchester where they were partners at the Colchester Pizza Restaurant for several decades. Heidi was also a waitress and server at different restaurants throughout her career. Her most recent job was working with the elderly through Companions and Homemakers In-Home Services until 2019, when the disease of dementia affected her.

Heidi loved the spring and summer months when she could vacation at York Beach in Maine, or go blue crabbing, or gardening in her own backyard. She was a 17-year member of the Colchester Volunteer Fire Company, volunteering as an MRT and Fire Police. She once received the Life Saving Award. Heidi enjoyed celebrating the holidays, but she particularly loved decorating and passing out candy to the hundreds of trick-or-treaters that passed through their neighborhood each year.

Heidi was a true and loyal friend to all who knew her. She will be dearly missed but always remembered with love by her husband, Duane Palmes of 25 years; stepson, Brian Palmes of San Jose, Calif.; nieces, Vanessa Mullighan and Angela Kleinschmidt; stepbrother, Adam Hebb of Tampa, Fla.; brother-in-law, Gary Palmes and Mary Strong; aunt, Gerri Dawson; many extended family members and friends; and her fire company friends in Colchester.

Duane would like to thank all personal at Greentree Manor and especially the staff at Backus Hospital and Hospice for the wonderful



care that Heidi received. Special gratitude is also extended to Heidi's neighbors and friends who helped care for and keep her home for as long as possible.

A memorial service will be held at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester on Sunday, May 17, beginning at noon with a calling hour, followed by a celebration of life memorial service at 1:30 p.m. at the funeral home. Burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Heidi's memory may be made to the Colchester Volunteer Fire Company, 52 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester, CT 06415 or Protectors of Animals ([www.painc.org](http://www.painc.org)) or Alzheimer's Association ([www.alz.org](http://www.alz.org)).

For online condolences or to share a story of Heidi, please visit [www.auroramccarthyfuneral-home.com](http://www.auroramccarthyfuneral-home.com).

### Portland

#### Mary Stewart Anderson

Mary Stewart Anderson, 64, of Portland, passed away unexpectedly Saturday, Jan. 17. She was born Aug. 27, 1961, at Middlesex Hospital to Calvin H. Stewart and Marie (Cofrancesco) Stewart.



She is survived by her husband, James Anderson of Portland. Mary is also survived by her older sister, Lisa (David) Jolley of East Berlin, Conn. Mary leaves behind two children and a grandson, Erica Marie and Alan Michael, both from Portland, and her beloved grandson, Parker James Anderson. Mary leaves behind a rather large extended family and many dear friends. She is also predeceased by some of her beloved friends and family of whom she talked about and missed dearly; always reminiscing of them throughout her days.

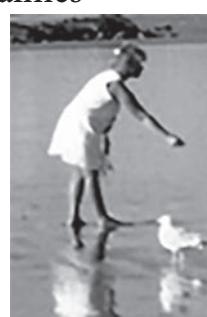
Growing up and graduating in Middletown, she would always talk about her upbringing on Fisher Road and being outside all day long until she was called for dinner. Hanging out mostly at Veterans Park with all her neighborhood friends.

Mary held a variety of positions throughout her life including clerk-typist with the State of Connecticut, Brooks/Rite-Aid, and Shop-Rite (to name a few). She had many hobbies throughout her life including going to the lake to do her crossword puzzles, scratch a lottery ticket in hopes for the big win, or to simply take a "cat nap," which she was able to do anywhere she went. She had a tremendous love for a variety of things including: The Green Bay Packers, UConn basketball, Budweiser beer (non-alcoholic the last few years), the color blue, black cats, all types of music especially Karen Carpenter and Michael Jackson, and especially enjoyed BBQs on her father's side of the family. Her favorite restaurant to visit for Mother's Day and her birthday was always Lenny and Joe's Fishtales in Westbrook.

If anyone knew Mary, even if just for a moment, one of the first questions she would ask a new face would have been "When's your birthday?" and from that point on, whenever she saw you again, she would know you by exactly that - your birthday. It was quite impressive to everyone how she could remember all those dates (this included famous celebrities too).

Mary loved to laugh and have a good time. She had a great sense of humor. She never took life too seriously. She easily made friends anywhere she went; she was anything but shy. Her passing comes as a complete shock to all and she will be sorely missed by everyone who knew and loved her.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, Jan. 24, at 11 a.m., in Zion Lutheran Church, 183



### ADVERTISERS

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

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William St., Portland. Burial will be in Swedish Cemetery, Portland. The family will receive friends on Saturday, Jan. 24, at Zion Lutheran Church, from 10 a.m. until the time of the service.

The Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, is in charge of arrangements.

### Colchester

#### Donald L. Congdon

Donald L. Congdon, longtime resident of Montville, currently of Colchester, passed away Saturday, Dec. 20, 2025. He was born Sept. 21, 1947, in Norwich, to the late George and Myrtle (Tyler) Congdon.



Don is survived by his longtime partner, Sue Bruening of Colchester; his son, Donald A. Congdon and his wife Jeanna; a granddaughter, Christiana Congdon of Stonington; and his brother, George Congdon of Montville. He was predeceased by his sister, Diane Tyler.

Don was a longtime bridge inspector for the DOTs of several eastern states. He was proud to be a 32nd degree Mason with Oxoboxo Lodge No. 116.

Don had many hobbies. He played pool for many years for Montville pool teams. Don enjoyed riding his Harley. He played guitar in bands and played daily. Don also was usually successful handicapping the Triple Crown Races. An avid hunter, clammer and fisherman, Don was known for his Rhode Island clam chowder and corned beef dinners in social clubs in the area. He was a faithful fan of the Red Sox and New England Patriots.

Burial will be at the convenience of the family. A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in Don's honor to Save the Sound, 127 Church St., 2nd floor, New Haven, CT 06510.

Please visit [www.montvillefuneralhome.com](http://www.montvillefuneralhome.com) to leave an online condolence for Don's family.

### Colchester

#### Claire F. Bussiere

Claire F. (Gagnon) Bussiere of Colchester passed away Saturday, Jan. 17, at the age of 80. She was born Dec. 24, 1945, in Putnam. She was the daughter of Joseph Etienne Gagnon and Melina Victoria (Rondeau) Gagnon. Her stepfather was Louis Lippiello of Thompson.



She grew up in Mechanicsville (now part of Thompson). She was the wife and best friend, since childhood, of William Bussiere of Colchester. They had a lifelong love and friendship that will always be.

She had seven children, Alan A. Fafard Jr. of Portland, Michelle R. (Fafard) Lippiello of South Carolina, Desiree G. Fafard of South Carolina, Anthony A. Fafard of Colchester, David A. Fafard of Waterford, and two predeceased sons, Joseph A. Fafard and Joshua A. Fafard. She leaves behind her sibling, Henri Gagnon of Thompson. Her predeceased siblings were Yvette (Gagnon) Beaureault of Woodstock, Louis Gagnon of California, Alfred Gagnon of Thompson, Beatrice (Gagnon) Roderick, and Irene (Gagnon) Fafard of Putnam. She has many grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces and nephews that she leaves behind. She was very much loved and will be missed by all.

Claire was truly one of a kind. She was very active in her church, St. Andrew in Colchester, and her community. She was a CCD teacher, worked in church plays, was a member of the Ladies Guild for 45 years, and worked with the Oblate Missionaries of Haiti. She started a program with them called "Adopt a Pig" for many years. She was known as the "Hat Lady" in her parish for the many hats she wore to church every Sunday. Claire was a church organist at Norwich State Hospital and the Women's Correctional Center in Niantic, and many other parishes as well.

In town, she was known as the "Pickled Egg Lady" for 25 years. She was an adoptive and foster mother for many years and enjoyed the challenge of helping children out to see a better way of living their lives. They were a blessing to her. Claire was an author and wrote an autobiography called *Ma I Want A Name*. She was a freelance writer of many articles that were published.

Claire loved her God, family, friends and just

people. She was known for her smile, laughter and helping those in need. People usually told her, "She was crazy for the chances she took in life." She would say, "so what's new" and laugh. She had a great sense of humor, love and pleasure in living life to the fullest. She was quite the lady.

Funeral services will be held from the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester, on Saturday, Jan. 24, beginning with calling hours from 9-10:30 a.m. The funeral Mass will follow at 11 a.m. at St. Andrew Church. Burial will be in the St. Joseph's Cemetery in N. Grosvenordale at a later date.

For online condolences or to share a story of Claire, please visit [www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com](http://www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com)

### East Hampton

#### Susan Bolles Petell



Susan Bolles Petell, 80, beloved wife of Allen Petell of East Hampton, passed away peacefully Thursday, Jan. 1, leaving behind a legacy of love, humor, strength, kindness and so much more.

Born Jan. 19, 1945, in Hartford, Sue was the daughter to the late Clara Zirkensbach and Richard Bolles Sr.

She graduated from East Hampton High School in 1963, and earned her Bachelor's Degree in elementary education from Eastern Connecticut State College, and her Master of Science in early childhood education from Central Connecticut State University.

Sue's life was defined by her love of others, compassion, and dedication to family and friends. She was a devoted mother and a loving wife. Sue was known for her smile, generosity, humor, sarcasm, and being the "Coupon Queen." She found joy in the smallest things, like knitting, playing board games, going to Cape Cod, and while in the Cape, spending a day at the Christmas Tree Shop!

She loved watching her favorite show *Wheel of Fortune*, UConn women's basketball, going on day trips, and spending time with her family. She is also known for her famous meatloaf, tuna pasta salad, and Easter bunny cake.

She married her high school sweetheart, Ralph (Chick) Nezas, in 1967. They raised two children, Steve and Pam, before moving on to their next adventures. Years later she ran into her old friend, Allen Petell, and one day they finally decided to get married. On March 8, 1987, they exchanged vows, remained devoted to each other and their blended family, and continued to live a happy life for 40 years.

In addition to her loving husband Al, she is survived by a large and wonderful family: her children, Steve Nezas (Deanne) of Norwalk; Pam Simonds (Steve) of Burlington; Nicole Engel (Jeff) of East Hampton; Todd Petell of Ashford; Scott Petell (Jennifer) of Cambridge, N.Y.; her grandchildren, Mark Nezas, Alexandra Bond (Noah), Benjamin Simonds; Thomas, Kiera, and Lilly Engel; Zoe and Mackenzie Petell; Cooper and Kennedy Petell; her siblings, Richard Bolles Jr. (Karen) of Yarmouth Port, Mass.; Kathy Bolles (Wayne) of Glastonbury; Joanne Murphy (Tim) of Eastham, Mass.; Keith F. Bolles (Jane) of Essex; James T. Bolles (Suzy) of Old Lyme. She is also survived by many, many nieces and nephews, and her best friend Nancy Grant of Plantsville.

The family extends sincere appreciation to the caregivers at Benchmark at South Farms in Middletown, Arden Court of Farmington, and her previous caregivers from Companions and Homemakers.

Calling hours will be at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, on Friday, Feb. 6, from 5-7 p.m. Memorial services will be held on Saturday, Feb. 7, at 10 a.m., in the East Hampton Congregational Church. Burial will take place at Lakeview Cemetery in East Hampton at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to St. Jude Research Hospital: [www.stjude.org](http://www.stjude.org).

To leave online condolences, please visit [www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com](http://www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com).

### TOWN OF PORTLAND PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION LEGAL NOTICE OF DECISION

At the January 15, 2026 meeting, the following actions were taken:

Approved with conditions Application #25-08: 50 Courtney Lane. Proposal to add accessory dwelling unit to approved garage. Application and property of Ben and Holly Srb. Map 15 Lot 36. Zone RR.

Approved with conditions Application #25-10: 125 Bartlett Street. Proposed 2 Lot Subdivision. Application of Bari Winner and property of Rhea DeBarri. Map 49 Lot 57. Zone R-25. Dated at Portland, CT this 15th day of January 2026

Robert Ellsworth, Chairman  
Planning & Zoning Commission

1TB 1/23

# LEGALS

## 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 26, 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

## TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION LEGAL NOTICE Notice of Hearing

Notice is hereby given that the East Hampton Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing at their meeting on Wednesday February 4, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. at the East Hampton Town Hall - 1 Community Drive, Room 107 and via ZOOM to consider

A referral from the WPCA under CGS 8-24 for a Sewer Expansion on Clark Hill Road.

The file is available for viewing in the Land Use Office 860

267-7450.

Ray Zatorski, Chairman

2TB 1/23, 1/30

## TOWN OF COLCHESTER PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Colchester Planning & Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on February 4, 2026, beginning at 7:00 PM in the Colchester Town Hall Meeting Room at 127 Norwich Ave, Colchester, CT to hear and consider the following application(s): **PZC2025-015 Mark Pensa** Regulation change application to amend Section 7.3 of the Land Development (Zoning) Regulations Special Permit Uses in the Arterial Commercial (AC) District to allow Mixed Use Development and to add new Section 7.6 Standards for Mixed Use Development in the AC District. **PZC2025-016 Jeffrey Naples** Regulation change application to amend Section 7.3 of the Land Development (Zoning) Regulations Special Permit Uses in the Arterial Commercial (AC) District to allow Dog Daycare, to add Dog Daycare to Section 20 Definitions, and to Table 10.1 Number of Parking Spaces Required; and to add new Section 8.8.20 Dog Daycare Standards.

At this hearing, interested persons may be heard and written communications received. A copy of these applications is located in the Land Use Department and Town Clerk's Office, Town Hall, 127 Norwich Avenue, and may be inspected during regular business hours (8:30 AM - 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday). Application materials are also available on the Colchester Planning & Zoning Commission webpage at <https://www.colchesterct.gov/planning-zoning-commission>.

Planning & Zoning Commission

Joseph Mathieu, Chair

2TB 1/23, 1/30

# EMPLOYMENT

## Clerk part-time

Town of Portland, Connecticut (EOE)

Deadline: 1/30/2026

Send Town application to: First Selectman's Office, P.O. Box 71, Portland, CT 06480  
\$23.40 per hour; 8 hours weekly at the Senior Center, non-union/non-exempt position. Subject to pre-employment drug/alcohol testing. All qualified applicants will be considered for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. Qualifications: High School diploma or GED equivalent; must have a valid Connecticut Driver's License. Must have good knowledge, skill and ability in general office procedures, secretarial techniques, bookkeeping and various word processing computer applications.

1TB 1/23

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RE1-16-26

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

These positions are in Colchester.

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

RE3-15-24

## Supervisor of Water Pollution Control Facilities

Town of Portland, CT (EOE)

Deadline: until filled

Salary: \$82,731

Send CDL Application and resume to:

First Selectman's Office, P.O. Box 71, Portland, CT 06480-0071

Email: [mceppaglia@portlandct.org](mailto:mceppaglia@portlandct.org)

Full time, 40 hours M-F first shift; non-exempt, MEUI Supervisory union position, fringe benefit package (medical, PTO, holidays). All qualified applicants will be considered for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. Requires: HS diploma or GED equivalent + 6 years of progressively responsible water pollution control plant maintenance & operation collection system experience, including at least 2 years in supervisory or lead capacity, or equivalent comb. of relevant certifications, education & experience. Must have a valid Connecticut Grade III Water Pollution Control Plant Operator's Certification. Valid CT Class B CDL preferred. See website for details: [www.portlandct.org](http://www.portlandct.org)

1TB 1/23

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REB-26-20

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

**BUYING COLLECTIONS & ACCUMULATIONS, FREE REVIEW:** Comic Books, Vintage Toys, Sports Cards, Adv Signs/Cans (Soda, Beer, Gas Station), Zippers, License Plates, Jewelry, Postcards, Etc. Call/Text 860-707-9350

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

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CIT-12-26

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Salary: \$18/Hour

RE1-9-26

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RE1-23-26

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RE3-9-23



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RE4-13-23

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RE12-28-23



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860-228-7171 LIC/INS

The logo for Tuthill Electric features a cartoon dog wearing a hard hat and safety glasses, holding a wrench. To the right of the dog, the word "TUTHILL" is written in a bold, sans-serif font, with a horizontal line extending from the top of the 'T' to the end of the 'L'. Below "TUTHILL", the word "ELECTRIC" is written in a similar font, with a horizontal line extending from the top of the 'E' to the end of the 'C'. The entire logo is set against a white background.

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A cartoon illustration of a brown frog with a wide, toothy grin. It is holding a large, white rectangular sign with its front legs. The sign contains the text 'YOUR AD SHOULD BE HERE!' in a bold, sans-serif font, with 'YOUR AD' on the first line and 'SHOULD BE HERE!' on the second line. Below this, a horizontal line separates the sign from the frog's body. At the bottom of the sign, the frog's front legs are visible, and it is holding a small, thin white line that extends to the right, ending with the text 'Call us at: 860-633-4691' in a bold, sans-serif font. The frog's body is partially visible on the left side of the sign.

The logo for Caso's HVAC, LLC is displayed against a background of the American flag. The company name 'Caso's HVAC, LLC' is written in a large, bold, serif font. Below it, the services offered are listed: 'Heating • Cooling • Installation • Service' and 'Natural Gas Conversions'. A sub-headline states 'We Install High Efficiency Heating & Cooling Equipment (HIGH EFFICIENCY BURNS LESS FUEL)'. The text 'Specializing in Boiler Repair, Central Air, Hydro Systems, and Sheetmetal for new and existing homes.' is also present. The bottom of the logo features the slogan 'We Offer Maintenance Contracts' and 'Residential & Commercial • Over 20 Years Experience'. The contact number '(860) 267-5851' is prominently displayed in large, bold digits, with 'CT Lic# S1 394141' to its left and 'Insured' to its right.

# HOME IMPROVEMENT



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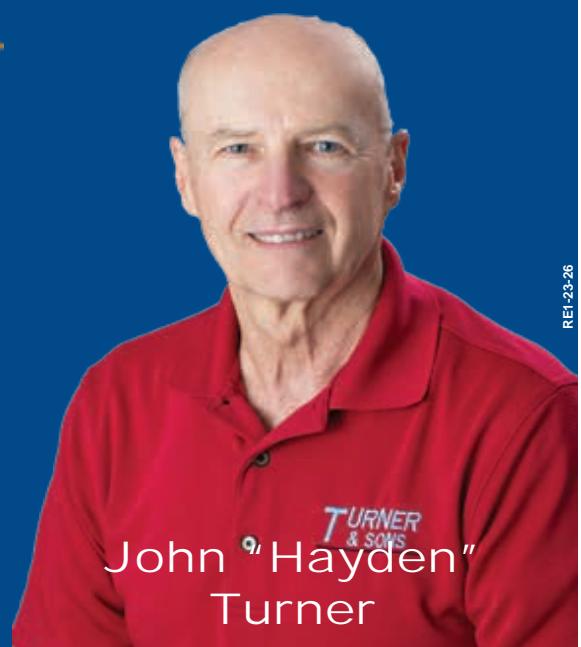
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