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News Bulletin

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Volume 47, Number 04

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March 6, 2026

Taking an Icy Plunge for a Good Cause

By Anne Lilburn

YMCA Camp Ingersoll in Portland got lucky last Saturday, when some unseasonable weather brought temperatures in the low 50s into the area for the camp's 12th annual Chill for Change lake plunge.

Roughly 30 people jumped into a carved-out portion of the still-frozen Jobs Pond, and though the air may have been unseasonably warm, the water, which had been hiding under 16 inches of ice, was not.

Camp Ingersoll Director Ben Silliman said it had taken him over seven hours to cut through the thick ice with a chain saw earlier in the week, and then even more time over the next few days for him and other volunteers to move the cut ice blocks out of the lake.

Eight teams participated this year, many of them dressed in themed attire. Some jumpers, like Silliman himself, had taken the plunge every year of the past 12 years. His team, made up of camp staff, had an "80's prom band" theme, with one dressed in a full denim "Canadian tuxedo" and Silliman dressed in a jacket that he described as having "[the same] pattern of my couch at home. It was floral with a floral shirt underneath it."

"Chill for Change is a fun way to raise funds for camp scholarships," said Michele Rulnick, president and CEO of Northern Middlesex YMCA. "We want all children, regardless of family economic challenges, to be able to attend. This is why we offer a sliding fee scale to families earning under \$100,000. The volunteers who jump in the pond help send hundreds of children to camp."

Caroline Crean, a middle school teacher who



About 30 people gathered at an icy Jobs Pond in Portland last Saturday to take a dip for YMCA Camp Ingersoll's annual Chill for Change. Pictured from left are Ben Silliman (not jumping), Kris Zabrensky, Hannah Barnard, and an airborne Luke DeToro.

lives in Middletown but grew up in East Hampton, said she braved the icy waters because "it's for a great cause."

"I've been working at Camp Ingersoll for the past 10 years," she said, saying that she is cur-

rently the boating director, but started as a counselor. "It really is a magical place that gives kids the opportunity to grow and create relationships with each other and I couldn't imagine donating to a better cause."

She said this was the second time she had made the plunge, and she said she was feeling invigorated.

"I'm raring and ready to go with the rest of my day, for sure," she said.

It was the first time jumping in for David Lyon, who works for the Northern Middlesex YMCA in their finance department. His team's name was "Cold Hard Cash."

"I'm a new hire, so I figure I can't say no," he said.

"It wasn't so bad. I think I would do it again next year," he said, adding that his toes definitely felt the cold.

Bill Hall, a Y member who works at Middlesex United Way, said it was his second year jumping.

"The weather really helped" this year, he said, adding that he has done the East Hampton Turkey Plunge and prefers this one, where you jump in, instead of walking in.

"You just rip the Band-Aid off," he said. "You get it done with."

Silliman, the camp director, said that he been involved with the event since the beginning, having come up with the idea alongside former director Tony Sharillo. This year, though, stood out, he said.

"Not many years do you have, like, bluebird sky and 50 degrees," he said.

With that said, the large snowfalls leading up to the event made the planning and preparation a bit more complicated, according to Silliman.

"It was definitely the most work we've ever had to put in," he said, adding that he had to go back and re-cut the ice that he had cut just a few

See Icy Plunge, page 7

Area Students Invent a Better Future

By Toriana Williams

On Feb. 25, RHAM High School was transformed into a showcase of imagination and resourcefulness as it hosted its first regional semifinals for the Invention Convention.

Students from Andover, Hebron and Marlborough elementary schools filled the space with display boards, prototypes and carefully rehearsed presentations. In total, 36 semi-finalist projects were presented, with 11 earning a place at the upcoming state finals at the University of Connecticut.

Across grades K-6, students approached everyday challenges with new perspectives and determination. From Marlborough Elementary School, fourth graders Lily Bascetta and Logan Kurtzman introduced the "Desk Butler 3000," a compact desk organizer created to reduce classroom interruptions.

"When people were getting up to get a tissue ... it distracted the teacher which stopped the learning," Bascetta explained. Their solution combined a cereal container repurposed as a waste bin, a pencil sharpener, an organizer caddy, a cup holder and a clamp to secure the

device to a desk.

Having participated in the convention the year before, the pair said the process of identifying a problem and building a solution was "a lot of fun." Their experience culminated in one of the 11 finalist selections.

Second grader and finalist Olivia Mikulak, also from Marlborough, focused her attention outdoors with "The Bee Warmer," a wooden structure fitted with polycarbonate to help bees survive winter temperatures. Inspired by her family's own beehive, Mikulak noticed the toll that cold weather took on bees.

"I really love my bees and don't want them to die," she said.

The polycarbonate material, commonly used in skylights and greenhouses, provides warmth when exposed to sunlight, a small but thoughtful invention rooted in care.

Fellow Marlborough second grader and finalist Alexandria Wyberanec addressed a modern challenge with the "Screentimajig," a device holder fitted with a timer and motivational notepad to encourage healthier screen habits.

Drawing from her own experience, Wyberanec designed the invention to prompt users to "do something more interesting" or reflect on the effects of excessive screen time.

Sixth graders Keagan Bride and Daniel Rayman developed the "Bounce Back Buddy," a pitching and ball-retrieval system intended to make baseball practice more efficient and inclusive. Built from wood and netting attached to a pitching machine, the structure took three weeks to construct. The pair, with clear excitement written across their faces, described earning a finalist spot as feeling "pretty good," a simple phrase that carried the weight of weeks of effort.

Hebron Elementary students also advanced to the finals. Third grader Sophia Sottile's "360 Stylist" responded to the question posed on her board: "Have you ever felt like you need four hands for styling your hair in the morning?" Her design included a supply tray, shoulder straps, accessory pouches and a mirror, keeping "everything in sight, every accessory in reach."

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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 in search of new supplies? Then this is the event for you! For more information, call the church at 860-742-7696.

Preschool Openings

Andover Elementary School Early Learning Center is accepting applications for preschool students for the 2026-27 school year. Andover's preschool program is full day. Before and after-school care is available. Children who will be age 3 on or before Dec. 31, 2026, are eligible to attend at the start of the year. The Andover Elementary School Early Learning Center receives funding for reduced tuition rates from two state grants: Early Start CT and the Smart Start Grant. Call Taylor Parker for more information or contact the school office at 860-742-7339 to obtain a registration packet. You may also download one from www.andoverelementaryct.org.

Andover Egg Grab!

The Andover Recreation Commission is sponsoring its annual Egg Grab on Saturday, March 28, beginning promptly at 1 p.m. The event is held outdoors behind Andover Elementary School; in case of inclement weather, it will be moved inside. Children 12 and under are welcome to attend and will be separated into appropriate age groups to hunt for plastic eggs filled with treats. Please bring your own bag or basket to collect the eggs.

Library Friends Offer Scholarship

The Andover Friends of the Library group is offering a \$1,000 scholarship to an Andover high school senior. Applications are due May 1, and are available at the guidance office at RHAM High School, at the Andover Public Library, 355 Route 6, and on the town website at tinyurl.com/2huzen57. Completed applications must be dropped off at the library or emailed to the Friends at andoverfol@gmail.com. The applicant must be currently enrolled as a senior in any high school, use the scholarship to further their education, and hold a valid Andover library card. For more information call the library at 860-742-7428 or email the Friends at andoverfol@gmail.com.

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.

Scholarship Opportunity

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

bury, Manchester, Middletown, Vernon, Storr and Windsor Locks are also eligible for the scholarship. Applications with the submittal instructions are available at the guidance department of the attending school. All completed applications must be received by April 1 to be considered.

Congregational Church News

Andover Congregational Church, UCC, located at 359 Route 6, invites all to worship, held Sundays at 10 a.m. All are welcome. The service also streams live on the church's Facebook page (First Congregational Church, Andover, CT). For more information, call the church office at 860-742-7696, email andoverctchurch@gmail.com or visit www.andoverctchurch.org. **Children's Church:** Is provided. **Choir:** At 9 a.m. Sundays in the sanctuary.

Food Pantry: Mondays from 5-7 p.m. Bring your own bags. The **Foodshare Van** comes to the church every other Wednesday from 8:30-10 a.m.; **Senior Pantry** is on the opposite Wednesdays. **AA Meetings:** Saturdays and Mondays, 7 p.m. **Sonshine Stampers:** Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m. **Upcoming:** March 28, Tag Sale, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Items Needed for Auction

The Andover Youth Basketball Program will hold a goods and services auction Friday, May 8, to raise funds for equipment and other program needs. If you would like to donate a gift certificate or an item to auction, call Carol Lee at 860-989-6988.

Bingo & Basket Raffle Night

Andover Congregational Church, 359 Route 6, will hold a Bingo & Basket Raffle Night on Friday, March 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.

Easter Plant, Bake Sale

The Andover Volunteer Fire Department will hold its annual Easter Plant Sale and Bake Sale Thursday, April 2, through Saturday, April 4, from 10 a.m.-6 p.m., on Easter Sunday, April 5, from 10 a.m.-noon, at the firehouse on School Road. There will be many plants to choose from – including lilies, tulips, hyacinths, hydrangeas, daffodils, spring baskets, pansies and more – as well as various tasty treats.

Learn CPR

All are invited to learn CPR Sunday, March 15, from 10 a.m.-noon at the Andover Volunteer Fire Department. This Heartsaver CPR class cost is \$20 and includes use of training materials, CPR/AED/Choking for adults/child/infant and 2-year certification from the American Heart Association. Registration is required. Call Mindy Hegener at 860-706-3074.

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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.andover-connecticut.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.

Transportation: Call 860-498-2326 to schedule transportation. Provide a one-week notice for all appointment requests. All seniors, veterans, and disabled are welcome. Driver shifts end at 5 p.m., so plan accordingly.

Regular Weekly and Monthly Programs: For a list of regular weekly and monthly events, such as Movies, Luncheons and Special Speak-

ers, Puzzles and Pizza, 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 3/10 and 3/24, and Manchester on 3/3, 3/17 and 3/31. Transportation is available.

Cardio Drumming: Tuesdays, 10-11 a.m. Fee is \$7.

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

New Shopping Trip!: Thursday, March 19, departing at 8:30 a.m., for Trader Joe's and Michaels in Manchester:

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.

Casino Trip: Friday, March 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.

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.

Sheena the Therapy Dog

All are invited to come visit Sheena the Therapy Dog at Andover Library on Saturday, March 14, from 11 a.m.-noon.

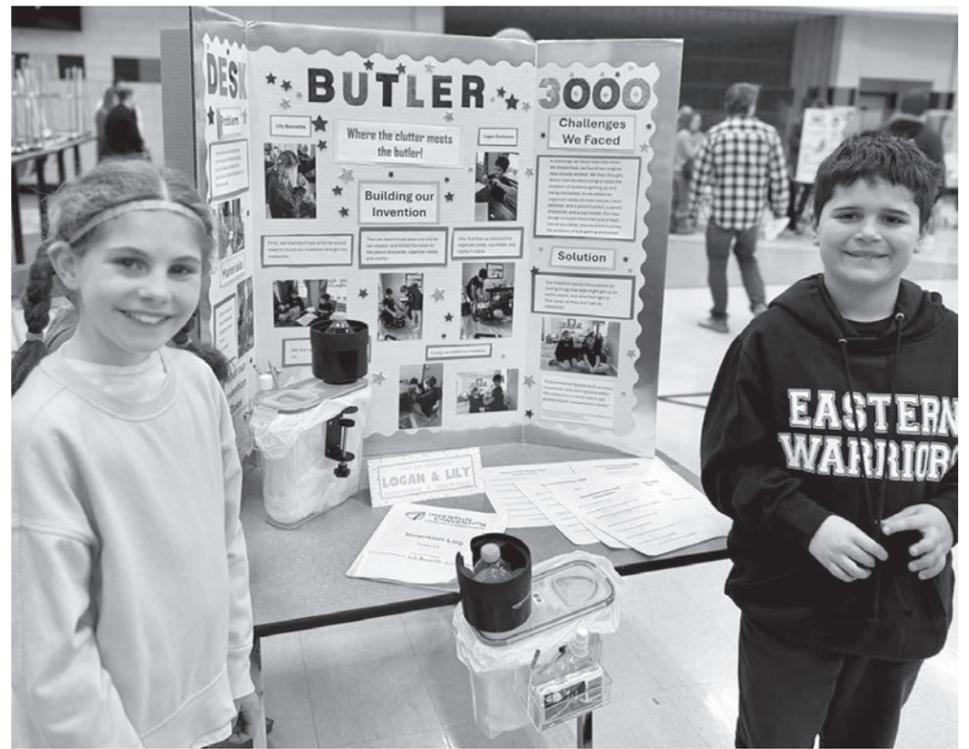
Sheena, Queen of the Jungle, will be at the library, 355 Route 6, with her handler, Andover Friends of the Library member, Dr. Jenifer Nadeau. Come read to Sheena or just visit her!

Historical Music Program

Andover Public Library, located at 355 Route 6, welcomes Rick Spencer & Dawn Indermuehle for a historical music program on Wednesday, March 11, at 6:30 p.m.

Spencer and Indermuehle will debut a brand-new program they have put together to celebrate America 250, "From Colony to Constitutional Republic: Songs of America's Transition." This program will include songs that were popular during the Colonial period, the American Revolution, and the early American Republic, and there will also be historic information on the evolution of these songs from colonial days to independence.

While an RSVP isn't required, it is requested for planning purposes, by calling 860-742-7428.



Lily Bascetta and Logan Kurtzman solved an everyday problem within classrooms by merging a waste bin container, pencil sharpener and cup holder, winning them one of the 11 finalist projects going to state competitions.

★ Better Future, cont. from page

Fifth graders and fellow finalists Charlotte Hood and Ellie Tillona created the "Broken Handle Helper," a lightweight, hands-free carrying aid for students with injuries. Hood and Tillona drew from personal experience after breaking their arm, leg and wrist.

"I was dropping things, leaving things behind," Hood shared when recalling her story of traversing the school halls with an injury. After developing three prototypes, the pair settled on a design that could also function as a mobile desk throughout school. Both said partnership was their favorite part of the process, emphasizing collaboration alongside creativity.

From Andover Elementary, third grader Clara Rockefeller designed the "Shelf Space," an expandable bookshelf inspired by her love of reading and the constant challenge of limited room which caused book-stacking. Presenting her invention to classmates and hearing their feedback was her favorite part of the process.

MacArthur Burns introduced "Spec Pets," a stuffed animal keychain designed to store eyeglass-cleaning supplies, combining practicality with personality. He particularly enjoyed selecting which stuffed animals to feature as prototypes.

Mary Rose Meade, director of curriculum and instruction for RHAM, described the Invention Convention as a meaningful oppor-

tunity to unite the community while fostering creativity, critical thinking and perseverance.

"These are things that enrich their lives," she said. "They help them see that the whole world is their classroom."

Special guest speaker and Hebron inventor Mark Roser reinforced that message by emphasizing resilience. Reflecting on his own path, he noted that many ideas preceded his successes.

"Failure is a perspective," Roser said. "It's a choice to try something new." His remarks underscored a shared theme throughout the event: innovation is as much about persistence as inspiration.

Judges included professionals in engineering, industrial design, technology education and civil engineering, along with RHAM engineering students. Their presence connected classroom creativity to broader professional fields, offering students a glimpse where curiosity can lead.

As the evening concluded, the inventions were carefully packed away, but the momentum continued. The 11 finalists now look forward to the state competition at the University of Connecticut. They carry with them not only prototypes and presentation boards, but also the early foundations of inquiry, resilience and possibility.

Other Invention Convention finalists included Charlotte Tucker with "The Taco Hugger," Weston Loteczka with the "Tip Top Bandage," Magnolia Godwin with the "Chrome Saver," Mason Morse with the "Hot Dog" and Owen Kelly and Holden Badeau with the "Slide Snap Leash."

See More Photos on, page 25

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RES-6-26

From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

By Mike Thompson

A couple different letters to the editor this week suggested that perhaps the Town of Colchester should've postponed last Tuesday's referendum on the athletic complex and repairs to the Bacon Academy roof, as the town was still cleaning up from the previous day's heavy snowstorm. There was speculation the wintry conditions had an adverse effect on voter turnout.

That got me thinking though: Did it really? Don't get me wrong; driving in to work last Tuesday morning was no picnic, and that was in the Hartford area, which got hit relatively less than Colchester did. Schools were closed, and rightly so. But I also know the Colchester public works team was hard at work making Town Hall accessible, so that voters could cast their ballots. Polls were also open that day until 8 p.m., giving people ample time for road conditions to improve.

And when all was said and done, it looked like about as many people came out to vote as usual.

The vote on the athletic complex was close, which I had expected, as it's been a rather controversial project. Ultimately, the complex passed, 1,042 to 927. That means 1,969 people showed up to cast ballots.

How does that turnout stack up against other referendums? It turns out, pretty favorably.

Last June, the proposed 2025-26 town budget passed 1,281 to 700 – a turnout of 1,981 voters. The year before, June 2024, the town budget passed 1,298 to 952 – a turnout of 2,210. Which, yes, is higher – it was in fact the highest turnout a Colchester referendum had

seen since 2021 – but still equaled a turnout rate of just under 20 percent.

In June 2023, when the budget was rejected at its first referendum, a total of 2,076 voters showed up.

Okay, now how does last week's vote compare to non-budget referendums? I admit it's a little less, but not notably so. When the \$9.5 million new senior center was passed in 2021 – or about \$11.4 million in today's money – a total of 2,272 voters showed up. Obviously higher than 1,969 – but still a turnout rate of just under 20 percent. The sad truth is that unless it's the Tuesday after the first Monday in November – a.k.a. Election Day – not a ton of people typically show up at polls.

So if the weather had been better last Tuesday, would more people have voted in Colchester? I think the answer is.....maybe? Based on an analysis of past referendums, I don't think you can definitively say that.

But even if it proved to be true, I think the project would've passed anyway. In my experience with referendums – and I've been doing this for more than 20 years, folks – when the weather is questionable, it tends to suppress the 'yes' vote more than anything else. The 'no' votes tend to show up, come hell or high water – or in this case, snow or high water.

At the end of the day, Colchester voters approved the athletic complex – and I think that would've happened regardless of the weather.

See you next week.

Bulletin Board

Well, the 2026 Winter Olympics are over.

I admit, I'll miss them. The competitions were a welcome relief from what's typically on television. It also, at least temporarily, diverted me from puzzling over why the state budget would bestow \$5,000 of our hard-earned money on an organization called Jeep Enthusiasts of America, or provide hundreds of thousands of more dollars to "nonprofits" that aren't even registered with the state and whose missions seems to be a mystery even to lawmakers.

But back to the Olympics.

As expected, I particularly enjoyed cheering on the U.S. Women's Curling Team, even though I don't understand all the nuances of the sport. It seems like sort of a cross between shuffleboard and Italian bocce played on ice with big stones, though I'm still trying to figure out how you steal points from the other team. The U.S. Hockey Teams were also great to watch and I guess just about everybody likes the figure skating.

I was left with some questions, however, about these maniacs who launch themselves off ramps on skis or snowboards and perform aerial aerobatics—twisting and somersaulting through the air high above the slope – and then try to land (usually successfully, by some miracle I am unable to fathom) on their feet on the mountainside without (apparently) losing control of their bladders.

My main question for anyone who indulges in this sort of insanity is pretty basic.

Where in the world is your mother?

Do you even have parents?

Were you kidnapped from your happy home and raised by lunatic circus performers from Alaska?

(Okay, three or more main questions, but all basically to the same point.)

What I mean to say is, how did you ever get to this point without some sort of parental intervention years earlier at the inception of your madness?

Okay, I realize kids are stupid. I know this from personal experience. Few kids could have been more stupid (stupider?) than I was. But never in my wildest exercises of adolescent stupidity did it ever occur to me that it might be fun to strap on a pair of skis and attempt to do flips and aerobatics off the garage roof.

And even if I did suffer some such fit of madness, I would like to think that my parents would have intervened (if only to prevent damage to the garage roof). Lord knows they intervened in plenty of other childhood escapades. (Seriously, if the Olympics had a "Fool Around with Matches" event I'd be on a Wheaties box.)

Happily, my own two boys turned out to be relatively sane – meaning they didn't go out of their way to annoy me by routinely threatening to become paraplegics. Not to say they were sissies or anything. They just weren't stupid, or at least not stupid enough to be stupid where I might notice it.

By the way, should Connecticut now consider the term "sissy" to be hate speech, I'd like to note for the record that many of my best friends act like sissies from time to time. In fact, I myself keep my eyes tightly closed whenever confronted with one of those terrifying "Miracle of Human Birth" (also known as "Here Comes Baby!") films, a reaction which my wife says marks me as a Sissy First Class. I don't care. The whole birth thing is extremely unsettling from a visual standpoint.

Finally, returning to the Olympics. In what may or may not be stupid per se – but is certainly a convincing demonstration of questionable judgement – the 2026 Winter Olympics offer us U.S. Alpine ski racer Lindsey Vonn.

The 41-year-old champion (who wisely retired in 2019 due to pain and multiple surgeries on her knee) unwisely (in my opinion) returned to competition a little over a year ago despite a partial knee replacement. This seems more than a little rash to me, but of course she was lionized by the American media, which wasn't about to let good sense get in the way of a good story. But then, just before the Olympics, Vonn tore her ACL.

In what was widely touted in the media as an example of her indomitable grit, she went ahead and skied anyway. Thirteen seconds into her first run, she crashed on the slope, was medevacked by helicopter and damn near had to have her leg amputated. And that was the end of that little feel-good story.

All I can say is, I admire grit, but sometimes it's smarter to be a sissy.

Jim Hallas

Riverast Hours of Operation

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



Congrats, Girls!... The Andover 3rd and 4th grade girls basketball team finished its 2025-26 season undefeated – and on Saturday they won the championship game!

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

Correction

In last week's story on the proposed Colchester school budget increase, both the headline and the opening line indicated the Board of Education had proposed the increase. This is not correct. The 10.5% budget increase was proposed by the Colchester superintendent of schools, and not the Board of Education itself. The board has not yet adopted the budget and sent it to the Board of Finance.

The *Riverast* regrets the error.

Thank You Colchester!

To the Editor:

Thank you to all who came out to vote in our referendum last Tuesday!

Thank you for voting to make the much-needed capital investments into our town!

The discussion of the fields at Bacon Academy have been happening for at least two decades and the need for the roof at the high school for about a decade. Our town can look forward to Friday night lights, playoff games and another level of community pride and spirit.

The recreation complex has also been overdue for upgrades and renovations. It may be time to take up tennis, learn pickleball, and enjoy the new concession stand while at the upgraded splash pad or while participating in our many recreational activities.

This investment into the infrastructure of our town benefits businesses, homeowners, and all residents.

Thank you!

Marguerite Gignac
Colchester

Vote Should Have Been Postponed

To the Editor:

The vote for the school turf field was by no means a slam dunk. Due to the bad weather a lot of people didn't show, for obvious reasons.

The date should have been postponed so all parties had an opportunity to voice their opinion. I believe the outcome would have been different, because come hell or high water, those in favor made sure they would show up.

I am no Nostradamus, but I predicted it would pass due to the inclement weather, the final count was close enough for there to be another vote on this issue.

Frank Grande
Colchester

Speak Up ... Please

To the Editor:

Do you want strip malls throughout town? Do you want Route 66 looking like the Berlin Turnpike? Do you want big and bigger box stores and buildings that will take away the small-town rural character? Do you want open space to be developed so we look like Glastonbury or Enfield? Enfield started out with many fields and open space, and now it is so over grown with development that took away its character, its beautiful scenario. Do you want East Hampton to be overdeveloped?

The town is now revising the Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) which will lay out how we want our town to look. Fill out the POCD Community Survey and attend the POCD discussions on 3/11 and 3/12, found at www.easthamptonct.gov. You can also get a hard

RIVEREAST

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

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copy at Town Hall. Speak up for how you want our town to look. Speak up if you want to preserve our small-town quality of life, our small-town character, our open spaces that make our town so beautiful. Speak up by writing to Juliet Hodge our town planner, a leader in this effort (JHodge@EastHamptonct.gov), and to our Town Council. Go to easthamptonct.gov, click on 'Departments.' Look for the Town Council's Office and scroll down to find the email address for the full council.

Please voice your concerns, and voice your desires for the way you want our town to look going forward. Please don't wait until it is too late and our town is so overdeveloped, as it already has started. It will not look like the East Hampton you grew up in or moved here for – the small-town rural quality of life with beautiful open spaces and quiet neighborhoods. Please speak up.

**Thank you,
Beth Angel
East Hampton**

Collaboration Through the Budget Season

To the Editor:

Once more unto the breach, dear friends. Last week, the East Hampton Board of Education voted unanimously to forward its budget proposal to the Board of Finance, requesting a 4.81% increase over FY2026. For comparison, many districts across the state are calling for as much as 10% increases, and our local request is well below most.

The budget preserves the quality of education that East Hampton families have come to expect and deserve. Unfortunately, it does not reinstate many of the positions lost last year through layoffs and attrition. The Board is working to be cognizant of its taxpayers while also addressing the annual increases that come through the rising cost of special education, transportation, facilities, and energy.

But the hurdles are greater this year. Like everyone else across the country, East Hampton is facing huge rises in insurance premiums, anywhere from 15 to 30%. Adding to that are state mandates (many unfunded) and a dysfunctional federal Department of Education that provides minimal support.

The proposed state budget does not help the situation much. Funding for schools is determined by the Educational Cost Sharing (ECS) grant, doling out aid based on need. It's been 12 years since the ECS formula was established, which does not address more than a decade of inflation. In effect, the amount the state grants town like East Hampton decreases annually, putting more of the burden on local taxpayers.

The East Hampton Board of Education is not sitting on its laurels. Members are lobbying our representatives and the governor to adjust the ECS formula during the current legislative session.

Additionally, the well-known state budget surplus could provide tax relief to communities. Last year, the state added \$40 million in surplus funds to towns for special education excess costs. While appreciated, that money was hardly effective given there are 169 municipalities all seeking aid.

More is needed, and it's time to get loud. It's not an isolated problem, so let's make it a regional effort.

The state can expect to hear plenty from

East Hampton. I encourage leaders in other Riverast towns to put similar pressure on their representatives and the Governor's office. We are stronger when we collaborate.

School funding and tax relief are nonpartisan issues. As budget season gets underway, let's all work together for common sense solutions.

**Sincerely,
Matt Engelhardt
East Hampton**

Note: Engelhardt is a member of the East Hampton Board of Education, but is writing as an individual.

Time Capsule Items to be Returned

To the Editor:

Twenty-six years ago, my 1999-2000 fifth-grade class at Marlborough Elementary created a time capsule to be opened on Feb. 28, 2025, a date agreed to by all of the students. Well, the opening took place on Feb. 28, 2025, just as planned!

The students in 2000 as well as those who attended the opening on 2/28/25 were told that they had until Feb. 28, 2026, to retrieve any items donated if they so chose. This is a reminder for those students that the items are available until March 28, 2026, at Town Hall.

The administrative assistant to the town manager has the items, and all that has to be done to retrieve the item(s) is to have her look at the list of contributions by each student. Tell her your name and what you contributed and she will check the list. Retrieve your item(s) from the box to take along with you. It's that simple.

Hopefully many got to see the attractive display at the Town Hall over these past 12 months. It received rave reviews by all who saw it.

I'd like to thank all of her former students for creating this Time Capsule in 2000 as a way to commemorate the turning of the century, for choosing items that depicted what life was like in 2000, and to those who could attend the opening thank you for coming! It was great to see all of you again!

**Debbie Bourbeau
Marlborough**

Vote No March 10

East Hampton Neighbors:

Come in person to the special town meeting March 10 at 6 p.m. and vote 'no,' to stop the purchase of lot 292 West High St. (Route 66 near Cobalt)

Why: The land is a needed step in the plan to bring abiosolid plant to East Hampton.

How Do You Know?: It is all laid out, step by step, in a town memo. Go to the town website, then click on Departments, Water Pollution Control Authority, and Biosolids Information. Download and read the June 6, 2025, memorandum from the WPCA to the town manager.

The memo states this process started August 2024. The town has already met with DEEP to discuss permitting. The estimated project costs \$120 million. There would be the elimination of

the Pine Brook Aquifer Protection Zone, and a zone change is needed to "Industrial."

How Do You Know?: The site plans shared with the P&Z Jan 7, 2026 – PZC-25-015:8-24 Review Joint Facilities Property Acquisitions, 288 & 292 West High St. – show big changes.

It seems the town is well on its way and there is a lot more to uncover.

There must be a bigger story here.

Once you cut down all the trees, shielding the existing WPCA and add \$120 Million dollars of infrastructure, what kind of "Welcome Home to East Hampton" will we have?

Come in person to the special town meeting March 10 at 6 p.m. and vote 'no' to stop the purchase of lot 292 West High St. (Route 66 near Cobalt)

**Douglas Mackeown
East Hampton**

Protect East Hampton — Vote No on March 10

To the Editor:

On March 10 at 6 p.m. at Town Hall, residents will be asked at a Special Town Meeting to approve the expenditure of \$105,000 to purchase 292 West High St. "for use in relation to future improvements at the wastewater treatment plant." Only months ago, residents spoke loudly and clearly in opposition to expanding sewer service areas. The Town Council responded by rejecting that proposal. Many believed that decision reflected the will of the community, preserved East Hampton's rural character, and settled the issue, at least for the foreseeable future.

Now, after residents turned out in large numbers to oppose sewer expansion and were told it would not move forward, the council is advancing the purchase of land directly adjacent to the wastewater treatment plant for future improvements. While this vote does not immediately expand sewer lines, land acquisitions next to treatment facilities are rarely incidental. They are typically undertaken to support plant expansion, increased capacity, or future growth. If we truly do not intend to expand sewer service, why is additional land for plant expansion necessary?

East Hampton is not, and should not become, the Mattabassett District along Route 9. Residents have repeatedly expressed that they value our small-town, rural character. Large-scale wastewater capacity drives density. Density drives development. Once that infrastructure is in place, the character of a town changes permanently. The WPCA and the Town Council must listen to the taxpayers who came out in strong

numbers to make their voices heard. Major infrastructure decisions should reflect the clearly expressed will of the community — not move ahead in ways that appear inconsistent with it.

For these reasons, I encourage residents to attend the March 10 Special Town Meeting and vote 'no' on this acquisition.

**Respectfully,
Ted Hintz, Member
East Hampton Town Council**

Modernization, Not Expansion

To the Editor:

The Joint Facilities Committee, the multi-town board that oversees the Water Pollution Control Facility, voted unanimously to acquire 292 West High Street. The Joint Facilities is permitted for 3.90 million gallons per day. The land will be utilized for modernization, *not* expansion. The capacity will remain 3.90 million gallons per day. The current facility, originally constructed in 1980, has been operating outside its intended design parameters for decades. Due to its age and more stringent state requirements, the facility desperately needs an upgrade. With rapidly deteriorating infrastructure and continued evolving state requirements modernization is essential to maintain compliance, protect public health, safeguard local waterways, reduce future costs and ensure compliance for generations to come.

The acquisition of the adjacent property is necessary to implement the upgrades in a cost-effective, efficient, and operationally responsible manner. By securing this property, major treatment components can be constructed offline, separate from existing processes, with no interruptions to current operations. This streamlines construction, reduces operational risk, and minimizes the likelihood of service disruptions and regulatory non-compliance.

Building offline will reduce project costs. Construction within the footprint of the existing facility would require complex phasing, temporary bypass systems, and heightened controls to work around active treatment units. These measures substantially increase labor, equipment, and expenses. In contrast, constructing new on the adjacent property allows for conventional construction methods, improved contractor access, shorter project timelines and reduced costs.

Without the additional land, several structurally sound existing structures will need to be demolished. Demolition adds time and significant

See Letters, page 6



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The "East of the River" Real Estate Report

How Long Are Homes Taking to Sell Right Now?

One of the most common questions homeowners ask is: How fast are homes selling right now? Looking at February's numbers, homes are still moving relatively quickly — but the answer also depends on whether you focus on just one month or zoom out to the bigger picture.

For the month of February, the median days on market across the entire MLS (state-wide) was 19 days. Locally, the numbers were even lower in several towns, with some homes going under contract in about a week.

However, one month of data can sometimes exaggerate short-term shifts. When we expand the view to the past 12 months, the statewide median days on market is 10 days. Locally over the past year, most towns have hovered between 6 and 10 days.

What does that tell us?

Homes in this area are selling faster than the state averages and homes that are priced appropriately and prepared properly are still selling quickly. But speed varies by price point, condition, and pricing strategy. Some homes go under contract in days. Others take longer if pricing or presentation misses the mark.

The takeaway isn't just how fast homes are selling — it's whether your home would be positioned to sell within that faster window.

In today's market, preparation and pricing still determine pace.

Market Snapshot – Past Week

<p>Hebron, Andover, Marlborough, Colchester, East Hampton & Portland</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Single-Family Homes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 homes sold • Average sale price: \$361,000 • Average sale-to-list ratio: 100% • Average days on market: 76 days • Median days on market: 22 days 	<p style="text-align: center;">Condos</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No condo sales reported this week <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Results vary by price point, condition, and pricing strategy.</i></p>
---	--

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★ Letters, cont. from page 5

capital cost while eliminating the opportunity to repurpose existing structures. Repurposing existing structures reduces capital costs by maximizing prior public investment, particularly state and federal grants, while reducing material waste and greenhouse gasses. Repurposing these structures is fiscally responsible and environmentally sustainable; however, this is only feasible if new treatment components can be constructed outside the current operational footprint. Planning for adaptability now will prevent the need for more disruptive and costly land acquisitions or additional facility modifications in the future.

In summary, the proposed land purchase is essential to ensure a cost-effective, constructible, and sustainable project to modernize the nearly 50-year-old facility. The additional land allows for offline construction which reduces the overall costs by streamlining construction and positions the Joint Facilities to meet the needs of East Hampton, Colchester, Hebron, Marlborough and Lebanon for generations to come.

Thanks,
Anthony DeSimone, P.E.
Public Utilities Administrator
Colchester/East Hampton Joint Facilities
WPCF

The Race is On, Part II

To the Editor:

“If water is not extracted in a sustainable manner, the water table may drop permanently.... Groundwater depletion occurs when the rate of groundwater extraction through wells is higher than the rate of replenishment from pre-

cipitation.” – *National Geographic*

As humans push for additional housing and development, we face greater strains on our resources. Not all towns will be able to compete. We’re living through a time of great changes and water will once again be front and center. Fryeburg, Maine may have experienced water shortages due to drought, however, many feel the water table has been depleted by a bottling company whose been draining, the legal limit, from aquifers for many years.

Chronically lowering the amount of water in aquifers, faster than it can be replaced, creates shortages. These shortages may not show up immediately, but extracting excess water begins a cycle of depletion. Depletion that eventually lowers the surrounding water table. Spending more than you earn, means, eventually, your savings will dry up. Lowering aquifer levels, by overburdening wells, causes the surrounding groundwaters to shift and gravity does the rest. The more and more groundwaters shift, to replenish the aquifer, the more and more the surrounding water table drops. Lowering aquifer levels also contributes to associated down gradient wells coming up short.

What can we do to protect water tables? Go native. Native trees and plants have deeper roots that channel and store water. Support Open Space purchases, especially properties, like the Raymond Book Watershed, with extremely high water tables and high functioning wetlands. Consider two-acre zoning, with modest homes, private wells and individual water responsibilities. This limits the size of the population while putting less strain on all our resources.

Tapping aquifers is easy. Long term planning to successfully balance between extraction and

replacement is complex. However, without establishing a balance, Nature will establish that balance for us. If we overburden our aquifers, she’ll deprive surrounding land and wells of water. We have it good in Hebron but, occasionally, we don’t have enough water. Ignoring drought years, like 2020, and water tables that run 0-24”, would be foolish. Its easy to lose the race by over draining wells, over developing towns and over salting surfaces. Why not win the race by safeguarding our water, natural resources and the old Horton property (17 Kinney) located on the Raymond Brook Watershed? #save17

Jean Tulumieri
Amston

Questions of Oversight and Timing

To the Editor:

Colchester residents recently learned that the Board of Education unanimously authorized a forensic audit of the Insurance Reserve Fund. At the same time, we are told the health reserve may be nearly \$1 million short and could be depleted before the end of this fiscal year. The district is now under a soft budget freeze.

That should concern every taxpayer.

Reserve funds exist to protect the public from volatility. They prevent unexpected costs from becoming immediate tax increases. When a reserve approaches depletion and requires a forensic review, that is not routine. It signals that major financial controls broke down.

The superintendent is requesting a 10.5 percent budget increase, approximately \$4.75 million. For my household, that means more than \$500 per year in additional local taxes.

For years, residents raised concerns about spending trends and long-term sustainability. Those warnings were dismissed. They were rooted in a basic financial truth: recurring obligations must be matched by disciplined, forward-looking planning.

Leadership responsibility does not reset when titles change. The former Board of Education chair now serves on the Board of Finance, the body charged with reviewing this increase and protecting townwide fiscal stability. With a major reserve under forensic examination and a projected \$1 million shortfall, residents should expect rigorous and independent oversight.

Before taxpayers are asked to absorb millions in additional spending, they deserve clear answers. How did this shortfall develop? Why was it not identified sooner? What specific controls will prevent it from happening again?

It is also worth noting that the recent athletic complex referendum proceeded despite extraordinary winter conditions and was not rescheduled. Given the extraordinary emerging news regarding the forensic audit, residents are left with reasonable questions about timing and communication. Transparency builds trust. Silence erodes it.

Colchester families plan for the future. Town government must do the same.

Michael Dubreuil
Colchester

Marlborough Budget

To the Editor:

Over the course of the next few weeks, the Marlborough Board of Finance will be reviewing the budgets as prepared by the Board of Education and the Town of Marlborough, along with RHAM’s budget. These budgets include both the operations budgets for FY2026-27 and Capital expenditures as well.

I am pleased to see members of the public attend the Board of Finance budget workshops either in person or via Zoom, and I would encourage everyone to take the time to listen to these workshops and provide your thoughts on next year’s budget.

As a member of the Board of Finance, I do my best to ensure that the budgets are thoroughly reviewed and that the end result meets the needs of our community while keeping things as affordable as possible. But, it is extremely helpful to receive your input as we go through this process.

Upcoming meetings of the Board of Finance can be found on the Town Website at www.MarlboroughCT.net. These meetings lead up to the Annual Budget Public Hearing on April 20th along with the final public hearing on May 4th followed by the budget referendum vote on May 5th. Please stay involved and informed.

Ken Hjulstrom
Marlborough

Note: Hjulstrom is a member of the Board of Finance, but said he is speaking as an individual.

More DPW Perspective

To the Editor:

In the continuing effort to provide perspective on Hebron’s Public Works project, it is important to present facts and refute misinformation. Additional research confirms that the estimate provided by Silver Petrucelli + Associates, at the cost of \$27.8 million, is well within reasonable expectations. In 2026, the State of Connecticut allotted \$27.7 million for a 25,000 square foot DOT maintenance facility in Avon, less than half the size of the 51,000 square foot facility planned for Hebron.

I would like to once again recall the minutes of the Feb. 21, 2019, Public Hearing on the purchase of 17 Kinney Rd./the Horton property. While one concept presented was an extensive Town complex, including a new DPW, the property was *not* purchased specifically for a DPW. The statement of the town manager at the public hearing was clear: “A. Tierney stated that this discussion and the Special Town Meeting were for the acquisition of the parcel.” This was followed by the statement from a member of the Board of Selectmen: “J. Collins reiterated this is a vote on the purchase of the land, will be looking for public input on use of land as it moves forward.”

For the last six years substantial information on the environmental and historical significance of this parcel has become part of this public input. I am grateful for the members of the Board of Selectmen, now the Town Council, the DPW Action Committee and a wide variety of Hebron residents that have thoughtfully considered this input.

It is also unfortunate that misinformation regarding the potential lower cost of the DPW at Kinney Road continues to circulate. At the

See Letters, page 8

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Rivereast Standout Athletes of the Week

By Josh Howard

Colton Waterman – Bacon Academy (Fencing): Waterman claimed 1st Place in the men's Epee Division at the Eastern Connecticut Conference (CCC) fencing tournament. Waterman, a senior captain, finished atop the division, besting the other 33 varsity participants in the category during the multi-school tourney, which was held at Griswold High School on Feb. 28. Waterman paved the way this winner as the Bobcats men's epee team posted an overall record of 13-3 record, earning Bacon Academy the ECC Men's Epee Team Champions award as well.

Jordan Murphy – East Hampton/University of Hartford (Track & Field): Jordan Murphy, a 2023 graduate of East Hampton High School won the pentathlon at the Division III New England Champion with a total score of 3559. Murphy, now a junior at the University of Hartford, earned the overall best score ever achieved in UHart history. She finished 110 points ahead of the runner-up Molly Lu McKellar of Keene State to easily secure first place in the regional event. The former Bellringer earned top three in all five events, placing first in the high jump and second place in the shot put, as well as placing third in the 60 meter hurdles, long jump, and 800 meter run during the 34-team event held in Boston, Mass.

Kelsey Desmarais and Nikki D'Amora – Portland High School (Basketball): Desmarais, a junior, and D'Amora, a freshman, combined to score 29 points as the Highlanders outlasted East Hampton 39-32 during the "Play-In" game for the Shoreline Conference (SLC) tournament. The duo combined to connect on a half dozen shot from downtown, each making a trio of three pointers, as Desmarais scored a team-high 15 points and D'Amora added 12 more. The two also combined for 11 rebounds to help Mya Peterson (team-high eight rebounds) dominate down low.

Ellie Ballard – RHAM High School (Track

'Arabian Adventure' at East Haddam School

The award-winning Tanglewood Marinette Productions, and the Friends Groups of the East Haddam Libraries, will present an Arabian Adventure on Sunday, March 8, at 2 p.m., in the Nathan Hale Ray High School auditorium, 15 School Rd. Moodus.

Admission is \$5 per person with a max of \$20 per family. Tickets available at the door, doors open at 1:30.

Tanglewood Marinette is a national theatre based in New England that has 2 UNIMAS awards, which is puppetry's highest honor. The group is returning for its fourth year, with a swashbuckling tale set in exotic lands and featuring Tanglewood's signature story book backdrop.

Replete with stage illusions and lighting effects, this fast-paced, action-packed drama is best for grades 1-6 and adventure-loving adults.

Cover Story • Cover Story • Cover Story

★ *Icy Plunge, cont. from page 1*

days before after the most recent storm and the sub-freezing temperatures. He said Butler Construction, an event sponsor, had helped plow the roads leading into the camp and then he and volunteers had cleared the beach of snow.

Still, he said, all the hard work was worth it. With the rising cost of camps and children's activities across the board, he said that fundraising events such as this were important to keep camp affordable.

"This helps us send more kids that might not be able to pay that rising cost," he said, "so all of the funds raised goes directly to helping support and give financial aid to families who need it."

"It helps us give that experience which we really believe can change lives and impact families," he added.

As of press time, the event had raised nearly \$28,000 in donations, and more were still likely to come in, said Silliman.

Anyone interested in donating could still contribute at tinyurl.com/4vkkurmdm.



Colton Waterman, a senior at Bacon Academy, won the men's Epee Division at the conference championship.



Colton Waterman (second from left) with the Bacon Academy men's Epee championship squad.

& Field): Ballard ran a personal-best 5:15 in the 1,600 meters to place eighth overall in the event at the State Open at the Floyd Little Athletic Center on Feb. 21. Ballard, a senior, wrapped up the indoor season by competing against the best the state has to offer, following a fifth place

showing in the 1,600 meters and a seventh place finish in the 1,000 meters at the Class M state championship the previous week. She will now focus on the upcoming outdoor track and field season before she tackles her next challenge of college athletics where she has committed to

run Division I cross-county and track at Central Connecticut State University.

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



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Reader Forum • Reader Forum

★ Letters, cont. from page 6

Jan. 13th meeting of the DPW Action Committee, members strongly refuted these claims and noted a DPW at Kinney Road would likely cost more than the plans for the current site. The reasons included the significant distance of the proposed site from John E. Horton Blvd., the cost of building a road, extending power, providing town water and sewer, and addressing issues at two sites simultaneously.

On Jan. 30th, the DPWAC Update published in the *Rivereast* noted that it would cost between \$1.5 and \$2 million to create an accurate estimate for Kinney Road. While some residents claim the current plan is fiscally irresponsible, does spending that amount of money for plans that have a high likelihood of being more than the current plan sound responsible?

Sincerely,
Kevin J. Tulimieri, Amston

Sensible Planning for East Hampton

To the Editor:

Next Tuesday, March 10th, a Town Meeting will be conducted at Town Hall on Community Drive commencing at 6 p.m. to vote on the purchase of 2.81 acres of land at 292 West High St., adjacent to the Joint Facilities (East Hampton and Colchester) waste treatment facility. If the resolution is approved, the property will be owned by the Town of East Hampton, with the \$105,000 appropriation funded from capital reserves of the Joint Facilities.

The land will be utilized for a modernization of the nearly 50-year-old Joint Facilities Water Pollution Control Facility (WPCF). The WPCF is currently permitted to handle and treat 3.90 Million Gallons per day. The land will be used for renovation and modernization of the facility;

not for an expansion of the facility. The property acquisition now should satisfy one council member's criticism that the town has not devoted enough forethought, planning or dedication of reserves to future capital renovations or replacement, as he criticized the recent replacement of two boilers in one of our schools.

Critics of the purchase have referenced a possible design and location of two holding tanks necessary during the modernization project as detracting from the entrance into town in Cobalt as out of character for the community but actually meets the standards being proposed in the current study and report of the Plan of Conservation and Development. It is unlikely the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection would permit any other site or an expansion of the facility. 60-years ago that question was answered after a decade of search and permitting.

Approval of this resolution will go far to maintain the character of the community and save hundreds of millions for our taxpayers and tax payers as well. Please come out to support this resolution.

Dean Markham, Chairman
East Hampton Town Council

Feel the Beat at Senior Center

To the Editor:

We are excited to introduce a new Drumming Circle at our Senior Center, with our first class beginning on March 12th. This offering is about so much more than music. It is about connection, expression, movement, and joy.

As we age, staying socially engaged and mentally stimulated becomes increasingly important to our overall well-being. Programs like this create space for older adults to come together in a relaxed and welcoming environment where there is no pressure to perform and no experience needed. Just a willingness to try something new.

Drumming has been shown to support memory, coordination, and mood. The simple act of keeping rhythm engages the brain in meaningful ways while also encouraging gentle physical movement. It can reduce stress, lift spirits, and foster a sense of belonging as participants create music together.

Equally important is the social benefit. Shared experiences like this help combat isolation and strengthen community ties. Laughter, rhythm, and collaboration naturally open the door to conversation and connection.

In the spirit of community, any funds raised through this program will be donated directly to the Portland Food Bank. This allows us not only to nurture connection and well-being within our walls, but also to extend support to neighbors in need throughout our town.

We are proud to offer opportunities that support healthy aging not only physically, but emotionally and socially as well. The Drumming Circle is one more way we can bring people together to learn, move, give back, and enjoy life at every stage.

All are welcome and instruments are provided.

Warmly,
Sarah Elliott Caratasios LMSW
Director/Municipal Agent
Portland Senior Center

911

This message is dedicated to our law enforcement officers who risk their lives daily so that they might remove criminals from the streets and keep us safe.

Emergency! Call 911

This responsibility is sanctioned by God (Romans 13:1-6) and by history. It involves the **PROTECTION** of life and property, the **PREVENTION** of crime, the **DETECTION** and arrest of offenders, the **PRESERVATION** of peace and order, the **ENFORCEMENT** of the laws, and the **RESCUE** of those in distress and danger.

Emergency! "Save Me, O Lord"

This cry from the heart of one poor, repenting sinner is immediately heard by an ever present, all-knowing, all-compassionate God who is waiting to meet the deepest need of every human heart. The Lord Jesus Christ is waiting to save and rescue your soul.

The RIGHT PERSON to CALL upon:

"They have no knowledge that set up the wood of their graven image, and pray unto a god that CANNOT SAVE. Look unto ME, and BE YE SAVED, all the ends of the earth: for I AM GOD, and there is none else" (Isaiah 45:20, 22). "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1). "Give us help from trouble: for vain is the help of man" (Psalm 60:11).

The RIGHT REASONS for making the CALL:

"Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of Thy Name: and deliver us, and purge away our sins, for Thy Name's sake ... Help me, O LORD my God: O save me according to Thy mercy: That they may know that this is Thy hand; that Thou, LORD, hast done it" (Psalm 79:9; 109:26-27). "... in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have (desires) all men to be SAVED, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and one MEDIATOR between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus" (1 Timothy 2:3-5).

The RIGHT CALL:

"The same Lord over all is rich unto all that CALL upon Him. For whosoever shall CALL upon the Name of the Lord shall be saved" (Joel 2:32; Romans 10:12-13). "BELIEVE on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved" (Acts 16:31). "For the SON OF MAN is come to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10). Why not look to and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ so that you might find God's SAVING GRACE and His EVER PRESENT HELP!

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PHS Class of '76 50th Reunion

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

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

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

Carol Clausi Karnilowicz, Marc Coman, Amy Dooley Lockmer, Richard Kearney, Laura Klemba, Richard Pawoiczik, Mark Pierini, Frank Sanchez, Thomas Savage, Cameo Thorne Smith, or Kevin Tolman is asked to email Mary Linda Eccles/Reitz at mlreitz-phs76@gmail.com or message her on Facebook: Portland high class 76.

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

A Community Hub Supporting Those Who Served

By Sarah Elliott-Caratasios, LMSW

There are many things that make a town feel like home. In Portland, it is not just the river views, historic streets, or beautiful historic homes. It is the way people show up for one another.

At the Waverly Portland Senior Center, we are proud to see the center evolving into something more than a place for programs. It is becoming a true hub of connection across our community. A place where people gather not just for services, but for purpose.

One of the most meaningful parts of that purpose is supporting and honoring our veterans.

Behind Town Hall at 33 East Main St. stands Portland's granite Veterans Memorial. Erected by the American Legion Ormont Post No. 69 and dedicated in 2007, it was made possible through the generosity of residents and local businesses.

It stands as a reminder of who we are when we come together.

On this wall are the names of Portland veterans who served in World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and the Persian Gulf. Each name reflects service that not only defended this country, but helped build it with grit, tears, and sacrifice. I am especially proud that my own brother's name is among them.

As we approach America's 250th anniversary, we are also being called to look more closely at the full story of service in our nation. Across Connecticut, historian John Mills has worked to uncover and preserve the stories of Black soldiers whose contributions were long overlooked.

Kindergarten Registration

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

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

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

Bereavement Support Group

St. Mary Church, located at 45 Freestone Ave., invites all to attend the Bereavement Support Group. The evening session meets the second Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. in the Church Hall. The afternoon session meets the fourth Tuesday at 2 p.m. in the Rosary Room.

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

Mahjong Practice Group

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

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

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

Lions Accepting Scholarship Applications

The Portland Lions Club is now accepting scholarship applications for Portland resident students enrolling in a post-high school certificate or degree program that serves the public in some manner.

Applications will be accepted from students of all academic levels as well as learning challenges. Portland students can obtain an application form from the PHS guidance office or through the Portland CT Lions Club email: Portlandctlionsscholarship@gmail.com.

All applications must be received by April 15 for consideration.

First Congregational Church News

The First Congregational Church of Portland, UCC, located at 554 Main St., holds worship Sundays at 10 a.m. All are welcome. Pastor is the Rev. Judith Cooke.

This Sunday, March 8, Cooke will preach on the topic "Well Well Well."

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

will meet in the youth room. Infant - Pre-K children will enjoy playtime and an age-appropriate lesson.

All are invited to the church's Lenten Soup and Substance events on Wednesdays, March 11 and 25, starting at 6 p.m.

For more information, call 860-342-3244 or visit firstchurchportlandct.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 articulate 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. If you would like to make a donation to the scholarship fund, visit the website.

Zion Lutheran News & Notes

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

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

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

Soup and Substance: On Wednesdays during Lent, Zion will once again participate in a Soup and Substance program together with Bethlehem Lutheran Church in East Hampton. Participants will meet together at 6 p.m. for a simple meal and discussion, alternating between the two churches. Dates are: March 11 at Zion; March 18 at Bethlehem; and March 25 at Zion.

Lenten Food Bank Collection: Also throughout Lent, Zion will collect items for

Portland Food Bank. Items to be collected include: March 8 - paper goods: toilet paper, paper towels, tissues, napkins; March 15 - toothpaste, toothbrushes, mouthwash, dental floss; March 22 - deodorant, feminine products; March 29 - shaving cream, hand lotion, and body lotion; but any items are welcome at any time.

Year-Round Giving: Pull tabs are collected year-round and donated to the Ronald McDonald "House that Love Built," supporting families with seriously ill children. Zion recycles computer ink cartridges to support office supplies for Sunny Hill Preschool and Zion. Pull tabs and used ink cartridges may be dropped off at the church on Sunday morning, or by calling the church office.

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

President's, Dean's List

The following Portland residents made the President's List and Dean's List for the fall 2025 semester at Southern Connecticut State University:

President's List: Caitlin Walsh
Dean's List: Sophie Binezewski, Ella Royea, Anna Stone



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East Hampton • East Hampton

East Hampton Middle Schoolers Win Robotics Trophy

By Anne Lilburn

The students in East Hampton Middle School's Robotics Team attended their first competition last month, and while they may not have won the grand prize, they came home with a trophy anyways, earning the Judge's Prize at the event.

The Judge's Award, said EHMS Principal Christina Amaral, was awarded "to the team who shows exemplary effort, perseverance, effective communication skills, leadership, teamwork, [and] professionalism."

Chris Briggs, the school's technical education teacher and also the club's advisor, said he was proud of the students, who succeeded despite getting a later start than some other teams at working on their robot.

Briggs said the Robotics Club had started roughly five years ago, in 2021, when he first started teaching in East Hampton. It has since evolved into a Robotics and Coding Club, he said, with more kids interested in the activity.

"This year," he said, "I had some students come to me, and they were like, hey, you know, there's robotics competitions, and there's teams and things. Could we do something like that? And I was like, maybe! I have no idea."

To find out that answer, Briggs said he reached out to the teacher who runs the high school robotics team, Tiffany Richards, who pointed him in the direction of the Vex company, which makes educational robotics and organizes competitions.

"They provide all of the equipment," Briggs said, "and they provide all of the pieces and parts that you need to build robots, and they provide professional development and curriculum."

Still, he said, even with a path to follow, it was overwhelming. For one, it was already October, and typically, the challenges are announced

in May, giving other teams a big head start in working on building their robots and learning how to operate them.

Briggs also said he had to figure out fundraising, and eventually secured some funding from the PTO, as well as a grant from the Vex Corporation that covered the registration and the cost of the robotics kit, which came with all the pieces they needed. Local business EMP Apparel provided the team with T-shirts to wear for the competition day.

Briggs also credited East Hampton High School senior Beth Limmer, who had experience with these competitions, for volunteering to help mentor the middle school team as a part of her Capstone project.

By the time it came for the competition, which was held Feb. 7 at Avon Middle School, Briggs said his team of seven students, all of them sixth and seventh graders, were ready. While they didn't win, they all seemed to enjoy the experience, said Briggs, and they worked well together to accomplish their goal, which involved having their robot move and stack items in a six by eight foot "playing field."

Sixth grader Colin Meier, who is 11 years old, said he enjoyed being on the robotics team, and his mom said it was a great winter activity for a time when sports weren't happening.

"It was fantastic," said Amanda Meier. "It was a really great outlet during the sort of dead of the winter, right? To have something constructive to do after school."

What's more, she said, is that the competition left the kids feeling good about their work, regardless of the official outcome.

"They all came home jazzed," she said, "and I can't remember the last time I saw an 11-year-old boy happy when he lost."

"I am so appreciative of Mr. Briggs," she said.

Honoring Revolutionary War Veterans

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

The board plans to place a marker on the graves of these soldiers to recognize their com-

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

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

"I am so appreciative of Mr. Briggs," she said.

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.

For more information, visit www.epocharts.org.

Schools Offer Preschool Programs

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

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

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

Memorial Elementary School's Smart Start Program will be held five full days per week (9

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

Parents interested in proceeding through the selection process must pick up an application/information packet at either Memorial Elementary School or the East Hampton Public Library. 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.

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.



Members of the East Hampton Middle School Robotics Team competed last month at the Avon Middle School VEX IQ Mix and Match Tournament. Pictured from left are EHMS students Colin Meier, John Reis, Will Clark, Jarek Barillaro, Alex Góra, Izzy Fromme and Ben Munoz pose with their Judge's Award Trophy.

"All of this time that cuts into his personal life, it just reminds you how lucky we are to have these great teachers in our kids' lives."

Colin said the highlight for him was winning the Judge's Award, because it meant they won a real trophy.

"There was this robot trophy made from the actual Vex pieces," he said, "and it was part metal. We got to go up in front of everyone and take a picture."

"It was the first trophy that me and many of my other friends have ever got in our lifespan,"

said Colin Meier.

"I could not have been more proud," said Briggs, talking about his whole team, "because, you know, it was an upward uphill battle for them, I think, from the beginning [because they started late]."

He added, "They might not have scored a lot of points, but not a single one of them seemed to be upset about it. And so, when they got that award, I told them afterwards, I said, as far as I was concerned, it was the most important award in the whole place that day."

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, March 6.

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 this week, March 6, will be provided by Bill Naughton Jr.

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.

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. 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.

Senior Center Upcoming Trips

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

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

Fairytales 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

Spring Art Show

The East Hampton Art Association will present its 46th annual fine art show – entitled "Up, Up & Away!" – on Saturday, May 16, on the lawn of the Congregational Church, 59 Main St.

There will be more than 20 selling exhibitors, \$5 cream puffs, and an art auction, and over \$600 worth of prizes will be awarded to the artists, both members and nonmembers.

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.

East Hampton • East Hampton

Water Treatment Site Debate Becomes Heated

By Anne Lilburn

East Hampton residents stand to determine the future of wastewater treatment in the town at an upcoming town meeting. Residents will have the opportunity to vote in person on Tuesday, March 10 to approve the acquisition of a private parcel of land by the Colchester-East Hampton Joint Facilities.

The parcel, located at 292 West High St., is directly adjacent to the town's current wastewater treatment plant, and would be used to upgrade the current plant to modern standards in order to help the plant continue to function and meet current state standards, according to Anthony DeSimone, East Hampton's Public Utilities Administrator.

The current wastewater treatment plant was built in 1980 and at the time, was required by the state in order to address environmental concerns, according to DeSimone. The plant is owned and operated by the Joint Facilities committee, a multi-town municipal body that is made up of the Water Pollution Control Authorities in both East Hampton and Colchester. Since the '80s, the plant's customer base has expanded and the facility currently serves customers in the communities of East Hampton, Colchester, Hebron, Marlborough and Lebanon. All of those towns have been served by the facility for at least the past 15 years, said DeSimone.

The purchase of this land would be entirely funded by the Joint Facilities, meaning that the purchase price would be paid by ratepayers, the customers who use the sewer services in the various towns, as opposed to being paid via tax dollars from all East Hampton residents.

The council recently set a date for March 10 at 6 p.m. to hold a public town meeting where residents would have the opportunity to vote in person on the purchase via a show of hands. News of the meeting began spreading on Facebook earlier this week, with residents opposing the purchase asserting that the land acquisition and proposed upgrades would result in "expansion" of the plant and its capacity. Some inaccurately described it as a new facility that would be "run by private equity" and benefit "Hebron, Lebanon, and Marlborough, NOT East Hampton."

DeSimone sought to refute those assertions, and said that he believed many of the claims about aims of this purchase were due to people confusing this land deal, which would support upgrades and improvements to the existing plant, which is run by the Joint Facilities Com-

mittee and the town's Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA), with an entirely different project for a regional biosolids facility, which was proposed by private industry and which would be located on privately acquired land. The plan for that proposed facility still has not been finalized.

Town Council member Ted Hintz said that he had concerns about the future consequences of approving this purchase. In a letter to the editor in this week's *Rivereast*, he wrote, "If we truly do not intend to expand sewer service, why is additional land for plant expansion necessary?"

Hintz elaborated in an email that he believed any expansion of the plant to be against the will of East Hampton residents.

"Only a few months ago, many residents came out to oppose sewer expansion, and the Town Council ultimately voted not to approve bonding for it," he wrote. "At the time, both taxpayers and I believed that decision put the issue to rest. However, similar expansion concepts have continued to surface in discussions tied to the Plan of Conservation and Development. When those same plans continue to appear after the Council has rejected funding, it raises legitimate concerns that the issue is being pursued through a different path. That is why the proposed purchase of land adjacent to the treatment plant is troubling. To many residents, it feels like a potential backdoor approach to expansion that taxpayers already rejected."

DeSimone said that this land acquisition was not about finding a backdoor path to sewer expansion. The parcel of land that is under consideration for purchase, said DeSimone, is currently owned by a private developer who recently floated the idea of an affordable housing development with at least 10 units on the same piece of land.

DeSimone said the developer had agreed to sell the land to the town for use by the WPCA, but that he believed that, if this land was not purchased for use by the Joint Facilities' water treatment plant, the developer would proceed with a housing development on the site.

DeSimone said the upgrades to the plant were necessary to meet current state water standards. The acquired land, he said, would be used to house new tanks that would provide the final step in the water treatment process, where water sits for final settling and disinfection before being discharged via a mile-long pipe into the

Connecticut River.

Expanding the plant's footprint would allow the plant to continue operating without disruptions while the upgrades proceeded, he said, lowering costs in the process. He described the plant as "rapidly aging" and "in disrepair" and said that it had "major upgrades coming."

The plant was costing ratepayers money in incremental and temporary repairs every year, he added, as well as in the cost of credits that the Joint Facilities pays to offset its current outflows, which do not currently meet state requirements for nitrogen levels. Upgrades involving new tanks on the acquired land would help to meet those modern pollution standards, he said, while protecting the environment by ensuring the plant's discharges were free of pollutants.

He added that, in his career, he had worked at other plants in the past that had had the opportunity to purchase land and regretted not doing so when it came time for upgrades. He argued that acquiring this land was an opportunity for the town to use the land for a municipal use, as opposed to allowing a developer to use it for dense housing.

When it came to the biosolids facility, Hintz said that he believed that the proposed land acquisition was connected to it, despite assurances from town officials to the contrary.

"I do believe the issues are connected," he wrote, "and that is part of what concerns me."

Some on Facebook said they lived nearby and could smell the current plant on summer days. They worried that any expansion might worsen that. They also said they believed that, even if the current land purchase was separate from the proposed biosolids facility, it would serve as the first step that would enable the privately owned plant, making the other facility more likely to happen by expanding its capacity.

DeSimone said that was not true. He countered that the plant's current permitted capacity was 3.9 million gallons per day and that that would not change. He added that he did not expect an upgraded plant to generate any more noise than the current plant, and said that the new tanks would be behind fencing to make them less visible from the road. He said that he himself lived nearby and therefore had a vested interest in maintaining property values in the area.

He also countered claims made in a graphic distributed on Facebook that said "daily trucks

could double to 40-55 per day," telling the *Rivereast* that "the land purchase and subsequent upgrades will have no increase on truck traffic. That's 0.00 additional trucks per day."

DeSimone said he believed, again, that some residents may have been conflating the private biosolids facility proposal, which would not be owned by the town or the Joint Facilities and which might generate additional truck traffic, with this public land acquisition, which would support and upgrade the existing municipal plant.

On Facebook's Let's Talk East Hampton page, Town Council member Karen Wanat also expressed concern that some of the graphics and information being circulated were not accurate. In response to one post, she wrote that "the information being used on this post is being confused with another topic that is not affected by and has nothing to do with this purchase!"

"I'm not advocating for how people should vote," continued Wanat, "That is up to the residents, but this post is inaccurate at best and is rage baiting."

Wanat later clarified that she didn't believe that everyone sharing the post was looking to "rage bait," but said that she believed that the graphic, which asked people to "Stop the Regional Sewage Facility in East Hampton," and which stated that the facility would be funded by private equity, benefit only residents of other towns, and result in increased truck traffic, was created in a misleading way in order to support another council member's personal agenda.

"Unfortunately, much of this post is false," she wrote. "One Town Council member lives directly across the street from where this will occur so they are leading you to believe a false narrative about what this facility means."

"They used information from a different topic that has nothing to do with this particular vote," she wrote. "The truck traffic and private developer information is false, as it does not pertain to this vote or this land purchase. They have created a false narrative to convince residents to vote no."

Residents will have the opportunity to vote on the specific topic of the land acquisition to be used by the Joint Facilities for its plant upgrade on Tuesday, March 10. Residents will not be voting on the proposed regional biosolids facility at this meeting, but will likely hear more about it in the coming months.

Middle Haddam Public Library News

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

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

Featured Artist for March: Paul Hoffman from East Hampton, whose watercolors will be on display during regular library hours.

Open Mic Night: Friday, March 20, 6-8 p.m. Come and share your talent or just listen and enjoy. Performers, call the library to sign up, at 860-267-9093.

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.

Dean's List

Former East Hampton resident MJ Markovitz made the fall 2025 Dean's List at Columbia University in New York, N.Y.

Markovitz is majoring in American studies at Columbia, and is also on the faculty at Rutgers University, working as a lecturer in ballet.

Chatham Community Chess Club: Wednesdays, March 18 and April 1 and 15, from 6-9 p.m. All ages and skill levels welcome; lessons available. For more information contact pjhoffman1@juno.com.

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

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

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

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

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Library Welcomes Best-Selling Author

East Hampton Public Library will host *New York Times* best-selling author Catherine Newman on Tuesday, March 24, at 6:30 p.m., for a reading, audience Q&A, and book-signing.

Newman's novel *Sandwich* was an instant *New York Times* bestseller, praised for its sharp humor and heartfelt insights into family life, love, and the universal challenges of midlife. Building on that success, her follow-up novel *Wreck* – which reunites readers with the un-

forgettable character Rocky and her family – also debuted high on the *New York Times* bestseller list and was selected as a *Good Morning America* Book Club pick.

This event is a chance to hear directly from the author about her creative process and the inspirations behind her novels.

This program is free and open to all. Copies of Newman's books will be available for purchase during the event, and light refreshments will be offered.

Beetlejuice JR. Coming to EHMS

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.

With music and lyrics by Tony Award nominee Eddie Perfect and a book by the Tony Award-nominated pair Anthony King and Scott Brown, *Beetlejuice* was nominated for eight 2019 Tony Awards, including Best New Musical.

Beetlejuice JR. is part of Music Theatre International's Broadway Junior® collection of musicals, which are 30- and 60-minute versions of classic and modern shows adapted for the needs of younger performers. *Beetlejuice JR.* is presented through special arrangement with, and all authorized materials are supplied by, Music Theatre International.

Christ Episcopal Church News

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

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 bobette@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.

Easter Flowers: Envelopes are available at the front and rear entrance tables for donations towards Easter flowers. Put "flowers" on the memo line of your check and include the names of those you wish to be acknowledged at Easter. You may also mail donations directly to the church office.

Information/Assistance: Contact Senior Warden Donna Hryb at 860-633-0472 or 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 or by contacting the center at 860-267-4426 or seniorcenter@easthamptonct.gov. Senior center hours are Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Visit www.easthamptonct.gov/east-hampton-senior-center for more information and a list of regular weekly and monthly activities, including games, quilting, Bible study, 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.

Tech Help with Digital Mike: Tuesday, March 10, starting at 10 a.m. Have a one-on-one appointment with Senior Center volunteer Michael Crutchfield, for help with your cellphone, laptop or iPad. Call the senior center for an appointment.

Senior Center Book Club Meeting: Tuesday, March 10, 10:30 a.m. *The Woman in Cabin 10* by Ruth Ware will be discussed.

Tips From a Personal Trainer: Thursdays, 11 a.m.-noon, from March 12-April 3. Sign up for the next session of one-to-one classes with personal trainer Mary Henderson. Cost is \$25

for the series.

Tai Chi with Ming: A new session of Tai Chi begins Friday, March 13, and continues each week through May 22 at 2 p.m. Cost is \$20 for the session, payable when you register.

Trips: Lunch for Seniors at Windham Tech: Wednesday, March 11, leaving at 10:15 a.m. Enjoy lunch prepared by Windham Tech Culinary Students. Cost is \$21 for lunch and transportation - cash only.

Relaxed Ramble at Highlawn Forest: Join Naturalist Lyn Kochiss for a walk to see vernal pools at Highlawn Forest in Rockfall on Wednesday, April 8, leaving the Senior Center at 9:30 a.m. Bus donation is \$4. Kochiss will give a talk on Vernal Pools at the Senior Center on Tuesday, April 7, at 10:30 a.m.

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.

Helping Hands Opens March 7

Helping Hands will be open again on Saturday, March 7, from 9-11 a.m. 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.

Meet the New Minister

Haddam Neck Congregational Church and Second Congregational Church of Middle Haddam invite the community to come and meet the churches' new minister, the Rev. Linda Choser, on Sunday, March 15, at 10:30 a.m., at Haddam Neck Congregational Church, 408 Quarry Hill Rd., Haddam Neck. A potluck lunch follows in the schoolhouse.

Choser, who lives in Middletown, is a 2021 graduate of Hartford Seminary with a Master of Arts degree in Transformative Leadership and Spirituality (MATLS). She is an ordained minister with the Universal Life Church Ministries, a non-denominational religious organization.

Visit www.haddamneckcongregational-church.org for more information.

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.

Paint-Along with Karen

The East Hampton Art Association will be having an interactive "Paint-Along" acrylic painting session with artist Karen Williams at the Congregational Church Fellowship Hall, 59 Main St., from 1-3 p.m. Sunday, Marh 8.

All materials will be provided. You may bring your own pieces to work. To paint, cost for EHAA members is \$5; cost for non-members is \$10. You can also simply visit and just observe others' work at no charge for members, or \$5 for non-members.

East Hampton Library News & Notes

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

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

Adult Programs: LibrarYoga: Tuesday, March 10, 6:30 p.m. Yoga 200 Certified instructor Amie Meacham leads an hour of gentle yoga for adults in the Library Community Room. All levels welcome. Bring your own mat if you have one and wear comfy clothes.

Tech Help: Thursday, March 12, 2-4 p.m. Basic technology help for phones, tablets, and e-readers. No registration required, just bring your device with you.

Cabin Fever History Series: Saturday, March 14, 11 a.m. Micheal Langlois will present "From Liberty to Legacy: Exploring American Ideals in the Musicals 1776 and Hamilton." Look at these revolutionary musicals and their contrasting visions of an American society at a crossroads.

Book Club: Wednesday, March 18, 6:30 p.m. This month's book is *The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell* by Robert Dugoni.

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.

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

Teen Advisory Board: Grades 8-12: Tuesday, March 17, 6 p.m. Help plan programs, improve

the Teen Space, and more.

Children's Programs: DIY Days: Grades K-8: Saturday, March 14, 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.

Read to a Therapy Dog: Grades K-3: Tuesday, March 10, 4:30 p.m. Readers will be assigned a 15-minute time slot to read to Jovie, a certified therapy dog. This is an opportunity to read aloud in a comfortable environment.

Hot Wheels Tape Town! Best for Ages 2-5: Wednesday, March 11, 10:30 a.m. Enjoy a car-themed story, then explore a taped-out town filled with roads, buildings, and plenty of room for Hot Wheels adventures.

Michele Urban Music Presents: Sing Me a Fairy Tale: Monday, March 16, 10:30 a.m. Join singer Michele Urban for a lively musical storytelling adventure for children ages 1-8 and their families. Classic fairy tales are reimagined with interactive songs, dancing, and playful rhythm activities. Register or drop in.

Board Game Builders: Grades 1-5: Monday, March 16, 4:30-5:30 p.m. Create your own board game from scratch – design the rules, build the board, and bring your ideas to life using a variety of supplies.

Police News

2/25: Thomas Ortiz, 35, of Colchester, was issued a summons for third-degree criminal trespass, third-degree criminal mischief, and disorderly conduct, East Hampton Police said.

From Feb. 23-March 1, officers responded to 21 medical calls, three motor vehicle crashes and seven alarms, and made 14 traffic stops, police said.

EHNS Open House

East Hampton Nursery School will hold an open house for prospective families on Saturday, March 14, from 9 a.m.-noon, for the 2026-27 school year. The school is located at 111 Main St.

All interested parents are invited to come see the school, talk to current families, teachers and board members, and learn about the great programs offered. The 3's programs meet Tuesdays and Thursdays from either 8:30-11:30 a.m. or 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. The 4's programs meet either three days a week – Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. – or five days a week.

Visit www.easthamptonnurseryschool.com for more information or email e.h.n.s.enrollment@easthamptonnurseryschool.com.

Dean's List

East Hampton residents Hapuruchi Avugara and Mackenzie Rosano made the fall 2025 Dean's List at Goodwin University.

Dean's List

Emma Braga of East Hampton made the fall 2025 Dean's List at Emmanuel College in Boston. Braga is majoring in biology – health sciences.

EHNS Trivia Night

All are invited to join East Hampton Nursery School at Rule of 3 on Sunday, March 8, at 6:30 p.m., for Trivia Night!

In addition to trivia by WhatTrivia, there will be a 50/50 raffle, raffle baskets, and Feelin' Saucy food truck. Tickets are \$25 per person. Register teams of 2 to 4 people.

To register and for more information, email ehnsfundraisers@gmail.com.

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 sjp2parishoffice@gmail.com.

All applications must be received by April 17.

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EDC Now Accepting Scholarship Applications

The Town of East Hampton Economic Development Commission is now accepting applications for its new scholarship.

Any East Hampton High School senior planning to study business or a related field at an accredited four-year school this fall is eligible and encouraged to apply.

The purpose of this scholarship is to encour-

age local students to pursue careers in business and related fields, and to show them community support. Get the full details, eligibility requirements and access the application through the guidance department at East Hampton High School.

The application deadline is May 1.

POCD-Focused Discussions and Community Survey

The Town of East Hampton Planning and Zoning Commission is updating its 10-year Plan of Conservation and Development. There have been several meetings and focused discussions in an effort to gather public input.

There will be two final focused discussions on agriculture and open space preservation. These are scheduled for March 11 and March 12, respectively, and will be held at the Town Hall in the Community Room at 6:30 p.m.

The Community Survey is one of the ways to gather input, and it will be available through the end of March. Take the survey at www.easthamptonct.gov/1727/COMMUNITY-SURVEY, or go to the Town of East Hampton website, www.easthamptonct.gov, and head to the POCD Steering Committee page to find the link.

For more information, contact Juliet Hodge, Planning and Zoning official, at jhodge@esthamptonct.gov.

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 main-stage 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

President's List

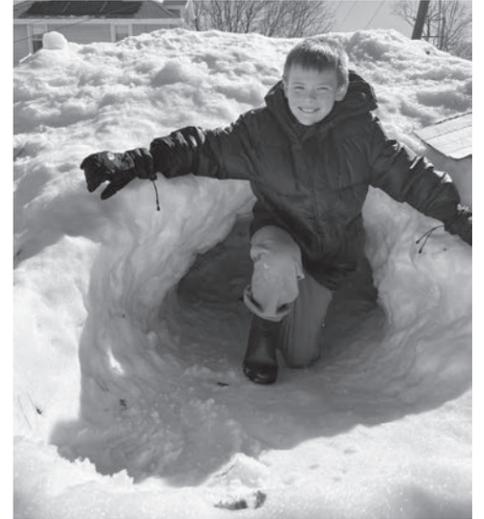
Sage Lynch of East Hampton made the fall 2025 President's List at Goodwin University in East Hartford.

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 or email info@ypcca.org.



Creating in a Winter Wonderland... Prompted by last week's blizzard, the East Hampton Lions Club came up with the idea of sponsoring a Snowman & Winter Wonderland Contest. Entries were left to the imagination of the young participating residents in town. Gift certificates donated by Sweet Jean's Café were awarded to the winners. At left is the winner for first prize in the category of "Creative Snowman." The snowman - wearing goggles and on skis! - was created by 13-year-old Taylor Karabetsos. At right is the first prize winner for the category "Winter Wonderland Kindness," a snow fort built by 9-year-old Aiden Kelly. The fort featured signs that read "Free Shelter and Food" and "All Welcome." The two runners-up were Cole, Owen & Evan Lessor, and The Bueno Family.

Irish Soda Bread for Sale

The yoked churches Haddam Neck Congregational and Second Congregational of Middle Haddam will sell Irish Soda Bread each Sunday from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., throughout the month of March.

The one-pound loaf is \$5. All proceeds go to Habitat for Humanity Middlesex County Chapter, the local food banks, and women's

shelters. To reserve bread, call or text 860-682-2067 with your name, phone number and amount to reserve - or buy first-come first-served. The GPS address is 408 Quarry Hill Rd., East Hampton, CT 06424, which is in Haddam Neck.

You may also buy the soda bread at Paul's and Sandy's Too, 93 East High St., as available.

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Jim Beam Bourbon 80° \$29⁹⁹ (1.75 L)	Bacardi Lt. Gold & Black Rum 80° \$19⁹⁹ (1.75 L)	Beefeater Gin 80° \$31⁹⁹ (1.75 L)

W I N E

Black Box Wines \$19⁹⁹ (3 L Box)	K. Jackson Vint. Res. Chardonnay \$11⁹⁹ (750 mL)	K. Jackson Vint. Res. Cabernet \$18⁹⁹ (750 mL)
Yellow Tail Wines \$10⁹⁹ (1.5 L)	14 Hands Hot to Trot Red \$17⁹⁹ (1.5 L)	19 Crimes Snoop Dog Cali. Red \$11⁹⁹ (750 mL)

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The Next Few Steps for Bacon Projects

By Toriana Williams

Following the successful passing of both referendum questions on Feb. 24, Colchester town officials are now preparing to move forward with major upgrades to the athletic fields and recreational facilities, as well as the Bacon Academy roof project. The first referendum question, which authorized up to \$14.5 million for improvements to the athletic complex and RecPlex, passed by a relatively narrow margin with 1,042 votes to pass and 927 votes against.

However, the roof project received broader support with 1,681 passing votes and 294 votes against. It should be noted the project concerning Bacon Academy's roof will be overseen by a separate committee that has yet to be formed.

Dave Emery, chair of the Athletic Complex Building Committee, explained that the committee will immediately begin to clarify construction details. "We are going to start picking materials and refine our timeline for construction and make sure we get everything in order since the construction, once it starts, is going to be fairly aggressive time-wise," said Emery.

Their next phase includes selecting specific materials for the synthetic turf fields, infill systems and track surfaces, as well as finalizing design elements such as field striping, lighting specifications and other finishes. While some contractors are already vetted through state cooperative bidding processes, other portions of the project may still go out to bid.

Emery emphasized that the \$14.5 million cost represented a "not-to-exceed" amount. The committee had based its projections on high-end estimates to ensure that all promised elements could be completed within budget.

"The way we had presented it to the community ... we were taking the high end of those

estimates that we were presented," Emery explained. "We're fairly comfortable going forward that we're going to be able to include all the elements that we had proposed up front."

If the project comes in under budget, the committee hopes to incorporate several alternate items that received strong public support, such as lighting for baseball and softball fields and additional amenities at the RecPlex. However, the addition of those alternates will depend on final construction costs.

Construction is expected to begin around early May to minimize interference with spring sports. Work will likely start at the stadium field, with the most intensive construction taking place over the summer. Emery anticipated the stadium field would hopefully be ready by fall, with RecPlex improvements potentially completed even earlier. Overall, the project is expected to be substantially complete before the end of the year, though timelines may be affected by weather and scheduling considerations.

During construction, portions of the RecPlex, such as the current concession building, will close temporarily while a new concession stand is built and the existing structure is planned to be renovated for storage. Additions such as new pickleball courts are expected to cause minimal disruption.

Emery described the project as an exciting development for the community, noting that some opposition stemmed from misinformation about the scope and allocation of funds. He clarified that roughly 20% of the funding is designated for RecPlex improvements, not solely Bacon Academy. Committee meetings will continue to be held publicly with regular opportunities for citizen comment. "I think it's going to be a good community project overall," he shared.

In contrast, Board of Selectmen member Tim Vaillancourt – a Republican – expressed strong reservations about the referendum outcome. Although not entirely surprised by the narrow vote, he noted, "I spoke to tons of people

who were not in favor of this plan. They kind of found out too late in the process and just thought it was too much."

He voiced concerns about the environmental impact of synthetic turf, particularly given the site's proximity to wetlands and water sources serving local families. "There's injuries that could be caused by this fake turf, the environmental studies have been washed away," Vaillancourt stated. He questioned reports that the project may be classified as maintenance rather than new construction, which could limit the need for additional environmental studies.

Financial concerns were central to his criticism. He described the overall cost as excessive, particularly in light of a proposed \$5 million increase in the Board of Education's budget and ongoing fiscal pressures. "The cost of the project, I think, is just outrageous," he shared clearly.

He also referenced the BOE's alleged authorization of a forensic audit related to financial irregularities, which he believed raises additional

red flags about fiscal oversight. In his view, the town should have addressed Bacon Academy's more pressing needs through smaller, phased projects rather than bundling multiple initiatives into one large proposal.

Vaillancourt clarified that the BOS's role concluded once the referendum passed; oversight now lies with the building committee. He questioned whether all promised features will ultimately be affordable within the authorized cap and suggested that certain enhancements could be eliminated if bids come in higher than anticipated.

Together, Emery and Vaillancourt reflected the optimism and lingering concern within the community. Supporters see the project as a long-awaited investment in modernized athletic facilities, while critics remain wary of environmental risks, rising costs and broader financial management issues. As construction planning begins, the focus now shifts from debate to implementation.

President's List

Colchester residents Olivia Alford and Allyson Knorr-Anderson made the fall 2025 President's List at Goodwin University in East Hartford.



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<p style="font-size: x-small;">Broken Shed Vodka 1.75 Liter</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; color: green; font-weight: bold;">\$29⁹⁹</p>	<p style="font-size: x-small;">818 Tequila Blanco 750 mL</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; color: green; font-weight: bold;">\$23⁹⁹</p>	<p style="font-size: x-small;">Jim Bean Bourbon 1.75 Liter</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; color: green; font-weight: bold;">\$29⁹⁹</p>	<p style="font-size: x-small;">Jameson Irish Whiskey 750 mL</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; color: green; font-weight: bold;">\$28⁹⁹</p>
<p style="font-size: x-small;">Redbreast 12 Year Irish Whiskey 750 mL</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; color: green; font-weight: bold;">\$57⁹⁹</p>	<p style="font-size: x-small;">O'Daniells Irish Cream 700 mL</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; color: green; font-weight: bold;">\$14⁹⁹</p>	<p style="font-size: x-small;">Bailey's Irish Cream 1.75 Liter</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; color: green; font-weight: bold;">\$44⁹⁹</p>	<p style="font-size: x-small;">Shanky's Whip Black Smooth Irish Liqueur 750 mL</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; color: green; font-weight: bold;">\$21⁹⁹</p>
<p style="font-size: x-small;">Josh Cellars Cabernet, Merlot, Pinot Noir or Legacy Red 750 mL</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; color: green; font-weight: bold;">\$12⁹⁹</p>	<p style="font-size: x-small;">Josh Cellars Pinot Grigio or Sauvignon Blanc 750 mL</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; color: green; font-weight: bold;">\$11⁹⁹</p>	<p style="font-size: x-small;">Fuzzy Baby Ducks IPA 12 Packs 12 oz. Cans</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; color: green; font-weight: bold;">\$19⁹⁹</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">plus dep.</p>	<p style="font-size: x-small;">Cavit Pinot Grigio 1.5 Liter</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; color: green; font-weight: bold;">\$11⁹⁹</p>
<p style="font-size: x-small;">WYNK 3mg THC 4 Packs Assorted</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; color: green; font-weight: bold;">\$14⁹⁹</p>	<p style="font-size: x-small;">Michelob Ultra 0.0 Non-Alcoholic 12 Packs • 12 oz. Cans</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; color: green; font-weight: bold;">\$12⁹⁹</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">plus dep.</p>	<p style="font-size: x-small;">Nicolas Feuillatte Brut 750 mL</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; color: green; font-weight: bold;">\$39⁹⁹</p>	<p style="font-size: x-small;">Jack Daniels Whiskey 1.75 Liter</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; color: green; font-weight: bold;">\$42⁹⁹</p>
All Items Subject To Availability. Not Responsible For Typographical Errors.			

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Chicken Marsala Sautéed with mushrooms, shallots in a marsala wine sauce
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Fish Fry Fridays
The Colchester Fish and Game Club will hold its annual Fish Fry dinners every Friday during Lent, 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. Takeout is available by calling the club at 860-537-2593 after 5:30 p.m. on Fridays.

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.

Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner
The St. Joseph Polish Club, at 395 South Main St., will hold its annual corned beef and cabbage dinner Sunday, March 15, from 1-3 p.m. The meal is dine-in or to-go, and is open to the public.
Dinner includes corned beef, cabbage, potatoes, carrots and rye bread with butter. Tickets are \$16 and must be purchased in advance. Tickets are on sale at the club during regular business hours.

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.

Ladies Guild Offering Trip
St. Andrew Ladies Guild in Colchester invites all to accompany guild members on a Valley Forge and Longwood Gardens tour, from May 19-21.
Step back into American history at Valley Forge, explore the heart of Philadelphia, and wander through Longwood Gardens. There will also be a visit to the Museum of the American Revolution, as well as the Betsy Ross House to enjoy colonial chocolate making.
For a flyer, contact Barbara Gozzo at barbgozzo@gmail.com or 860-208-4121.

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RE19-25

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.

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.

Goodspeed - Jesus Christ Superstar & Lunch At Gelston House: Wednesday, June 3, departing at 10:30 a.m. Have lunch and then see the classic rock musical. Cost is \$105 per person. Includes transportation and lunch at the Gelston House.

City Island Lobster House - Bronx, N.Y.: Thursday, June 4, departing at 8 a.m. Take a scenic ride across the bridge from the Bronx to City Island, a seaside village. Enjoy lunch at City Island Lobster House, and afternoon shopping at Little Italy's Arthur Avenue. Cost is \$171

per person, which includes transportation and lunch.

Amish Country Two-Day Adventures: June 23-24, departure time TBD. On day one, 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 go to 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.

Majestic Cities Of Central & Eastern Europe: Oct. 4 -17, departure time TBD. Enjoy multi-night stays, immersive local tours, authentic food, culture in Berlin, Prague, Vienna, Budapest, and Krakow. This 14-day, 13-night trip includes airfare, hotels, and meals (12 breakfasts, one lunch, and six Dinners). Contact senior center staff for availability and pricing.

Ocean City, Maryland: Oct. 13 -16, departure time TBD. Spend three nights directly on the beach. Explore Assateague Island, visit the historic town of Berlin and board the Assateague Tour Cruise and look for dolphins, horses, and more. Also, explore Fenwick Island Lighthouse, visit the Discover Sea Museum and enjoy an afternoon on the boardwalk. Cost is \$949/person (double or triple occupancy).

St. Joseph's Day Polish Dinner

St. Joseph Polish Club will hold its annual St. Joseph's Day Polish Dinner Sunday, March 8, at 1 p.m., at the club, 395 South Main St. The meal is dine-in or to-go, and is open to the public.

The meal includes homemade potato and cheese pierogi, golumpki (stuffed cabbage), kielbasa, rye bread, kapusta, and dessert. The event will also feature the happy polka sounds

of Dennis Polisky & Maestro's Men, starting at 2 p.m.

Tickets are \$25 each, and must be purchased in advance. For tickets, stop by any day at the club for a ticket, on weekdays from 4 p.m. on and weekends from noon on. For more information, call the club at 860-537-2550.

Colchester Giving Garden

It is that time of the year to once again get ready for the Colchester Giving Garden's 2026 growing season. The garden will host an information evening at Cragin Memorial Library, 8 Linwood Ave., on Thursday, March 12, at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will be in Norton Room B.

The garden is starting its 14th year of growing and donating all of the fresh produce to the town food bank and area soup kitchens. The

garden is an all-volunteer-run vegetable garden and all are welcome to come and join in this community venture. No gardening experience is needed and all ages and abilities are welcome to join in. It is a very rewarding way to help those in need right here in our town.

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Plated Salad Course (6:15PM)

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Buffet Dinner (6:15PM - 7:15PM)

**Steamed Root Vegetables (Carrots, Parsnips, & Turnips) | Braised & Fried Cabbage
Irish Boxty (Potato Pancakes) | Colcannon (Mashed Potatoes with Herbs & Greens)
Irish Bangers | Cod with Fruit Salsa | Corned Beef Hash | Flat Iron Steak w/ Whiskey Glaze
Carving Station - Traditional Corned Beef | Irish Soda Bread & Irish Brown Bread**

Plated Dessert & Dancing (7:15PM - 10:00PM)

Jameson Bread Pudding with Caramel Sauce

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CT10-9-25

RE3-6-26

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CPR/AED, Stop the Bleed Training

Colchester Fire & EMS will offer frere CPR/AED and Stop the Bleed training to Colchester residents Wednesday, March 11, from 2:30-5 p.m., at Company No. 1, 52 Old Hartford Rd.

This video-based course teaches CPR and relief of choking in adults, children and infants. Use of an AED (automated external

defibrillator) is also included in the training.

Family and Friends CPR is designed for members of the general public who would like to learn basic CPR, including families with children or elderly relatives, community groups, and those who do not need a course completion card.

Cougars Comedy Night

The Colchester Cougars Youth Football and Cheer will host a Comedy Night Wednesday, March 25, at Bacon Academy, featuring national touring comedian Corey Rodrigues.

Rodrigues has logged television appearances on *Conan O'Brien, Dry Bar Comedy, Gotham Live, Laughs on FOX*, and truTV's *Laff Mob's Laff Tracks*. In 2018 he released his own *Dry Bar* comedy special and in 2020 he put out a half-hour special on EPIX's *Unprotected Sets*. He has also been featured on Sirius XM radio and appeared in the 2022 Amazon Prime film *Salesman*, showcasing his wide-ranging appeal across both TV and online platforms

The evening will also feature 50/50 raffles and

themed raffle baskets.

All funds raised will go toward the Cougars' \$30,000 fundraising goal to update the organization's colors to better match Bacon Academy and Colchester youth sports colors, while aligning more closely with Lyman Memorial High School.

Colchester Cougars Youth Football and Cheer serves families in Colchester, Lebanon, East Haddam/Moodus, Salem, Bozrah and East Hampton.

Tickets are \$30 in advance or \$40 at the door. However, tickets are expected to sell quickly, so advance purchase is recommended. For tickets, visit tinyurl.com/CougarsComedy.



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Vendors Sought for Spring Fair

Colchester Federated Church's annual Spring in Bloom Vendor Fair is coming up on May 2 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. This fair showcases local crafters, vendors, farmers and more.

If you would like a table at the fair to sell your goods, please reach out to Renee Misbach at rouillette01@snet.net for more information.

First-Time Homebuyers' Class

All are invited to a First-Time Homebuyer's Class that will be held at Carl Guild & Associates, 392 South Main St., on Saturday, March 28, at 1 p.m.

First-time homebuyers will learn about programs that help with downpayment, inspections you may need to do on the home, and everything you need to know about house-shopping.

Speakers will be realtor Carol Ryall, Hayley Horzepa of Total Mortgage, and Ryan Hartman of Anchor Home Inspection.

To reserve a seat, call 860-514-5333 or 203-695-2818.

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RE3-29-24

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CIT3-5-26

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RE5-30-25

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RE11-29-24

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.; Monday, 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.

Colchester Federated Church News

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

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

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

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

Lions Club Accepting Grant Applications

The Colchester Lions Club is now accepting applications for grant requests from community groups and organizations, in preparation for its annual Community Night of Giving in May.

Organizations should be prepared to demonstrate how the funds would be used to benefit the community. Applications can be found on the club's web site (colchesterlions.org), or may be obtained in writing: Colchester Lions Club, P.O. Box 423, Colchester, CT, 06415. Completed applications must be submitted by March 20.

Serving the community since 1949, the Colchester Lions give back all profits raised to groups and organizations in the community, in addition to Lions' causes in the region, state, country and world.

Senior Center News & Notes

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

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

Tuesday, March 10: 9 a.m., Making Memories; 9:45 a.m., Tai Chi; 10 a.m., LOTCIP Meeting; 11 a.m., Lunch & Learn; 12:30 p.m., Pinochle, CHOICES Counseling by appointment only; 1 p.m., Cornhole; 1:15 p.m., Bingo; 4-8 p.m., Wellness Nights; 7 p.m., SCBC Meeting.

Wednesday, March 11: 9 a.m., Making Memories, Walking Group; 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Reflexology; 10 a.m., Adult Coloring, Hand and Foot Card Game, Sit & Be Fit Video; 10:30 a.m., Garden Club Workshop; 1 p.m., Sew-cial Time; 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m., Cardio Drumming; 2:30 p.m., CSC Staff Meeting.

Thursday, March 12: 9 a.m., Exercise w/ Anne; 10 a.m., Sittercize, Wii Bowling; 10:30 a.m., Strength Training Presentation; 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, March 13: 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; 11:15 a.m., Chatham Health Education Program; noon, Tech Time with Harry; 1:15 p.m., Bingo.



Colchester Cares recently presented a donation in support of last month's Freezin' for a Reason. From left are Freezin' for a Reason members Greg Cordova, Rob Suchecki and Fred Brown along with Kim Talarczyk, co-founder of Colchester Cares.

Colchester Cares Presents 1st Quarter Donations

Colchester Cares, a group that supports various causes in Colchester, recently made its first-quarter donations, totaling \$4,800. The group voted to give \$1,600 each to: Freezin' for a Reason to support the Colchester Fuel Bank; Colchester Federated Church for needed repairs; and a scholarship for a Bacon Academy senior student accepted into a four-year college/university.

Colchester Cares members, who commit to donating \$100 a quarter, present current needs in town and then vote on where to send the group's collective donations. The group was es-

tablished in 2020 and since its inception has donated over \$70,000 to Colchester causes.

Colchester Cares always welcomes new members who would like to give back to the community. You can be a member without having to attend meetings. Suggesting worthy causes, voting, and donating can all be done online.

The next quarterly meeting will be held Tuesday, April 21, at 7 p.m., at the Carl Guild Community Room, 392 South Main St. For more information, please visit www.colchestercares.org or follow the group on Facebook.

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TTCP Seeks Volunteers

The Town Center Project (TTCP), an all-volunteer-driven 501c3 nonprofit organization that provides various art installations and events in Hebron, is looking for volunteers to help organize and produce a few events. The only special skill required is a love for community and the ability to be present. Help is needed for a number of TTCP's traditional programs, like the Town-Wide Tag Sale or Make Music Day, which is always June 21

and is a time when Hebron joins 120 other countries in celebrating an International Day of Music. TTCP also organizes the Maple Fest and Harvest Moon Festival – and both require a lot of community input. This year, TTCP is also planning several events to honor the nation's 250th birthday. If interested in volunteering, email ttcp@thetowncenterproject.org.

Elderly and Disabled Tax Relief

Tax relief for homeowners aged 65 and older or 100% Social Security disabled is offered in conformance with eligibility requirements and specifications of state enabling legislation. The Hebron Assessor's office will accept applications through May 15. The maximum income limits set for the Oct. 1, 2025 Grand List year are: Single, \$46,300; Married, \$56,500. A completed 2025 federal income tax return with supporting documents (if filed), including a 1099 Social Security state-

ment, must be presented at time of application. Social Security disabled applicants must also present proof of disability dated within three years of application. If no tax return is filed, all taxable and non-taxable income statements must be presented at time of application. More detailed information about these programs is available at www.hebronct.gov, or by contacting the Assessor's Office at 860-228-5971 ext. 126.

Senior Center News & Notes

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

AARP Income Tax Preparation for the 2025 Year: Certified AARP Tax Preparation volunteers will be at the Hebron Senior Center to prepare basic federal and state tax returns on Tuesdays from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. (first appointment at 9 a.m., last appointment at noon) Tuesdays, March 10, 17, 24 and 31. Sign-up required, by calling 860-228-1700.

Rescheduled Air Fryer Healthy Cooking Demonstration: Wednesday, March 11, at noon. Tammy Scherp will cook up a few healthy items that are easy to make in your air fryer; of course, there will be samples. The event is free but registration deadline is March 9.

Weekly Shopping Trips: Pre-registration is required by noon the day before the trip. Call 860-228-1700. Call senior center for latest schedule.

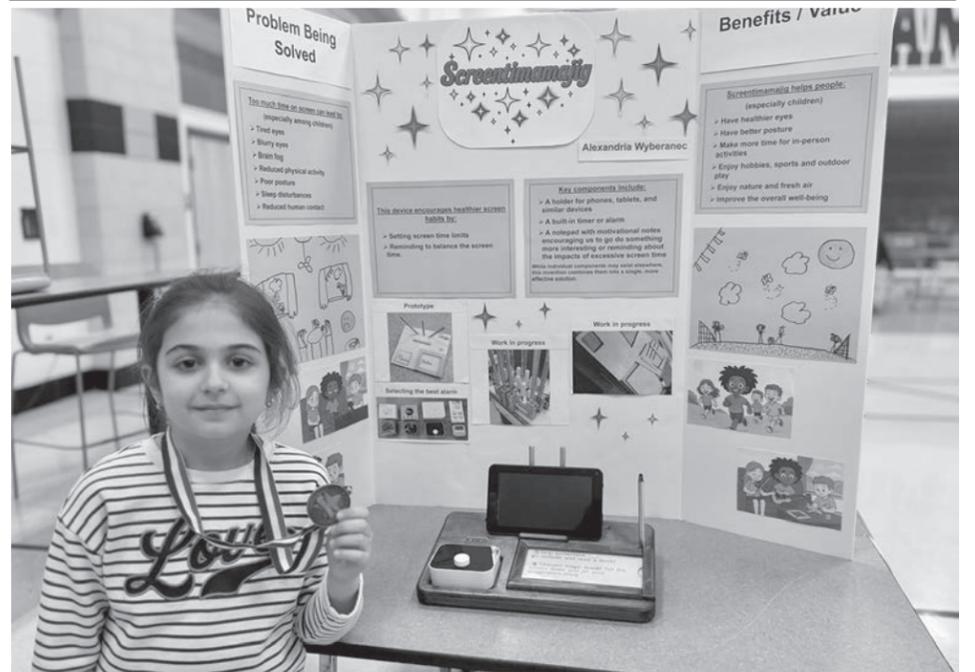
Sound Healing: Monday, March 9, 1 p.m., at The Residence at Glastonbury. All are invited to this free sound healing experience designed to

calm the mind, relax the body, and restore inner balance.

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

St. Patrick's Day Concert and Lunch: Thursday, March 19, 11 a.m., featuring St. Patrick's Day Sunshine Singers and a traditional corned beef and cabbage lunch. The Sunshine Singers will perform from 11 a.m.-noon and lunch will be at 12:15 p.m. Cost for lunch is \$5, but the concert is free. You must pre-register for lunch by Thursday, March 12, at noon.

Bus Trip to Windham Tech's Uncommon Kitchen for Lunch: Wednesday, March 25. Leave at 10:15 a.m., and return approximately 12:45 p.m. Cost is \$17 and must be received by Wednesday, March 18. Lunch is prepared by the culinary students. Menu includes warm rolls and butter, fire-roasted tomato soup, and your choice of entrée (roast turkey & dumplings, stuffed peppers, or a chicken Caesar salad) – detailed description available at the senior center – and choice of dessert (cherries jubilee cheesecake or pineapple upside-down cake). The cost is \$20 per person which includes transportation.



Even kids know that too much screen time can be a bad thing. Alexandria Wyberanec shows off her medal that signifies one spot of the 11 finalist projects going to the state competition held at University of Connecticut.



Ellie Tillona, left, and Charlotte Hood took their personal experiences as injured students trying to navigate through school in order to help others with their hands-free device.

TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS NOTICE OF HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing at their Meeting on Monday, March 9, 2026 at 6:30pm at the East Hampton Town Hall - 1 Community Drive, Room 117 and via Zoom to consider the following application:
 ZBA-26-001: Woodland Estates, Reduce 22' wide driveway to 15' wide gravel driveway and increase the number of homes served from 2 lots to 4 lots, Map 06/ Block 12/ Lot 7B & Map 06/ Block 12/ Lot 7A
 Applications are on file in the Land Use Office 860 267-7450
 2TB 2/27, 3/6

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF ANDOVER REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 8

Notice is hereby given that copies of the following for Regional School District No. 8 for the year ending June 30, 2025, are on file in the Town Clerk's Office, 17 School Rd, Andover CT
 • Annual Financial Report
 • Health & Medical Insurance Consortium Annual Financial Report
 Dated at Andover, CT this 25th February 2026
 Roberta Dougherty
 Andover Town Clerk
 1TB 3/6

TOWN OF PORTLAND PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Portland Planning & Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, March 19th, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. at the Portland Public Library, 20 Freestone Avenue, to consider the following:
 PZC Application #25-11: 1401 Main Street. Proposal to construct a 30 ft by 100 ft hitting pavilion. Application and property of Cote Range LLC. Map 68 Lot 1. Zone FP, RI and R-25.
 PZC Application #25-13: Proposed Amendment to the Portland Zoning Regulations. Changes to section 8.3 lighting regulations. Application of the Town of Portland.
 Dated at Portland, CT this 3rd day of March 2026
 Robert Ellsworth, Chairman
 Planning & Zoning Commission
 2TB 3/6, 3/13

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LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON IWVA ACTIONS

At the Regular Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency Meeting held on Wednesday, February 25, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. at the East Hampton Town Hall and via ZOOM, the following decisions were made:
 IW-26-001: Ryan Brodeur, 98 Middletown Avenue, Construct a 30' x 50' Garage in Upland Review Area, Map 12/ Block 48C/ Lot 4 – Approved
 IW-26-003: John & Karen Stewart, 109 Mott Hill, Construct a Single Family in Home in Upland Review Area, Map 24/ Block 44/ Lot 14D – Approved with Conditions
 Chairman Joshua Wilson
 1TB 3/6

LEGAL NOTICE NOTICE OF MARLBOROUGH REPUBLICAN TOWN COMMITTEE CAUCUS TO SELECT DELEGATES TO THE REPUBLICAN STATE CONVENTION FOR 2026

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the Rules of the Republican Party and the State Election Laws, that there will be a caucus of all enrolled Republican electors of the Town of Marlborough on Wednesday, March 25, 2026 at 5:45 PM, check-in time 5:30 PM in the Library/Annex of the Elementary School, 25 School Drive, Marlborough, CT. to select delegates for various Republican Conventions. If there is a building closure on March 25, 2026, due to the weather, the following day March 26, 2026, same time and same place, the caucus will be held. All registered Republican Voters are welcome to attend. If you have any questions, please call 860 295-0201.
 Louise Concodello
 MRTC Secretary
 1TB 3/6

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LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF HEBRON TOWN MANAGER'S PROPOSED BUDGET BUDGET SUMMARY FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027

	ADOPTED Expenditures 2025-2026	PROPOSED Expenditures 2026-2027	Percent Change
Town Government	\$11,606,901	\$13,080,636	12.70 %
Hebron Board of Education	14,336,533	15,737,976	9.78 %
RHAM School District Levy	16,057,776	17,516,345	9.08 %
RHAM CIP Budget	293,770	267,650	(8.89) %
RHAM Debt Service	215,521	223,843	3.86 %
Total	\$42,510,501	\$46,826,450	10.15 %

For detailed budget information and meeting dates please visit: <https://hebronct.com/budget-information/>
 1TB 3/6

Marlborough • Marlborough

Congregational Church News & Notes

Sunday Worship at Marlborough Congregational Church, located at 35 South Main St., is held at 10 a.m. The service is also broadcast live every Sunday at mcc.marlconchurch.org and recorded for later viewing. Church pastor is the Rev. Valerie Seaver.

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

March 8 service will be led by Seaver and will include an anthem performed by the church bell choir. The sermon will be given by church member, Kevn McCaffrey. After worship all are invited to Coffee Hour in the Thienes Lounge.

A Community Sing, led by Carolyn Brodinski, will be held upstairs in the Thienes Lounge Saturday, March 7, at 7 p.m. All who enjoy singing, including musicians, are welcome.

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

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

is held monthly. The next church-sponsored Drive Thru Café, for Marlborough Food Bank clients and their families with tickets, will be March 29. First-quarter mission-giving will go to Marlborough Food Bank.

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

Second Blessings Thrift Shop: The shop is open Fridays from noon-3 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Second Blessings is now featuring both winter and spring merchandise. Follow the shop through Facebook at Second Blessings Thrift Shop, Marlborough CT for updates. The eBay shop is open year-round at bit.ly/MCCebay.

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

Parks and Rec. Programs

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

Special Kids' Events: Easter Egg Hunt: Saturday, March 28, at Blish Park. Visit the Easter Bunny. Ages 2 and under at 11 a.m.; ages 6-8 at 11:15 a.m.; ages 3-5 at 11:30 a.m.; and ages 7-10 at 11:45 a.m.

Kids Fishing Derby: Saturday, May 2, 9-11 a.m., at Blish Park. This event is held for anyone from 4 to 15 years of age. Registration is \$10. Prizes will be awarded for biggest fish, smallest fish and first fish caught.

Youth Programs: 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.

Crayola Imagine Arts - Wild World: The Art Of Conservation: For grades K-6, Tuesdays, April 7th - May 19th, 3:15-4:15 p.m., in the Marlborough Elementary School cafeteria. Registration fee is \$142/resident, \$147/non-resident.

Tiny Twirlers Dance Class - Tuesday Class: For ages 2-3 with caregiver. Tuesdays, 5-5:30 p.m., March 24-May 26; no class April 14. All classes held at Dance Dynamics in Hebron. Registration fee is \$136.

Tiny Twirlers Dance Class - Saturday Class: For ages 2-3 with caregiver. Saturdays, 9:30-10 a.m., March 28-May 30; no class April 4, April 18 or May 23. All classes held at Dance Dynamics in Hebron. Fee is \$108.

Sparkling Spinners: For ages 3-6. Thursdays, 4:30-5 p.m., March 26-May 28; no class April 16. All classes held at Dance Dynamics in Hebron. Fee is \$136. No class April 16.

After School Co-Ed Dodgeball League: For grades 5 & 6. Mondays, March 23-May 11, 3:15-4:15 p.m., at MES. Participants will be divided up into teams each week to play various dodgeball games. No dodgeball on April 13th and May 4th. Fee is \$30/resident.

After School Co-Ed Handball League: For grades 5 & 6. Wednesdays, April 1-May 20, 3:15-4:15 p.m., at MES. Participants will be divided up into teams and play weekly games. No handball April 15 and May 13. Fee is \$30/resident.

Lego Pokemon Engineering: For grades K-4. Wednesdays, April 1-May 13, 3:15-4:45 p.m. Fee is \$136/resident, \$141/non-resident.

Mad Science-NASA Space and Beyond: For grades K-6. Thursdays, April 9-May 21, 3:15-4:15 p.m., at MES. Fee is \$142/resident, \$147/non-resident.

Soccer Shots: Saturdays, April 18-June 12 (no session May 23), at the West Road Memorial upper field. Mini, for age 2, is 3-3:35 p.m. Fee is

Dean's List

Marlborough residents Kyle Wood and Lauren Fenton made the fall 2025 Dean's List at Emmanuel College in Boston.

Wood has a double major; he is majoring in neuroscience and theater arts. Fenton is majoring in nursing.



Marlborough was one of many Lions clubs from all over central Connecticut that brought to the recent District Governor's Breakfast boxes of eyeglasses that have been collected during the last year. Marlborough Lions President Jean Paul Bolduc is shown holding just one of the many boxes of eyeglasses collected at the event.

Lions Present Collected Eyeglasses

Lions clubs from all over central Connecticut gathered at the District Governor's Breakfast in South Windsor on March 1 to recognize members and to present awards.

At that event, various Lions clubs, including the Marlborough Lions Club, brought boxes of eyeglasses that have been collected during the last year.

The Marlborough Lions have drop-boxes for used eyeglasses at Town Hall, Liberty Bank, the Marlborough Senior Center, Richmond Memorial Library, and at the office of Dr. Steven Rafalowsky on Saner Road. The Lions collect eyeglasses and hearing aids all year long and turn in the collected items, which are then provided

to people in impoverished countries all around the world.

Last fall, the Marlborough Lions also conducted free vision screening at Marlborough Elementary School, which is done to help provide early identification of any children with vision issues. The eye screening is non-intrusive and utilizes a camera that detects any anomalies.

The Marlborough Lions Club always welcomes new members. If you have any questions, or would like to learn more about the Marlborough Lions, call Lions Secretary Ken Hjulstrom at 860-490-9116 or Lions Club President Jean Paul Bolduc at 860-798-2054.

Grief Share Group to Start

A Grief Share support group will begin Tuesday, March 31. The group will run every Tuesday until June 23. The first session will begin at 4:30 p.m. at Fellowship Community Church, 24 South Rd., Marlborough, CT and run until 6:30PM. You will be given a schedule for subsequent sessions at the first group meeting.

The group consists of 13 videos and discussion sessions with the last session on Tuesday, June 23, which will be the last video and a Celebration of Life to honor your loved one.

The sessions include watching a video, group discussions, and doing the sections pertaining to the video in the workbook at your leisure.

Grief Share features nationally recognized experts on grief recovery topics. Seminar sessions include "Is This Normal?" "The Challenges of Grief," "Grief and Your Relationships," "Why?"

St. John Fisher Church News & Notes

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

Lenten Worship, Sacraments, Scripture Study & Stations of the Cross: Lenten Reconciliation: Mondays during Lent through March 20, 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 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, or look for the church on Facebook (Saint John Fisher Roman Catholic Church).

Student Show at Arts Center

The Marlborough Arts Center, 231 N. Main St., will host the annual Student Art Show Saturdays and Sundays, March 7 & 8, 14 & 15, and 21 & 22, from 1-4 p.m. each week. Admission is free.

The show features artwork by students at the elementary schools in Hebron and Marlborough, as well as the RHAM middle and high schools.

The Marlborough Arts Center is a nonprofit regional center for the fine arts, performing arts, and fine crafts. There is free on-site parking and the building is handicapped-accessible.

Marlborough • Marlborough

Selectmen Review Budget, Discuss Maintenance

By Toriana Williams

The Marlborough Board of Selectmen met on Feb. 17, in which they reviewed grant applications, discussed budget planning for the 2026-27 fiscal year, established the Marlborough Elementary School Building Committee and authorized the town's enrollment into the CT Tire Stewardship Program. During public comment, residents shared their concerns on the maintenance of town athletic fields.

2026-27 FY Proposed Budget

The board is currently in the process of finalizing its 2026-27 fiscal year operating budget. During the meeting, Town Manager David Porter discussed several line items in-depth and was asked to provide more information regarding a selection of items.

The proposed budget presented increases for personnel-related items such as life insurance, which rose to \$1,800, a 100% increase, and long-term disability, which rose to \$3,300, a 65% increase. However, the budget proposed several decreases, including insurance and bonds projected at \$170,000, a decrease of 9.03%, and Internet Services at \$1,000, a decrease of 56.52%. Many line items were reduced entirely, proposing several 100% decreases.

The AHM Youth and Family Services line item presented a figure of \$228,175, a 4% increase. Last year's proposal was \$219,399 while their actual expenditure was significantly lower at \$109,699.

Selectwoman Susan McFarland, a Democrat,

said, "Not for nothing, that [\$228,175], that single line item is almost equal to everything else we've talked about so far. ... That just seems disproportionately huge to me." McFarland emphasized the importance of AHM but called for the board to request the number be reduced.

During the discussion, Porter added during an "oversight meeting," he had already asked AHM to reduce the proposed number. "[I] expressed my reservations, and they are going back and looking at their budget to trim it down."

The total budget proposed stood at \$3,368,862 for the 2026-27 fiscal year, a 1.87% decrease from the 2025-26 proposed budget of \$3,433,079. For the personnel budget, McFarland was the lone opposing vote, while the operating budget was approved unanimously to be presented to the Board of Finance as to not exceed the current total.

Marlborough Field Maintenance

Representatives from RHAM Youth Baseball expressed serious concerns regarding the poor condition and lack of maintenance of Marlborough's athletic fields. The speakers highlighted safety concerns, poor playability, tick infestations and the burden placed on volunteers to maintain the fields.

Derek Blunt, student athlete parent and member of the RHAM Youth Baseball Board of Directors, shared that Marlborough players estimate roughly half of the total 220 children

and yet, "Despite that significant footprint, our Marlborough players spent the vast majority of their playing time on fields in Hebron."

Blunt cited Hebron fields as safe, playable and well-maintained, "while Marlborough fields simply do not receive the same level of care from our town," calling them "difficult and sometimes impossible to use."

According to Blunt, RHAM Youth Baseball has spent approximately \$20,000 from league funds to maintain and repair the fields.

"We have acted as stewards of these public spaces but have reached a point where volunteer labor and league resources alone cannot compensate for the lack of municipal maintenance," Blunt said. He called for the town to take responsibility and that Marlborough fields are town assets which require maintenance similar to other public infrastructure under the town's purview.

Another member of the Board of Directors and student athlete parent, Tony Pitrone, shared his concerns. Pitrone stated that the board has asked for help from the town, and "had a number of requests go without attention." He echoed many similar sentiments and informed the board that several parents have complained of tick infestations.

The representatives provided the board with a list of issues and requests. The conversation was ultimately tabled until the March 3 meeting so the board could gather more information.

Jones Hollow Road, West Road Reconstruction

Also last week, the board reviewed two Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program (LOTICIP) grant applications prepared by the Planning and Development Department. Director Peter Hughes presented the scope, timeline and funding details for both projects.

For Jones Hollow Road reconstruction, the scope of the project included a full-depth roadway reconstruction from North Main Street to the southern driveway of St. John Fisher Church, which would be approximately 975 feet. Improvements included sub-base stabilization, new asphalt surface and replacement of catch basin tops. Sub-base stabilization would increase the strength and durability of the

ground beneath the pavement, which in turn would prevent oversteering and reduce erosion. The estimated cost presented by Hughes was \$999,600

West Road reconstruction would also include a full-depth roadway reconstruction from the Jones Hollow Road intersection east to the Marlborough/Hebron town line, which would be approximately 4,475 feet. Similar to the Jones Hollow Road project, improvements included sub-base stabilization, new asphalt surface, installation of new catch basin systems, as well as drainage enhancements and replacement of an existing 48-inch culvert with a 10 by 6-foot box culvert. The grant application total presented by Hughes at the meeting was "\$3,998,000 and some change."

Hughes explained that if the town is awarded funding, construction is anticipated to begin in 2028 or 2029. He also clarified that while the town is responsible for design costs, LOTICIP grant funds would cover 100% of the construction costs. Afterward, Porter was authorized to submit both grant applications.

Other News

The board approved enrolling Marlborough's transfer station in the CT Tire Stewardship Program, which will allow free tire drop-off with pickup funded through the state's Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) program. The aforementioned program is an environmental policy where manufacturers are held financially responsible for the life of their products - in particular, the recycling, reuse or disposal stage.

"You may already be familiar with some others like mattresses. When you buy a new battery, ... there is ... a little bit baked into that price for disposing of the item at the end of its useful life," explained Porter.

Afterward, the board formally established the Marlborough Elementary School building Committee (MESBC) and approved its charge, which included planning and overseeing major alterations to the elementary school. The committee will oversee design, budgeting, grant coordination and project management.

Porter updated the board on discussions with DEEP to modify the SMM grant by removing unit-based pricing and focusing instead on food scrap diversion and recycling enhancements. DEEP is reviewing the request. "They have to go through their process and that could take some time," Porter said.

Pre-Kindergarten Screening Information

All public school systems in Connecticut are responsible for the identification of children who may be eligible to receive special education services. The Early Childhood team at Marlborough Elementary School is accepting applications for current resident children interested in its PreK screening for the 2026-27 school year.

If you are interested in your child participating in this process, eligible children must be at least 3 or 4 years old by Sept. 1, and parents/guardians must complete and return a

questionnaire no later than Friday, March 6. An in-person screening is planned for Friday, March 20. Please note that children identified as kindergarten eligible (those turning 5 by Sept. 1) are not eligible for the PreK program for the upcoming school year.

Please contact Joanne Andrews at 860-295-6236 or jandrews@marlborough.k12.ct.us if you would like to receive a screening questionnaire or have any questions regarding the program.

RTC to Host Bingo

The Marlborough Republican Town Committee will hold Bingo Friday, March 13, at the American Legion, 128 East Hampton Rd., Marlborough. Doors open at 5 p.m., and bingo starts at 5:30 p.m.

There will be cash and gift prizes, as well as Tea Cup raffles. Food, snacks and refreshments will be provided.

Tickets are \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door. For more information or to reserve your spots, call or text Zina Planeta at 860-798-6038.

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.

President's List

Arriya Benitez of Marlborough made the fall 2025 President's List at Goodwin University in East Hartford.

Red Cross Blood Drive

There will be an American Red Cross Blood Drive at St. John Fisher church hall, 30 Jones Hollow Rd., on Saturday, March 7, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Sign up online at redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED-CROSS. There will be homemade baked treats and a comfortable setting to welcome you. As a thank you, the Red Cross will provide all donors with free A1C testing and a \$15 e-gift card.

Discovery Zone learning Center



45 Pendleton Dr. Hebron 860-228-3952	152 Hebron Rd. Marlborough 860-295-8003	2 Orlando Dr. Columbia 860-228-8885
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Marlborough • Marlborough

Marlborough Lions Pancake Breakfast

The Marlborough Lions Club will hold its annual Pancake Breakfast Sunday, March 29, from 7:45-11:45 a.m.

The breakfast is being planned for both dine-in and take-out and will be held at the East Glastonbury Fish and Game Club on Planeta Road in Marlborough, which is located off of West Road just east of Exit 12 from Route 2.

The Lions will serve various varieties of pancakes along with sausage, ham, fruit coffee and juice. Tickets will be available for sale in advance of the event or can be purchased at the door on the day of the breakfast. Tickets

are \$10 for adults, \$9 for seniors and \$7 for children 12 and under.

The success of this event is also dependent upon local businesses, which support the Lions in the form of \$25 sponsorships. Lions Club members will be contacting local businesses in advance of the breakfast and any business interested in providing a sponsorship is encouraged to contact the Lions.

For further information, to provide a sponsorship or to purchase tickets, call Jean Paul Bolduc at 860-798-2054 or Lions Secretary Ken Hjulstrom at 860-490-9116.

Watercolorist On Display at Town Hall

The Marlborough Arts Center presents a new solo exhibit featuring the work of arts center member and Connecticut artist Charles McCaughtry. The collection is currently on display at the Marlborough Town Hall's MAC Hallway Gallery.

McCaughtry's watercolors capture the poetry of nature, focusing on the relationships between earth, water, air, and light. An avid hiker and paddler, he draws inspiration from the wild areas he explores.

McCaughtry's work has been featured in over 50 solo exhibitions and is held in numerous institutional, corporate, and private collections across the United States, Canada, and Europe. His honors include commissions from Liberty Bank, the Dodd Center at the University of Connecticut, and the Hartford Life Insurance Company.

For more information and to view his work, visit mccaughtryart.com.

The exhibit will run through the end of April and is open to the public during Marlborough Town Hall business hours: Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Tuesday, 8 a.m.-7 p.m.; and Friday, 8 a.m.-noon. Town Hall is located at 26 N. Main St.

For more information, contact the Marlborough Arts Center at 860-467-6353 or the Marlborough Town Hall Tax Collector's Department at 860-295-6205.



Award-winning watercolorist Charles McCaughtry currently has a solo exhibit of his work on display at Marlborough Arts Center.

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TRAVEL

ANSWERS TO PUZZLE PAGE 25

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CREATORS NEWS SERVICE

By Neil Manausa

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Upcoming Classes at Marlborough Arts Center

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

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 is 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. 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.

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. 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.

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

Disrupt Aging in Your Community: Tuesday, March 10, 10:30-11:30 a.m. This AARP presentation challenges individuals of all ages to examine aging trends and the importance of building equity in longevity.

Blood Drive: Wednesday, March 18, 1-6 p.m. 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 with sponsor code "Marlborough."

St. Patrick's Lunch: Friday, March 20, noon-2 p.m. Enjoy corned beef and cabbage, carrots, potatoes and soda bread. The Millis Berfield Band will perform. Cost is \$10. RSVP by March 16.

Birthday Club: January, February and March birthdays will all be celebrated Tuesday, March 24, from 1-2 p.m., with cake. Open to all friends

and family. It does not have to be your birthday month to celebrate. However, if it is, please RSVP.

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 Elementary 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 for the complete transportation policy. Transportation services are only 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.

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.

Homeowners Elderly/Disabled Tax Relief Program: Property tax credits are available to qualified households 65+ or disabled. Income limit for single is \$46,300; for married, up to \$56,500. For more information, call the assessor's office at 860-295-6201; for application assistance, call the senior center.

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Obituaries

Colchester

Esther May Crouch

Esther May Crouch of Colchester, formerly of Groton, passed away Wednesday, Jan. 28. Esther was born Feb. 19, 1960, in Long Island, N.Y. She was the adopted daughter of the late John and Alice Crouch.

Esther a devoted aunt to her nieces, nephews and extended family. She was an avid football fan and loved watching the games with her great nephews and was looking forward to watching the Patriots in the Super Bowl.

Esther moved to Colchester several months ago to live with her niece Pamela. She loved their daily coffee runs and enjoyed all the moments she had with her great nieces and nephews. She gave selflessly to her family and the people she loved. She left a lasting impression on everyone.

Esther will be sadly missed but always remembered with love by all who knew her, especially her family: her nieces, Pamela Moone whom she made home, Bethany Moone of Norwich; her nephew, John Moone and his wife Danica Moone of Montville; her sister, Sharon Rossi and brother, Sean Hyland; her great nieces, Anastasya Cruz, Brianna Cruz and her boyfriend Jaidyn Montes (a.k.a. Jordan), Trinidey Moone, Aaliyah Moone, Kaeloni Moone, Jonay Moone, Trystiana Moone, Jalycia Moone and Janyah Moore; her great-nephews Daniel Gately Jr, Charles Gately, Isaiah Moone and JR Moone; also her great-great-nephew Adrian Montes, who she couldn't wait to meet him and hold him.

In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by her twin sister, Beth Ann Moone.

A celebration of life will be held at Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd, Colchester. Date and time will be announced.



Marlborough

Susan Elaine Smith

Susan Elaine Smith of North Haven passed away Thursday, Feb. 26, at the age of 76 years old. Susan was born Oct. 27, 1949, in Rockland, Maine, to the late Oakley George and Lunette Christina (Nelson) Smith.

Susan was raised on Swan's Island, Maine, where she resided until she attended Higgins Classical Institute for High School. Susan went on to earn a bachelor's and a master's degree in education at the University of Maine, and later received her nursing degree at Quinnipiac University in Connecticut. She spent most of her career teaching Child Development at Hamden High.

Susan will be remembered as a very creative, nurturing and spiritual person. She began sewing at a young age, quickly learning to make her own clothes for herself and her friends. Her gardens were a wild riot of color while her wall hangings and quilts were works of art. Dancing was one of her passions, attending contra dances and live music. She adored her animals, including several Maine Coon cats and Toy Poodle dogs. Susan raised her family in North Haven, but enjoyed spending her summers on Swan's Island with her children. She was very proud of her island heritage.

Susan will always be remembered fondly as a devoted and loving mother, grandmother and teacher. Her loss will be felt by many people, especially her family. She leaves behind a daughter, Christina, and her husband, Peter Maisano, of Marlborough; a son, Brian and his wife, Jessica Stoehr, of Swan's Island, Maine; a brother, Jerry Smith; a niece, Gerri Lynn Smith, her grandchildren, Nathan and Camille; and many extended family members and friends.

She was predeceased by a nephew, Oakley Smith.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Swan's Island the weekend of Sept. 27th.

The Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester has been entrusted with care of arrangements. For online condolences, please visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.



Marlborough

William Blau

William Blau passed away peacefully Sunday, March 1, at the age of 91.

Bill was known for being a passionate movie and music buff, and for riding his bike to work at Pratt and Whitney, every day, from his home of 58 years in East Hartford, through the 1970s and '80s. Voted "Class Wit" in high school, Bill loved to entertain, sharing jokes, stories, puns, funny faces, and movie showings of 16-mm films at the Wil-Mar Theater.

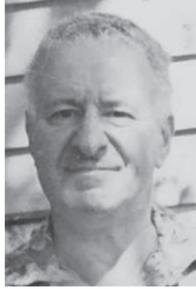
Bill's greatest love was the one he described as the most beautiful woman in the world, his treasured wife of 61 years, Margie. He was always supportive of his daughter, Robin Greenwald, of Marlborough, and his grandkids, Emily, Jacob, and Anna, in pursuing their own passions, and he never failed to tell them they were smart, capable, beautiful, and loved.

We are blessed that Bill lived his whole life, right to the end, as the clever, patient, appreciative, one-of-a-kind person we always knew and loved. Thank you for being you!

Friends and family are welcome to gather at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, March 8, at Newkirk & Whitney Funeral Home, 318 Burnside Ave., East Hartford, followed by an 11 a.m. prayer service at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to the American Cancer Society or Planned Parenthood.

To visit Bill's complete obituary and online tribute, please visit www.newkirkandwhitney.com.



Portland

Lawrence Unikewicz

Lawrence (Larry) Unikewicz, 67, of Portland, passed away unexpectedly Wednesday, Feb. 25. Larry was born Feb. 16, 1959, in Portland, where he lived his entire life. He was predeceased by his mother, Arlene (LaPlant) Unikewicz, of Portland, and his father, John "Cubby" Unikewicz, of Ocala, Fla.

He graduated from Portland High School in 1977, where he made many lifelong friends. After high school, he built a career as a man of many trades, with a special passion for carpentry. Most recently, he served as lead driver and yard manager for Colby Direct Delivery, where he formed close bonds with his coworkers and will be greatly missed.

If you asked anyone around town, they would tell you Larry was the life of the party – loud, funny, and always ready with a one-liner just to get a laugh. He knew everyone, and everyone knew him (and could often hear him coming from a mile away). Larry was one of the most selfless men you could meet, always putting others first. He was an incredibly proud grandfa-



ther, never missing a chance to tell anyone who would listen about his grandchildren and how much they meant to him.

A devoted NASCAR fan, Larry always looked forward to his yearly trips to the races with some of his best friends. Although he sold his bike a few years back, he never lost his love for Harleys and would have happily taken one last ride.

He is survived by his three daughters: Taylor Wicke, her husband Kevin, and their son Wylder; Drew Unikewicz, her fiancé Anthony Solis, and their daughter Isabella and son Xander; and Brooke Unikewicz and her fiancé Leo Thomas, all of Portland. He was so looking forward to walking Brooke down the aisle in just a few weeks. He is also survived by his three sisters: Linda (Brud) Miner of East Hampton; Shirley (Tony) Marone of Glastonbury; and Ruthie (Tim) Lang of Cape Coral, Fla.; as well as many nieces, nephews, extended family members, and countless friends who will miss him deeply.

A Celebration of Life will be held at The 1851 in Cromwell, at 2 p.m. Saturday, May 2. All are welcome to join – whether you can stop by for just a few minutes or stay to celebrate all night, just as Larry would have wanted. In true Larry fashion, we invite you to share a story, share a laugh, and raise a shot of Jack Daniels in his honor.

Portland

Mel Lawson Bray

With deep sadness we announce the passing of a treasured family member, Mel Bray, on Wednesday, Jan. 21, at the age of 86. A more affable, generous, and caring man would be hard to find!

Mel was born Sept. 18, 1939, in Henning, Tenn., to Melba Olds and Cyrus Lawson Bray. One of six children, he came from humble beginnings in rural Tennessee, without electricity or plumbing. As a youth he worked long hours alongside his family on their farm... he told of picking and hauling cotton as a young boy, to help put food on the table, yet there were times when the family went hungry. Thus, resilience, determination, and gratitude became the backbone of Mel's life journey.

Mel graduated from Harrison Chilhowee Academy, and with sights on a better life, Mel enlisted in the U.S. Navy. He proudly served his country for 21 years, including two tours in Vietnam. During his naval career he was awarded a scholarship to attend Vanderbilt University and graduated in 1967, with a degree in electrical engineering. He later received his MBA from RPI. At that time, a good friend introduced him to his future wife, the love of his life Deirdre. They were devoted to each other and were married for 43 years until her passing in 2018.

Mel retired from the Navy as a lieutenant commander in 1977, and was later employed at Holston Defense, Goodyear Atomic, Foxborough, Corning Glass, and Baran Institute.

Mel maintained lasting friendships from his Navy days, and was infamous within the VA facilities, always sharing his special brand of humor. He made instant friends wherever he went. He was known for his gift of gab, his sharp wit, his abundant jokes and one-liners. He had an easy charm that people were drawn to, and a special way of making people feel seen and valued. Reaching out to others is what made Mel tick. That was his mission in life.

Giving back was also an essential part of Mel's life. He was a member of Saint Mary Church, the Knights of Columbus, veteran organizations DAV, FRA, MOAA. Having experienced hunger as a child, he was a committed supporter of Portland Food Bank, Amazing Grace, St. Vincent de Paul.

Mel loved music, especially country music, particularly his much-admired philanthropist Dolly Parton. He enjoyed playing his guitars, frequenting local eateries (where everyone knew his name!), visiting Sanibel Island which he enjoyed with his wife, and of course, anything to do with his family and friends, particularly his cherished grandchildren, whom he loved to entertain with antics!

Mel was immensely grateful for the people in his life, among whom were his veteran buddies that he valued so much. In recent years, he had a very special connection to Molly and Lily, who were close to his heart, Peg and Rich, his loving and dedicated live-in family, his faithful friend Deacon Dana, and his beloved caregiver Giselle, who he delighted in entertaining with his endless banter and humor. Each of these people brought him immeasurable joy and companionship. The family is deeply grateful for their



unwavering love and commitment to Mel.

Mel leaves his cherished family: his son Keith and wife, Liz and his daughter Debbie Thomas (Tennessee). He also leaves his brother, Gil Bray and wife Verlene (Tennessee); sisters-in-law: Keavy Peterson, Maura Sheil-Hughes, Natalie Sheil, Wendy Sheil, brothers-in-law Ralph Peterson, Michael Sheil, Jay Sheil. He also leaves his beloved grandchildren: Areia Bray and unborn Baby Bray, Ava and Audrey Gallant, Lexi and Rosie Luciuk, Evan Thomas/wife Sara and great-granddaughter Gracie, and a host of very loved nieces and nephews.

Besides his parents and wife Deirdre, he was preceded in death by his daughter, Virginia Holmberg; his daughter-in-law, Lyra Luciuk Bray; and his siblings: Colleen, Marvin, Betty Larkey, and Robbie McDaniel.

Mel was everyone's friend and a one-of-a-kind guy! His presence will be deeply missed. We are honored to have called him ours. May his memory along with his famous jokes bring comfort and smiles to all who knew him and loved him.

There are no calling hours. The funeral liturgy will be held Saturday, March 14, at 11 a.m., at St. Mary Church, Portland, with a reception for family and friends following the service. Burial and a "Celebration of Life" will take place in the spring, at a date to be announced.

To share memories or express condolences online, go to neptunesociety.com/obituaries10988788.

Those who wish may send memorial contributions to Portland Food Bank, 7 Waverly Ave., Portland or St. Mary Church, 45 Freestone Ave., Portland, CT 06480.

East Hampton

Mary Lu Wall

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Mary Lucille Clark Wall, 94, of East Hampton, who went home to be with the Lord on Monday, March 2. Mary Lu was the beloved wife of the late Richard F. Wall Sr., former coowner of Wall's Dairy Farm and Restaurant in East Hampton.

Born and raised in the Westchester section of Colchester, Mary Lu graduated from Bacon Academy in 1949 and later from Mitchell College in New London in 1951. She worked as a secretary and bookkeeper in her father's business, the Fred B. Clark Lumber Co., and later served as a substitute secretary in the East Hampton school system.

Mary Lu and Dick enjoyed many happy years together at their vacation homes, first in Vermont, where they spent countless days on the ski slopes, and later in Rhode Island, where they embraced life at the beach. They eventually took to traveling in their campers before settling into an RV park in Westerly, R.I., where they summertime for many years.

A devoted and faithful member of St. Patrick Church, Mary Lu served as a Eucharistic Minister and joyfully used her God-given gifts to decorate the altar, a service that gave her both great pleasure and fulfillment. She was a longtime member of the St. Patrick Guild, once serving as its president, and was a co-founder of the former Cornerstone Prayer Group. Mary Lu also served as manager of "The Shepherd Shop" in Westchester for "My Father's House" of Moodus and was a former member of the East Hampton Art Association.

Mary Lu was predeceased by her husband, Richard; her three sisters, Dorothy Johnson, Evelyn Turner, and Margaret Clark; her two brothers, Fred Clark and Everett Clark; her daughter-in-law, Judy Wall; and her beloved granddaughter, Jennifer Wall.

She leaves behind her four sons: Richard Jr. of East Hampton, his daughter Laura and her husband Adam; Ronald and his wife Barbara of Colchester; Russell of Hebron, his daughter Kathryn, her husband Yuri and their daughter Charlotte, his sons Jason and Marq; Randall and his wife Jennifer of East Hampton, their daughter Madison, and his stepdaughter Samantha.

Friends called at Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, on Thursday, March 5. A Funeral Liturgy was celebrated that morning at St. John Paul II Parish, Church of St. Patrick, 47 W. High St., East Hampton. Burial will be in the spring.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to: St. Patrick Church, P.O. Box 177, East Hampton, CT 06424, for use of the Alter Decorations Committee.

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



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Seeing the Town Square... Allen and Pia Beaupré of Andover recently visited Sucua, Ecuador, on a family trip and took this picture in the town square.

Where in the World is the *Rivereast*?

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



Pig Roast Party!... Arnie and Jeanne Bishop of Portland attending the annual Pig Roast at their complex in Puerto Rico with son, Matt, and family who visited from Maryland.



Fun in the Sunshine State... Gary Greenwald, Pam Joslyn-Greenwald and Eileen Ceder, all of East Hampton, brought the *Rivereast* along as they enjoyed a sunny boat ride in Leesburg, Fla.



A Horse is a Horse... While Kevin Reich, East Hampton resident, was visiting Ocala, Fla., we took him to the beautiful Gypsy Vanner Horse Farm, owned by Dennis Thompson. Even the animals were interested in the *Rivereast*!

Where in the World?

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

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LEGALS

ANDOVER PZ&C PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Andover Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing March 17, 2026, 7:00 pm in the Andover Town Hall Community Room, 17 School Road and via ZOOM, to consider the following Special Permit application and the draft Plan of Conservation and Development:

#26-1SP Application of Thomas Hurst/Elizabeth Paulsen, 746 East St Andover CT 06232. The Applicant is applying to convert storage/attic space of an existing farm store into a market rate accessory apartment per section 4.11.3 of the Andover Zoning Regulations.

The Andover Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing to hear comments and gather public input on the draft Plan of Conservation and Development. Interested parties may ask questions and/or offer comments, either verbally or in writing. Applications are on file and available for public inspection in the Building and Land Use Department and on the Town's website.

Building and Land Use Office 860.742.7305, X – 4219 or email zoning@andoverct.org.
Patrick Dougherty
Planning and Zoning - Chairperson

2TB 3/6, 3/13

LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
PUBLIC HEARING

The Marlborough Zoning Board of Appeals will hold the following public hearing
On Wednesday, March 11, 2026, at 7:00 P.M. in the Marlborough Town Hall, 26 North Main Street.
APPLICATION #ZBA-01-26 – Christopher Vallera (Applicant/Property Owner) 222 North Main Street - is seeking variance of Article Three A.1, Minimum Requirements, Article Three A.3 Conformity of Buildings & Land, Article Three A.5 Reduction of Lot Areas or Minimum Required Yards, Article Three A.9 Minimum Required Yards, Article Six D. 2 a Front Yard Setback, and Article Eleven D.1.c Non-Conforming Structures, in order to expand a non-conforming building to construct a porch with a Front Yard Setback of 21.5 feet where 40 feet is required. Interested parties can review the application materials in the Land Use/Building Department during normal Town Hall hours. Written testimony should be sent at least 24 hours ahead of the public hearing date building@marlboroughct.gov, and oral testimony may be given during the public hearing.

2TB 2/27, 3/6

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

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CIT-12-23

EMPLOYMENT

Seasonal Summer Camp Counselors
Parks & Recreation Department
Town of Portland, CT (EOE)
Deadline: 3/31/2026

Send completed Seasonal Recreational Employment Application to: First Selectman's Office, P.O. Box 71, Portland, CT 06480-0071 or Email: mceppaglia@portlandct.org
Temporary/Seasonal, non-union, Part-time positions for Teen Adventure, Summer Quest Base or Kiddie Kamp Programs. Program runs M-F 7:15 AM to 6:00 PM June 24-Aug 7, 2026. Training in June. Approximate 40 hours weekly/flexible hours based upon department needs. See job description on website for details. Wages start at \$16.94 per hour. Must be available from June 2026 through August 2026.
Qualifications: Prior experience, First Aid & CPR certification preferred. Adult staff must possess high school diploma or GED equivalent. Junior Staff (High School age 15 to 18) must be age 15 upon employment. Subject to criminal background check. All qualified applicants will be considered for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.

1TB 3/6

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Resumes can be sent to 79A Norwich Avenue, Colchester CT 06415 or TheCDG@sbcglobal.net

RE1-16-26

SCHOOL CUSTODIAN

Marlborough Elementary School is accepting applications for a full time 12 month custodian position to work M-F. Flexibility required in terms of shift schedule. Excellent benefit package available. Prior experience with custodial work, maintenance, cleaning equipment preferred. Interested candidates can apply on line at www.marlborough.k12.ct.us (District tab, Employment Opportunities, and Employment Vacancies), or for further information, please call 860.295.6236 or email cmonte@marlborough.k12.ct.us for an application request. EOE

1TB 3/6

Department of Recreation
(Seasonal Openings)

The Town of East Hampton is accepting applications for the following seasonal positions:

- Lifeguards:** Sunday-Saturday between the hours of 11:00 am-6:00 pm. (Hours vary). \$17.09 per hour. Must have lifeguard certification.
- Camp Counselors:** Monday-Friday between the hours of 8:00 am-4:00 pm. \$17.09 per hour.
- Park Gate Attendants:** Sunday-Saturday between the hours of 6:30 am-8:30 pm. \$16.94 per hour.

Job descriptions and an employment application may be found at www.easthamptonct.gov. Please submit your application to the Town of East Hampton, Department of Human Resources, 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, CT 06424, or by email to lseymour@easthamptonct.gov by April 3, 2026, or until filled. EOE/AA/M-F.

1TB 3/6

New Beginnings for Life is a smaller company with a big heart that cares for individuals with intellectual disabilities. We are seeking kind, patient, and passionate candidates to join our team. We have individuals who need care and companionship in Colchester and surrounding towns. We have great benefits, and the rate of pay is \$17.25 per hour. For our day support program, which is from 8am-4pm and 2pm-5pm, the towns are in Salem, Groton, Hebron, Lebanon, Higganum, East Haddam, New London, Norwich, East Hampton, Colchester. For our group home positions we have Monday-Sunday open second and third shift which is 3pm-11pm and 11pm-7am. These positions are in Colchester. **If you are interested in becoming a part of our team, please feel free to call us and ask for more information at 860-531-9426**

RE3-16-24

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EMPLOYMENT

FINANCIAL PLANNING
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Small financial planning firm in Glastonbury looking for a full-time, M-F, in-office admin assistant. Must be highly organized and professional with prior admin experience in a financial planning firm. Responsibilities would include: greeting clients, ability to confidently operate a multi-line phone system, accurate data entry, preparing correspondence, completion of financial account forms, filing and maintaining accurate records. The ability to multi task in a fast-paced office environment is vital. A high degree of computer literacy and proficiency is needed. Must be able to comfortably navigate Microsoft Office Suite (Word, Excel, Outlook) and also have knowledge of other financial planning platforms. Experience with Orion and Schwab Forms is a plus. Must be able to work independently. *Applicants must have strong interpersonal skills, be a willing team player and bring a positive attitude to the office. We are a very service-oriented firm and therefore applicants should have a desire and ability to provide exceptional customer service. We do have our dog in the office so you must be a dog lover. Please email your resumes to: Katie@briggswalthmgmt.com.*



CIT3-5-26

LAWN OPERATIONS CREW LEADER

At General Landscaping, we provide top-tier landscaping services with a focus on exceptional lawn care, including mowing, edging, and general maintenance. We are currently looking to expand our team with a dedicated Mowing Crew Member who is passionate about creating beautiful outdoor spaces for our clients.

Job Description: Lawn mowing and maintenance services for our residential, commercial and HOA. You will work with a team to ensure each property is maintained to the highest standards.

Key Responsibilities:

- Operate lawnmowers, trimmers, and edgers to maintain lawns.
- Ensure all lawns are cut to proper heights and edges are neat and tidy. Use a backpack blower to blow off all hard surfaces.
- Perform general yard cleanup, including picking up debris and trash.
- Maintain and care for equipment to ensure longevity and performance.
- Follow safety procedures and guidelines while on the job site.
- Provide excellent customer service when interaction with clients.

Qualifications:

- Previous experience in lawn care or landscaping preferred.
- Ability to work within a team environment and independently.
- Reliable, punctual and detail oriented.
- Ability to lift and carry equipment and materials (up to 75lbs).
- Valid driver's license and a clean driving record (for driving company vehicles).
- Knowledge of safe equipment operations and handling.

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CIT3-5-26



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OFFICE OPERATIONS ASSISTANT

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This position will share duties, and will require answering phones, interacting with customers, accounts receivable, payable, human resources, and payroll knowledge, as well as other clerical duties. Landscape and gardening knowledge is very helpful but not necessary. We are looking for someone that can work with a team; this is a small office and we depend on each other for support in various ways. Must be proficient with MS Office, Excel, and QuickBooks. Compensation is based upon experience. Benefits to be discussed and will vary upon position and length of service. Job Type: Part-time to full time possibility Expected hours: 32 per week



GENERAL LANDSCAPING LLC
Est. 1978

100 Kreiger Lane, Glastonbury, CT
860.659.5757
office@generallandscaping.com

CIT3-5-26

LEGALS

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing March 18, 2026, 7:00 pm in the Andover Town Hall Community Room, 17 School Road and via ZOOM, to consider the following application:
#26-1ZBA APPLICATION OF CHRISTINE GOMES, Bausola Road parcel, Map 32 Block 48 Lot 53CB. Applicant is seeking relief from lot area requirements of section 11.2 of the Andover Zoning Regulations to construct a single-family dwelling on the parcel. The overall proposal intends to decrease non-conformities that currently exist.
 Interested parties may ask questions and/or offer comments, either verbally or in writing. Applications are on file and available for public inspection with the Building and Land Use Department.
 Building and Land Use Office 860.742.7305, X – 4219 or email zoning@andoverct.org.
 Fred Oliver
 Zoning Board of Appeals - Chairperson

2TB 3/6, 3/13

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
 HEBRON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
 HEBRON, CT**

Pursuant to Section 9 of the Inland Wetlands and Watercourse Regulations of the Town of Hebron, the Conservation Commission has scheduled a Public Hearing on the following application:
Petition 2026-02, Town of Hebron, 550 Old Colchester Road, Demolition and Reconstruction of the Hebron Department of Public Works Facility and Transfer Station – Specific to Possible Inland Wetlands and Upland Review Area Impact.
 The hearing will be held Thursday, March 12, 2026, at 7:30 P.M. at a Virtual Meeting. There will be a time limit of 3 minutes for each resident that wishes to address the Commission.
CONSERVATION COMMISSION Public Hearing (virtual)
 Mar 12, 2026, 7:30–8:30 PM (America/New York)
 Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.
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 You can also dial in using your phone.
 Access Code: 910-135-621
 United States: +1 (872) 240-3412
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<https://meet.goto.com/install>
 Dated at Hebron, CT this 20th day of February 2026.
 James P. Cordier, Conservation and Inland Wetlands Agent
 For Tom Loto, Chairman, Hebron Conservation Commission

2TB 2/27, 3/6

LEGAL NOTICE

**Town of East Hampton
 Board of Finance Public Hearing
 Monday, March 16, 2026
 East Hampton Town Hall Town Council Chambers #107
 and Via Zoom
 6:30 p.m.**

The East Hampton Board of Finance will hold a Public Hearing at the above date and time to discuss the fiscal year 2026–2027 Town Budget.
 At this hearing, interested persons may be heard and written communications received. A copy of the proposed budget will be on file in the Office of the Town Clerk, East Hampton, CT and on the town website at www.easthamptonct.gov by March 13, 2026.
 Information to log into the meeting will be available on the Public Hearing agenda on the town website at www.easthamptonct.gov. Written comments on the budget will be accepted via email at budget@easthamptonct.gov or by mail to the East Hampton Town Hall, Attn: Town Manager's Office, 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, CT 06424.

1TB 3/6

REAL ESTATE

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RE3-6-26

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CT4-4-24

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CT3-9-23

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