

RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

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

Volume 47, Number 02

Published by The Glastonbury Citizen

February 20, 2026

Colchester Residents Camp for a Cause

By Toriana Williams

For 46 hours every February, while most people are indoors turning up thermostats and pulling on extra blankets, three men in Colchester choose a very different approach. They step into a tent, light a burn barrel, zip up their jackets and settle in for a long weekend of cold – all to benefit the town fuel bank.

The fundraiser is called “Freezin’ for a Reason,” and after 17 years, it has become a grassroots winter tradition dedicated to one simple goal: helping neighbors keep their homes warm. “This is the 17th year,” founder Fred Brown said matter-of-factly, as if nearly two decades of voluntary freezing were the most natural thing in the world. The event began with a desire to give back, but also to do something a little different.

“I wanted to do something to ... give back to raise money,” he said. “I thought of all the other things people were doing, and I wanted to do something they hadn’t done.”

While nearby East Hampton has the Turkey Plunge every year, which sees folks take a dip in chilly Lake Pocotopaug to raise money for the town food bank, Brown admitted he does not enjoy plunging into cold waters. So this was the solution that came to mind.

“I did something similar, but we got heat,” he said,

That “heat” is relative. There’s no heater in the tent – just whatever warmth that can be coaxed from a burn barrel and a few layers of clothing. From Friday afternoon to Sunday at noon, the group stays outside continuously, logging 46 straight hours in the elements.

Even though the group remains in high spirits throughout the weekend, the reason behind the cold is no joke. The fundraiser supports the local fuel bank, an organization that helps residents who face impossible choices during winter.



Brrrr, it’s cold out here! Founder of “Freezin’ for a Reason” Fred Brown stands center in the freezing weather holding the donation bucket, with Rob Suchecki, left, and Greg Cordova, right.

“We’re raising money for the [Colchester Fuel Bank],” said Brown. “Because there’s too many people out there that can’t afford to heat their homes and buy medications, or heat their homes and buy food.” That reality isn’t theoretical for the men involved.

“The three of us have seen people that have had to keep their houses at 55, 58 degrees,” he added. “And this winter has been especially brutal.”

Over the years, “Freezin’ for a Reason” has evolved from a small, stubborn idea into a community-supported effort. While the founder stuck it out from the beginning, others joined later.

“Originally there were two other guys involved, and after two years, they’d had enough,” Brown recalled with a laugh. “But I couldn’t let it go. It’s a great event.”

Eventually, new volunteers were recruited – sometimes with good-natured skepticism.

“Fred saw me and ... thought ‘That guy’s crazy. I’ll invite him!’” laughed Rob Suchecki, who has been involved for roughly three years with the third member Greg Cordova, who has been a part of the cause for around five years.

The accommodations are basic, and humor helps pass the time. The tent is compact, to put it kindly. Despite the close quarters, warmth is never guaranteed. “There’s no heat,” Suchecki stated.

The temperature within the tent matches what is outside. “Whatever the air temperature is, is what is in there,” Suchecki said. The tent does offer one small mercy: “The good thing is ... it helps with precipitation and it blocks the wind,” Brown shared. “A little bit,” Suchecki smiled.

Weather, as it turns out, is one of the few variables they don’t control. The event is held the same weekend every year, no matter what.

“We pick the same weekend every year. It’s the second weekend in February,” said Suchecki. “So we’re choosing the weekend. We don’t pick the weather.”

That has led to everything from mild winters to dangerous cold.

“We’ve had years where it’s been 50 degrees out here,” he stated. “We’ve also had years where it’s been ... minus 9 overnight.”

This year landed firmly on the colder side. The weather recently had been “chilly at night,” shared Suchecki. According to the three men, Friday night had gotten down to 15 degrees, and by Sunday morning it was 12 degrees. Still, the group persevered, kept steady by visits from community members dropping off donations,

See Camp for a Cause, page 22

Valentine’s Joy Spans the Generations

By Toriana Williams

On a chilly Feb. 13 evening in Hebron, the community room at Colebrook Village was transformed into a Valentine’s Day dream.

Red and pink decorations shimmered under soft lights. Heart-shaped accents hung from the walls. A tree stood in the corner, decorated in beautiful hues of pink and red. Balloons floated above tables dressed with chocolate centerpieces. At one side of the room, a flower bar offered fresh blooms waiting to be arranged into bouquets.

The event, a “Senior Prom” planned by AHM’s SOAR (Service, Opportunity, Achievement and Resilience) middle and high school youth group in partnership with Colebrook, brought students and residents together for an evening of music, dancing and conversation. Students arrived earlier in the afternoon to prepare decorations, crafts, refreshments and

a carefully chosen playlist. By 6 p.m., the room was full of energy.

Residents chatted with one another and with the teenagers who eagerly moved from table to table. Some tapped their feet to the music. Others swayed gently in their seats. A few even rose to dance, and if standing wasn’t possible, they found other ways to move to the rhythm.

Lindy Rojas, a resident at Colebrook Village, smiled as she described the community she calls home.

“Colebrook is a community for 55 and over, and we have a lot of independent people, and we also have some memory care people here,” she said. “We’re all very happy, because it’s a very beautiful place. The staff is incredible.”

She explained that the partnership with local schools has meant a great deal to residents over the years. “They come sing for us. They bring

their bands for us, which is really nice,” she said. Events like the Senior Prom, Rojas said, give everyone something to look forward to.

When asked about the importance of students visiting an independent living community, Rojas spoke thoughtfully. “I think it helps them get to know us ... and then for us, we get to see young people.” She added, “Anytime there are young people in the facility or little ones and babies or puppies or anything, we really enjoy that.”

Music played a powerful role throughout the evening. For many residents, songs carry memories that time cannot erase. “You never forget. They’ll never forget music. Music for them is all your life, no matter what,” Rojas said, and explained that even those struggling with memory still remember the melodies of their youth. As

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# BOS Addresses Major Projects, Budget Planning

By Toriana Williams

The Andover Board of Selectmen met on Feb. 9. The meeting covered several important issues, including a nearly \$3.8 million bridge project, grant funding updates, budget planning for the 2026-27 fiscal year, rising animal control costs and urgent concerns within the assessor's office. The board also voted on multiple committee reappointments and scheduled upcoming budget hearings.

### Long Hill Bridge Project Bids Opened

One of the most significant updates involved the Long Hill Bridge project. Bid openings took place at Town Hall the previous week. A total of 10 bids were received, with one rejected due to missing seals. That left nine valid bids.

The lowest bid came from Trademark Contractors LLC in the amount of \$3,797,298.50. All bids were opened publicly and reviewed by the town's engineering team. First Selectman Jeffrey Maguire, a Democrat, said, "It was a very interesting process the way it should be done." He emphasized that the process was handled transparently and according to proper procedures. This project represents one of the town's largest current infrastructure investments.

### Animal Control Costs Could Rise 50%

The board discussed a notable increase in animal control costs. The town currently contracts services through NECOG. Maguire stated they're "having some problems with animal control," and reported that NECOG initially indicated they would terminate services at the end of the fiscal year. However, after pushback from member towns, NECOG decided to continue providing services.

Because Andover is a non-member, its rate would increase by 50%. The cost would rise from approximately \$13,000 - \$15,000 to \$22,000 annually. While still less expensive than operating an in-house service, officials said the increase will need to be addressed during budget planning, and Maguire noted that he requested Town Administrator Jim Bellano to look at some "other options."

### Grants, Garage Project, Percy Cook Trail Funding

The senior transportation grant project remains on hold and will be reviewed by a new project committee. Officials stated that adjustments may be required before the project moves forward.

The board also discussed the senior transportation garage project. Members indicated that changes may require approval at a future town meeting.

Selectman Scott Person, a Democrat, noted that he believed the Percy Cook Trail engineering funding may not have been allocated last year, and he stated the engineering cost was believed to be approximately \$48,000. Officials agreed that the matter requires clarification and will be reviewed further.

### Budget Planning for 2026-27

The board began reviewing the 2026-27 departmental budget process. Town Treasurer Lisa Jablonski presented a new draft budget format that includes updated figures for fiscal years 2023, 2024 and 2025.

She explained that she is still adding updated numbers daily, including the state police resident trooper amount. She also described ongoing challenges, including: bank access issues with M&T Bank, QuickBooks access difficulties and limited assistance from the previous treasurer.

Officials stated that the final column in the spreadsheet represents the proposed 2026-27 budget and is still being developed.

Board members discussed the importance of capital planning and determining priorities before presenting recommendations to the Board

of Finance. Last year, the BOF reduced town services, and selectmen expressed interest in exploring targeted increases while identifying possible savings in other areas.

The town budget meeting was officially moved from April 8 to April 9 to avoid conflicts with other boards. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

### Assessor's Office Urgency, Software Assistance

One of the most time-sensitive issues discussed involved the assessor's office. Officials reported that approximately 325 personal property tax returns will need to be entered into the QDS software system before the end of the month in order to properly bill taxes.

Additionally, the motor vehicle tax file from the Department of Motor Vehicles was not downloaded before it was removed from the state's site. The assessor is now working to have the file created. Two assistance proposals were discussed: Bolton assessor services at \$110 per hour and QDS software company assistance at \$100 per hour, plus \$100 per day for travel.

Limited real estate assistance involving Vision appraisal software would cost \$125 per hour. QDS also offers free training at its Waterbury facility. However, the new assistant assessor is not scheduled to begin until March 3.

Board members expressed concern about timing and oversight. Some questioned why the motor vehicle file had not been downloaded earlier and why the assistant assessor's start date was set for March. The board delayed final approval of a proposal pending further clarification.

### Snowstorm Response, Mailbox Policy

Officials praised the public works department for handling recent snowstorms. However, they

noted that multiple storms occurred on weekends, leading to overtime costs. "It really is a problem for me that all these storms hit on the weekends," Maguire noted.

Many residents reported damaged mailboxes as well. The board clarified the town's policy: if a mailbox is struck directly by a plow truck, the town is responsible for repairs. If a mailbox is damaged by snow pushed from the plow, the resident is responsible. Officials acknowledged the difficulty of the situation but stated the policy follows established precedent.

### Committee Reappointments

The board unanimously approved several committee reappointments, each by a 5-0 vote: library board, Andover Sustainable Committee and Old Andover Burial Ground Committee. Additionally, Roberta Doherty was confirmed as a member of the Economic Development Commission.

### Other Business

The board added a discussion regarding check signers to the agenda, scheduled an executive session to discuss the town administrator interview process and approved the event permit for the "Hoppin Hodges 5k" road race to use the Hop River Trail on April 5.

## Bingo & Basket Raffle Night

Andover Congregational Church, located at 359 Route 6, will hold a Bingo & Basket Raffle Night on Friday, Feb. 20, starting with dinner at 5:30 p.m.; the game starts at 6:30 p.m.

Admission is \$15 and includes dinner, drink, dessert and bingo. No reservations required.

Leave a message at the church at 860-742-7696 with questions.

## Craft Supply Tag Sale

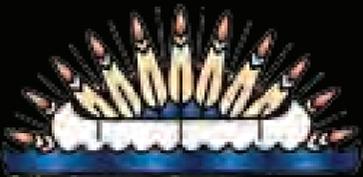
Andover Congregational Church, located at 359 Route 6, will hold a Craft Supply Tag Sale from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, March 7.

Are you a crafter and have craft supplies you no longer need or want? Are you in search of new supplies? Then this is the event for you!

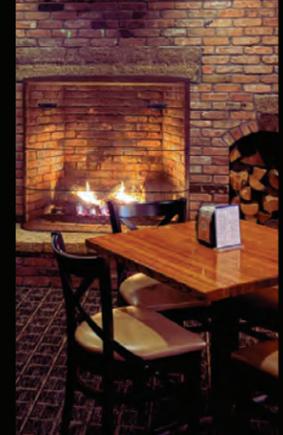
Vendor tables are available for \$20. Please leave a message at the church, 860-742-7696, for an application or more information. Donations will also be accepted.

## Correction

In the "Community and Senior Center Happenings" notice in the Andover section of last week's paper, the cost for the "Spanish for Beginners" course was listed as \$80 per session. This is incorrect; it's \$80 for the entire course, not for each session.



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### 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, Coven-

try, 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.

### 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 gardenandovercommunity@gmail.com.

### 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.

### 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, "Community Connections," 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, call 860-742-7305. And to reserve space at the center, call 860-742-7305 x4510 for dates and available rates.

**Volunteer Opportunities Available:** The center is looking for Cards & Games helpers, kitchen servers, people to make phone calls, fitness instructors, 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.

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

**Special Upcoming Events: Shopping Trips:** Tuesdays, 8:30 a.m. Shop Willimantic 2/24, 3/10 and 3/24, and Manchester on 3/3, 3/17 and 3/31. Transportation is available.

**Puzzles and Pizza:** Thursdays at noon, starting in February. Cost is \$2. Come for the puzzles or come for the pizza. Transportation is available.

**Kids' Art Class with Kim:** Wednesdays, 3/11 and 3/18, 3 p.m. Cost is \$18 per class or \$35 for both. The theme for March is watercolor ski

### Scholarship Available for Local Students

Andover Elementary School is now taking applications for the Andover Education Association and the Andover PTA Annual Scholarship, which is being offered to any Andover student.

Applications may be obtained from the RHAM High School guidance department or by contacting Andover Elementary School at 860-742-7339.

Application deadline is May 1.

### Kindergarten Registration

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

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

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

masks. This class is perfect for all skill levels. Space is limited. Supplies are provided. To sign up, call 860-742-7305 x4510.

**Senior Art Class with Kim:** Thursday, March 19, 10-11 a.m., \$8. The theme is Coffee and Teacups. This class is perfect for all skill levels. Space is limited. Supplies are provided. To sign up, call 860-742-7305 x4510.

**Cardio Drumming:** Monday, Feb. 23, 10-11 a.m. Fee is \$7. This is a music-based gentle cardio class combined with rhythmic movement using an exercise ball and drum sticks. Transportation is available.

**Foodshare Truck:** Wednesday, Feb. 25, 8:30 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.

**Casino Trip:** Friday, Feb. 27, 10 a.m. Hop on the bus for a trip to Mohegan Sun. The bus will return at 3 p.m. Space is limited. To reserve a seat, call 860-498-2326.

**Family Bingo:** Friday, Feb. 27, 5-7 p.m. Cost is \$10. Prizes awarded. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Food and extra bingo sheets available to purchase. Registration is required at 860-742-7305 x4510.

**Spanish for Beginners:** Saturdays, March 7-April 25 (eight weeks), 10-11:30 a.m. Cost is \$80 for the course; payment due by Feb 27. Instructor is Adelaida Gonzalez-Sarisley. Boost your memory, meet new people, and start speaking basic Spanish with confidence. Class material is provided. For adults ages 18 and up. Sign-up is required, by calling 860-742-7305 x4510.

### 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 Stamps:** Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m.

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## From the Editor's Desk

# Observations & Ruminations

By Mike Thompson

If you're like me, and seem to be whining about the cold more this winter than you usually do, you may be almost relieved to hear this: your whining is completely justified.

One of the local weatherpersons shared the altogether depressing news last week that this so far is the coldest meteorological winter – and remember, those run from Dec. 1 through Feb. 28 – since 1994. 1994! That's 32 years ago! Some of you reading this might not have even been born yet! (Which is also a depressing thought, but one hurdle at a time.) We've seen more snow this winter than we have in recent years too, but at least you don't have to go back *decades* to find a season with a comparable snowfall total.

Think about it. The last time it's been levels of cold like this, Lowell Weicker was governor. A gallon of gas cost \$1.17. *The Simpsons* was on the air. Okay, maybe that last one is a bad example – but the point is, it's been a *while*, folks.

It's something to keep in mind the next time you're complaining about the cold and some well-meaning yet insufferable jerk tells you "It's winter; it's *supposed* to be cold!" Sure, it's supposed to be cold, but the last 30-plus years have taught us it ain't supposed to be *this* cold.

\*\*\*

Nonetheless, I'm cautiously optimistic the worst of the cold may be behind us. And if you've got cabin fever and are ready to break out, what better way to rejoin the outside

world than over a good meal or two?

It's the season of Lent right now, and the Knights of Columbus in East Hampton are once again serving up Friday night fish dinners. The first of the fish fries will be tonight, Feb. 20. Meals are served from 4:30-7:15 p.m. in the St. Patrick Church Parish Center, 47 West High St.

This year's offerings include breaded cod, clams, and shrimp, which will be served with French fries and coleslaw. Baked cod and fried chicken tenders meals have been added. Chowder will also be available. Coffee, tea, water and soda are also offered. Prices of the fish may vary from week to week.

There is entertainment offered each week as well. On Feb. 20, it will be provided by Diane Anelli, the cantor from St. Patrick Church.

Takeout service will also be available; advance orders must be received by noon on Fridays, by calling 860-267-6644. Do not leave orders on answering machine.

But if you're closer to Colchester than Belltown, the Colchester Fish and Game Club is also offering its own Fish Fry dinners every Friday during Lent, starting tonight, Feb. 20 and running through and including Good Friday, April 3.

Meals will be served from 6-8 p.m. at the club, located on Old Amston Road in Colchester.

Meal choices include traditional fish and chips, baked fish with baked potato, the club's

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



**Successful Tournament...** The annual Matt Bishel Memorial Tournament was hosted at Bacon Academy on Saturday, Feb. 7. Despite the snow, more than 10 teams from surrounding areas gathered for the wrestling tournament.

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

## Vote Yes on Improvements

Dear Editor:

Next Tuesday, Colchester voters have the opportunity to support major improvements to recreation spaces at the RecPlex and Bacon Academy.

As a baseball and soccer mom to a Bacon graduate and another one this June - I will loudly be voting yes, and hope you will consider doing the same.

Unfortunately, our high school sports fields are in poor to unusable condition primarily due to lack of drainage and lack of investment over many years. Public Works employees do their best to maintain the fields but there are far too many issues at this point.

While my kids will not benefit from the proposed improvements, I strongly believe that the next generation of students, parents, coaches, and school professionals deserve a safe school athletic complex that they can be proud of. Right now, I am sad to say that our fields are embarrassing, hazardous, and likely the worst in the ECC.

At Bacon, the stadium field is called "The Mud Pit" by the kids because any amount of rain results in mud and pools of water which create unsafe conditions for soccer, football, and lacrosse. Games are frequently cancelled or moved from Bacon due to these conditions, including a recent Senior Day game that was moved to another town.

With no lighting on the high school fields, activities are limited to the day making tournaments or special "games under the lights" impossible - which are also great economic drivers for our restaurants and small businesses.

At present, the home baseball dugout is virtually unusable; and there is no visitor baseball dugout – just an unwelcoming bench with all

gear going on the ground.

The good news is that two separate volunteer committees and professional consultants are now recommending a cost-effective, safe plan for replacement of the stadium, softball, and baseball fields at Bacon. The track and tennis courts would also be included along with lighting installations, dugouts and other needed enhancements. Significant community input, planning and design, and boards of finance and selectmen approval were part of this deliberative process.

For these reasons and more, I urge you to vote "yes" on the improvements to the Bacon Academy fields and RecPlex. More information on the project can be found on the town website. Voting takes place Tuesday at Town Hall from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

**Michelle Gilman  
Colchester**

## Entitled Colchester

To the Editor:

*Rivereast* writes that the turf and roof project for Colchester school received a big vote to move forward and put it out for the public to vote on. It should be noted those in attendance were in lock step with the proponents of these projects, so no surprise there.

I question the necessity of spending 15 million dollars for the small percentage of students involved in sports. I Googled and found that only half of the NFL stadiums and six of professional soccer teams use artificial turf. The NFL claims they have a higher percent of injuries on artificial turf when compared to a grass field.

Those in favor of this project should dig into their obviously deep pockets and fund it themselves, instead of expecting the citizens of Colchester to pick up the tab for the minority of

## Bulletin Board

I can't help but notice that criminals seem to be getting more and more devious with every passing day. Sophisticated cyber thieves persuade victims to "protect" investments by pumping their life savings into Bitcoin machines where the money disappears forever. Others infiltrate computer systems and hold entire cities or corporations helpless until ransom is paid. Hackers empty vulnerable bank accounts or steal identities to use in criminal schemes. The list goes on and on.

And then there's Ezekiel Bailey.

A cyber mastermind, Ezekiel is not. You might say the 33-year-old New Yorker is more of a philatelist. He collects stamps. Or at least he used to, until the feds caught up with him.

Unlike hobbyists, who collect vintage stamps, or stamps from around the world, Ezekiel preferred stamps that are routinely available at the post office. Seems innocuous enough, except that Ezekiel paid for his stamps – purchased in Connecticut and surrounding states – with bad checks.

With the cost of a first class stamp currently at 78 cents, you can see how check bouncing – a crime that normally involves higher priced services or merchandise – might have finally found its way to your local post office. Certainly this sort of thievery would not have been nearly as attractive back in the day, in say 1970, when a first class stamp was a mere 6 cents.

But our intrepid Ezekiel took stamp-buying to a whole new level.

According to authorities, he purchased or tried to purchase, a total of \$134,297 worth of stamps over a period of time in Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York, Massachusetts and elsewhere. That's a lot of stamps by anybody's standard. In fact, according to my rudimentary math skills (assisted by the calculator on my phone), it adds up to 172,175.6 first class stamps.

It seems the cunning stamp bandit used various identities and fake driver's licenses to persuade postal clerks that his checks were good and then walked out with hundreds if not thousands of dollars' worth of stamps at a time.

So far, so good, at least from a criminal perspective.

But now the question arises...what in the hell do you do with 172,175.6 first class stamps? You could be the most compulsive writer of letters and get-well cards since the invention of the alphabet, and you're still never going to get rid of that many stamps. And I don't mean to be judgmental, but I've examined Ezekiel's mug shot and I'm inclined to suspect that he is probably not a particularly prolific letter writer.

So what's the point? How do you turn your ill-gotten stamps into cash? It's not like you can bring them to another post office and return them for actual money. You're not going to go into some fancy restaurant and pay the bill with a book of postage stamps—I mean, you could try, but I seriously doubt you're going to get anywhere. I suppose you could put an ad in the newspaper or on social media offering stamps at a discount to people who need to send out a lot of wedding invitations or Christmas cards or something, but unless you're handling Taylor Swift's upcoming nuptials, I doubt anybody's going to need tens of thousands of stamps.

Or could it be that Ezekiel was simply caught up in the thrill of his scam? Maybe he got a rush out of hoodwinking unwitting postal clerks. Maybe the actual stamps were only secondary to the game. Maybe he piled them all up on his bed and rolled in them in an exuberant celebration of his own cleverness. Or maybe he was a sort of philatelic Robin Hood, taking stamps from the post office and handing them out to folks who would otherwise be unable to afford to send get-well cards and chatty letters to friends and relatives. Not a mere thief, but a cultural hero striving to combat the modern-day decline in the art of letter-writing.

Alas, I fear his motives were less altruistic. Official news releases are silent on where the profit was in his scheme, but my guess is that Ezekiel fenced his stamps to shady store outlets that then proceeded to sell them over the counter at face value. Criminal enablers, so to speak.

Whatever the motive, his one-man philatelic crime wave came unglued when he was arrested after trying to scam a clerk out of \$300 worth of stamps at a post office in Stonington, Connecticut, according to officials. He subsequently pled guilty to aggravated identity theft, which carries a mandatory two-year prison term. And so the checkered career of the philatelic bandit finally comes to a close.

If I knew which prison he was in I'd consider sending him a card or a letter, but then I'd have to go out and spend 78 cents on a stamp. I guess I could text him, but it really wouldn't be the same.

**Jim Hallas**

## Rivereast Hours of Operation

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

## RIVEREAST

### News Bulletin

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87 Nutmeg Lane • Glastonbury, CT 06033

Telephone (860) 633-4691

Email: [bulletin@glcitizen.com](mailto:bulletin@glcitizen.com)

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 373 • Glastonbury, CT 06033

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Kevin and Pat Rarey, Publishers

Josh Howard—Office Manager, Sports Editor

Mike Thompson, Editor

Staff Reporter:

Anne Lilburn - Portland and East Hampton

Toriana Williams - Colchester, Hebron, Marlborough & Andover

Advertising Representatives:

Jason Baran, ext. 104 • [jason@glcitizen.com](mailto:jason@glcitizen.com)

Lisa Snietka, ext. 103 • [lisa@glcitizen.com](mailto:lisa@glcitizen.com)

Art Department

Jeanne Giovann and Julie Misuraca

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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](mailto:bulletin@glcitizen.com). All letters must include the writer's town of residence and daytime contact phone number. Letters focused solely on national issues or national public figures will not be published. Anonymous letters will not be published. All letters are subject to editing for grammar, spelling and clarity, and are also subject to fact-checking. No bullying or name-calling will be tolerated. There is no guarantee that all letters will be published.

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those with big ego's, who throw out multimillion-dollar numbers as though it were pocket change and think this is the biggest issue facing this town.

With the economy already stretching people's wallets, for seniors on S.S., those with fixed incomes, and single-family parents, it would be hard-pressed to think an artificial turf field is a priority. To top that the new budget is coming out and already shows the need for an increase of approximately \$1 million adding that to other expenses its already tough to live in the expensive state of Connecticut.

**Frank Grande**  
Colchester

**Please Vote**

To the Editor:

To my fellow Colchester residents please know how desperately Bacon Academy needs a new roof and improved HVAC system. This past weekend I spent my time greeting people from all over Connecticut in the auditorium and gym lobby of Bacon. The entire time we were navigating around barrels catching water from a continuously leaking roof. Is this really what we want our children experiencing everyday they go to school? Tiles are stained brown or missing altogether. We all know unwanted water creates mold. And consider what kind of first impression we are creating to other districts as we host sporting events.

This is not cosmetic and it certainly is not a want. It is a need! Make your voice heard on Feb. 24th and vote yes!

**Karen Van Heest**  
Colchester

**No Bids for Curbside Pickup**

To the Editor:

The town has confirmed that no waste management companies submitted bids for the temporary, town-wide curbside pickup proposal. That outcome exposes a fundamental flaw in the DPW's plan for Old Colchester Road: it assumes the town can shut down the existing Transfer Station and rely on a temporary system that now doesn't exist.

Residents deserve a clear explanation of what the town intends to do. If officials still plan to rebuild on the current site, they must answer basic questions before moving forward:

- Where will residents bring trash and recycling during construction
- How bulky waste and hazardous materials will be handled
- What temporary disposal options will cost
- How long the closure is expected to last
- How the town will prevent illegal dumping
- How seniors and residents without curbside service will be supported

Even a "temporary" closure of the Transfer Station would have real consequences. Longer drives, new fees, reduced hours, improvised drop-off sites, and unexpected costs are not minor inconveniences. They are meaningful burdens for families, seniors, contractors, and anyone who relies on the facility to keep expenses manageable.

A project of this scale should not advance without transparent, detailed planning. The community deserves clarity before any irreversible decisions are made.

This was always the risk of siting a new facility on the current Transfer Station property. If only the town had stuck with using other available town-owned land, space that could easily

accommodate a DPW garage while keeping the Transfer Station and salt shed operating at Old Colchester Road. Perhaps that option will return to the table when voters reject the current proposal.

**Rob Poudrier**  
Amston

**Cost Benefits in Hebron**

To the Editor:

In 1986, Hebron took part in a groundbreaking Cost of Community Services (COCS) study, one of the first in the country. These were the days of rampant development throughout the area. Just think of the changes in Glastonbury and Manchester from the mid-1980s to today – it is staggering. Fortunately, Hebron avoided some of this pressure, but changes in commercial and residential development were significant nonetheless. As Hebron looks towards the future, particularly at 17 Kinney Rd./the Horton Property, it is important to understand the cost of development and the benefits of active farmland and open space.

Working with the American Farmland Trust, Hebron's COCS study identified the relative cost to the town of three different land uses; residential, commercial, and agricultural/open space. The results showed a revenue loss to the town with residential use; with every \$1.00 of taxes received the town paid \$1.06 in expenses. That was compared with revenue gain from commercial use; with every \$1.00 of taxes received the expense was \$0.47. There was also a revenue gain with agricultural and open space uses; with every \$1.00 of taxes received the expense was \$0.43.

These numbers have changed over the years and a 2007 study in Lebanon showed an even greater difference. For residential use, every \$1.00 of taxes received the town paid \$1.12 in expenses. The shocking difference comes in the comparison of expenses between residential and commercial or agricultural/open space. For commercial use, with every \$1.00 of taxes received the expense was \$0.16, and for agricultural and open space use, with every \$1.00 of taxes received the expense was \$0.17. In other words, the town keeps \$.84 of every \$1.00 on commercial use and \$.83 on every \$1.00 of agricultural/open space use. While residential use consistently costs more than commercial or agricultural/open space, the important fact is that there was only a \$.01 gain between commercial and agricultural/open space. For this single penny, Hebron gains protection for the environment, particularly groundwater, clean air and wildlife habitat, as well as an improved quality of life, including outdoor recreation and preservation of our unique history.

I hope the Town Council, community leaders and residents will consider the well-established Cost of Community Services studies and acknowledge the value of preserving 17 Kinney Rd. For more information, please visit Save Hebron Center on Facebook and #Save17.

Sincerely,  
**Kevin J. Tulimieri**  
Amston

**Thank You for Tribute**

To the Editor:

Having read the Feb. 13th article in the *Rivereast* entitled "A Life of Service: Remembering Rob Brown," it brought back some of my memories of being a secretary for 13 years with the South Fire District in Middletown. I learned of the heroic actions and deeds of my firefighters (I say 'my' as they became part of my family). Now having read about Chief Rob Brown it brought back many of those wonderful and sometimes heartfelt feelings.

For the past 15 years I have lived in Colchester and have had to use the service of our local Fire Department, so although I never knew Chief Brown, the *Rivereast* article made me feel like I met him and now know him as my other firemen. Thank you, *Rivereast*, for bringing back such treasured memories and for the tribute shown this wonderful man...I'm going for a Rocky Road Ice cream.

**Jeanette Bianco**  
Colchester

**Democracy in Action**

To the Editor:

Letters last week described the recent Hebron Town Meeting as democracy in action.

Democracy is not measured by outcome or tone, but by process. At that meeting, an amendment was offered to clarify the legal status of the land. Whether one supported the purchase or not, that procedural moment mattered. When such distinctions are absent from public summaries, citizens are left with an incomplete picture.

Our town assemblies are governed by established rules intended to protect structured debate and minority viewpoints. The town charter calls for written rules of order by the moderator team. To the best of my knowledge, those rules have not been formally established. In their absence, standard parliamentary procedure typically serves as the governing framework.

An amendment to the resolution clarifying the use of this land was presented to the assembly. The town attorney indicated the amendment was procedurally allowable, though it would require reposting the resolution. The amendment was discussed at great length revolving around the purpose of the land. The amendment was ruled out of order. The assembly did not challenge the ruling on the admissibility of the amendment. The resolution was left vague. When resolutions are not fully clarified, when amendments do not receive sustained consideration, or when key distinctions are left

unexplored, citizens lose visibility into how decisions are shaped. As passed, this resolution did not purchase this land as Open Space. The assembly was given the right to and the assembly chose not to.

There is also a growing tendency in public discourse to frame complex issues in ways that pre-assign responsibility if projects falter. That may feel like vigilance, but it can undermine good-faith efforts by volunteers and officials working within real fiscal and regulatory constraints.

Debate is healthy. Clear procedure is essential. Fair attribution matters. If we want strong governance, we must insist on solid mechanics, disciplined process, and accountability grounded in fact rather than narrative positioning.

**Terry McManus**  
Hebron

**Finish the Work First**

To the Editor:

Over the past few weeks, you've read my letters about the proposed Bacon Academy Athletic Complex. Before residents are asked to approve this project, we should have a clear understanding of how stormwater from the re-designed fields will affect wetlands and neighboring properties. That study has not been required.

The town says computer modeling shows the project will reduce stormwater discharge through existing outlets. The town says "the modeling works." But no one has required proof that it works in practice.

The existing fields are often wet and unplayable. If those surfaces are suddenly dry, the water has not vanished — it has moved. Residents deserve to understand exactly how that shift may affect surrounding wetlands and neighboring properties before we vote.

This is not a small project. Based on my household's share of the town budget, it will cost us about \$125 per year. We have received no confirmed grants to offset that cost. Residents can decide whether that is worthwhile, but we should be clear about the full financial picture before voting.

There is also the issue of materials. The company involved is promising a "PFAS-free" artificial turf field. PFAS — the so-called "forever chemicals" — have been linked to cancer and other serious health concerns. In Portsmouth, N.H., similar assurances were made before testing later detected PFAS in the product. That should give any community pause.

*See Letters, page 6*



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**The "East of the River" Real Estate Report**  
**When Is the Best Time to List Your Home?**

Homeowners often ask, "When is the best time to list?" Locally, the market tends to follow a consistent seasonal rhythm. Activity builds in late winter and spring, strengthens into early summer, and slows in the fall and winter months.

That said, timing alone rarely determines the outcome. Outside of the brief Christmas-to-New Year window — when many buyers are focused on travel and holidays — most months can work with the right preparation and strategy. In practice, a home's condition, pricing approach, location, and presentation typically influence the final sale price more than the exact week it hits the market.

It's also important to remember that most sellers are future buyers. Trying to perfectly time one side of the move without considering the other can create unnecessary stress. The homeowners who feel most confident are usually the ones who align market conditions with what's happening in their life and prepare accordingly.

The best time to list isn't just about chasing a seasonal peak. It's about preparation, positioning, and understanding how the local market is behaving right now.

**Market Snapshot – Past Week**  
Hebron, Andover, Marlborough, Colchester, East Hampton & Portland

- 5 single-family homes closed • Average sale price: \$551,000
- Average sale-to-list ratio: 103% • Average days on market: 5 days
- Total closed volume: \$2.75M+
- 1 condo closed at \$324,000 (108% of list, 3 DOM)

Results vary by price point, condition, and pricing strategy.

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★ Letters, cont. from page 5

This project may ultimately be something residents support. But when a proposal of this size moves forward without completed studies, without secured grants, and with unanswered questions, slowing down is reasonable.

On Referendum Day – Feb. 24th – ask yourself a simple question: Has this project been fully studied, fully verified, and fully vetted?

If the answer is not clearly yes, a ‘no’ vote is not a rejection of the project — it is a request to finish the work first. Rushing forward could cost millions.

Finish the work, get the grants, then bring it back to voters.

Michael Dubreuil Colchester

Proclaim, Educate, Preserve!

To the Editor:

In this controversial age, it’s heartwarming to find common ground at the local, state and national level. Interestingly, Black History Month fulfills that role.

On Jan. 28, Connecticut proclaimed “Black History Month serves as a powerful reminder of the struggles for freedom and equality, as well as the triumphs and progress made over generations.” On Feb. 3, President Trump proclaimed February 2026 National Black History month, stating “as President, I proclaim that ‘black history’ is not distinct from American history — rather, the history of black Americans is an indispensable chapter in our grand American story.” On Feb 5, Hebron’s Town Council called “upon community members to observe Black History Month and to recognize how diversity strengthens our communities”.

Hebron has a rich African American past stretching from slavery to being home for the most African Americans in Tolland County in 1850.

Proclamations should be linked with education and preservation.

RHAM Middle School students will soon participate in the five-state initiative of Witness Stones, a student-centered research project focused on African-Americans in their community. Previous projects have focused on Cesar Peters, his son Henry Peters and Pomp Mundo. This year, students will commemorate the lives of Cesar Peters Junior and Martin Powers. Each of these individuals changed Hebron. As future voters, Witness Stones provides a grassroots experience for students to connect with their community’s past to make informed decisions for the future. This year’s Witness Stones will be dedicated at St. Peters Church. Previous Witness Stone are located at Burnt Hill Park along with a QR link to the Peters family.

Although not publicly published, Hebron has received a Historical Survey Report identifying Hebron’s historic African-Americans and related sites to support their preservation.

These are important milestones, but there have been significant failures. Such as the destruction of the Cesar Peters’ abduction site at Burnt Hill Park. A State Historic Preservation Survey was misplaced until after Horton Boulevard replaced Henry Peters’ lane, resulting in the loss of Henry Peters’ house. Hebron Historic Properties has yet to complete the nomination of the Cesar and Sim Peters’ home site, even though the Connecticut State Archaeologist identified the site as of great historic significance. Lastly, the fate of #17 Kinney Road associated with numerous African-Americans still hangs in the balance.

Hebron needs to realize throughout the year that its African-Americans are “an indispensable chapter in our grand American story.”

Respectfully, John Baron – Hebron

NaCl

To the Editor:

“You can now think of chloride as a permanent pollutant in the water. Once it’s there, there is very little opportunity to treat it.” – Christie Alwin. Michigan Dept. Environmental Great Lakes and Energy.

Google “rehabilitation of salt sheds in CT,” and loads of information pops up. At first glance I noticed as many as 15 towns linked to the search. Throughout Connecticut, DOT and town salt sheds are being replaced or repaired to protect against costly water problems. Hebron has chosen to tear down their entire Public Works facility and build brand new.

People value education. They value their homes. They value safe water, but they also value and rely heavily on PW. We have given and given to the schools. The schools have a great reputation. Now it’s time to replace the PW, a facility that’s been in use for decades with only minimal repairs. We’ve been told the facility has now become a liability. We can no longer ignore the situation. Perhaps Hebron should investigate the EPA’s “Effective Funding Frameworks for Water Infrastructure,” June 2025. Apparently, the Department of Commerce and Economic Development Administration has a Public Works Program, which “helps communities in economic decline upgrade their physical infrastructure...EPA grants can underwrite planning and construction costs.” Before panicking or over complicating an already complicated situation, give town hall a chance to crunch the numbers and investigate grant options that may be available.

For the last 54 months I’ve put my personal life on hold in an attempt to save my home and our neighborhoods’ drinking water from the fallout of development on the Raymond Brook Watershed. From the intricacies of Open Space to sodium chloride, town history to local politics, Dark Money to taxes, water has schooled me on the details. One might venture to say that Public Works has been a catalyst in furthering our education by including oil separators, bladder lined salt sheds, hydraulic truck lifts, monitoring wells and more.

Sodium chloride is wreaking havoc on our trucks and our water, as well as on people’s lives, hence the attention to CT Statute 22a-471, House Bill 5506, rebuilding salt sheds and rebuilding entire PW facilities. At this point, given the expert testimony, working conditions, the law, plus warnings from Union and OSHA representatives, can Hebron readily justify not rebuilding their Public Works or risk endorsing holistic PW practices? You decide. #save17

Jean Tulimieri Amston

Vendors Sought!

To the Editor:

The Portland America 250 Committee is excited to announce that we are seeking vendors interested in participating in Portland’s Hometown Festival 250, scheduled for May 16th, with a rain date of May 17th.

This festival will be a special community celebration, bringing together local residents, families, and visitors to honor our town’s history and spirit. We welcome vendors who would like to be part of this memorable event and help us create a lively and engaging day for all who attend.

Anyone interested in participating is encouraged to reach out to a member of the Portland America 250 Committee by email at portlandctamerica250@gmail.com or by connecting with us through our Facebook page. We look forward to working with local vendors and celebrating together as a community.

Sincerely,

The Portland America 250 Committee

Vote Yes Feb. 24

To the Editor:

Capital spending is an important investment in every home and every town. Colchester has come to a turning point where years of underfunding has finally caught up with us.

Investment into the Bacon Academy roof and athletic complex, which are both over 30 years old, as well as our recreation complex used by multiple generations, increases our property values and attracts people and businesses. Just like when you take out a home equity loan on your house to do necessary work to increase the value of your home, this is an important investment into our town.

The current conditions of the fields and Bacon roof are unsafe and a financial liability. It will cost more to fix the fields or replace the roof if we wait longer. The town has taken the proper steps to ensure this investment comes at a financially responsible time. The BOE share for next year if the referendum passes represents less than half a percent of the current Board of Education budget.

In surveys, investment at the Bacon complex was cited as the #1 priority by taxpayers when it came to future capital spending. Fixing these things reassures voters that their tax dollars are being spent where they see the most need which helps the entire budget process.

These two referendum questions are areas identified by over two years of research and development by two committees. The questions represent what our town needs to bring these areas for which we are responsible to a safe and enjoyable level.

Get out and vote Tuesday, Feb. 24, at Town Hall. These projects are long overdue and a positive investment into our community!

Marguerite Gignac Colchester

Vote Yes for Colchester

To the Editor:

Two years ago, I volunteered to serve on the Colchester Recreation Needs Committee. Our job was to make recommendations about our recreation facilities in town and how our community should prioritize future spending. Over several months, we toured different parks/fields/trails, conducted public surveys, and met with our local sports leagues and clubs around town. Based on what we saw and the feedback we received, it was clear that improvements to the Bacon athletic facilities (ranked #1 in our survey) along with repairs at the Town RecPlex were urgently needed. We heard from players and residents about how the 40-year-old tennis courts and the asphalt pickleball courts aren’t holding up in these New England winters and they need to be replaced with long-lasting concrete. We also heard about the need to repair the aging SplashPad.

The project on the ballot next week is a direct result of our committee’s recommendations. This isn’t just a school project. It’s an investment for all ages, with elements at Bacon Academy and the Parks and Rec. complex on Old Hebron Road. We understand that the town can’t take on big projects all the time, so we worked to ensure that this plan addressed the needs of everyone. From young families to senior citizens. The Building Committee has done an excellent job turning our vision into a thoughtful project that is ready for referendum. I’ll be voting yes to the athletic improvement project and yes to replacing the leaking roof at Bacon – and I hope you will too.

Kyle Calash Colchester

See Letters, page 8

Editor’s Desk continued from page 4

breaded clam strip dinner, as well as chicken nuggets for the kids. All meals include coleslaw, coffee and dessert. Cost is \$17 for adults and \$10 for kids. Like in East Hampton, take-out will also be available, by calling the club at 860-537-2593 after 5:30 p.m. on Fridays.

Okay, that takes care of dinner – but what about breakfast? Well, this Sunday, Feb. 22, from 7:30-11 a.m., the Colchester Lions Club will hold its annual February Breakfast Buffet at St. Joseph’s Polish Society, 395 South Main St.

Featured will be a full breakfast with pancakes, eggs, bacon, sausage, home fries, toast, juice, coffee, tea and water.

Advanced tickets are available at Dime Bank

and Mel’s Downtown Creamery, or by calling 860-303-3162. Advanced ticket prices are \$11 for adults, \$9 for seniors, \$8 for children age 5 to 12. Children 4 and under are free.

Tickets will also be sold at the door. Cost will be \$13 for adults, \$11 for seniors, \$9 for children age 5 to 12. Children 4 and under are free.

So, there you have it. After this weekend you may want to head back into your cocoon for another few weeks – especially if we wind up getting a major snowstorm Sunday night into Monday (which, as of my writing this Tuesday night, is a definite possibility). But at least you’ll be heading back home with a nice full belly.

\*\*\*

See you next week.

ENTERTAINMENT



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Regional • Regional

# New Glastonbury Restaurant Introduces Goal-Focused Dining

By Olivia Cibula

When Mike and Chelsea Osgood opened Macros Healthy Restaurant, they weren't just launching another fast-casual eatery; they were introducing what they describe as Connecticut's first concept built entirely around health, nutrition transparency and "purpose-filled eating."

Founded by the husband-and-wife team, the restaurant, located in the Griswold Mall shopping center at 2858 Main St., celebrated its grand opening and ribbon-cutting on Jan. 10, timing it intentionally with the wave of New Year's resolutions.

"It's been unbelievable," Mike Osgood said of the response in the weeks since. The strong January showing followed a quieter start. Macros first opened its doors in October, but Mike said the initial months felt like "spring training." "We had a slow start," he said. "I thought that because we were right across the street from a gym that people were just going to show up. That wasn't the case."

The couple used those early months to refine their menu, build partnerships and introduce themselves to the community. A coordinated marketing push after New Year's Day, including local television appearances and expanded advertising, helped drive traffic through the doors.

For both Mike and Chelsea, the restaurant was born from both personal frustration and passion for healthy, clean eating.

"We would go out to eat at places and think, 'Oh, I'm getting a salad, I'm being healthy,'" Chelsea said. "And then afterwards not feel good."

The two learned that, often, meals marketed as healthy were heavy on rice and fillers and light on quality protein, Chelsea said. Ingredient lists were unclear, and diners could be left feeling bloated, lethargic or still hungry and without a clear understanding of what they had actually consumed.

The Osgoods decided to create the restaurant they felt was missing – one where customers could trust the ingredients and understand exactly what they were eating.

"We felt like there was a need for a health-focused restaurant," Mike said. "We wanted a place you could trust." Chelsea added.

At Macros, proteins are cooked in-house, and meals are prepared using olive oil or avocado oil rather than seed oils. Bowls are portioned and weighed so customers know the calorie and macronutrient content of their meal.

Customers can build their own bowls or choose from signature options organized by health goals, including the High Protein Bowl,

Anti-Inflammation Bowl, Immuno Booster and Heart Health Bowl. The restaurant also offers meal prep options.

"We wanted a goal-focused menu," Mike said. "In a healthy restaurant, what would that look like? Protein is our center pillar, but it's everything else too – reducing inflammation, improving immunity and high fiber."

One of the restaurant's defining features is its Macro Calculator, a digital tool that allows customers to track protein, carbohydrates, fats and calories as they build their meal. Ingredients are portioned and as customers add items, the totals update in real time.

"All it really is, is a fancy calculator that adds up the ingredients in your bowl," Mike said. "At the end of the day, you know exactly what you are getting; 50 grams of protein, 30 carbs, whatever it might be."

Customers can also scan QR codes in the restaurant to view micronutrient information and learn about the health benefits associated with each ingredient.

Mike said he hopes to further integrate food and technology, with plans to develop an app that could suggest bowl combinations based on individual goals such as improving sleep, boosting immunity or increasing protein intake.

"It's an integration between food and technology," he said. "We want to build a brand that's trustworthy and be the first thing somebody thinks of when they want to eat healthy."

Though only four months into operation, Macros is already breaking even, an achievement Mike called "remarkable" for a new restaurant.

Partnerships with local gyms and health-focused organizations are central to their strategy. Located across from The Edge Fitness Club, Macros is also connecting with other fitness studios, wellness providers and healthcare institutions for events and collaborations.

Still in its early stages, the Osgoods have ambitions to expand to additional markets, including New Haven, West Hartford and beyond.

"Long-term, we want to be a trusted brand," Mike said. "Provide a good product and keep opening more locations."



Mike and Chelsea Osgood are the owners of Macros Healthy Restaurant in Glastonbury – and it's more than just another fast-casual eatery. The husband-and-wife team say the new business is built around "purpose-filled eating."

For now, they are focused on steady growth and navigating the unpredictability of the restaurant industry especially during a winter marked by snowstorms and fluctuating sales. Through it all, the Osgoods remain optimistic.

"I never worked at a restaurant, and here I am running one," Mike said. "We're working really hard, and I just want to keep it going."

Macros Healthy Restaurant is open Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The restaurant is closed Sundays.

More information on the restaurant can be found at [macroshhealthyrestaurant.com](http://macroshhealthyrestaurant.com) and updates can be followed on Instagram and Facebook at [@macroshhealthyrestaurant](https://www.facebook.com/macroshhealthyrestaurant).

## ENTERTAINMENT



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# Rivereast Standout Athletes of the Week

By Josh Howard

**Brooke Heffernan – RHAM High School (Wrestling):** Heffernan made history last week, winning a conference championships in her weight class during the first ever Central Connecticut Conference (CCC) girls wrestling tournament at Platt High School in Meriden on Feb. 15. Heffernan, a junior, took home the title in the 107 lbs. division by defeating Plainville's Olivia Sprano in the title bout. Junior teammate Kelise Townsend also earned a medal, taking home silver in the 145 lbs. bracket.

**Michael Bellemare – East Hampton High School (Track & Field):** Bellemare captured a state championship, winning the pole vault at the Class S state championship at the Floyd Little Athletic Center on Feb. 14. Bellemare, a senior, cleared 12' 6" to edge Bacon Academy's Jeffrey Eldridge and Portland's Spencer Masterson, who tied for second after clearing 12' 0". Bellemare also competed in the 55-meter dash and was part of the Bellringers 4x200 relay team at the state-wide meet. He will now compete in the pole vault at the State Open, scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 21 at the same venue in New Haven.

**Logan Kehoe – Portland High School (Cheerleading):** Kehoe, a senior, is wrapping up her 10 years cheerleading in Portland, first

starting with the Portland Panthers youth program a decade ago. A season ago, as a junior, Kehoe overcame a series of setbacks and earned the team's Sportsmanship Award. Outside of cheer, Kehoe is a tennis player and also a high honors student that is a member of National Honor Society, a yearbook business manager, a DECA secretary, and heavily involved in the school's music department where she plays the flute and partakes in the musical performances. Kehoe and the other seniors will be recognized on Friday, Feb. 20, with the ceremony starting at 6:30 p.m. inside the gymnasium at PHS.

**Kendall Grant and Charlotte Grant – Bacon Academy (Wrestling):** Kendall and Charlotte Grant each placed third in their respective weight classes at the inaugural Eastern Connecticut Conference (CCC) girls wrestling tournament. Kendall, who wrestles at 107 lbs., defeated Analeigh Fussell by decision in the third-place match and Charlotte, who competes at 120 lbs., pinned Ximena Altunar in her third-place bout. Teammate Genevieve Kukich finished fourth in the 152 lbs. bracket as the Bobcats placed fifth overall as a team.

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



RHAM High School's Brooke Heffernan (left) and Kelise Townsend earned medals at the first ever Central Connecticut Conference (CCC) girls wrestling championships. Heffernan won her weight class, while Townsend finished second.

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## From the State Senator's Desk

This month marked the start of the 2026 legislative session, where lawmakers will spend long hours in the Capitol through May, working on policies that move our state forward. This 13-week sprint will see legislators adjust the two-year budget passed last June and finding ways to enhance and improve policies impacting residents statewide.



Needleman

Among my Senate Democrat colleagues, our primary focus this year is affordability. The cost of living is too high regarding far too many necessary items, ranging from food to housing to energy, education and household goods. Our leading policies aim to directly address that. Our primary bill this year, An Act Concerning Affordability, seeks to cut unnecessary taxes, increase property tax credits and find ways to keep a few more bucks in residents' pockets.

Our approach to affordability only starts there. Policies under consideration include an elimination of sales tax on commercial and industrial customers earning under \$10 million gross, providing important relief to small businesses statewide; we're also looking at providing increased subsidies for health care following the end of federal programs last year. These concepts, as well as a new child tax credit to help families make ends meet, are just the start of our intended emphasis.

As well, as the Senate Chair of the Energy and Technology Committee, I have long been focused on trying to find ways to provide relief to consumers on their utility bills. It's a difficult prospect between state policies and our geographical location putting us in a uniquely challenging position, but I am working my hardest to find a path forward that emphasizes reasonable ways to cut our bills without losing sight of the greater impacts of our energy consumption.

Legislation coming this year will focus on a mix of affordability, reliability and environmental focus, specifically regarding the quality of air and water in our state. This winter's severe cold snaps led to the state burning much more fuel than usual, causing poor air quality in parts of Connecticut. There are ways we can avoid that in the future. There's a path forward where we expand the sources and types of energy we use for a better overall outcome. I'm going to keep working toward it.

May will be here faster than we know it, but until then, my colleagues and I are keeping our heads down and pushing forward. The people of our state, our constituents, deserve that.

State Sen. Norm Needleman  
D-33rd District

Note: The 33rd Senatorial District covers 12 towns, including the Rivereast municipalities of Colchester, East Hampton and Portland.

**YMCA CAMP INGERSOLL'S CHILL FOR CHANGE**

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

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

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

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

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### St. Mary Church News & Notes

St. Mary Roman Catholic Church, located at 45 Freestone Ave., invites all to attend its services and events. For more information, visit [www.stmaryportlandct.org](http://www.stmaryportlandct.org).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Parks and Rec. News & Notes

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

**Youth Virtual Golf Clinics at Chris Cote's Golf Shop:** One-night clinics are offered on Wednesdays, 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.

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

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

**Bench and Tree Donation Program:** Parks and Rec. is accepting donations for benches and trees at the Portland Recreational Complex.

If interested in dedicating a bench or tree, call Andy for more information at 860-342-6757.

**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.

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

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

### Parking Ban During Storms

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

The ban will be in effect for any amount of accumulating ice or snow. Please make sure your vehicles are moved off the roadway at least two hours before a storm has been forecast to start.

Vehicles are to remain off the roadway for at least four hours after the storm has ended or until crews have completed their final plowing. Vehicles not moved may be towed at the owner's expense.

### Kindergarten Registration

Valley View School has announced kindergarten registration for the 2026-27 school year. Parents/guardians whose children will be five years of age on or before Sept. 1, 2026, should contact Valley View School at [kregistration@portlandct.us](mailto:kregistration@portlandct.us) to indicate if you will be registering your child for kindergarten. Please provide your child's full name, date of birth, phone number, address, and parent's names.

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



Matt Pegolo, owner of PegArch Architecture & Design Services in Portland, recently volunteered as a guest speaker at Cromwell High School's "School-to-Career" speaker series.

### Local Architect Speaks at Cromwell High

Matt Pegolo, owner of PegArch Architecture & Design Services in Portland, recently volunteered as a guest speaker at Cromwell High School's "School-to-Career" speaker series, drawing the largest student turnout in the program's history.

Twenty-six students attended the session – the highest attendance recorded for the series, according to event coordinator Kristine Vincent.

"Matt was awesome... he had 26 students show up – the most we've ever had attend the speaker series!" Vincent said.

During his presentation, Pegolo discussed the architectural profession, emerging advancements in 3D modeling and design technology, and his personal path from high school student to licensed architect and business owner. Students showed particular interest in the live

demonstration of 3D architectural tools used in modern practice.

Pegolo emphasized both the creative and technical aspects of architecture and encouraged students to explore careers in design and construction.

In addition to volunteering in the recent Cromwell High speaker series, Pegolo also hosted a student from Ellis Tech High School for a job-shadowing experience at his firm this week.

"I love being an architect and my schedule is very busy, but I know the importance of inspiring young minds – and that is very fulfilling to me," Pegolo said. "Every field can benefit from an influx of fresh, new talented kids, and I'm happy to help them."

For more information about PegArch, please visit [www.PegArch.com](http://www.PegArch.com).



Jesse Nasta, left, and John Mills, right, will each speak at entitled "Voices of Portland – The Fight for Freedom & Equality: From 1776-2026," which will be held at the Waverly Center, 7 Waverly Ave., this Saturday, Feb. 21.

### 'The Fight for Freedom & Equality'

On Saturday, Feb. 21, from 2-4 p.m., a special program entitled "Voices of Portland – The Fight for Freedom & Equality: From 1776-2026" will be held at the Waverly Center, 7 Waverly Ave.

Speakers will include Jesse Nasta, John Mills, students from Portland High School, and representatives from the Middlesex County NAACP.

Jesse Nasta (Wesleyan University, B.A., 2007; Northwestern University, Ph.D., 2017) is a historian of slavery, emancipation, and their aftermaths, with a particular emphasis on New England. A cultural, public, and community historian, he has taught in Wesleyan University's African American Studies Department since 2017 and has been Executive Director of the Middlesex County Historical Society in Middletown, Connecticut, since 2020.

John Mills is an author, a trained genealogist, a descendant of the enslaved and president of the Alex Breanne Corporation, a Connecticut-based non-profit. The Alex Breanne Corporation focuses on researching, interrogating, and presenting lesser-known stories of the American enslaved.

The event is sponsored by the Portland Historical Society, the Middlesex County Historical Society, Portland's 250th Committee, Public Library and Committee on Solidarity in celebration of Black History Month.

Everyone is welcome and refreshments will be served. Registration is recommended but not required, at: [portlandlibraryct.org/voices-of-portland](http://portlandlibraryct.org/voices-of-portland).

### 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](http://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, April 3, for Good Friday.

**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 or if the library is open.

**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.

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

**Art Exhibit – Portland Perspectives by Nancy Brault and Sarah Weeden:** The exhibit runs through Feb. 28.

**"Circle for Change" with Cultivating Justice:** Tuesday, Feb. 24, 6 p.m. Community members will role play how the current probation system impacts everyone, not just those who are directly involved in the Connecticut criminal justice system. Co-sponsored by the Committee on Solidarity. Dinner will be provided, so RSVP through the link on the library calendar.

**From Liberty to Legacy – Exploring American Ideals in the Musicals 1776 and Hamilton:** Thursday, March 26, 6 p.m. These two American musicals tell the story of the founding of the nation. Michael Langlois will look at these revolutionary musicals and their contrasting visions of an American society at a crossroads. Note: this lecture features video clips from the two musicals. This event is part of the library's celebration of America 250. Registration is requested.

**Movie Sing-Along:** Friday, March 13, 6 p.m. In honor of America's 250th birthday, a sing-along screening of *Hamilton* (2020; rated PG-13) will take place. Run time is 160 minutes. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and the film starts at 6 p.m. This is an afterhours event with limited seating capacity, so pre-registration is requested.

**Movie:** On Saturday, March 14, at noon, a standard screening – no singing along – of *Hamilton* will take place.

**Book Clubs: Talk About Books:** Tuesday, March 3, 1 p.m. *Tell Me Everything* by Elizabeth Strout will be discussed. **1st Thursday Night Book Club:** Thursday, March 5, 6:30 p.m. *Ask Again, Yes* by Mary Beth Keane will be discussed. **Mystery Lovers Book Club:** Tuesday, March 17, 1 p.m. *Killers of a Certain Age* by Deanna Raybourn will be discussed.

### Exchange Club Final Bingo Night

The Portland Exchange Club will hold its final Bingo Night Thursday, March 5, at Concentric Brewery, 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 towards the Exchange and its continuing support in the community.

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

### Mahjong Practice Group

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

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

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







## Fish Fridays Are Back

The Knights of Columbus, St John Paul II Council 6190 is offering a variety of fish dinners on Fridays during Lent. The next dinner will be Friday, Feb. 27.

This year's offerings include breaded cod, clams, and shrimp, which will be served with French fries and coleslaw. Baked cod and fried chicken tenders meals have been added. Chowder will also be available. Coffee, tea, water and soda are also offered. Prices of the

fish may vary from week to week.

Entertainment on Feb. 27 will be the East Hampton High School jazz band, with Andrew Groves.

Meals are served from 4:30-7:15 p.m. in the St. Patrick Church Parish Center, 47 West High St. Takeout service will also be available; advance orders must be received by noon on Fridays, by calling 860-267-6644. Do not leave orders on answering machine.

## 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.

## Christ Episcopal Church News

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

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

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

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

**Winter Warmth Collection:** The church is

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

**Lent Vitamin Drive:** Save your loose change over Lent to make a donation to the St. Vincent's Center for Children with Disabilities in Haiti. The Missions Team wants to provide the center with funds to purchase multi-vitamins for their vulnerable students. Contributions are due by the end of April; please indicate "Missions" or "Vitamins" in the memo line of your check.

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

## Senior Center News & Notes

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

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

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

**Live Well with Chronic Conditions:** Tuesdays, Feb. 24-April 7 (no class March 10), 9:30 a.m. This free six-week workshop on how to better manage your ongoing health condition is presented collaboratively with Senior Resources

Agency on Aging, Chatham Health District and Connecticut Aging and Disability Services. Topics include healthy eating, physical activity and exercise, dealing with difficult emotions, decision-making and communication skills, working with health care providers, action planning and problem solving. Sign up today!

**Café Conversations with the Coordinator:** Tuesday, Feb. 24, 12:45 p.m. Chat with senior center director Holly Marrero, share ideas and provide feedback.

**The Pretend Cooking Show:** Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2 p.m., with director Holly Marrero, featuring Avocado Breakfast Bowls. Cost is \$5.

**Friday Film Fun:** Friday, Feb. 27, at 1 p.m., featuring *Wicked: For Good*. Popcorn served.

**Trips: A Night of Doo-Wop:** Held at East Hampton High School on April 25. The senior center will offer participating senior center members a reduced ticket price of \$15 (regularly \$25) along with transportation to and from the show. Depart at 4:30 p.m.; doors open at 5 p.m. Features performances by The Royal Teens, Jukebox 45 Show Band and Back in Time. Proceeds benefit East Hampton High School Project Graduation.

**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.

## Bethlehem Lutheran Church News

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

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

For more information, call 860-267-1248 or visit [www.facebook.com/BethlehemEH](http://www.facebook.com/BethlehemEH) or [www.bethlehemeh.org](http://www.bethlehemeh.org).

## 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.

The 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.

## Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

As a fundraiser for his Eagle Scout project, Aiden Gora will hold a Spaghetti Dinner Saturday, Feb. 28, from 5-7:15 p.m., at VFW Post 5095, 20 N. Maple St.

Menu includes spaghetti, meatballs, salad, bread, refreshments and dessert.

Cost is \$15 for adults, \$12 for ages 65 and up or 12 and under, and kids 6 and under eat free. Advance ticket purchase is required. Email [aligora2002@gmail.com](mailto:aligora2002@gmail.com) with any questions, or visit [www.troop8.net](http://www.troop8.net).

## Chancellor's List

Kristoffer Lintz of East Hampton made the Chancellor's List at the University of Massachusetts Lowell for the fall 2025 semester.

Lintz is enrolled in the mechanical engineering program. The Chancellor's List recognizes full time university students with exceptional academic performance.



**Beetlejuice JR. runs March 6-8 at East Hampton Middle School, featuring back row from left, Tyler Roman as Beetlejuice and Nick Dudek as Beetlejuice; seated, left to right: Ella Conforto as Lydia Deetz and Daniella Garcia as Lydia Deetz.**

## Beetlejuice JR. Coming to EHMS

It's Showtime!

The East Hampton Middle School Drama Club will perform *Beetlejuice JR.* on Friday, March 6, at 7 p.m.; Saturday, March 7, at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.; and Sunday, March 8, at 2 p.m., at East Hampton Middle School.

Tickets are \$10 for children, students, and senior citizens and \$12 for adults. Tickets will be available for purchase in person at the time of the show, cash only.

Based on the blockbuster motion picture turned Broadway musical, *Beetlejuice JR.* tells the story of a strange and unusual teenager named Lydia Deetz, who is grieving the loss of her mother and obsessed with death. Luckily for Lydia, she and her father move to a new house haunted by a recently deceased couple and Beetlejuice, a delightful demon with a real zest for life. When Lydia calls on Beetlejuice to scare away anyone with a pulse, this double-crossing specter shows his true stripes, unleashing a (Nether)world of pandemonium.

## 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 are now available in the Memorial School lobby, at the East Hampton Public Library, and on the EHPS website at [www.easthamptonps.org](http://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 cur-

rent CT Health Assessment form must be on file with the school nurse's office by Friday, Aug. 7. Students may not begin kindergarten until current vaccination records have been submitted.

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

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

## East Hampton Library News & Notes

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

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

**Adult Programs: Leaf & Lit: A Silent Book Club:** Tuesday, Feb. 24, 6 p.m. Bring your current read to the library, sip tea, and enjoy the quiet company of other readers.

**Cookbook Club:** Tuesday, March 3, 6:30 p.m. This month's theme is "Make a Recipe from Your Favorite Cookbook." Bring a prepared dish and 12 copies of the recipe to share. Library will provide plates and forks. Register or drop in.

**Teen Programs: Magic: The Gathering (Grades 7-12):** Saturday, March 7, 1-3 p.m. All skill levels are welcome. Bring your own decks or use one of the library's.

**Children's Programs: DIY Days: Grades K-8:** Saturday, Feb. 21, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Children and families in grades K-8 are invited to create a different toy, game, or treat together. No registration required; just drop in.

**STEMtastic: Celebrate Black History Month for Grades 1-5:** Monday, Feb. 23, 4-5:30 p.m. In this drop-in program, learn about Black scientists of the past and present, then complete some mini experiments inspired by different scientific fields. Siblings and caregivers welcome.

**STEMtastic: Insect Models for Grades 1-5:** Monday, March 2, 4:30-5:30 p.m. Drop in to make a model of your favorite insect and learn some bug facts.

**Lego at the Library: Grades K-6:** Tuesday, March 3, 4:30-5:30 p.m. Build a new creation based on a challenge/theme, solo or with friends. All Lego bricks provided.

East Hampton • East Hampton

## Resident Announces Candidacy for State Rep

East Hampton resident Meghan Rosenfeld has announced her candidacy for state representative.

Rosenfeld, a Democrat, is running for the 34th District. She is looking to unseat Republican Irene Haines.

"I am deeply humbled by the enthusiastic support I've received from our local Democratic Town Committees," said Rosenfeld. "Thank you for your endorsements and for placing your trust in me. Your partnership matters in this challenging moment for our towns, our state, and our country, and I am committed to working alongside you to help our communities meet this moment and lead us toward a stronger, more just future—where no one is left behind."

In a press release, Rosenfeld said she is running on a platform centered on practical, people-first leadership and "restoring a true partnership between the state and the towns that keep Connecticut running."

Rosenfeld is an East Hampton resident, a hockey mom, and an executive-level educational leader in the Montessori community. She holds a bachelor's degree in law, a master's degree in education, and is a certified paralegal and certified neurodiversity coach. Rosenfeld brings professional experience as a former human resources manager, Montessori teacher, and paralegal focused on legal research and writing, as well as service as a former victims advocate and EMS volunteer. She currently serves on the East Hampton Commission on Aging and other local nonprofit boards, and has been accepted into a Ph.D. program in Special Education at the University of Connecticut.



**Meghan Rosenfeld**

"Our towns can't afford another vote to repeat history," Rosenfeld said. "It's time to turn the page—and build a stronger partnership between our towns and the state so every community has what it needs to thrive, and no one is left behind."

For more information, visit [www.meghanforst.com](http://www.meghanforst.com).

## Library Friends Trivia Night

The Friends of the East Hampton Public Library will host a Trivia Night Saturday, Feb. 28, from 7-9 p.m., at Rule of 3 Brewing, 201 West High St., Unit B1. Food trucks will be on site before 7 p.m.

Registration is required; only one registration per team please. Teams should be made up of 2-8 players, and the fee is \$20 per player. Entry fees can be paid in cash or by check at the library's front desk, or via PayPal or Venmo. All proceeds support the Friends of the Library Scholarship Fund, awarded annually to local students.

Register online at [www.EastHamptonPublicLibrary.org](http://www.EastHamptonPublicLibrary.org).

## KoC Scholarships, Grants Available

The Knights of Columbus Council 6190 announces the availability of three \$1,000 scholarships to students continuing their education at an accredited college/university. Applicants must be members of St. John Paul II Parish.

The council will also award two \$500 Helping Hands grants to members of St. John Paul II Parish attending Mercy or Xavier High Schools.

Applications are available at guidance offices and the parish center office at [stpatrick47@sbc-global.net](mailto:stpatrick47@sbc-global.net).

All applications must be received by April 17.

## Thanks for Donations!

To the Editor:

The coaches and parents of Bacon Academy wrestlers would like to thank the local business community for their donations to the Annual Matt Bishel Memorial Tournament. The event was hosted at Bacon Academy on Saturday, Feb. 7, where, despite the snow, more than 10 teams from surrounding areas gathered for a great day of competition.

The day started with Noel's donating eggs and cheese so we could prepare breakfast for the athletes after weigh-ins, and Colchester Donuts and Café donated delicious donuts. Throughout the day we served hot food from many local establishments. Colchester Pizza donated ten pizzas. Oz 'N Bones donated trays of their delicious Bacon Macaroni and Cheese, along with pulled pork and pulled chicken. McDonald's of Colchester graciously donated fifty cheeseburgers and 50 four-piece nuggets. Plum Tomato donated five pizzas and Family Pizza donated sheet pizzas. Fresca Tequila Bar and Grill provided flautas with a street corn dipping sauce. Starbucks donated over fifty treats to keep the athletes going. At the end of the day, the Bacon Academy wrestlers got to sit and eat together as a team, with grinders provided by Jersey Mike's.

We would not have been able to host a successful tournament without help from all our parent volunteers and the tight-knit community we live in. We feel fortunate to live in a town with businesses that provide so much support to local sports and community programs. There is no town quite like Colchester!

**Bacon Academy Wrestling Team**



## Belltown Garden Club Scholarship

The Belltown Garden Club is again offering a scholarship, available to high school seniors who reside in East Hampton.

All students must be graduating/have graduated from a secondary school accredited by the State of Connecticut, and must use the scholarship for expenses at an accredited school. The school may be a 4- or 5-year college or university, a community college, a trade school or a commercial school.

This scholarship is awarded to an East Hampton High School senior, with preferences given to a student who intends to major in sciences or education related to the earth. Related fields of study will be considered. Financial need could be part of the decision.

Applications are due by May 1, and are available through the guidance department at EHHS.

## Haddam Neck Covenant Church News

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

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

available. All are welcome.

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

**Adult Bible Study:** Sundays at 10:30 a.m. in the Music Room. The study is the Women of the Bible, based on scripture and information/analysis in the Study Packet. The study will conclude on May 17.

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

## Middle Haddam Public Library News

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

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

**Featured Artist for February:** Cynthia Minichino from Glastonbury, whose mixed media works will be seen during regular library hours.

**Foundry Saxophone Quartet:** Sunday, Feb. 22, 2 p.m. Enjoy an afternoon of folk, jazz, and modern standards with these musicians who met at the Hartt School of Music and have been

performing together ever since. Call the library and indicate if you plan to attend.

**Save the Date:** Saturday, April 18, at 6 p.m. the library will host a poetry event with East Hampton Poet Sympetalous AKA Stan Lindh and professional jazz musician Lynn Tracy. All are invited to this evening of poetry and music.

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

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

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

## Middle School Honor Roll

Honor Roll students for the second quarter of the 2025-26 school year at East Hampton Middle School are:

### Grade Eight

**High Honors:** Ian Aiello, Anabela Amarel, Pranud Anthony, Juliana Aresco, Wade Aresco, Nicholas Bagley, Cassandra Bombaci, Charlotte Burgin, Colton Burgin, Ryley Cohen, Abigail Coleman, Alexa Colwell, Ella Conforto, Abigail Coyne, Kayleigh Doll, Mia DonAroma, Nicholas Dudek, Kayla Engelhardt, Alexander Farrell, Evelyn Fielding, Brayden Formigilo, Clara Foulis, Daneilla Garcia, Lucas Gionfriddo, Sofia Haley, Jackson Hall, Lennox Hanna, Brooke Hawes, Madison Herman, Nolan Hilton, Callahan Hines, Mira Hogan, Zoe Holzer, Gabriel Hunt, Taylor Karabetsos, Adriana Karas, Michael Kauffman, Thomas Kellogg, Isabella Kiernan, Owen Killian, Keegan King, Chanuk Kulatunga, Zackary Lavender, Olivia Luparia, Sara Maalouf, Josslyn Marrero, Cameron Marzi, Natalie Maxwell, Cole McCarthy-Nowak, Charles Montalbano, William Muzzy, Grayden O'Hearn, Quinn Paiva, Tiffany Pinzon, Bryson Rall, Emma Roberge, Tyler Roman, Isabella Secondo, Luca Serra, Kayla Spitzmacher, Emily Stiles, Jacob Sylvester, Abigail Tinney, Trevor Ushchak, Sophia Vargas Mendez, Devin Werme, Lukas Werme, Jackson Wilks, Harper Woodson, Zachary Zabroski.

**Honors:** Whimsy Brand, Deklan Cardoso, Richard Claude, Natalie Dean, Pierce Drobiak, Aubree Dunnells, Grace Fagan, Tobias Finn, Mason France, Avery Gaughran, Samuel Gray, Cayden Guite, Brayden Landry, Graysen Loan, Emilia Luparia, Michael Misorski, Gabriella Munoz, Carter Pattison, Joseph Ploszay, Jaksin Sandquist.

### Grade Seven

**High Honors:** Gianna Baio, Anthony Balamucki, Jayden Caliskan, Michael Cerreta, Tyler Claude, MariAnna D'Amore, Hudson D'Elia, Allie Dipace, Hunter Ellis, Audrey Embacher, Emma Emery, Anabia Fahd, Lucas Farias, Isabelle Fromme, Avery Gelineau, Olivia Gianoto, Dylan Gionfriddo, Brayden Goodwin, Alex Gora, Owen Grendzinski, Cecelia Guest, Kennedy Hall, Autumn Hatcher, Gabriella Hill, Grace Holman, Grace Jensen, Lillian Jewart, Gracie Johnson, Benjamin Kennedy, Collin Klopfer, Thomas Kokus, Alice Kowalewski, Ava Kroeber, Gavin Ladue, Matthew Lessard, Leah McCormick, Kaylani Melendez, Kaylee Melendez, Blake Milardo, Eli Mitchard, Kayla Mitkiewicz, Ainsley Mortimer, Liam Mutters, Aleksa Niosi, Riley O'Connor, Bryson Paddock, Ravin Perera, Ashley Phillips, Aaron Pierson, Aiden Pierson, Ella Ploszay, Blake Rau, Max

Rawlinson, Bryanna Ray, Sonoma Rembish, Savannah Russo, Maiya Sadowski, Joseph Salafia, Mason Seaman, Ryker Shumbo-Jenks, Alexandria Smith, Lukas Vai, Brayden Valli, Alessia Vargas Mendez, Philip Vincuilla, Maria Vitiello, Jeffrey Walitynski, Scarlett Ware, Katherine White, Dyani Williams, Lionel Wilson, Evan Yacono, Veda Youngs.

**Honors:** Alexa Baer, Calan Bengtson, Mitchell Bombaci, Walker Briere, Kadyel Cardona, Xavier Carillo, Courtney Mahoney, Elaina Matte, Logan Pinkleton, Kaiden Shakir, Kade Sheehan, Arthur Skinner, Arianna Slavin, Josie Tiano.

### Grade Six

**High Honors:** Blake Aresco, Charlotte Arnold, Jarek Barillaro, Olivia Burgin, Ivy Caselli, Colby Christensen, William Clark, Taelyn Colwell, Fiona Coyne, Islay Danaher, Violette DeSimone, Henry Distin, Michelle Drlik, Rylan Ellison, Sawyer Farrell, Noah Faucher, Whitney Fielding, James Finn, Colin Fitzgerald, Benjamin Foulis, Mason Gorra, Quinn Gould, Lucas Granatowski, Hailey Guiheen, Kayla Hawk, Miles Hibbler, Aria Hinds, Natalie Kellogg, Brennan King, William Krotky, Connor LaBonia, Eli Laplant, Charlize Lemire, Lillian Malatesta, Gabriella Martino, Aiden Mathieu, Quinn Mathieu, Charles McCarthy-Nowak, Oliver McCarthy-Nowak, Sawyer McCarthy-Nowak, Cash McGlynn, Ashlyn McWade, Jillian Meacham, Colin Meier, Francis Mezzatesta, Lorenzo Milardo, Camden Montalbano, Benjamin Munoz, Dalton Neary, Bennett Niderno, Evelyn Nilsen, Isabelle Nunes, Cooper O'Hearn, Jordan Ortuso, Megyn Perez, Owen Phillips, Brody Pinney, John Reis, Scarlett Remele, Claire Roberge, Jonah Robinson, Darren Royce, Jeremy Royce, Sulekha Salad, Brooke Scanlon, Peyton Schooner, Lorenzo Secondo, Marco Serra, Violet Smith, Mekhi White, Melania Wiesner, Harper Wilcox, Ian Williams, Joel Zattero, Nolan Zattero.

**Honors:** Iris Ames, David Burgh, Tristan Christensen, Willow Kelley, Elias Marra, Mia Mojica Encarnacion, Abriana Parente, Sawyer Rosenfeld, Landon Santos, Hans Smutz, Lilly Stino, Addison Trombino, Nora Venetianer, Evan Zadroga.

## Bingo at VFW Post

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

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

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

★ Letters, cont. from page 6

## Dementia Talks No. 49

To the Editor:

The test of wits.

The need to pause and reassess.

That was my visit with mom on Saturday.

180 degrees different from the day before. On the Friday our visit was amazing, we did her PT "exercises," then took a walk outside in the crisp winter air, then we sat in one of the Country Kitchens and put a puzzle together. Mom was so engaged and she did great with the puzzle, with prompting here and there.

Admittedly I walked in the door on Saturday thinking we would repeat our amazing visit from the day before. "No" was back to being the word of the moment...every moment. The puzzled look as if she questioned if it was safe to "go" with me. The resistance to stand up out of the chair. The testing of my skills as a caregiver.

I was able to walk away, put my coat in her room, recalibrate, come back and negotiate with mom to go for a walk by saying there was a party in Town Square and I wanted to introduce her to everyone.

In that moment she popped up from the chair and motored, with me in tow, to the open area we gather as a group. We walked a little, we participated in the "morning exercise class" with her community family. I danced with Ms. J., we had snacks and I sat with mom.

And now I reflect.

Yesterday was also an awesome visit when I stop and think about it. The difference between Friday and yesterday was the level of effort needed to engage, to connect, to gain her trust.

My learning is to embrace the effort and relish in the days that seem "easier" than others. Each day will be so very different.

Sharing that next week, I will talk about some events coming up that you might be interested in.

Thank you for reading and know that you are not alone. May today be your peaceful day.

**With much love and peace,**  
Tonya Maurer  
Amston

East Hampton • East Hampton

## Epoch Arts Dinnershow Returns March 7

Epoch Arts will hold its annual Dinnershow on Saturday, March 7, at 6 p.m., at Epoch, 27 Skinner St.

This is a fundraiser for Epoch Arts' original Mainstage Theater production, *The Last Living Place*, which will be performed at the end of April. At the Dinnershow, the cast of *The Last Living Place* will serve you a full course pasta dinner and then you will sit back and relax while they perform in a variety of skits, musical

numbers and the famous Wackadoodles! Skits will randomly be called out and the cast will scramble to put their costumes on and perform on the spot.

Admission to Dinnershow is \$15, or \$12 for seniors. To make a reservation or if you would like to sponsor a skit for \$25 or a Wackadoodle for \$10 email [elizabeth@epocharts.org](mailto:elizabeth@epocharts.org).

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

## MHVC Accepting Scholarship Applications

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

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

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

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

## YPPCA Taking Registrations for Summer Theater Camp

The Young People's Center for Creative Arts (YPPCA) is now accepting registrations for its 2026 Summer Theater Camp for students entering grades 6-12. The four-week program will run Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:45 p.m., June 29 through July 26, and will be held at East Hampton High School.

Right now, there is an early-bird special for registration. Tuition is \$725 for the full four-week program for registrations received by May 1. Scholarships are available for families with demonstrated financial need.

Designed to provide a comprehensive and immersive theatrical experience, YPPCA's camp combines professional-level training with the excitement of a fully staged production. Mornings are devoted to skill-building workshops in Acting, Show Choir, Dance, Stage Make-Up, Voice, and Stage Combat. Afternoons are dedicated to rehearsals for the camp's mainstage production.

This summer, YPPCA will present Disney's hit musical *Frozen*. The story follows Anna as she embarks on a perilous journey alongside a rugged mountaineer, his loyal reindeer, and a

magical snowman to find her estranged sister, Queen Elsa, whose uncontrolled icy powers have trapped their kingdom in an eternal winter. Performances will take place July 23-25 at East Hampton High School. Auditions for the show will be held prior to the start of camp.

All enrolled students perform onstage. In addition to participating in the mainstage production, campers take part in "The Event," a cabaret-style evening showcasing material developed during morning workshops. This special performance is presented free of charge to the community during the third week of camp.

While students interested in leading roles may audition in advance, auditions are not required to participate. Those who choose not to audition will be featured in the ensemble. YPPCA also offers valuable behind-the-scenes training, with many campers gaining hands-on experience as members of the stage and set crew.

For more information or to register, visit [www.yppca.org](http://www.yppca.org) or email [info@yppca.org](mailto:info@yppca.org).

## Belltown Garden Club to Meet

On Monday, Feb. 23, the Belltown Garden Club will meet in the East Hampton Public Library community room at 6:30 p.m. to craft nesting balls.

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

Newcomers are particularly encouraged to attend. If interested, call Donna at 860-267-2853 to register.

## Helping Hands Closed for February

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

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

## EHMS Spring Athletics

East Hampton Middle School students who are interested in trying-out for either the baseball or softball teams can register online through Arbiter-sports-registration ([arbitersports.org](http://arbitersports.org)).

Athletes must have a physical conducted within the last 13 months before trying out.

Deadline for online registrations is Sunday, March 15. For additional information, contact EHMS Athletic Director Michael Mercaldi at 860-463-6837.

## St. Patrick Church News & Notes

St. Patrick Church, 47 West High St., is a member of St. John Paul II Parish, along with St. Bridget Church in Moodus.

Masses are celebrated Saturdays at 4 p.m. at St. Patrick and 5:30 p.m. at St. Bridget, and on Sundays at 7 and 11:30 a.m. at St. Bridget and 8:30 a.m., 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. at St. Patrick.

During the week, Masses are celebrated at 8 a.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays at St. Patrick, and on Wednesdays and Fridays at St. Bridget.

## Accepting Entries for Art Contests

The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Auxiliary 5095 is now accepting entries for its annual 2025-26 Young American Creative Patriotic Art and 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art scholarship competitions. These scholarships are designed to recognize young artists in grades 9 to 12, encourage patriotism, and assist students who wish to further their education.

For contest eligibility and rules, as well as additional information, visit the library, the Post Home, or [vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships/young-american-creative-patriotic-art-contest](http://vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships/young-american-creative-patriotic-art-contest). Student entries must be submitted (along with a completed entry form) to VFW Post 5095, 20 North Maple St., East Hampton, CT 06424.

The deadline for both contests is March 31.

## 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 Programed 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. 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.

## Senior Center Upcoming Trips

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

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

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

**On the Hunt, Moose & Gems, Bethel, Maine:** May 27-29. Spend two nights at Sunday River Resort, and visit Maine Mineral and Gem

Museum, Moose Safari, Conway Scenic Railway. Cost is \$769 double/triple occupancy.

**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.

## Library Friends Offer Scholarship

The Friends of the East Hampton Public Library is offering a scholarship, available to any East Hampton resident who is currently in his or her senior year of high school.

The student should intend to continue his or her post-secondary education in a formal manner, such as college, trade school, or a certificate program. The applicant should have had some involvement with a library that has positively impacted his or her life.

For applications, visit [easthamptonpubliclibrary.org/friends-of-the-library-scholarship-application](http://easthamptonpubliclibrary.org/friends-of-the-library-scholarship-application), or pick up a hard copy at the library or through your school's guidance office. Submit your completed application form by April 10.

## ECHS Honor Roll

East Hampton residents Marie Doran and Brent Cattanach each made the East Catholic High School Honor Roll for the second quarter of the 2025-26 school year.

Doran, a 10th-grader, made First Honors, and Cattanach, an 11th-grader, made Honors with Distinction.

## Volunteers Honored

The East Hampton Commission on Aging unanimously passed a motion thanking two more volunteers of the East Hampton Community Cares organization for reaching the milestone of performing at least 10 deeds to help older or disabled residents in town.

Barbara Haas has done 13 deeds, and Elaine Puzzo has done 10. Deeds can include driving, social visits, indoor help, or outdoor help.

For more information, contact Eric Rosenberg at [COAChair@easthamptonct.gov](mailto:COAChair@easthamptonct.gov), or check [URCommunityCares.org](http://URCommunityCares.org).

## RTC Meets Next Week

All are invited to join the East Hampton Republican Town Committee at The Dublin, 42 E. High St., at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 17.

Attendees can learn about volunteer opportunities in the community. For more information, email [ehctgop@gmail.com](mailto:ehctgop@gmail.com) or visit [www.easthamptonrtc.com](http://www.easthamptonrtc.com).

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# Runner-Up Finish for Bacon Boys Track & Field



**Bacon Academy boys track and field placed second overall at the Class S indoor state championships in New Haven last weekend.**

**By Josh Howard**

Following a third-place finish at the state meet a year ago, Bacon Academy boys indoor track and field continued to work up the leaderboard this season – placing second overall at the Class S championships in New Haven on Feb. 14.

The Bobcats scored in six events with nine total athletes contributing to the team's overall score of 35, finishing behind only the champions from Bloomfield.

Head coach Steve Browning said his athlete's willingness to sacrifice for the team made all the difference.

"We've had a lot of guys that have grown up during the season and when we went down to race on Saturday, we had a conversation about putting team goals in front of individual goals," stated Browning, who has led the program since the turn of the century.

Highlighting the team's runner-up finish on Valentine's Day was a pair of individual state championships as senior Liam Sweeney took

gold in the shot put and junior Boden Paul secured a state title in the 1,000 meters.

Sweeney, a team captain with Michael Dickey and Sam Dickey, had a toss of 58'00 to beat runner-up Khile Francis of Bloomfield for the top spot in the shot put.

A year ago, Francis edged Sweeney for the state title and this season Sweeney was able to turn the tables.

"Liam has gotten better and better as a competitor," Browning said of his state championship thrower, who also secured a conference title the previous week. "This year he's been very composed and methodical [and] he's really hit his potential."

Paul's state title was his first, winning the 1,000 meters with a personal-record time of 2:38.22. He was also the anchor on the Bobcats 4x400 relay that placed third overall as Paul, Ethan Fleurose, Jacob Blanda, and Zack Weisensee combined to post a time of 3:39.71.

Once the dust had settled, Paul helped account for a team-high 16 points.



**Boden Paul (left) and Liam Sweeney each won gold medals at the state championships. Paul was victorious in the 1,000 meters and Sweeney took top billing in the shot put.**

Browning said the 1,000-meter triumph was a "major breakthrough" for Paul, adding, "That's a demanding, grueling race. He got himself into a position and took off on the final lap."

Junior Jeffrey Eldridge tied for second place in the pole vault, hitting 12' 00" to account for an additional seven points.

Browning pointed out that the program's coaches, which includes girls head coach Dave Kraszewski, determined a strategy prior to the meet that could maximize the team's ability to put up points.

"We were trying to figure out what we could do well, instead of worrying about what other teams were going to do," explained Browning.

The coaching staff's plan worked to perfection as the team's Sprint Medley Relay of Fleurose, Luke Schroeder, Jackson Lavertue, and River Bohn ultimately made the difference as they placed fifth overall with a time of 3:54.60. The top-five finish picked up a crucial two points for the team as the Bobcats placed exactly two points ahead of third-place Portland, which posted 33 team points.

"Rather than play three-dimensional chess, we simply said 'okay, where are we strong and what works for us,'" noted Browning. "I'm just really impressed with how hard they competed

**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.

## 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.

and the willingness of some kids to put aside their own agenda and make sure we were successful on some relays."

A week earlier, the Bobcats placed third at the Eastern Connecticut Conference (ECC) championships as Sweeney (shot put), Paul (600 meters), and Schroeder (long jump) captured individual conference championships.

Browning expressed that going through the gauntlet of competition inside the ECC during the regular season and conference tournament is ideal training for the state meets.

Sweeney and Paul's performances at the Class S championships qualified them for the State Open. They will be joined by sophomore Kiersten Page, who placed fourth in the 1,000 meters on the girls side.

Page also joined Cleary Ashley, Reina Hill, and Taryn Gray on a Sprint Medley Relay unit that placed seventh overall at the class meet.

After graduating a large senior class a year ago that included standout jumper Weston Dzwonchuk, Browning noted that with his young squad showcase an ability to rise to the occasion all winter.

"Our major team goal was not to win the universe, it was to get better week by week," added Browning. "The kids have a saying, 'locked in,' and I thought we were locked in on Saturday."

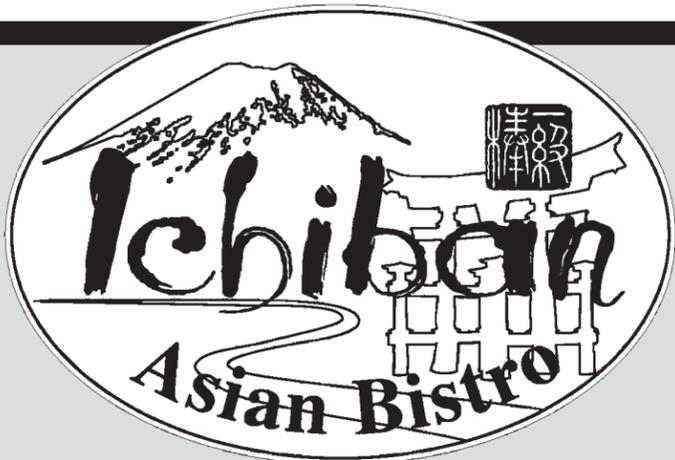
The three Bobcats competing in the State Open will compete this Saturday, Feb. 21, at the same venue (Floyd Little Athletic Center) in the Elm City.

## Fish Fry Fridays

The Colchester Fish and Game Club will hold its annual Fish Fry dinners every Friday during Lent, starting Feb. 20 and running through and including Good Friday, April 3.

Meal choices include traditional fish and chips, baked fish with baked potato, the club's breaded clam strip dinner, as well as chicken nuggets for the kids. All meals include coleslaw, coffee and dessert. Cost is \$17 for adults and \$10 for kids.

Meals will be served from 6-8 p.m. Take-out is available by calling the club at 860-537-2593 after 5:30 p.m. on Fridays.



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### Lions Pancake Breakfast

The Colchester Lions Club's annual February Breakfast Buffet will return Sunday, Feb. 22, from 7:30-11 a.m., at St. Joseph's Polish Society, 395 South Main St.

Enjoy a full breakfast with pancakes, eggs, bacon, sausage, home fries, toast, juice, coffee, tea and water.

Advanced tickets are available at Dime Bank and Mel's Downtown Creamery, or by calling 860-303-3162. Advanced ticket prices are \$11 for adults, \$9 for seniors, \$8 for chil-

dren age 5 to 12. Children 4 and under are free.

Tickets will also be sold at the door. Cost will be \$13 for adults, \$11 for seniors, \$9 for children age 5 to 12. Children 4 and under are free.

All proceeds are returned directly to the community through Lions causes such as eye research, as well as community service projects and grants to local organizations.

### Parks & Rec News & Notes

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

**Puzzlepalooza:** Friday, Feb. 20, 6-8 p.m., at Colchester Senior Center, 15 Louis Lane. Cost: \$25/ team. Preregistration required. A maximum of 10 teams of four will be allowed (one person per team should register). Come with

a team or come alone and Parks and Rec. will connect you with people. Additional Puzzlepalooza dates: March 20 and April 24.

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

**Commit Dance Fitness:** Wednesdays through March 4, 6-7 p.m., at Jack Jackter Intermediate School. For ages 15 and up. Drop-ins are welcome, at \$12 per class.

### Senior Center News & Notes

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

**Monday, Feb. 23:** 9 a.m., Making Memories, Exercise w/ Anne; 10 a.m., Sittercize; 11 a.m., Learn to Sign, Senior Spotlight - AI; 11 a.m.-noon, Fitness Orientation by appointment; 12:30 p.m., Mah Jongg, Bridge, Set Back.

**Tuesday, Feb. 24:** 9 a.m., Making Memories; 9:45 a.m., Tai Chi; 10:30 a.m., Healthy Food Series - Sugar Alternatives; 12:30 p.m., Pinochle; 1 p.m., Cornhole; 1:15 p.m., Bingo; 4-8 p.m., Wellness Nights.

**Wednesday, Feb. 25:** 9 a.m., Making Memo-

ries, Walking Group; 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Reflexology; 10 a.m., Adult Coloring, Hand and Foot Card Game, Sit & Be Fit Video; 11 a.m., TVCCA lunch will be served early; noon, senior center will close early for staff training.

**Thursday, Feb. 26:** 9 a.m., Exercise w/ Anne; 10 a.m., Sittercize, Wii Bowling; 11 a.m., Yoga; noon, Senior Benefits Counseling; 12:05 p.m., Chair Massage; 12:30 p.m., Dominoes; 1 p.m., Knit & Crochet; 4-8 p.m., Wellness Nights.

**Friday, Feb. 27:** 9 a.m.-3 p.m., AARP Tax Aide by appointment; 9 a.m., Social Service Hours, Open Art Studio; 10 a.m., Sit & Be Fit; 10:30 a.m., Choral Group; 11 a.m., Yoga; 11:30 a.m., Lunch Bunch; 1:15 p.m., Bingo.

**Oil Painting with Brianna:** Thursday, Feb. 26, 6 p.m. This is a beginner class. Every skill level is welcome. The cost is \$20 and registration is required.

### 'Colchester Women in the Revolutionary War'

After a winter break, the Colchester Area Chapter 4019 of AARP will resume its meetings Tuesday, March 3, at the Colchester Senior Center, located at 15 Louis Lane.

Board members will meet at 12:30 p.m., with the general membership gathering at 1 p.m. All members are encouraged to bring food for the refreshments table to share. This year, socializing and coffee time will go from 1-1:30 p.m., with the main members' meeting starting immediately after.

The March program will be presented by

### ECHS Honor Roll

Ryan Curry of Colchester made the East Catholic High School Honor Roll for the second quarter of the 2025-26 school year.

A 12th-grader, Curry made Honors with Distinction.

Irene Watson and is entitled, "Women of Colchester During the Revolutionary War." The program looks at the activities and contributions of Colchester women at the time of the war. All Colchester-area seniors are encouraged to attend this free gathering and also learn more about our local AARP chapter.

### Military Veteran Coffeehouse

The next Colchester Military Veteran Coffeehouse will be held at the Colchester Fish and Game Club on Saturday, Feb. 21, from 10 a.m.-noon. All military veterans are welcome.

Contact Mary Gura with questions or suggestions for speakers at 860-537-2921.



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### Senior Center Upcoming Trips

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 full trip descriptions, or to register, call 860-537-3911 or email [csc@colchesterct.gov](mailto: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.

**Pickity Place: Fairy Tale Lunch:** Thursday, May 7, 7 a.m. Visit the 1786 New Hampshire cottage for lunch followed by time to stroll the

grounds and shop. The prix-fixe lunch menu changes monthly. After, you will visit the Cathedral of the Pines in Rindge, N.H., for a guided tour, then stop at Hebert Candy Mansion in Shrewsbury, Mass., to pick up some treats. Cost is \$167 per person, and includes transportation and lunch. Space is limited.

**Amish Country Two-Day Adventures:** June 23-24, departure time TBD. On day one you will travel to the Amish Country and experience an authentic Amish dinner prepared by an Amish family. Overnight accommodation will be at the Comfort Suites Amish Country. On day two, visit the Lil' Country Store & Miniature Horse Farm, then take our reserved seats at the Sight & Sound Theater for *Joshua*. Cost is \$509 per person (double or triple occupancy) and includes the motorcoach, one night hotel, one breakfast, one dinner, admissions, tour escort, driver and tour director gratuity.



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REI-21-25

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# BOS Advance Major Repairs, Review America250 Plans

By Toriana Williams

The Colchester Board of Selectmen met on Feb. 5, and addressed a wide range of financial, operational and community matters, with major attention given to infrastructure repairs at the Fire/EMS headquarters and planning for America250 celebrations. Members also reviewed health district budget increases, youth program fundraising totals, long-term park development timelines and upcoming town meetings and audits.

## Fire/EMS Drain Line Repairs

The issue centers on a significant blockage in the main sanitary line beneath the Fire/EMS apparatus bays. Fire Chief Steve Hoffmann explained that the blockage is worsening and involves cast iron piping installed when the building was constructed in 1984.

Hoffmann explained that previous attempts to clean the line had failed and, in some cases, made conditions worse due to hardened sludge inside the pipe. According to Hoffmann, "What little they got moved actually made it worse because they can't get enough jet stream in there to get that sludge out."

The board reviewed three cost scenarios provided by the contractor. The first scenario would cost \$26,100 to remove and replace the most severely blocked section and clean approximately 58 feet of pipe. The next suggested cost would amount to \$13,920 to install an epoxy liner at \$240 per linear foot, or a \$58,000 cost to fully replace the remaining 58 feet of cast iron pipe at \$1,000 per linear foot.

The initial agenda item called for authorizing \$26,100 from Capital Reserve, but multiple board members expressed concern that partial repairs would lead to repeated costs.

Selectman Tim Vaillancourt, a Republican, said, "It's always better to do it one time than it is to do it two or three times." Member Art Shi-

## Scholarship Available for Bacon Seniors

Attention Bacon Academy seniors: a scholarship is available from Abundant Life Church.

The essay topic is: "In 400 words or less, please explain how your Christian faith has helped you in building your character and what challenges you have experienced as a result of your Christian faith."

Deadline is March 6. Submit your essay with your name and date to the Bacon Academy school counseling office.

## Vendors Wanted

The Colchester Dog Park Committee is looking for vendors that sell dog related items for the 12th annual "Spring Bark for the Park." The event will be held on the Town Green on Sunday, May 17, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., with a rain date of Sunday, May 31.

The event will feature a Lucky Duck Egg Hunt for the dogs, May Baskets, a blessing of the dogs, and other canine entertainment.

Vendor slots are available at \$40 per booth. There is no charge for nonprofit organizations. If you are interested, email tagnobark@gmail.com.

losky, a Republican, agreed with Vaillancourt, and added, "Pay me now or pay me more later."

First Selectman Bernie Dennler noted that while the Facilities and Grounds Reserve could technically cover the smaller repair, the full replacement would strain that account, which receives \$100,000 annually and is intended for smaller projects. However, Dennler agreed with previous statements, and said, "If you think that it's worth our money to do it all at once, I would lean heavily on that."

After discussion, the board agreed to recommend a single appropriation of \$84,100 from the unassigned fund balance, combining the initial \$26,100 and the additional \$58,000 needed for full replacement. Dennler added, "We certainly have the money and fund balance to do something like this." The motion to recommend \$84,100 from the fund balance passed 5-0.

## America250 Fireworks: Cost, Timing, Community Impact

The second most debated topic was the possibility of bringing fireworks back to Colchester as part of the America250 celebration, marking the nation's 250th anniversary. Dennler emphasized that there was no vote taken at this meeting, but the discussion was intended to gauge board support.

He said, "People miss the 57 Fest fireworks, they miss the Trick or Trunk fireworks, and this being our country's anniversary, I wanted to

know what would it cost to do fireworks and is anything even available?"

Recreation Director Tiffany Quinn reported that July 4 is fully booked, but fireworks are available for National Night Out, scheduled for Aug. 4. The quoted cost for fireworks is \$10,000.

Resident Trooper Sgt. Zachary Cash described National Night Out as a successful first-year event in 2025, and stated, "It was a huge success last year. We had a great turnout." He added the fireworks could significantly expand community participation and support police recruitment efforts and added, "The fireworks would certainly be a way to draw more people in."

Board members discussed funding challenges. Quinn noted that before COVID-19, fireworks were primarily funded through sponsorships, but those sponsorships are now harder to secure. Dennler asked whether the board would support the event even if no donations were received.

Vaillancourt responded, "I'm all in. I don't care how we pay for it, to be honest. It's a big deal - 250th celebration. I'm glad we're involved." Dennler emphasized that the anniversary is a rare event and warrants a centerpiece celebration.

The board reached consensus to move forward with planning, solicit sponsorships and bring a fireworks contract back for formal approval at a future meeting. No funding was authorized at this time.

## Parks and Recreation Admin Assitant Position

The board also unanimously approved a new Parks and Recreation Administrative Assistant job description, replacing a previous structure that had consistently proven difficult for staff.

Quinn and Human Resources Manager Taryn Scoot answered questions about the revised role. Board members noted that the new structure shifts responsibilities away from specialized programming and towards administrative and operational stability.

Selectwoman Rosemary Coyle, a Democrat, commented that the change would allow the department to function "much more efficiently." The motion passed 5-0.

## Additional Financial, Community Updates

During liaison reports, board members provided several updates. The Chatham Health Board approved its fiscal year 2026-27 budget, resulting in a 2.79% increase for Colchester due to population growth.

The Youth First Coalition Resolution Run had 104 participants and raised \$3,282, and Youth First is working to raise \$3,000 to send four students and two adults to the Community Anti-Drug Coalition of America (CADCA) Conference in July. They plan to hold a Wellness Fair alongside the Farmers Market at the Colchester Senior Center on March 21 as well as hosting an Easter Bunny Breakfast at the Senior Center on March 28 to raise funds.

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CIT2-19-26

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### Spring Book and Bake Sale

The Friends of Cragin Memorial Library will hold its Spring Book and Bake Sale at The Cragin Memorial Library, 8 Linwood Ave., from March 6-11.

The sale will begin Friday, March 6, from 4-7 p.m., with a pre-sale admission charge of \$5 to pick the "cream of the crop." There is no admission charge from Saturday - Wednesday. Hours those days are:

Saturday, March 7, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sunday, March 8, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m.; Mon-

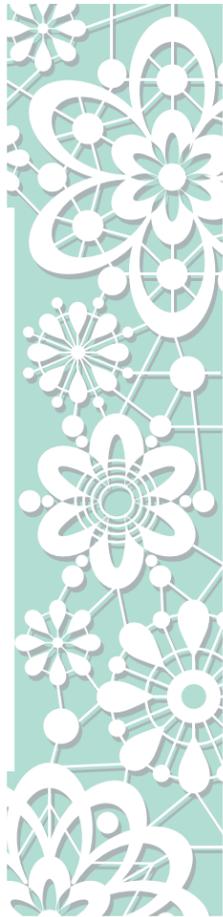
day, March 9, and Tuesday, March 10, from 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; and Wednesday, March 11, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. There will be a Monday-Wednesday special: Fill a box or bag for \$5.

The sale will feature books galore, even large print books and books on tape. There will also be music, movies, puzzles, and games. Baked goods for sale are individually wrapped.

All proceeds support library programs that benefit the patrons of The Cragin Memorial Library.



**Terrazza at Quarry Ridge Presents:**  
**Winter Wine Dinner**  
 Join us for an elegant evening of fine dining and expertly paired wines  
**Thursday, February 26, 2026, from 6:00-8:00 PM.**  
 Enjoy a thoughtfully crafted five-course menu, beginning with classic Oysters Rockefeller, bright Rustic Winter Salad, and our homemade Cacio e Pepe Ravioli.  
 Main course - Beef Filet & Lamb Loin Duo, paired with a distinguished Bordeaux.  
 Dessert - Chocolate & Coconut Custard Cake and vintage port.  
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### Christian Life Chapel News

Christian Life Chapel is located at 392 S. Main St. For more information, call 860-398-9119 or email [chapel.colchester@yahoo.com](mailto:chapel.colchester@yahoo.com). The Rev. Don Rivers is the church's bi-vocational pastor, who also serves as president for "Racing with Jesus Ministries," The Racer's Church since 1980.

**Worship Service:** Sundays at 10 a.m. A livestream is available on YouTube and Facebook.

**Children's Worship:** Sundays at 10:45 a.m. Kids will learn about Jesus in ageappropriate ways.

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

**Upcoming Outreach:** Vacation Bible School is coming in July. Operation Christmas Child will also come up later this year; boxes and packing guides will be available at the church. All are invited to participate in this outreach program.

### Westchester Church News

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

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

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

**Outreach and Other Opportunities:** Knit-

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

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

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Cover Story • Cover Story



The community room at Colebrook Village in Hebron was recently transformed into a Valentine's Day dream, as a "Senior Prom" planned by AHM's SOAR middle and high school youth group in partnership with Colebrook, brought students and residents together for an evening of music, dancing and conversation. More photos on page 28.

★ *Valentine's Joy, cont. from page 1*

familiar tunes filled the room, several residents sang along, their faces lighting up with recognition.

Across the room, a RHAM High School freshman named Avery helped hand out flowers. She described the purpose behind the event. "We volunteer for the residents to bring them ... joy for Valentine's Day, make them happy," she said. "Have them have a little fun time."

For Avery, the most meaningful part of the night was simple. "My favorite part is just seeing the smiles on everyone's face." She shared that a woman at one table told her, "Young people, you're a blessing," a comment that made her feel proud to be there.

"It just made me so happy that they felt that way about us being here," she smiled.

Katie Chanski, activity director at Colebrook Village, has helped organize many events, but she emphasized the special value of intergenerational gatherings.

"We love having the youth interact with the seniors," she said. "It's just great for kids to spend time with seniors and seniors to spend time with teens, bridge that gap."

Chanski noted that the community regularly invites local music groups to perform because residents "really appreciate it, and it brings back memories."

Chanski explained that while evening events can be challenging for some residents who prefer mornings, the turnout for the Senior Prom was strong. The room was lively, filled with conversation and laughter.

The SOAR program leaders also attended, watching proudly as their students connected with residents. Ashlee Parks of AHM Youth and Family Services described how much planning went into the event. "The kids were the ones who actually said, like, let's do it around Valentine's Day, let's have chocolate, let's have flowers, let's have music," Parks said.

She explained that allowing students to lead the creative process gave them a sense of ownership. "They want to do this 'cause it's their ideas,

and they are really excited about it," she said, and added that "Kindness really matters."

Carol Rusch, a school psychologist at RHAM High School who co-facilitates the program, spoke about the broader mission of SOAR. The group focuses on service, leadership and community involvement. Residents, she said, were telling her, "I can't believe the kids are talking to us. I can't believe they wanted to do this."

For both Parks and Rusch, the evening showed how meaningful it can be when generations take the time to truly see one another.

Throughout the evening, small acts of kindness were easy to see. Students carefully arranged bouquets for residents, some joined in to a conga line that went round and round the room and at another table, a group leaned in close, sharing stories about school, families and life experiences. Some residents danced in the open space near the music, and no one seemed concerned about perfect steps or polished moves. The focus was on togetherness.

The decorations, music and sweet treats created a festive atmosphere, but the true highlight of the night was the connection between generations. For the residents, it was a chance to feel seen and valued.

As the event drew to a close, the room still buzzed with conversation. The flowers would soon be taken back to individual apartments. The balloons would eventually pop or be packed away. Yet the impact of the evening would last much longer.

At Colebrook Village, a simple idea – bringing young people and seniors together for Valentine's Day – became something much more meaningful. It became an evening of shared laughter, remembered songs and heartfelt words.

And in the smiles exchanged across generations, it was clear that both the students and the residents left with something special: the reminder that kindness and connection can brighten any season.

gle through similar difficulties. "We're raising awareness for the cause," said Suchecki.

Ultimately, though, the men see themselves less as heroes and more as motivators. "We're the catalyst for people to come and donate," Suchecki said.

And donate they do. By the end of this year's event, the total told a powerful story of collective generosity. "This year, we raised \$14,566.31, for a 17-year total of \$206,612.33," the group posted as an announcement on their Facebook page.

For three days each winter, a tent, a burn barrel and a lot of stubborn resolve become a reminder that warmth is something no one should have to go without. "Freezin' for a Reason" may be cold, cramped and occasionally miserable – but that's exactly the point.



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: Friday Film:** Friday, Feb. 27, 1 p.m. *The Roofman* (rated R) will be shown. Popcorn and water are provided.

**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 lev-

els to drop in and play a game or improve their skills.

**Children's Programs: PJ Storytime:** The first and third Tuesday of each month, at 6 p.m. There will be stories, songs, and crafts.

**STEM for Homeschoolers:** Wednesday, Feb. 18, 1 p.m. Designed for grades pre-K through 4.

**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.

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

**Bible Studies:** Sundays at 10:30 a.m., following service and fellowship time. All are welcome. Also, there is a new once-a-month **Men's Bible Study**, focused on "Seven Christian rules Christians should break as often as possible." There are two day/time options to attend: the first Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m., or the

second Saturday of the month at 8 a.m.

**Early Childhood Center (Daycare):** Offers childcare, preschool, and before/after school care, and is open to all faiths. Registration for summer camp (ages 5-12) is open now. For more information, call director Jennifer Johnson at 860-228-5134. Application forms are at [www.clecchebron.org](http://www.clecchebron.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.

## Gilead Congregational Church News

Gilead Congregational Church, an Open and Affirming Congregation located at 672 Gilead St., has announced the following. For more info, see the bulletin at [gileadchurchucc.updates.church](http://gileadchurchucc.updates.church), email [gcc@gileadchurch.net](mailto:gcc@gileadchurch.net), or call the Parish House at 860-228-3077. The church office is open at the GCC Parish House Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

**This Week's Scheduled Events/Meetings:** Sunday, 2/22 – Sunday Worship Service with Baptism and February Youth Birthday Celebration at 10 a.m. (Gilead Church's Sanctuary; Online; Livestreamed); Sunday, 2/22 – Coffee Hour at 11 a.m.; Sunday, 2/22 – Resurrection Now: A Lenten Series at 11:30 a.m. (Gilead Church's Sanctuary); Sunday, 2/22 – Community Chats at 11:30 a.m. (Fellowship Hall Classroom); Sunday, 2/22 – Youth Group: Monthly Meeting at 6 p.m. (Fellowship Hall); Monday, 2/23 – Bible Study at 9:30 a.m. (Online via Zoom); Tuesday, 2/24 – AA Meeting at 7:30 p.m. (Fellowship Hall); Wednesday, 2/25 – Book Group at 10:45 a.m. (Fellowship Hall); Wednesday, 2/25 – Choir Practice at 7 p.m. (Gilead Church's Sanctuary)

**Worship:** Sunday worship is at 10 a.m., followed by coffee hour at 11 a.m. Services can

also be viewed online at YouTube at [www.bit.ly/GileadChurchUCC](http://www.bit.ly/GileadChurchUCC) and on Facebook at [tinyurl.com/GileadChurchUCC](http://tinyurl.com/GileadChurchUCC).

**Upcoming Events and General Announcements: Sunday Services:** Please join Sunday's services in-person or online through YouTube or Facebook: YouTube: [www.bit.ly/GileadChurchUCC](http://www.bit.ly/GileadChurchUCC); Facebook: [tinyurl.com/GileadChurchUCC](http://tinyurl.com/GileadChurchUCC).

**Gilead Church's Maple Fest Craft Fair:** Saturday, March 21, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., at Gilead Congregational Church. This indoor fair features handmade crafts, artwork, and specialty goods from local vendors. Spot one of the flyers around Hebron? Grab a pull tab for a free raffle ticket at the fair!

**Card-Making with Gayle:** Sunday, March 1, 11:30 a.m. All are invited to create one-of-a-kind seasonal cards for \$15, with a portion of proceeds benefitting Connecticut Food Bank.

**Faith & Film Potluck:** Friday, March 6, 6 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall. On the first Friday night of every month, there is gathering to watch meaningful movies and share tasty food and good company throughout the winter and spring. No RSVP necessary.

Cover Story • Cov

★ *Camp for a Cause, cont. from page 1*

firewood, food and moral support.

Support from local businesses and town departments had become an essential part of the event. "[Colchester Public Works] clear the area for us. They provide us with the firewood. They bring our burn barrel for us," Suchecki said gratefully. "They help us immensely. We couldn't do it without them."

Restaurants donate meals. Friends and co-workers supply pallets and cordwood. Equipment is loaned. Donations arrive in envelopes and online transfers. "The number of people that help us, they're countless," shared Suchecki. "Thank God," laughed Brown.

Beyond the money, the experience itself serves a purpose. Standing in the cold for days offers perspective that cannot be gained without stepping into the shoes of those who strug-







Marlborough • Marlborough

### Upcoming Classes at Marlborough Arts Center

Marlborough Arts Center, located at 231 N. Main St., will offer a variety of classes in late February, March, and April to help break up the winter blues.

The last day of February (Feb. 28), a Saturday workshop is being offered on how to decorate Ukrainian eggs. In March, there will be a variety of six-week workshops starting up for beginner to advanced watercolor enthusiasts. And if you only have a Saturday available, there is an Intro to Watercolor and an Intermediate Watercolor workshop, each three hours, on March 28; one will be in the morning and the other in the afternoon.

If you want to try a different medium, expressive Landscapes in Acrylic is for all levels and

being held on Sunday afternoon, April 26. And for those more interested in working with pen, pencil, and ink in mixed media, check out the classes in the Zentangle club. You can attend any session and learn an abstract, relaxing art form that doesn't take much time and requires minimal supplies. The instructor, Laura Marks, is active in the Art for Healing program at Hartford Hospital.

For more information, go to [marlborougharts.org](http://marlborougharts.org). Click on the menu link on the upper right-hand corner of the home page and then click on Classes and then Current Offerings.

Online registration is preferred, but mail-in is also possible. For more information on that, call 860-467-6353.

### Vacancies on Town Boards, Commissions

The Town of Marlborough is seeking residents to serve on various town agencies. The following commissions have alternate vacancies: Economic Development, Lake Advisory, Water Pollution Control Authority, Nature Trails and Sidewalks, and the Commission on Aging.

All residents of Marlborough who are registered to vote are eligible. Interested candidates should go to the town website and search 'Vacancies' in the search bar, then click on Vacancies - Marlborough, CT and then click 'Applica-

tion for Appointment to Boards, Commissions or Committee' for the most recent application.

The closing date on applications for vacancies is 30 days from the first date that the vacancy is posted in the newspaper - which in this case was Feb. 6.

Applications can be dropped off at the Town Hall in the Town Clerk's office, or you can mail them to: Marlborough Town Hall, Town Manager's Office, P.O. Box 29, Marlborough, CT 06447.

### Parks and Rec. Programs

Marlborough Parks & Recreation has announced the following. For full program descriptions or to register, visit [www.marlboroughct.gov](http://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: Kids & Family Sewing (Reusable Bunny Bag Shaped Gift Bag):** For ages 7 and up. Thursday, March 5, 5:30-7 p.m., at Marlborough Senior Center. Participants will create a bunny shaped gift bag. Registration fee is \$40/resident, \$45/non-resident.

**Safe at Home:** For grades 4-6. Tuesday, March 17, 5-6:30 p.m., at Marlborough Senior Center. Participants will learn skills to prepare them to be safe when home alone. Registration

fee is \$65/resident, \$70/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., 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 Marlborough Elementary School. 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.

### Senior Center News and Notes

Marlborough Senior Center, 17 School Drive, is open for activities. For more information about any senior center program, or to register, call 860-295-6209 or email [socialservices@marlboroughct.gov](mailto:socialservices@marlboroughct.gov). Also contact the senior center for a list of regularly occurring weekly and monthly programs, such as billiards, chair massage, the Cookbook Club, Parkinson's Disease Exercise Class, blood pressure screenings, and more.

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

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

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

**AARP Tax Prep:** All appointments are filled; waitlist only.

**Birthday Club:** January and February birthdays will be celebrated with cake on Tuesday, Feb. 24, from 1-2 p.m. Open to all friends and family. It does not have to be your birthday month to celebrate, but if it is, please RSVP.

**Blood Drive:** Thursday, Feb. 25 For more information or to make an appointment to donate, call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or sign up online at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) with sponsor code "Marlborough."

**What I Need to Know About My Electric Choices:** Thursday, Feb. 26. AARP will share instructions on how to compare and shop for cheaper electric rates and review your Eversource bill. If you qualify for the Eversource low-income discount rate, it can be added to your account on this day. Please note you are interested when you RSVP.

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

**Intergenerational Multicultural Pilot Club:** The center is looking for 5-6 seniors who would like to share their culture, via cuisine, souvenirs and items, with youth from Marlborough El-

ementary School. Program to start in April.

**Transportation:** Rides to medical appointments, employment, essential services, the Senior Center and recreation activities are available to seniors and people with disabilities. Transportation is available on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Rides must be reserved two business days in advance. Call 860-295-6209 for more information. Visit [www.marlboroughct.gov](http://www.marlboroughct.gov) for the complete transportation policy. Beginning March 1, transportation services will only be available Monday and Tuesdays until further notice. The senior center said it anticipates hiring a second driver, at which time services will resume and be expanded.

**Trip: Lancaster, Pa.:** April 22-24. Visit Sight & Sound for its production of *Joshua*, visit the Amish country and enjoy an authentic Amish dinner, and tour of Seltzer's Smokehouse. Trip open to all ages 18 and up. Cost is \$699/person double/triple, and \$849/person single. Deposit of \$150 needed. Last payment is due March 4.

**Social Services: Food Bank:** Located at 3 Wilhenger Drive, and can be reached at 860-295-6008. There is an open house Tuesdays from 10 a.m.-noon and 4-6 p.m. The food bank is in need of: canned vegetables (corn, green beans, peas, carrots), jam/jelly, fruit cocktail, and canned fruit. The food bank is open to qualified residents in need.

**Meals on Wheels:** Provides meals and daily visits for people 60 years of age and over, and their spouses or caregivers. Apply directly with CRT by calling 860-560-5848, or call the senior center for a referral.

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

### Girl Scout Sunday

Marlborough Congregational Church will hold its first Girl Scout Sunday on Sunday, March 15, at 10 a.m., at the church, 35 S. Main St.

This will be a Celebrate Faith event. All Girl Scouts and their families are invited to attend.

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### CLEAN UP

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CREATORS NEWS SERVICE By Neil Manauasa

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## Discovery Zone learning Center



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**Infant, Toddler, Preschool, School Age Programs**  
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### Community Fund Awards Grants to Local Nonprofits

The Marlborough Community Fund at the Greater Hartford Gives Foundation (formerly the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving) has awarded grants to 14 nonprofit organizations serving Marlborough residents. The grants were:

- AHM Youth and Family Services – \$2,000 for RHAM Project Graduation;
- Marlborough Arts Center – \$8,250 to provide funding for the 4th Fridays Series
- Hartford County 4H Camp – \$1,240 for life-saving equipment;
- Marlborough Preservation Society – \$4,100 for a cemetery plaque with the names of early Black residents buried there;
- Marlborough Richmond Library – \$6,000 to pay for adult programming;
- Pettengill Ambulance Association – \$3,650 to buy a scoop stretcher, oxygen tanks, and continuing education classes;
- Marlborough Lions Club – \$5,000 to help purchase a Kidsight Camera;
- Marlborough Senior Center – \$5,858 for

new chairs;

- RHAM Youth Soccer Club – \$1,750 to buy pop-up tents for games and events;
- Coalition on Diversity & Equity, Inc – \$3,000 for two multicultural performances at the elementary school;
- RHAM Youth Baseball -- \$3,025 for an ADA-compliant bleacher;
- HAMR Softball Inc – \$5,000 to pay for part of a West Road field scoreboard;
- Junior Achievement of SW New England - \$1,146 for JA specialty programs, staffing, and overhead;
- Marlborough Cooperative Nursery School - \$2,000 for a new sandbox and sand.

This is an ongoing program and there will be many more opportunities for grants. The Marlborough Community Fund Committee is looking for new members. If you would like more information on either grants or committee membership, contact the Marlborough Community Fund Committee at Marlborough@GreaterHartfordGivesCF.org.

### 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 stjohfisher30@yahoo.com. The church website is www.stjfisher.org.

**Lenten Worship, Sacraments, Scripture Study & Stations of the Cross:** Lenten Reconciliation: Mondays during Lent through March 23, 5-6 p.m. Scripture Study is Tuesdays during Lent through March 24, following morning Mass at 8:30 a.m. Stations of the Cross are held every Friday during Lent through March 27, beginning at 7 p.m.; a simple soup supper is served prior beginning at 6 p.m. in the church hall. All are welcome.

**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

### ECHS Honor Roll

The following Marlborough residents made the East Catholic High School Honor Roll for the second quarter of the 2025-26 school year:

First Honors: Benjamin O'Brien, Grade Nine; Alexander O'Brien, Grade 10.

Honors with Distinction: Kalli Bevans, Grade 11; Kamden Bevans, Grade 12; Lucy DeCorleto, Grade 12.

### 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.

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• East Hartford facility — Cats: clean & feed; socialization; medical & placement teams  
Please call 860-569-0722 or visit [www.poinc.org](http://www.poinc.org)

p.m., or by appointment.

**Faith Formation Programs:** 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:** Operation Rice Bowl is a Lenten program supporting the basic needs of neighbors. Rice bowls are distributed during Lent and collected with your monetary contribution the week after Easter. Food drives are held weekly for the Marlborough Food Bank. Bags with specific shopping lists are available at the Masses. Sandwich-making and collection continues the last Thursday of the month for St. Vincent de Paul in Middletown. Other scheduled service opportunities can be found in the weekly bulletin.

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



Ray's Rebels bowler Delaney Jordan (center) has qualified for the 2026 Junior Gold Championships! She's pictured with coaches Coco Patton and Becky Godwin.

### Bowler Qualifies for Championships

Ray's Rebels bowler Delaney Jordan, daughter of Dan and Melissa Jordan from Marlborough, has qualified for the 2026 Junior Gold Championships.

Delaney participated in the CT River Travel Tournament on Feb. 15, with 18. Only the top bowlers moved on to the 2026 Junior Gold Championships, which will be held in Minne-

apolis, Minn., in July. She has already contacted her grandfather and it has been confirmed that he will be her ball caddy for the trip to Minneapolis.

Delaney will be representing the Ray's Rebels, who bowl out of Kickback n Bowl in East Hampton.

### 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](mailto:dporter@marlboroughct.gov). Applications are available on [www.marlboroughct.gov](http://www.marlboroughct.gov) or in the town clerk's office.

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*It's Prom Night!...* Here are some additional photos from the "Senior Prom" held at Colebrook Village in Hebron last Friday. The event brought RHAM middle and high school students together with Colebrook residents for an evening of music, dancing and conversation.

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*The Happiest Place on Earth...* The Knowlton family, from Portland, brought along the *Rivereast* on a recent trip to Disneyland.



*South of the Border, Down Mexico Way...* The Willard family of Andover recently went to Paradisus Resort in Playa del Carmen, Mexico – and they made sure to bring the *Rivereast* with them!



*The Paper Goes to Paris...* For Moodus resident Nora Myers, 2026 is a year to go and do things – so she brought along her favorite local paper on her trip to Paris!



*Ready for Some Football – in Florida!...* Kitch and Ed Czernicki of Portland are shown here in Florida, for the Citrus Bowl in Daytona Beach!

# Where in the World?

**Going on a trip?  
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## Obituaries

## East Hampton

## William Preston Avery



William Preston Avery, "Bill," 40, died unexpectedly at his home in Belgrade, Maine, on Wednesday, Feb. 11. He was born in Middletown July 9, 1985, to Brian and Ronda (Pelotte) Avery of Belgrade, Maine. Bill graduated from the auto-body technician program at Vinal Technical High School in Middletown.

Bill was a true patriot. He was a man of many interests and talents. He loved the field of security, service and protection. He was employed by Paragon/Ameritas for the past two years as a DHS Security Officer at the Muskie Center in Augusta and Brinks prior to that. He recently had been serving as a proud member of Belgrade Fire and Rescue since 2022, a duty he took very seriously and loved wholeheartedly. He served as a volunteer from the age of 14, starting in the East Hampton Fire Department in Connecticut where his father and uncle, grandfathers and sisters also served. He moved to Haddam Neck Fire Department in Connecticut and served several years there.

Bill was a member of Capital City Gun Club in Augusta, a favorite place to train and have fun. He was an extremely knowledgeable marksman and would share the knowledge with anyone that would seek it. Bill was an avid hunter and bow instructor for the state of Connecticut. He loved the outdoors and fostered in his children self-sufficiency by hunting and fishing and taking care of the land.

He loved his heritage and was declared a warrior at a young age. His native name, given by his grandparents, was Little Bear. He would work security and held the position of fire keeper at Pow Wows from a young age. He enjoyed attending men's council in Northern Maine with his Pepe. He and his sister were flown to Alaska with his Pepe by the governor of Alaska to attend their first Pow Wow which his Pepe helped to organize.

Bill had a deep love for his family, and he never met a stranger. Bill received commendations and awards, most recently from Paragon for helping a woman who was having a medical emergency at the Muskie Center. He received recognition this year from his fire company for being Top Responder (most calls responded to). He put his heart and soul into keeping people safe and secure.

Bill loved to laugh and was always waiting for the next opportunity to crack a joke or pull a prank. He had the ability to put people at ease in any situation and was always a professional.

Bill had an amazing love for his family; his wife and children were his entire world. He was a big kid at heart and loved being involved in his children's activities, making sure other kids were welcomed. Bill loved to be involved in anything that involved others. He was very proud to be a part of the security detail at his church on Sundays and any other time they needed him.

He is predeceased by his brother, Norman James Avery - 12/21/1993.

He is survived by his parents, Brian and Ronda (Pelotte) Avery; his wife and true love, "the one" Diana (Lavoie) Avery; his children, Spirit Avery 15, Aurora Avery 7, Matthew Avery; his sisters, Brandi Rodriguez of East Hampton, Caitlin Avery of Middletown; his brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Steve and Kathy Lavoie of Colorado; nieces, Angel and Cheyenne Rodriguez; nephews, Robert Rodriguez and Milo Lavoie; aunts and uncles, George and Tammi Avery of Franklin, James Pelotte and Kim Davis of East Hampton; grandfather, George Avery Jr. of Willimantic; grandmothers, Lynn Avery

Peszynski and Ruth Pelotte, both of East Hampton; several cousins, close friends and in-laws.

Calling hours will take place at Veilleux Funeral Home, 8 Elm St., Waterville, Maine, on Friday, Feb. 20, from 6-8 p.m. Services and a Celebration of Life will be held Saturday, Feb. 21, at 1 p.m., at Faith Evangelical Church on Kennedy Memorial Drive in Waterville, Maine.

Services are under the care of Veilleux-Redington-Lawry Brothers, 8 Elm St., Waterville. An online guestbook may be signed and memories shared at [www.vrflfuneralhome.com](http://www.vrflfuneralhome.com).

## Colchester

## Aurora B. Nestor



Aurora B. Nestor, of Colchester, passed away Saturday, Feb. 7, surrounded by her loving family, succumbing to complications from her third battle with cancer. She had recently celebrated her 70th birthday. She was born in Zambonga City in the Philippines on Dec. 24, 1955, to the late Prospero and Cecilia Benito.

Aurora met Philip Nestor Jr., a deep-sea diver with the U.S. Navy, in 1981 while he was stationed in the Philippines. Like the characters from the *Sleeping Beauty* fairy tale, Philip and Aurora had a love that other people envied. They married Feb. 19, 1983, and lived in the Philippines until December 1984, then they moved to the United States. They raised their four children in a home full of love and laughter. Aurora worked at Stop & Shop in Colchester after her first battle with cancer for 20 years, where she enjoyed interacting with the customers.

Aurora lived by the motto of 'never lie, cheat or steal,' which she learned from her father. She was stubborn but fair. She was resilient and exemplifies hard work, dedication, and love. She raised her children to work hard and to strive for what you believe in. She had a strong relationship with God and helped foster that same relationship in her children. In her spare time, she enjoyed gardening and would stay outside all day if she could. Each spring, she would meticulously clean the aphids off each of her rose bushes. Her favorite rose was always the Mister Lincoln. She had a unique sense of humor and her love of cooking was shared by her children and grandchildren.

Aurora was a *Tetris* and *Dr. Mario* master, and an aficionado of 3D puzzles. She loved the snow and could be found playing in it with her family, sledding and making snow angels. She was always singing, especially when she was in a good mood.

She will be deeply missed but always remembered with love by her husband Philip of Colchester; her children and their spouses, Ann Benito (Anthony Rowlette), Jaclyn Smith, Stephanie (Eric) Green, Carl (Deborah) Nestor, and Andre Krausz; her grandchildren, Allison, Oskar, Ophelia, Lara, Ayla, Aaron, Tyric, Hollis, and Marsellus; her great-grandchildren, Sophiya, Nyahja, Amari, and Lenox; and numerous extended family members and friends.

Aurora was more than a wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. She is the epitome of a heroine, never allowing her struggles to slow her down, and an inspiration to be relentless and to always follow one's dreams.

"Wherever a beautiful soul has been, there is a trail of beautiful memories." - Ronald Reagan

A visitation will be held Saturday, Feb. 28, from 1-3 p.m., with a memorial service beginning at 3 p.m., at the Aurora McCarthy Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the cancer research center of your choice.

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

## Portland

## Henryka R. Michalewski



Henryka R. Michalewski, 81, of Portland, entered eternal rest on the morning of Thursday, Feb. 5. Born in a farmhouse with a straw-thatched roof on July 14, 1944 to Franciszka and Boleslaw Musial, in the tiny village of Krepa in southern Poland, she was the oldest of five siblings.

Following the war, her family moved to the Nowa Huta section of Krakow, Poland, where she finished high school before immigrating to the United States as a teenager in the early 1960s. She settled in New Britain, working various jobs before ultimately embarking on a 30-plus year career as an assembler and parts inspector at Corbin & Ruswin in Berlin, where she would ultimately retire.

A single mother, she sacrificed tirelessly for the benefit of her son and only child. She lived a quiet, unassuming life, cultivating the American dream for the next generation by living the example of hard work and dedication to family. She moved to Portland in 2019 to live with her son and her grandsons as her health declined.

Henryka is survived by her son and only child, Tomasz Michalewski, his wife Emily, grandsons Mateo and Lucas Michalewski, as well as Joseph and Thomas May, all of Portland. She is also survived by her brother, Hieronim Musial, of Krakow, Poland, in addition to multiple nieces and nephews.

Henryka is predeceased by her younger sister, Boleslawa, and by two younger brothers, Tadeusz and Wieslaw. Funeral services will be held Saturday, Feb. 21, at 11 a.m., at St. Mary Catholic Church in Portland, with burial at a future date.

In her native Polish, the language she taught me and the language we share in our hearts, "Kocham cie, mama. Do zobaczenia." I love you, Mom. Until we meet again.

## East Haddam

## James Edward Dowd Jr.



James Edward Dowd Jr., of East Haddam, formerly of Wallingford, passed away Monday, Feb. 16. He was 84 years old. James was born July 31, 1941, in New Haven. He was a son of the late James and Beryl (Bowman) Dowd Sr. He married his beloved wife, Shirley Cari on August 3, 1963. The couple settled in Wallingford where they made their home and raised their family.

James served with the Wallingford Volunteer Fire Department for several years. In 1997, they moved to their retirement home in East Haddam. He was a 4th Degree Knight with the Spellman Council, Knights of Columbus and a parishioner of St. Andrew Church in Colchester. James retired several years ago after a long and successful career for over 60 years as a member of the Plumbers and Pipe Fitters Union, Local 777. He was a lifetime member of the Fin, Fur and Feather Club, and throughout his life, he loved the outdoors and enjoyed hunting, fishing, and later, watching UConn basketball. Most importantly, his fondest memories were made by spending time with his family.

James will be sadly missed but always remembered with love by all who knew him, especially his wife of 63 years, Shirley; his children and their spouses, James E. Dowd III of Colchester, Andrew Dowd (Christine Wright-Dowd) of Lebanon, Daniel (Emily) Dowd of Jefferson, Va.; a sister, Jacqueline Williams of Sandsprings, Okla.; nine grandchildren, Christopher, Daniel, Timothy, Hannah, Tyler, Shannon and Samantha Dowd, Tyler Swift, Benjamin Ruggiero; five great grandchildren; and numerous extended family members and friends. In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by a son, Kevin Dowd; a grandson, James Dowd IV; and siblings, Thomas, William and Marilyn.

Funeral services will be held at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester, beginning with calling hours on Sunday, Feb. 22, from 1-3 p.m. The funeral Mass will be celebrated Monday, Feb. 23, at 11 a.m., directly at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester. Burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to "COPD Foundation/ learn more, take action and breathe better" at [www.copdfoundation.org](http://www.copdfoundation.org).

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

## Portland

## Frank Rustek

Frank Rustek, 67, of Middletown (formerly of Portland), passed away peacefully, surrounded by his family on Wednesday, Feb. 11, after a courageous battle with cancer. He was the son of the late Frank and Dorothy (Dottie) Rustek.

Frank's greatest joy in life was spending time with his three grandchildren, as well as cooking and talking about sports.

Frank is survived by his wife, Cindy; his daughter, Becky and son-in-law, Mariusz; grandchildren, Olivia, Oliver and Chloe; sister, Marsha Sienna; as well as several nieces, nephews, and cousins. He was predeceased by his brother, Jeffrey.

In lieu of a service, the family asks that you spend quality time with your loved ones, as this is what Frank would have wanted.

## Colchester

## Monica C. Decker



Monica C. Decker, 94, passed away peacefully Saturday, Feb. 15, at Saratoga Hospital in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., after a long journey with Alzheimer's disease. She was born May 28, 1931, in Amsterdam, N.Y., and was the daughter of the late Joseph and Mary (Silka) Tokarowski.

She was a graduate of Wilbur H. Lynch High School. She grew up as the youngest of six children and those siblings were a cherished part of her life, from childhood until each of their passings.

Monica, "Meesh," married the love of her life, Donald Decker, on Nov. 26, 1955. They moved to Rotterdam very early in their life together, and spent the last 50 years of their life in the home they built in 1967. Together, they spent a life filled with devotion, partnership, and shared experiences. She was his steadfast support and trusted partner, managing the day-to-day affairs of their home while he worked in the public eye as a respected newscaster.

A devoted mother, grandmother (Mimi), and great-grandmother, Monica lovingly raised her children and cherished the time she spent babysitting and nurturing her grandchildren as they grew up.

Monica enjoyed traveling to the beach for family vacations, casinos, and any sporting event in which her children, and later grandchildren, participated. She and Don were avid Yankee fans, and her shopping trips with her sisters were a mainstay in her earlier days! She found peace and fulfillment in gardening and took great pride in her yard and home.

A woman of deep faith, Monica was a lifelong and active communicant of St. Gabriel's Church, in Rotterdam.

She is the beloved wife of the late Donald Decker; dear mother of Deborah (Dean) Pearce and Mark (Jamie Roach-Decker) Decker; cherished grandmother of Kyle (Brianna) Pearce, Craig (Emily) Pearce, Corey (Chandler) Pearce, Emily (Steven) Rumpfelt, Ryan (Meaghan) Decker, Patrick (Emily) Decker, and Colby (Anna) Decker; sweet great-grandmother of Ava, Donovan, Milo, Leo, Sebastian, Baxter, Boden and Indiana; sister of the late John Tokarowski, Helen Kris, Millie Januszewski, Stanley Tokarowski, and Frank Tokarowski; sister-in-law of Catherine Brown; aunt of special niece Elizabeth (Donald) Kline. She is survived by several other nieces, nephews and dear family members.

Monica is also survived by her "family" of caregivers at the Home of the Good Shepherd in Saratoga Springs. Her family will forever be grateful for the day-to-day love and care provided her, making it her final "home" for over nine years.

Relatives and friends are invited and may call on Saturday, Feb. 21, from 9-10:30 a.m., at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, 400 Saratoga Rd., Glenville, N.Y. A Mass of Christian Burial will follow at 11 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made "in honor of Monica Decker" to Home of the Good Shepherd, 390 Church Street, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866.

With confidence, the family has placed their trust in the loving care of the Townley & Wheeler Funeral Home, 21 Midline Rd., Ballston Lake, N.Y., and they encourage you to view and leave messages on Monica's Book of Memories at [www.TownleyWheelerFH.com](http://www.TownleyWheelerFH.com).

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## Obituaries

## Lebanon

## Jon Lyman Slate

Jon Lyman Slate, 81, of Lebanon, passed away at home Saturday, Feb. 7. Jon was born in Middletown on Jan. 15, 1945, to Alton Kingsley Slate and Esther "Susie" Atwell Slate, the first of three boys. He grew up in Lebanon on the family farm and attended Lebanon schools, graduating from Lyman Memorial High School in 1963. He then went on to attend Delaware Valley College. Following graduation, Jon worked at Krauselund Farm in Lebanon until 1971, and worked for the USDA until his retirement.



Jon married Susan Meyers in 1969 and they had two children, Kimberly Jo and Jason Louis. He later married Donna Durand Guilbeault. Jon devoted his life to the Slate homestead and farm, which has been in the family for 10 generations. Anything Jon could do himself he did – whether it was making improvements inside the home or removing multiflora rose bushes from the fields. One of Jon's favorite activities was sitting on the long porch and admiring his paradise. In 2011, Connecticut Farmland Trust and the Town of Lebanon partnered to conserve Jon's beloved farm, ensuring that it will remain as the beautiful open space that it is today, just as he admired it.

Jon was predeceased by his parents, his second wife, and his brother, Robert Slate. He leaves behind his daughter (Michael Shaw); his son; his brother & sisters-in-law, Timothy & Linda Slate and Kim Latrobe; nieces and their spouses Wendy & Jon Berman, Kelley & Chris Nakos, and Lindsay & Cyril Green III; nephew Jesse Slate; grandchildren Cole (Laci) Abell, Austin Abell, Stella Shaw, and Tyler Slate; great-grandchildren Hadley Slate and Everett Abell; and great-nephews and nieces Thatcher Berman, Cyril & Rowan Green, and Cody & Kora Nakos. He also leaves behind his close friend, Rodney Dzialo, and companion Sylvia Webb and her daughter, Sylvia Green.

Services will be private and take place at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be given in Jon's name to Connecticut Farmland Trust, 77 Buckingham Street, 3rd floor, Hartford, CT 06106.

## East Hampton

## Donald Robert Roth

Donald Robert Roth (Don Roth), 78, of East Hampton, died Saturday, Feb. 7, surrounded by his family. Born Oct. 26, 1947, in Pittsburgh, Pa., to Otto Robert Roth and Betty Ann Bach, Don built a life shaped by work ethic, creativity, and loyalty to family. He worked in television and video production and later in music promotion, living and working in Pittsburgh, Detroit, and the Washington, D.C. area before settling in Connecticut.



In 1981, he married Joanne. Shortly thereafter they founded Rothchild's Expressions in Glass and grew it into a stained-glass gift manufacturing company with national reach, employing more than 50 people locally at its peak and shipping products worldwide. Don took pride in building jobs in town and giving people a legitimate start. Through a collaboration with Catholic Charities, he helped provide employment for Vietnamese immigrants as they began new lives in the United States. Later, Don and Joanne also founded Serendipity, Etc., an antiques and gift shop that many in town came to know well.

Don was a man of his word: direct, steady, and consistent. If he said he would do something, it got done. He valued fairness and authenticity, and his family was always at the center of his life. He believed in people and encouraged them to rise to what he knew they were capable of.

He loved animals and never passed a turtle in the road without stopping to carry it to safety. At home he adored the family's two pugs, Cornish Rex cats, and four decades of other family pets. With Joanne, he built gardens and a backyard koi pond where he liked to sit quietly, often with a cold Coors Light.

He is survived by his wife, Joanne Roth; his twin sons, Eric Roth and Adam Roth; his stepchildren, Clem Beyer and his wife Jennifer, and Caron Beyer-Csejka and her husband Steve; and his grandchildren, Cyle Beyer, Charlize Beyer, and Celeste Csejka.

A celebration-of-life gathering will be held in the spring.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to Protectors of Animals in East Hartford.

## Hebron

## Patricia Helen Nastalczyk

Patricia Helen Nastalczyk, of Hebron and formerly of Colchester, passed away Thursday, Feb. 17. She was 85 years old. Pat was born April 4, 1940, in Norwich. She was a daughter of the late Peter and Rita (Blanchette) Luccas.



Although Pat retired a few years ago, many people will remember her for her 42 years as a cashier at Tri-Town Foods, followed by 20 years at Noel's Market in Colchester. She will also be remembered for her fondness of butterflies which she wore on her cashier's vest. Pat was a devout Catholic and communicant of St. Andrew Church. In her free time, Pat loved playing bingo.

She will be fondly remembered and deeply missed by her children, Robyn (Stephen) Wlodarczyk of Salem, Lawrence (Janelle) Fedus of Montville; her sister, Joyce (Frank) Novajovski; her grandchildren, Kyle Wlodarczyk, Gabriella, and Colby Fedus; as well as numerous extended family members and friends.

In addition to her parents, she was also preceded in death by her brother, Gary Lucas.

Funeral services will be held at a later date to be announced.

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

## Portland

## Allan B. Goodrich

Allan B. Goodrich of West Newton, Mass., passed away Sunday, Feb. 8. He was born April 30, 1943, in Middletown, youngest son of Frederick W. Goodrich II and Florence (Wilson) Goodrich. He grew up on his family farm in Portland, which grew the popular Connecticut shade tobacco.



He graduated from Portland High School in 1961 and graduated with a B.A. degree in history from Washington & Jefferson College in Washington, Pa., in 1965, while subsequently receiving a senior history award. After graduating with an M.A. degree in history from the University of Massachusetts in Amherst in 1967, he joined the National Archives in 1969 and the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum in 1970.

He began as the library's first audiovisual archivist, responsible for creating the first-ever subzero temperature storage unit for photos and documents. He documented the construction of the present John F. Kennedy Library and Museum in Columbia Point, Dorchester (Boston), from methane emitting landfill to its present form. He helped acquire the historic Josiah Hawes glass negatives of Old Boston. He was the unofficial photographer of seminal events that took place at the library. He became Chief Archivist of the Library in 2003 and received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Archivist of the United States in 2008 for his 40-plus years of distinguished service. He was a trusted advisor to the curator and directors of the library, and a respected colleague and mentor to the staff.

After retiring in 2009, he enjoyed his cats, his summer home in Snug Harbor, R.I., maintaining two gardens, reading, doing crossword puzzles, and organizing the Goodrich family archive for the Portland Historical Society. He was also a 60-year member of the Warren Lodge #51, AF&AM, of Portland.

He leaves his wife of 56 years, Maria Teresa; sons, Frederick III, Peter (and daughter-in-law Alice), and Allan Jr.; grandchildren, Michael and Eleanor; his brother, Donald (and sister-in-law Barbara); and niece, Lindsay.

He was predeceased by his parents and brother Frederick Rossiter.

His family thanks the Adult Leukemia Unit at the Dana Farber Cancer Institute and the physicians and staff at Brigham & Women's Hospital for their care and support of Allan.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

The Portland Historical Society would welcome support on his behalf.

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 March 4, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. at the East Hampton Town Hall – 1 Community Drive, Room 107 and via ZOOM to consider  
PZC-26-001: Tony Flannery, Flannery Row Subdivision, for a three lot Re-subdivision, Map 6/ Block 37/ Lot 1.  
PZC-26-002: Ryan Brodeur, 98 Middletown Avenue, Construct 30' x 50' Garage in Upland Review Area, Map 12/ Block 48C/ Lot 4.  
The file is available for viewing in the Land Use Office 860 267-7450.  
Ray Zatorski, Chairman

2TB 2/20, 2/27

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MIDDLE HADDAM HISTORIC  
DISTRICT COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
THURSDAY, February 26, 2026  
6:30 P.M. AT TOWN HALL  
LEGAL NOTICE

Public hearing will be held to consider the following:  
Application 621 for a Certificate of Appropriateness for David and Anne Loranger of 6 Blacksmith Hill Road, Middle Haddam, to replace failing clapboards and trim with like-for-like wood materials, to replace flashing on three sides of the front second floor with metal counter flashing, to replace the current door knocker with an oil rubbed brass lion door knocker with matching bronze door handle and key set, and to remove the modern pergola from the rear of the house.  
Application 621b for a Certificate of Appropriateness for David and Anne Loranger of 6 Blacksmith Hill Road, Middle Haddam, to repaint their central chimney using existing bricks and to install a bluestone chimney cap.  
The foregoing application is available for public review at the East Hampton Town Hall. At this hearing interested persons may be heard and written communications will be received.

1TB 2/20

LEGAL NOTICE OF ACTIONS  
HEBRON CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
15 GILEAD STREET, HEBRON CT

At its February 12, 2026 meeting, the Hebron Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commission took the following action:  
**Petition 26-03, c/o Logan Thompson, for Richard Zacher, 162 Paper Mill Road, Marlborough, CT.** Notification of Timber Harvest at 541 Paper Mill Road – Jurisdictional determination – **approved**, under Section 4.2a. of the Hebron Inland Wetlands Regulations as a Non-Regulated Use of Right for a Silvicultural operation on a private, PA 490 parcel.  
James P. Cordier, Conservation and Inland Wetlands Agent  
For Thomas Loto, Chairman, Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commission  
<https://transcripts.gotomeeting.com/#!/s/e67f9cc227961103f3353d5e72d984fc5e6bfe08e9e8eb070a00b3b68ac9e2dd>

1TB 2/20

Legal Notice  
Andover Inland Wetlands and  
Watercourses Commission

The Duly Authorized Agent of the Andover Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission **APPROVED** the following application on February 18, 2026:

• Application #IWWC 26-01: Steven Rockefeller, 47 Lakeside Dr. Construction of an 1180 sq. ft. addition on an existing single-family home at 47 Lakeside Dr. Demolition and removal of an existing home at 45 Lakeside Dr. Abandonment of existing septic systems at 47 and 45 Lakeside Dr. Construction of a new septic system and workshop/garage at 47 Lakeside Dr. The above decision may be appealed to the Andover Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission pursuant to Section 12.2 of the Town of Andover Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations, available at [www.andoverconnecticut.org](http://www.andoverconnecticut.org).

Questions: If you have any questions regarding the above notice, please contact the Andover Wetlands Agent at 860-742-7305 x4221 or email [wetlands@andoverct.org](mailto:wetlands@andoverct.org), or buildingadmin@andoverct.org

1TB 2/20

LEGAL NOTICE  
MARLBOROUGH ZONING COMMISSION  
PUBLIC HEARING

The Marlborough Zoning Commission will hold the following Public Hearing Thursday, March 5, 2026, at 7:00 PM at the Town Hall, 26 No Main Street  
**APPLICATION #Z-01-26 – 86 E Hampton Road (Applicant) Farm on Carter Hill (Property Owner) 2026 Public Events**  
Written testimony will be received at the public hearing and written testimony can be sent to the Building/Land Use Department at the Town Hall ahead of the public hearing.  
ERIC COLANTONIO, ZONING COMMISSION CHAIR

2TB 2/20, 2/27

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