

RIVEREAST News Bulletin

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

Volume 47, Number 52 Published by The Glastonbury Citizen January 30, 2026

Area Towns Buried By Snowstorm

By Toriana Williams

Connecticut's recent snowstorm did not arrive quietly. It came with deep drifts, long hours and the kind of snowfall totals that make even seasoned New Englanders pause mid-shovel. Across several towns in the region, residents woke up Monday morning to buried cars, narrowed roadways and the unmistakable sound of snowblowers becoming the soundtrack of the weekend.

Despite the volume of snow, town officials consistently described the storm not as a disaster, but as a test – one their communities largely passed with flying colors.

According to National Weather Service estimates compiled in the storm's aftermath, Colchester received roughly 12 inches of snow, while nearby communities like Andover saw about 15 inches, Hebron about 14 inches and Marlborough around 16 inches.

In Hebron, Town Manager Andrew Tierney said the town "fared very well," noting there were no reported power outages and no storm-related catastrophes. While emergency responders did handle medical calls, those incidents were unrelated to the weather itself.

Tierney credited the outcome to preparation, experienced crews and public cooperation. He said residents staying off the roads made a noticeable difference, allowing plow operators to repeatedly clear routes as snow continued to fall. The work, he explained, often feels redundant during prolonged storms, as crews must plow the same roads again and again. Still, he emphasized pride in the town's public works department and confidence heading into the remainder of winter.

That pride was echoed – and expanded upon – by Hebron Director of Public Works Paul Forrest, who described the storm as a throwback to earlier years. With 35 years of snow-plowing



The *Rivereast* towns were utterly buried by Sunday's massive snowstorm. Rosalie Breiding shared this photo with us of one of her neighbors in their Bobcat, helping to dig out cars, and making paths, in the London Park neighborhood of Hebron on Monday. She said, "When I asked if I could pay them, they said 'No; this is neighbors helping neighbors.'" How kind!

experience, Forrest said the event "felt like the good old days," though he clarified it did not rival the historic storm that took place over 10

years ago.

Preparation, Forrest explained, began well before the first flakes fell. Trucks are checked, fuel

and salt supplies are verified and residents are notified of parking bans. Hebron supplemented its workforce with five additional employees for the storm to help in delegating the workload. While one salt supplier ran out, a second source ensured the town maintained an adequate supply. Though the salt storage is currently roughly at 50% capacity, Forrest admitted he prefers to keep storage closer to full.

And then there was the moment that best captured the spirit of the response: Forrest proudly explained that Hebron's plow operators compete in snowplow rodeos and have even brought home trophies. Snow removal, he said, is something the department takes seriously – and personally.

In Marlborough, Town Manager David Porter reported a similarly smooth experience. He said the town's public works and fire crews worked long hours with minimal rest to keep roads clear and safe. Like Hebron, Marlborough saw residents largely heed warnings to stay off the roads, which Porter said played a major role in the storm's manageable outcome.

"I'm really proud of our crew and the good work that they did," he shared.

Porter described the snowfall as "a lot." From a budgetary standpoint, he said the town plans annually for major storms, and this event, though significant, did not jeopardize Marlborough's winter operations budget. He also cautioned residents to remain vigilant in the days following the storm, particularly due to the extreme cold and the risks associated with power loss and heating systems, even though no out-

See *Snowstorm*, page 7

Needleman Seeks Fifth Term in State Senate

By Anne Lilburn

Democrat Norm Needleman has officially launched a reelection campaign for his fifth term in the State Senate. Since 2019, Needleman has represented the 12-town 33rd District, which includes the *Rivereast* towns of Colchester, East Hampton and Portland. He also serves as first selectman of Essex.



Needleman

Needleman said that for him, running again is an opportunity to serve. He is the founder of Tower Labs, which makes effervescent pharmaceutical products, and said he takes no salary in

his state senate role.

"I'm blessed to be able to do it," he said. "I'm very grateful for the opportunity to serve. I love serving the public, and it starts with my ability to be thoughtful."

As senator, "I may not be right all the time," he said, "but I bring a level of moderation, thoughtfulness, and stability to our caucus on a lot of issues."

Needleman said the State Senate brought with it a lot of opportunity, but also a lot of frustration for someone who sees himself as a moderate and a policy wonk who likes to get things done.

"I really don't like the politics part of it," he said. "I kind of dread it."

So why run again? Needleman said he finds satisfaction in what he's able to accomplish for his constituents.

"Helping individual constituents, helping the

constituent towns in my district, all 12 of them, is very important to me," he said, noting that the district was not a monolith.

"The towns range in size," he noted. "I don't touch any cities in my district. It's progressive to conservative. It kind of reflects my personality, which is, let's talk to each other and figure out what I can do to help."

Needleman said he was proud of what he's accomplished in the seven years he's been in his state position. He's served as Chair of the Energy and Technology Committee and has been active on issues concerning the state's power grid and regulations on utility companies. He led passage of both 2020's "Take Back Our Grid Act," which penalized utility companies for not responding adequately to severe weather, and 2023's Senate Bill 7, a pro-consumer bill that supported legal representation for utility ratepayers looking to

See *Needleman*, page 7

Inside...

Portland	
<i>BOS Discusses Schools Plan</i>	pg 10
Regional	
<i>CCSU, UHart Dean's Lists</i>	pg 12
Colchester	
<i>Swimmer Commits to Duke</i>	pg 13
East Hampton	
<i>Love Shared for Senior Center</i>	pg 17
East Hampton/Portland	
<i>Keeping Residents Safe in Snow</i>	pg 19
Marlborough	
<i>Schools Propose 3.57% Increase</i>	pg 25

Crossword Puzzle...Pg 22
Sponsored by
Harrington Real Estate

Are you concerned about your legacy?

With tax season just around the corner, you probably have financial planning on your mind.

What better time to talk about Wealth Management, Comprehensive Trust, and Estate Planning Services, done locally.

Trust in Dime.



IC

IRON CHRIS

CRIMINAL DEFENSE & IMMIGRATION



J. Christopher Linas

National College for DUI Defense

MCMXCV

Proudly Serving The State Of Connecticut

TRUSTED DUI DEFENSE

860-530-1781 www.ironchris.com

RE1-30-26

Edward Jones

> edwardjones.com

Member SIPC

Are you invested properly? Contact me for a complimentary portfolio review.



David O'Connell, AAMS®, CRPC™

Financial Advisor

20 Main Street

Colchester, CT 06415

860-531-4638



EJB-19325-A-E-DA-1

RE1-30-26

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

Take Your Child to the Library Day!

On Saturday, Feb. 7, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., children and their caregivers are invited to stop by to do a fun activity to get to know your library, receive a small gift, and sign up for a library card if you do not have one. Call the library with any questions, at 860-742-7428.

Cute and Cuddly Meet and Greet!

On Tuesday, Feb. 17, Andover Public Library will welcome Xen's Critters, who will offer the opportunity for children to visit with several small animals in a "drop-in" style meet-and-greet. Please note that this program will not be held at the library but at the Andover Town Hall Community Room. Stop by between 11 a.m. and noon. The last entry is at 11:50 a.m. Call the library with any questions, at 860-742-7428.

Congregational Church News

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

Children's Church:

Is provided. Choir:

At 9 a.m. Sundays in the sanctuary.

Food Pantry:

Mondays from 5-7 p.m. Bring your own bags. The Foodshare Van comes to the church every other Wednesday from 8:30-10 a.m.; Senior Pantry is on the opposite Wednesdays.

AA Meetings:

Saturdays and Mondays, 7 p.m.

Sonshine Stampers:

Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m.

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.

CAMPAGNA

Fine Italian Restaurant and Bar

Five Course Menu Offering on Sunday through Thursday

Five Course Meal \$30.00 • \$15 plate charge for sharing

DINING ROOM ONLY

APPETIZERS

Stuffed Mushrooms Mushroom caps stuffed with seafood stuffing

Zuppa D' Mussels Sautéed in fresh tomato sauce or white wine sauce

Fried Mozzarella Topped with marinara sauce

PASTA COURSE

Penne Aglio Olio • Penne with garlic and oil • Penne Marinara

Penne Alla Vodka Asparagus, sun dried tomatoes in a vodka blush sauce

SOUP OR SALAD Cup of soup of the day or garden salad

DINNER CHOICES

Chicken Parmigiana

Eggplant Rollatini Rolled eggplant stuffed with ricotta, prosciutto and roasted peppers

Stuffed Pork Chop Stuffed with broccoli, gorgonzola cheese and ritz crackers in a brown cognac sauce

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

Stuffed Sole Crab meat stuffing served over spinach

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

DESSERTS – Ask your server for our selections

WINE & DINE MENU

\$80 per couple / \$50 for single

Served Every Friday and Saturday

Make your Valentine's Reservations! serving a special menu

Serving Prime Rib Every Friday Night!

151 Marlborough St. (Rt 66), Portland • (860) 398-5411

OPEN 7 DAYS FOR LUNCH & DINNER

CIT1-29-26

Winter Special!

DIAMOND SPARKLE CAR WASH

Sign up for ANY package for the price of a wash

PLATINUM

Single Wash \$24

GOLD

Single Wash \$19

SILVER

Single Wash \$15

BASIC

Single Wash \$12

44 Amston Road, Route 85, Colchester, CT

860-537-4325

Open 7:00am-7:00pm 7 DAYS A WEEK

RE1-30-26

Butter Balls

GREENLEAF CAFE

Pre-Order Our Award Winning WINGS for the "Big Game"

860-228-8148

47 MAIN STREET (RT. 66) HEBRON

RE1-30-26

Sheena the Therapy Dog

All are invited to come visit Sheena the Therapy Dog and do a fun valentine craft activity at Andover Library on Saturday, Feb. 7, from 11 a.m.-noon. Sheena, Queen of the Jungle, will be at the library with her handler, Andover Friends of the Library member Dr. Jenifer Nadeau. Come read to Sheena or just visit her! Also at that time, Maryann Fusco-Rollins, extension educator in 4-H and youth development from Tolland County will be there helping youth make a paper woven heart basket for Valentine's Day. Call the library with any questions, at 860-742-7428.

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.



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

Community Garden Offering Plots for 2026

The Andover Community Garden Committee is currently looking for Andover residents who would like to have their own garden space. All ages and abilities are welcome and the spaces are free of charge. There spaces being offered on a first-come, first-serve basis for the 2026 growing season.

Bed owners will be responsible for planting approved vegetables, flowers, and herbs of their choice. They will also need to be able to commit to the scheduled watering and caretaking responsibilities of their bed as well as the end-of season bed cleanup. There are tools available for use by the committed gardeners and there is an on-site watering system. Members of the committee can be available to help with gardening questions you may have or problem solve with any difficulties you face during the gardening season. The community garden's growing season begins in mid- to late May and may end in late September.

To request a garden plot for 2026, volunteer, or for more information, feel free to message the Andover Community Garden Committee on their Facebook page "Andover (CT) Community Garden" or send an email to gardnandovercommunity@gmail.com.

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)(3c) 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.

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

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 or look for the library on Facebook at facebook.com/AndoverPublicLibrary.CT.

Community & Senior Center Happenings

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

The center's monthly newsletter is available at www.andoverconnecticut.org. Copies are also available at the center, Town Hall, and Andover Public Library. To receive the newsletter by email each month, ask for Haley at the center, at 860-742-7305.

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

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

Holiday Closing: Monday, Feb. 16, in honor of Presidents Day.

Regular Weekly and Monthly Programs: For a list of regular weekly and monthly events, such as Movies, Luncheons, Yoga, Dominos, Knitting, trips to the library and the food pantry, Open Sew & Stitch, and more, see the monthly newsletter.

Special Upcoming Events: Shopping Trips: Tuesdays, 8:30 a.m. Shop Willimantic 2/10 and 2/24, and shop in Manchester on 2/3 and 2/17. Transportation is available; contact Linda to reserve your ride.

Senior Art Class with Kim: Thursday, Feb. 19, 10-11 a.m., \$8. Theme is Watercolor & Sea Glass. This class is perfect for all skill levels. Space is limited; supplies are provided. To sign up, call 860-742-7305 x4510.

Puzzle and Pizza: Thursdays, Feb. 5-26, noon. Cost is \$3. There is a variety of puzzles to choose from. To sign up, call 860-742-7305 x4510.

Foodshare Truck: Wednesdays, Feb. 11 and 25, 9 a.m. Free transportation to Andover Congregational Church is available; contact the center. For more information on other available dates and times please contact Joan Soucy at 860-208-3226.

Travel In Time Club: Feb. 20. This free study group is based on *Travel in Time in Connecticut*, by local author and teacher Dan Blanchard. This is an intergenerational partnership with Andover Elementary School. Students and Seniors will be working on stories and interviews.

CT Flower Show: Friday, Feb. 20, 9:30 a.m. Cost is \$10. Head to the CT Flower Show in Hartford. Bus leaves the center at 9:30 a.m. There will be breakfast and then the show. Space is limited. To sign up, call 860-742-7305 x4510.

Souper Bowl Grinder Sale

Andover Congregational Church, located at 359 Route 6, will hold its 34th annual Souper Bowl Grinder Sale on Sunday, Feb. 8.

Chili will be sold in quarts. Grinder selections are ham, turkey or tuna – all for \$15 each. Garden salads also available. All options include chips and a soda.

Pick-up will be on Feb. 8 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Pre-order is requested to make sure there is enough for everyone. Leave a message at the church at 860-742-7696.

SELLING IN 2026?

CALL US
TO BE AN EARLY



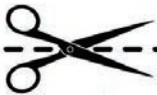
860-916-3517



Margaret Wilcox

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

Answer: CALL NOW FOR SPRING REAL ESTATE



FREE!

HOME EVALUTION

VALID WITH COUPON. EXPIRES 08/2026.

WILLIAM RAVEIS

MARGARET WILCOX TEAM

212 NEW LONDON TPKE UNIT C, GLASTONBURY

HALE LAW FIRM

ROBERT J. HALE, JR., ESQ.



- Probate Litigation
- Estate Settlement
- Estate Planning
- Contract Disputes
- Conservatorship
- Wills, Trusts, etc.



860-430-9272 www.attyhale.com

41-B New London Turnpike, Glastonbury, CT 06033

ADVICE + REPRESENTATION = RESULTS

From the Editor’s Desk

Observations & Ruminations

By Mike Thompson

*They say we’re young and we don’t know
We won’t find out until we grow
Well I don’t know if all that’s true
‘Cause you got me, and baby, I got you
Babe
I got you babe; I got you babe.*

Film buffs of a certain age know those lyrics aren’t from just any old 1960s hit; they’re from the song Bill Murray wakes up to over and over again in the 1993 classic *Groundhog Day*. I’m sure the movie will be in heavy rotation on cable channels over the next few days, as Groundhog Day is fast approaching. In fact, it’s this coming Monday – and if the little bugger knows what’s good for him, he better not see his shadow.

After this past Sunday’s massive snow-storm, I’m pretty much done with winter. I’m good with never seeing another flake for the rest of 2026. Something tells me I won’t be that lucky, but hey, a boy can dream.

That was one monster storm we got. And the extreme cold that’s followed will ensure the white stuff will stick around for a long time. A *long* time. Peering out around snow-banks before making a left turn, dealing with the fact that the grocery store or shopping plaza down the street has about half as many spaces as before – well, we better just get used to it, folks.

And if you’ve run out of places to put all the snow, you may need to get creative in the coming days.

You’ll know more when you read this on Friday, but as I write this Tuesday night the weather prognosticators are all saying there’s a chance we could get hit with a blizzard on Sunday. True, there’s a greater chance that we could get dealt a “glancing blow” – but even that could yield several more inches.

So yeah, you all would understand why I’m hoping the groundhog doesn’t see his shadow

on Monday – which, as the completely unscientific and totally unreliable lore tells us, will mean spring is just around the corner.

And if you do see your shadow, Chuckles, just lie, and tell us you didn’t.
We could all use the break.

If you’re headed out next Friday, or even if you’re staying in and having a pajama day, be sure to wear red.

It’s for a good cause.

Feb. 6 is National Wear Red Day, and the American Heart Association’s Go Red for Women movement urges Connecticut to join the fight against cardiovascular disease – which is the leading cause of death for women in the United States.

On National Wear Red Day, people and landmarks across the nation will “go red” to raise awareness of the disease.

In particular, the American Heart Association is working to raise awareness that heart disease and stroke can happen at any age – and that nearly 45% of women over age 20 are living with some form of cardiovascular disease.

On National Wear Red Day, the association urges everyone to join the Go Red for Women movement in championing better health and well-being for all women by wearing red and spreading awareness. You can join the conversation online by sharing on social media using #WearRedDay, #WearRedAndGive and #GoRedforWomen.

“National Wear Red Day is about more than kicking off American Heart Month; it’s about everyone coming together to support the health and well-being of our mothers, daughters, sisters and the people who love them,” said American Heart Association Board Chair Francine LoRusso, who is also

Editor’s Desk continued on page 6

Bulletin Board

“I just *looove* Josh Allen,” my wife remarked.

In the event you don’t follow football teams that have never won a Super Bowl, Josh Allen is the beloved (in Western New York, anyway) quarterback of the Buffalo Bills. My wife, who hails from Rochester, is a charter member of the so-called “Bills Mafia”—a fan base that makes Islamic militants look like choir boys.

Our conversation on “love and football” took place as the Bills were preparing to battle the Broncos in the playoffs earlier this month.

“You don’t even know Josh Allen,” I sourly observed in response to her declaration of undying love.

“I don’t care. I love him.”

“He has beady eyes,” I said.

“He does not. He does not have beady eyes. He has great eyes.”

“For a mole.”

“You’re just jealous.”

“Well, you’re right about that. Except for getting repeatedly slammed into the frozen ground by 300-pound homicidal maniacs, I wouldn’t mind making umpteen million dollars a year for throwing a ball around. As long as I didn’t have to play in cold weather. Or when it’s raining. Or snowing. And I’d want summers off.”

Decked out in her Buffalo Bills pajamas and sipping coffee from her Buffalo Bills mug, she replied, “Josh doesn’t care about all that. He just wants to win. That’s why I looove him. We all looove him.” (The “all” may have referred to her, her three equally infatuated sisters and my own Son #2 whom they wickedly enticed from the Football Path of Righteousness – or it might have referred to the known universe – I was not sure.)

I groaned. “Don’t be silly. You do not actually love Josh Allen”

“You love Tom Brady,” she said. “And those cheating Patriots.”

I ignored the cheating allegation. That’s the sort of thing losers always say about winners. We get used to it.

“Admit it,” she said. “You love Tom Brady.”

“I do not love Tom Brady,” I replied. “I loved watching Tom Brady play. I loved watching the Patriots repeatedly win Super Bowls. I respect and admire his talent. But no, I do not love Tom Brady personally. I do not embarrass myself by sitting around mooning over Tom Brady.”

“Liar.”

“I am not. I love you. I love lobster rolls (with butter, not mayo). I do not love Tom Brady.” She snorted.

“Though I will say that Tom Brady does not have beady eyes,” I added.

She scowled at me.

“Furthermore,” I continued, “the Patriots now have a new winner in the form of quarterback Drake Maye, the 23-year-old phenom who is leading us into a new era.”

“Oh yes, he would be the only one on the team without an arrest record,” she retorted.

“Don’t be ridiculous,” I said.

“What about—”

“Ooops! Hey, the game is starting! Broncos vs. Bills! You don’t want to miss the kick-off!”

“Go Josh!” she exclaimed.

Of course the Bills lost. Again. The referees made sure of that, my wife says (and I have to agree with her this time). Meanwhile, the Patriots are bound for the Super Bowl, having beaten the team that beat the Bills.

I don’t want to say my wife is resentful, but it appears I’ll be watching the Super Bowl alone.

I’m thinking of going out and buying buy myself a set of Patriot pajamas.

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.



Margaret’s Magnets... Margaret Gibbs, a member of Gilead Congregational Church, repurposes beverage cans into handcrafted magnets. Over the past year, she has sold her creations at local craft fairs, directing all proceeds to Gilead Congregational Church, Gilead’s Helping Hands, and the Connecticut Food Bank – with nearly \$1,000 contributed to the Food Bank to date.

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

Evening Syncocize

To the Editor:

Staying active as we age is about so much more than exercise. It is about being with others, feeling connected, and having a reason to show up for ourselves. At the Portland Senior Center we are always working to make those opportunities accessible for more people in our community.

Sue’s Syncocize class has always been a fun and uplifting group that brings music, movement, and laughter into the building. We recently moved the class to Tuesday evenings at 5:00 PM. This small change made a big difference. It allows those who are still working during the day or who have daytime caregiving responsibilities to participate. It also opens up an option for those who prefer evening activities or cannot attend programs earlier in the day.

Healthy aging is not just about the physical benefits, although those are important. It is about social connection, confidence, and belonging. When people have a place to go each week where they feel welcomed and supported, it strengthens their ability to age in place and remain active in community life. We see friendships forming, people cheering each other on, and a sense of joy in simply moving together.

Sue brings so much positive energy to her class. Participants always leave smiling, not just because they got a good workout, but because

they shared space with others who understand the value of staying engaged as we grow older.

Syncocize meets every Tuesday at 5 p.m. at the Portland Senior Center. We welcome those who want to add more movement, more connection, and more fun into their week. Healthy aging is about adding life to our years and community plays a big role in that.

Sarah Elliott-Caratasios LMSW
Director/Municipal Agent
Portland Senior Center

Thank You, Toriana

To the Editor:

This is a thank you note to Toriana Willams regarding the reporting in the *Rivereast News Bulletin* for Jan. 23, entitled “Tension Erupts Over Colchester BOF Vote.” Not only was the article insightful and written well, she wrote with (what I believe) unbiased facts as illustrated when she wrote “...preceding the vote reflected strong feelings on both sides...” which she captured quite well in the article.

I only wish that the people involved could act with such unbiased feelings instead we (the people of Colchester) are left with what Toriana ended the article with: “... the events surrounding Antonacci’s appointment underscored ongoing political tension with the Board of Finance and among town residents...”

Ralph Bianco
Colchester

RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

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

Published Every Friday by The Glastonbury Citizen
87 Nutmeg Lane • Glastonbury, CT 06033
Telephone (860) 633-4691
Email: bulletin@glcitizen.com
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 373 • Glastonbury, CT 06033

Email classified line ads to admin@glcitizen.com.
Email Legal Notices to legals@glcitizen.com
and call 860-633-4691 to pay with MC or VISA.

Kevin and Pat Rarey, Publishers	Advertising Representatives:
Josh Howard—Office Manager, Sports Editor	Jason Baran, ext. 104 • jason@glcitizen.com
Mike Thompson, Editor	Lisa Snietka, ext. 103 • lisa@glcitizen.com
Staff Reporter:	Art Department
Anne Lilburn - Portland and East Hampton	Jeanne Giovann and Julie Misuraca
Toriana Williams – Colchester, Hebron, Marlborough & Andover	
PUBLISHER RESERVES THE RIGHT TO CANCEL ANY ADVERTISEMENT AT ANY TIME	
Standard Mail – Postage Permit #1092 at Hartford, CT • Glastonbury Citizen (USPS-219-360)	

News copy (non-letters) deadline for *The Rivereast News Bulletin* is Tuesday at noon. Please address all letters & news articles to: *Rivereast News Bulletin*, P.O. Box 373, Glastonbury, CT 06033

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

(860) 633-4691 — bulletin@glcitizen.com

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

Colchester Isn’t Served
By Storming Off

To the Editor:

Here in Colchester, the pattern has become hard to miss.

Republicans vote for a Democrat. Angry Republicans walk out.

Democrats try to vote for a Democrat. Angry Republicans walk out.

Democrats vote for the “wrong” Republican. Angry Republicans walk out.

Different votes, same reaction. Walk out, cry foul, claim the process is broken, and refuse to engage with an outcome they don’t like.

Democracy doesn’t guarantee your side always wins. It requires showing up, voting, and accepting the result even when it’s not what you wanted. Walking out isn’t a protest. It’s opting out of the job.

At some point, participation has to mean more than just showing up when you’re sure of the outcome.

John Farrell
Colchester

Thank You,
Portland Food Bank!

To the Editor:

We often see letters of thanks FROM the Portland Food Bank but I would like to offer a heartfelt thanks TO the Food Bank! Like many of you readers, I have regularly donated to the food bank but I have never had the privilege to see my contributions put into action – until recently. In the past few weeks I offered to help some people in need of food who couldn’t physically get to the food bank themselves. When I went in to inquire if I would be able to access food for these people, I was met with an inviting smile from Iris who said that I could absolutely pick up food for them!

Before I knew it, Deb and Debbie, Anita and Carol, Kevin and several other volunteers (sorry that I didn’t get their names) had cheerfully filled grocery bags with protein rich foods, snacks, laundry detergent and paper goods. Adams Hometown Market had donated tables full of bread and rolls and pastry items. I was in awe of the work that is done by the worker bees down in the basement of our Senior Center.

It’s said that “it takes a village” and our small town of Portland comes through in a big way to help people in need. Please continue to give generously to the Food Bank and know that your donations are being used wisely and with grace to bring care to those in our community who need it most.

With gratitude,
Faith Fraulino
Portland

DPW – The Sunken
Cost Fallacy

To the Editor:

The sunken cost fallacy happens when past spending drives present decisions. It’s the impulse to “throw good money after bad,” to keep investing simply to justify earlier choices. This is an emotional reaction, not a rational one, and it often leads to escalating losses.

The DPW site debate is a perfect example. The initial mistake, walking away from the Kinney Road site without a viable alternative, has spiraled into a chain of costly missteps. Now we’re staring at higher taxes, inflated project costs, and an extended dump closure. Yet some insist that because money has already gone into studying Old Colchester Road, we should push ahead. That is exactly the trap the sunken cost fallacy sets.

A plan should succeed or fail on its merits, not on the need to defend past errors. And honestly, who believes this plan is strong? I have observed that most people fall into one of four camps:

1. Kinney Road supporters;
2. Politicians eager to move on without having to come up with fresh or new ideas;
3. Workers who understandably want improved facilities; and
4. Residents exhausted by years of mismanagement who just want closure.

The first three groups are already committed and unlikely to shift. But for residents still weighing the facts, a ‘no’ vote is the only way to break this cycle of poor decisions and demand a plan that actually makes sense. The best solution will be realized by spotting when something isn’t working and choosing change over comfort, clarity over clinging, and courage over complacency. Vote no and revisit Kinney.

Rob Poudrier
Amston

DPWAC Update

To the Editor:

Last week’s *Rivereast* had multiple letters as well as a half page article regarding the DPW project. There was also a lengthy Facebook post, with 27 likes and 89 comments. This is the most back-and-forth conversation and involvement that I think I have seen. The post was about “re-visiting Kinney Road.” We as a town and as residents lost the narrative regarding the use of the Horton Property site years ago.

I, for one am happy to see the involvement and the interaction. Multiple people have stated things like “it’s time to get this done,” “we can’t keep kicking the can down the road.” There were comments about the price tag for the re-building of the Old Colchester Road site. Everything that I have learned over the last 2+ years is that building a public building is not cheap. Way different than a garage in your backyard. With that said the conservative number to build on the Horton Property was 17 to 18 million dollars with building a road and running all of the utilities. That was in 2018. The transfer station was never slated to be moved. Fast-forward 7 years and going through COVID we all saw the price of everything go up a lot. Building costs were not excluded!

Walking my tight rope, not advocating for or against, in order to revisit the Horton Property, we would need to allocate another 1.5 to maybe 2 million dollars to again hire an architectural firm to do all of the same work we are paying for now.

This whole process of having a town meeting, voting to approve the funds to hire the architect took almost a year. By the time the current Old Colchester Road site is rebuilt (if passed at referendum) it won’t be ready for use until 2028 best case. If we use 17.5 million and add 5% per year we would be at 24.5 million dollars today. If we spend another 1.5 for additional architectural fees we are at 26 million. The time to set up a town meeting, have the vote, hire architects and move forward will be another 2 to 3 years. 26 million at 5% per year for just 2 more years will be 28.6 million.

I believe that most residents are on board with the fact that our current facility is old, unsafe and inadequate and our employees deserve better.

Sincerely,
Todd Habicht, Vice Chairman
Hebron DPWAC

WANTED TO BUY

Antiques & Old Stuff

Bottles • Crocks • Jugs • Costume Jewelry • Pottery • Toys

• Games • Glassware • Silver • Coins • Gold

• Silver Plated Items • Watches • Typewriters • Sewing Machines

• Tools • Radios • Clocks • Lanterns • Lamps • Kitchenware

• Cookware • Knives • Hunting • Fishing • Military • Masonic

• Fire Dept • Advertising Signs & Much More

Call Donald Roy 860-874-8396

CIT5-29-25

ALLIED DRAIN CLEANING & CONSTRUCTION, LLC

Sewer & Drain Cleaning • Video Inspections

Locating • Jetting • Septic • Grease Traps

Flood Cleanup • Saw Cutting • Excavation

Sump Pumps • Water Proofing • Yard Drainage

860-798-8200

www.allieddraincleaning.com

FULLY LICENSED • INSURED

Subsurface # 005523

\$50 OFF

ON FIRST SERVICE OR NEXT SERVICE

Must present coupon at time of estimate. Cannot be combined with any other offers or promotions. Expires 2/15/26

010126

GLASTONBURY

ANIMAL HOSPITAL

of MARLBOROUGH

NOW OPEN

5 DAYS A WEEK

MON-FRI 9AM-3PM

Always Accepting

New Patients & Clients!

PRIVATELY OWNED,

NON-CORPORATE

21 South Main Street

Marlborough, CT 06447

860-295-3939

New Hours: Monday – Friday 9am-3pm

RE7-19-24

Additional Staff Member
Needed

To the Editor:

The continued growth of programs and participation at the East Hampton Senior Center makes the addition of another full-time staff member essential.

The center has only one full-time employee, senior center director Holly Marrero, and four part-timers – a staffing level that has stayed the same while the number of members and programs have multiplied.

Since August of 2024, the membership at the senior center has increased by about 300, including members in the 55-to 60-year-old range as well as those over 60.

The services provided include meals, public benefits counseling, health and fitness programs, and transportation as well as social and recreational activities, arts and crafts, and opportunities for travel and volunteer and civic engagement.

Studies show that older adults who have opportunities to socialize, get proper nutrition, stay fit and continue to learn stay healthier longer.

Dr. Eric Rosenberg, chairman of the Commission on Aging, said that another full-time employee would enable the senior center to offer expanded hours. The center now is only open on weekdays until 4 p.m. Younger working members would like access in the evenings. In addition, having another full-time employee would ensure greater continuity of services from day-to-day if the director has a day off or has to attend meetings.

The town has 3,400 adults aged 55 or older, but the senior center accounts for less than half a percent of the town budget.

For the past eight years, the director has requested a second full-time employee, in addition to the part-time staff, but those requests have been denied. In December, the Commission on Aging voted unanimously to support this senior center request.

We hope this year, the town will approve this request.

Thank you,
Kathy Megan, Member
East Hampton Commission on Aging

Deep Concern
Regarding Comment

To the Editor:

As a parent, taxpayer, and the inaugural Parent Ambassador of the Connecticut Office of Early Childhood and EASTCONN’s Local Governance Partners Early Roots Collaborative, I am writing to express deep concern regarding a comment made during a recent Andover Board of Education meeting. During a public budget discussion, an elected board member stated that “every 2yearold is a Special Ed kid.” This remark was not only inaccurate, but dismissive of the children and families who rely on early childhood and special education systems every day.

Public officials carry significant responsibilities. They are entrusted with modeling professionalism, respect, and ethical conduct. They are expected to make informed decisions grounded in data, best practices, and the needs of the community. And they are responsible for representing the district with integrity in all publicfacing forums. When comments fall short of these expectations, it raises serious concerns about readiness for public service, understanding of early childhood development, and awareness of legal obligations under IDEA and Connecticut’s BirthtoThree system.

For these reasons, I strongly urge the Board to pursue targeted professional development, including training in IDEA, BirthtoThree, and early childhood education; governance and publicmeeting etiquette; disability awareness and inclusive language; and the rural social determinants of health that shape outcomes for Andover’s children. These are not optional competencies—they are essential for anyone charged with making decisions that affect young learners, especially those with disabilities.

As someone who has lived these systems personally and professionally, I was troubled by the audacity and privilege reflected in the comment made. There is a meaningful difference between being misinformed and speaking from a place of prejudicial assumption. Misinformation can be corrected with education. Prejudicial privilege, however, causes harm – particularly when expressed in a public forum where accuracy and

See Letters, page 6

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

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 by Tuesday, February 17, 2026, to 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/ctdotVPIMarchive.

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 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.

RE1-23-26

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

★ *Letters cont. from page 5*
respect are nonnegotiable.
I want to acknowledge that our superintendent and principal continue to lead with purpose, best practice, and a familycentered vision. Their professionalism at recent meetings helped redirect harmful assumptions and ground the conversation in facts. That leadership matters.
I urge the board to reaffirm its commitment to inclusive, evidencebased, and respectful governance. Malinformation has no place in shaping the future of Connecticut’s children. Our young and vulnerable learners deserve leaders who understand the systems that serve them and who honor their dignity in every public conversation.
Our children, families, and educators deserve nothing less.
Doris Maldonado Méndez – Andover
Parent Ambassador, OEC/EASTCONN
Early Roots Collaborative

Trash Talk

To the Editor:
The Marlborough Board of Selectmen is being asked to consider committing to Phase 1 of the WasteZero program. Board members were told that Marlborough would receive a \$108,621 grant to cover the costs of the first exploratory phase. The board was told that due to the grant, the first phase would be “free” to the town, but we tend to forget that grant money is not “free.” The last time I checked, the State of CT does not have a grove of money trees.
The board was told that they would be free to decide after the first phase about moving forward with the program. But we all know what happens when government starts a new program. There is no such thing as an end.
Residents would be required to use special bags, and if the Town moved forward after the trial period, we would need to purchase these

bags for use when taking our trash to the Transfer Station.
The board was being pressured to make a decision, but they pushed the decision off until their next meeting. But, why the rush? Will there be an informational session to solicit public input before a decision is made?
I understand that the cost associated with trash disposal has gone up substantially due to the closing of the 40+ year old trash to energy plant in Hartford, but I want to hear more about how the WasteZero plan will impact our taxes and my household costs.
What really concerned me was the pressure being applied to make a quick decision. The last time I was subjected to such a hard sell was when I ended up with a Kirby vacuum.
Ken Hjulstrom
Marlborough
Note: Hjulstrom is a member of the Marlborough Board of Finance, but said he is speaking as an individual.

More Misinformation in Hebron

To the Editor:
It was exciting to see so many letters in last week’s Rivereast discussing Hebron’s Public Works project. However, I would again urge writers and readers alike to embrace the facts and avoid misinformation. One “Unacceptable” letter offered significantly incorrect information on the 2023 efforts to “assess town interest,” stating only 92 people responded. If this refers to the Public Works Survey, the number of involved people and the results were drastically different. At the time, the Board of Selectmen hoped that 400 people would take the survey. In fact, 725 people participated with the overwhelming results; 69% said keep Public Works at Old Colchester Road, 16% said use the Horton Property and 10% said use the Horton

Property with the salt shed elsewhere. The number of participants is statistically significant and the results were just as clear.
The reoccurring claim that only a small group of residents have altered the town’s plan for placing public works on Kinney Road is utterly unfounded. In fact, what began as a group of families concerned for our quiet neighborhood quickly grew to a community-wide effort and beyond. Early concerns over ground water pollution were confirmed by a groundwater specialist named William Warzecha of Norwich, a 36-year veteran of Connecticut’s Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. Two letters by Mr. Warzecha were submitted to the Town of Hebron, dated September 16, 2022 and December 22, 2022. They can be found in Town Records and are also posted on Save Hebron Center on Facebook. Mr. Warzecha offered expert testimony clearly stating, “the Town is using poor judgment in locating the public works facility on Kinney Road and the facility should not be built in that location.” Mr. Warzecha’s opinion was confirmed by a detailed report to the Selectmen by their own sub-committee, the Hebron Green Committee, dated May 1, 2023.
As outlined last week by Hebron historian John Baron, Connecticut’s State Historic Preservation Office has instructed the town to complete research to confirm preliminary findings that 17 Kinney Rd. has tremendous historic value. Neither Mr. Baron nor SHPO are residents of Kinney Road.
I understand the significant cost of a new Public Works facility is daunting. However, as well-articulated in Keith Petit’s letter, it is a necessary project and Old Colchester Road is the best and most cost-effective location. Please attend meetings and learn the facts, we can do better than misinformation.
Sincerely,
Kevin J. Tulimieri
Amston

Finish the Work Before We Vote

To the Editor:
One of the hallmarks of responsible decision-making is knowing when a project is not ready. Sometimes the most prudent choice is to pause, complete the necessary work, and then move forward with confidence. Colchester’s athletic field improvement project has not reached that point, and the responsible choice for voters is to vote ‘no’ – not to stop progress, but to give the project the time it needs to succeed.
The concerns with the proposal fall into two clear areas: the design is incomplete, and state funding has not been secured.
A key part of any design phase is compliance with local regulations and state law. That process is still underway. The project would result in significantly increased stormwater discharge into the Sherman Brook wetlands, yet no biological studies have been completed to evaluate potential impacts on plants and wildlife. Without that information, neither decision-makers nor voters can fully understand the long-term environmental effects. Proceeding before this work is finished creates unnecessary risk and undermines public confidence in the review process.
The second issue is funding. While no one welcomes higher taxes, state and federal grants exist specifically to help communities undertake major infrastructure projects. These programs reduce the burden on local taxpayers and are a normal part of responsible municipal planning.
To date, Colchester has not received state grant funding for this project and did not apply for annual grants because the project was not considered shovel-ready.
That is precisely the point.
A ‘no’ vote allows the town to finish the design, complete required environmental studies, pursue available grants, and return to voters with a fully developed proposal. At that point, residents can evaluate the project based on complete information and make a decision with confidence – supporting a project that is truly ready for success.
Finish the work, get the grants, then vote.
Michael Dubreuil
Colchester

ENTERTAINMENT

Full Menu Served Daily 11AM-10PM

GREENLEAF CAFE

NFL Sunday Ticket! 10 Wings & Pitcher of PBR Special \$22.95 During Games

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Never A Cover 8:30PM-12:30AM

Friday, Jan. 30th “In Deep”

Friday, Feb. 6th “Blue Mountain Haze”

Join us for the “Big Game” Sunday, Feb. 8th

Complimentary 1/2 Time Buffet!

Now accepting pre-orders for wings for the “Big Game” Feb. 8th

47 MAIN ST. (RT. 66) HEBRON • 860-228-8148

RE1-30-26

Eat, Drink, Gather!



Editor’s Desk continued from page 4

the senior vice president and executive director of Heart & Vascular Services at Yale New Haven Health. “This is a great example of people across the country, not just here in Connecticut banding together to unite for women’s health and the health of our communities.”

Find resources to support women’s heart health at every age and stage of life at GoRedforWomen.org and learn more about National Wear Red Day at WearRedDay.org.

And for more information about local activities connected with the Go Red for Women movement, contact Adria Giordano at adria.giordano@heart.org or visit www.heart.org/Connecticut.

See you next week.

OZ N BONES

SOME KINDA KICK ASS BBQ AND SIDES

43 Hayward Ave. Colchester, CT

Our authentic & artisan original barbeque recipes, are made fresh from scratch.

PRE-ORDER YOUR GAME DAY FOOD!

Call Diane 860-908-9286 for the Big Game Sunday, pre-orders of Wings, BBQ Nachos, Ribs, PP & PC Sliders or by the pound!

BOOK NOW! Private Room Rental Available Upstairs

Dine In • Take Out • Lunch • Dinner • Catering

Find out just how kick-ass BBQ can be!!

(860) 537-3355

oznbonesbbq.com

RE1-30-26

Gina Marie's

Restaurant & Catering Service

Pizzas • Gluten Free Items Beer/Wine • Catering Outside Dining — Online Ordering — www.ginamariesct.com

Try one of our freshly ground in-house

Steak Burgers

\$2⁰⁰ OFF Any Large Pizza

Offer good w/ this ad till 2/28/26. Pick-Up & Takeout Only. Try one of our other 10 Gourmet Pizzas

71 Main Street, Rt. 66 Hebron, CT 860-228-9375

Sun 8am to 7pm; Tues to Thurs 8am to 8pm; Fri & Sat 8am to 8:30pm

RE1-30-26



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

★ *Snowstorm, cont. from page 1*

ages were anticipated at the time.

Marlborough Fire Chief Kevin Asklar confirmed the storm itself was relatively quiet from an emergency response perspective. The department handled one car accident and one fire alarm, both with minimal impact. Asklar explained that winter storms typically produce low-speed accidents, which tend to result in fewer injuries.

Fire crews prepared by adding extra sand and salt to their vehicles and coordinating closely with public works. In some cases, he said, plow trucks will escort or even plow fire apparatus into emergency scenes when conditions are severe. Fortunately, that level of intervention was not required during this storm.

Colchester officials also reported a strong response. First Selectman Bernie Dennler called it the biggest storm in several years and praised public works crews for working continuously from Sunday morning into Monday evening. He emphasized that the town budgets with extended snow events in mind and maintains a snow reserve fund to handle harsher-than-average winters.

“Our guys worked just as part of this initial cleanup from 7 a.m. Sunday to 6 p.m. Monday,” Dennler said. “That’s 35 hours straight of working. ... From a human perspective, that’s a lot of time, a lot of labor.”

Dennler added that he felt gratitude towards the public works department for “showing up and being out there for as long as they were.”

Dennler also highlighted improvements made to Colchester’s public works department in recent years, including full staffing and increased experience among crew members. He said those changes directly contributed to the town’s ability to manage the storm effectively and safely.

Colchester Fire Chief Steve Hoffmann described the snow as light, dry and fluffy – snow

that piled high but avoided many of the hazards associated with heavier, wetter storms. He said the department responded to five calls during the event, most of which were medical in nature. Two furnace malfunctions prompted carbon monoxide check, but no dangerous levels were detected and CO detectors were provided to residents as a precaution.

Fire stations remained staffed and open as warming centers, though no residents needed to use them. Hoffmann noted that crews spent time after the storm digging out fire hydrants, particularly in downtown areas where snow storage space is limited. He compared the storm to 2013 but said this one was easier to manage due to the snow’s light consistency - even joking that, at times, it could be moved with a leaf blower.

In Andover, Interim Town Administrator Jim Bellano said the storm marked the first major plowing event of the winter, following weeks dominated more by salting than snow removal. He acknowledged statewide concerns about salt supply but said Andover remained in good shape and prepared to handle the season’s demands.

Across towns, the pattern was consistent: long hours, careful planning, interdepartmental cooperation and a surprising amount of good humor. From snowplow trophies to leaf blower-friendly drifts, the storm tested systems and stamina – but it also highlighted just how practiced Connecticut has become at digging itself out.

For residents still staring down snowbanks taller than their cars, that may not make shoveling any more fun. But it does mean that, behind the scenes, a lot of people were doing their jobs very well – sometimes proudly, sometimes tiredly and occasionally with a sense of humor buried somewhere under two feet of snow.

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

★ *Needleman, cont. from page 1*

challenge proposed rate increases. This past year, he also led passage of the Ratepayers First Act, which promised to cut consumer electricity bills.

Needleman said his work on energy regulation was part of a bigger picture problem, tackling what he said is the biggest issue he hears about in his district: affordability.

“Certainly, the political moment speaks to affordability,” he said, adding that “there’s sort of this overriding concern that Connecticut has two economies” — one for the very rich, he said, and another for everyone else. He said that spans party divides.

“I represent a district that goes from very blue to reasonably red,” he said. “Everybody has issues and problems that they would like input and help on trying to solve. I have never gotten a call from somebody who said they needed help and asked them, ‘What’s your party affiliation? What are your politics?’”

Needleman said that much of the work by the state legislature, and the Democratic caucus, this year will involve stepping up to make up for the recent loss of federal funding, citing the recent loss of health insurance subsidies as an example.

“But you know, when it’s the state versus the federal government, we’re bringing a knife and they’re bringing a gun,” he said. “They’re actually bringing a cannon, and we have limited ability to make up for all of the losses.”

Needleman described himself as both a “progressive” and a “moderate,” and said he often sees eye to eye on some issues with Republican colleagues.

“I don’t think government can solve all problems,” he said, “but I think that when you get around to basic necessities – shelter, food, health care – you know, these are basic necessities

ties that I think in a modern society are a right. Not an unlimited right, but a right.”

At the same time, he said, “on economic issues, I tend to be prudent and thoughtful and believe that balancing budgets makes sense,” adding that he did not believe that “taxing people in an unlimited way is going to solve anything.”

Needleman was cautious on the topic of affordable housing. He voted for the controversial housing bill HB8002 that passed along party lines this past November, and at the time, he told The Rivereast that the bill was a “good-faith effort” to solve what he described as “a housing crisis.”

Needleman said that “there’s a difference between affordable housing, which is a legally defined term, and housing affordability, which is a broader concept,” adding that “if you don’t have enough housing units, you need to construct new housing.”

He emphasized the shifting demographics in the state and said that, without new housing that residents can afford, the real estate market was “frozen” with younger people unable to find places they can afford and older homeowners wanting to downsize and unable to find places to move into.

Needleman said politics was a very divided place these days, and said he tried to be a “moderating force on a lot of ideas.”

“Everything doesn’t have to be drama,” he said, “and I’m an example of somebody who tries to get the drama out and tries to find common ground.”

“Democracy doesn’t work if it’s my way or the highway,” he added. “It just doesn’t. It’s going to fall apart. If you don’t have enough people who are not calling each other names and trying to figure out common ground, then it falls apart.”

RHAM • RHAM • RHAM • RHAM

Youth Lacrosse
Registration, Clinic

RHAM Youth Lacrosse has opened registration for its spring 2026 season for boys and girls in grades K–8 who reside in Hebron, Marlborough, Andover and surrounding towns that do not offer a youth lacrosse program.

Families can learn more and register at www.rhamyouthlacrosse.com, with the registration deadline set for Sunday, Feb. 8, 2026.

In addition, RHAM Youth Lacrosse will host a free “Try Lacrosse” clinic on Sunday, Feb. 8, at RHAM High School, for players in grades K–8 who are interested in learning the game. No experience or equipment is required, and current players are also welcome to attend. The clinic is intended to provide a fun, low-pressure opportunity for children to be introduced to lacrosse and build skills.

For questions, families may email rhamyouthlacrosseregistrar@gmail.com.

AHM News & Notes

AHM Youth and Family Services has announced the following items of interest. For more information or to register, visit ahmyouth.recdesk.com.

Prevention Survey: AHM’s Coalition for a Healthy Empowered Community (CHEC) is asking adults who live or work in Andover, Hebron, Marlborough and Columbia to complete a brief survey related to youth and adult behavioral health and wellness. The data collected from this survey will inform prevention programs for AHM Youth & Family Services and will be included in grant applications that aim to provide enhanced support for the community. All information collected will be anonymous, as an outside company will compile the data. The more input received, the better they can serve the residents. To access the survey, go to www.research.net/r/AHMCommunitySurvey

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

ENTERTAINMENT



LIGHTHOUSE SEAFOOD & GRILL

Family owned & operated

**Our Burgers, Wraps & Panninis
Now Served With French Fries!**



Call or stop in for a menu today!

Hrs: Tues, Wed, Thur, Sun 11AM - 8PM
Fri, Sat 11AM - 9PM • Mon - Closed

860.852.5189

662 Portland-Cobalt Rd
Portland, CT

website: lighthouseseafoodandgrill.com



THE Hideaway Pub
Amston, Connecticut
— EST. 2022 —

**Free Pool
Tuesday & Wednesday
3 Tacos for \$5 Daily
Daily - \$3 Coors Light
16oz. Drafts**



Food available Tuesday-Thursday 4-10PM Fri+Sat 4-11PM
HAPPY HOUR DAILY 3-6PM - \$1⁰⁰ OFF ALL DRINK & FOOD
DJ every Friday Night from 9 till Close, Karaoke Every Thurs. 8:30 til close

554 Church St. Amston, CT.
OPEN Tues - Thurs 3PM-1AM, Fri & Sat Noon-2AM and Closed Sundays



The Dublin
BEEF & SEAFOOD COMPANY

DINE-IN ONLY

Tuesday nights, it's the
Famous Dublin Prime Rib Madness!
Join us for our oven roasted
Queen Cut Prime Rib
Meal comes with a small side salad...for just \$10⁰⁰ from 5PM - while it lasts.

Join us for \$10 Bottomless Pasta
Every Thursday starting at 5PM w/bread and salad.
Choice of penne or fettucine, alfredo or traditional meat sauce, optional add-ons - chicken, scallops, sausage or meatballs for \$4, shrimp \$4ea.
Dine-in Only - no takeout.



★ **RATED TOP 10 RESTAURANTS!** ★

*From our butchers to your plate,
for a freshness you can taste.*

**The Dublin...Often Imitated,
Never Duplicated**

Area's Best Burgers & Wings!

Open 7 days a week at 11am
42 E. High St., Rt. 66, East Hampton • 860.365.5238
visit us at WWW.THE-DUBLIN.COM for daily specials & upcoming events



MARLBOROUGH
BAKERY AND CAFE

**“The Big Game”
Sunday Feb. 8th**

More cheering.
Less cooking!



See our catering menu at our Facebook page for game day food ideas! Pre-order by Feb. 5th.

“Romancing the Moment”

Valentine’s Day Catering
Menu available online
at our Facebook page.
Call 860-295-9521 to order,
pre-order by 11AM on Feb. 13th.



WINTER HOURS: Grill open weekdays til 4PM for Breakfast & Lunch - Bakery Open Til 5PM • Saturday and Sunday - Grill & Bakery Open til 3PM.

Open Mon.-Fri. 6AM - 5PM, Sat. & Sun. 6AM - 3PM
Located at 8 Independence Dr., Marlborough
(860) 295-9251
www.marlboroughbakeryandcafe.com

Where in the World is the *Rivereast*?

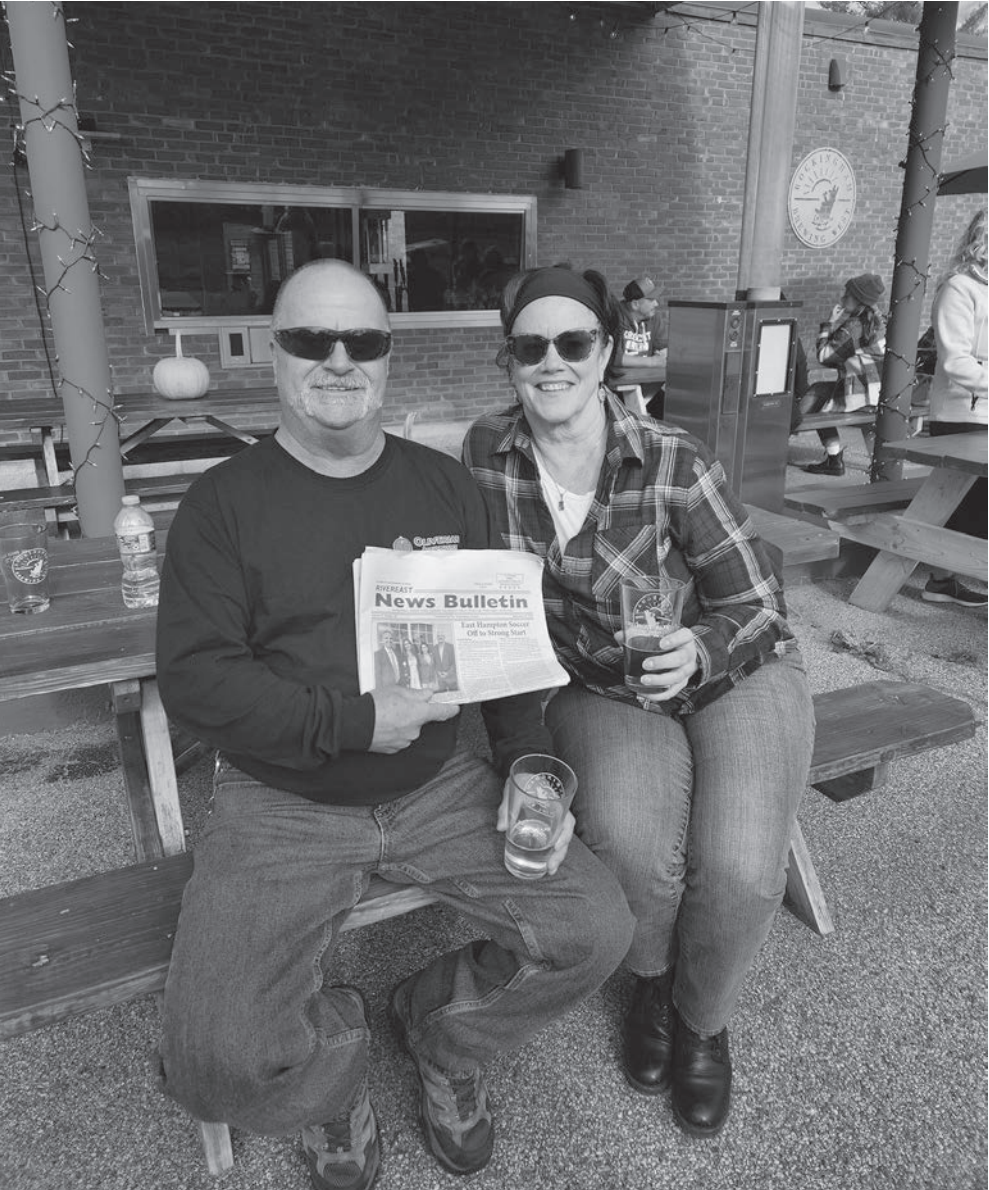
Taking a vacation or a day trip soon? Or simply going out to dinner? Bring the *Rivereast* with you! Whether it's across the globe or across town, we want to see where you've been! Simply snap a photo with the *Rivereast*, send it to bulletin@glcitizen.com and, if printed, you'll receive a gift card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



Marvelous Maui... Nancy Xeller (right) and her son Colin Gartner brought the *Rivereast* with them on a recent trip to Maui, Hawaii. The restaurant behind them is named after the longest word in the Hawaiian language. It is located at the Grand Wailea Resort. Nancy said she and Colin had a fabulous time on their trip.



Festival Fun... Jeanne Bishop and Jane Muskatallo, both of Portland, took the *Rivereast* to the Saint Sebastian Festival during a recent trip to Old San Juan, Puerto Rico.



Relaxing with the *Rivereast*... Paul and Toni Talbot of Colchester stopped for a cold one after leaf peeping in New Hampshire last fall.



Checking In at the Cape... Ashley Hicks and Victoria Lugli of East Hampton recently traveled with Victoria's mother, Valerie Seery of Colchester (taking the picture) to Cape Cod. The trip was to check on Valerie's summer rental cottage, the Salty Mermaid in Dennis. They enjoyed dinner and live music at O'Shea's Olde Inn, and finding sea creatures washed up on the beach.

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!

To enter, email your photo and address to: bulletin@glcitizen.com

\$25 GIFT CARD

Campagna
Restaurant & Lounge

Fine Italian & American Cuisine
151 Marlborough Street (Rt 66), Portland

Portland • Portland • Portland • Portland • Portland • Portland • Portland • Portland • Portland • Portland • Portland • Portland • Portland • Portland • Portland



First Congregational Church member Jeffrey Fraulino will once again serve up red beans and rice, chicken and andouille gumbo, and more when the church holds a Mardi Gras Festival this Saturday, Jan. 31, from 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Mardi Gras Café at Portland Church

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

One highlight of the festival will be 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.

Fraulino is no stranger to the kitchen and preparing New Orleans-style meals is one of his passions. His career in commercial real estate afforded him many opportunities to eat all over Louisiana and actually find himself in the kitchens of Emeril Lagasse, John Besh and others. Fraulino notes, “No shortcuts, a proper roux, and authentic ingredients such as Camillia red beans, a New Orleans staple, and Jacob’s andou-

ille from LaPlace result in a great outcome. I do skip the okra as I have found it to be an acquired taste up here in the Northeast.”

If you haven’t eaten these dishes in New Orleans and don’t plan to go there anytime soon, plan to head down to First Congregational Church for authentic Louisiana cuisine. Servings will be \$10 for a pint container. The gumbo will be topped with rice.

The Mardi Gras Festival chairperson is Faith Fraulino, who is assisted by many church members. The hall will also be filled with home-baked goods and candies, a gift table that will include jewelry, church made greeting cards, and specialty gifts that would be great for Valentine’s Day. A photo booth complete with Mardi Gras props to create a photo to cherish will also be available.

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

‘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.

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

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

Register, donate, or form a team at camping-ersoll.org – click on ‘Chill for Change.’

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

Parks and Rec. News & Notes

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

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

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

Youth Virtual Golf Clinics at Chris Cote’s Golf Shop: One-night clinics are offered on Wednesdays, 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 Alicia: Various programs are available for participants as young as 13 months old.

Winter Break Art Program by Abrakadoodle: Tuesday, Feb. 17, 9 a.m.-noon, in the Buck-Foreman Community Center. Kids ages 5-12 are invited to come create a penguin and snowman celebration.

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.

Food and beverages will be available for purchase.

For more information, email ksbelieve@gmail.com.



Law Offices of David Seidman, PC

University of Pennsylvania Law School • Wharton School of Business

Put Knowledge and Experience to work for you.

PERSONAL INJURY

- Auto Accidents
- Slip and Fall
- Motorcycle Accidents
- Dog Bites
- Drunk Driving Victims
- Sports Injuries
- Products Liability

MEDICAL MALPRACTICE

- Wrongful Death
- Hospital and Doctor Negligence
- Missed Diagnosis
- Birth Injuries
- Ambulance Injuries
- Cardiovascular Malpractice
- Orthopedic Malpractice
- Dental Malpractice

BANKRUPTCY

- Chapter 7 • Chapter 13
- Discharge Debt
- Save Your Home
- Stop Harassing Calls
- Stop Foreclosure
- Stop Lawsuits

REAL ESTATE

- Real Estate Closings
- Refinances
- Purchases and Sales

FREE INITIAL CONSULTATION

ROCKY HILL 860-563-7866	MERIDEN 203-237-9999	WEST HARTFORD 860-233-4778
VERNON 860-870-8089	ASHFORD 860-487-3703	MIDDLETOWN 860-344-1975





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.

Sponsors

Butler Construction
Rare Reminder
The Chronicle



SCAN ME

To Join or Donate

Jumping Partners

Birdon
Mercy High School
Stage 1 Cycling / Airline Cycle

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

CIT1-22-26

Portland • Portland • Portland • Portland • Portland • Portland • Portland • Portland • Portland • Portland • Portland • Portland • Portland • Portland

Selectmen Talk Water Treatment, Schools Plan

By Anne Lilburn

Portland’s Board of Selectmen met for a regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 21, and board members received updates on the town’s need for upgrades at its sewage treatment plant, as well as a potential federal loan program that might help pay for those upgrades.

Also, although it wasn’t on the agenda (as some board members pointed out), a topic that generated some of the most discussion concerned the town’s potential school consolidation and renovation plans.

The meeting started off with a presentation from the town Director of Public Works Jason Morocco, who explained that the town’s wastewater treatment plant was in need of upgrades, having had no significant improvements made in over two decades.

Morocco gave a brief overview of the areas where the plant needs improvement, including the aeration blower, the UV purifier and the roof of the buildings. He said the town had the opportunity to apply for a US Department of Agriculture Rural Economic Development grant and loan program that might cover the cost of the project.

The board then heard from both Jeffrey Dimmock, who works for the Connecticut Rural Water and Wastewater Association, of which Portland is a member, and Megan Llewellyn, who is a loan specialist at the USDA. Llewellyn said that the government loans had flexible terms and low interest rates. She said that most towns typically financed over a 40-year term.

When selectman Bobby Hetrick, a Republican, asked whether the town might qualify for a grant instead of a loan, Llewellyn explained that the town might qualify for a grant for a portion of the project, because there is funding reserved for small towns like Portland whose median income was 80-100% of the regional median in-

come, provided that the grant was funding projects that addressed health and sanitation issues. Morocco said he believed some of the upgrades would fall into that category, and the board agreed to consider the details and vote on a motion to apply the grant or loan at a later meeting.

One topic that led to an unexpected, but also unsurprising, amount of discussion was the town’s plan to consolidate, renovate and/or rebuild its schools. The town is working to develop its plans to renovate Valley View and Gildersleeve schools, and also to maintain the roof and HVAC systems at the high school. Selectman John Dillon, a Democrat, who has been heavily involved in this topic, said that the Board of Education hoped to be have an additional informational meeting in order for them to be able to vote on the topic at its Feb. 10 meeting. The plan would eventually need to be approved by voters at a May 11 referendum.

Dillon updated board members on the expected costs, including state reimbursements. For Valley View, he said the total cost to “build to new” would be \$47.5 million, but state reimbursements would bring those costs down to only \$14.2 million for the town. Likewise, the current estimates on a build at Gildersleeve put total costs at \$52.3 million, but only \$23.1 million would fall on the town. The HVAC and roof repairs at the high school would run in the \$8 million range, with 50% covered by state reimbursements. Dillon said that there might even be opportunities for additional state reimbursements, depending on the plan.

Some selectmen, in particular Hetrick, once again expressed concern that the public was unaware of the current plans, and also expressed worry that they would be able to convey both the costs for these plans, and also the potential costs that the town would incur as an alternative

if they did not build. The current school buildings require extensive maintenance that, at least in the case of Gildersleeve, would likely be more expensive to the town than “building to new,” due to the large state reimbursements currently available.

Many worried about keeping the public involved because an older version of a schools plan, which differed in some significant ways, did not pass a town referendum. Many chalked this up, in part, to ineffective communication about the community’s options.

“At the last referendum,” said Hetrick, “everyone thought it was a sure win because they put surveys out about it [for the earlier plan], but it was the complete opposite.”

Dillon suggested holding “face-to-face public forums,” with one at Gildersleeve and one at Valley View, so that residents could understand the costs, challenges and plans.

Hetrick also asked what the town was currently receiving in additional tax revenue from Brainerd place and what the predicted numbers were for the future at Brainerd place and the Nordic Spa, which is scheduled to open later

this year. Dillon said he thought that information should be in the information conveyed to the public.

He said that “a lot of people looked at those two developments as, ‘OK, this is going to fund our infrastructure: water, sewer, a lot of other things around town.’ Now, it’s gone. It’s all going to the school.”

First Selectman Michael Pelton, a Democrat, painted a rosy picture for what he saw as the additional tax revenue from those projects.

“Roughly, we get about a half a million to 700,000 dollars extra a year from Brainerd Place and the spa, and that’s only going to go up as we go on, and it’s a five- or six-year project from after we start. By that time, many of the tax abatements that were on there will be gone or closer to full taxes, so that’s only going to go up.”

With that said, he and others agreed that they wanted to be able to provide the public with clear estimates for what any additional tax burden might be for them.

The next regular Board of Selectmen meeting is scheduled for Feb. 4.

Castles Along the Connecticut

The Portland Historical Society’s annual meeting will be this Sunday, Jan. 30, at 2 p.m., at the Waverly Center, 7 Waverly Avenue. (The meeting had been scheduled for last weekend but was postponed due to snow.) After a brief business meeting to present the proposed 2026 budget, an election will be held to determine the society’s officers and directors.

A program, “Castles Along the Connecticut,” will be presented by local resident and Society member Alain Munkittrick. His 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. 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 equally fascinating examples discovered during his research.

All members as well as the public are invited to attend. A gathering time with refreshments will follow the program.

Senior Center News & Notes

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

Mobile Food Pantry: The Food Share Mobile Pantry comes to the Food Bank every other Monday. The next date is Feb. 9.

Weekly Programs: Unless noted, all programs are free. **Monday, 2/2: Light Aerobics**, 9:30-10:30 a.m.; **Tuesday, 2/3: 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; **Congregate Meal**, noon. Cost is \$3 suggested donation (must fill out form). Menu: meatloaf with gravy, mashed potatoes, steamed carrots, peach cup, milk bottle; **Coupons for Troops**, 1-4 p.m.; **Setback**, 1 p.m.; **SyncoCize**, 5-6 p.m., fee is donation to instructor.

Wednesday, 2/4: Light Aerobics, 9:30-10:30 a.m.; **Chair Yoga with Gia**, 10:30-11:15 a.m., fee is a \$5 donation to instructor; **Rug Hooking Group**, noon. Seasoned pros and newcomers welcome. Some rug-hooking kits may be available for beginners; please give at least one week notice if you are in need of supplies or are looking for instruction on learning this craft. Call the center for more information. **Bridge**, 12:30-4 p.m.

Thursday, 2/5: Stretch & Tone, 9:30 a.m.; **Knit & Stitch**, 10 a.m.; **Congregate Meal**, noon. Cost is \$3 suggested donation (must fill out form). Menu: roasted salmon, cous cous pilaf, roasted vegetables, roll and butter, milk, raisins; **Mahjong (FULL)**, 12:30 p.m.; **Scrabble**, 1 p.m.

Friday, 2/6: 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.

February Special Events: Unless noted, programs are free and registration is required.

Monday, Feb. 2: This introductory presentation to an upcoming technology workshop presentation was originally scheduled for 1/26 but postponed due to weather, and will be held today at 11 a.m. A range of technology topics will be discussed.

Monday, Feb. 2: Cooking for One with Marilyn, 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.

Monday, Feb. 23: Hair by Jessica. A traveling hairstylist comes to the center each month to fix up your do. Men’s/women’s shampoos, cuts and styling will be offered. Call Jessica to make your appointment at 860-751-9215.

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.

Exchange Club Bingo Night

The Portland Exchange Club will hold their next BINGO Night on Thursday, Feb. 5, 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.portland-exchange.org.

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

Managing Editor!

Jillian Crawford of Portland was named managing editor of the UMass Law Review 2026/2027 Editorial Board. Crawford is a second-year law student.

Dean’s List

Sara Austin of Portland made the fall 2025 Dean’s List at Champlain College in Burlington, Vt.



**De Olde
Barber Shop**
860-633-1552
882 Main Street
South Glastonbury CT 06033
TUES-FRI 8:30-5, SAT 8-2



**PIANO
TUNER**
CIT 10-22-20

Tuning,
Repairs &
Cleaning

Contact
TED WILLIAMS
Certified by
Hartt School of Music
(860) 228-0309
www.ConnecticutPianoTuning.com

Wood Pellets & Bio Bricks NOW IN STOCK!

Ready for Pick-Up or Delivery

CALL TODAY!

East Hampton
ACE Hardware
Route 66, East Hampton
(860) 267-7943
OPEN: Mon-Wed 8-6;
Thurs & Fri 8-7; Sat 8-6; Sun 9-5

**Portland Home
& Hardware**
724 Portland Cobalt Rd.
Route 66, Portland
(860) 342-4847
OPEN: Mon-Fri 8-6;
Sat 8-5; Sun 9-2



**Portland
COLLISION LLC**
“We Meet By Accident”

FULL SERVICE AUTO BODY REPAIR
1621 Portland Cobalt Rd. (Rt. 66)
Portland, CT 06480

Grayson Mountain
860-342-1520
www.portlandcollisionllc.com



Portland • Portland • Portland • Portland • Portland • Portland • Portland • Portland • Portland • Portland • Portland • Portland • Portland • Portland

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, Feb. 1, Cooke will preach on the topic “Career Changes.”

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

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

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.

Trinity Episcopal News

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

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

Church in Connecticut’s annual diaper drive.

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

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

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

making seed bombs, winter sowing and growing microgreens. Plant basil or chive seeds to take home. Visit River Bend Bookshop’s pop-up garden-themed book fair and learn about the Portland Library’s Seed Library. Delicious comfort food and refreshments will be available.

Admission is free; food bank donations are encouraged.

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

Portland Library News & Notes

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

Hours: Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m., - Friday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., - Saturday 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. **Holiday 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.

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. Also, the Portland Lions will be on site to conduct free KidSight Vision Screenings at the library from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. – no appointment 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 and opens Monday, Feb. 2, at 10 a.m.

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.

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.

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, Carol Clausi Karnilowicz, Marc Coman, Amy

Dooley Lockmer, Richard Kearney, Laura Kl-emba, Michael Munrow, Richard Pawoiczik, Mark Pierini, Frank Sanchez, Thomas Savage, Cameo Thorne Smith, Kevin Tolman or Mary Unikjewicz Opalacz is asked to email Mary Linda Eccles/Reitz at 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.

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.

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 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 vocalchords20.org or call 860-342-3120.

Dean’s List

Allison Mailhot of Portland made the fall 2025 Dean’s List at Delaware Valley University in Doylestown, Pa.

STAY READY FOR WINTER WEATHER
SO YOU & YOUR VEHICLE
DON'T GET STUCK IN THE COLD!



Schedule your appointments online at portlandautomotive.com from the warmth of your home or office!

Stop in today for your Free
Brake & Battery Check and overall
vehicle readiness inspection!



\$20.00 OFF
TIRES
Offer Ends 2/28/2026

New touchless
robotic tire service

Newly Installed Public
EV Charging Stations!

PORTLAND
AUTOMOTIVE, INC.
PortlandAutomotive.com

AAA
CHECK
ENGINE
Rte. 66, Portland
860-342-0640

Rivereast Standout Athletes of the Week

By Josh Howard

Adam Dean – Portland High School (Wrestling): Dean captured his 100th varsity win as the Highlanders hosted the Arrigoni Classic Duals on Jan. 24. Dean, a senior, defeated Glastonbury’s Tyler Tummillio and New Canaan’s Stone Milligan at the annual multi-school meet at PHS. A season ago, Dean placed fourth overall in his weight class at the Class M state championships and will be looking to improve on that when the state tournament rolls around in February.

Conor Sullivan and Brady Topulos – RHAM High School (Basketball): Sullivan and Topulos, both senior captains, combined for 30 points and each made an impact on both ends of the court as the Raptors upended Amistad 56-53 on Jan. 24. Sullivan scored 17 points, grabbed seven rebounds and had a pair of assists, while Topulos scored 13 points to go along with his three rebounds, two assists, and two steals. The victory improved RHAM to 7-5 overall with a trip to Glastonbury High School scheduled for tonight (Friday, Jan. 30) at 6:45 p.m.

Aiden Niderno – East Hampton High School (Basketball): Niderno posted consecutive double-doubles as the Bellringers defeated Westbrook on Jan. 16 and Coginchaug on Jan. 19. Niderno, a senior, has been a rebounding machine this winter, hauling down 11 in the road victory at Westbrook (81-43) and another 12 in the home win over Coginchaug (55-49). The two victories were part of a three-game winning streak for the Bellringers, bringing their overall record to 5-8. East Hampton will next travel to Portland High School to take on the Highlanders tonight (Friday, Jan. 30) at 7 p.m.

Troy Johnson – Bacon Academy (Basketball): Johnson scored a career-high 26 points as the Bobcats outlasted Waterford 66-58 at Bacon Academy on Jan. 23. Johnson, a senior, scored eight of the team’s 11 points in the extra session as the Bobcats never trailed in overtime. Saw-



Adam Dean, a senior from Portland High School, earned his 100th career victory as the Highlanders hosted the Arrigoni Classic last Saturday.

yer Nauss and Ty Wissler each added 11 points as the team improved to 5-6 overall this winter. Next up, is a road date at Montville on Saturday, Jan. 31 (11:30 a.m.) before they return to Bacon Academy to host Tourtellotte on Tuesday, Feb. 3 at 6:30 p.m.

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

Radon Test Kits Available

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

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

will be sent to you and will not be public information.

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

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

CCSU Dean’s List

The following area students made the fall 2025 Dean’s List at Central Connecticut State University:

Amston: Dakota Babbitt, Michael Sliter.

Andover: Aria Adee, Logan Kanaitis, Samera Raza.

Cobalt: Davyan Burke.

Colchester: Sara Cote, Allie Donovan, Zack England, Tiffany Gallicchio, Allyson Hickey, Rebecca Magyarik, Tyler Nguyen, Bobby Obey, Mackenzie Purdell, Thomas Russell, Zach Tupper, David Wrinn, Zeek Zurita.

East Hampton: Crystal Barone, Sydney Blyler, Natalia Calvo, Austin Cuthbertson, Aiden Flood, Elizabeth Fortin, Patrick Gavrylchuk, Kaylee Gravel, Nicole Koval, Maximilian Laboy, Noelle Lavender, Jimmy O’Brien, Matthew

Penn, Konrad Piech, Mikaela Rich, Christopher Ruggiero, Katherine Searles, Jaelyn Taylor, Samantha Vincenzo, Devin York.

Marlborough: Addison Brown, Maxwell Czarnecki, Kara Goldstein, Izzy Henderson, Sean Kelly, Evan Maldonado, Isabelle Mondo, Jake Pantelone, Jake Soboleski, Sam Spinelli, Annalise Tyminski, Xaden Vardanian, Lana Wainwright.

Portland: Marie Agosto, Julia Capello, Molly Coleman, Sasha Connolly, Jenna Converse, Sabrina Czapiga, Aaron DeYoung, Bethany Doscher, Melina Ford, Matthew Hernandez, Owen McGinley, Katherine McGrew, Eldina Medunjanin, Bridget Reddington, Victoria Steele, Dan Stewart, Lillian Tabellione, John Thompson.

UHart Dean’s List

The following area students made the Dean’s List and/or President’s List for the fall 2025 semester at the University of Hartford:

Amston: Janina Howard – Dean’s List and President’s List; Lily Mota – Dean’s List and President’s List.

Andover: Jake Balula – Dean’s List and President’s List; Taylor Fitch – Dean’s List and President’s List; Kyle Eckert – Dean’s List; Shannon McCarthy -- Dean’s List.

Austin Dinsmoor of Colchester - Dean’s List and President’s List

Colchester: Caitryn Holt – Dean’s List and President’s List; Jade Hostetler – Dean’s List and President’s List; Lexi Magrey – Dean’s List and President’s List; Kaylie Marvin – Dean’s List and President’s List; Arie Nair – Dean’s List and

President’s List; Sokheta Nguon – Dean’s List and President’s List; Garrett Schuth – Dean’s List and President’s List; Taylor Gerst – Dean’s List; Matthew Guerriere – Dean’s List; Eddie Hageman – Dean’s List; Kaitlyn Sierra – Dean’s List.

East Hampton: Jordan Murphy – Dean’s List and President’s List; Jackie Laboy – Dean’s List and President’s List; Serenity Lachance – Dean’s List and President’s List; Sonja Venetianer – Dean’s List and President’s List; Andrea Berg – Dean’s List; Jenna Murphy – Dean’s List; Cheyane Nichols – Dean’s List; Natalie Sherer – Dean’s List; Kali Trapp – Dean’s List; Connor Zmeskal – Dean’s List.

Hebron: Kiera Braunwart – Dean’s List and President’s List; Nina Jobs – Dean’s List and President’s List; Amanda Simmons – Dean’s List and President’s List; Lauren Heffernan – Dean’s List; Madison Pinto – Dean’s List.

Marlborough: Angela Weese – Dean’s List.

Portland: Abby Doncet – Dean’s List; Marley Malanczuk – Dean’s List; TJ Spada – Dean’s List.

Quinnipiac Dean’s List

The following area students made the fall 2025 Dean’s List at Quinnipiac University:

Amston: Zachary Bulkovitch, Christina Le-shak, Calvin Pancavage.

Colchester: Devin Burton, Julia Carrington, Jean-Paul Fougereuse, Malachi Kearns, Katelyn Macht, Michael Whipple, Benjamin Winicki.

East Hampton: Carys Dinunzio, Maya Dobson, Autumn Gardner, Danielle Healy, Emma Kelly, Madison Lockhart, Charlotte Pinaud, Sierra Selger, Neha Sidana, Kelsey Smith, Andrew Wagner.

Haddam Neck: Dylan Churyk.

Hebron: Olivia Chomick.

Marlborough: Kaden Hutchins, Megan Migliaro, Lily Murphy.

Portland: Clare Bankoski, Selena Shukis, Pierson Webster, Summer Wright.

Portofinos

Italian Restaurant

246 New Britain Rd, Kensington, • 860-826-6374

You Deserve a Great Meal!

We specialize in Southern and Northern Italian cuisine. Everything at Portofinos is prepared using only the freshest ingredients and made from original recipes. Our menu includes many traditional as well as a variety of unique dishes. We also offer daily specials for lunch and dinner.



Shrimp & Pasta



Salad



Filet Mignon



Pizza

Hours: Mon. 11am-8:30pm, Tue. Closed, Wed. & Thur. 11am-9pm, Fri. & Sat. 11am-9:30pm, Sun. 11am-8pm

Lunch & Dinner menu
www.portofinosrestaurantct.com

- Dine In
- Outside Patio Open
- Take Out

Order: 860-826-6374
(No Minimum)

We are following strict COVID-19 safety guidelines to ensure your safety.

Adriatic Restaurant

Featuring Italian & Balkan/Mediterranean Cuisine

Brought to you by the owners of Portofino’s in Berlin

Our Dining Room is Open
Wednesday through Monday
11am to 9pm

Weekly Specials*

— For Dine-In Only —

Military Mondays
15% Off Food. Active & Veteran.

Well-Done Wednesdays
Free side of mashed potatoes & Caesar Salad with your choice of Steak

Thank You Thursdays
15% Off Food. Police, Fire, Medical & Teachers

Must provide work ID

*Ask server for more info if needed

Adriatic Restaurant | 577 Franklin Ave., Hartford | 860-726-4155

MAKE SURE CUTIE PIE IS IN THE RIGHT SEAT.

NHTSA.gov/TheRightSeat



ad COUNCIL **NHTSA**

Colchester • Colchester • Colchester • Colchester • Colchester • Colchester • Colchester • Colchester • Colchester • Colchester • Colchester • Colchester



All That Jazz... Lisa Reeve recently celebrated her 19th year of teaching Jazzercise in Colchester. Classes are offered every day of the week at 188 Norwich Ave. Find out more at Jazzercise.com.

Freezin’ for a Reason

Fred Brown, Rob Suchecki and Greg Cordova are once again braving the cold to support the Colchester Fuel Bank, continuing a tradition that has become a cornerstone of community compassion.

The trio will set up camp on the Colchester Green beginning Friday, Feb. 13, at 2 p.m., spending two frigid nights in a tent before packing up at noon on Sunday, Feb. 15. Their goal is straightforward—but essential: raising funds to help local families heat their homes through the winter.

“This is year seventeen,” said founder Fred Brown. “I have a feeling it’s going to be lucky number 17 – though I say that every year. What really matters is that over the last 16 years, this community has helped us raise approximately \$192,000, and we’re committed to continuing

that impact.”

Brown noted that the need for assistance continues to grow.

“2026 is shaping up to be another challenging year for many families,” Brown said. “With unemployment and underemployment still affecting so many, people are forced to make impossible choices—keeping the thermostat at a reasonable temperature or paying for groceries and prescriptions. Even when the weather is milder, heat isn’t a luxury. It’s a necessity.”

Rob Suchecki, a retired Colchester Police Officer, echoed that sentiment and spoke to his personal connection to the cause. “This town and its residents have been incredibly good to me,” Suchecki said. “Giving back just feels right. Helping neighbors in need is the right thing to do—especially when so many of us are only a few paychecks away from needing help ourselves.”

Donations will be collected in person on the Colchester Green throughout the weekend. Contributions can also be made at any M&T Bank branch or online via PayPal at freezinforareason@yahoo.com. Checks should be made payable to ‘Freezin’ for a Reason.’

“We’re out here as a visible reminder that some of our neighbors are struggling to keep their homes warm,” Suchecki added. “With the community’s help, we really can make a difference.”

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.

Westchester Church News

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

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

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

Outreach and Other Opportunities: Knitting Group meets Thursdays at 10 a.m. Many knitted, crocheted, and quilted items have been sent to Native American reservations, hospitals for babies, and other places to help those in need. The Blessings Box is at the end of the church parking lot and contains donations of non-perishable food, personal care, and other items for those in need. Take what you need; donate what you can. Also, the church sponsors the Wounded Warrior Project, a donation opportunity to help veterans.

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

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

showcase Colchester’s local history and community spirit. People are also encouraged to create an America250 theme for annual events.

Any person or organization planning an event is asked to send event and activity information (name/date/time/location) to parksandrec@colchesterct.gov by Feb. 10, so that Parks and Rec can create a calendar of events that will be published in early March.

Planning the details can continue past the Feb. 10 deadline; Parks and Rec. said it is just asking for the basic information to include in a calendar. Events can be planned for any time between March 1 and Dec. 31.

For more information, or if you have any questions, call the Recreation Office at 860-537-7297.

Christian Life Chapel News

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

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

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

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

Historical Society Calendars Available

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

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

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

To purchase or learn more, contact the society at 860-537-3240 or mail@colchesterhistory.org.

Veterans Honor Guard Seeks New Members

The Colchester Honor Squad meets the first and third Tuesday of every month from 7 to 8 p.m. at the American Legion Post Headquarters at 95 Norwich Avenue (old Colchester Senior Center). The 20+-member squad is actively looking for new members so the squad can continue to provide funeral honors to all departed veterans.

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

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

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.

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

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.

Recycling Project

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

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



Oil/Filter & Lube Super Special

\$34⁹⁵ Car/Minivan

Includes: Engine oil replacement up to 6 qts. • New Mopar oil filter • Complete chassis lube • Fluid levels check • Inspect front suspension components

With this coupon. Diesel & V-10 trucks extra. Synthetic & specialty oils slightly higher. \$2.00 charge for fluid disposal. Not valid with any other offers. Offer expires 2/28/26.

TROIANO

Now Open Saturdays 8-12

Service Hours: Mon-Fri 8am-4:30pm & Sat 8-12

CHRYSLER MOPAR Jeep DODGE

860-537-2331 860-889-0304

Route 85, Colchester

VISA MCO DISCOVER We Accept Approved Personal Checks

LIFT KITS INSTALLED!

VARIABLE DISCOUNT COUPON

Receive a discount on service or parts depending on the dollar value of the purchase.

\$5 OFF	Any purchase of \$35-\$49.99	\$15 OFF	Any purchase of \$100-\$199.99
\$10 OFF	Any purchase of \$50-\$99.99	\$25 OFF	Any purchase of \$200 or more

PLEASE CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT

With this coupon. Please present coupon when order is written. Not valid with any other offer or on body shop repairs. Offer expires 2/28/26.

Volunteer. The Benefits Are Extraordinary!

Extraordinary Benefits:

- You'll feel really, really good!
- You'll meet delightful dogs, fabulous felines, and some pretty special humans too!

Volunteer Positions Available — Day & Evening Hours:

- **East Hampton & Wethersfield facilities:** Dogs: walking; clean & feed; socialization
- **East Hartford facility** – Cats: clean & feed; socialization; medical & placement teams

Please call **860-569-0722** or visit www.poinc.org



PROTECTORS OF ANIMALS

Scan for more info



Colchester • Colchester • Colchester • Colchester • Colchester • Colchester • Colchester • Colchester • Colchester • Colchester • Colchester • Colchester

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.

Dean’s List

Colchester residents Laney Barrett, Sarah Newton, Audra Putorti and Leah Putorti made the fall 2025 Dean’s List at Springfield College in Springfield, Mass.

Barrett has a primary major of education, Newton has a primary major of sports biology, Audra Putorti has a primary major of health science, and Leah Putorti has a primary major of health science/pre-PT.

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

Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$14 for seniors (ages 65+) and children (age 12 and under). Premium seating tickets are available for \$28 each.

Tickets for this production are now on sale through the “Buy Tickets” page on CCT’s website at www.colchestercommunitytheatre.com. New this year, audience members are able to select seats when placing an order.

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

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

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

Dean’s List

Ryan Claffey of Colchester made the fall 2025 Dean’s List at Stonehill College in Easton, Mass.

DeCaprio Announces Reelection Bid

State Rep. Mark DeCaprio (R-48) has announced he is running for reelection. The 48th General Assembly District, which includes all of Bozrah, Colchester, Franklin, and part of Lebanon.

“We are in an affordability crisis in Connecticut,” DeCaprio said. “Families, seniors, and small businesses are being squeezed by high taxes, high utility rates, and rising costs. I’m running for re-election to keep fighting for relief and to make our state more affordable for the people who live and work here. I have worked very hard on behalf of all of our residents - it would be my honor to have that opportunity once again.”

A U.S. Navy veteran and 40-year Lebanon resident, Mark has devoted much of his life to public service. He and his wife, Cathy, raised their family in Lebanon, where he previously served on the Lebanon Board of Selectmen, the Zoning Board of Appeals, and the Lebanon Board of Education. He also served as Lebanon’s Emergency Management Director, helping communities prepare for and respond to natural disasters and other crises. At the state level, he spent many years working in emergency management and environmental protection.

In the General Assembly, DeCaprio currently serves on the Appropriations where he believes in responsible budgeting, Judiciary, Public Safety & Security and Veteran Affairs Committees.

“In Hartford, I’ve worked hard to stand up for our veterans, strengthen public safety, and



State Rep. Mark DeCaprio

push back against policies that drive up costs and utility bills,” DeCaprio said. “If I’m honored to be re-elected, I’ll continue fighting every day for lower costs, safer communities, and a stronger future for Bozrah, Colchester, Franklin, and Lebanon.”

YOUR SATISFACTION IS OUR #1 PRIORITY

BRAKE SERVICE SPECIAL

\$20⁰⁰ OFF

Coupon good through 2/28/2026. One per customer. Most vehicles. Cannot be combined with any other offer.

FREE BATTERY TEST

W/OIL CHANGE AND THIS COUPON

Coupon good through 2/28/2026. One per customer. Most vehicles. Cannot be combined with any other offer.

Foreign & Domestic • Medium & Heavy Duty Trucks • Engine Repair (Gas & Diesel) • Transmissions
Brakes • Electrical • Suspension & Steering • Heating & Air Conditioning • Towing

EVANS

Automotive Repair

29 Mill Hill Road
Colchester, CT 06415

860-537-0640

evansautomotiverepair.com

FIND US ON
Facebook & Instagram

Celebrating 33 Years in Colchester

JENKS PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS THE 40TH ANNUAL CONNECTICUT WEDDING &

BRIDAL EXPO

New Englands LARGEST & Most Complete Bridal Show featuring Dazzling Fashion Shows & Live Entertainment!

FEB 7 & 8

CONNECTICUT CONVENTION CENTER
100 Columbus Boulevard • Hartford, CT

SATURDAY 11AM - 4PM
SUNDAY 11AM - 4PM

ADMISSION \$12.00

PARTICIPATING SPONSORS:

OTHER UPCOMING BRIDAL SHOWS IN:
WHITE PLAINS, NY • PLANTSVILLE, CT • SPRINGFIELD & WORCESTER, MA

JENKSPRODUCTIONS.COM • (860) 365-5678

Buy or sell with me... Use my truck for free!

CARL GUILD & ASSOCIATES

THE FUTURE OF REAL ESTATE

4 LOCAL OFFICES

100+ REAL ESTATE AGENTS INVESTED IN THE COMMUNITY

www.carlguild.com (860) 474-3500

Zina's CUCINA

17 North Main Street
Marlborough, CT 06447

860-365-5940

Full Bar

Family Owned & Operated
Monday - Wednesday 11:30am-8pm
Thursday - Saturday 11:30am-9pm
Sunday 3pm-8pm (dinner only)

Happy Hour Mon. - Fri. 4-6pm

Come join us for LUNCH!

Monday-Saturday 11:30AM-4:00PM

10% OFF Your Lunch w/this Ad

Call Us to Make Your Reservations for Valentine's Day!

Valentine Specials:
Oysters Rockefeller
Bacon Wrapped Filet with Crab Hollandaise,
Asparagus & Sweet Potato
Mustard Salmon with Butternut & Brussels in Garlic Butter
Chocolate Lava Cake

OR ORDER ONLINE!

www.zinascucina.com

East Hampton • East Hampton • East Hampton • East Hampton • East Hampton • East Hampton • East Hampton • East Hampton • East Hampton • East Hampton

Lifelong Resident Honored for Volunteering

By Anne Lilburn

For Jerry Cloutier, volunteering has long been a way of life. The lifelong East Hampton resident has been a volunteer firefighter since 1989, when he was a 15-year old high school student who signed up to be a junior firefighter because his friends were doing it and looked like they were having fun.

These days, Cloutier works as an Emergency Preparedness Specialist at Dominion Energy's Millstone Power Plant in Waterford, where he coordinates large-scale emergency drills and makes sure staff are trained and ready for emergencies. In April of last year, he was also named one of Dominion Energy's Volunteers of the Year for his work as a first responder.

Cloutier said it was an honor to be recognized for his work in the community, especially because it involves working for an organization that has become a second family to him, and that he's proud of.

"We're one of the few volunteer fire departments," Cloutier said, "where we're 100% volunteer."

While East Hampton is a small town, it still sees its share of fires. Cloutier said the number of blazes the department deals with each year varies, but there have been years in which the department has seen as many as a dozen fires. The volunteer crew also serves as first respond-

ers throughout town, responding to emergency situations including car accidents and hazardous materials incidents.

Cloutier said the fire department was actually one of the reasons he returned to East Hampton after serving in the Navy after high school. He wanted to continue to be a part of the group. His past work as a firefighter also helped steer him in the right direction, career-wise, when he first began working at Millstone on the fire brigade in 2000.

While he was pursuing his career, he also continued his work with the East Hampton Fire Department — at one point, even serving as captain of Fire Company 1. These days, Cloutier's son is continuing the family tradition. He started as a junior firefighter at the age of 15 and now, at 18, is a full firefighter.

Jennifer Rowland, a community and government affairs administrator at Millstone - Dominion Energy, said the company sought to reward volunteerism among its employees. She said that went beyond corporate volunteer events, with employees having the opportunity to log their personal volunteer hours and earn credits that the company would then pay out on in charitable donations.

Cloutier's honor, which earned him a trip to the company's corporate headquarters in Virginia for a ceremony at which he was given his

award by the CEO of the company, also earned him a \$5,000 credit towards a charitable donation, for which he could specify the charity. Cloutier said he split his donation between two local organizations: the East Hampton Lions Club and the East Hampton Food and Fuel Bank. Both of them, he said, were organizations whose work he said he had seen play out directly through his role as a firefighter.

"A lot of organizations help us in the fire department locally in East Hampton," he said. "And I just thought it'd be like, you know, it'd be nice to give back to them because they are so nice to us."

Cloutier said the Lions had supported the firehouse, buying supplies and helping with past fireworks displays. He also noted the club's other charitable work in the community.

"Knowing that they donate to other groups," he said, "I was like, well, this would be a good way to help them out with whatever they need."

As for the food bank, he said that the fire department had assisted them with collecting and transporting donations.

"I never really put much thought into it until I started to get involved when the fire department was helping the food bank, and we would bring the food from our firehouse to their storage location, and they would talk to us about how, you know, 'A lot of these shelves are empty,' or 'You know, this has been a bad year,' and it's like, 'Wow, I never really realized how many people in town rely on the food bank.'"

Mary Krogh, of the East Hampton Lions Club, said that most of the club's regular donations were much smaller. When club officials saw the large, \$2,500 donation, she said, they were "flabbergasted." Krogh went out of her way to investigate, noting that the donation had come from Dominion Energy with Cloutier's name referenced, so she located his email address and reached out.

Krogh said she was touched by his reply. "Your organization has always been very generous to us in the East Hampton Fire Depart-



Jerry Cloutier

ment and I wanted to give something back," Cloutier wrote, adding, "I hope you are able to put the donation to good use!"

Krogh said the organization would put it to good use, adding that club was planning on trying to earmark it for "something special."

"There are so many worthwhile organizations in this town, so for Jerry to pick the East Hampton Lions is quite an honor," she said.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church News

Services at Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church, located at 1 East High St., are held Sundays at 10 a.m. There is Sunday school every week following the sermon.

The church sanctuary is handicapped-accessible by using the lift.

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

Honoring Revolutionary War Veterans

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

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

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

Valentine's Day Cordon Bleu Dinner

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

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

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

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.

For questions, email Carl Guild at carlguild@gmail.com.

COLD HANDS, WARM HEARTHSSADLER'SRESTAURANT • BAKERY

Come In and Warm Up to Good Conversation and Great Food!

TUESDAY: 20% OFF your entire dinner bill.

WEDNESDAY: Buy one entrée, get one 1/2 OFF
(higher price prevails)

OFFers good after 4pm, February 3 & 4. Online orders use code FEB2026

61 North Main Street, Marlborough **860.295.0006**
Tuesday - Saturday 11am-8pm, Sunday 11am-7pm

EATATSADLERS.COM

GOODOLETOMSGOOD Toms

BuyESTATE JEWELRY • GOLD • ANTIQUES • COINSSell

Buying Used Jewelry, Sterling Flatware and Coins

Come on down for \$\$\$\$ on the spot!

Gold & Silver Price is at an all time high.

Looking to buy:
Sterling Silver Flatware
Sterling Serving Pieces
Gold and Silver Jewelry in ANY Condition
Gold and Silver Coins
Collectible Coins

Not Sure? Bring it In!

1100 Main Street,
East Hartford, CT 06108

Call us with any questions! 860-289-8015
Open: Monday-Friday 10:30 am-5:30 pm
Saturday's 9-4

LOOKING FOR INSURANCE?

WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED

COMPARE & SAVE \$ WITH A FREE QUOTE!

AUTO • HOME • LIFE • COMMERCIAL

GET A FREE QUOTE TODAY!
CALL 860.228.8500
hebroninsurance.com

Eric VanOstrand
MANAGING PARTNER
860-913-4563
eric.vanostrand@protonmail.com
www.sevenwoodfinancialservices.com
2389 Main St., Glastonbury, CT 06033

Sevenwood Financial Services, LLC.

- 401K Rollovers
- Fixed-Indexed Annuities
- Whole Universal Life
- Long Term Care Coverage
- Retirement Solutions & Strategies

East Hampton • East Hampton • East Hampton • East Hampton • East Hampton • East Hampton • East Hampton • East Hampton • East Hampton • East Hampton

Town Council Talks Senior Center, Bylaws

By Anne Lilburn

The East Hampton Town Council's regular meeting on Jan. 27 started off with a lot of love for the senior center. Public comment was filled with a range of people, from seniors who use the services, to high school students from the Interact club talking about their volunteer work, telling stories of how much the senior center and its community means to them.

Many told stories about staff members, including drivers, who had gone above and beyond, and many advocated for additional staffing to support the center's current needs.

Kim Crabbe, vice chair of the Senior Center and Services Task Force, gave a presentation outlining some of the changes and upgrades that have recently been made at the senior center and the priorities for the future.

The senior center is 40 years old, Crabbe mentioned, and its building "no longer serves the growing number of older adults in town." She said that in the last 15 months, nearly 300 additional adults have signed up as members.

"There are not enough rooms for the new and additional programs, there are not enough staff

to manage the new and active members, and there are not enough parking spaces for the 95% of members who drive to the center," she said.

She commended Senior Center Director Holly Marrero and acknowledged funding from Rotary and the donation of a computer from the library, both of which enabled needed upgrades, such as the installation of water bottle filling stations, upgrades to the computer center, installation of ADA-compliant handrails in restrooms, and the addition of a new coffee station and social area where members can gather to socialize.

Crabbe also shared insights from focus groups indicating that community members were unaware of many senior center programs, and wanted more flexible operating schedules and increased parking.

She said the task force's end recommendations were to, in the short term, hire an additional full-time staff member, and to find additional space for programs and for parking. In the long-term, she said the task force believed there was a need for a new senior and community center to address what she called a na-

tionwide "gray tsunami," with the overall aging of the population. For now, she said they were advocating for the town to hire a consultant to conduct a needs assessment and figure out how to achieve the goals of an additional staff member, parking and interior space.

Town Council Chair Dean Markham, a Democrat, said the council would invite the task force back during the budget process to expound on their needs again.

Town Manager David Cox then presented on the police contract. The changes in the contract involve benefits, including the pension and retirement programs. Another change would allow officers who have already put in time in other municipalities to enter the East Hampton department at a higher salary rate that reflects their past years of service. Cox said that he hoped that all these changes would help the department to recruit officers to open positions. The council chose to defer a decision on the police contract until next meeting, to allow council members and the public time to fully review the documentation.

The council also discussed amendments to change its bylaws, in particular in regards to decorum, rules of debate and public comment.

Council member Ted Hintz, a Republican, took issue that emails from the public, which were requested to be read at meetings, were

merely included in the council's packet, whereas video comments were shown on screen at public meetings. He argued that this was "discriminating against one member of the public over another," and said that if emails were not going to be read in, then "we should not be allowing video to be shown at council meetings" either.

"But you're not," argued council member Karen Wanat, a Democrat, "because the emails are available in the Town Council packet, and the public has the ability to look at the packet."

Additionally, added Wanat, "if we start reading every single email we get, we are going to be here for days."

In the end, the council voted 6-1, with Hintz voting 'no,' to approve the amended bylaws, with a small change to reconcile the bylaws with town policy.

Town Manager Cox also discussed the formation of a potential housing task force that might exist as a possible subcommittee on the Planning and Zoning Commission, perhaps with additional members. He said that he believed there was a lot that still was not settled and that the state, the regional councils of governments (COGs) and other municipalities were all still working to understand the details of the new housing law that passed in November.

The next regularly scheduled Town Council meeting will be Feb. 10.

Kindergarten Registration and Screening Dates

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

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

Registration packets will be available beginning Monday, Feb. 2, in the Memorial School lobby, at the East Hampton Public Library, and on the EHPS website at www.easthamptonps.org. Completed registration forms are due to the Memorial School office by Friday, March 13, along with a full-size copy of the child's birth certificate and proof of residency in East Hampton. In addition, a current CT Health 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.

Let Our Family Take Care of Your Family

— Family Owned & Operated Since 1994 —





105 Main St., Hebron, CT 06248

Thinking of Selling or Buying?

Ranked #1 for 2024-2023-2022-2021-2020-2019-2018-2017-2016-2015-2014-2013-2012-2011-2010 of SOLDs in total for Hebron, Lebanon, Columbia, Andover & Bozrah.

For Loyal Dependable Service and Top-Rated Agent...Call Today!

(860) 228-8512 • www.countrysiderealtyct.com

Middlesex Chamber International Awareness Program

Best of Greece

October 19-27, 2026

Escape everyday life & take a journey filled with ancient wonders, cultural connections, and the warmth of the Greek spirit.

A great Valentines gift! Book Now!



Learn more, FREE info session Feb 23, 2026 @ 5:30 p.m.



www.middlesexchamber.com/greece or call Haley @ (860) 347-6924

Propane Supplier More Pain Than Pro?

At Yankee Total Energy, we've been a local, family-owned fixture in the community for 40 years. While the big out-of-town corporations treat you like a number, we treat you like a neighbor.

Why Switch to Yankee Total Energy?

- Propane Delivery - reliable service with highly competitive local pricing and good-old-fashion service.
- Complete HVAC Service - Expert maintenance and installation to keep your home comfortable year round.
- 24-Hour Emergency Service - We're here for you every hour of every day - no exceptions.

860-423-9111

(we actually answer the phone)

yankeetotalenergy.com

537 Stafford Rd., Mansfield, CT • HOD#427





Service Contracts & Bulk Oil Discounts • New Installation & System Design
Fuel Conversions & Retro-Fits • 24 Hour Emergency Service
Budget and Fixed Price Plans • Senior and Military Discounts
Commercial Service • Automatic Delivery

Not Happy With Bank CD Rates?

Earn 5.80% Interest With Us.

We partner with a company that is offering a fixed annuity that pays you 5.80%, 5.60%, or 5.10% a year for either 3,5, or 7 years on \$100,000 or more.

www.IntegrityWealthRetirement.com

Located in: Glastonbury, CT and Farmington, CT

Schedule your *no cost or obligation* financial review today!



Call us today to learn more 203-278-7727



James Beyer, AIF® CLTC®

Financial Advisor, Integrity Wealth

203-278-7727 | jbeyer@brokersifs.com

Securities and investment advisory services offered through Integrity Alliance, LLC, member SIPC. Integrity Wealth is a marketing name for Integrity Alliance. Fixed Annuities are long term insurance contracts and there is a surrender charge imposed generally during the first 5 to 7 years that you own the annuity contract. Any guarantees offered are backed by the financial strength of the insurance company. Surrender charges apply if not held to the end of the term. Withdrawals are taxed as ordinary income and, if taken prior 59 1/2, a 10% federal tax penalty.

RETIREMENT PLANNING | WEALTH MANAGEMENT | FINANCIAL PLANNING

East Hampton • East Hampton • East Hampton • East Hampton • East Hampton • East Hampton • East Hampton • East Hampton • East Hampton • East Hampton • East Hampton

Middle Haddam Public Library News

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

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

Featured Artist for the Month: January's featured artist is William R. McDonald, from East Hampton. His watercolor landscapes and seascapes are on display during regular library hours.

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.

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.

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



History of Haddam Neck in Photos... All are invited Sunday, March 1, at 2 p.m., for a program of the History of Haddam Neck in Photos. Ther program will be held at Haddam Neck Congregational Church, 408 Quarry Hill Rd., Haddam Neck, and will be presented by Elizabeth Malloy, director of the Haddam Historical Society/Thankful Arnold House. Note: This is a rescheduled date for this event, which was originally planned for Jan. 25. Pictured at left is the Gillette Feldspar Quarry from around 1906. Feldspar was sent to Trenton, N.J. factories to make ceramic tableware and later was sold to Bon Ami for cleansing product.

RICK'S REAL ESTATE GROUP

At

CENTURY 21 AllPoints Realty



Rick Berkenstock **Lyn Stuart**

— ricksrealestategroup.com —



860-930-3469
1 Main Street
East Hampton

Each office is independently owned and operated



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. There will be a tea room, raffles, and dozens of handmade quilts featured. Suggested donation is \$8.

This year, organizers are asking for some patriotic or red, white and blue quilts to exhibit – in addition to other designs they want to share – as a way to celebrate the country's 250th anniversary!

Call 860-993-5311 for more information, or email mapionzio@comcast.net.



Hebron Property Owners!!!

Thinking of selling or buying?
Call Jim Celio – Century 21 AllPoints Realty

49 YEARS OF LOCAL REAL ESTATE EXPERIENCE

Hebron's #1 Agent – Total Transactions Closed
2016 – 2017 – 2018 – 2019 – 2020 – 2021 – 2022 – 2023 – 2024

Hebron's #1 Agent – Total Closed Market Volume
2016 – 2017 – 2018 – 2019 – 2020 – 2021 – 2022 – 2023 – 2024

**Based on ranking of ALL agents as compiled by CT MLS.

Want References and Recommendations?

Please visit the link below to view unfiltered reviews and comments on Jim's performance from past buyer and seller clients!

www.realsatisfied.com/Jim-Celio

For complete professional real estate service:
Call Jim Celio Today 860-463-2563

Jim Celio, Associate Broker
Century 21 AllPoints Realty
Cell: 860-463-2563
Email: jimcelio@aol.com



17 Main Street, Hebron, CT 06348 • Office 860-228-9425 Ext: 2107

Send your loved ones a message for Valentine's Day with a Love Line

Only \$10

Love Lines will be published in the February 12th & 13th editions of:

Rare Reminder

The Glastonbury Citizen Rivereast News Bulletin

DEADLINE: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6

Grandma,
I love you dearly! I hope you enjoy the desserts I sent you! See you soon!

-Sarah

Amanda,
I know we will love each other forever.

-Adam

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

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Please write your message below

MAIL TO The Glastonbury Citizen, 87 Nutmeg Ln, PO Box 373, Glastonbury CT 06033

Accepting New Clients

open 7 days a week

MONDAY - FRIDAY 6AM-8PM
SATURDAY & SUNDAY 6AM -12PM



 Wellness Visits  Urgent Care  Emergency

Colchester Veterinary Hospital

364 OLD HARTFORD RD. COLCHESTER CT (860)537-3435
WWW.COLCHESTERVET.NET

East Hampton • East Hampton • East Hampton • East Hampton • East Hampton • East Hampton • East Hampton • East Hampton • East Hampton • East Hampton

First Responders Help Keep Residents Safe in the Snow

By Anne Lilburn

Portland and East Hampton first responders were ready to go this past weekend when a strong winter storm dumped over a foot of snow across the state.

Both communities said that coordination and communication across all the emergency services was critical to ensuring a successful storm response.

In Portland, First Selectman Mike Pelton said everything went smoothly and according to plan. He said that he worked with the police department, fire department and emergency services department to make sure that they all worked together to coordinate their response.

He added that knowing that the storm was coming helped, saying that he trusted that the first responders “know what to do anyways.” With that said, he said he personally worked to try to get the word out to residents to avoid street parking to keep the roads clear for plows and emergency vehicles.

Pelton said that the public works department had done an excellent job keeping roads clean, and that their work continued into the following week, as they worked to move snow at intersections, corners and parking lot entrances.

In East Hampton, Police Chief Dennis Woessner said that his department had coordinated with both the fire department and the ambulance association. He noted that the department’s entire fleet is all wheel drive, but that they only have one four wheel-drive vehicle, which he said makes a huge difference in rapidly falling snow conditions.

East Hampton Fire Chief Robb Rainville said that his department was lucky enough to have a newer plow truck that helped clear the way for any emergency response vehicles, adding that the plow came in handy, particularly when responding to medical emergencies.

“As you can imagine, moving patients from their homes to the ambulance is extremely challenging with snow on the ground,” said Rainville, “as is simply gaining access to residences when roads and driveways are not yet fully cleared.”

Rainville said the department kept ten members on standby at all times at the firehouses throughout the storm, and assisted the public works department in clearing the fire station’s lots to free up their resources.

East Hampton Ambulance Association Chief Chris Wherry said that they too staffed up for the storm, keeping two full duty crews on hand for 24 hours. He said they got five or six calls for service, and at one time, had two of their three ambulances out on the road at the same time on back-to-back calls. He said he was “very proud of the work that everyone did this storm,” describing the response as “well-organized.”

“Luckily, the forecasters got it right,” he said, adding that a good forecast kept people aware and at home.

Woessner echoed that sentiment, adding that his department didn’t have a single traffic accident from midnight Sunday through midnight Monday. He said that the good fortune of the storm falling on a Sunday, when fewer people had to be at work or school, made a big difference. It enabled people to stay home, he said, where they were safer.

Rainville said his team responded to seven calls for service during the storm, including one structure fire, and he said he was proud of the work his all-volunteer department put in to both fight fires and support other first responders in their jobs.

“Our team continues to do an outstanding job,” he wrote, “and as a 100% volunteer department, I am extremely proud of our membership and their strong commitment to serving the community.”

Taxes Due

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.

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

Email taxcollector@easthamptonct.gov with any questions or concerns.

Senior Center Upcoming Trips

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

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

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

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

Newport Flower Show “Pearl of Newport”: Friday, June 19, departing the Stop & Shop parking lot at 8:30 a.m. 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 have free time in downtown Newport. 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 Buffets’ Margaritaville; browse Faneuil Hall then board the Charles I for a narrated cruise. Cost is \$183.

Twin Lobsters and a Show at the Student Prince, Springfield Mass.: Tuesday, Aug. 25, departing Stop & Shop at 9:45 a.m. Enjoy a lunch of twin lobsters or prime rib at this charming restaurant in the heart of downtown Springfield and a show with Freddie Marion performing hits by Wayne Newton, Kenny Rogers, Sammy Davis Jr. and more. After lunch, spend time at the MGM Springfield Casino. Cost is \$149.

Schools Offer Preschool Programs

The East Hampton Public School System is seeking 3- and 4-year-old residents interested in preschool programs for the 2026-27 school year.

The school system is offering two preschool programs for the upcoming year: the Integration Program ed preschool half-day program and the full-day Smart Start program.

Memorial Elementary School’s preschool Integration Program will be held three times a week for 3-year-old students and four times a week for 4-year-old students. Due to limited spaces, selection for peer models will be determined through a lottery process. If selected, peer models demonstrating age appropriate skills will be assigned by age to either a three day or four day a week schedule (2.5 hours per day). Children must be toilet-trained and turn 3 prior to Sept. 1 to be eligible for the 3-year-old program and turn 4 by Sept. 1 for the 4-year-old program. There is a \$3,000/student fee for this program.

Memorial Elementary School’s Smart Start Program will be held five full days per week (9 a.m.-3:10 p.m.), following the East Hampton Public Schools calendar. Priority will be given to 4-year-old children that meet income guidelines or have other factors for consideration. Additional applicants, regardless of economic or risk factors, may then be selected through a lottery process if there are spaces available. Children must turn 4 prior to Sept. 1 to be eligible for Smart Start.

Parents interested in proceeding through the selection process must pick up an application/information packet at either Memorial Elementary School or the East Hampton Public Library. Packets will be available on Feb. 3 at both locations. The completed Parent Interview Form, Immunization Form and a Proof of Residency must be returned to Kelly Caruso at Memorial School office no later than March 20. Students will not be eligible to enroll if all required immunizations are not current. Once all three forms are returned, parents will be contacted, no later than March 28, to schedule a time to bring their child for the screening and lottery/selection process.

Forms received after March 20 will not be accepted.

KENNETH BARBER & ASSOCIATES, LLC



YOUR ATTORNEYS

“You want a prediction about the weather, you’re asking the wrong Phil. I’ll give you a winter prediction: It’s gonna be cold, it’s gonna be grey, and it’s gonna last you for the rest of your life.”

—Bill Murray as Phil

Barber-Law-Firm.com

P: 860-267-2263

29 West High Street

East Hampton, CT 06424

 Visit us on Facebook

Belltown Motors

Tire & Service Center

Hello February!

It’s time to show your car some love.

Call us to schedule your oil change, new tires, repairs or a tune-up!

Call today to schedule your appointment:

860-267-7222

Monday-Friday 8am-5pm

80 East High Street, East Hampton

www.belltownmotors.com

MHVC Accepting Scholarship Applications

East Hampton Library News & Notes

Cabin Fever History Series: Love & War and

Mediumship Event

The event will take place at the VFW hall, located at 20 North Maple St. Doors will open at 6 p.m., with the café available for food purchases. The canteen will open earlier, at 4 p.m., for guests wishing to enjoy refreshments before

CETF Heat Smart Event

Refreshments will be served.

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. If you would like to make a donation to the scholarship fund, visit the website.

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.

For more information, call the Post at 860-267-8837 or text Cathy at 860-559-3236.



**Cash
Check
and now
accepting Credit Cards**

860-267-0431

BE11-14-25

Christ Episcopal Church News

The Coconuts are Coming!

Tickets are \$30 per person and are available

Senior Center News & Notes

Police News

From Jan. 12-18, officers responded to 21 medical calls, nine motor vehicle crashes, two alarms, and 18 traffic stops, police said.

NEWS BULLETIN • January 30, 2026

Information/Assistance: Contact Senior Warden Donna Hryb at 860-633-0472 or donnadubehryb@gmail.com for more information.

For additional information, contact the Post at 860-267-8837.

Opportunities: 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.



Since 1978

BROTHERS OIL COMPANY

860-289-9468 • 860-289-6292

Automatic Delivery for less than COD
24 Hour Emergency Repair Service
Same Day Oil Delivery Available

WE ACCEPT ENERGY ASSISTANCE

www.BrothersOil.com

HOD 114 • S7-308374







WHEN THE HEAT'S ON US... WE DELIVER!

NEW LOCATION!
190 E. High St., Ste. 1
East Hampton, CT 06424

 **Chatham Dental Center**
Advanced Dentistry
Dr. Dikshant Kathuria, DDS
www.dentistofeasthampton.com

 190 E. High Street, Suite 1
East Hampton, CT 06424
860-267-4900

Root Canals, Extractions,
Cosmetic & General Dentistry

All Your Dental Needs Under One Roof

*NOW OFFERING Implants &
Invisalign® to Our Patients*

Open Saturdays by appointment

**\$99 Exam & X-Rays To
New Patients Without Insurance**
Mention offer upon scheduling.

REC-124

Hebron • Hebron • Hebron • Hebron • Hebron • Hebron • Hebron • Hebron • Hebron • Hebron • Hebron • Hebron • Hebron • Hebron • Hebron

Douglas Library News & Notes

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

Adult Programs: Knit-Wits: Mondays at 6 p.m. All levels and all fiber crafts are welcome.

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

Chess Club: Thursdays at 4 p.m. The Chess Club welcomes players of all ages and skill levels to drop in and play a game or improve their skills.

Friday Film: Friday, Feb. 6, 1 p.m. *One Battle After Another*, rated R, will be shown. Popcorn and water are provided.

Chair Yoga: Saturday, Feb. 7, 10 a.m. In this class, led by certified yoga teacher Karen Gomez, you will use the support of the chair to

arrive in yoga poses. Registration is required.

Children's Programs: PJ Storytime: Tuesday, Feb. 3, 6 p.m. All are invited for stories, songs and crafts.

Take Your Child to the Library Day: Saturday, Feb. 7. All are invited for fun activities! At 10:30 a.m., there will be a Special Lego Club, and from noon-2 p.m., there will be drop-in crafts including weaving bracelets, hand-knitting and others.

Lego Club: Monday, 4-5 p.m. Get creative and build some Lego creations.

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

Resident Earns Eagle Scout Rank

Hebron resident Ian Fagan, a member of Marlborough Boy Scout Troop 39, was recently honored for achieving his Eagle Scout rank.

Ian will be honored for achieving his Eagle Scout rank.

Ian began his scouting journey as a youth member of Troop 39, where he participated in campouts, service projects, and troop activities that helped shape his leadership and outdoor skills. Through years of dedication and perseverance, Ian advanced through the ranks of Scouting, earning Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life, and ultimately Eagle Scout.

Throughout his time in the troop, Ian demonstrated strong leadership and commitment to service. He held several leadership positions within Troop 39 culminating as Senior Patrol Leader, helping guide younger scouts and contributing to the overall success of the troop's programs and activities. His experiences in scouting emphasized teamwork, responsibility, and community involvement.

For his Eagle Scout service project, Ian planned, built, and installed bat houses at Burnt Hill Park in Hebron. Ian designed the project to provide safe habitats that support bat populations while also promoting environmental awareness. He coordinated planning, materials, volunteer labor, and installation, ensuring the bat houses were properly constructed and placed for long-term use. The project benefits both local wildlife and the community by encouraging natural pest control and ecological



Ian Fagan

balance within the park, Troop 39 said.

The troop added that Ian's Eagle Scout project reflects the scouting values of conservation, leadership, and service to others.

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.

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, inclusive approach to Judaism. The synagogue

combines elements from both the Conservative and Reform traditions in its services, and its membership includes interfaith families and couples.

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.

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

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

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.

Parks and Rec News & Notes

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

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 Parks and Recreation will offer a winter training program under the direction of RHAM High School coach Tim Guernsey. This high school program will run Wednesday evenings from

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

2026 Hebron Maple Festival Sap Run 5K: Saturday, March 21. Fee is \$30. Register by Monday, Feb. 16, for a race T-shirt, at runsign-up.com/saprun5k.

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

The Worship Center News & Notes

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

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

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: 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 class, which runs 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 meeting at the church on Saturdays from 8-9 a.m.

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

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

FIND
YOUR
HAPPY
PLACE

HARRINGTON REAL ESTATE

CARL GUILD
& ASSOCIATES
THE FUTURE OF REAL ESTATE

H

JIM HARRINGTON
860-966-9966
JIM@HARRS.COM

WORD PLAY

ANSWERS TO PUZZLE PAGE 26

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15					16			
17						18					19			
20				21	22						23			
		24	25							26				
27	28						29	30	31					
32						33					34	35	36	
37				38	39			40			41			
42				43			44				45			
			46						47	48				
49	50	51				52	53							
54						55	56				57	58	59	
60						61					62	63		
64						65					66			
67						68					69			

CREATORS NEWS SERVICE

By Neil Manausa

ACROSS

- 1 North African capital
- 6 Site unit
- 10 Garden party
- 14 Fuming
- 15 Busboy's need
- 16 Found in a scull
- 17 Confronts
- 18 Use a stopwatch
- 19 RBI, e.g.
- 20 Fraternal order member
- 21 Some clowns
- 23 It has its highs and lows
- 24 "Baby One More Time" singer
- 26 DNA material
- 27 Refer
- 29 Weasel kin
- 32 Knight's protection
- 33 Scornful look
- 34 Fed. agency
- 37 Contract play
- 40 Clad
- 42 Comprehend
- 43 Deed holder
- 45 Fido treat
- 46 Used a punt
- 47 Plainsongs
- 49 French impressionist

- 52 Significance
- 54 Special times
- 55 Remove from office
- 57 Cribbage scorekeeper
- 60 Savoir faire
- 61 Bird on a Canadian coin
- 62 Avoid capture
- 64 To be, in Brest
- 65 "___ Karenina"
- 66 Within the rules
- 67 Fortuneteller
- 68 Branch office
- 69 Goblet parts

DOWN

- 1 Abounding
- 2 Inland sea
- 3 Retrogress
- 4 Supped
- 5 Checked for aptitude
- 6 Essential oil
- 7 Alabama's ___ Tide
- 8 Vehicle access
- 9 Sizes up
- 10 Nurture
- 11 Dine at home
- 12 Swap
- 13 ___ Park, CO
- 22 "Norma ___"

- 25 "___ Fiction"
- 26 Ms. Ederle, to friends
- 27 Singing brothers
- 28 Place for lovers
- 30 Sadness unit
- 31 Vietnamese holiday
- 33 "Auld Lang ___"
- 34 Tabloid feature
- 35 Crooked
- 36 Roman calendar date
- 38 Spoils
- 39 Arts and crafts tool
- 41 Construction member
- 44 Thomas and family
- 46 Annoy
- 47 Tax expert, for short
- 48 Very accommodating places
- 49 Apportions, with out
- 50 Emulate Cicero
- 51 Mollusk shell substance
- 53 ___ work; road sign
- 55 ___ Bator
- 56 Nary
- 58 Dutch treat
- 59 Sets up
- 63 Nov. honoree

Hebron • Hebron • Hebron • Hebron • Hebron • Hebron • Hebron • Hebron • Hebron • Hebron • Hebron • Hebron • Hebron • Hebron

Former Revenue Collector Charged with Larceny

By Toriana Williams

Town officials in Hebron are continuing to cooperate with state authorities following an investigation into the town’s former revenue collector, who was charged with felony larceny after allegedly stealing more than \$6,000 in cash deposits.

According to a press release issued by the town on Jan. 23, former revenue collector Adrian MacLean was charged with second-degree larceny after the apparent theft of approximately \$6,310 in cash deposits discovered in July 2025. The matter was referred to the Connecticut State Police by Hebron Town Manager Andrew Tierney after the issue was brought to the town’s attention.

MacLean resigned from her position in July 2025 and arranged for repayment of the discovered stolen funds, the release stated. The investigation remains ongoing, and town officials say they are limited in what they can publicly disclose.

Tierney confirmed in an interview that the al-

leged theft was brought forward while MacLean was out of the office.

“It was brought to our attention,” Tierney said, adding that another employee notified town officials. He declined to provide further details, citing legal advice and the active investigation.

Following the initial discovery, the town engaged in legal counsel, Halloran & Sage, which subsequently hired an independent forensic accounting firm, Forensic Accounting Services LLC, to conduct a more extensive review of the town’s financial records related to the former revenue collector.

That review has since been completed and forwarded to the state’s attorney office for possible additional investigation by that office and the police, according to the town’s press release.

Tierney said he could not confirm how long the alleged theft had been occurring prior to its discovery, but noted that the forensic audit showed the issue extended beyond a single re-

cent incident.

Court records show MacLean was arrested on Sept. 11, 2025, by Connecticut State Police Troop K and charged with larceny in the second degree, a Class C felony. MacLean was released on a promise to appear and has no bond set in the case. The case is currently awaiting plea, with the next court date scheduled for Feb. 23, 2026, at Rockville Superior Court.

Tierney described the situation as both surprising and unfortunate, especially given MacLean’s tenure with the town.

“Absolutely,” he said when asked whether the incident came as a shock. “A long-term employee. You know, it’s unfortunate.”

Despite the ongoing investigation, Tierney said the town has already moved forward in filling the vacant revenue collector position.

The new revenue collector, Kristy Merrifield, began in her new role just last week, after previously working for the town of Hebron and most recently serving the town of East Hampton for

approximately 10 years, Tierney said.

“She was born and raised here in Hebron,” he said. “So we’re familiar with her, and she comes highly, highly recommended.”

Town officials say they are actively working to strengthen internal controls in response to the incident. According to the press release, Hebron plans to improve policies, procedures and training measures to prevent similar situations in the future and restore public trust.

“The town will implement all appropriate measures to restore public trust and work with the auditors to ensure that best practices are in place to protect Hebron taxpayers,” the release stated.

Tierney said no additional comments would be made while the investigation remains active. “It’s still an active investigation, so there’s very little that we can say,” he said.

Town officials stated they will fully cooperate with any further investigation by state authorities.

St. Peter’s News & Notes

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

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

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

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.

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 or text 860-368-9125.

For more information about the 2026 Hebron Maple Festival, visit thetowncenterproject.org.

Senior Center News & Notes

Russell Mercier Senior Center has announced the following programs. For more information, full program descriptions, and a list of recurring weekly activities, see the online senior newsletter at hebronct.com/town-departments/senior-center, or call the center at 860-228-1700.

Registration is required for all programs, unless noted, by calling the center.

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.

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.

Making the Uncomfortable, Comfortable – A 2-Part Series: Come to one or both panel conversations, on Monday, Feb. 9, from 10:30-11:45 a.m., and Wednesday, Feb. 11, from 10:30-11:45 a.m. This two-part panel discussion brings together experts in life transitions, caregiving, and legacy planning and preservation. Light refreshments will be available; please pre-register for planning purposes, but walk-ins are welcome.

Sunshine Singers Valentine’s Special: Thursday, Feb. 12, at 11:30 a.m. In this Valentine’s Day concert, the Sunshine Singers will perform various songs that fit the occasion and you can even sing-along if you choose. Valentine’s Day treats will also be offered. RSVP for planning purposes, but walk-ins are welcome. The concert is free.

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

Christ Lutheran Church News and Notes

Christ Lutheran Church and Early Childhood Center (daycare) is located at 330 Church St.

Worship Service with Pastor Matthew Hardaway: 9-10 a.m. Sundays. All are welcome. People unable to attend services in person can participate online at www.facebook.com/clch-hebron/live.

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

Early Childhood Center (Daycare): Offers childcare, preschool, and before/after school

care, and is open to all faiths. For more information, call director Jennifer Johnson at 860-228-5134. Application forms are at www.clec-chebron.org.

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

Military Whist Tourney is Saturday

As one of the final events in the kick-off for the 250th year celebration, The Town Center Project will hold a potluck supper and Whist tournament Saturday, Jan. 31, from 5 p.m. until 8:30 or 9 p.m.

Attendance is limited to 40 players. Whist experience is not necessary, but some card play knowledge is helpful. Whist is an old card game dating back to the 1500s, gaining popularity in England in the 1700s.

For any last-minute sign-ups, call Judy Brandi at 860-530-1584 by the end of Friday, Jan. 30.



The Hebron Pollinator Pathway will have one-gallon Jug Gardens available this Saturday, Jan. 31, from 10 a.m.-noon. Pictured with a sample Jug Garden is HPP volunteer Gabrielle Bugden.

Pollinator Pathway to Offer Jug Gardens

The Hebron Pollinator Pathway has prepared one-gallon water/milk jugs filled with moist soil and Black-Eyed Susan and Wild Geranium seeds to stratify over the next few months outdoors.

When leaves unfurl, plants can be moved to small containers and eventually into the garden after all danger of frost.

Jug Gardens will be available this Saturday, Jan. 31, from 10 a.m.-noon, in the barn at 209 Millstream Rd. A small donation supports HPP educational programs, demonstrations and new plant and garden installations.

For more information, look for “Hebron Pollinator Pathway” on Facebook.

“Your Voice, Hebron’s Budget”

Hebron Democrats will hold a listening session, entitled “Your Voice, Hebron’s Budget,” on Wednesday, Feb. 11, at 7 p.m., at Russell Mercier Senior Center, 12 Stonecroft Drive.

Democratic members of the Town Council, Board of Finance, local Board of Education, and RHAM Board of Education will be present.

This listening session is an opportunity for community members to share their thoughts, questions, and priorities related to the proposed town, local Board of Education and RHAM Board of Education budgets.

This session is sponsored by the Hebron Democratic Town Committee. All are welcome. For more information, visit Hebrondems.com.

Local Artist on Display

The East Hampton Art Association is currently showing the oil paintings of Hebron resident Nancy Perkins at the Town Hall gallery through the end of January.

Perkins is an artist specializing primarily in landscape scenes that evoke memories from her travels throughout New England, the western U.S. and Europe.

Perkins holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in interior design from Iowa State University. She is a member of the East Hampton Art Association.

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

Marlborough Schools Propose 3.57% Increase

By Toriana Williams

The Marlborough Board of Education reviewed a proposed 2026-27 school budget that calls for a 3.57% increase in operating spending, along with a significant rise in capital funding to address facility needs at Marlborough Elementary School.

Under Superintendent of Schools Holly Hageman's proposal, the district's operating budget would increase from \$8.93 million in the current fiscal year to \$9.25 million in FY27, a year-over-year increase of \$318,759. The proposal also included a \$210,000 capital request, up \$135,000 from the current \$75,000 allocation.

The proposed increase is slightly above the district's five-year average of 3.29%. Hageman noted that the proposal aligns closely with early guidance from town officials.

"At the Board of Finance's budget kickoff, which was held in October, they respectfully asked that the school board and the team try to come in at no higher than 3.5. So we're close at this juncture," Hageman said.

District officials said the proposed budget is designed to support the goals outlined in the MES Strategic Continuous Improvement Plan, while balancing instructional priorities, student needs and affordability concerns. The plan maintains current programming and class sizes, provides support for students' academic, emotional and behavioral needs and continues special education services in the least restrictive environment.

Hageman also placed the proposal in a broader statewide context. "3.57 is definitely in the lower range of what's been coming in around the state with about probably a quarter of the school districts accounted for at this point," she shared.

If approved, the 2026-27 operating increase would be slightly above the district's five-year average annual increase of 3.29%. Over the past five budget cycles, Marlborough's year-over-year increases have ranged from 2.6% to 4.82%.

Budget Priorities, Return on Investment

Administrators emphasized that Marlborough continued to spend less per pupil than many comparable districts while posting strong student outcomes. Based on 2023-24 data,

Marlborough's per pupil expenditure stands at \$19,607, placing it among the lowest spenders in District Reference Group C and ranking 14th out of 16 PK-6 districts statewide.

Despite lower spending levels, the district ranks fourth out of 16 comparable PK-6 districts in performance, according to accountability index data. District highlights cited in the budget presentation include recognition as a Connecticut State Department of Education School of Distinction in 2025, a model K-3 foundational reading program, steady improvement in math outcomes, immersive Spanish instruction in grades K-6 and award-winning arts programs.

District leaders pointed to these metrics as evidence of a strong return on investment, noting that Marlborough performs at a high level relative to its spending.

Enrollment Trends, Class Size

Enrollment projections for the coming years show modest fluctuations across grade levels, with total PK-6 enrollment expected to dip slightly from 461 students in 2025-26 to 454 students in 2026-27. While overall enrollment is projected to decline by seven students, individual grades show notable shifts that affect staffing and class section planning.

Kindergarten enrollment is projected to rise from 53 to 59 students, prompting the addition of one kindergarten section. At the same time, the district proposed reductions in sections at several other grade levels, resulting in no net change in the total number of classroom sections, which would remain at 26.

Under the proposal, average class size across grade levels would remain within established guidelines, with administrators stating that maintaining class sizes that support effective instruction and strong teacher-student relationships remains a priority.

Salaries, Benefits Drive the Increase

Salaries and benefits remain the primary cost drivers in the FY27 proposal, accounting for 84.6% of the total operating budget. Together, those categories represent \$301,440 of the \$318,759 increase. Hageman explained the increases were largely expected.

"The budget areas which increased were all of ... the salary line items together, which is not a surprise. That is not atypical. There are contractual increases, and our contracts are competitive regionally," she said.

Salaries alone are proposed to increase by \$211,037, or 3.33%. Several factors contribute to that increase, including the expiration of a grant that previously funded registered behavior technician (RBT) positions. As a result, the full cost of two RBT positions would be absorbed into the operating budget, bringing the total number of RBTs budgeted to three.

Other salary-related changes include the creation of a head custodian/maintainer position to replace an existing custodian role and adjustments tied to replacing a retiring teaching position in a shortage area, specifically Spanish instruction.

The increases are partially offset by reductions elsewhere. The proposal reduces building administration from two full-time principals to one principal and one assistant principal, adjusts paraeducator staffing based on student needs and individualized education program hours and notes that these changes would not result in a reduction of necessary services for students.

Rising Benefits, Supply Costs

Benefits are proposed to rise by \$90,403, an increase of 7.6%. The budget includes a placeholder assumption of a 15% in medical insurance premiums, a figure administrators noted is higher than recent years but consistent with early renewal estimates across the state. Final renewal rates are expected in March, and any reduction would be reflected before the budget goes to referendum.

Supply costs are also increasing, up \$54,162, or 20.11%. That jump is largely attributed to a scheduled curriculum renewal, as the district's five-year contract for Envision Math is expiring. The district plans to adopt the 2027 version of the program under a new three-year contract, with the \$58,000 cost spread across two fiscal years.

Property services are proposed to rise modestly by \$10,063, or 2.89%, due in part to adjustments in copying costs to better reflect actual usage and planned service and repair work for

exhaust fans following an indoor air quality inspection.

Areas of Decrease

Not all budget categories are increasing. Professional services are proposed to decrease slightly by \$534, while purchased services are projected to drop by \$46,584, a reduction of 7.77%.

The decrease in purchased services is driven largely by transportation-related savings. One van currently included in the budget would not be needed next year, and magnet school tuition is being budgeted at a 58% cost cap rather than the full projected cost, reflecting historical enrollment patterns.

Capital Budget, Facility Needs

The proposed FY27 capital request totals \$210,000 and focuses on necessary facility-related actions at MES. One planned project includes a \$20,000 replacement of a day tank sensor and fill system. Director of Operations, John Mercier, explained the condition of the equipment.

"The company doesn't want to even think about fixing it," Mercier said. "This one has gone down a couple of times and now they just won't fix it anymore."

Other projects include \$30,000 for an owner's project manager to support planning for a future major alterations project and \$160,000 for the demolition and replacement of the southwest egress, a non-reimbursable item.

Several recommended indoor air quality improvements, totaling more than \$113,000, are not included in the capital request. District officials noted that while those improvements are recommended, other capital needs must take precedence as the district looks ahead to a larger HVAC replacement project that would require separate planning and approval.

Next Steps

After Hageman presented the proposed budget to the BOE on Jan. 22, the board scheduled to continue its review and potentially adopt the budget on Jan. 29, before forwarding it to the Board of Finance on Feb. 9.

Additional information and updates are expected as the budget moves through the town's review process.

Parks and Rec. Programs

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

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

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

Mad Science – Ready STEM Go! For grades K-6. Thursdays, Feb. 5-March 12, 3:15- 4:15 p.m., at MES. Kids make mixtures and explore the science of motion and energy. Fee is \$142/resident, \$147/non-resident.

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

Dean's List

Bryn Aleksandra Chudzik of Marlborough made the fall 2025 Dean's List at Furman University in Greenville, S.C.

Chudzik's parents are Robert and Pamela Chudzik.



Div. of RLS Global Consulting Inc., Serving the Community for 40 years.



10% off Veteran Discounts

20% off Senior Discounts

Richard Shonk

860-295-9343 • 860-543-0523 (c)

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.



FULL SERVICE REPAIR

FOREIGN & DOMESTIC!

TOWING SERVICES AVAILABLE!

WE SELL USED CARS! Are you looking for a newer vehicle, without the new car price, see our cars on our website below!

COME AND FILL UP YOUR TANKS FOR YOUR RV AND GAS GRILL!

OPEN MONDAY-FRIDAY 8AM-5PM 860-295-9517

Northeast Auto & Truck Inc.

394 North Main St., Marlborough, CT 06447

Exit 13 Route 2 Eastbound, behind Mobil station

www.northeastautoandtruck.com

Vacancies on the MES Building Committee

The Marlborough Board of Selectmen is seeking volunteers to serve on the Marlborough Elementary School Building Committee.

Assisted by an architect and other consulting engineers, MESBC members are responsible for preparing an estimate of the total project cost, a schedule, and plan documents for the major alteration project designated by the Board of Education. The MESBC will

prepare an RFP for an Owner's Project Management firm to help prepare for a town referendum and manage the scope, schedule, and budget through completion.

Experience in the construction industry or trades is helpful and appreciated.

Questions can be directed to Town Manager David Porter at dporter@marlboroughct.gov. Applications are available on www.marlboroughct.gov or in the town clerk's office.

Braces Made Me Smile!

Personalized Care for Children, Teenagers, and Adults



JASON T. RANEY, D.M.D., LLC

Board-Certified Orthodontist

10 Wall Street

Hebron, CT 06248

(860) 228-9800

www.raneyortho.com









9A South Main St., Marlborough, CT

FOR MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN

APPOINTMENTS RECOMMENDED

HOURS: TWF 8:30-5:30, THU 8:30-7:30, SAT 8-3



860-295-9366

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

Taxes Due

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

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

295-6205.

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

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

Kindergarten Registration

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

Children are eligible for kindergarten if they

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

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

St. John Fisher Church News & Notes

St. John Fisher Roman Catholic Church is located at 30 Jones Hollow Rd. Pastor is the Rev. George S. Mukuka, Bill Gilles is deacon John McKaig is senior deacon retired. Heather Mancini is church secretary and can be reached at 860-295-0001; hours are Monday-Wednesday and Friday, 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. People are asked to call before heading over or connect via email at stjohnfisher30@yahoo.com. The church website is 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 Columbus, Christian Outreach and Prayer Shawl ministry meet monthly; and an active book club meets quarterly. Social activities are planned throughout the year to provide additional parish fellowship.

Community Outreach and Service: Food drives are held weekly for the Marlborough Food Bank. Bags with specific shopping lists are available at the Masses. Sandwich-making and collection continues the last Thursday of the month for St. Vincent de Paul in Middletown. Other scheduled service opportunities can be found in the weekly bulletin.

Additional Programs and Offerings: For information on other programs, seasonal offerings, adult faith formation, youth group, OCIA, Knights of Columbus or other ministries, call the office, visit www.stjfchurch.org, or look for the church on Facebook (Saint John Fisher Roman Catholic Church).

Resident Completes School Project

At Worcester Polytechnic Institute, all undergraduates are required to complete a research-driven, professional-level project that applies science and technology to addresses an important societal need or issue.

In fall 2025, Jack Campbell of Marlborough completed a project titled "Creating Trail Training Videos for the AMC."

Campbell is a member of the Class of 2027, and is majoring in mechanical engineering,


American Legion Setback Tournament

There will be a Setback Tournament Friday, Feb. 20, at the American Legion Post 197, 128 East Hampton Rd.

Registration is at 6 p.m., and the games start at 6:30 p.m. This is a Round Robin-style tournament, and 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.

HEALTHCARE SERVICES



Better Dental HEALTH

A Practice For
Optimal Dental Fitness

by George M. Mantikas, DMD

DENTAL PICKS VS WATER FLOSSERS VS INTERDENTAL BRUSHES

Dentists often recommend a minimum once-daily interdental cleaning (cleaning between your teeth). There are several ways to do an interdental cleaning at home, and traditional flossing is just one option. Floss picks attach floss to a device that allows you to hold a handle as you floss, rather than holding the floss itself. These are a good option for hard-to-reach spots or for people with dexterity limitations. Water flossers use a pressurized stream of water to clean between teeth. The pulsating water compresses and decompresses the gums, forcing bacteria out. Interdental brushes are the most effective interdental cleaning tool and use a small fiber or rubber brush that fits between teeth. They come in different sizes for more effective cleaning.

Keeping your gums healthy and strong by conscientiously giving them the attention they need is your best defense against the harmful buildup of plaque that can ruin your brilliant smile. And not only do floss, either alone or on a floss pick, water flossers, and interdental brushes do a thorough job of cleaning between teeth, their gentle massage provides the bonus of also make your gums feel good. We'll do all we can to bring your oral health to its maximum potential. Time for some serious consideration to your teeth and gums? Time to call us for an appointment.

P.S. Although water flossers are not considered to be effective at removing plaque, studies suggest they may still be more effective than traditional flossing.

George M. Mantikas, DMD, PC
The Ridge • 142 East High Street • East Hampton, CT 06424
860-267-6666 • www.DrMantikas.com

RE1-30-26

Stuart L. Jablon, D.P.M.

"BOARD CERTIFIED" Podiatrist – Foot Specialist

Our Office Is Now A ConnectiCare, United Healthcare, Aetna, Harvard Pilgrim Healthcare, Blue Cross / Blue Shield, Cigna Participating Provider.

"MEDICARE ASSIGNMENT ACCEPTED"

Complete Medical & Surgical Treatment of the Foot

- Sports Medicine • Geriatric Foot Care • Diabetic Foot Care • Arthritic Feet
- Skin Conditions • Flat Feet • Heel Pain • Fractures/Dislocations • Sprains/Strains
- Bunions • Hammertoes • Infections • Fungus Nails • Plantar Warts

By Appointment Only: (860) 295-8791

9-B South Main Street, Marlborough, CT

www.stuartjablondpm.com

STOP CHASING. START SEEING.

The market is talking. VeroChart helps you see what it's saying.

It turns raw market data into clear, actionable insight — giving traders the confidence that comes from truly understanding what they're seeing. Built for active traders, the platform delivers institutional-grade tools once reserved for professionals, now accessible at a transparent, affordable price. With real-time order flow, tape visualization, and precision charting down to the second, traders gain context — not just price. No complicated plans. No hidden data fees. Just powerful market insight designed to reveal why the market moves, as it moves.

Founding members can lock in early access starting at \$49/month. Scan the QR code below to join the waitlist and see the market more clearly.



WWW.VEROCHART.COM

WWW.CREATORS.COM

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

WORD PLAY

Obituaries

East Hampton

Karl Theodore Nilson

Karl Theodore Nilson, known affectionately to friends and family as “Gus,” passed away Wednesday, Jan. 7, in Meredith, N.H. He was born Jan. 16, 1954, in Norwood, Mass., to Clara and George T. Nilson.



Karl grew up in both Andover, Mass., and Augusta, Maine, before spending much of his young adult life in and around the Boston area. He graduated from Williams College in 1976 and built a successful career in the technology industry.

Karl and his family later settled in East Hampton. In 2021, he and his wife, moved to Meredith, New Hampshire, to be closer to his mother, Clara, and his brother, Ken. Most recently, Karl retired from Semitech Solutions in Westford, Mass., where he devoted many years of hard work, integrity, and dedication.

Above all else, Karl cherished his family and friends. He is survived by his beloved wife of 40 years, Cheryl; his son, Matt; daughter-in-law, Jocelyn; his brother, Kenneth; sister-in-law, Cathy; and nieces, Annika and Maria. He was preceded in death by his mother, Clara, and his father, George.

Karl was a charismatic and deeply personable man with a remarkable ability to form and sustain lifelong friendships. From his college years through his professional life and beyond, he built a wide and meaningful community of friends whom he truly cherished. Family and friendship were the cornerstones of his life.

In his younger years, Karl loved playing basketball, but it was golf that became his lifelong passion. A devoted golfer since the age of 5, he played avidly until the very end, especially enjoying rounds with his son, brother, and close friends. His membership at Birch Hill Golf Club held special meaning, where weekly matches, friendly competition, and camaraderie brought him great joy. A true New England sports fan, Karl rarely missed a game and proudly supported all Boston teams.

His warmth, loyalty, and love for life will be deeply missed and forever remembered.

Portland

Joan Guilmette

Joan (Vacca) Guilmette, wife of Randall Guilmette of Portland, passed away peacefully Thursday, Jan. 22, following a brief illness. She was 77. The daughter of the late John and Caroline (Amen-ta) Vacca, Joan lived her entire life in Portland.

In the 1970s she was an active member of the Portland Junior Women’s Club, and served for two years on the Board of Education. A lifelong parishioner at St. Mary’s church, she was often recognized as “the lady with the hats.”

Joan was possessed of an indomitable spirit, and was fearless in pursuit of her goals. After graduating from Portland High School in 1966, Joan went to work at Camp’s in Middletown, where she developed her love and aptitude for sewing, often making her own clothes when what was available in stores didn’t meet her standards. Finding herself unemployed in her early 40s, Joan founded her own company, Con-

necticut Metal and Tool Supply, and resolutely took on much bigger competitors in a male-dominated industry, forging her own path and running a successful business before selling and retiring at age 70.

A lifelong lover of learning, Joan had always dreamed of going to college, and in her 50s she took that step, earning her B.A. in history from Trinity College – and having so much fun doing so that she went ahead and earned her M.A. from Wesleyan as well.

Joan loved family and friends and had plenty of both, and her house was always open to anyone coming to town who needed a place to stay. She loved cooking and trying new recipes, and was happiest whenever her family was all together. She housed foreign exchange students from many countries, and as a result had friends all over the world.

She loved to travel and visit friends in other countries, and in her retirement continued traveling, visiting France, Italy and New Zealand, cruising the Nile, and traveling the length of the Mississippi River. She worked as a guide at the Mark Twain house, and volunteered at the Connecticut River Museum and the Portland Historical Society. When she wasn’t working or traveling, Joan enjoyed summers in her pool, and walks around the neighborhood with her friends, daughter, and sister-in-law Alice.

Joan was accompanied on all her journeys by the love of her life, her husband Randy, whom she married in 1967. In addition to her husband, Joan leaves behind three children and children-in-law: Lucian Guilmette and Kristine Hopp, Dolores and Alexander Bates, and John and Meghan Guilmette, all of Portland. As a proud Nunna, Joan took delight in her seven grandchildren: Emily, Isabelle, and Katherine Guilmette, Mariana (Bates) Stover and her husband Russell and Cole Bates, and Clara and Evan Guilmette. She also leaves her brother, James Vacca and his wife Joyce, and her sister, Suzanne Burgess and her husband Jeffrey, also all of Portland, along with many beloved nieces and nephews and countless friends.

Her family would like to thank the staff at Middlesex and Hartford Hospitals and at Portland Care and Rehabilitation Center for taking such good care of Joan in her final days.

The funeral will be held Saturday, Jan. 31, at 9 a.m., at Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial in St. Mary Church, Portland, at 10 a.m. Burial will be in St. Mary Cemetery, Portland. Friends may call at the funeral home on Friday, Jan. 30, from 4-6 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, please make memorial contributions to St. Mary Church in Portland.

Colchester

Robert J. Peloquin

Robert J. Peloquin, 72, of Norwich (formerly of Southbridge, Mass.), passed away Thursday, Jan. 22, at his home, after a long illness. He graduated from Southbridge High School/Cole Trade in 1972 as class vice president and captain of the Southbridge High School Pioneers football team.



He was a machinist by trade and held various positions including General Dynamics, TI Group Automotive and Walbro Plastics. He was happiest when he was with his children and grandchildren, Cullen Baudner and Harrison Peloquin. He enjoyed watching New England sport teams and cooking.

He is survived by his children, Jay and Samantha Baudner of Colchester, Daniel Peloquin and Elise Stanmyer of Moosup, and Jaclyn Peloquin of Colchester. He was predeceased by his parents, George and Charlotte Peloquin of Southbridge, Mass.

He is also survived by his siblings: Ellen Rupert of Newport, R.I., Patti and Ted Nikolla of Southbridge, Mass., Anne Leduc of Newport, R.I., William and Cynthia Peloquin of Bakersfield, Calif., Paul and Karen Peloquin of Sun City, Ariz., Peter and Lisa Peloquin of Myrtle Beach, S.C., Mary and Ron Childs of Newport, R.I., and Jane and Bill Proulx of Bolton. He has several nieces and nephews including many great-nieces and great-nephews.

He will be greatly missed by all his family and friends. A celebration of life will be held at later date.

For online condolences or to share a story of Robert, please visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

East Hampton

Jeffrey Lee Barron

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Jeffrey Lee Barron, 54, of East Hampton, who died unexpectedly in his sleep of natural causes in the early hours of Tuesday, Jan. 20.



Jeff was born in San Francisco, Calif., on May 6, 1971, to Robert Barron and the late Joan (Bergevin) Barron. He grew up in Middletown, and graduated from Xavier High School (Class of 1990). At Xavier, Jeff enjoyed playing sports, especially basketball and volleyball, and he was a leader on both teams.

Jeff held a CDL license and spent his career as a truck and delivery driver. For the past 15 years, he worked for Primo Brands as a route and sales representative, where he not only handled deliveries but also excelled in sales. He was admired and respected by his co-workers and customers alike for his strong work ethic, efficiency, and ability to make authentic connections with people. He was named Driver of the Year in both 2024 and 2025.

Jeffrey’s greatest joy and deepest love was being a father to his son, Lee, who is currently a 16-year-old junior at East Hampton High School. As a devoted single parent, Jeff prioritized and supported Lee in every way. He lived his life as an example of what it means to be a good person and a strong man at all times, especially in the face of adversity. Whether reading bedtime stories, attending pinewood derbies, encouraging Lee as he gained confidence and developed his athletic skills at the Parkour gym, or supporting Lee as he has become a successful runner and captain of his high school cross country and track teams, Jeff was present for every milestone. Along with instilling a strong work ethic, he passed on his sense of humor and passion for life. No father could have been more devoted or better prepared his son for the challenges life has thrown his way than Jeff Barron.

Jeff could take apart and fix just about anything. He took pride in teaching and working alongside Lee on many projects. Most recently, Jeff remodeled their small house so Lee could have a true room of his own. They loved living close to Lake Pocotopaug and were in the process of building a floating dock to swim to. Together, they shared a love of music festivals and the outdoors, often spending time hiking, biking, and kayaking.

Jeff is survived by his beloved son, Lee; his father, Robert Barron; his brothers, Timothy Barron (Cyndi) and Blair Bergmann (Carol); along with a niece, nephews, and many cousins. Scott, Chris, Amy, Jay, Mark, Dave, and Scott and many other close friends are like family to Jeff and Lee.

Jeff was an active and well-known member of the East Hampton community. He readily shared his time, skills, and positivity. Jeff’s untimely passing leaves a void that can never be filled, but his memory will live on in the hearts of all who were fortunate enough to know him.

A Catholic Funeral Mass will be held Friday, Jan. 30, at 11 a.m., at St. Patrick Church, 47 W. High St., East Hampton.

To leave online condolences, please visit www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

TOWN OF HEBRON
LEGAL NOTICE

At their meeting on January 22, 2026, the Town Council declared a vacancy on the Hebron Board of Education. The Council designates Friday, January 30, 2026, as the posting date for the vacancy notice. The 35th and final day by which nominations shall be received is Friday, March 6, 2026. The Town Council is now notifying the political parties and the general public of this vacancy. Interested candidates should attend a meeting of the Board and discuss with the Chairman the frequency of meetings and the time commitment involved. All residents of Hebron who are registered to vote are eligible. Letters of interest or questions may be addressed to Andrew J. Tierney, Town Manager, Town of Hebron, 15 Gilead Street, Hebron, Connecticut 06248 or call 860-228-5971.

1TB 1/30

TOWN OF HEBRON
LEGAL NOTICE

At their meeting on January 22, 2026, the Town Council declared a vacancy on the Planning & Zoning Commission as an Alternate. The Council designates Friday, January 30, 2026, as the posting date for the vacancy notice. The 35th and final day by which nominations shall be received is Friday, March 6, 2026. The Town Council is now notifying the political parties and the general public of this vacancy. Interested candidates should attend a meeting of the Commission and discuss with the Chairman the frequency of meetings and the time commitment involved. All residents of Hebron who are registered to vote are eligible. Letters of interest or questions may be addressed to Andrew J. Tierney, Town Manager, Town of Hebron, 15 Gilead Street, Hebron, Connecticut 06248 or call 860-228-5971.

1TB 1/30

TOWN OF COLCHESTER
PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION
LEGAL NOTICE OF DECISION

At its Regular Meeting of January 21, 2026, the Colchester Planning & Zoning Commission made the following decision (s): **C.G.S. 8-24 Referral, Town of Colchester, Athletic Complex and Bacon Academy Roof Projects** – To make a favorable recommendation to the Board of Selectmen pursuant to C.G.S. 8-24 for capital improvements to the Town’s athletic facilities at Bacon Academy and the Recreation Complex; and, to make a favorable recommendation to the Board of Selectmen pursuant to C.G.S. 8-24 for capital improvements related to replacement of the roof at Bacon Academy, including HVAC improvements. Planning & Zoning Commission Joseph Mathieu, Chair

1TB 1/30

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



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

860-537-9611

167 Old Hartford Road
Colchester, CT 06415
www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com



**Like us on
Facebook**

RivereastNewsBulletin 

**DOMINICK & SONS
MONUMENT WORKS, INC.**

Monuments &
Marker Sales & Service
Since 1982

- Cleaning • Repairing
- Cemetery Lettering

215 Lebanon Ave.,
Colchester
located w/ Colchester Florist

860-537-3289

*“A monument should cost no
more than a family can afford.”*



LEGALS

TOWN OF HEBRON
BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS
LEGAL NOTICE OF MEETING

The Board of Assessment Appeals will hold hearings and/or deliberations at the Town Hall, Lower-Level Meeting Room, on Tuesday March 10, 2026, and (if necessary) Thursday, March 12, 2026, for the purpose of hearing Real Estate and Personal Property appeals of the 2025 Grand List, and 2024 Grand list Supplemental Motor Vehicle appeals. Written application must be submitted to the BAA at the Office of the Assessor, 15 Gilead Street, Hebron CT 06248, between February 1- February 20, 2026. Completed applications (per CGS § 12-111) must be **received by** 1:00 pm Friday, February 20, 2026, to be considered for appeal. Applications can be found on the Town of Hebron website (hebronct.gov) and are also available during business hours, at the Assessor's office.

1TB 1/30

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 PORTLAND

Legal notice is hereby given to the taxpayers of the Town of Portland that the second installment of Real Estate and Personal Property taxes on the Grand List of October 1, 2024, and the Supplemental Motor Vehicle taxes are due and payable on January 1, 2026.
Taxes not paid in full on or before February 2, 2026, become delinquent and subject to interest at the rate of 18% per annum (1.5% for each month or fraction thereof) dating back to the original due date of the bill. Two months of interest will be due on February 3, 2026. Minimum interest charge is \$2.00.
Quarterly water and/or sewer usage bills are due and payable January 16, 2026. Payment not made in full on or before February 17, 2026 will be subject to interest of 1.5% per month from due date.
Payments are accepted in person at 33 East Main Street, Portland, CT or by mail: Portland Collector of Revenue, P.O. Box 71, Portland, CT 06480-0071. Payment can also be made online at www.portlandct.org or placed in the drop box.
As a matter of law, the taxpayer is liable to the town for the tax installment(s) as they become due and payable. Therefore, failure to receive a bill does not relieve the taxpayer of the statutorily required interest when a payment is late.
Office hours are as follows:
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday: 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Tuesday: 8:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Friday: 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Holiday hours:
Tuesday, December 23, 2025: 8:30a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Wednesday, December 24, 2025: 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Thursday, December 25, 2025: CLOSED
Friday, December 26, 2025: CLOSED
Wednesday December 31, 2025 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Thursday, January 1, 2026: CLOSED
Monday, January 19, 2026 CLOSED
Monday, February 16, 2026 CLOSED
Michele B. Nuhn, CCMC, CCMO
Collector of Revenue

3TB 12/26, 1/9, 1/30

COLCHESTER HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
LEGAL NOTICE

The Historic District Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, February 9, 2026, at 7:00 P.M., in the Town Hall Meeting Room, 127 Norwich Ave., Colchester, CT 06415 to hear and consider the following petitions:
Certificate of Appropriateness- COA 2026-001 Town of Colchester– for the installation of security cameras at the Colchester Youth Center, 40 Norwich Ave (MBL # 16-00/064-000).
Certificate of Appropriateness- COA 2026-002 Bacon Academy Board of Trustees– for the installation of an ADA access ramp to the North side of Historic Bacon Academy and associated improvements, including demolition of the non-historic rear bathroom building, replacement of the North side door, and alterations to the existing fence, 84 Main Street (MBL # 16-00/073-000).
At this hearing interested parties may be heard and written communications received. A copy of this petition is available for public inspection in the Planning and Zoning Department at Colchester Town Hall, 127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester CT 06415 and may be inspected during regular business hours (8:00 a.m.- 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday)
Historic District Commission
Ellen Sharon, Chair

1TB 1/30

LEGAL NOTICE, TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH, CONNECTICUT
BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS

THE BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS WILL HOLD HEARINGS AND/OR DELIBERATIONS AT THE SENIOR CENTER, 17 SCHOOL DRIVE MARLBOROUGH.
THE DATES ARE AS FOLLOWS:
2025 REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY & 2024 SUPPLEMENTAL MOTOR VEHICLE GRAND LISTS
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11: FROM 6:30 PM IN PERSON HEARINGS ONLY
2026 MOTOR VEHICLE GRAND LIST
WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 11: FROM 6:30 PM IN PERSON HEARINGS ONLY
Applications will be available on February 1, 2026 and **MUST** be in to the Assessor's office by Fed Ex, UPS, USPS or email, Assessors office, **on or before 2/20/2026 by 4:30 pm.**
With all supportive documentation in order for the appointment date and time scheduled to be honored.
Appellants/ or representatives must physically attend the hearing or a decision will not be rendered.

2TB 1/30, 2/13

TOWN OF COLCHESTER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Colchester Conservation Commission will hold a Public Hearing on February 11, 2026, beginning at 7:00 PM in the Colchester Town Hall Meeting Room 2 at 127 Norwich Ave, Colchester, CT, to hear and consider the following application: **W2026-3135** - 611 Norwich Ave, Bacon Academy High School; Bernie Dennler - First Selectman - Applicant/ Owner; Assessor's ID 05-04/06A-000. Athletic Fields turf project with a proposed improved emergency access path with direct impacts to a wetland & watercourse.
At this hearing, interested persons may be heard and written communications received. A copy of this application is located in the Land Use Department, 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 Conservation Commission webpage at https://www.colchesterct.gov/colchester-conservation-commission.
Conservation Commission
Falk Von Plachecki, Chair

2TB 1/30, 2/7

Town of East Hampton, Connecticut Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Agency
Wetlands Agent Approval

Pursuant to CGS Section 22a-42a (c) (2) Application IW-26-002: 14 Quinn's Way, install 14' X 32' Shed on Crushed Stone in Upland Review Area has been approved by the duly authorized agent of the East Hampton CT Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Agency.
Juliet Hodge
Duly Authorized Agent
Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Agency

1TB 1/30

TOWN OF COLCHESTER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
LEGAL NOTICE OF DECISION

Notice is hereby given that at its Regular Meeting on January 14, 2026, the Colchester Conservation Commission made the following decision:
W2025-3132 - 124 Wall St & 111 Old Hartford Rd; Center Village Development LLC - Applicant/ Owner; Assessor's ID 10-00/011-000 & 15-00/061-000, Proposed sewer line extension with direct impacts to a wetland. - **APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS**
Dated January 15, 2026
Conservation Commission
Falk von Plachecki, Chair

1TB 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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WANTED TO BUY

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

WANTED TO BUY:

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

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

PETS

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

MINI AMERICAN SHEPHERD:

(Australian) puppies for sale. 2 black tri male puppies. Killingworth Connecticut 475-331-5105 AKC puppies home raised. Wellness checked 1/8/2026 Microchipped 1/8/2026, Puppy shots 1/8/2026. Tested for parasites/negative 1/5/2026, Weaned, Potty trained. Beginning crate training. Parents on premises. Puppy visits on premises. \$2,000 per puppy.

CASH PAID for any Toyota

Other makes, running or not, crashed ok. Will take other makes and models.

Free pickup. Call any time: 203-600-4431

EMPLOYMENT

DENTIST WANTED

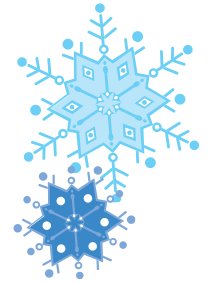
COLCHESTER DENTAL GROUP Seeking a Part-time, full-time, or part-time leading to full time. Eventual buy-in and/or partnership option, for a fee-for-service dental office willing to explore all of these possibilities.
For the right person, this is an ideal opportunity. One owner AACD accredited dentist practicing full-time, and available to mentor as needed.
Benefits and schedule are negotiable. We are well known as the best in the area, and we intend to keep it that way. Our incredible staff has always been one of consistency, longevity and dedication.
Resumes can be sent to 79A Norwich Avenue, Colchester CT 06415 or TheCDG@sbcglobal.net

RE1-16-26

New Beginnings for Life

is a smaller company with a big heart that cares for individuals with intellectual disabilities. We are seeking kind, patient, and passionate candidates to join our team. We have individuals who need care and companionship in Colchester and surrounding towns.
We have great benefits, and the rate of pay is \$17.25 per hour.
For our day support program, which is from 8am-4pm and 2pm-5pm, the towns are in Salem, Groton, Hebron, Lebanon, Higganum, East Haddam, New London, Norwich, East Hampton, Colchester.
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

RE3-16-24



Volunteer. The Benefits Are Extraordinary!

PROTECTOR OF ANIMALS
Extraordinary Benefits: You'll feel really, really good! You'll meet delightful dogs, fabulous felines, and some pretty special humans, too!
Volunteer Positions
Day & Evening Hours:
East Hampton & Wethersfield facilities – Dogs: walking; clean & feed; socialization
East Hartford facility – Cats: clean & feed; socialization; medical & placement teams
CALL: 860-569-0722
VISIT: www.poainc.org

REAL ESTATE

FOR SALE

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

RENTALS

2 BDRM , 1 BATH RENTAL, MARLBOROUGH: Hdwd floors, updated kitchen, stainless steel & granite counters. Ideal for single person, or small family. \$1,850. 860-209-4729.

CANDLELIGHT APARTMENTS, GLASTONBURY:

RENT NOW, one bedroom available, renovated, first floor. Rent is currently \$1,750 per month. Includes heat/ hot water, trash, sewer. Onsite storage and assigned parking available. Property is a SMOKE FREE Complex. Please call via text or cell 860-913-6723, Office 860-529-1725.

RENTAL - WETHERSFIELD/ PARK RIDGE:

1BR condo, first floor, excellent location, all appliances, pool. \$1000. includes heat/ air conditioning. 860-388-8090.

PLANNING ON SELLING YOUR HOME SOON?

WINTER SHOULDN'T PUT YOUR PLANS ON ICE.

Stephanie Starr
(860) 214-4385
stephaniestarr@bhhsne.com
stephaniestarr.bhhsneproperties.com
2025 An independently operated member of BHH Affiliates. Equal Housing Opportunity.

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HOMESERVICES | NEW ENGLAND PROPERTIES
2790 Main Street
Glastonbury, CT 06033
(860) 633-3674

Your local friend in Real Estate

Never let life make you lose your inner peace. In difficult moments, breathe, stay steady and trust your strength.

ANGELA ARESCO
Better Service | Better Marketing | Better Results
Better Real Estate
860.883.9005
angela@arescorealtor.com
www.angelaaresco.com

THE FUTURE OF REAL ESTATE

RE1-30-26

REAL ESTATE

Century 21 Allpoints Realty



Whether you're considering selling your home, or beginning the quest to find your first/next home, let me partner with you to accomplish your goals! As a team member of Century 21 Allpoints, we have the experience, resources, relationships and proven track record to guide you through this volatile Market.

Mark Kehrhahn,
for all Your real estate needs!

860-638-9485
Markk.realestate@gmail.com

#1 CENTURY 21 Firm
in Connecticut Since 2000.
We have been Family Owned & Operated since opening in 1989.
With 11 offices in CT.
Awarded the prestigious Centurion Award



TREE & LANDSCAPING

RYANS TREE SERVICE

Hazardous Tree Removal *We Climb or Bucket Truck Service*

Now is the time to cut those trees down with the **FROZEN GROUND!**
CALL TODAY!

- Lot Clearing & Yard Expansions
- Stumpgrinding & Grading (including muddy driveways)

Accepting Most Major Credit Cards    

FULLY INSURED State Lic. #SFPH000902 **FREE ESTIMATES**

Call 860-228-5009





Dorsey Construction

WINTER IS HERE!

Cleanups • Gutter & Leader Cleaning • Painting
Powerwashing • Waterproofing • Landscaping

Concrete Work – sidewalks, stairs, patios, colored concrete & stamped concrete

Roof Repair – rubber roof, torchdown, metal roofs, and slate roof repair

— Looking For New Mowing Accounts —

John Dorsey • 860-890-9884





Certified Arborists of Marlborough LLC

CT Licensed Arborist #S-6236

LOCALLY OWNED
FULL SERVICE TREE EXPERTS

Remove your high-risk trees BEFORE the storm season arrives!

860.573.0428 *Veteran Owned & Operated*
toddrcohen@hotmail.com

Senior, Veteran, & First Responder Discounts

FULLY LICENSED & INSURED



TREE & LANDSCAPING

TREE SERVICES:

Beech leaf disease management, arbor-vitae maintenance, tree pruning, shrub pruning, removals, consulting by licensed arborists. LaPila Arborists, LLC 860-965-5546.

Tree Removal

CALL JACK TODAY

Property Maintenance • Weekly Lawn Care
Landscaping • Spring & Fall Cleanups
Walkways, Patios, Retaining Walls
Bobcat & Excavation Services • Lot Cleaning
— COMMERCIAL / RESIDENTIAL —
Call Jack for FREE ESTIMATE
(860) 818-2773

Classifieds Pay

The Glastonbury Citizen & Riverast News Bulletin

Call 860-633-4691 or email your classified line ad to admin@glcitizen.com



ROOF SHOVELING



Commercial & Residential
Call for an estimate today!
— Lawns-N-Stuff —
(860) 295-9692

TREE REMOVAL

We Climb Licensed Arborist on Staff

YARD EXPANSIONS
FIREWOOD FOR SALE

Call Today! Snow Plowing
Residential/Commercial

We Now Accept All Major Credit Cards • Fully Insured
C & C Lawncare – East Hampton
(203) 435-5355

Place Your Classified Ad Online!

Visit www.glcitizen.com and click “Classifieds”
Fill out the fields and submit payment via PayPal.

EASTBURY

Landscaping & Home Improvement

- Mowing
- Brush cutting
- Brush/ Tree Removal
- Stump grinding and removal
- Grading/ Drainage
- Gravel Driveways/ Extensions
- Retaining walls, walkways & patios
- Demo and debris removal
- Shed Pads

For more info call or text 860-906-7825
Eastburyhomeimprovement@gmail.com
Licensed & Insured



Tree Takedown Stump Removal Yard Expansion

On Site Sawmilling • Brush Removal
Climber / Bucket Truck
Reasonable Rates – Free Written Estimates

Dondero Lawn Care **FREE ESTIMATES**
860-228-2003





Lawn TECS SR LLC.

Yard Grooming / Lawn Maintenance
H (860) 295-1479 • C (860) 214-9923
RLFrancks@comcast.net

See you in the spring with services such as:
Weekly/Bi-Weekly Mowing • Brush Removal
Downed Tree & Debris Removal
Mulch Installation • Light Moving
Light Hauling • Spring & Fall Cleanups

— CT LICENSED & FULLY INSURED —
LOCATED IN MARLBOROUGH, CT



SERVICES

CARPET CLEANING:

Have your carpets deep dry cleaned. Eliminate problems associated with water (mold, mildew). Best method available for removal of pet stains, etc. Removes allergens. Immediate use. Upholstery cleaning. Completely safe. Wood floors restored without sanding. Experienced, references, insured. William Agostinelli 860-704-8486 calls only. Support Small Business.

DEE'S ANTIQUES, PAYS \$\$ CASH MONEY \$:

Buying gold jewelry, sterling silver jewelry and gold and silver coins. Military items, musical instruments, vintage advertising signs and memorabilia, old toys, old hunting, and fishing items. Servicing the community and family respectively for 50 years. Call 203-235-8431.

ELECTRIC STAN LLC:

Offering service changes for meters and panels. Best price offered. Licensed and Insured. License #202454E1. 860-716-7903.

FLOOR SANDING AND REFINISHING:

Custom staining and finishing. Repairing and laying of all wood floors. Free estimates. James Gorman 860-647-9261.

FRED'S HANDY MAN SOLUTION:

Licensed & Insured. Carpentry, painting, flooring, bathrooms, items repaired or replaced, doors, locks, shades, switches, plugs, garbage disposal, faucets, fans, lighting, 860-904-0158.

HOUSE CLEANING:

Need some help to get your home clean? I'd be happy to help. I have 10+ years of experience, I offer reliable service, reasonable rates and I do an amazing job. References upon request. Please call or text for free estimates. ARIANE'S CLEANING, 860-331-5309.

DUMP RUNS/LIGHT HAULING:

Same day appointments available. Cleanouts, basements, garages. Even junk in the backyard. We can take as much or as little as you want. Mark 860-295-9692 or 860-916-9577.

C H I M N E Y MAINTENANCE:

Cleaning, caps, dampers, flashing, furnace liners and more. No nonsense, no sales pitch, just the work you want done. 35 yrs. actual experience as the owner of Glastonbury's local chimney service. William Allen 860-633-1033.

CLEAN OUTS & HAULING:

Dumpsters available. Fill it yourself or we handle everything! Licensed and insured w/40 years experience. Estate assessments available. Contact 860-220-3786 today!

J & S PAINTING & HOME IMPROVEMENT:

Interior/exterior painting, window/door installation, vinyl siding installation and roof installation. Pool patio & deck patio. Stucco, finish basement, ceramic tiles, bathroom, remodeling. Building maintenance, fence installation. House and office cleaning. Call John, 860-796-0006.

JOSH'S JUNK REMOVAL:

All items removed at a reasonable rate. Call for estimate. We also remove sheds and hot tubs. Insured. Josh Langdon 48hrs. Cleaning Service. 860-922-4621.

ROOFING:

Flooring, Decks, All general home improvement and renovations. Call 860-894-9919.

THE BETTER HOUSEKEEPER:

Fluent English speakers, cleaners who value high standards, good communications, attention to detail, punctuality. Free in-person estimates. We love seniors! Call 860-413-2353.

WINDOW CLEANING:

Residential, \$9 per window inside and out. Call 860-883-6775. Mr. Squeegee.

TUTHILL ELECTRIC

Family Owned Local Electricians specializing in service changes, generators, remodels, outlets, lighting and more!
www.Tuthillelectric.com 860-395-7638
FREE ESTIMATES • Fully Licensed & Insured E1 #0197601

PLUMBING & HEATING

from dripping faucets to all your major plumbing/heating needs
Water Heaters • Zoned Heat Boiler Replacement Bathroom Remodeling
Call Leo at 860-267-2354
Lic. # P204015H389727 Insured

SERVICES

RE3-13-20

HYDROPURE

Water Treatment, LLC

SALES • SERVICE • REPAIRS

WATER SOFTENERS • FILTERS

REVERSE OSMOSIS • UV UNITS

Treat For: Iron, Manganese, Bacteria
Hardness, Low pH, Sulfur, Nitrates
Sediment, Taste & Odor Removal
www.hydro-pure.com
info@hydro-pure.com
Lic #PLM280191

MasterCardVISA

860-537-1949

RE3-13-20

Columbia Sealcoat Co.

COMMERCIAL/RESIDENTIAL

Protect & Renew
Your Pavement

Crack & Patch Repair

FREE ESTIMATES

860-228-7171

LIC/INS

Q13-5-20

Classifieds

Pay

The Glastonbury
Citizen
&
Rivereast
News Bulletin

Call
860-633-4691
or
email your
classified line
ad to admin@
glcitizen.com

L

Snow Septic Repair, LLC

— FREE ESTIMATES —

A fully licensed & insured specialist of
sub surface waste water disposal systems
for residential & commercial properties.

New Installations • Real Estate Inspections
Repairs • System Diagnostic Services
Soil Testing • Video Camera Pipe Inspections

Over 20 Years of Professional Experience
Guaranteed Pricing & Warranties Available

SnowSepticRepair.com • 860-221-8735

RE3-13-20

FULLER

PAVING & GRADING

• Reclaiming • Residential • Commercial

Save \$ on in place recycling of your old
pavement creating a great base to pave on.

FREE ESTIMATES

See us on the web www.fullerpavingct.com

195 Jones Hollow Rd., Marlborough, CT
860-295-9566

Established 1990 ~ Proud of Our Great Service Record
FULLY INSURED • CT LIC. # 0537749

CIT3-5-20

AIR FLO

MECHANICAL LLC

Installation & Service Available

Specializing in Natural Gas & Propane

Oil to Gas Conversions

Central & Ductless AC • Furnace • Boilers

Pool Heaters • Water Heaters • Sheet Metal

— FINANCING AVAILABLE —

CT Lic
#393394

860-989-5079

BBB
ACCREDITED
BUSINESS

MITSUBISHI
ELECTRIC
COOLING & HEATING

DIAMOND
CONTRACTOR

RE11-6-20

Brilliant Basement
Waterproofing, LLC

Egress Windows, Foundation Repair, Crawl Spaces
Sump Pumps, Pumps Eliminated in Most Homes.

Deal Direct With Owner - No Middle Man, Yard Drainage
HIC. 0653192 • CALL US

860-598-8091

www.brilliantbasementwaterproofing.com

RE3-1-20

H₂O

equipmentcompany inc.

Providing safe clean water
since 1967

Phone: 860-267-0110

www.h2oequipment.com

24/7 Emergency Services
Installation & Repair
Well Pumps
Pressure Tanks
Pressure Issues
Water Testing
Water Softeners
Neutralizers, Iron & Sulfur Filters
Ultra Violet Treatment for Bacteria
Reverse Osmosis Systems
Drinking Water Systems
Arsenic/Uranium/Radon/
PFAS Mitigation
Well Extensions & Well Work
Well Inspections
Chlorination & Yield Tests

License #J1-279759

License # W5-0000085

JOHN LACY PAINTING

INTERIOR & EXTERIOR

Quality Craftsmanship

Walls - \$159
18' x 16' avg. room

860-416-8354

john_lacy@icloud.com

Insured
Free Estimates
40 YEARS
EXPERIENCE

RE3-15-24

Licensed & Insured • LIC #0408372

MIDDLESEX
MECHANICAL
SERVICES LLC

RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL

Call for Fall Furnace
Cleanings and Replacements!

Schedule Today!

energize
CONNECTICUT

860.949.5711

www.midmechct.com

FREE
ESTIMATES

We offer
financing!

RE10-10-25

HOME IMPROVEMENT

STARKEY HOME
REMODELLING:

Call today for a free estimate on all your Interior and Exterior needs. Roofing, decks, sheds, windows/doors, gutters, landscape services, porches, patios, framing, carpentry, siding, kitchens/baths, basements, flooring (tile, hardwood, laminate & vinyl), painting/staining, insulation, trim, etc. Locally owned. Licensed/Insured. James 860-573-3597.

FROM ADDITIONS,
DECKS, ROOFS &
DOORS:

to finished basements, siding, & floors. Licensed/insured. Give us a call for free estimate. Starr Builders, LLC. See us on Facebook. B.B.B. 860-267-1496.

ALL STAR MASONRY:

Affordable prices. Our prices can't be beat. Patios-walkways-steps-walls-concrete-chimney-pavers-blue-stone-drainage-decking and more. 35 years' experience. Fully licensed and insured. HIC#0563329. <https://mersiniv12.wixsite.com/allstarmasonry>. Call Bebe 860-960-9167.

CARPENTRY, WILL
REPAIR & REPLACE:

all types of woodwork. Kitchen remodelling. Replacement windows, interior/exterior trim, and siding. Small jobs welcome. Licensed/Insured. Glastonbury resident since 1985. Call Tracy 860-922-9036.

DAVIS PRO PAINTING LLC

Power Washing

860-573-6860

• On Board Water Services
• Free Estimates • Fully Insured

Davispropaintingllc@yahoo.com

FRANKLIN J. DAVIS CT LIC# HIC 0635952

CIT3-20-25

SHAW DRYWALL

HANGING & TAPING

First Class Service & Quality Work

860-228-0680

CT. LIC. #0623063

FULLY INSURED

RE5-2-21

All-Wood Flooring, LLCTM

Complete Remodeling Services

Connecticut's One Stop Shop That Does It ALL

Specializing in Hardwood Flooring, Installation & Refinishing

• All Floors, Tile, etc. • Ceilings • Sheetrock
• Painting • Bathrooms • Basements • Doors
• Windows • Kitchens • Stairs

Specializing in Serving You and Your Budget

Private Master Carpenters

860-498-1060

CT HIC. 567284
Insured

www.myallwoodflooring.com

CIT9-16-21

Rogers Home Services

Bathroom Remodels, Trim, Home Repairs
Carpentry, Interior Painting

Quality Craftsmanship at Reasonable Rates

jamie@rogershomeservices.com
www.rogershomeservices.com

860-983-9537

FULLY INSURED - CT #574467

RE16-6-25

NEED A PLUMBER?

Call/Text Phil: 203-506-7371

East Hampton, Portland, Middletown, Glastonbury, Colchester

PR MECHANICAL SYSTEMS, L.L.C.

PLUMBING | HEATING | KITCHEN & BATH

• Water Heaters • Disposals • Additions
• Sump Pumps • Water Filtration • Well Pumps
• Toilets • New Construction • Gas Lines
• Faucets • Bathroom Remodels • And more...!!!

— COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL —

Fully Licensed & Insured — P1. 0289420 | HIC. 0650960

RE2-2-24

STREAMLINE GENERATOR

a division of
STREAMLINE ELECTRIC LLC

www.thepowerisout.com

860.467.6466

There is a better option than the brand
you hear so much about. Ask us WHY!

SALES - SERVICE - INSTALLATION

KOHLER
GENERATORS

PLATINUM DEALER

IN STOCK!

CIT3-17-22

AAA
Electrician Services

FOR ALL YOUR ELECTRICAL NEEDS

Residential & Commercial Wiring

Don't Pay the Big Company Prices!

Service Upgrades, New Construction, Remodels Additions,
Outlets & Lights Added, Generators, Kitchens

Installation of Automatic or Portable Generator Systems

LICENSED — No Job Too Big or Too Small — INSURED

Call Shawn 860-759-6652

aaaelectricianservices.com

ELC. 0209770-E1

BBB
ACCREDITED
BUSINESS

RE10-4-24

Kateline Can Help. Call Us.

Kitchens
Basements
Bathrooms
Remodeling
Mud Rooms

Kateline

860-633-5296
860-965-8084 - cell

We Always Call You Back
Free Estimates • License #552540
www.KatelineLLC.com

Don't See it - Call

CIT1-1-26

Drywall Service
& Repair, LLC

— 35 YEARS EXPERIENCE —

959-888-1442

LICENSED & INSURED

Residential & Commercial Drywall & Carpentry

Mold Remediation Services

Water Damage Repairs • Drywall New & Repairs

10% OFF Popcorn Ceiling Removal

\$100 OFF For New Customers

CIT5-22-25



Swanson

PAINTING

Michael Swanson, owner

**Powerwashing, Light Carpentry,
Laminate Flooring**

***OVER 20 YEARS EXPERIENCE
MAKING HOMES BEAUTIFUL!***

CALL: 219-575-0370

REI 2-20-23

Premier Painting CT
INTERIOR & EXTERIOR
PAINTING

Deck & Fence Staining
Carpentry / Power Washing

*Experienced,
Professional,
Exceptional Service*

**FREE
ESTIMATES**



CALL / TEXT
860-944-5614

www.premierpaintingct.com
premierpaintingct@gmail.com

Licensed & Insured HIC# 0670230

RE2-15-24

Residential & Commercial – Licensed & Insured

CHRISTOPHER

HOME IMPROVEMENT LLC.

YOUR ROOFING AND SIDING EXPERTS

Roofing | Siding | Gutters | Windows

\$1000 OFF or **FREE Gutters with Full Roof or Siding Replacement**

with this ad


FREE Estimate

860-381-9336

christopherimprovement.com

Financing Available

CIT9-25-25



HOME DESIGNS
BY BRUNO

See Me Before You Build!

3D Plans * Permit Plans
Budgets

860-537-5345

RE-13-10-20

**all
about
blinds**

89 Main St.
East Hampton

**Custom Window
Treatments**

Shades * Shutters
Shears & Draperies

860-267-8330

allaboutblindscvt.com

Bud Stula
Home Improvement

Kitchen & Bath Remodels
Ceramic ■ Hardwood ■ Vinyl Floors
Carpet Restretching ■ Trimwork & Painting
No Job Too Small — HIC # 0632650 • Insured

Call 860.377.0380

RES-12-20

**Brian Becker
Construction**

**Remodeling | Additions | Decks
Repairs | Excavation Work
Lot Clearing | Driveways
Foundations | Yard Expansion**

— FULLY INSURED & REGISTERED —
Located in Middle Haddam, CT

860.978.7608

REC-2124

ZERIK CONSTRUCTION

*Additions,
Roofing,
Siding,
Windows*



Zeke Schlagenhauf (860) 944.0735
builderzeke@aol.com
NHC 0016546 Coventry

CITY-22-26

The advertisement features a logo at the top left consisting of a stylized 'A' with a roofline integrated into its left side. To the right of the logo, the text 'A BEST GUTTERS' is displayed in a large, bold, sans-serif font. Below this, the services offered are listed in a smaller, bold, sans-serif font: 'Seamless Gutter Installation', 'White or Custom Colors', 'ALU-REX Gutter Protection (20% Savings)', and 'Fascia Replacement'. At the bottom, the contact information is provided in a bold, sans-serif font: 'FOR A FREE ESTIMATE, CALL (860) 537-0819' and 'Visit us at www.abetstgutters.com'. The company's insurance status is noted at the very bottom: 'Fully Insured • CT Lic# 0646855'. A vertical phone number '860-537-0819' is printed along the right edge of the advertisement.

R.J. Swider
Contracting, L.L.C.
Specializing in Additions & Remodeling
860-228-3912
www.rjswidercontracting.com Ct. Lic.#541663



CIT-2-20

Since 1992

**MARK'S
PAINTING**

860-267-4125

Freshen Up for the Holidays!

All Phases of Painting & Carpentry

Quality Interior Painting

MARK PESZYNSKI

LIC. #563897

RE 10-10-25

Elliott Construction, Inc.
new construction, home improvements,
roofs, decks, additions, renovations,
interior/exterior painting
860.303.8265 elliottflm27@gmail.com
in business since 1977 • licensed & insured

FOUR SEASONS PAINTERS LLC 

INTERIOR

- All Phases of Interior Painting, Staining, Textured Ceilings, Texture Removal
- WP Removal, Rep. Windows
- Home Improvements & Carpentry

FREE ESTIMATES

INSURED

Kevin Greer 860-646-7760 Lic. # 574298
www.FOURSEASONSPAINTERS.net

CT-00-5-23

Reliable

Quality Workmanship



KC MASONRY

Stonewalls • Brick Walls • Bluestone • Steps
Fireplaces • Chimneys • Patios • Sidewalks

We can also do all Masonry Repairs!

Free Estimates
Lic. No. 0604514

KEN (203) 558-4951

CIT 3-C-20

KKS Construction
 Property Maintenance Residential / Commercial
Carpentry – Roofing o – 860.633.6015
Windows – Doors c – 860.550.0932
 Lic 0570333 / Ins - Est. 1995 kimsadlon@cox.net

**PAQUETTE
ROOFING^{LLC}**
Specializing in
Residential & Commercial Roofing
for over 20 years
– *Free Competitive Estimates*
– *Financing Options Available*
www.paquetteroofting.com
Hebron, CT Fully Insured LIC# 0615769
860.748.8410



Roofing
Siding & Windows
Small Jobs
Green Remodeling
Kitchens & Baths
Hardi Board Installer
Decks

E.L. CONTRACTING
— NO JOB TOO SMALL —

Ed Loveland

860-680-1832 (C)
EDL7@comcast.net

License #609553

COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL • FULLY INSURED

RES-1B-22

**B R A Z I L I A N
CLEANING SERVICE:** Responsible, Brazilian woman seeking house cleaning clients. Very professional and punctual. \$10 fee for quotes, goes towards first cleaning appointment. Also good with pets. Call or text 860-212-4586.

END ROLLS OF NEWSPRINT: Great for art projects , wrapping and packing, table coverings for public dinners, etc. **THE GLASTONBURY CITIZEN.** 87 Nutmeg Lane (off Oak Street) 860-633-4691.

**CHRISTINE'S
CLEANING**
COMMERCIAL/RESIDENTIAL

Building Maintenance
Services. Economical Rates
& Prof. Skills. New Customer
Discount Available.

860-798-7961

CLEANING

REASONABLE RATES
WEEKLY, BI-WEEKLY,
MONTHLY OR
WHEN NEEDED

Moving in or out. We also include
products, sanitizing, Run errands,
shop and rides to doctor apps.

CALL OR
TEXT **860-849-2768**

CT-36-20

TF-36-20

**YOUR AD
SHOULD BE HERE!**

Call us at: 860-633-4691

HTG.0393975-S1

The logo for Absolute Air Services LLC features the company name in a bold, dark blue, sans-serif font. The text is slanted upwards from left to right. A thick red swoosh underline is positioned beneath the text, starting from the left and curving under the word 'SERVICES'. The letters 'LLC' are in a smaller font size at the end of the line. The background is a light blue gradient with a subtle pattern of white dots.

**Save \$100 On A
New Heat Pump
Water Heater, Plus a
\$650 Instant Rebate
and 0% Financing!**

**Save Up To \$5000
In Rebates On A New
Mitsubishi or Bosch
Heat Pump PLUS
.99% Financing
For 10 Years!**



**MITSUBISHI
ELECTRIC**
AIR CONDITIONING

**MITSUBISHI
ELECTRIC**
AIR CONDITIONING

**Save \$500
Off A New Or
Replacement
Furnace or Boiler
and 0% Financing!**

Call Now! 860-613-5230

Or Visit Our Product Showroom For More Information

ABSOLUTE AIR SERVICES

ELECTRICAL DIVISION

Heating - Cooling - Electrical - Generators

Lic # ELC-0202689-E1



GENERAC®

Heating & Cooling Installation and Service
absoluteairservices.com

1116 Portland Cobalt Rd. (Rt. 66), Portland

Hours: Mon - Fri 8 AM - 4 PM

For All Your Home Electrical Needs!

**SAVE \$1000 ON
A NEW GENERAC
WHOLE HOME
GENERATOR PLUS
0% FINANCING!**

***ALL OFFERS ARE VALID FOR PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION BY 1/31/2026**

E0126