

RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

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

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The Last Living Place... Epoch Arts in East Hampton will present an original two-act play, The Last Living Place, from Friday, April 24, through Sunday, April 26, at 7 p.m. all three nights, at Epoch, 27 Skinner St. The play explores themes of brokenness, redemption, true community, and facing the monsters that rage in peoples' lives. Pictured are two of the cast members, Delilah Koonankeil and Mira Hogan. For more on the upcoming play, see page 21.

Portland Officials Back School Consolidation Plan

By Anne Lilburn

Portland voters will head to the polls to weigh in on a proposed school consolidation plan at a May 11 referendum, and there appears to be bipartisan consensus among the Board of Selectmen, as well as local party leaders, that the plan is a strong one.

The \$109 million plan calls for renovating and expanding Valley View Elementary into a Pre-K through Grade 2 school, converting Gildersleeve Elementary into a Grade 3-5 school, and making capital improvements at the middle and high schools.

The cost would be offset by \$66.5 million in projected state reimbursements, the town has said, leaving Portland's estimated share at \$41.9 million.

First Selectman Mike Pelton, a Republican, said he was strongly in favor of the plan, and emphasized that he was not alone.

"A lot of people are paying attention," he said. "And the thing that gives me the most hope, honestly, is that there's no real opposition to it."

Pelton emphasized that this plan was different than the "megashool" K-5 school consolidation proposal that was floated a year and a half ago. That plan called for the renovation and expansion of Valley View Elementary School, and the subsequent closure of the Gildersleeve and Brownstone Intermediate schools.

The \$68 million proposal - which after state aid would've left Portland's share around \$33 million - failed at a November 2024 referendum, by a 3,363-2,336 tally.

"I loved the megashool plan, the K to 5 plan, because it would have been the least expensive one back then," he said.

He added, though, that he actually thought the current plan was better. By waiting, Pelton

said, the town will now be able to take advantage of increased state reimbursements, while also keeping the smaller feel of two schools.

He described it as a "once-in-a-generation" opportunity.

Pelton also said that he had no doubt that the schools needed improvement.

"There are needs across the whole school system," he added. "The two elementary schools that we do have, Valley View and Gildersleeve, those are old buildings. The roofs are terrible. They're past their useful lives; the buildings are in terrible shape. They're energy-inefficient, they're not up to today's safety standards. So, by being able to do that and get a huge reimbursement back, we get brand new schools that are energy efficient and safe."

Pelton said that the new plan also accounted for residents' concerns about losing Brownstone School, which is a historic building. He said he was hopeful that the Nordic Spa coming to Portland would lead to changes downtown and that that would offer new opportunities for repurposing Brownstone.

"We [can] keep the character of it," he said, "but you could do mixed-use, you could do, you know, businesses and government buildings and general business. You could do a bunch of stuff with that building and it's right on our

See School Consolidation, page 8

RHAM Hearing Focuses on Trust, Rising Costs

By Toriana Williams

The RHAM Board of Education on Monday held a public budget hearing that discussed much more than just numbers. The most intense and revealing moments during the hearing were not about line items but about trust. Again and again, speakers returned to one issue: whether or not residents can trust the numbers behind a proposed \$33.66 million school budget.

A \$1.7 Million Mistake

Most of the tension during the night stemmed from a financial error that went unnoticed for years. School officials acknowledged that since 2020, the district had been incorrectly calculating money that should have been returned to its three member towns - Andover, Hebron and Marlborough. Superintendent of Schools Colin McNamara explained that the mistake caused the district's funds balance to grow to "just over \$1.7 million."

Those funds were never spent, but they were also not returned when they should have been. Now, they will be credited back. Andover will receive \$255,234, Hebron will receive \$849,497 and Marlborough will receive \$600,205. Interest is set at \$23,676.

Still, the discovery shook confidence, as many residents have since spoken out about the error. Hebron Town Council Chair Tiffany Thiele, a Democrat, put it bluntly: "This mistake resulted in the overcharging of three towns and their taxpayers. That's a fact."

Sharp Words from Board Leadership

RHAM BOE Chair Heather Summerer, a Democrat, delivered one of the most emotional speeches of the night. She spoke to defend the district and criticized local officials. She also offered a detailed timeline of how the financial error was discovered.

She walked the audience step-by-step through

mid-March and explained when concerns about the audit first surfaced.

"We prioritized this situation and communicated as quickly as responsible, given the information we had," she said.

Summerer pushed back against claims that the district had been slow or otherwise secretive - and strongly rejected accusations of wrongdoing.

"The board [and] the administration have been accused of stealing money from taxpayers. We've been called thieves," she said. But, she added, "100% of the funds are in the assigned fund. ... They haven't been touched."

Summerer then described tensions with Hebron officials and called their response "hostile" and "reckless", accusing them of trying to create "a narrative that detracts from the facts."

She also described their response as unfair

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## From the Editor's Desk Observations & Ruminations

By Mike Thompson

First off, kudos to both the UConn men and the UConn women for a great season. Yes, a week ago at this time both teams had visions of national championships dancing through their heads – and Jordan's Furniture customers had visions of free recliners and couches floating through theirs – and in the end neither team went all the way. But they still have a lot to be proud of.

And the men, hoo baby; the men will always have that remarkable comeback against Duke to bask in.

One of the things that drives me up the wall about the New York Yankees is their insistence that if they don't win the World Series, their season is a failure. Yes, that's the ultimate goal, but if that's the only way you measure success, then you're going to be a failure far more often than not. There are 30 teams in Major League Baseball; 29 of them go home each year without a world championship. Does that mean for all 29 of those teams the season is a failure? No – or at least it shouldn't.

The same holds true in football. If the Jets ever make the playoffs again, that would be a success in and of itself.

Heck, it's true of life in general. Very few people have life go exactly the way they envisioned when they were kids. There are bumps along the way. Highs are followed by lows; peaks are followed by valleys. But sometimes – most times – there's beauty in the valleys, and if you remain laser-focused on those peaks, you might not be able to see it.

The point is this: Of course I'd have loved to see both teams bring home national titles. (For one thing, I've grown rather fond of those celebratory parades in downtown Hartford.) But that doesn't mean the men and women had dud seasons. Far from it.

Like I said, they have a lot to be proud of.

\*\*\*

If you enjoy live choral music, you've got a couple of good opportunities coming up.

The Hartford Chorale will wrap up its 2025-26 season with what sounds like a beautiful afternoon of music on Saturday, April 18, at 4 p.m., at Immanuel Congregational Church, 10 Woodland St., Hartford.

Titled "Requiem Aeternam," the program will trace a contemplative arc from contemporary American choral writing to one of the great masterworks of the 20th century. The concert will feature music by Scott Perkins and Maurice Duruflé, culminating in Duruflé's luminous Requiem, Op. 9.

The concert will feature soprano Jolie Rocke and baritone Dylan Armstrong joining the chorale for the performances, as well as organists Susan Carroll and Stephen Scarlato. The concert will be conducted by Jack Anthony Pott, artistic director of Hartford Chorale.

"Hearing this repertoire unfold within the luminous sanctuary of Immanuel Congregational Church creates an experience that is both intimate and transcendent," said Sarah Armstrong, executive director of Hartford

Editor's Desk continued on page 6



**Serving Up Flapjacks...** The Marlborough Lions Club said its recent pancake breakfast, held at the East Glastonbury Fish and Game Club in Marlborough on March 29, was once again a great success. There was a strong turnout of people enjoying the pancakes, including varieties with chocolate chips and blueberries, along with sausage and ham. The Lions also thank the various local business that helped sponsor the event. The Marlborough Lions meet twice per month; for more information, call club president Jean Paul Bolduc at 860-798-2054 or secretary Ken Hjulstrom at 860-490-9116.

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### Thank You, Lions Club

To the Editor:

Thank you to the East Hampton Lions Club for a fantastic afternoon of music, food and community fun. The Dean Martin Event and the Easter Bonnet Parade were a huge success, and I feel so grateful to be a part of this wonderful community. Can't wait for the next one.

Bonnie Good – East Hampton

### Thank You for Attending!

To the Editor:

On behalf of St. Peter's Episcopal Church, the Church of the Holy Family Catholic Church, and Gilead Congregational Church, UCC, we extend our sincerest thanks to all who participated in and attended this year's ecumenical Easter sunrise worship service in Hebron.

Although the morning was met with fog and rain, many gathered in faithful witness to celebrate Easter together. We are especially grateful to those who rose early and braved the weather, as well as to the volunteers and leaders whose time, preparations, and care made the service possible.

Because of our shared sense of faith and strong community bonds, the hope and joy that are central to the Easter season shone brightly through the fog!

With gratitude,  
Your Hebron Faith Community

### Expert Guidance for Families

To the Editor:

Planning for the future can feel overwhelming, especially when caregiving responsibilities arise unexpectedly. The Portland Senior Center continues to build strong partnerships that support individuals in aging well, aging in place, and accessing trusted information before a crisis occurs. Through collaboration with the State of Connecticut Aging and Disability Services, the Senior Center is bringing respected experts and meaningful education directly to the community.

Community members are invited to attend "Navigating the Caregiving Maze: What Services Are Actually Available Before You're in Crisis" on Monday, May 18, at noon, at the Portland Senior Center. Presented by the Agency on Aging, this free program will help individuals and families better understand caregiver supports, respite programs, where to begin when help is needed, and how thoughtful planning can ease stress and create greater stability for both caregivers and loved ones.

Having access to clear, reliable information can transform uncertainty into confidence. When families understand available services and supports ahead of time, they are better equipped to make decisions that protect independence, dignity, and overall wellbeing. Opportunities like this reflect the Portland Senior

## Bulletin Board

Spring, as many of you are certainly aware, is an important time of year for several of the world's great religions, including Christianity (Easter), Judaism (Passover), Islam (Ramadan), Trout Fishing (Opening Day) and, of course, Baseball (Season Opener).

I realize that certain heretics may not view baseball as a true religion. I would argue, however, that baseball has numerous things in common with our more traditionally accepted religions. There are pews (bleachers), a congregation of the faithful (fans), high priests (coaches), acolytes (the players), the various trappings of worship (bats, balls, gloves, etc.) and even mystical numbers (nine players, nine innings, three strikes, three outs, etc.).

As the father of two boys and as what my church-going wife refers to as a "Mattress Christian," I believe I understand why certain powers might be reluctant to officially admit that baseball is a religion. I suspect (from my position on the mattress) they're afraid that if children learn that baseball is actually a religion (i.e. like church), they won't want to go to the ballpark any more. I'm not passing judgment here. Just sayin'... You know how kids are.

As is the case with many religions, there is disagreement, even among true believers, as to what constitutes true baseball. There are those, for instance, who maintain that Little League baseball is the purest form of worship. Though I tend to agree, I'll leave that debate to more learned theologians. I would only point out that the pros play for money and the kids play for blood. The latter motivation seems a bit more pure from a historical standpoint, considering that the preferred method of settling theological differences over the past couple of thousand years has been to kill anyone who dares to disagree with you. On the other hand, perhaps I understate the role of cold, hard cash in the journey toward salvation.

On a similar note, someone more knowledgeable than I (far from a rarity, I assure you) once remarked that Little League baseball is to professional baseball as the Children's Crusades were to the Crusades themselves. This strikes me as a legitimate comparison: the goal is pretty much the same, but the junior participants are considerably smaller. Also, in the case of Little League, the players generally don't feel compelled to scratch their nether regions on live television. It is possible, I suppose, that leering child Crusaders brashly readjusted their juvenile unmentionables in front of cheering crowds as they marched through various villages on their way to oblivion, but I am not aware of any historical evidence to support that possibility.

For those who demand tests of faith, the Little League program has them aplenty. Anyone who has ever had a son (or daughter) on the losing end of a 25-0 ball game, knows that poor old Job didn't exactly corner the market on disappointment. And yet, it is surprising how few of these youngsters actually quit and go sign up for golf lessons (the equivalent of a religious conversion). Instead, like "real" religions, they vow they'll do better the next time. We call this sort of unsubstantiated optimism "faith." As for forgiveness, I guess that's up to their coach, at least in the short term.

Over the years, certain soft-hearted heretics have sought to spare children the pain of disappointment by arguing that youth baseball should be played "just for fun" and no score should be kept. Such proposals must be dealt with severely. Few religions in my experience maintain that God doesn't keep score. And in His case, the penalty isn't mere disappointment, it's eternal damnation, or, if you subscribe to some of the Eastern philosophies, getting yourself reborn as a toad or a cockroach or something similarly nasty. Clearly, the participants in these exercises pretty much agree that Someone is keeping score. As for youth baseball, believe me, the kids know darn well who won and who lost and what the exact score was, even if the adults want to pretend otherwise.

Like any respectable religion, baseball also has its share of mysteries to ponder. Perhaps the greatest of these is the role of spitting. You take a perfectly nice, well-behaved young boy (I'm not sure about the girls, but I suspect it's the same), who wouldn't dream of sneezing without covering his mouth, you hand him a baseball glove and turn him loose on a baseball diamond and all of a sudden he's hawking up great gobs of spit all over the place. Where does all this spit suddenly come from? Why is the lad suddenly possessed to spit in the dust, spit in the grass, spit in the dugout, spit, spit, spit? Generations of horrified mothers have asked those questions over and over only to be told by the child's equally mystified, but more tolerant father to relax, "It's just a baseball thing."

I agree it's a little gross. On the other hand, it beats the hell out of being eaten by a lion, which, if I remember my Bible, was once dismissed in religious circles as "just a Roman thing."

Jim Hallas

## Rivereast Hours of Operation

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Kevin and Pat Rarey, Publishers

Josh Howard—Office Manager, Sports Editor

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Staff Reporter:

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Toriana Williams - Colchester, Hebron, Marlborough & Andover

Advertising Representatives:

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

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Art Department

Jeanne Giovann and Julie Misuraca

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

## Never Waste a Crisis

To the Editor:

Every year, the same people find a new reason to vote no on the school budget. Last year, it was one thing. This year, it's the insurance accounts. The issue changes. The goal never does.

Yes, the insurance problem is real. And it's being fixed. Using it as a cover to vote down the education budget isn't fiscal responsibility. It's the same playbook they've been running for years.

These are the same voices that have spent years attacking Colchester's educators. The sudden sympathy for teachers isn't convincing. You don't get credit for standing with people you've spent years undermining.

You should be concerned about what's happening with the budget this year. Not just because of the insurance situation. But because people are taking advantage of a bad situation to play their game and defund education in Colchester.

**John Farrell – Colchester**

*Note: Farrell is a member of the Colchester Democratic Town Committee.*

## Dem Leadership Abuses Trust

To the Editor:

At the April 6 BOF workshop, residents learned that the BOE had diverted funds from the health insurance reserve and mismanaged the account, leaving it nearly insolvent. To cover the shortfall, BOE year-end surplus funds – originally intended for capital projects – were redirected to pay health insurance claims, a move that violated longstanding policy and should alarm taxpayers.

The BOE health insurance reserve, already underfunded since Superintendent Sullivan's arrival, has worsened under Democratic leadership. As of March 31, only \$443,000 remained, while monthly claims average \$700,000–\$800,000, pushing the fund to the brink of collapse. Leadership on both the BOE and BOF ignored policy requiring unexpended BOE funds to remain reserved for capital projects, directly undermining fiscal safeguards meant to protect taxpayer dollars.

BOF Chair Karen Belding justified transferring BOE capital funds by citing an incomplete audit. Residents firmly rejected her explanation, noting that the BOE's unexpended funds policy exists to ensure proper oversight and prevent misuse of public funds – and to prevent the current crisis, it should have been strictly enforced. This disregard for policy highlights a troubling lack of accountability at the highest levels of local government.

Taken together, these actions reveal a troubling pattern of mismanagement, secrecy, and political maneuvering, particularly during last year's election cycle. Democratic BOE and BOF leadership had been aware of the crisis since April but failed to disclose it, leaving residents unaware of the full scope of the problem. FS Bernie Dennler's repeated assurances that "everything was under control" now appear misleading, as the health reserve crisis was hidden from voters until a forensic audit began two days after the \$20 million referendum passed.

Adding to residents' concerns, FS Bernie Dennler and Superintendent Sullivan were notably absent from the workshop, raising questions about whether they were avoiding public scrutiny. Democratic leadership – particularly BOF Chair Belding and BOE Budget & Finance Committee Chair Chris Rivers – not only abused public trust but also created a severe financial crisis and ignored established safeguards. By expecting taxpayers to cover the consequences through a drastic, unaffordable tax increase, they failed to provide transparency, accountability, and adherence to policy, leaving residents deeply concerned about the town's financial stewardship.

Without strict accountability and adherence to established rules, restoring public trust will be extremely difficult. Residents are alarmed that Democratic leadership's decisions have jeopardized the town's and BOE's finances as well as public confidence, demanding transparency, oversight, and strong safeguards to protect taxpayer funds and prevent crises.

Colchester deserves better.

**Cyndee Larabee – Colchester**

## Portland Schools: Vote Yes

Dear Portland Residents:

As a selectman, I have spent months closely analyzing the financials of the school consolidation project, and I've reached a clear conclusion: this is a tremendous opportunity for our town. This plan leverages grand list growth, captures meaningful fixed-cost savings, an area I'm highly focused on, and takes full advantage of unprecedented high state reimbursements. Most importantly, it addresses our aging school infrastructure, a challenge we will inevitably need to fund one way or another.

The major difference is that right now, we have a rare opportunity to do so with significant support from OPM (Other People's Money) through state funding. I am putting my full support and reputation behind this referendum because I believe it is the right plan at the right time. I encourage you to learn more at [www.portlandschools.org](http://www.portlandschools.org) and to join me in voting 'yes' on May 11th.

**Respectfully,**  
**Vin Pitruzzello – Portland**

*Note: Pitruzzello is a member of the Portland Board of Selectmen, but said he is writing as an individual.*

## Top Priority

To the Editor:

"The ordinance permits a small townhouse development of up to 15 units, including three affordable housing units, on a three-acre property along James Street. Nearby residents voiced concerns about wetlands, flooding and groundwater conditions in the area and questioned whether the site was appropriate for higher-density housing." -Ordinance 08-26-291 James Street.

A New Jersey #save17 member, submitted this quote. It appears development is headed for another US watershed. Historically developers rejected watersheds. Environmentalists protected them. Families cherished or donated them. Trees and wildlife thrived on them and they have been an integral part of many neighborhoods, so much so, that surrounding residents now fear losing them and the bounty contained within. After all, water is a finite resource. We can run out.

Case in point: In October 2025, Maine officials reported that many areas needed 12 inches of steady rain to recharge their aquifers before the ground froze ([ellsworthamerican.com](http://ellsworthamerican.com)). They never got the rain. By November, the USDA declared Maine's drought a natural disaster ([mainepublic.org](http://mainepublic.org)). Last month #save17 members, living in Ellsworth, reported snow-melt is happening too fast. Much of the runoff won't have time to reach the aquifers. Gradual snow melt is one thing, and good news for groundwater supplies. Rapid melting, especially over frozen ground, is another and bad news for groundwater supplies.

New Jersey and Maine towns face the same questions that Connecticut towns do. How do we protect groundwater? Woody owl's generation wrote stringent environmental regulations, not to be greedy land hoarders, but to safeguard delicate ecosystems, which in turn, protect our natural resources. The new USA seems focused on the opposite. Rolling back regulations, vilifying supporters and ignoring climatologists. One bottling company actually sued Fryeburg, Maine, over water extraction rights, on company land, and the company won. But as we know, wells, water tables and aquifers are connected underground. All that water isn't exactly "theirs."

Money over morals wins, repeatedly, on both sides of the isle. Governments change zoning "problems" to accommodate development, thereby creating more problems. We spend on nonessentials, then complain about taxes for essentials. But what if we changed our strategy and invested in water? What if ecosystems became a top priority? Communities can protect their groundwater. For example, in Hebron, Open Space properties, safeguarding wetlands and reusing 550 Old Colchester Rd, for Public Works, are intelligent, noteworthy gestures that protect groundwaters throughout the town. #save17

**Jean Tulimieri – Amston**

## Food Cost for Poll Workers

To the Editor:

I was surprised to read in last week's *Rivereast* that during a discussion of ways to trim the Marlborough town budget, selectwoman Louise Concodello was quoted as saying — regarding election costs, including food for workers — "I think everybody that goes to work brings their own lunch."

As a former election worker herself, one might expect Ms. Concodello to understand the pressure and sacrifice these dedicated residents make to keep our elections running smoothly. Poll workers are paid just barely above minimum wage and work nine-hour days during Early Voting and nearly 17 hours on Election Day. During these long days most workers take only a 15-minute break to eat.

Elections are one of the most important things we do as a community, and the line item dedicated to feeding these workers is minuscule. To put it in perspective: the entire food budget for two full weeks of Early Voting – including weekends – is \$400. That feeds up to six workers two meals and snacks throughout very long days. If that isn't fiscally conservative, I don't know what is.

Last year, in an effort to stretch that budget further, the Democratic Registrar asked the Marlborough Democratic Town Committee to help by bringing in meals and snacks when possible — and they delivered. Selectman John Rizza brought in an entire day's worth of meals on his own dime, and other members supplemented with meals and snacks throughout Early Voting. To give credit where it is due, Ms. Concodello did bring snacks one day, which were very much appreciated.

Food costs have skyrocketed, and yet the registrar's office did not increase its food budget request for the coming fiscal year. Democratic Registrar Sandy Cameron Adams has said she will solicit donations where possible to offset rising costs. But is that really where we want our election professionals spending their energy? Rather than fundraising to feed poll workers, shouldn't they be focused on navigating continuously changing election rules, new tabulators, new voter registration systems, and the poten-

tially sweeping changes to election administration being initiated by the Trump Administration?

Is \$400 for two full weeks of Early Voting too much for our town to invest in showing appreciation for the dedicated people who make sure our elections run smoothly?

**Ann Kilby – Marlborough**

*Note: Kilby is the former Democratic registrar of voters and continues as the assistant registrar (D) for the Town of Marlborough, but said she is writing as an individual.*

## DPW Positive Progress

To the Editor:

Many thanks to Hebron's Department of Public Works Action Committee for their efforts to provide accurate information and transparency. In the March 20th *Rivereast*, DPWAC Vice Chair Todd Habicht reported on the extensive list of Frequently Asked Questions available on the Town of Hebron website. Now numbering 51 questions with clear and concise answers, the DPWAC continues to move forward on this complex and vital project. The positive progress made since the DPWAC was formed in 2023 is a testament to the committee's dedication and focus.

In this time of challenging priorities, it may be helpful to review the long history that supports the need for a new DPW facility. The current DPW cold storage building was built in 1967 and the office/garage was built in 1982. Both of these workspaces have received only minimal updating over this long duration. In 2004, Hebron's Plan of Conservation and Development already noted the need for a new DPW, reporting on page 131, "The equipment bay area is crowded, lacks lifts, has inadequate lighting, is height restrictive and has little room for parts inventory storage. The building lacks a training or meeting room and has inadequate lunch and shower areas."

In 2010, the town created an in-depth facilities study that identified severe issues in the DPW facility and urged immediate action. The recommendations listed on page 49 and 50 begin with the introduction, "The public works

*See Letters, page 6*

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★ Letters, cont. from page 5

facility is in desperate need of additional space and more efficient working conditions. Development of a master plan with phased construction should be the main priority in addition to the items listed in under 0-1 year.” The following list of action items includes, number VIII, “Correct life safety issues” and number XVIII, “Design and construction of a new public works facility and transfer station at the current location.”

Four years later, the 2014 POCD also emphasized on the need for a new facility. On page 175 it is stated in no uncertain terms, “the maintenance / office building is not in adequate condition, and is undersized for the operations it houses...” Leaving no room for misunderstanding, page 178 reports, “The Public Works facilities are clearly the town facilities most in need of replacement and upgrading.” I urge Hebron residents to embrace this long-overdue project and support the diligent work of the DPWAC.

Sincerely,  
Kevin J. Tulumieri – Amston

**Cabaret Thank You**

To the Editor:

The EHHS Music Boosters would like to extend our sincere gratitude to all who attended and supported East Hampton High School’s “Enchanted Garden Cabaret” on March 26. Attendees enjoyed dinner, including bread donated by Belltown Bakery, while enjoying musical performances by talented student musicians with a variety of vocal and instrumental acts. Between musical acts, raffle prizes donated by local businesses and families engaged the audience with excitement and laughter around the room.

The EHHS Music Boosters would like to thank the following for their generous donations which helped make the evening such a success: Ace Hardware, Airline Cycles, Belltown Bakery, Belltown Motors, Country Roads Wine and Spirits, Creative Nails, Dairy Queen, Davinci’s Pizza, Jim E. Jive Hot Sauce, the Johnson Family for donating the decorations, Kickback n Bowl, Lakeside Bar & Grill, Little Fish Gallery

& Gifts, Marlborough Pizza, Old Bank Flowers & Greenery, Rossini’s, Starbucks, Walt Jedziniak Photography, and YPCCA.

The annual Cabaret is the EHHS Music Boosters’ largest fundraiser, and this event’s success is only possible with the generosity of these neighborhood donors. On behalf of the East Hampton High School Music Department, thank you to everyone who performed, attended, volunteered, made food, and donated time and prizes!

Sincerely,  
Emily Wilson, President  
EHHS Music Boosters

**Support Andover School Budget**

To the Editor:

I am writing in strong support of the proposed Board of Education budget for Andover Elementary School, as well as the town’s overall budget. As I have followed this year’s budget process, I feel it is important to clarify what this request truly represents.

The Board of Education’s proposed 10.9% increase may sound high at first glance, but it is, in reality, the minimum required to meet the current needs of our students. Since 2021, enrollment at AES has risen significantly (from 175 students to 259). This is a substantial increase that has placed real and immediate demands on staffing and student support services.

It is also important to remember that when enrollment declined in prior years, the Board of Education was forced to make significant cuts to staffing and resources, losing 6.5 positions. These were not discretionary decisions, but necessary reductions driven by severe budget constraints based solely on reduced enrollment numbers. Those cuts allowed the town to shift funding priorities at the time, but they also left the school operating with fewer resources than it needs today.

Now, with enrollment rising sharply, the school must rebuild capacity to appropriately serve students. Despite a growth in enrollment since 2020, the education budget has not kept

pace. The current proposal is not about expansion, but it is about catching up and ensuring that students receive the education and support they deserve in classes with reasonable numbers.

At the same time, the Board of Finance is proposing increases for the town. As a taxpayer, I support both investments. Our schools should not be held to a different standard. A strong community depends on strong schools, and AES is central to the town’s vitality and future.

I urge residents to look beyond the percentage and consider the reality behind the numbers. This is a necessary investment in our children, our school, and our community.

Anne Cremé – Andover

Note: Cremé is a member of the Andover Board of Selectmen, but said she is speaking as an individual.

**RHAM Thoughts**

To the Editor:

Just what is a board’s responsibility? Transparency is often talked about but I’ve never been concerned with any of Hebron’s boards and commissions transparency. My experience, through attending meetings, is that we’ve a lot of honest hard-working board and commission members in town. And I believe that is probably the case in the RHAM district’s three towns.

If I were to land on a main responsibility it would be to show oversight of their respective administrators. They are a kind of counterweight to the administrator’s earnest work towards finding the best interests of their particular domains. Another duty I believe is a fiduciary responsibility to the towns they serve.

While this can be hard it is really important. The legal financial instruments available to an institution are numerous and varied. The complexity of those bookkeeping techniques can lend to natural obfuscation.

While RHAM’s retirement of their original construction bond of 20 years ago is legal, it is a mechanism that obscures other expenses as they creep up. I believe we’ve witnessed this as the debt payments have already been reduced over \$2 million in the last couple of years with the final retirement of about \$400,000 is to happen this year or next. One would expect this reduction to be seen as a total budget reduction. This has not happened that I can see.

A final note, at the end of this week’s budget meetings the whole budget process as it stands now was summarized as ‘just politics.’ I disagree. I believe the budget is one of the main responsibilities of the board and administration. As stewards of the largest fiduciary trust in all three communities, to dismiss taxpayers concerns as ‘just politics’ I believe to be an error.

Terry McManus – Hebron

**The Next Big Surprise**

To the Editor:

To my East Hampton neighbors, Town Council and P&Z: “More” has been uncovered.

What: The next big surprise – POCD 10-year plan to expand sewer service.

How Do You Know?: It is laid out in a presentation. Go to the town website; follow Home / Depts / WPCA / POCD Infrastructure Focused Discussion / final docs. There you will find a file entitled “2026-02-19-POCD-Infrastructure-Session-Presentation-Final-PDF”

Open it up and the title is “POCD Infrastructure Visioning Session Feb. 19 2026.” In the presentation is a map: “Sewer Service Expansion Areas.”

The map shows sewer lines all over East Hampton. The map shows dense housing in R2 zones. It shows economic development in R2 zones.

It shows sewer expansion for “public health” when no known reports from the Chatham Health District of failed septic systems: have been presented by the POCD Steering Committee, WPCA or the town.

What the authors of this presentation are not telling you is: that in circa 1970, the Connecticut Public Health Code began requiring new housing to include a “Reserve Leaching Field Area.”

Action: We must remove the sewer expansion areas from the 2026 Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) before it is presented to the P&Z.

We, the townsfolk, do not get to vote on the adopted POCD – the P&Z does the voting....

So we need to have our thoughts known by the P&Z Commission.

The POCD is not a 50- or 75-year plan. It is a 10-year plan. Let’s make sure they remember it.

Douglas Mackeown – East Hampton

**Editor’s Desk continued from page 4**

Chorale.

Tickets are \$30 and \$10 for students, and are available at hartfordchorale.networkforgood.com.

The following week, on Friday, April 24, at 7 p.m., The Greater Middletown Concert Association will present “Musick and Stories of the American Revolution in New England” at the American Legion Post 75 hall in Middletown. The hall is located at 58 Bernie O’Rourke Drive, next to Palmer Field, off Washington Street.

Dressed in period costume, Richard Franklin Donahue will captivate the audience with songs and stories while playing a harpsichord and other stringed instruments. Information about Middletown’s soldiers who immediately left for the Concord and Lexington Battle will also be presented.

While this concert is free, donations for the Greater Middletown Concert Association are

welcome and will be accepted at the door.

If you haven’t done your taxes yet, you’ve got less than a week left. Yup, in just a few short days you can take part in the grand tradition that is Tax Day – a tradition that actually might not go back as far as you think.

According to USA Today, the 16th Amendment to the Constitution was ratified in 1913, which gave Congress the authority to tax all incomes. The first filing deadline in 1913 was March 1 but that was soon changed to March 15, and then ultimately in 1955 to April 15, to allow people more time to prepare their returns.

When April 15 falls on a Friday or the weekend, Tax Day is extended. Alas, April 15 this year is a Wednesday, so no such luck. Time to get a move on.

See you next week.

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**Dementia Talks No. 55**

To the Editor:  
This past weekend we planted flowers. I don't know when actions, events, activities become a tradition...but I feel this our tradition. Mom and I digging in the dirt every spring since she moved back to Connecticut in 2015.

Each year has been different. From choosing the plants to bring home, to where to do the planting, to the process. I will always hold in my heart the time some years ago, with authority, Mom said, "Aren't you going to put water in the hole first?" A daughter still learning from her mother.

Since then, our planting tradition has changed.

Several years ago, when Mom was still living next door, she joined me in our backyard to plant flowers in containers. We worked side by side. It was an assembly line of sorts with a bucket of mixed soil, water and the flowers. I would "unwrap" the little plants, break the roots and hand to Mom, she would put into the container then we would both pack in the soil.

To a couple of years ago, where she would hand me the flowers to put into the container and I would do most of the work. The idea is that we were still 'digging' in the dirt together.

Last Saturday, Mom and a handful of other residents and a couple of family members were part of this year's tradition.

Mom enjoyed the colors of the flowers that I brought. She didn't want to dig in the dirt. So I was the entertainment for a spell. Filling the raised flower bed with soil, unwrapping the flowers, breaking the root ball, putting the little plants into the box, filling it with soil. It is our new version of digging in the dirt together.

It was nice to be outside sharing our tradition with others. In the sun. Talking about times that have passed. And making a new memory as part of our spring tradition.

The important part is that the traditional lives on, just in a different way now. And that is ok.

May you all bloom with joy today and always....and know that you are not alone.

**With much love and peace,  
Tonya Maurer - Amston  
Alzheimer's Hot Line 1-800-272-3900**

**Colchester Budget**

To the Editor:  
The Colchester BOF/BOE budget workshop got very contentious Monday night (as it should have).

The BOE said they'd cut only \$1 million from their budget which will only move the mil increase from 3.5 down to just under 3 mils. Not nearly enough of a cut from their \$5 million increase ask. In my opinion, that isn't nearly enough. When asked about what exactly those cuts would be, they gave very vague answers. They did not give any specific line item cuts to the BOF, just said they didn't want to say what vacant positions would not be filled so they wouldn't upset any of the staff, even though they said no current staff would be let go.

Shady Superintendent Sullivan skipped the meeting to be on vacation so he wouldn't have to listen to the calls for his removal, and the questioning of his enormous salary. How convenient to be absent from the budget workshop that has been waiting for the forensic audit for the health insurance reserve fund that he allegedly withheld information to the BOF since April of 2025 about the fund's solvency.

The BOF should not move this budget forward to referendum until after the forensic audit is completed so that we can know who was responsible for the inadequate reporting, and which members of the BOE, BOF and BOS knew about this and failed to disclose it to the public.

We taxpayers pay their wages. We have a right to know. They need to work within our budget, not the other way around. Making cuts in budgets isn't personal, it is economics that we all have to do in our businesses and in our homes. They are asking us to make cuts in our personal budgets by raising our taxes. Why should we have to make cuts in our own health insurance supplemental plans so that we can pay for their mistakes?

Hang onto your wallets, folks. Do not allow them to pass a budget until someone takes responsibility for this mess, and they come back with a budget that is affordable for the taxpayers.

**Jeff Mattson  
Concerned Citizen  
Colchester**

*Note: Mattson is a member of the Colchester Republican Town Committee.*

**Meet Ellen Paul**

To the Editor:  
I felt it important to bring attention to the new Democratic candidate for the state representative seat for the 55th State District, Ellen Paul.

I had the privilege of listening to and hearing Ellen speak recently about her bold decision take action and challenge Republican Steve Weir for the state rep seat for the 55th District (which includes a small sliver of Glastonbury as well as Bolton, Andover, Marlborough, and Hebron). This district has been represented by a Republican for 40 years.

Ms. Paul is a young mother, a Connecticut native who lives in the 55th in Glastonbury, and has been a librarian. She has become increasingly frustrated by the recent challenges librarians all over the country have faced to their ability to provide the public with unlimited access to facts and books on all topics. She is committed to protecting and fighting for First Amendment rights and the importance of facts, and reduced energy costs, our basic right to free and fair elections, and access to healthcare.

Although do not live in her district, I have contributed to her campaign, will write post-cards to residents in her district informing them of her candidacy and knock on doors for her.

She is a very impressive young woman willing step up at a very contemptuous time, to preserve building blocks of our democracy that are eroding before our eyes. If Ellen Paul wins this seat, she can begin to turn the tide as did the Democratic representatives in many districts, the most recent of which is Emily George in Palm Beach County, Fla., which includes Mar-a-Largo.

I urge you to read more about her and decide if you too will step up to support her, and impact so much more than just a local election in Connecticut.

**Iлона Figura, MD - Glastonbury**

**"Leadership"**

To the Editor:  
Last week, I wrote about leadership. I think it's worth continuing that discussion, because leadership isn't something you talk about once

and move on from. It shows up in decisions, especially the hard ones, and especially when those decisions affect everyone else.

There is plenty to disagree with in the proposed town and Board of Education budgets. But nothing stands out more to me than First Selectman Bernie Dennler's attempt to give himself a raise. And not just any raise. A 25% increase, from \$84,872 to \$106,267. That is a \$21,395 jump, all while describing his budget as "flat" and "status quo." Those are his words.

We have seen this before. Mary Bylone attempted to give herself a raise during a time when residents were already struggling. Now we are right back in the same place. Different name, same approach.

At the same time, residents are being asked to tighten their belts. We are told to cut back, spend less, and absorb what amounts to roughly \$1,000 less in disposable income each year. Families are making real sacrifices. Fewer nights out, fewer vacations, less spent on their kids. That is the reality people are facing.

And yet, while asking all of that from everyone else, the first selectman is proposing to take more for himself. Not because it changes the overall budget in a meaningful way, but because he can. Whether or not the raise "moves the needle" is beside the point. Leadership is not about what you can get away with. It is about what you choose to do when people are counting on you to stand with them.

A good leader does not ask others to sacrifice while carving out more for themselves. A good leader recognizes the moment and acts accordingly. Choosing not to take a raise right now would send a clear message that you understand what people are going through and that you are willing to share in that burden.

Instead, we are seeing the opposite. A decision that makes life harder for residents while making it easier for the person asking them to accept it. All while those around him justify his actions with partisan talking points and gas-lighting.

That is not leadership. That is Trumpism.

**Jason LaChapelle - Colchester**

*Note: LaChapelle is a member of the Colchester Republican Town Committee.*

**The New Normal**

To the Editor:  
Colchester has always had a simple, honest bargain with residents. We are a rural town, not a city. We do not offer every service, and in return, taxes stay reasonable so families can afford to live here.

That bargain is being broken.

The proposed FY 2026 to 2027 budget increases spending by more than 6 million dollars in a single year. But this is not a one-year spike. Over the past three budgets, total spending has grown from about \$60 million to over \$71 million, an increase of more than 11 million dollars, or roughly 19 percent. That is about a 6 percent increase year after year.

That is not inflation. That is expansion.

And let's be clear. This is the new normal under Democratic leadership.

Every increase is explained away with insurance, wages, and inflation. But those explanations miss the point. Rising costs are not new. What is new is the decision to pass them straight through to taxpayers without making meaningful offsets or tradeoffs.

Instead, even in a year of significant increases, we see additional spending layered on top. Expanded staffing, administrative growth, and expanded services that were never clearly justified to taxpayers. That is not restraint. That is a choice.

A choice to grow government. A choice to expand services. A choice to send the bill to taxpayers.

And with that growth comes a cost that cannot be measured on a balance sheet. We are not just losing affordability. We are losing the small-town charm and the people who made Colchester the great place it is.

This is how small towns lose what makes them special, not all at once, but budget by budget, year after year, until affordability is gone and it never comes back.

Colchester was never meant to compete with towns like Glastonbury, which have vastly more commercial development. It was meant to offer something different: a place where people could live, raise a family, and not be priced out by their own local government.

If this is the direction we continue, Colchester, as we know it, will not exist much longer.

The choice is simple. Preserve what made Colchester affordable, or accept that under current leadership, it is already being lost.

**Michael Dubreuil - Colchester**

*Note: Dubreuil is a member of the Colchester Republican Town Committee.*

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# Rivereast Standout Athletes of the Week

By Josh Howard

**Dan Fields – East Hampton High School (Tennis):** Fields won his first home match of his junior year, defeating Cromwell Marco Ferreira in straight sets (6-2, 6-1) on April 4 at East Hampton High School. Fields, a junior, will again be a key singles competitor for the Bellringers this spring. East Hampton is next slated to host Westbrook at Portland High School on Thursday, April 16 at 6 p.m.

**Aaron Ciarleglio – Portland High School (Baseball):** Ciarleglio was solid from the mound and did damage from the plate as the Highlanders defeated Old Saybrook, 4-2, on April 6. Ciarleglio, a senior, struck out four over five innings to earn the win and also tallied a team-high two hits, including one in the sixth inning as Portland scored all four of their runs in the frame. The Highlanders are in the middle of a three-game road trip before returning home to welcome Valley Regional/Westbrook at Portland High School on Friday, April 17. First pitch is 11 a.m.

**Roger Pryor – RHAM High School (Track & Field):** Pryor won both the 100 meters and

200 meters as the Raptors opened the outdoor track and field season at South Windsor High School on April 7. Pryor, a senior, ran a 12.11 in the 100 meters to best runner-up Alexander Larmand (12.51) of South Windsor and then posted a time of 24.64 to edge senior teammate Brody Kokofski (24.78) in the 200 meters.

**Troy Johnson – Bacon Academy (Lacrosse):** Johnson opened his senior lacrosse season by scoring five goals as the Bobcats traveled to Stonington High School and beat the Bears, 8-4, on April 4. Johnson led an offensive attack that also got two goals and an assist from sophomore Jake Ashley. Grayson Mahon added a goal and Brayden Ward added an assist. Bacon Academy's next home game is slated for Tuesday, April 21 when the Montville/NFA/Killingly/Hale Ray/Griswold co-op comes to Colchester for a game at 4:30 p.m.

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

## From the State Senator's Desk...

Amid stubborn prices, tariffs and the war in Iran have increased average Americans' costs by thousands of dollars per year, with gas prices up more than a dollar just over the course of March. As the Senate heads into its final month of deliberations this year, my colleagues and I are hard at work, looking for ways to provide relief in a time when it's sorely needed.

Senate Democrats' flagship bill this year, in fact, is "An Act Concerning Affordability." That bill seeks to deliver tax relief to Connecticut residents in a variety of ways, including sales tax exemptions on clothing, school supplies, household appliances, prepared food in grocery stores and more. Cuts from each of those tax exemptions will add up, representing up to \$1 billion in total savings.

The bill also seeks to allow all taxpayers to deduct Social Security benefits, removing income cap levels and allowing countless Connecticut seniors to keep more of their hard-earned money.

As well, supporting local businesses is a primary focus. Further legislative efforts include eliminating sales tax for commercial and industrial customers earning less than \$10 million per year, which will provide immediate relief to regular businesses facing spiking energy costs. That bill also seeks to deliver increased shares of state revenue toward municipalities supporting local aid – that's a direct effort for us to deliver relief to Main Street.

That's not all. Given the increasing issues with property taxes that have increased housing prices significantly this decade, we're seeking to adjust the Education Cost Sharing formula's foundation grant to deliver more money to municipalities – with the intent of both bolstering the resources and educational opportunities available to students and preventing difficult choices in households by reducing pressure on property values and municipal taxes.

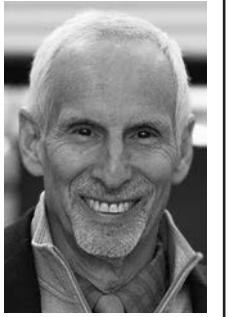
There are also concepts in place to deliver no-cost school breakfasts, with efforts to expand that to lunches as well – if successful, through those processes, Connecticut can deliver improved nutrition to schoolkids around the state and save families on grocery costs all at once.

We need to cut prices now – and we need to prevent future issues. With increased focus on private equity companies in recent years, the Senate is working to better understand and limit its presence, given its profits-over-people industrial focus. Preventing private equity from scooping up housing by limiting when it can make bids on homes entering the market, responding to past mistakes by limiting private equity ownership of hospitals and health care facilities and keeping an eye on nursing home and child care practices – including prioritizing independent child care facilities when it comes to state grant programs – are key steps forward.

In turbulent times, we're all facing tough decisions when it comes to making ends meet right now. That's why Senate Democrats are focused on providing relief, now and in the future.

**State Sen. Norm Needleman**  
D-33rd District

*Note: The 12-town 33rd State Senate District includes the Rivereast towns of Colchester, East Hampton and Portland.*



Needleman

## Cover Story • Cover Story • Cover Story • Cover Story • Cover Story • Cover

★ *School Consolidation cont. from page 1*

Main Street."

Pelton said he knew there were people who would continue to have concerns.

"Seniors are concerned about [the plan] because, when they read the referendum it's going to say it's a \$109M project, which is a scary number," he said. To them, he said, he emphasized the savings via state reimbursements, which he said were also big numbers.

His bigger concern, he said, was getting voters to turn out on May 11.

"We do need to get 20% out because you need that much for a referendum question like this," he said. "You need 20%, which means that we've got to get about 1,420 people, I think, to vote. That's gonna be hard — that's the thing I'm the most nervous about, honestly; it's getting enough people out there."

At the end of the day, Pelton said that the bipartisan support should be a message to voters that this is a good plan.

"In this day and age, you can't get a Republican and Democrat to agree that two and two is four or that puppies are cute," he said, "So, the fact that we're agreeing on something that's \$109 million is, I think, you know, is [something]."

Selectman Andrea Alfano, who is also chair of the Portland Democratic Town Committee, recently wrote a letter to the editor in last week's *Rivereast* where she argued strongly in favor of the project. She reiterated that support this week via an email, and laid out her reasoning behind why she believes this is a good plan.

"I have believed for many years that we should consolidate our elementary schools from three to two," she said. Moreover, she added, "I have seen firsthand the need to improve the health and safety of our elementary schools for students and staff. Modern, renovated facilities can lead to improved educational outcomes, teacher retention, energy efficiency, and cost savings. We expect to realize as much as a million dollars a year in operating cost savings by consolidating our elementary schools."

Alfano joined Pelton and others in making the argument that now was an ideal time to embark on a plan like this.

"The state reimbursement for the 'renovate to new' plan for Valley View and Gildersleeve may be at the highest rate we will ever see," she wrote, "so I believe the time to act is now to invest in Portland's future."

Republican selectman Vinnie Pitruzzello said that he, too, supported the upcoming referendum. In a recent email, Pitruzzello wrote, "I am personally focused on reducing 'fixed' costs and this referendum checks that box. It's a responsible, long-term solution that fully leverages unprecedented state funding."

Pitruzzello echoed the other selectmen in his opinion that the time was right for this plan.

"This is about making smart investments today to avoid far greater costs tomorrow," he wrote. "This referendum leverages grand list growth, cost reductions, and state funding while addressing our aging school infrastructure. This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity and the time to act is now."

Selectman David Kuzminski, a Democrat, seemed to acknowledge the potential for sticker shock in his response, telling the *Rivereast* in an

email that "the board has worked really hard in keeping the town spending flat with only contractual increases, and with the [Board of Education] on putting the consolidation plan together. With the very favorable state reimbursement rates, the town is getting the best bang for the buck on much needed improvements to our schools with the least amount of impact on the mill rate."

He added that, "with the town retaining ownership of the Brownstone School, it will give us the flexibility to complete the renovations with minimal interruptions."

Kuzminski encouraged voters to listen to the Town of Portland and Portland Board of Education joint podcast where he spoke to both Pelton and Superintendent of Schools Charles Britton. It can be found on the Town of Portland's YouTube page and is also linked to on the Portland Board of Education's page at [www.portland-ctschools.org](http://www.portland-ctschools.org).

Peggy Keser, who was recently elected chairwoman of the Portland Republican Town Committee, also said she supported the plan. Keser described herself as a "fiscal conservative" and said she believed the plan made economic sense, particularly given the state reimbursements available.

"We have unprecedented give-backs from the state," she said. "We're never going to see that again."

She added, "I feel that time is of the essence, especially if we get a new administration in Hartford. If they vote 'no,' we're never going to get this package again."

Keser also said she believed it was time to do something about the schools. She added that both she and her daughter had attended Portland schools and that the schools have long been in need of repairs.

"It's time to do something," she said, "and if we continue to kick the bucket because, you know, maybe the older people are struggling, they don't have kids in school, and we start using that as an excuse, we're neutering the next generation. Who's going to inherit our houses? Who's going to be raising our kids, our children, our caretakers after this generation?"

"So for me as the Republican town chairwoman," she continued, "I feel that — and we all agree, everybody for the first time, I think, since I'd been on the [RTC] for years now — we've all agreed, that this plan looks so fiscally sound, and when you break it down to actual per day cost, it's a good deal. It's a good deal, and it will help support our home values, if you look at it. Nobody wants to move to a school with a with a terrible school system."

Keser said her biggest concern is that voters will not turn out for the referendum, and she said that she and others she knows are willing to provide rides to anyone who cannot make it to the polls. She encouraged residents in need of a ride to reach out to her via the Republican Town Committee's webpage.

"It's about the children," Keser said. "We have to stop being selfish over, you know, 94 cents a day that it would cost in taxes. We've got to stop being selfish, and we've got to start investing. It's an investment in our future."

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★ *RHAM Hearing cont. from page 1*

and politically motivated. "To infer that our management of this situation is suspect is a direct attack on our ethics and integrity," she added.

Her remarks drew mixed reactions.

Marlborough resident Ken Hjulstrom, who serves on the town's Board of Finance, said Summerer's tone "got kind of political, very defensive. ... I don't think it helped things," and Hebron Craig Donacki said it was "totally inappropriate to address the public that way."

**Proposed Budget: Lower Than Most, But Still Rising**

McNamara presented a proposed \$33,661,483 budget for the 2026-27 school year, which represents a 3.19% increase. This increase is down from an earlier 4.77% proposal. He emphasized that the increase is relatively modest, and that it was "lower than 89% of school districts across the state." Without \$1.4 million in cuts, including staff reductions, the increase would have been 7.42%.

McNamara explained that the budget is driven largely by fixed costs. Around 73% goes to salaries and benefits, including a projected 21% increase in health insurance.

It was also made apparent that not all towns will feel the same impact. Hebron will see the biggest increase by far, with its contribution rising by about \$1.07 million. Andover's increase is much smaller at just over \$20,000, while Marlborough is the only town that would see relief, with its share dropping by about \$52,000.

These differences are attributed ultimately to enrollment. As more students come from Hebron to attend RHAM, that town is responsible for a larger portion of the overall budget. In contrast, Marlborough's share has decreased slightly, leading to a small reduction in what the town must pay.

**Staffing, Cuts and Class Sizes**

To reduce the budget, the district planned to remove seven positions – including teachers and paraeducators – mostly through attrition. At the same time, RHAM proposed adding two new roles: a buildings and grounds maintainer and an instructional technology specialist.

Some residents questioned that decision. One asked, "Why do we need another position ... if one could handle it for 20 years? What changed?"

McNamara responded that responsibilities have grown over time, especially maintaining fields. "That workload can no longer be sustained by one individual."

Another major issue was class size. According to McNamara, RHAM offers over 250 courses, including advanced and specialized classes. Some of those classes are so small, however, they sometimes hold less than 10 students.

Critics argued that classes of that size are inefficient. Amston resident Kimmarie Bozza said, "If only five kids are utilizing one of those courses ... maybe we need to get rid of it."

Others defended the approach. Hebron resident Beth Fitzgerald explained, "There are small classes because ... kids get to French five, or AP government ... and there's only five kids ... but we need this so that our kids stay competitive."

McNamara said small classes are part of offering a strong, competitive education. "We want to remain an attractive district ... [with] a wide variety of course offerings."

**Why Surpluses Keep Happening**

Several speakers questioned why the district often ends the year with surplus funds. McNamara said the causes are often unpredictable and unintended. He described a series of shifting factors that can change spending after the budget is set.

One of the biggest drivers is staff turnover. For example, a veteran teacher earning around \$95,000 might retire or leave, and the district may hire a new teacher at closer to \$50,000. That difference alone can create tens of thousands of dollars in savings.

Other times, positions go unfilled altogether. The district may budget for a teacher or support staff member, but if no qualified candidate is found, that salary and benefit money is never spent in the end.

Special education costs can also swing widely from year to year, depending on students' needs, while transportation costs may drop when bus routes are combined due to driver shortages.

McNamara stressed that "it's not because ... we're over-inflating our budget."



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# Area Cannabis Company True to Its Roots

By Olivia Cibula

In a rapidly evolving industry, Crisp Cannabis is working to distinguish itself through a focus on local roots, customer experience and community connection, according to the company's founder, Andrew Simonow.

Since its inception, the company has quickly expanded its footprint across the state, opening three retail locations – in Bridgeport, East Hartford, and nearby Cromwell – in 2024 and establishing a cultivation facility in Norwich.

The company is also hoping to add an outlet in Portland.

Crisp Cannabis has managed so far to position itself as a homegrown alternative in a very competitive market.

"As Connecticut's only craft vertical cannabis operator with four retail locations, we're proud to be built and run by Connecticut people – keeping jobs local, quality high, and our communities at the center of everything we do," Simonow said.

Simonow entered the cannabis industry more than a decade ago, bringing with him a background in construction, real estate and design. That experience shaped what he describes as a practical blue-collar approach to building the business.

"I took everything I learned and brought those concepts into cannabis," he said.

That philosophy is reflected in Crisp Cannabis' identity, which emphasizes what Simonow calls a "gritty hardworking New England" culture. From store design to customer interaction, the goal is to create an environment that feels approachable and familiar.

"It's like a coffee shop – you choose it because it's reliable," he said. "From the moment you

walk in to the moment you leave, that experience should match our culture."

Crisp Cannabis' East Hartford store offers added convenience with curbside pickup, free delivery – and one of the state's first drive-thru cannabis services.

"Our goal is to let customers buy in whatever way they feel most comfortable," Simonow said.

Beyond convenience, education is also a central focus of the company. Inside each store products are organized into clearly defined tiers to help customers navigate options based on their preferences and experience levels. Staff are trained to guide conversations, answer questions and build relationships with returning customers.

Crisp Cannabis also produces its own line of products under the brand "Let's Burn," cultivated and processed at its Norwich facility. The company emphasizes a "seed-to-sale" approach, maintaining control at every stage.

"It's natural craft cannabis; we never use irradiation or UV treatments," Simonow said. "We're very intentional with what we put on our shelves. It's not just what sells, it's what our customers actually want."

That attention to quality also comes with its challenges. Cannabis cultivation is a time-intensive process and can take four to five months from seed to sale. Connecticut's regulatory environment adds additional layers of complexity and cost. At the same time, competition from neighboring states and the illicit market continues to shape the landscape.

"Massachusetts has become ultra-competitive and that makes it difficult for us," Simonow said.

Despite the challenges, Crisp Cannabis has grown to employ approximately 75 people,



With three retail locations in East Hartford, Cromwell and Bridgeport, Crisp Cannabis founder Andrew Simonow said he hopes to add an additional store in Portland. The East Hartford outlet is shown here.

many of whom are local residents. The company regularly participates in community events and initiatives, reinforcing its identity as what Simonow describes as a shared, community-driven business.

"It's actually the community's store," he said. "We built the business like a community, where everyone shares the pride."

Looking ahead, Crisp Cannabis is planning to expand both its retail presence and cultivation capacity, with hopes to add new locations in South Windsor, Portland and southeastern Connecticut. The company is also exploring

new product offerings while continuing to scale its delivery services.

"This expansion is being executed with a disciplined approach that prioritizes quality over volume," Simonow said.

Crisp Cannabis has also expressed interest in opening a location in Glastonbury, a goal that would further connect the company to the community it already serves.

As it grows, Simonow said the company's mission remains consistent in building a trusted locally rooted business that prioritizes quality and transparency.

## 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 class-

mates Betsy Bransfield Rose, Alex Castelli, Beverly Chester, Carol Clausi Karnilowicz, Richard Kearney, Nancy McKinstry Roch, Richard Pawiczik, Mark Pierini, Maureen Robinson Jordan, or Thomas Savage is asked to email Mary Linda Eccles/Reitz at mlreitzphs76@gmail.com or message her on Facebook: Portland high class 76.

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

## Soccer Club Spring Registration

Portland Soccer Club (PSC) will accept Club-Recreational registration for the spring soccer season until April 11. Registrations will only be accepted online, at [www.bluesombrero.com/portlandsoccerclub](http://www.bluesombrero.com/portlandsoccerclub).

Cost per registrant is \$100, and the schedule is: Pre-K sessions: 8:45-9:30 a.m. (Saturday only); Dribbler sessions: 9:15-10:15 a.m. (Saturday only); Kicker sessions: 9:15-10:15 a.m. (Saturday Games & Practice -Wednesdays)

Dribbler and Kicker divisions will receive team shirts. Pre-K division will receive Team shirts and balls. These will be available for dis-

tribution on Friday, April 17, from 5:45-7 p.m., at the recreational complex.

The Club-Recreational program will run eight weeks, from April 18-June 13; there is no Rec Soccer during Memorial Day weekend (May 23). All games will take place at the Recreational Complex.

For more information, contact club president Chad Wilson at [nosliw.dahc@gmail.com](mailto:nosliw.dahc@gmail.com) or 205-999-8842; vice president Chris Donahue at [donahuecj@sbcglobal.net](mailto:donahuecj@sbcglobal.net) or 860-638-7400; or registrar Anne Whalen at [awhalen34@yahoo.com](mailto:awhalen34@yahoo.com) or 860-690-3414.

## Registration Continues for Town-Wide Tag Sale

The Portland Historical Society's 30th annual Town-Wide Tag Sales Day will be on Saturday, May 9 – rain or shine. Just two weeks remain to register your tag sale.

To register, visit [www.portlandhistsoc.com](http://www.portlandhistsoc.com) and click on the link (the big yellow banner), and then just follow the directions. Registration sheets are also available in the barrel at the Ruth Callander House Museum of Portland History, located at 492 Main St., as well as on the society website. Completed paper registrations along with payment should be mailed to the society at P.O. Box 98, Portland, CT 06480.

The fee to register is \$25 and all registrations must be received by Sunday, April 26. Portland residents who sign up will be assigned a spot on the society's official Tag Sale Map issued for that

day listing the sale locations and types of items featured at each one. Each registered tag sale will be marked with a numbered pole sign corresponding to sale locations on the map.

On Saturday, May 9, the society will have a Bake Sale of homemade goodies at the Callander House. Members and friends of the society will be baking pies, muffins, cookies, scones, cakes, brownies and more and packaging their specialties for this sell-out sale. Baked goods can be dropped off after 7:30 a.m. on Saturday morning. Bake Sale doors open at 8:30 a.m.

The annual Town-Wide Tag Sale is the main fundraiser for the society. Proceeds help to maintain the museum and to further the mission to collect, preserve and share Portland's history.

## Church Presentation on John Hall Sage

All are invited to Trinity Church, 345 Main St., on Sunday, April 12, at 11:30 a.m., for a special presentation by local naturalist Beau Doherty and Dr. Erin Kuprewicz of the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History at the University of Connecticut.

This program will explore the life and legacy of John Hall Sage (1847–1925), a noted Portland native and U.S. ornithologist, highlighting his scientific contributions, his 1913 work *Birds of*

Connecticut, and his faithful service to Trinity Church as a parishioner and vestry member.

The presentation will also look at how Portland's bird populations and landscape have changed since Sage's time, including examples from UConn's 5,000-bird collection.

A brief tour of items referenced in Sage's *Memorials and Other Gifts* in Trinity Church will follow. Light refreshments will be provided. All are welcome.

## Scholarship Offered by Garden Clubs

Applications are now available for a \$500 scholarship offered by the Portland Garden Clubs.

The scholarship will be awarded to a graduating high school senior who is a resident of Portland and has been accepted at an accredited college or post-secondary school and plans to pursue a major in one of the following fields: agronomy, botany, city planning, conservation, environmental studies, forestry, horticulture, land management, landscape design, plant pathology or allied subject. Applicants must have a grade point average of at least 3.0.

The scholarship is funded from the proceeds of community activities of The Portland Garden Club and The Portland River Valley Garden Club. A review committee will consider the applicant's academic record, ability to articulate career goals, and their recommendations. Financial need could be part of the decision.

Application and letters of recommendations need to be submitted to the applicant's Guidance or Counseling Department or emailed to [sueanderson06480@aol.com](mailto:sueanderson06480@aol.com) or [portlandrivervalleygc@gmail.com](mailto:portlandrivervalleygc@gmail.com) before April 20.

## Parks and Rec. News & Notes

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

**Summer Quest:** Register before May 1 to lock in early bird pricing. Kiddie Camp is open to children ages 3.5 to entering Pre-K or Kindergarten, Base Camp is open to children entering grades 1-6 and Teen Camp is open to children entering grades 7-9.

**Slamma Jamma Spring Break Basketball Camp:** Monday-Friday, April 13-17, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., at Portland High School. Open to children in grade 3-8.

**Multi-Sport Program at Riverfront Park:** Saturday mornings, April 18-May 23. Separate programs are offered for kids aged 2-5.

**Junior Golf Workshops with Gerry – Grades K-5:** Saturdays, April 25-May 16, at Portland West Golf Course. Grades K-2 are 12:15-1:15

p.m., and grades 3-5 are 1:30-2:30 p.m.

**Junior Golf Workshops with Gerry – Grades 6-8:** Tuesdays, May 5-26, 4:30-5:30 p.m., at Portland West.

**Ladies Spring Golf Clinic for Beginners with Gerry:** Tuesdays, May 5-June 2, 6-7 p.m., at Portland West.

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

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

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## From the Town Manager's Desk

I'm writing to share important information about the annual budget. There are two key dates to mark on your calendar. On Monday, April 20, there will be a public hearing at the Marlborough Elementary School cafeteria. That is a terrific opportunity to learn about the budget and ask questions. On Tuesday, May 5, registered voters are invited to vote on the town budget (including both Town and Marlborough Board of Education) and the RHAM budget. The polling place will be the community room at Marlborough Elementary School.

I am pleased to share that Marlborough's FY26-27 proposed budget is available on the ClearGov platform at <https://town-marlborough-ct-cleargov.com/22885/883821/d>. You can also access it by navigating to <https://www.marlboroughct.gov> and clicking on 'Budget' on the top right of the home page. Our intent with ClearGov is to present the proposed budget in a transparent and accessible format with historical context back to 2023.

To constrain operating costs while continuing to provide high quality services, Marlborough is continuing to expand our regional cooperation. We anticipate sharing an experienced and capable finance director with the Town of Woodbridge. We applied for a state grant that, if awarded to Marlborough, would cover half the cost of the new Finance Director for the first three years.

We are also negotiating the terms to join a consortium based in East Haddam that provides Animal Control Officer services. That consortium already operates in East Haddam, East Hampton, and Columbia. Marlborough would strengthen an already high-performing team. Participating allows us to benefit from those important services for less than it would cost us to provide them independently.

These two initiatives build on Marlborough's history of successful regional cooperation. We have long participated in RHAM to provide middle school and high school education. The Chatham Health District inspects our restaurants and provides a variety of important public health services. AHM Youth and Family Services offers myriad programming and counseling services to Marlborough residents at MES, RHAM, and their facility in Hebron. More recently, we joined a consortium based in Bolton for building inspector services. All are examples of Marlborough achieving economies of scale that, in turn, allow each organization to provide high quality services at reduced costs otherwise unavailable to a small town.

Our capital budget includes lining the Johnson Road culvert to extend its life by an expected 40-plus years and replacing the Quinn Road culvert. Both are important investments in our stormwater and road infrastructure. The town is also planning on replacing its oldest dump truck – a \$225,000 purchase – with revenue from the speed cameras on North Main Street. More than 90% of the speed camera revenue comes from vehicles *not* registered in Marlborough. In addition to slowing traffic and improving safety on North Main Street, those cameras are allowing us to make a significant capital investment without burdening our taxpayers.

David Porter  
Marlborough Town Manager



Porter

## Parks and Rec. Programs

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

**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: 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 \$90/resident, \$95/non-resident. Classic, for ages 3-5, is 3:45-4:30 p.m. Fee is \$113/resident, \$118/non-resident.

**Spring Into Yoga – Kids Yoga & Mindfulness Series:** For ages 3-10. Tuesdays, April 21-May 12, 5:15-6 p.m., at Marlborough Senior Center. Parent/guardian must attend to observe or participate with their child. Fee is \$58/resident, \$63/non-resident, or a \$20 drop-in fee.

**Adult Sewing – Know Your Machine:** For ages 16 and up. Thursday, April 23, 5:30-7 p.m., at Marlborough Senior Center. Fee is \$52/resident, \$57/non-resident.

**Intergenerational Multicultural Club:** For grades 5 & 6. Fridays, April 24-May 29, 3:30-4:30 p.m., at Marlborough Senior Center. Students will fill culture boxes with objects such as dolls, coins, and brochures from countries of your origin. Then, decorate the boxes, talk about your heritage, and celebrate with ethnic

snacks. No cost to participate.

**Horseback Riding Lessons:** Ages 5 and up, English or Western style instruction. The lessons are private and are an hour in length. The lessons days and times are flexible. The instructor will contact you upon registration to set up lesson day and time. Fee is four lessons for \$175/residents, \$180/non-residents.

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

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

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

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

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

**Trip: Boston Red Sox vs. New York Mets:** Saturday, July 11, 4:10 p.m. game at Citi Field in New York. Trip includes: a charter bus, ticket to the game, cookout at the stadium: hamburgers, hot dogs, sweet & sour meatballs, sausage & peppers, assorted salads, chips, water and soda, games and prizes on the bus. Registration fee is \$185 (400-level seating), or \$255 (lower level seating). Bus picks up/drops off at Putnam park and ride in Glastonbury.

## 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 focus on the relationships between earth, water, air, and light. An avid hiker and paddler, he draws inspiration from the wild areas he explores.

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.

## 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](mailto:stjohnfisher30@yahoo.com). The church website is [www.stjfcchurch.org](http://www.stjfcchurch.org).

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

## 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.marlcongregation.org](http://mcc.marlcongregation.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@marlcongregation.org](mailto:ekukich@marlcongregation.org) for more information.

**April 12:** The worship service will be led by Seaver and will include a Hymn Sing. After worship all are invited to Coffee Hour in the Thienes Lounge.

**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. The next church-sponsored Drive Thru Café, for Marlborough Food Bank clients and their families with tickets, will be April 26. Second-quarter mission-giving will go to the AHM Mental

Health Fund.

**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** is located on the lower level with easy access from the parking lot. The shop is open for shopping and donations Fridays from noon to 3 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. 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](http://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. 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@marlcongregation.org](mailto:pastorval@marlcongregation.org), or contact the church office at [office@marlcongregation.org](mailto:office@marlcongregation.org).

## American Legion Golf Tournament

American Legion Post 197 will host a Golf Tournament at Blackledge Country Club, 180 West St., Hebron, on Monday, May 18.

For more information, email [don1bu@comcast.net](mailto:don1bu@comcast.net).

## MVFD Women's Auxiliary Scholarships

The Marlborough Volunteer Fire Department's Women's Auxiliary is now accepting scholarship applications from any graduating senior who resides in Marlborough. The applications are available online through the RHAM Guidance Department.

Applications are due by Friday, May 1. Mail all completed applications to MVFD Women's Auxiliary, P.O. Box 237, Marlborough, CT 06447.

## Can & Bottle Drive Fundraiser

There will be a Can & Bottle Drive Saturday, April 25, from 9 a.m.-noon, at the Marlborough Elementary School parking lot.

All proceeds go directly toward the sixth grade carnival.

## ALPOA Dinner Dance Fundraiser

The Andover Lake Property Owners Property Association (ALPOA) is having a Dinner Dance Fundraiser Event, with a live band, Friday, April 24, from 6-10 p.m., at Andover Pizza Bar, to support the association's beach improvements at the lake this year.

The event will feature food, a cash bar, music by the band NED, a chance to win a lake membership, and a 50/50 cash drawing.

Tickets are \$25 each, and can be purchased at [andoverlakect.com](http://andoverlakect.com).

## Cemetery Clean-Up

The annual cemetery spring clean-up is scheduled for Saturday, May 2, at Marlboro Cemetery. Volunteers are invited to participate and are asked to meet at 9 a.m.

Residents are asked to remove seasonal pots and any personal items prior to the clean-up. All items found to be in violation of cemetery rules and regulations or a hindrance to maintenance will be removed. These items include shepherd hooks, glass objects, items hanging from trees, pots, or items beyond the front of the stone. If you plan to reuse the item next season, please remove and take home.

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### Spring Tag Sale at Congregational Church

The annual spring tag sale at Marlborough Congregational Church, 35 South Main St., will be held Saturday, May 2, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Community Fellowship Hall and several classrooms will be filled with a huge selection of household and seasonal items, linens, vintage, toys and games, collectibles, framed artwork, electronics, small appliances, cloth-

ing, furniture, and much more. Shoppers are asked to make a generous donation, as everything is price your own. Donations to both the tag sale and Second Blessings Thrift Shop can be brought to the church during thrift shop hours, Fridays from noon to 3 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

### Benefit Assessment

Residents in the town's sewer district are notified that the Benefit Assessment bills were due to the Marlborough Water Pollution Control Authority (MWPCA), April 1. The last day to pay without interest is May 1. Delinquent bills will be charged 1.5% interest per month reverting to the due date of April 1, or 18% per year. Minimum interest is \$5. If you do not receive a bill, please contact the Tax Office at 860-295-6205.

Make checks payable to MWPCA. Payments can be mailed to: Tax Collector, Town of Marlborough, P.O. Box 26, 29 North Main St., Marlborough, CT 06447, or placed in the Drop Box to the left of the Town Hall front door for payments by check - no cash. Tax collector hours are Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Tuesday, 8:30 a.m.-7 p.m.; and Friday, 8:30 a.m.-noon.

### 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.

ages 55+. May session: 5/7, 5/14, 5/21, 5/28, from 5-7 p.m. each week. Cost: \$50/residents, \$60/non-residents. RSVP by 4/30. **Transportation:** Rides to medical appointments, employment, essential services, the Senior Center and recreation activities are available to seniors and people with disabilities. Transportation is available on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Rides must be reserved two business days in advance. Call 860-295-6209 for more information. Visit [www.marlboroughct.gov](http://www.marlboroughct.gov) for the complete transportation policy. Transportation services are only available Monday and Tuesdays, until further notice.

**Senior Center Hours:** Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Friday, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. **Events: Blood Pressure Checks (free) and Chatham Health Education Presentation:** Monday, April 13. BP checks, 11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m., followed by a presentation on the Importance of Sleep from 12:15-12:45 p.m.

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

**This or That: Dementia Talk:** Friday, April 17, 1-2 p.m. With relatable stories, light humor, and practical guidance, you will learn about what is and isn't dementia.

**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. Deadline to apply: May 15.

**Scam Prevention:** Monday, April 27, noon-1 p.m. A financial advisor from Edward Jones will speak on how to prevent yourself from being scammed and protect your money.

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

**Birthday Club:** April birthdays will be celebrated Tuesday, April 28, 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.

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

**Chair Yoga:** Next session: 5/12, 5/19, 5/26, 6/2. Cost is \$35/residents, \$40 non-residents. RSVP by 5/8.

**FABBS Exercise:** The next Flexibility, Agility, Better Balance and Strength workout class will be held 5/4, 5/11, 5/18 and 5/26, from 10:45-11:45 a.m. Movement and exercises are drawn from body building, yoga, ballet and more. Cost is \$40/residents, \$48/non-residents. RSVP by 4/27.

**Line Dancing Lessons:** All levels welcomed,

### American Legion Setback Tournament

American Legion Post 197 will hold a Setback Tournament Friday, April 17, at the post, 128 East Hampton Rd. Registration is at 6 p.m. and games start at 6:30 p.m. This is a Round Robin-style tournament, and cost is \$10 per person. Prizes will be awarded for first, second and third place. There will also be raffles, including a 50/50 raffle. (All proceeds go to the ladies auxiliary.) For more information, call Sharon at 860-805-6917.

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Ray's Rebels bowler Grace Jordan will head to the 2026 Junior Gold Championships in Minneapolis. Pictured is the Jordan family - Dan, Grace, Melissa, and Delaney.

### Local Bowler Minnesota-Bound

Ray's Rebels bowler Grace Jordan, daughter of Dan and Melissa Jordan from Marlborough, has qualified for and is on her way to the 2026 Junior Gold Championships in Minneapolis. Grace participated in the CT River Travel Tournament on March 15, to compete alongside more than 50 other participants. Only the

top bowlers moved on to the 2026 Junior Gold Championships, which will be held in Minneapolis in July. Grace will be representing the Ray's Rebels, who bowl out of Kickback 'N Bowl in East Hampton.

### Artists Sought for Spring Show

Marlborough Arts Center members are welcome to participate in the 2026 Marlborough Arts Center Members' Spring Art Show, which runs April 25-May 31. Members are welcome to showcase up to three pieces for display and sale. A variety of media will be accepted, including paintings, drawings, photography, collage, sculpture, fiber art, woodworking and jewelry. Eligibility: Artists must be a 2026 MAC Member to enter. You can join or renew online, [marlborougharts.org](http://marlborougharts.org) and select Membership. Entry Details: For information on submit-

ting your work, entry forms and labels go to: [marlborougharts.org](http://marlborougharts.org). Click on "Calling All Artists..." Participating members will drop off artwork Sunday, April 12, from 2-4 p.m., and Monday, April 13, from 5:30-6:30 p.m. The show will be open Saturdays and Sundays, 1-4 p.m., from April 25-May 31. Reception is Sunday, May 3, from 1-4 p.m. For more information, contact [info@marlborougharts.org](mailto:info@marlborougharts.org) or call 860-467-6353 and leave a message. The Marlborough Arts Center is a nonprofit regional center for the arts located at 231 North Main St.

# Officials Present Plan with Sharp Tax Increase

By Toriana Williams

The Andover Board of Finance held a public hearing on April 1 regarding the town's proposed budgets. Board of Finance Chair Robert England, a Democrat, set the tone early when he said, "Everybody should understand this is our best draft at the current moment. ... We reserve the right, obviously, to tweak."

What followed afterward was a detailed discussion about rising costs, competing priorities and how much taxpayers can reasonably afford this fiscal year.

## Rising Taxes

One of the most striking points was made right at the start. The proposed budget would cause a tax increase of about 6.8%, one of the largest in recent years for Andover. England explained it as, "last year's amount to raise by taxation was almost exactly \$10 million. ... every \$100,000 is a percentage point." That means even small cuts could noticeably reduce the tax hike.

The total revenue for the town was projected at around \$12.9 million, which is an increase of about 1.12% from the previous year. However, spending is rising faster than revenue, which in turn is creating pressures on taxes. Property tax revenue itself would increase by about \$99,117, reaching roughly \$10.44 million.

## Congregational Church News

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

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

## Caregiver Support Group to Meet

The support group for caregivers will meet on Thursday, April 30, at 7 p.m., in the Andover Public Library on Route 6.

This gathering will feature eldercare attorney and probate judge George Baker, who will discuss health care directives, power of attorney, organizing important documents, and preparing for probate before death. The meeting will conclude with its usual "Show and Tell" segment, where participants share handy tips, tools, or gadgets that assist in caregiving.

The meeting provides a safe and welcoming space for individuals who are navigating the challenges, stresses, and rewards of caring for loved ones. This support group is designed to

## Andover Art Club

Children of all ages are invited to join local artist Caitlyn Grabenstein for an hour of creativity at Andover Public Library on Thursdays from 11 a.m.-noon.

Kids can color, draw and make art. Bring your favorite materials or use the library's. Call the library for more information at 860-742-7428.

## ASCT Looking for Members

The Andover Sustainable CT (ASCT) committee is looking for a person to join their meetings who is interested in continuing to make Andover a Sustainable town. Currently, the committee is working on attaining Silver Certification.

The committee meets the fourth Wednesday of each month, from 7-8 p.m. If interested in joining, text Cathy Palazzi, chairman, at 860-916-6122.

## Clothing & Linen Sale

Andover Congregational Church, located at 359 Route 6, will hold a Clothing & Linen Sale Saturday, April 11, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., with a Bag Sale from 1-2 p.m.

## Community Fund Reaching Out

Members of the Andover Community Fund are working to better understand the needs of the community and the organizations that serve it. As such, the members are reaching out to learn more about the challenges nonprofits are facing today and to identify any unmet or emerging needs.

All organizations are encouraged to share their needs, and to keep the Andover Community Fund in mind when seeking grant support now or in the future. For more information, email [andover@greaterhartfordgivescf.org](mailto:andover@greaterhartfordgivescf.org).

The budget itself was divided into a few major areas. Andover Elementary School's portion of the budget was 37%, RHAM was 31%, municipal government at 25% which left capital projects at 7%. The percentages show that education makes up the largest share of the proposed spending. This eventually became a major focus of debate during the hearing.

## School Budget Drives Increase

The most discussed issue of the night, to no one's surprise, was the Andover Elementary School budget. They have requested for nearly \$500,000 more in funds, an increase of 10.95%. England described the ask as a "big deal," as the increase would bring the school budget to \$5,063,651.

Several key factors are driving this rise, according to England and Superintendent of Schools Valerie Bruneau. As are many towns, Andover is facing a 21% increase in health insurance costs. A loss of a \$45,000 grant will now double the cost of a school psychologist to about \$90,000. Contracted salary increases are around 3% and the school plans to hire a new sixth-grade teacher.

The need for a psychologist became one of the most talked about topics. Bruneau strongly

defended the position, and said, "a psychologist is a must for us. ... There is testing that needs to be done. ... It is not a position that can be reduced." She explained that special education requirements and students' needs make the role essential.

Class size was another concern. "Do you keep 28 kids in a class ... or do you take two sections and have 14 and 14?" she questioned. "Twenty-eight students is not ideal."

## RHAM Budget and the Surprise Refund

The RHAM school budget added another layer to already rising costs. It is increasing by about 3.3%, bringing the total to \$34 million. Andover's share would normally rise to about \$4.26 million.

However, a recent and surprising discovery changed the conversation. As many residents are already aware, RHAM found it had excess funds and will return money to towns after a miscalculation was noticed. Andover's share of the surplus is \$255,234, which could reduce its levy to about \$4 million, a decrease of 3.1% instead of an increase.

England cautioned that this is a one-time event. There were also questions about whether interest should be included.

"I view the \$255,000 as a floor," he said. "There's a case to be made ... what [interest] did it earn?"

## Town Spending, Capital Projects

On the town side of things, the proposed operating and capital budget totaled \$4.36 million, an increase of 3.92%. Over six years, town spending would rise by about 21% if the budget passed, according to England's presentation.

Some increases are tied to staffing, similar to the Board of Education budget. The town plans to hire an administrative assistant to support the newly hired town administrator. They also hope to add help at the community center. England explained this was needed because

previous leadership had lacked support. "There wasn't enough there to help [the former administrator]. ... an assistant was necessary," he said.

Capital spending, however, is actually decreasing slightly - down to about \$30,000, a 2.92% decrease. Yet, large future costs still loom. Bridge and culvert projects could cost "a million dollars at a shot," said England.

## Roads, Infrastructure and Hidden Costs

Residents raised concerns about infrastructure, especially roads. Resident Jed Larson noted that repairs can cost \$1.5 million per mile, and that roads and bridges were the "number one concern" in town surveys.

England responded that the budget doesn't show the full picture as of now because it leaves out state grants. "When you see 355, that's not what we're going to spend. ... we're going to spend significantly more than that." This lack of visibility in turn frustrated some residents, who asked for clearer reporting of outside funding.

## Public Reactions Shows Support and Concern

Public comment revealed a divided but also thoughtful community. Several residents strongly supported the school budget. Brianna Lanzieri, a Board of Education member who said she was speaking as an individual, said, "we're investing in the future. ... Good schools bring in higher property values."

Cait McIntosh Greenhouse, also a Board of Education member who said she was speaking as an individual, added that the school budget was already "bare-bones" and that "everything has been cut to the point that it can be."

Other residents worried about the tax increase. Joanne Hebert, a former Board of Finance member, warned, "I'm not in favor of a 6.8 taxation increase. ... It's really hard ... when you see those numbers increasingly going up."

Hebert urged officials to find cuts, especially in capital spending.

## 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](http://tinyurl.com/2huzen57).

Completed applications must be dropped off at the library or emailed to the Friends at

[andoverfol@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:andoverfol@gmail.com).

## Community & Senior Center Happenings

The Andover Community and Senior Center, located at 25 School Rd., is open Monday-Thursday from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. and Friday from 9 a.m.-noon. Coffee is always on. All are welcome. For all questions or concerns, call the director, Tess Grous, at 860-742-7305 ext 4510 or at 860-798-6862.

The center's monthly newsletter, "Community Connections," is available at [www.andover-connecticut.org](http://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 or to reserve space, call 860-742-7305.

**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. High school students who need volunteer hours are welcome.

**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 Speakers, Puzzles and Pizza, Yoga, Dominos, Chair Massage, Knitting, trips to the library and the food pantry/Foodshare truck, 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 Manchester 4/14 and 4/28, and Willimantic 4/21. Transportation is available.

**Your Money Matters:** Thursday, 4/23, 5 p.m. The center is partnering with UConn - One Stop Student Services for this free interactive presentation designed to help middle and high school students make smart financial decisions. Call 860-742-7305 ext. 4510 to sign up.

**Beginner's Quilting with Tara:** Mondays,

4/13, 4/27, 5/11, 5/18, 6/8, 5:45-8 p.m. Cost is \$8. In this beginner-friendly quilting class you will learn how to create your own quilt from start to finish. Participants should bring a working sewing machine and basic sewing notions. This class meets every other week for five weeks. Contact the center to register.

**Kids Art Class with Kim:** Wednesday, 4/15, 3 p.m. Fee is \$18. This class is perfect for all skill levels. Space is limited. Supplies are provided. To register, call the center.

**Senior Art Class with Kim:** This class is expanding. Will meet Thursdays, 4/16, 4/23, from 10-11 a.m. Cost is \$8. All skill levels welcome. Space is limited. Supplies are provided. To register, call the center.

**Family Bingo:** Friday, 4/10, 5-7 p.m. Cost is \$10 per person and includes two slices of pizza, a pad of bingo sheets, and dessert. Additional bingo pads available for \$2. Registration is required & limited to the first 60 participants. Call the center to register by Wednesday, 4/8.

**P.A.L. Program:** Thursday, 4/23, 2 p.m. The People Across Lifetimes (P.A.L.) Program brings senior residents and Andover Elementary kindergarten students together to share lunch, laughter, and activities like being Pen Pals. Call the center to join or for more information.

**AARP Driver Safety Class:** Thursday, 4/23, 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Cost is \$20 for AARP members, \$25 for nonmembers. Location is Bolton Senior Center. To register, call the center or 860-647-9196. Completion may save you money on insurance premiums.

**Stained Glass:** Friday, 4/24, 6 p.m. No prior experience is needed. This class fills up quickly. For students 16 and up. All materials included. To register, call the center.

**Travel In Time Club:** Friday, 4/24, 3 p.m. This is an intergenerational partnership with Andover Elementary School. Students and seniors will work on stories and interviews. Call the center to join or for more information.

**Mohegan Sun Casino Trip:** Friday, 4/24, 10 a.m. The bus will return at 3 p.m. Space is limited. To reserve a seat, call 860-498-2326.

## 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.

## Sheena the Therapy Dog

All are invited to come read to or visit Sheena the Therapy Dog Saturday, April 18, from 11 a.m.-noon, at Andover Public Library, 355 Route 6.

Sheena, Queen of the Jungle, Therapy Dog Excellent (for making over 200 visits) will be at the library with her handler, Andover Friends of the Library member Dr. Jenifer Nadeau. Come read a spring or dog-themed book or any book to Sheena or just visit her!

## Bingo & Basket Raffle Night

Andover Congregational Church, 359 Route 6, will hold a Bingo & Basket Raffle Night on Friday, April 17, 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.

## Reflective Address Markers

During an emergency, every second counts, and the Andover Volunteer Fire Department says having a highly visible house number helps firefighters get to you that much faster.

All are invited to stop by AVFD at 11 School Rd. on Sunday, May 3, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. The department will offer address markers free to Andover residents. There is a \$10 charge for non-residents.

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# State House Hopeful Says It's Time for Government to Step Up

By Anne Lilburn

When state House of Representatives Democratic candidate Meghan Rosenfeld moved to Connecticut three years ago from Pennsylvania, she says she chose East Hampton for its small-town charm. She said that when she visited, it reminded her of her own childhood.

"Children were out riding their bikes," she said, "[in] little friend groups, and the historic houses."

She and her husband, a woodworker and artist, moved here in 2023, and bought one of those historic homes.

"He has been meticulously going from room to room," she says, "rehabbing and restoring. It's a long project, nowhere near done."

Rosenfeld, too, says she has a passion for making her home a better place — but for her, that means getting into politics. Rosenfeld is running as a Democrat for the Connecticut House of Representatives in the 34th District seat being vacated by incumbent Republican Irene Haines, who is not seeking reelection. That district covers East Hampton, East Had-dam and part of Salem.

Currently, Rosenfeld, an educator who also has experience as a paralegal, is the regional director of schools for a national Montessori organization, but she also makes time to volunteer on the East Hampton Commission on Aging and the Democratic Town Committee.

"I like to be putting my energy towards things where I can be part of a solution, and the more that I get to know the people in my community, the more I notice where they're struggling," she said. She said she was running for office "because I like to solve problems and I like to be able to connect people to solutions."

It's not her first foray into the political arena, having run for state representative previously in Pennsylvania. She said that, while she did not win, the experience of campaigning and organizing voters left her eager for more.

Rosenfeld said that she believed that her experience as an educator would prove beneficial, as education funding is a state issue with big

ramifications at the local level.

"If we can solve the education funding issue at the state level, it will free up town resources considerably," she said, "not just for adequately funding education, but for all of the other things that get slashed because the need is there to be able to educate children in our district."

"At the state level," she added, "we have an education funding formula that was established in 2013 [and] it hasn't been even fully funded with their formula until this past fiscal year. Even with it being fully funded, it's still well below what we need in order to educate children, and they haven't adjusted it to account for inflation."

Rosenfeld cited concerns she had about both unfunded mandates and inadequate solutions to education challenges, saying the burdens fell on town budgets and also on local educators.

"You know, these [educators] are people that are my colleagues," she said, "and they're doing work after hours, constantly, just trying to manage their caseload, just trying to make sure they're meeting all of the needs of all of their students, and it's not sustainable, and seeing the teacher burnout that's happening because of it — these are people that care deeply, but they're being exploited."

She noted that her own children attended East Hampton public schools, and she believed they were getting a good education, but that she also believed that teachers and administrators were not being supported at the state level, leaving the burdens to fall to local school districts.

"At a state level, we could be offering money to provide for more teacher education opportunities," she added. "We could be applying the science of reading to all students, not just those with an identified learning disability — and this is what we should be doing, but it requires investment."

"You can't solve a problem through unfunded mandates," she added. "You can't solve a problem by browbeating superintendents into submission. That's not the way forward. It is responsible and targeted investment that's actually going to build the structure needed for stu-

dents to succeed."

Rosenfeld said she didn't always line up perfectly with the Democratic Party positions, and wouldn't commit to always holding the party line if elected.

"I am not going to commit to always voting party line," she said, but "I'm going to commit to being part of every single conversation about proposed legislation that I can possibly be a part of first."

One example of an issue where she might not have voted the party line is the recent proposed state homeschooling bill, of which she said she wished she could have been part of the discussion.

"There are many people that choose to pull their children out of public schools for a variety of reasons," she said. "If a parent has the ability to homeschool their child and do it in a way that works for them and for their child, we should be supporting that. We should be supporting homeschool families in their educational journey. I am pro-education in all of its iterations."

Aside from education, Rosenfeld said there is one main issue she hears about on the campaign trail: affordability.

Rosenfeld said she believed there were ways to address affordability concerns at the state level, including by addressing unfunded education mandates. She also said that she hoped she would be able to advocate for towns when it came to funding opportunities.

"Our towns can seek grant funding," she said, "and as a state representative, being a liaison with the towns to be able to help facilitate that is critical. There are solutions to help with the affordability issues for our senior residents, but right now, we haven't been taking advantage of those at the town level, and I think that an involved state representative who knows how to navigate those grants and understands which agencies they need to help put in touch with the town in order to help get that ball rolling would be really beneficial."

Rosenfeld said she believed that this was a critical time for state elected officials, particularly given recent changes at the federal level.

"I think we need to be very mindful that we can't necessarily rely on the federal government caring about social programs, and especially so-



Meghan Rosenfeld

cial programs that we are paying into," she said, noting last year's threats to SNAP benefits and Medicaid and pointing out that Connecticut was a so-called "donor state," meaning the state gives more to the federal government than it receives back. "This is our money that they are choosing to stop allocating back to our communities, and instead, the money is being spent on war."

"The Connecticut state legislature has to absolutely figure out how we are going to become our own self-sustaining ecosystem in ways that protect our social programs that people rely on," she said. "We cannot rely on what's happening at the federal level. We've seen it being taken away and every day we wake up to a new impossible story becoming a possibility in our lives."

She said she believed it would take bipartisan cooperation to solve that problem.

"It's going to take all voices across the aisle in order to have that conversation. There needs to be a moment where everyone understands that we are reaching a point where we cannot treat government as business as usual anymore," she said.

## Family Bingo at VFW Post 5095

The VFW Auxiliary invites the community to a Family Bingo and Patriotic Celebration Sunday, April 19, from 11 a.m.-2 p.m., at VFW Post 5095, 20 North Maple St.

This special all-ages event will feature: Family Bingo with patriotic-themed prizes for all ages; additional games for those looking to take a break from bingo; and the Post Café offering lunch and snack items for purchase.

For more information, call 860-267-8837.

## Belltown Garden Club Scholarship

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

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

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

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

## American Legion to Meet

The next meeting of the Treadway Cavanaugh American Legion Post 64 will be held Tuesday, April 14, at 7 p.m., at the VFW, 20 North Maple St.

All members are encouraged to attend. Any veterans interested in joining are also welcome.

## New Education Foundation Offering Scholarship

The newly established Kathi Fearon Education Foundation is offering a scholarship of \$1000 to encourage East Hampton High School seniors to pursue careers in the teaching profession.

This scholarship exists to honor the memory and legacy of Kathi Fearon, a former third grade teacher at Memorial School.

Applications are available in the guidance office at East Hampton High School. Deadline for applications is May 1.

## Red Cross Blood Drive

East Hampton Congregational Church, located at 59 Main St., will conduct a blood drive on Saturday, April 11, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall.

Organizers say that, due to the bad winter, as well as the flu and COVID-19, blood drives across the state are missing targets for blood collection.

To make an appointment, call 1-800-733-2767 or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter East Hampton. All that donate will receive an exclusive American Red Cross Life is Good T-shirt, while supplies last.

## Pedestrian Killed in Parking Lot Collision

By Anne Lilburn

A 75-year-old Colchester man died after being hit by a car in an East Hampton parking lot on April 3, according to East Hampton police.

Police said James Bansemer of Colchester was struck by a vehicle shortly before 3 p.m. on Friday, April 3, in the NAPA Auto Parts parking lot located at 72 East High St., and both fire and police departments responded to the incident.

According to police, after the man became unresponsive with no pulse; CPR was performed and Life Star helicopter service was

requested. Bansemer was transported via Life Star to Marlborough Medical Center, but did not survive his injuries.

Police said that the driver remained at the scene, and Police Chief Dennis Woessner said Tuesday the accident was still under investigation. Woessner said police were currently completing their investigation and report to determine the exact nature of what happened.

Woessner asked anyone who may have witnessed the event to contact the East Hampton Police Department at 860-267-9544.

## Special Concert to Celebrate America

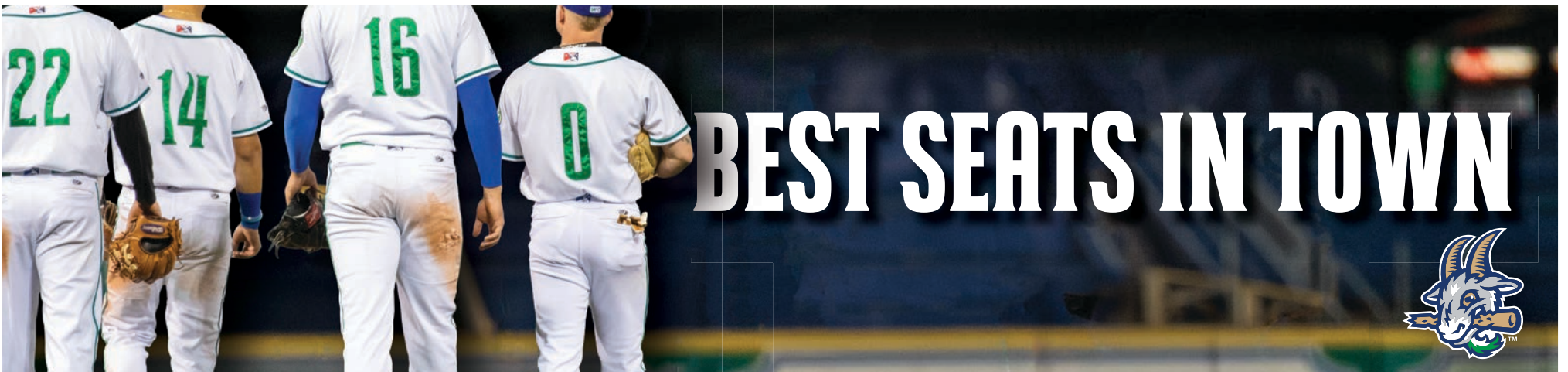
On Sunday, May 17, at 4 p.m., a special concert on the historic Appleton organ will be played at Second Congregational Church of Middle Haddam, in honor of the country's 250th anniversary.

Performed by Ronald Ebrecht, artist in residence and university organist emeritus at Wesleyan University, the concert features a program spanning the lifetime of the Appleton and the breadth of American secular organ music in-

cluding rags, jazz, blues and folk song.

Second Congregational Church of Middle Haddam is located at 52 Middle Haddam Rd. in the historic village of Middle Haddam, and is handicapped accessible. Free parking will be available along High Point Road across the street from and donations will be accepted during the concert.

Call 860-993-5311 for more information.



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# Blue Devils Ink Record-Breaking Bellringer



**Liana Salamone, of East Hampton, has committed to play college basketball at Central Connecticut State University.**

By Josh Howard

After rewriting the record books at East Hampton High School, Liana Salamone has committed to play basketball at Central Connecticut State University (CCSU) in New Britain.

"I've always loved the idea of staying local and representing the state of Connecticut," Salamone said of her decision. "CCSU is a Division I program that requires a high level of commitment and sacrifice, and I want to push myself to achieve my goals as a student athlete at the highest level."

Division I hoops was a lifetime goal of Salamone, who has logged countless minutes in the gym with her town, high school, and travel teams since she first started playing through Portland Parks and Recreation at the age of three.

Once at EHHS, she quickly made a name for herself when she was the only freshman girls player to be selected all-state, making the Connecticut High School Coaches Association (CHSCA) Class M All-State team in 2022.

The following season, Salamone eclipsed 1,000 career points as a sophomore, leading the



**Salamone was a three-time all-state player at East Hampton High School, helping the Bellringers win the state title in 2023, before finishing out her high school career at The Ethel Walker School in Simsbury, where she led the team in scoring in each of the last two years.**

way as the Bellringers won a state championship, defeating Valley Regional in the 2023 Class M state title game.

She continued to excel in 2024 when she led the way as East Hampton finished undefeated in the regular season (20-0). During her junior year, Salamone became the program's all-time leading scorer, surpassing 1,500 career points, while averaging 22 points per game as she was named the Shoreline Conference (SLC) Player of the Year.

After breaking the program's scoring mark, Salamone described the feeling as "surreal," explaining that she feels "extremely grateful."

"I couldn't do it without my amazing coaches who have guided me through each and every season, my teammates who have been there along the way, and my dad who has come to every game," she added.

In her three seasons playing for the Bellringers, East Hampton won nearly 94% of their games, winning the SLC championship in all three years and the program's first state title since 1980.

Following a trio of all-state and all-conference honors locally, Salamone reclassified and transferred to The Ethel Walker School, a college preparatory school located in Simsbury.

She continued to light up the scoreboards while playing for the Wildcats at Ethel Walker, leading the team in scoring the past two years.

Ethel Walker basketball coach John Monagan said that Salamone was the complete package on the court, excelling as a productive floor general and influential team captain.

"Liana is unlike any player that I've coached in my nearly 20 years at Ethel Walker," stated Monagan. "She is talented, for sure, but she has a remarkable feel for the game and the ability to do what is needed to help her team to win."

Along with leading the Wildcats in scoring (21.2 per game) this past winter, she also posted team-highs in rebounds (8.8 per game) and steals (2.1 per game), and tied for the team lead in assists as the team won a total of 18 games in the ultra-competitive preparatory league.

"We had several tight games this year where Liana put our team on her shoulders and willed us to victory," added Monagan. "She is also unselfish in her competitiveness. While she has the ability to score, she also trusted her teammates and made the right pass in big moments, often finding open shooters."

## YPPCA Taking Registrations for Summer Theater Camp

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

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

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

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

Salamone said the experience of playing for the Bellringers and the Wildcats strengthened her love for the sport that she will now play for the next four years.

"The support I've received from my community at both East Hampton and Ethel Walker means a lot to me, especially when fans of East Hampton basketball made the trip to watch me play at Ethel," stated Salamone. "That's when I knew how important it was to stay close to home, so my family, friends, and everyone who has supported me since I started playing basketball could continue to be part of my journey."

Salamone will next join a Blue Devils program at Central that plays in the Northeast Conference.

Monagan believes that CCSU is getting a talented player with all the intangibles needed to succeed at any level.

"When you talk about athletes who are simply 'winners,' Liana fits this mold" he expressed. "Liana didn't have to do anything special to be a leader for us - she has those characteristics naturally. Her teammates gravitated towards these special traits and it helped us to be a better team."

What started on the hardwoods in Portland and blossomed in East Hampton and beyond, Salamone expressed that she feels ready to attack the next challenge of playing at the highest level of college athletics.

She said that basketball has taught her the "value of work ethic and resilience."

"Nothing is handed to you. You earn respect and results through hard work and consistency," added Salamone. "I carry that with me off the court by staying disciplined in school, committing fully to everything I do, pushing through challenges, and staying true to myself."

Salamone will join a Blue Devils roster brimming with talent from across the United States and internationally - with players from Greece, Turkey, Sweden and Spain currently on the team.

Her goal is to take full advantage of the school's strong academic standards as she continues her hoop dreams.

"It feels like starting from scratch, and I know I have to work hard to earn my spot, my playing time, and the trust and respect of my teammates and coaches," she stated. "The opportunities ahead are both exciting and overwhelming, and I can't wait to take them on."

## HEALTHCARE SERVICES



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by George M. Mantikas, DMD

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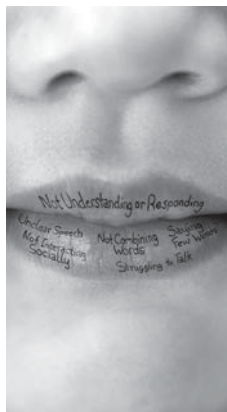
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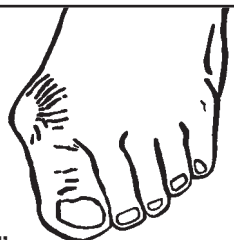
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# Council Discusses WPCA Reorganization and Farming

By Anne Lilburn

At a special meeting on April 7, the East Hampton Town Council passed an ordinance that named itself as the town's Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA), considered how to proceed with a Right to Farm ordinance and Agricultural Commission, and further considered tax relief options for senior citizens and veterans.

The council also voted to approve a letter authorizing the sale of water to Connecticut Water from the Hampton Woods and Edgewater complexes, reviewed the proposal to allocate funding to pave the middle school parking lot, and voted to accept the Board of Finance's proposed town budget and set a date for a public hearing on it.

On the topic of the WPCA, several community members spoke, including recently-fired Public Utilities administrator, and East Hampton resident, Anthony DeSimone and former WPCA member Mark Barmasse. DeSimone said he did not believe that the standards for removal of WPCA commissioners had been met, and expressed concern at the Town Council's path forward.

"Infrastructure is not optional," he said, "and it is not abstract. It is the backbone of public health, environmental protection and long-term stability. Towns that fail to manage infrastructure competently do not remain static; they decline."

"Utility management is highly technical," he warned, "and mistakes in this space are not easily corrected."

Barmasse said that if residents were to watch full WPCA meetings going back over the years, they would see that "the WPCA was skeptical if not critical of both the potential sewer expansion considered last August as well as the potential biosolids project and we never voted to support either."

Barmasse said that, as someone who had served on the WPCA for "over 20 years," he had concerns about the council's ability to serve as the WPCA - but added that this doesn't mean he wants to come back.

"This is not a call to get the old WPCA band back together again," he told the council. "We've been insulted, disrespected and thrown under the bus in the name of political convenience for volunteering our time to benefit the town. You are facing complex and time-consuming challenges in managing our aging wastewater system, particularly without an experienced Public Utilities Administrator or knowledgeable WPCA in place. I hope that you take these responsibilities seriously, dedicate the necessary time and resources, and do not let it fall victim to local politics."

Barmasse was not the only one who expressed concerns about the town council's new role. Council member Joelyn Leon, a Democrat, said she worried about what the council was undertaking, noting that she had never attended a WPCA meeting and knew little about sewers and wastewater treatment.

"My concern is that we don't have the expertise at all to run or operate the WPCA," she said, later saying, "I have a concern with taking on a

role that I don't feel qualified for."

Town Manager Dave Cox (who was also on the receiving end of praise from community members during the public comment period) sought to reassure council members that this WPCA change was intended as a temporary solution.

"My understanding," said Cox, "is that the intent to use this time while the council acts as the WPCA to identify what sorts of checks and balances it wishes to put in place as it then removes itself from this role and puts it back in the hands of an appointed body."

"While this is a full-fledged ordinance and will remain in place until it's changed," he added, "it was my understanding that the council intends to change this in what I'll refer to as 'short order.'"

Many council members audibly agreed with Cox's assessment.

Council chair Dean Markham, a Democrat, asked Cox to address concerns people may have about the continued operation of the town's infrastructure, and Cox said that the wastewater treatment plant and collection system is still staffed with a superintendent and other workers.

Cox also said that he expected the town to hire someone "from the outside" and with industry experience, to replace DeSimone as an interim public utilities administrator (PUA), before eventually hiring someone for a permanent role in that position.

Cox said that he knew there would be some moments, with no PUA and no WPCA, where he and the council would "scratch our heads and decide what we think is best," and added that he hoped that, by serving in the role of the WPCA, the council would come to better understand what exactly the WPCA does. He also said that the town would aim to find a temporary PUA quickly.

Council member Jack Solomon, a Democrat, spoke up to clarify that the WPCA held monthly meetings and that its "obligation was policy, not the detailed running of the facility." He emphasized that experts were running the operations of the system, and added that he believed that "we all want this to move on in a better way as quickly as possible, hopefully within four or five months or so, maybe sooner."

Council member Ted Hintz, a Republican, said he had been in similar situations previously in government roles and emphasized the need to "bring in experts" to help council members understand challenging situations. Council member Rich Knotek, a Democrat, likened the WPCA to Planning and Zoning, where residents, often with little to no knowledge of zoning regulations get up to speed with the help and advice from town staff.

The council voted unanimously to approve the ordinance, with one member - Karen Wanat, a Democrat - absent.

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The council next discussed a proposed Right to Farm ordinance, as well as the existence and role of a town Agricultural Commission. Resident Steve Strong, owner of Strong's Saw Mill,

was invited to speak. He said he had worked on similar issues over a decade ago and said that it was his understanding that an Agricultural Commission had been established but had never been seated due to conflicts.

He said that he viewed the establishment of a local Right to Farm ordinance and agriculture commission as a priority because he believed current town zoning regulations may be in violation of state right to farm rules.

"You can't be a town that says 'Hey, we're pro-agriculture,' but not have any regulations in place to protect the farms or protect their neighbors," he said. "We all want to get along. It's just, how do we do that?"

He said he wanted to work to establish clear guidelines so everyone knew what was allowed.

Town Planner Juliet Hodge said that the town's proposed ordinance was, essentially, "the same language as the state Right to Farm ordinance," but she did emphasize that the town's zoning regulations did need clarification and revision.

Hodge said an agricultural commission would help with that goal of cleaning up zoning laws as they pertain to agriculture, but, she said that when it came to the proposed "Right to Farm" ordinance, per state law, "you are a Right to Farm town; those are the rights you have."

Strong agreed.

"I think for the town of East Hampton, we should have a hobby farm, a homestead farm and a commercial farm. We should have three definitions of it, and what can be done in what zoning area," said Strong. He also worried about permitting regulations scaring off new farmers.

Hodge suggested that someone from the state's Farm Bureau should provide counsel as the council moves forward, and the right to farm ordinance was tabled. The council decided to reconsider it after establishing an agricultural commission.

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The council also continued its discussion of property tax relief programs, including those for veterans and the elderly. Hintz said that at prior meetings, he had been strongly in support

of the town offering the full allowable benefits for veterans, but that he was now reconsidering after learning more.

"100% disabled does not mean what I thought 100% disabled meant," he said. "There is now, instead of one disabled veteran in the town of East Hampton, there are 27 that are getting the house relief, to the tune of \$178,000. Two of those 100% disabled veterans are full-time state police officers that are again, on the job, 24-7 state police officers, that are getting 100% disability benefits for their homes."

"My idea of a disabled veteran is someone who can't work or has a minimal income, and needs assistance, and that's what I thought this bill was doing," said Hintz. "It clearly is not."

Hintz said he wanted further guidance on that, and Markham agreed that he believed it warranted getting further information. The council voted unanimously to table the issue.

The council also discussed the town's senior tax relief program that allows for taxes to be frozen and liens to be placed for the difference on taxes due on properties owned by senior citizens who qualify based on their incomes. The council discussed raising the income limits before deciding that they would discuss the issue with the town assessor. The item was tabled to be considered at a later meeting.

The council also voted unanimously to accept (meaning it has formally received, but not approved) the budget from the Board of Finance, and set a public hearing on the proposed town budget for the April 28 town council meeting. The council also discussed the Board of Finance's recommendation that the town use "the current unobligated reserves of the town in the amount of \$450,000 to fund the paving project at the middle school instead of including the project in the FY27 budget."

Council members, particularly Hintz, expressed concern that oil prices made the project impractical for this time. No action was taken on that item.

The council will meet next on April 28.

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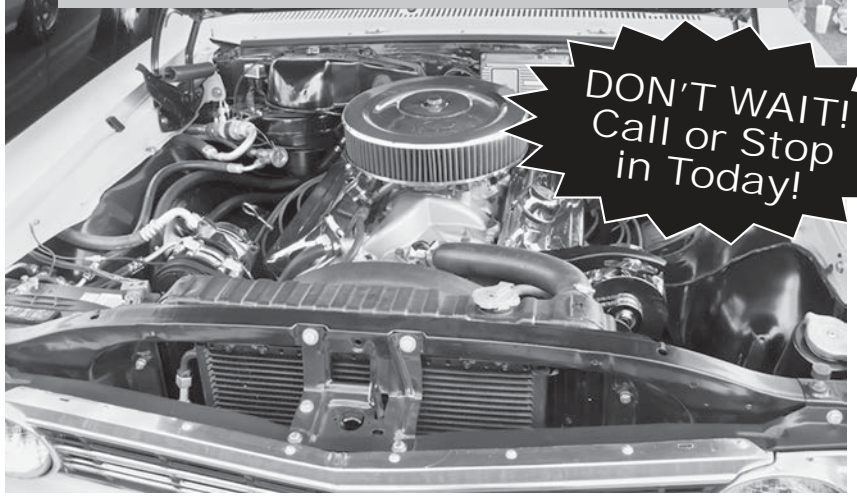
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The annual Quilt Show will return to Haddam Neck Congregational Church on Saturday, April 11, and Sunday, April 12.

### Haddam Neck Quilt Show

Haddam Neck Congregational Church will host its annual Quilt Show on Saturday and Sunday, April 11 and 12, at the Gothic Revival-style meetinghouse in Haddam Neck.

More than 100 new and antique quilts will be on display and the Ladies Aid Society will host a tea room with soups and pies. There will also be the "Bits and Pieces" shop with an amazing variety of quilt fabric, notions and kits at discounted prices. Prize baskets and crafts are also available. A few highlights for 2026 include the display of patriotic quilts and a selection of quilts from the collection of Gary 'Red Oak' O'Neil, Wangunk Elder including pieces by Michael A. Cummings, one of the nation's leading African American male quilters.

The show is a fundraiser for Haddam Neck

Congregational Church and proceeds support the annual upkeep of the 19th century church and Sunday School building, formerly the local one-room schoolhouse and community outreach projects.

Admission for adults is \$8. Children are free and welcome. Hours are: Saturday, April 11, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and Sunday, April 12, from noon-5 p.m. The church is located at 408 Quarry Hill Rd., Haddam Neck (East Hampton GPS), 06424.

For more information, contact Lisa Malloy at email elizabethhartmalloy@gmail.com, Dianne McHutchison at 860-267-4671 or rdmc Hutchison@yahoo.com, or Melissa Pionzio at mapi-onzio@comcast.net.

### Library Friends Offer Scholarship

The Friends of the East Hampton Public Library is offering a scholarship, available to any East Hampton resident who is currently in his or her senior year of high school. Applications are due today, April 10.

The student should intend to continue his or her post-secondary education in a formal manner, such as college, trade school, or a

certificate program. The applicant should have had some involvement with a library that has positively impacted his or her life.

For applications, visit easthamptonpubliclibrary.org/friends-of-the-library-scholarship-application, or pick up a hard copy at the library or through your school's guidance office.

### Pet Donation Drive

The East Hampton High School Student Council will hold its fourth annual "Drive & Drop" pet donation collection on Saturday, April 11, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Donations will be collected in front of the high school. There is no need to get out of your car; just drive up and students will collect your donations.

Some items in need are laundry detergent,

garbage bags, cat & dog food, treats, kitty litter, gently used beds, dish soap, used towels & blankets, toys, and tennis balls (used are fine). This year all items donated will support the Change of Life Rescue and the Humane Society.

For more information, email rbullett@easthamptonct.org.

### Epoch Arts Accepting Tag Sale Donations

Epoch Arts will begin accepting donations this month for its annual September Two-Weekend Tag Sale.

A small group of volunteers will sort, clean and price the donations. Items not accepted: recliners, couches, headboards, mattresses, bedframes, high chairs, cribs, car seats, computers, printers, keyboards, TVs, VCRs, exercise machines, textbooks, encyclopedias, old-style phones, large toys, doors, ironing boards, strollers, single chairs, paint and cleaners, file cabinets, office chairs, large dog beds, lighting that can't be plugged in, medicine, animal dia-

pers and fish tank pumps.

Drop-off times are 8 a.m.-2 p.m. on the following dates: April 11 and 25, May 9 and 23, June 13 and 27, July 11 and 25, Aug. 1 and 8. Drop-off is located at the lower end of the building in the garage area by Helping Hands, 27 Skinner St. Please do not drop off your donations at the main entrance to our building or on any other drop off days.

Tag Sale 2026 is Sept. 11 and 18, noon-5 p.m., and Sept. 12, 13, 19 and 20 from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. For more information, visit www.epocharts.org.

### 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.

**New Weekly Class - Sit Flex and Flow:** Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. This new class offers chair exercises, balance work, playful movement, and, when appropriate, ground exercises. All levels welcome. Drop-ins welcome for \$5 a class.

**Linefit:** Just a reminder! Linefit classes continue Mondays through May 4 at 2 p.m.

**Trailblazers Walking Group:** Monday, April 13, 9 a.m. All are invited to this weekly morning walk on the Air Line Trail, 69 Smith St.

**Chat with the Chief:** Tuesday, April 14, 10:30 a.m. East Hampton Police Chief Dennis Woessner will discuss the latest scam trends affecting residents and how to protect yourself. He will also share public safety updates, answer questions, and listen to community concerns.

**Digital Mike:** Tuesday, April 14, starting at

10 a.m. Get technical help with your devices from the senior center's new volunteer Mike Crutchfield.

**Design and Create:** Thursday, April 16, 1:30 p.m., with staff member Cindy Houle.

**Bike Rides for Seniors:** Friday, April 17, 10 a.m. Ride the Air Line Spur, 187 Lebanon Ave., Colchester. Bring your bike, helmet and water bottle. Call 860-267-4426 for ride information and to register.

**Family Tree:** Friday, April 17, 10:30 a.m. Led by Kenneth Doney, this hands-on workshop helps you research your family tree. Bring your laptop, cell phone or iPad.

**Drum Circle with Mark:** Friday, April 17, 12:45 p.m. No experience needed. Cost is \$5.

**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.

### Antique Appraisal Day

The Chatham Historical Society will host its 29th annual Antique Appraisal Day on Saturday, April 18, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., in the Town Hall conference room at 1 Community Drive.

Up to four experienced appraisers will be on site. The fee is \$6.00 per item, and no appointment is necessary. Bring your heirlooms and discover their value—whether you're deciding to keep them or finally let them go.

This event is a fundraiser supporting the ongoing maintenance of the society's two museum buildings and the 1840 one-room schoolhouse.

For more information, call 8605390988.

### Bellringer Market at EHHS

There will be a Bellringer Market Saturday, April 25, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m., at East Hampton High School, 15 N. Maple St.

Local artisans and student artisans will be featured.

Rain date is Sunday, April 26.

### RTC Offering Scholarship

The East Hampton Republican Town Committee is offering a \$500 scholarship to an East Hampton resident planning to pursue a career in a trade and graduating in 2026.

This award is open to any graduating student from East Hampton, Xavier, Mercy or Vinal high schools, or homeschooled East Hampton residents. Applications are available from the guidance department in the schools.

Deadline for submission of applications is May 15.

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### East Hampton Library News & Notes

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

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

**Adult Programs: Paint & Pastries: Spring Edition: Adults & Grades 8-12:** Monday, April 13, 11 a.m. Celebrate the season of spring with a morning of painting and pastries. Follow along with a guided activity or paint what you want. No experience needed, all materials provided.

**Book Club:** Wednesday, April 15, 6:30 p.m. This month's book is *The Senator's Wife* by Liv Constantine.

**Tech Help:** Thursday, April 23, 2-4 p.m. Basic technology help for phones, laptops, tablets, and e-readers. No registration required; just bring your device with you.

**Belltown Book Brunch:** Friday, April 24, 11 a.m. Meet to talk about what you're currently reading while enjoying coffee, tea, and a breakfast treat. Register or drop in.

**Shelf Care: A Plant Swap:** Saturday, April 25, 10 a.m. Bring a healthy houseplant, cutting, or seedling and trade with fellow plant lovers. If you'd like to contribute cuttings or plants, feel free to drop them off anytime beginning Monday, April 20, then come back and find something new on Saturday while supplies last.

**Teen Program: Magic: The Gathering (Grades 7-12):** Saturday, April 18, 1-3 p.m. Whether you already know how to play the card game, or want to learn, come together and play with people of all skill levels. Bring your own decks or use one of the library's.

**Teen Advisory Board: Grades 8-12:** Tuesday, April 21, 6 p.m. Teens are invited to help plan programs, improve the Teen Space, and make an impact at the library.

**Children's Programs: Dog Man Party: Grades K-5:** Saturday, April 11, 2-3:30 p.m. Celebrate all things Dog Man with crafts, activities, and snacks inspired by the graphic novel.

**Create Your Own Country with The GIANT Room!:** Friday, April 17, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Create a name, laws, a flag, and a map of your very own country in this hands-on workshop. Participants will then transform their countries into printed trading cards which will be available for pickup a few weeks after the event. Registration is required but families can drop in anytime to participate. Please register just one member of your family; your registration covers the whole group.

**Read to a Therapy Dog: Grades K-3:** Tuesday, April 21, 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.

### Antique Engine & Tractor Meet

The Belltown Antique Car Club will present its 51st annual Antique Engine & Tractor Meet Sunday, April 26, from 8 a.m.-3 p.m., at the Firemen's Recreation Area at Salmon River State Park on Route 16. (The entrance is across from the Comstock Covered Bridge.)

The event will be rain or shine, field conditions permitting.

There is no charge for admission or parking, though donations will be accepted. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

Food and refreshments will be available on

site to purchase.

Note to flea market vendors: Due to the club's use permit for the show field, flea market vending will be restricted to items related to the engine and tractor hobbies. Household items, plants and general merchandise will not be allowed on the field, and displays and sales of guns and knives are forbidden. Also, no unauthorized food sales will be allowed.

For show updates and more information, visit [www.belltowntantiquecarclub.org](http://www.belltowntantiquecarclub.org) or call Peter Christianson at 860-510-3340.

### Christ Episcopal Church News

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

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

**Returnable Cans and Bottles:** All are asked to place donations in the cans by the shed.

**Bible Study:** Contact Bobette Reed Kahn at [bobette@khan.com](mailto:bobette@khan.com) if you are interested in participating. Bible Study takes place via Zoom at 6

p.m. Wednesdays.

**Lent Vitamin Drive:** It's not too late to make a donation to St. Vincent's School for Handicapped Children in Haiti. Checks will be accepted until the end of the month; be sure to put "Missions" or "Vitamins" in the memo line.

**Mother's Day Diaper Drive:** The Missions Team is collecting diapers for children in need, in conjunction with the church's DCF social worker through Covenant to Care. Place your contributions in the Parish Hall by May 10.

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

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### Bethlehem Lutheran Church News

Services at Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church, located at 1 East High St., are held Sundays at 10 a.m. There is Sunday school every week following the sermon. The church sanctuary is handicapped-accessible by using the lift. For more information, call 860-267-1248 or visit [www.facebook.com/BethlehemEH](http://www.facebook.com/BethlehemEH) or [www.bethlehemeh.org](http://www.bethlehemeh.org).

### Helping Hands Open Twice Monthly

Helping Hands is open from 9-11 a.m. on the 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.

### Library Friends Book Sale

The Friends of East Hampton Public Library will hold a pop-up book sale at Rule of 3 Brewing, 201 E. High St., on Saturday, April 25, from 2-5 p.m. There will be a selection of like-new books for readers of all ages, with all proceeds directly benefiting the East Hampton Public Library. For more information, email [friendsofephpl@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofephpl@gmail.com).

### Lions Offer Scholarships

The East Hampton Lions Club is offering students graduating an opportunity to apply for its four annual scholarships – the Gov. William O’Neill Memorial, Joseph Becker and Lions Club scholarships, and the Gustine Service Award. Those who apply need to be East Hampton residents who attend East Hampton High School or area charter, tech, vo-ag or Catholic schools, or are home-schooled. Applications are available at the EHHS guidance office. The due date for return of applications is April 30.

### A Night of Doo-Wop

East Hampton Project Graduation is sponsoring “A Night of Doo-Wop & Rock n’ Roll,” featuring Tom Austin’s Royal Teens, Jukebox45 Show Band and Back in Time, on Saturday, April 25, in the East Hampton High School auditorium. Tickets can be purchased online at [ehsprojectgraduation.ludus.com](http://ehsprojectgraduation.ludus.com). Choose premium seats with limited VIP add-ons and meet & greet for \$40, or choose general admission for \$25. All proceeds benefit East Hampton Project graduation to provide a safe and amazing after graduation celebration.

### 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.

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**Chicken Marsala** Sautéed with mushrooms, shallots in a marsala wine sauce  
**Stuffed Sole** Crab meat stuffing served over spinach  
**Balkan Meatballs** Beef meatballs sautéed with scallions, roasted red peppers, grape tomatoes in a marsala cream sauce

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### ‘The Last Living Place’ – an Epoch Arts Production

Epoch Arts will present an original two-act play, *The Last Living Place*, from Friday, April 24, through Sunday, April 26, at 7 p.m. all three nights, at Epoch, 27 Skinner St.

What would it be like to live in a city where the whole world is watching your every move, recording your mistakes, rewarding “good” behavior, and giving everyone a score? Those who cannot live up to the “perfect” standard are publicly shamed, made to be second class citizens, and eventually cast out from the city. What happens when the pulse, an EMP, shuts down the city’s system and everyone is forced to survive on their own?

Find out in this play, which explores themes of brokenness, redemption, true community, and facing the monsters that rage in peoples’ lives. Follow the stories of a rebel street artist

trying to expose the lies and hypocrisy of the system, an outcast desperate for redemption and a new identity, and a girl from the city growing increasingly frustrated as she tries to live up to an impossible standard.

Tickets are \$15 for general admission and \$12 for seniors. Email [elizabeth@epocharts.org](mailto:elizabeth@epocharts.org) for reservations. For more information, visit [www.epocharts.org](http://www.epocharts.org).

### DTC Offering Scholarship

The East Hampton Democratic Town Committee is offering a \$500 scholarship to a graduating senior who resides in East Hampton for their continuing education and graduating in 2026.

Applications are available in the guidance office at the East Hampton High School. Deadline for submission of applications is May 1.

### Haddam Neck Covenant Church News

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

**Drive-Thru Chicken Barbecue:** Saturday, April 25, from noon-5 p.m., at the church field. The meal includes a leg/thigh chicken quarter, baked beans, coleslaw, dinner roll and water bottle, for \$15. Call the church at 860-267-2336 or email [officehnc@gmail.com](mailto:officehnc@gmail.com) with your order and pick-up time.

**Ladies Fellowship:** Thursday, April 23, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Mary’s house.

**Children’s Ministry:** Children’s Ministry, for children in kindergarten through fifth

grade, is held in Fellowship Hall during worship. The theme is “Friends with God” and is taught through Bible stories where the characters are friends with God. A toddler nursery is also available. All are welcome.

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

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

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

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# Cuts, Taxes and Unknowns Shape Budget Talks

By Toriana Williams

The Colchester Board of Finance and Board of Education held a joint budget workshop on April 6, which was dominated by two major questions. How does the town reduce a costly school budget without hurting students, and how does it respond to a growing financial problem tied to the town's health insurance fund?

The discussion was detailed, emotional and filled with competing priorities about affordability, transparency and educational quality.

## Major Cuts Without Layoffs

The BOE presented over \$1.4 million in reductions to its original budget proposal. BOE Chair Stefanie Tracey-Calash explained that \$1,046,235 in reductions, when combined with about \$350,000 already cut from the proposed increase, brought the total to more than \$1.4 million.

With the reductions, the proposed 2026-27 Board of Education budget now sits at \$50.86 million, a \$3.56 million, or 7.53%, increase over current year spending.

Tracey-Calash said the \$1.4 million in reductions was an attempt by the school board to reach the finance board's budget goals "without impacting classroom teachers and ... the student experience." A key point that was repeated

during the meeting was that no layoffs were included. Instead, the savings came from vacancies, retirements and shifting roles.

Assistant Superintendent of Schools Jessica Kuckel described the approach as "creative" and student-focused.

"What we're really proud of is that what we're looking at did not cut out the hearts of any building or any program," she said. "We're looking at keeping core programs in place ... without taking steps back."

However, she acknowledged there are still impacts. For example, class sizes may increase slightly. "We might be starting at 20 or 21 [students] next year ... without reducing folks because of budget."

One of the most important parts of the discussion came when BOF members asked what deeper cuts would look like. Kuckel gave a blunt answer, saying that "we'd be coming in and talking about a complete overhaul of potentially the middle school team model."

She also warned that further reductions could mean fewer course offerings in the high school, changes to when subjects like world languages are offered, larger class sizes and reduced student choice and academic pathways. "You can

only get classes so big. ... [It could mean] reduction in choices of courses for students," Kuckel explained.

Tracey-Calash added that deeper cuts would likely require layoffs, which the proposal currently avoids. The layoffs, she added, would have "trickle-down impacts," such as affects on programs and course offerings. Plus, she noted, there would be unemployment compensation to factor in.

## Taxpayer Concerns

Many residents voiced strong concerns about rising taxes. Resident Jeff Mattson shared, "My personal taxes have gone up by almost \$800. And that's not motor vehicles, that's just the property tax. And the mill rate proposal that you're doing this time without the reductions is well over two times what it was in the last two years."

"So that's \$1,000 more for this year, which is double any year in the 10 years I've been here in Colchester." He then argued that the proposed cuts were still not enough. "I think it's way too much. ... I'd like to see a number come back around 1 to 1.5 mil, which is going to mean a lot more cuts."

BOF members echoed these pressures. John Thomas, a Republican, summed up the challenge. "Nobody wants to see cuts, but nobody can afford this budget either."

## Insurance Fund Crisis Looms Over Budget

A large portion of the meeting focused on the town's currently troubled health insurance reserve fund. As of March 21, Linkkila reported that the balance was "\$443,309.77." But concerns were raised about past decisions that were made, missing transfers and unexpected costs.

BOF member Jillian Vinci, a Democrat, de-

scribed the situation as a "perfect storm," while others questioned whether the warning signs had been ignored. Resident Mike Dubreuil pointed to past spending, saying, "there is at least, by what I can see, \$95,000 taken out of the health reserve or money that was supposed to be intended for these employees' health insurance - it was spent on things like maintenance contracts and workout equipment."

Officials confirmed that a forensic audit has been underway to determine what happened. However, no results are available yet, much to everyone's chagrin. Tracey-Calash then clarified the purpose of the audit: "We did not ask for the audit because we were trying to uncover any fraud ... [but] to understand how we ended up where we are today."

The unresolved audit has clearly created uncertainty about how to proceed with the budget, with residents and board members alike. Some wondered whether the town should wait before approving any budget until the audit is complete.

Republican Town Committee President Olivia Duksa, who said she was speaking as an individual, compared it to a bank loan process. "The bank won't give money ... until they're done with their investigation."

BOE Chair Karen Belding, a Democrat, acknowledged the dilemma. "We need to ... have a budget before the end of the fiscal year," she said, and noted "we don't have a clear end date" for the audit.

Despite those concerns, Belding felt she already understood the financial situation enough to act. "The situation that we're in numbers-wise is pretty clear at this point."

## Senior Center Upcoming Trips

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

**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).

## Lions Club Collecting Donations, Eyeglasses

The Colchester Lions Club will hold its annual Sight Saver Weekend the weekend of April 17-19.

Collection locations will be: Noel's Market on Friday, April 17 from 3 to 7 p.m.; Saturday, April 18, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Sunday, April 19, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; also, Stop & Shop on Saturday, April 18, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and

Sunday, April 19, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Fifty percent of the funds raised during this weekend will go to Connecticut Lions Eye Research Foundation. The rest of the money raised will go towards local causes at the end of the Lions' year.

Lions Club members will also be collecting used eyeglasses all weekend.

## Colchester Federated Church News

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

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

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

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

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**Funds for Food and Fuel...** Colchester Community Theatre (CCT) raised \$1,400 for the Colchester Food and Fuel Bank through audience donations collected during its February production of *Sister Act*. The \$1,405.25 raised will support local families in need, helping to provide essential food and heating assistance. Pictured from left are Amanda Backer, choreographer and CCT board member; Michelle Heaton, social services coordinator of the Colchester Food and Fuel Bank; and Diane Ozmun, president of CCT. *Frozen* will be CCT's February 2027 production. For more information about the organization, visit [colchestercommunitytheatre.com](http://colchestercommunitytheatre.com).

### History Museum Opens Sunday

The Colchester History Museum is now open Sundays from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. through the end of December.

This spring you can view the museum's newest exhibit: "Every Possible Means: Colchester's Role in the Revolutionary War." Discover Colchester's early commitment to help defend Boston in 1775 and the individuals who made a difference in the conflict. Get ready for the nation's 250th Anniversary by learning more about Colchester's contributions.

Experience histories of people and places in the "ABCs of Colchester History" exhibit.

Stroll down memory lane with Ye Olde Well, Gregory's Soda Shop or Levine and Levine. Do you know when the first telephone came to Colchester?

The Colchester History Museum, located at 24 Linwood Ave., is free and offers both permanent and special exhibits all highlighting the people and events in Colchester's history. Guided and self-guided tours are available.

For more information, contact the Colchester Historical Society at [mail@colchesterhistory.org](mailto:mail@colchesterhistory.org) or 860-537-3240.

### Co-Ed Adult Softball

Colchester is now accepting registration for a newly formed co-ed adult softball league.

Teams are being formed in Colchester, East Hampton and Portland. Games may be played in all three towns in July and August. You have the option of registering with a team, or as an individual to be added to a team with open positions. Rosters must have a minimum of four women and will be capped at 15 players. Town recreation departments will provide the fields, balls and umpires – each team must provide their own bats and catchers equipment.

The fee is \$550 per team to cover the town expenses associated with games.

Registration will close on June 1, at which point game schedules, rules and more information will be sent out. If you have any questions, please reach out to Colchester Parks and Recreation at (860) 537-7297.

To register in Colchester, go to [colchesterct.recdesk.com/Community/Home](http://colchesterct.recdesk.com/Community/Home). To register in East Hampton or Portland, use their town websites.

### Abundant Life Church News & Notes

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

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

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

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

**Prayer Meetings:** Thursdays, 10 a.m. and Fri-

days, 6:30-8:30 p.m. There is also a brief meeting for pre-service prayer on Sundays at 10:15 a.m.

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

**Children's Church:** Meets Sunday mornings after worship service.

Call the church office at 860-537-3082 for more information, or visit [AbundantL.com](http://AbundantL.com).

### Christian Life Chapel News

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

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

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

**Women's Bible Study:** Tuesdays, 10-11:30

a.m., studying the book of Revelation.

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

**Upcoming Events: Clothing Swap:** Saturday, April 25, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Celebrate creation care by sharing and reusing clothing in this community-focused event.

**Vacation Bible School (VBS):** Monday, July 20-Friday, July 24, 9 a.m.-noon. This year's theme is: Illumination Station: "Shine a Light on Jesus." This is a week of faith, fun, and discovery for children.

### Memorial Day Parade Coming

On Sunday, May 24, Colchester will hold its annual Memorial Day Parade. The parade is a community effort and the local groups are encouraged to participate to make this event a success.

Each contingent willing to march or prepare a float will be able to obtain an application form online, from the Colchester first selectman's office or at Town Hall after March 31; email [aedwards@colchesterct.gov](mailto:aedwards@colchesterct.gov).

The parade committee expects to have several military units represented, including the Army National Guard 1109th TASM-G, U.S. Navy,

U.S. Marine Reserve, U.S. Coast Guard, and the Air Force Reserve.

The theme of this year's parade will be "Colchester Honors 250 Years of Heroes." There will also be a grand marshal and guest speaker who will soon be nominated. Residents of Colchester can offer suggestions for these positions to the parade committee.

The Colchester Parade Committee will again award prizes for the best volunteer marching unit, best float meeting this year's parade theme, and most creative float.

### Parks & Rec News & Notes

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

**Auditions for Shakespeare on the Green: Twelfth Night:** Colchester Actors' Theatre is holding auditions Wednesday, April 15, and Thursday, April 16, at 7 p.m., at the Youth Center, 95 Norwich Ave., for this summer's outdoor production of *Twelfth Night* by William Shakespeare. All roles are being cast. All actors age 16 and up are invited to audition, and are asked to prepare contrasting classical or Shakespearean monologues for the audition. Pre-registration is encouraged but walk-ins are also welcome. Show dates are June 25 and 26 on the Town Green. Contact [parksandrec@colchesterct.gov](mailto:parksandrec@colchesterct.gov) with any questions or to reserve an audition time.

**Spring Clean-Up:** Sunday, April 25, 8 a.m.-noon. All registered participants will receive an email with more details about two weeks prior to the event. After cleaning, enjoy free ice cream at noon at Mel's Downtown Creamery. The first 50 people to register will get a free T-shirt.

**Bike Rodeo:** Saturday, May 2, at 10 a.m., at the Guardian Angels/St. Andrew parking lot, 128 Norwich Ave. This free event will feature hands-on safety instruction, obstacle courses, helmet fittings, and interactive skill stations. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Registration encouraged, but walk-ins will be welcome as space allows.

**Trail Medallions:** Starting April 14, you can find medals on the Air Line Trail (Colchester/Westchester section), Cohen Woodlands, Sablitz Preserve, and Bulkeley Hill Preserve! Medallions will be ready for finding beginning April 14. Keep your eyes peeled, and don't forget to register your medallions at [colchesterct.gov/medals](http://colchesterct.gov/medals).

**Puzzlepalooza:** Friday, April 24, 6-8 p.m., at Colchester Senior Center. Cost is \$25/team. Max of 10 teams of four allowed. Children can be included on a team, but there must be at least

two adults on each team.

**COMMIT Dance Fitness:** Wednesdays through May 20 (classes started April 1; no class April 15), 6-7 p.m., at Jack Jackter Intermediate School, for ages 15 and older. Cost: \$60/resident, \$65/non-resident, though drop-ins are welcome, at \$12 per class. Minimum of four participants needed, with a maximum of 30.

**Golf Lessons:** Wednesdays, April 22-May 20, 6-7 p.m., at Chantclair Golf Course. For ages 16 and up. Cost: \$100/resident, \$105/non-resident. Minimum of four participants needed, with a maximum of eight.

**Spring Awakening: Plant ID & Mindful Nature Walk:** Saturday, April 25, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., at Ruby Cohen Woodlands. All ages are welcome; beginner-friendly. Cost is \$15/person (children accompanied by a paying adult are no charge). Minimum of four participants needed; no maximum.

**Women's Basketball:** Tuesdays, April 21-May 26, 7-9 p.m., at JJIS, for ages 18 and over. Cost: \$25/resident, \$30/non-resident. Minimum of 10 participants needed, with a maximum of 24.

**Krav Maga and Kickboxing for Teens:** Tuesdays and Thursdays, April 7-May 7, 5:45-6:30 p.m., at 360 Defense, 52 Mill St, for ages 12-15. Cost: \$120 for 10 classes (two classes per week for five weeks). Minimum of one participant needed, with a maximum of 10.

**Yoga, Mindful Tools, and More!:** Wednesdays, May 6-20, after school until 4:30 p.m., at CES, for students in grades K-2. Cost is \$40. Minimum of six participants needed, with a maximum of eight.

### Colchester Spring Clean-up

The Colchester Garden Club will clean up the pollinator garden at Cohen Woodlands, 96 McDonald Rd., on Saturday, April 25. Clean-up will begin at 8:30 am.

Volunteers are welcome. Volunteers are encouraged to wear gloves and to bring water to drink. Sign up for this event at [www.colchesterct.gov/recreation-department/events/142796](http://www.colchesterct.gov/recreation-department/events/142796).

In the event of rain, the clean-up will be canceled.

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### Giving Garden Fundraiser

The Colchester Giving Garden has been chosen to be the recipient of our local Stop and Shop's "Bloomin' 4 Good" flower bouquet fundraiser for April.

For each bouquet sold at the Linwood Avenue Stop and Shop through April 30, one dollar will be donated to the Giving Garden. The bouquets are marked "Bloomin' 4 Good" and the donation will be automatically taken at the register.

### Local Family Honored by Cancer Foundation

The Parsons family of Colchester was recently honored by The ECHO (Eastern Connecticut Hematology and Oncology) Cancer Foundation at its fourth annual Beacon of Hope Gala.

A highlight of the evening was the presentation of the Christie Beausoleil Happy Heart Award, established last year to honor individuals and families who exemplify compassion, generosity, and a commitment to making a difference in the lives of others.

This year's honorees included the Parsons

The Giving Garden is an all-volunteer vegetable garden on Norwich Avenue that grows and donates all of the fresh produce to the town food bank and area soup kitchens to help those in need. Everyone is welcome to come join in at the garden as the volunteers start their 14th year soon.

For more information, email colchester-givinggarden@gmail.com.

family – Matt, Molly, and Connor, who ECHO said "embody the true spirit of community, love, and legacy."

The foundation wrote that, in honor of a loved one who battled cancer, the Parsons continually give their time and resources to support families in need, from providing holiday gifts to raising funds and awareness.

"Their unwavering compassion continues to touch countless lives," ECHO said.

### 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, April 13:** 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, April 14:** 9 a.m., Making Memories; 9:45 a.m., Tai Chi; 10 a.m., LTCOP Meeting; 10:30 a.m., Ivy Rehab – Fall Prevention; 12:30 p.m., Pinochle; 1 p.m., Cornhole, AARP Meeting; 1:15 p.m., Bingo; 2 p.m., Senior Golf League Meeting; 6 p.m., Journey with Joni.

**Wednesday, April 15:** 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; 11 a.m., Spring Fever Luncheon; 1 p.m., Sew-cial Time; 1:30 p.m., Cardio; 2:30 p.m., Cardio Drumming.

**Thursday, April 16:** 9 a.m., Exercise w/ Anne; 10 a.m., Sittercize, Wii Bowling, Card-Making with Barbara; 10:30 a.m., Shopping Trip; 11 a.m., Yoga; noon, Senior Benefits Counseling; 12:05 p.m., Chair Massage; 12:30 p.m., Dominoes; 1 p.m., Knit & Crochet; 5:30 p.m., Pizza &

Movie; 6 p.m., Mindfulness for Everyday Living – Class 3.

**Friday, April 17:** 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; noon, Tech Time with Harry; 12:30 p.m., CHOICES Counseling; 1:15 p.m., Bingo.

**Mixed Media Art Adventure:** Tuesdays starting April 20 at 10 a.m. In this six-week workshop, beginner and intermediate students will create unique artworks. Design elements, design principles, color theory, and even a little art history will be touched upon lightly in passing. Jeff Poole is instructor. Cost is \$60 per person. Space is limited.

**Trivia Night:** Tuesday, April 21, 6 p.m. Snacks will be provided, and prizes will be given. Cost is \$7.

**Oil Painting with Brianna:** Thursday, April 23, 6 p.m. All levels welcome. You will leave with a finished painting that evening. Cost is \$20.

**Evening Documentary – Martha:** Tuesday, April 28, 5:30 p.m. Martha Stewart built an empire with her impeccable taste and business acumen. One phone call changed everything. She tells her story in this 2024 documentary, which runs one hour and 56 minutes. No registration required.

**Ultimate Bingo:** Thursday, April 30, 6 p.m. Space is limited for this monthly game, where you pay to play and the prizes are bigger. Cost is \$10, and registration is required.

### 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.

### Polka Dinner Dance

The St. Joseph's Polish Society, located at 395 South Main St., will host a polka dinner dance Sunday, April 12.

Dinner will be served at 1 p.m. and will include choice of meatloaf or corned beef, baked potato, vegetable, salad, roll with butter and dessert. The Eastern Sound Band will play from 2-6 p.m.

Advanced tickets only. Tickets are \$25 each and can be purchased at the club. Call 860-537-2550 for more information.

### Colchester Cares Meets April 21

Colchester Cares, a giving group that supports various causes in Colchester, will next meet at the Carl Guild Community Room, 392 South Main St. (right across from the Polish Club), on Wednesday, April 21, at 7 p.m.

At the meeting, members who commit to donating \$100 a quarter present current needs in town and then vote online after the meeting on where to send the group's collective donations. The group was established in 2020

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

Colchester Cares always welcomes new members who are interested in giving back to the community. To learn more about the group, attend the April 21 meeting or visit the group's website, www.colchestercares.org. You can be a member – suggest causes, vote, and donate – all online. Attending meetings is not mandatory.

### Book-Signings with Local Author

Colchester resident Elaine M. Alexander, an award-winning author known for bringing ocean science to life for young audiences, has released her newest book, *Giant Cuttlefish: Chameleon of the Sea*.

To celebrate, she will be hosting several events across the region, including book-signings and interactive storytimes designed to engage curious, ocean-loving kids.

Upcoming events include: Tuesday, April 14, 4 p.m. – Book-signing at River Bend Bookshop in Glastonbury; Sunday, April 19, 12:30 p.m. – Earth Day storytime and craft at Salem Community Park Pavilion; Saturday, May 30, 11 a.m.

– Storytime and signing at Bank Square Books in Mystic; Saturday, June 27, 11 a.m. – Storytime at Salem Public Library.

These programs introduce children to marine animals like the giant cuttlefish and anglerfish through storytelling and hands-on activities.

Alexander is a lifelong Connecticut resident currently residing in Colchester. Her previous book, *Anglerfish: The Seadevil of the Deep*, won the Cook Prize for Excellence in STEM Literature, was Junior Library Guild pick, a Louisiana Book Choice selection, and was nominated for a Nutmeg Award.

### Colchester Honors 250 Years of Heroes

On Sunday, May 24, Colchester will hold its annual Memorial Day Parade. The theme of this year's parade will be "Colchester Honors 250 Years of Heroes." All local groups are encouraged to participate to make this event a success. Parade applications are now available online at www.colchesterct.gov; select 'First Selectman's Office' under 'Town Services.'

Each contingent willing to march or bring a float must obtain an application online or contact the first selectman's office by email aeward@colchesterct.gov and return it to the first selectman's office at Town Hall. The parade committee expects to have several military units represented. They included the Army National Guard 1109th TASM-G, U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Reserve, U.S. Coast Guard and the Air Force Reserve.

Some of Colchester's residents are veterans of

World War II, the Korean War, Vietnam and the Middle East wars. This parade will be a special time to honor their service and the veterans of all the great wars. The grand marshal will be Paul Spedaliere. The parade will also feature state Rep. Mark DeCaprio (R-48) as the guest speaker during the gathering on the Veterans Green. Marching units and floats should arrive at the William J. Johnston Middle School by 11:30 a.m. and the parade will start promptly at 12:30 p.m.

The Colchester Parade Committee will again award cash prizes for the best volunteer marching unit, best float meeting this year's parade theme, and most creative float.

This will be Colchester's highlight in celebrating Colchester's entire veterans community who have served the nation since 1776.

### Red Cross Blood Drive

American Legion Post 54 will hold a Red Cross Blood Drive at Saint Joseph Polish Club, 395 South Main St., on Monday, April 27, from 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m., for a Red Cross Blood Drive.

While donations of all blood types are needed, the American Legion said the Red Cross especially needs Type O Negative and Type B Negative blood donors right now.

Download the American Red Cross app or go to the Red Cross website at www.redcrossblood.org to make an appointment. Walk-ins can also be accommodated.

### Ukrainian Catholic Church News

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

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

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## Obituaries

Portland

### Darlene Rice

"She cleaned the rooms of her soul so that she could live more presently."

— C. Russo



If you are reading this, Darlene M. Rice, of Portland, a woman whose generosity of spirit shaped every moment of her life, passed quietly over the rainbow bridge, to join her beloved dogs, whom she loved dearly. She leaves a legacy of love, authenticity, and a heart that was forever open to others.

To know Darlene was to feel seen, heard, and cared for. She had an extraordinary gift: the ability to help others simplify their lives—clearing away the noise and clutter to make space for what truly mattered. Whether it was through a thoughtful conversation, a helping hand, or quiet encouragement, Dar had a way of guiding people back to themselves. Her wisdom wasn't loud; it was lived.

Darlene believed in living authentically and did so with quiet courage. She didn't chase trends or follow the crowd. She knew who she was and walked her path with confidence and grace. She found joy in ordinary things, like cultivating her impressive tomato garden (one could never have enough tomatoes), watching her dogs nap by her side, listening to her grandchildren play, and feeling the sun on her face.

Darlene cherished her relationships more than anything. Her family was her anchor. Her husband of almost 20 years, Dean, was as solid as the quarry where they both were caretakers. Darlene found her perfect match in Dean, as he matched her energy and spirit. Together, they were a force of nature, partners in every adventure and every quiet moment. They traveled, rode motorcycles, jet skied, and camped, always seeking new experiences and finding joy in the simple things. Whether uncovering a hidden gem beneath the quarry's debris or watching the sun dip below the horizon, they shared a spiritual connection that grounded them. Every day, they made time to appreciate the beauty around them and within each other, a love story defined by passion, laughter, and a shared zest for life.

Together, in her unique partnership with Dean, they taught their community how perseverance, faith, and hard work could turn their vision of the quarry into a sanctuary for healing and loving for the many people who visited. If you were fortunate enough to experience one of the drum circles there, or chose Quarry View as your wedding spot, which was officiated by Darlene, you felt the power of the land that had Darlene and Dean's heart and hand prints all over it.

At the center of Darlene's world was her daughter, Brittany. Darlene shared an extraordinary bond with Britt, one built on love and a deep, unspoken understanding. She was the kind of mom who didn't just support her daughter's passions; she lived them right alongside her. When Brittany was a young teen, Darlene would take her to concerts of all her favorite bands, cheering louder than anyone else in the crowd. Even when she had a full arm cast (the result of a self-inflicted "tennis elbow" from riding the waves a little too hard on the jet ski) she never missed a beat. That was Darlene: unstoppable, spirited, and always up for a good time, no matter the circumstances. Their bond was filled with mutual admiration. Brittany was not only Darlene's greatest joy, but also her greatest teacher. Through Brittany and her children, Taylor and Max, Darlene learned profound lessons about resilience, presence, and the kind of love that asks nothing in return. Being a mother and a grandmother were her most cherished roles, and she poured her heart into every moment.

She also shared a special bond with her son-in-law, Brett, whose steady kindness and love for Brittany and the children was proven time, and time again. His love naturally extended to Darlene and Dean, which brought her comfort, pride, and deep gratitude.

Everyone who knew Darlene remembers her legendary block parties — events that became neighborhood lore. She always made sure Brittany could invite all her friends, turning the gatherings into joyful celebrations that were unforgettable. Britt will never forget her mom's lessons in how to properly make (and enjoy) Jell-O shots. This was a rite of passage taught with Darlene's signature humor and flair. "Never use your finger," she'd say with a laugh, demonstrating her own unique method: separate the Jell-O with your tongue, then quickly swallow. To Brittany's friends, she was "Mama D," the cool, caring mom who offered advice, laughter, and a safe space to just be themselves. Some friends, even at a young age, thought of her at Christmas, and surprised her with gifts. She was loved by them all, even if

she never quite realized how much.

Darlene had a lifelong, loving connection with her brother Gary, whose creativity and unwavering support were a constant in her life. Their quirky relationship was built on deep mutual respect, (often scaring each other into sublime laughter whenever possible as children), and the kind of sibling closeness that only grows stronger with time. Gary, has always been a solid presence in Dar's life.

One of the most defining moments in Darlene's life was the loss of her beloved sister, Wendy. That grief became a turning point, a catalyst that awakened something fierce and beautiful in Darlene. After Wendy's passing, she made a vow to live every single day to the fullest. This began her "Life is Now. Live it" campaign. Whether it was a long ride with Dean, a trip to the dump, a talk with a friend, a shared laugh, or a quiet moment of reflection, Darlene didn't waste time or words. She lived intentionally, knowing how precious and fleeting life can be.

Darlene's friendships were wide and deep, nurtured over years with love, laughter, and loyalty. She was able to seamlessly mesh her life in Portland with her life in Florida. Dar's friends from both places came to know and love each other, through her. If you were lucky enough to be in her circle, you knew that her heart, and often her kitchen, were always open. You always knew where you stood in her life. For many, she was a quiet inspiration behind her profound Facebook posts. For a fortunate few, she allowed you to enter her heart fully, unabashedly, and had an impact that changed the way you think and feel.

Darlene lived each day with intention. She made time for what mattered and let the rest fall away. She taught those around her that a full life isn't measured in things, but in moments—shared meals, belly laughs, sitting around a fire with friends, eating cake, warm hugs, and quiet acts of kindness.

Dar will be missed more than words etched in Brownstone can say, but her spirit remains in the lives she touched. She did not shy away from the hard conversations. Her faith brought her clarity and comfort. Darlene lives on in all of us, in every choice to live a little more simply. She encourages people to clean up their messes, to choose relationships over "stuff." She cleaned the rooms of her soul so that she could live more presently.

Darlene was predeceased by her parents, Mary Louise "Weezy" and Charles Rice. She is survived by her husband, Dean Soucy; daughter, Brittany Davis, and son-in-law, Brett Davis; her grandchildren, Taylor and Max; her brother Gary and his wife Linda; her nieces, Sarah and Alison, nephews Mason and James; her mother-in-law and father-in-law, Yolanda and Gilles Soucy; and her many cherished friends, far too many to name, who will carry her memory forward with the same fierce love she gave to them.

A celebration of Darlene's life will be held at a later date. She often said that she would "come back and haunt you" if you wear black to her celebration.

In lieu of flowers, Darlene would love for you to donate to Protectors of Animals, because of how special her dogs have been in her life. And then maybe, have a Jell-O shot.

"Life is Now. Live it." That was Darlene. And that is her legacy.

### Colchester

#### Fabiola Carrero

Fabiola Carrero, 94, of Colchester, passed peacefully Saturday, April 4. Faby is predeceased by her husband, Abraham Carrero.

Faby was a stay-at-home mom most of their 65 years of marriage. They lived in New York and Connecticut for most of their marriage; however, Abe's position at IBM also took them overseas to live in Hong Kong and Indonesia. They retired to Florida and enjoyed living in Tampa Bay and Ocala before moving back to Connecticut. Wherever they put down roots, Faby embraced each new location and made it home. Faby enjoyed reading and tried her hand on a variety of crafts but never missed Bingo days with friends. She always loved spending time with her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Faby is survived by: her children, Ronald Carrero (Kathy Lee Carrero), Nancy Cordova (Gregory Cordova); grandchildren, Norma Lee Wallace (Aaron Wallace), Michael Carrero, Crystal Jahns (Dwayne Jahns); and great-grandchildren, Jacob Wallace, Tori Carrero, Mackenzie Jahns and Landon Jahns.

She is predeceased by her grandson, Timothy Cordova.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in her memory may be made to Ray of Light Farm, Inc., 232 Town St., East Haddam, CT 06423 ([www.rayoflightfarm.org](http://www.rayoflightfarm.org)).

All services will be private. National Cremation Services, 444 Farmington Ave., New Britain, is entrusted with arrangements.

### Glastonbury

#### Christopher Scheu

The family of Chris Scheu shares with a heavy heart his passing.

Chris is survived by his beloved daughter; his parents, Robert and Marcia; his brothers, Bob and Eric; and his sisters-in-law, Karen and Carey-Beth; as well as many aunts, uncles, and cousins in Connecticut, New York, Florida, Georgia, Idaho and Massachusetts.

Affectionately known as "Bear" by his nephews, Chris was the gentlest of giants, with a heart full of love for his daughter and his family.

Chris graduated from Glastonbury High School, class of 1994, attended Boston College, and went on to graduate with honors in Engineering from Virginia Polytechnic Institute. A mechanical engineer like his grandfather, Chris, had a natural curiosity, could fix anything, and loved building things. In his senior year he built a racing car and later constructed a skateboarding ramp from scratch for his nephews.

Chris loved the outdoors and had a passion for travel. He explored Asia, Thailand, crisscrossed Europe, and enjoyed hiking the most difficult trails of the Adirondacks.

The brightest light of Chris's life was his daughter. He was happiest when he was with her, and he beamed with pride whenever he spoke about her.

Chris will live forever in our hearts, and his spirit continues in his beautiful daughter. We take comfort in believing that Chris has found peace and we keep in our prayers all those who carry unseen burdens.

A member of St. Mary Church, Chris' faith was an important part of his life.

### Marlborough

#### Frank Charles Saglio

Frank Charles Saglio, 87, of Marlborough, passed away Thursday, April 2, at Middlesex Hospital. Born Aug. 21, 1938 in Hartford he was the son of the late Charles and Laura (DiCioccio) Saglio.

Frank had worked as the hatchery manager for Arbor Acres poultry farm in Glastonbury for 50+ years before his retirement. Arbor Acres was initially started in 1917 by Frank's grandfather when he emigrated from Italy.

Frank was an avid lover of antiques, especially radios and phonographs. He loved going to tag sales, flea markets, etc. in search of treasures. He also loved spending time outside in nature. He had numerous bird feeders and you would often find him sitting in his yard, enjoying all the different types of birds that would come.

He was always thrilled to hear the peep frogs in the spring, see the first flowers of spring, and loved pussy willows and lilacs. He had a huge flower garden at one point, and people would often drive by and stop to admire its beauty. After work on the warm summer nights, he would be outside watering the garden for a couple hours. It truly brought him joy. He enjoyed planting trees and bushes, specifically holly bushes, red maples and many assorted evergreens. He loved large assorted cactus plants, and had many varieties. He truly had a green thumb!

In his younger days, he had a Harley and drove it all the way down the east coast to Florida numerous times. He often reminisced about that, and often wished he still had a motorcycle!

He enjoyed the holidays spent with family, the large Saglio Thanksgivings, the magic of Christmas, and the childhood treasures that we put in his stocking each year: tangerines, figs, nuts and a few chocolates. Those treasures brought back some of his fondest childhood memories.

Frank was a member of Buckingham Congregational Church in Glastonbury. He is survived by his former wife, Sandy Davies of Marlborough; his three sons, Frank Saglio (Kara) of New Hampshire, Phillip Saglio of Colchester, Joshua Saglio of Glastonbury; his daughter, Jaclyn Saglio (Francesco) of Italy; his brother, Dominic Saglio (Ellen) of Florida; and his beloved grandchildren, Lorenzo, Alice and Violet.

His family was his pride and joy. Frank will be dearly missed by many.

Friends may call at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, on Friday, April 17, from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. Funeral services will be held Saturday, April 18, at 11 a.m., in Buckingham Congregational Church, 16 Cricket Lane, Glastonbury. Burial will be private.

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

### Marlborough

#### Timothy Allen Foley

Timothy Allen Foley, 54, of Marlborough, beloved husband of 30 years to Cheryl (Pfanstiehl) Foley, passed away Saturday, April 4, at Hartford Hospital, after a brief battle with cancer. Born Aug. 24, 1971, in Manchester, he was the son of the late William and Dorothy (Bagot) Foley.

Tim was a lifelong resident of Marlborough and had worked as a mason until his illness. If you've ever lived in Marlborough (or Connecticut) there is a good chance you've walked past or lived near something that Tim has built. As a skilled mason, his hands were rarely still and his work ethic was unmatched. He worked every chance he got, not just to provide, but because he took genuine pride in being helpful to everyone he met. If you've spent any time with him, you know he's the first to offer a hand and the first to crack a joke. His kindness was as solid as the stone he laid, and his laughter was a constant in the lives of everyone he met.

Besides his wife Cheryl, he is survived by his daughter, Racheal Allen-Foley of Marlborough; his two sons, Connor Foley of Colchester, Ryan Foley of Marlborough; sister, Denise Vashalifski of Marlborough; brother, James Foley (Jennifer) of Colchester; his beloved grandchildren, Gage Alos, Ryker Alos and Cason Gagnon; many loved nieces and nephews; and not to forget, his dog Lola whom he adored.

He was predeceased by his brother, David Foley, and sister, Patricia Zaino.

Friends may call at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, on Monday, April 13, from 5-8 p.m.

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

### East Hampton

#### Gregory Bruce Butler

Gregory Bruce Butler, 74, of East Hampton, passed away peacefully Tuesday, March 31, after a long courageous battle of fatty liver disease, cancer and dementia. He was born in Stamford Nov. 2, 1951, to the late Jayne Melbourne Calvert, and late Bruce Wm. Butler.

Greg was a Milford police officer, until chasing a criminal took his livelihood away, that he loved so much. He joined the Jaycees when moving to East Hampton, met a lot of great people and enjoyed it. Greg was an East Hampton Little League baseball coach for years, and Portland Dukes Football coach. He loved coaching and guiding kids on and off the field. Spending time with his own kids was very important to him on the field and off.

Greg and Bonnie started their own business for solar, expanded to additions, and homes, then finally a part of a development in Farmwood, Colchester.

He loved spending time with his three sons, especially owning and racing the cars and trucks, traveling to Waterford, Stafford, New Hampshire, and New York. Spending family time at the tracks was the highlight of his life. Two sons racing, the other the crew chief, made him very proud. Having family together every weekend all working, busy, eating Mom's food, was truly a good day for him.

Every sport always included the family; he instilled an attitude of 'keep fighting, give 110%, the best you can be.' His favorite racing motto was "We work together, We win together" for his family togetherness.

His famous quote, "Family is forever," held true. He is survived by his wife Bonnie (Burrell) Butler of 53 years; three sons and family — Daniel, his wife Lisette, and grandchildren Keinyan, Janoah, Silas, Josiah, Michael Arce; Richard and granddaughter Aubrey; and Gregory, his wife Marielita, and grandchildren Quincy, Waylon, Rhett and Alex Pareja.

He was predeceased by Jason Gregory.

He is also survived by special companions Bella, who never left his side at home, and warned Momma when he tried getting out of bed, and Lyla, who supplied unconditional love and emotional support he needed.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Greg's name to "Middlesex Health Hospice Program" c/o Middlesex Health Office of Philanthropy, 28 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 04657.

A celebration of life will be held at the convenience of the family.



Obituaries

East Hampton

Robert Ritchie

Robert Ritchie, 89, of Gilford, N.H., passed away peacefully at home on Sunday, March 29. He was born on March 1, 1937, in Manchester, the son of the late Eva and William Ritchie Sr.



Robert was married to the late Sandra Ritchie. They made their home in East Hampton, where they raised their three children.

Bob joined the Marines in 1955 and served until 1963. He then made a career at United Technologies Research Center, East Hartford, as a lead technician. He shared many stories of his adventures and travels. Bob was a loyal member of the Anchor Lodge NO. 112, AF & AM Masonic Fraternity for 53 years and was a member of the Washington Social Club in Manchester. He played drums in the Manchester Pipe Band.

Upon his retirement, he moved to Gilford, N.H., where he and his love, the late Eleanor Prior, made their home. Although you wouldn't see them there often as they were cruising around in his Corvette, always on the go traveling. They spent many winters in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. He met and made friends with everyone along the way. Some people knew him as Bob, most of his N.H. buddies called him ZUUUUUM, or those at The Farm at Carter Hill in Connecticut referred to him as N.H. Bob. He enjoyed staying there visiting with family and friends, new and old.

He leaves his children: Kevin and his wife Kathy, Karen and her husband John Giza, and Keith and his wife Helena; two grandchildren, Alessandra Giza and Evan Giza; brother E. Roger Ritchie; and many nieces and nephews. He also leaves behind his good friends Mike Valavanie and Tom Lawton.

In addition to his parents, he is predeceased by his wife Sandra Ritchie and brother William Ritchie Jr.

Special thanks to Ellie's daughter Patti Prior for taking care of him when he became ill.

There are no calling hours or services. Wilkinson-Beane-Simoneau-Paquette Funeral Home & Cremation Services/603Cremations.com, Laconia, N.H., is assisting the family with the arrangements. For more information and to view an online memorial, go to [www.wilkinson-beane.com](http://www.wilkinson-beane.com).

Colchester

Heinz Alfred Feibert

Heinz Alfred Feibert, recently of Colchester, and formerly of East Northport, N.Y., and New Ringgold, Pa., passed away at Hartford Hospital Wednesday, April 1. Heinz was born Jan. 4, 1939, in Pirmasens, Germany, and was the son of the late Karl Heinz and Johanna (Vatter) Feibert.



Heinz apprenticed as a bookkeeper for three years, starting at the age of 14, at Firma J. Sandt, AG, in Pirmasens, and worked for them for six years. Heinz then emigrated from Germany to the United States in 1959, settling briefly in New York City where he met his future wife, and the love of his life, Gabriele Anna Kirsch. Heinz graduated from The Delahanty Institute's drafting division in 1961, attending school at night after work, three nights a week for four hours each night. This work ethic carried throughout his life in everything he did.

Heinz & Gabi raised their family in East Northport for over 30 years, where they were members of the Huntington Liederkrantz, a German singing society, and Heinz coached both of his children as members of the Cow Harbor Soccer Club. For the majority of his career, Heinz was employed by Charles Ross & Son Company in Hauppauge, NY, initially as a draftsman, and worked his way up to vice-president at Ross Metal Fabricators in Deer Park, N.Y. Heinz was a gentleman farmer at heart, spending many hours tending to his vegetable and fruit gardens, and mowing his lawn, especially once he retired and moved to Pennsylvania. Before having issues with his eyesight later in life, Heinz was an avid reader and talented woodworker.

Most importantly, though, he will be remembered as a devoted and loving husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. His loss will be mourned by many but he will always be remembered with love, especially by his wife, Gabriele of 64 years; his children and their spouses, Roland (Christine) Feibert of Syosset, Long Island, N.Y., Heidi (Robert) Esteve of Colchester; grandchildren, Matthew (Marissa) Feibert, Caroline Feibert (fiancé Michael Fernandez), Paul Esteve, and Alexander Esteve; great-grandchildren, August and Rowan Feibert; and many extended family members and friends, in both the U.S. and Germany.

The family wishes to thank the hospice care and nursing staff of the 4th floor at the Conklin Building at Hartford Hospital, for the compassionate care they provided.

Funeral services were held at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester, on Tuesday, April 7. Burial followed in the New St. Andrew Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations in Heinz's memory may be made to the Colchester Garden Club or Read to Grow (a Connecticut nonprofit dedicated to bringing books and literacy to children), or to a charity of your choice.

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

Colchester

George Adams Sr.

George "Terry" Adams Sr., 80, passed away peacefully at home Sunday, March 29.



Born Jan. 4, 1946, Terry grew up in East Haven, where he developed a strong sense of family, community and hard work that guided him throughout his life. He began raising his family in Hamden and later in Durham before eventually settling in Colchester.

Terry's 52-year career began with New Haven Savings Bank, where he worked as a second-shift sorter operator. As the organization evolved, that department became Northeast Datacom, which was later acquired by Fiserv. Terry continued his career through these transitions, ultimately retiring as a solutions network engineer. He took great pride in his work and was widely respected for his knowledge, dedication, and reliability throughout his long and distinguished career.

Outside of work, Terry found joy in life's simple pleasures. He loved gardening, metal detecting, and spending time outdoors, as well as traveling and exploring new places. From Sunday drives and early adventures mailing letters to himself from different towns just to collect the postmarks, to cross-country journeys with no set agenda – heading out along the northern route and returning through the southern – Terry embraced the spirit of discovery. Along the way, he found a special place that became his home away from home on Martha's Vineyard.

Terry was also a man of deep faith. He loved singing in the choir, participating in the men's prayer group, and attending the annual men's retreat with St. John Fisher parish. His faith was an important part of his life and a source of strength, fellowship, and joy.

Over the years, Terry generously gave his time to others through community involvement. He volunteered with Boy Scout Troop 27 in Durham, coached his company's girls' softball team, delivered Meals on Wheels in Colchester, and volunteered at St. John Fisher Church and Andover Hebron and Marlborough (AHM) Youth and Family Services for various community projects.

Terry is survived by his beloved wife, Paulette (Masse) Adams; his beloved blended family, George Adams Jr. and wife Dawn (Glennay), John Adams and wife Amy (Prozesky), David Adams and partner John Elmer, Liza (Montemerlo) Bonadies and husband Nick, Renee (Montemerlo) Poor and husband Chris; his cherished grandchildren, Kairi Glennay, Jacob Adams and his partner Shakaira Adorno, Terry Adams, Nicholas Bonadies, Caroline Bonadies, Charlie Poor and Gigi Poor; and great-grandchildren, Aidan Miranda, Amelia Adams and Aubrey Adams.

He was predeceased by his mother, Muriel (Caulford) Thibault, and beloved Aunt Annie (Thresa Dykeman) Adamec and Uncle George Adamec.

Terry's legacy lives on through his family to carry forward his values, his strength, and his

love.

A funeral Mass will be held Wednesday, April 15, at 11 a.m., at St. John Fisher Church, Marlborough. Immediately following will be a celebration of his life downstairs in the parish hall.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to AHM Youth and Family Services, 25 Pendleton Dr., Hebron, CT 06248.

Marlborough

Jeanne Gallagher Shannon

Jeanne Gallagher Shannon, 88, passed away peacefully on Easter Sunday, April 5, a fitting day for a woman whose life was defined by faith, family, love, and generosity of spirit.



Jeanne met the love of her life, Frank Shannon, on a beautiful Sunday afternoon in Philipsburg, Pa. That meeting began a love story that would span 71 wonderful years of marriage. Together they built a life filled with laughter, resilience, deep partnership, and most importantly, a family who became their greatest pride and joy.

Born in Throop, near Scranton, Pa., Jeanne was the daughter of the late Gregory and Sadie Gallagher and the eldest of four children. She was predeceased by her brother Jerry and her sister Rosemary. She leaves behind her dear sister, Peg Roberts of New Kensington, Pa., and in-laws, Jack and Aggie Shannon of Philipsburg, Pa., and Carolyn Gallagher of Casanova, Va.

Jeanne and Frank spent their early married years moving throughout the country. Their family grew as they welcomed five children, each born in a different state. Eventually they found their forever home in Marlborough, where Jeanne became a beloved friend, neighbor and community member.

Nothing mattered more to Jeanne than her family. She was the proud and devoted mother of Colleen Kaplan (John), Michael Shannon (Kathleen), Elizabeth Tracey (Tom), Sara Tarca (Rick), and Amy Hill (Peter). She was their constant supporter, their best listener, and their biggest champion. Her legacy continues through her cherished grandchildren: Hannah Kaplan (Mark), Brenna Kaplan (Justin); Bridget Jenkins (Robbie), Joe Shannon (Jen); Emmie Timothy (Tom), Mary Kate, and Micaela Tracey; Zoe, Olivia, and Jack Tarca; Norah, Sadie, and Cullen Hill. She also leaves behind her treasured great-grandchildren Oliver, Ava, Frankie, Sophie, Cayden, and TJ, who brought her endless happiness and pride.

Additionally, she is survived by many beloved nieces and nephews who will fondly remember her warmth, humor, and genuine interest in their lives. She was especially appreciative of her relationship with Kim and Allan Minker.

Jeanne and Frank were active, early members of St. John Fisher Church in Marlborough, where their faith and friendships became an important part of their lives. Jeanne's faith was quiet but constant, guiding the way she cared for others and lived her life.

Jeanne was known for her sharp mind, cre-

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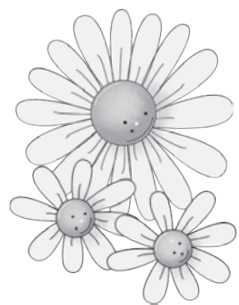
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Obituaries cont.

active wit, and entrepreneurial spirit. She worked at Connecticut National Bank, Merry Employment Group, and Carsan Clegg Realty before starting her own real estate company, Cornerstone Realty, in Marlborough. She finally retired from Glastonbury Healthtrax as an office administrator. Jeanne enjoyed nothing more than her role as the self-appointed family editor-in-chief. She was quick to spot editorial and grammatical errors. We hope this piece has none!

Jeanne lived a full and active life. Whether it was through her tennis community, swimming, her book clubs that fed her lifelong love of reading, bridge, or her many friendships, Jeanne built a life rich with connection. But what we will remember most is how she showed up – for games, performances, meetings, and milestones. She sewed individual Easter outfits, created scrapbooks to celebrate her grandchildren's graduations, learned how to tend and care for horses, and planned three weddings in one year. She made sure we knew she was always in our corner.

Jeanne also showed love through food. She was an incredible self-taught cook and nothing made her happier than a full house. Holidays, birthdays, and summer gatherings were her favorite times – not only because of the occasion, but because everyone was together. She shared recipes and traditions, ensuring we all knew how to recreate the meals that defined our family memories.

Jeanne's life will be celebrated with visiting hours at Mulryan Funeral Home in Glastonbury on Sunday, April 19, from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at St. John Fisher Church, 30 Jones Hollow, Marlborough, on Monday, April 20, at 11 a.m., followed by burial in Marlboro Cemetery.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers you consider a donation in Jeanne's memory to Hospice or a charity of your choosing.

Those who knew Jeanne will remember her quick humor, her intelligence, her strength, and her remarkable ability to make people feel welcome, valued, and loved. Her greatest joy was simply being surrounded by her family, watching it grow across generations.

Jeanne leaves behind a legacy of love, strength, tradition, and family connection that will continue to guide those who loved her. Her family finds comfort knowing that her greatest accomplishment was the life she built with Frank and the family they created together.

Marlborough

Pauline Marie Denson

Pauline Marie Denson, 90, of Marlborough, passed away Tuesday, March 31, at Middlesex Hospital. She was born Aug. 14, 1935, and raised on a farm in Atascosa County, Texas.



Fiercely independent and always ready for something new, she left Texas for California with her daughter Julie and raised her on her own until marrying Karen's father, Minos Covington, and moving to Connecticut. The family moved to Austin in the '70s, where she spent the majority of her adult life. After Minos' passing she met and married Bill Denson, who loved her dearly.

Pauline raised both of her daughters mostly on her own and was a source of quiet, constant strength and love. She instilled the importance of knowledge, art and education in her daughters. There was always at least one book, sometimes two, nearby. She filled her home with art that she painted and the sounds of classical music. She was a supporter and season ticket holder of the Austin Symphony Orchestra and Austin Opera.

Pauline worked for the Texas Department of Licensing for most of her career. Never one to sit idly, she was busier in retirement than during her working years. She was a past deacon and member of the choir in the St. Mark United Methodist Church in Austin, and served on the board of the Austin Gem and Mineral Club. Most recently she was a member of the Marlborough Congregational Church. Her daughters brought her to Connecticut in 2021, grateful for the opportunity to return some of the love and support she had provided in her final years.

She is survived by her daughters, Julieanne Naseef of Marlborough, Karen Terry (Dave) of East Hampton, her two stepdaughters, Dawn Denson and Misty Bell of Austin and her family, her two brothers Aloys Dylla of San Antonio, Texas and Vincent Dylla of Marion Texas, and her beloved grandchildren Samantha Terry and her fiancé Ivan of Woking, UK and Jonathan Terry of Boston.

There will be a celebration of life at a later date.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made in her memory to the Alzheimer's Association at www.alz.org.

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

Oakdale

Keith Jason Mutch

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Keith Jason Mutch of Oakdale. On Saturday, April 4, Keith passed away due to injuries sustained in an automobile accident. He was 26 years old. Keith was born in Norwich on Sept. 6, 1999. He was the son of Keith William and Diane Elizabeth (Marinoccio) Mutch of Oakdale.



Keith was a graduate of Montville High School, where he was a team player on the school Football and Lacross teams. After high school, Keith began a career with Electric Boat as a nuclear pipe fitter, a job which he truly loved and was so proud to work on the U.S.S. Columbia. Keith was a true BMW car enthusiast. He loved working on cars and drift racing. Fort Trumbull was one of his favorite local places to visit, but Walt Disney World trips took a close second.

Keith had an inviting and gregarious personality, a "Gentle Giant." He loved gathering with friends and family, always assuming the role of grill master – expertly flipping burgers, sharing his secret barbecue sauce recipe, and bringing everyone together with his warmth. His presence around the grill sparked laughter and stories, creating unforgettable moments for all who joined him.

His tragic and sudden loss will be mourned by all who knew him, but he will always be remembered with love, especially by his parents, Keith W. and Diane Mutch; his siblings, Cole, Elizabeth and Freyah Mutch; and many extended family members and friends.

Calling hours and visitation will be held Saturday, April 18, from 5-7 p.m., at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The burial will be held privately.

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

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH. A certified list of party-selected candidates for the Republican Party in the Town of Marlborough for participation as DELEGATES to the conventions of said Party specified below is on file in the Office of the Town Clerk, Town Hall, 26 North Main Street, Marlborough, Connecticut and copies are available for public distribution.

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY ATTENTION SEWER USERS. Notice is hereby given to all property owners connected to the sewers in East Hampton that the second installment of the sewer use payment is due and payable on April 1, 2026. The last day on which to pay without penalty is May 1, 2026.

LEGAL LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH. A certified list of party-selected candidates for the Democratic Party in the Town of Marlborough for participation as DELEGATES to the conventions of said Party specified below is on file in the Office of the Town Clerk, Town Hall, 26 North Main Street, Marlborough, Connecticut and copies are available for public distribution.

TOWN OF COLCHESTER PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION LEGAL NOTICE OF DECISION. At its Regular Meeting of April 1, 2026, the Colchester Planning & Zoning Commission made the following decision (s): PZC2026-002 Town of Colchester – Site Plan Application for Recreational Complex Athletic Field Reconstruction Project at 215 Old Hebron Road (MBL 05-08-002-002 & MBL 12-00-057-000).

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON. At the special meeting of the East Hampton Town Council held Tuesday, April 7, 2026, an ordinance amending Chapter 146 of the Code of the Town of East Hampton regarding the Water and Sewer Authority was adopted. The ordinance is available in the Office of the East Hampton Town Clerk and shall take effect 20 days after publication.

Town of Portland. Legal notice is hereby given to the water and/or sewer usage customers of the Town of Portland that quarterly bills are due and payable April 20, 2026. Payments not made in full on or before May 20, 2026 will be subject to interest of 1.5% per month from the due date.

TOWN OF COLCHESTER PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING. The Colchester Planning & Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on April 15, 2026, beginning at 7:00 PM in the Colchester Town Hall Meeting Room at 127 Norwich Ave, Colchester, CT to hear and consider the following application(s): PZC2026-004 Town of Colchester Planning & Zoning Commission Regulation change application to add new Section 8.13.1.A Twelve Month Moratorium on Manufactured Home Parks (MHPs).

TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION NOTICE OF ACTION. At its Regular Meeting held at 6:30 pm on April 1, 2026, at the East Hampton Town Hall - 1 Community Drive, the Planning and Zoning Commission took the following actions: Application PZC-26-001: Tony Flannery, Flannery Row Subdivision, for a three lot Re-subdivision, Map 6/ Block 37/ Lot 1. APPROVED with modifications.

YOUR SATISFACTION IS OUR #1 PRIORITY BRAKE SERVICE SPECIAL \$20.00 OFF. FREE BATTERY TEST W/OIL CHANGE AND THIS COUPON. Evans Automotive Repair. 29 Mill Hill Road Colchester, CT 06415. 860-537-0640. evansautomotiverepair.com

www.creators.com. A word search puzzle grid with the words 'ON THE WING' written vertically on the right side.

**TOWN OF COLCHESTER**

A certified list of party-endorsed candidates for the Republican and Democratic Party in the town of Colchester for participation as Delegates to the convention(s) of said Party specified below are on file at our office at 127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, CT. Democratic Conventions: State, Congressional, State Senate, State Assembly 48th, Judge of Probate  
Republican Conventions: State, Congressional, State Senate, State Assembly 48th, Judge of Probate  
Dated this April 2, 2026  
Gayle Furman, CCTC, CMC  
Colchester Town Clerk

1TB 4/10

**LEGAL NOTICE  
TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON**

Certified lists of party-selected candidates for the Democratic and Republican Parties in the Town of East Hampton for participation as Delegates to the conventions of said Party specified below is on file in my office at 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, Connecticut, and copies are available for public distribution:  
**CONVENTIONS**  
2nd Congressional District Convention (Democrats only)  
33rd State Senatorial District Convention  
34th Assembly District Convention  
14th District Judge of Probate Convention  
2026 State Convention  
Dated at East Hampton, Connecticut this 1st day of April 2026.  
Patricia Burnham, CCTC  
Town Clerk of East Hampton

1TB 4/10

**LEGAL NOTICE**

Residents in the Sewer District in the Town of Marlborough are notified that Benefit Assessment bills are due to the Marlborough Water Pollution Control Authority (MWPCA), April 1, 2026. The last day to pay without interest is May 1, 2026. Delinquent bills will be charged 1.5% interest per month reverting to the due date of April 1 or 18% per year. Minimum interest is \$5.00. Checks must be payable to MWPCA. Sewer bills cannot be paid online. Payments may be paid at the Marlborough Town Hall, Tax Collector Office, or mailed to MWPCA, P.O. Box 29, 26 North Main Street, Marlborough, CT 06447. There is a Drop Box, checks only – NO CASH, to the left of the Town Hall front door. Normal office hours for the Tax Office are Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 8:30 am- 4:30 pm, Tuesday 8:30 am-7:00 pm, and Friday 8:30am to Noon. Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Lazzari  
Tax Collector

3TB 3/27, 4/10, 4/24

**TOWN OF COLCHESTER  
LEGAL NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given to the Town of Colchester Ratepayers that quarterly water and/or sewer usage bills are due and payable on April 1, 2026. Payment not made in full on or before May 1, 2026, will be subject to interest of 1.5% per month from the due date. Mail postmarked (US Postal Service postmark only) on or before May 1, 2026, will be considered paid on time. **Payments dropped in the town hall's drop box after 4:30 p.m. on Friday, May 1, 2026, will be considered as having been made on the following business day and will be deemed as paid late. Failure to receive a bill does not invalidate the bill nor interest.** Please contact the Tax Collector's Office if you have not received your bill. Water & Sewer Payments should be made payable to the Water & Sewer Commission. Please write your account number on the check. Payments can be made online through the town's website <https://www.colchesterct.gov/> - fees apply. OR: come into the Tax Office, use the Town's Night Drop, and/or mail payments to: Tax Office, 127 Norwich Ave, Colchester, CT 06415. If a receipt is desired, please send a self-addressed stamped envelope. Office hours are Monday – Friday, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm, and on Thursdays until 7 pm. Questions concerning payments should be directed to the Tax Office, (860) 537-7210.  
Michele Wyatt, CCMC CCMO  
Town of Colchester  
Tax Collector

3T 3/20, 4/10, 4/24

**LEGAL NOTICE of PUBLIC HEARING  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
Town of Portland, CT**

Pursuant to Section 503(i) of the Portland Town Charter, a public hearing will be held by the Board of Selectmen on **Wednesday, April 22, 2026 at 6:50 P.M.** in the Mary Flood Room, 20 Freestone Avenue, Portland, CT to provide residents the opportunity to comment both orally and in writing on the proposed 2026 Connecticut Neighborhood Assistance Act (NAA) Program available to interested non-profit organizations in Portland.  
Dated this 8th day of April 2026  
Attest: Michael A. Pelton, First Selectman

1TB 4/10

**TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH, CONNECTICUT  
Invitation to Bid Blish Park**

**Sealed Bids for Blish Park Basketball System Replacement will be received by the Town of Marlborough at the Town Clerk's Office until 10:30 AM local time on Monday, April 20, 2026. Received Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at this time.**  
Bids shall be Lump Sum.  
Prospective Bidders may examine the Bidding Documents on-line at [marlboroughct.net](http://marlboroughct.net) or CT DAS CT Source website and may obtain copies of the Bidding Documents from the Building Land Use/Building Department by calling 860 295 6202 or e-mail [Building@marlboroughct.net](mailto:Building@marlboroughct.net). To receive the documents via package services, send a completed pre-paid pickup label from either UPS or FEDEX to the Issuing Office. PDF copies are available upon request after receipt of the non-refundable fee.  
The date that the Bidding Documents are transmitted by the Issuing Office will be considered as the Bidder's date of receipt of the Bidding Documents. Partial sets of Bidding Documents will not be available from the Issuing Office. Neither Owner nor Engineer will be responsible for full or partial sets of Bidding Documents, including Addenda if any, obtained from sources other than the Issuing Office.  
**A pre-bid meeting will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 9, 2026, Blish Memorial Park, 32 Park Road, Marlborough, CT. Attendance at the pre-bid meeting is highly encouraged but is not mandatory.**  
The successful Bidder will be required to provide a Performance Bond in the amount of one hundred percent of the Contract Price. The Owner is exempt from payment of Sales and Use Taxes on all materials and equipment to be permanently incorporated in the Work. These taxes shall not be included in the Bid.  
Attention of bidders is particularly called to the requirement for all contractors and subcontractors to provide affirmative action to ensure equal opportunity employment as noted in the Governor's Executive Orders 3 and 17.  
The bidder agrees that its bid shall be good, capable of being accepted, and may not be withdrawn for a period of sixty [60] days, Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays excluded, after the opening of bids.  
The Town reserves the right to waive any technical defects in the bids; to reject bids which do not conform to the terms and conditions described in the specifications; to reject any, any part of, or all bids; to waive informalities or irregularities in the bidding process; and to accept that bid which the Town deems to be in its best interest, whether or not it is the lowest dollar proposed.  
All work to be performed in connection with the proposed project will be subject to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, ordinances, and regulations.  
If the Town determines, in its sole discretion, to proceed with the work, the successful bidder must execute and deliver an Agreement and furnish valid Certificates of Insurance with full policies, a Performance Bond, and to the Town prior to the start of any work. It is the responsibility of the bidder to ensure that it has received all addendums to this Invitation to Bid prior to submitting a bid.  
This Invitation to Bid is not binding in the Town.  
The Town reserves the right to revise or amend the plans and specifications from time to time as it deems necessary.  
This Invitation to Bid has been prepared solely to solicit bids and does not constitute a contract offer.  
The Town reserves the right to amend, cancel, postpone, withdraw, or resubmit this Invitation for Bid at any time if it is in the best interest of the Town to do so.  
The Town is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Minority/Women Business Enterprises are encouraged to apply.  
Town of Marlborough, Connecticut  
By: David R. Porter, Town Manager  
Date: March 30, 2026

2TB 4/3, 4/10

**TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH  
RIVENDELL DRIVE CATCH BASIN TOP REPLACEMENT PROJECT  
INVITATION TO BID**

**The Town of Marlborough will receive Sealed Bids for the Catch Basin Top Replacement at the Town Clerk's Office until 10:00 AM local time on Monday, April 20 2026. Received Bids will be officially opened and read aloud at this time. The Project consists of replacing 11 catch basin tops.**  
Prospective Bidders may examine the Bidding Documents on-line at [marlboroughct.net](http://marlboroughct.net) or State CT Source website and may obtain copies of the Bidding Documents from the Building Land Use/Building Department by calling 860 295 6202 or e-mail [Building@marlboroughct.net](mailto:Building@marlboroughct.net). To receive the documents via package services, send a completed pre-paid pickup label from either UPS or FEDEX to the Issuing Office. PDF copies are available upon request after receipt of the non-refundable fee.  
The date that the Issuing Office transmits the Bidding Documents will be considered the Bidder's date of receipt of the Bidding Documents. Partial sets of Bidding Documents will not be available from the Issuing Office. Neither Owner nor Engineer will be responsible for full or partial sets of Bidding Documents, including Addenda if any, obtained from sources other than the Issuing Office.  
**A pre-bid conference will be held at 2:00 PM on Wednesday, April 8, 2026, at Town Hall, 26 North Main Street, Marlborough, CT. Attendance at the pre-bid conference is highly encouraged but is not mandatory.**  
The successful Bidder will be required to provide Performance in the amount of one hundred percent of the Contract Price. This project is utilizing Town funds and prevailing wage is not anticipated, however, any bidder exceeding the State of CT Prevailing Wage project values must utilize prevailing wage rates.  
The Owner is exempt from payment of Sales and Use Taxes on all materials and equipment to be permanently incorporated in the Work. These taxes shall not be included in the Bid.  
Attention of bidders is particularly called to the requirement for all contractors and subcontractors to provide affirmative action to ensure equal opportunity employment as noted in the Governor's Executive Orders 3 and 17.  
The bidder agrees that its bid shall be good, capable of being accepted, and may not be withdrawn for a period of sixty [60] days, Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays excluded, after the opening of bids.  
The Town reserves the right to waive any technical defects in the bids; to reject bids which do not conform to the terms and conditions described in the specifications; to reject any, any part of, or all bids; to waive informalities or irregularities in the bidding process; and to accept that bid which the Town deems to be in its best interest, whether or not it is the lowest dollar proposed.  
All work to be performed in connection with the proposed project will be subject to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, ordinances and regulations.  
If the Town determines, in its sole discretion, to proceed with the work, the successful bidder must execute and deliver an Agreement and furnish valid Certificates of Insurance with full policies, a performance bond, and to the Town prior to the start of any work. It is the responsibility of the bidder to ensure that it has received any and all addendums to this Invitation to Bid prior to submitting a bid.  
This Invitation to Bid is not binding on the Town.  
The Town reserves the right to revise or amend the plans and specifications from time to time as it deems necessary.  
This Invitation to Bid has been prepared solely to solicit bids and does not constitute a contract offer.  
The Town reserves the right to amend, cancel, postpone, withdraw, or resubmit this Invitation for Bid at any time if it is in the best interest of the Town to do so.  
The Town is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Minority/Women Business Enterprises are encouraged to apply.  
Town of Marlborough, Connecticut  
David R. Porter  
Town Manager  
Date: March 30, 2026

2TB 4/3, 4/10

**LEGALS**

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE  
TOWN OF ANDOVER  
PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION**

The Andover Planning & Zoning Commission will hold a hybrid in person and online Public Hearing Tuesday, April 21, 2026 to hear the following applications and receive public comments:  
Application 26-3SP: Special Permit application to provide a gunsmithing and firearms transfer service Home Occupation pursuant to section 4.12a(2) of the Andover zoning regulations. Property of Sarah Hayowyk 780 East Street, Andover CT, applicant Seth Cane. Assessor's map 19 block 17 lot 1F.  
Application 26-4SP: Special Permit application to construct a market rate detached accessory apartment pursuant to Andover zoning regulation 4.11.3. Property of Ronald & Suzanne Langlois, 332 Hebron Road, Andover CT. Assessor's map 25 block 22 lot 8-7.  
Comments, questions or concerns may be presented at the public hearing or submitted in writing to the Andover Building and Land Use Office, 17 School Road, Andover, CT 06232.  
Applications are on file in the Building and Land Use Department for public inspection or online on the Town of Andover's website. Instructions for joining the public hearing via Zoom are posted on the town's website in the Calendar.  
Wayne Kasacek  
Zoning Agent

2TB 4/10, 4/17

**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, April 13, 2026 at 6:30pm at the East Hampton Town Hall - 1 Community Drive, Room 117 and via Zoom to consider the following application:  
ZBA-26-002: 11 Skinner Street LLC. Variance requested to Section 5.3.D Area & Dimensional Standards to increase Max Lot Coverage from existing 59% to 65% on 11 Skinner Street, Map 02A/ Block 49/ Lot 1-1.  
ZBA-26-003: West High Enterprises. Requesting the following variances to Section 5.2.D (Area & Dimensional Standards) to facilitate the separation of the existing residence and Commercial Daycare onto 2 individual lots as shown on the Site Plan submitted:  
LOT 1 (Residence): Reduce Minimum Lot Area from 40,000sf to 17,825sf; Reduce Rear Setback from 25' to 14' and reduce Minimum Lot Depth from 175' to 110' on 12 Long Crossing Map 12/ Block 36 / Lot 2.  
Applications are on file in the Land Use Office and Town Clerk Office 860 267-7450

2TB 4/3, 4/10

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**ON THE WING**

ANSWERS TO PUZZLE PAGE 30

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
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CREATORS NEWS SERVICE By Neil Manusa

**ACROSS**

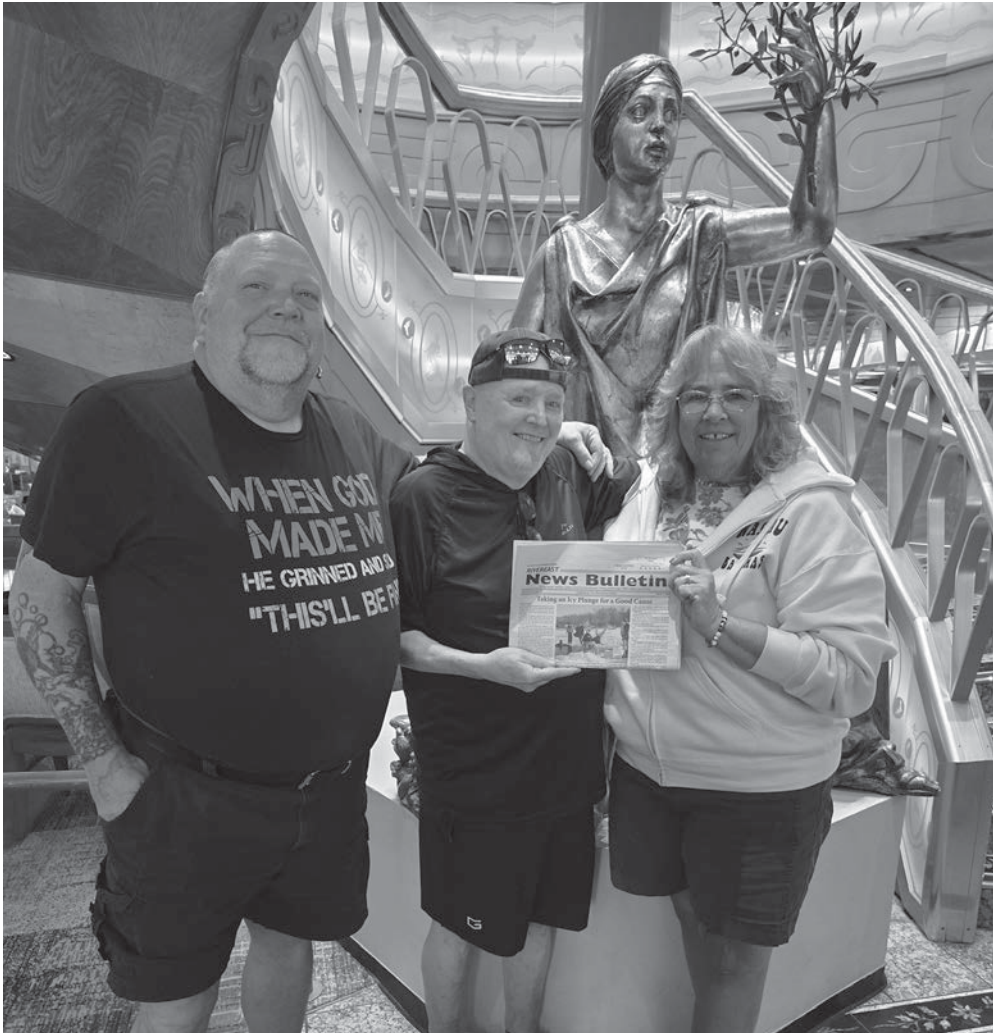
1 Hobo  
6 He had a whale of a time  
10 Imitate  
13 Speeder's nemesis  
14 Rum cake  
15 Slip shot venue  
17 Mime muse  
18 Later  
19 China lead-in  
20 Sanaa resident  
22 Easy task  
24 Consequence  
26 Cigar endings  
27 Flowerless flora  
30 Continuum start  
31 Coach Parseghian of Notre Dame  
32 Pertaining to a rotating body  
34 Look of displeasure  
36 Long. partner  
39 Stealthy  
41 \_\_\_ session  
43 Scottish uncle  
44 Furtive advance  
46 Crowbar, e.g.  
47 Baseball's Mel

48 Vein contents  
50 Facility  
51 Wide open  
54 Alarmed  
56 A President, perhaps  
58 Interact  
62 "I \_\_\_ love . . ."  
63 Seasonal song  
65 Circuit control  
66 Muses number  
67 Regarding  
68 Furious  
69 Approval movement  
70 Evaluate  
71 Lispers' impediments

**DOWN**

1 Canasta scoring card  
2 Infrequent  
3 Leading man?  
4 Motherly  
5 Injury \_\_\_  
6 Lawyers' gp.  
7 Cornerman  
8 Roughly  
9 Judge's seat  
10 Grain beard  
11 Wine grape  
12 Provide

16 Keystone \_\_\_  
21 Bar lead-in  
23 Essential part  
25 Dinner latecomers, perhaps  
27 Something to save  
28 Quiz plus  
29 \_\_\_ of passage  
31 Leatherworker's tool  
33 Up for sale  
35 Kind of glasses  
36 Molten rock  
37 Belligerent god  
38 Phoenician capital  
40 Caboodle's partner  
42 Teasers  
45 Storage areas  
47 Had jacks or better  
49 Slip  
51 Actor Alda  
52 Impish youth  
53 Acid type  
54 Teatime treat  
55 Otherworldly  
57 Condo, e.g.  
59 Word of sorrow  
60 London art gallery  
61 Closed at night  
64 Allow



**Cruising to the Bahamas – with the Rivereast!...** Terri and Scott Reid from East Hampton met up with Bob Faulhaber, formerly from Marlborough, and took a cruise to the Bahamas aboard the Carnival Pride.

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

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




**Rivereast at Angkor Wat...** Pictured are East Hampton residents Bill and Amy Biegaj with the *Rivereast* at Angkor Wat in Cambodia. The two went on a trip to Bangkok, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam.



**Rivereast Checks Out Some Art!...** After a lunch with friends in Old San Juan, Puerto Rico, Jane Muskatallo from Portland took the *Rivereast* to the Botello Art Gallery.



**Florida Fun...** Rita Wysocki of East Hampton is shown with her grandson Aidan – and the *Rivereast*, of course – in Key West, Fla.!

# Where in the World?

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

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

**To enter, email your photo and address to: [bulletin@glcitizen.com](mailto:bulletin@glcitizen.com)**

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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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.

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

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

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

## PETS

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

**PURE BRED SHITZU:** For sale. 1 female left, 12 weeks old. Looking for her forever home. 860-978-0587.

## FREE

**FREE TO A GOOD HOME:** Two female kittens. Black. Born March 1st. Available week of May 5th. Call or text 860-729-8407.

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## TOWN OF PORTLAND ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Portland Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, April 23, 2026 at a meeting to start at 7:00 p.m. in the Buck Foreman Room (2nd Floor), 265 Main Street, Portland, CT. Application #25-03; 5 McDonald Drive. Request for a variance from Zoning Regulation Table 4.2.1 for the rear yard setback with a setback of 9 feet where 25 feet is required. Application and property of Steve and Robyn Johnson. Assessor's Map 37, Lot 37. Zone R-10. At this hearing interested persons may appear and be heard and written communications will be received. A copy of this application is available for public review in the Portland Land Use Department. Dated at Portland, CT this 6th day of April 2026. Kurt Peterson, Vice Chair

## TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH BOARD OF FINANCE BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Marlborough Board of Finance will hold a Public Hearing at the Elmer Thienes/Mary Hall Elementary School Cafeteria, 25 School Drive, and on Zoom, on Monday, April 20, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. for the following purpose:  
1. To present & discuss the Proposed Annual Town Budget for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027 to include Town Operations & Capital Budgets, Local Board of Education Operations & Capital Budgets, and RHAM Regional School Operations & Capital Budgets, and Town Debt Service Payments.  
2. To Present & Discuss the termination of Capital Non-Recurring Projects.  
Topic: Board of Finance Public Hearing  
Time: April 20, 2026 6:30 p.m. Eastern Time (US and Canada)  
Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89524636469?pwd=LsGCcaybMCAIf5pyyvuSvmyfYh2nEC.1>  
Meeting ID: 895 2463 6469  
Passcode: y3e111  
Copies of the various budgets are available for public viewing in the Office of the Town Clerk, Richmond Memorial Library, and on the Town Website at: <https://town-marlbrough-ct-clear.doc.cleargov.com/22885/883821/d>  
Dated at Marlborough, Connecticut this 1st day of April 2026  
Board of Finance  
Michael Nastro, Chair

# REAL ESTATE

## RENTALS

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**CANDLELIGHT APARTMENTS, GLASTONBURY:** RENT NOW, one bedroom available, renovated, first floor. Rent is currently \$1,750 per month. Includes heat/hot water, trash, sewer. Onsite storage and assigned parking available. Property is a SMOKE FREE Complex. Please call via text or cell 860-913-6723, Office 860-529-1725.

**FOUR ROOMS, 2ND FLOOR APT:** Portland. Excellent condition. Stove, refrigerator, new washer/dryer. No pets. No smoking. \$1,150/monthly plus heat/utilities, two months security. Call 860-916-7482.

**STORAGE UNIT AVAILABLE:** Located in East Hampton. Text 860-267-4858.

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# EMPLOYMENT

**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

The East Hampton Public Schools is seeking qualified candidates for the position of:  
**Human Resource (HR) Generalist**  
Applicants must have a bachelor's degree in human resource management or business, and a minimum of three years of direct experience working in an HR-related field.  
*An equivalent combination of experience and education will be considered.*  
Salary Range: \$55,000 – \$62,000 (health insurance eligible, competitive benefits package)  
Please see posting below for further qualifications and responsibilities.  
Please apply on-line at  
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The Town of East Hampton is an Equal Opportunity Employer.  
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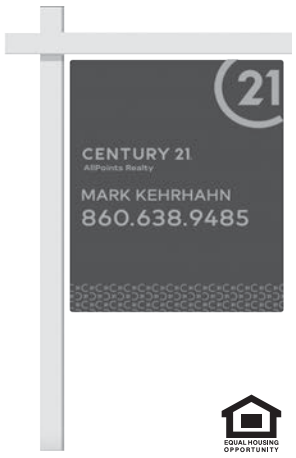



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## LEGAL NOTICE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION HEBRON, CONNECTICUT


The Hebron Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing at a meeting scheduled for Wednesday, April 22, 2026 at 7:00 P.M., to be held virtually through the GoToMeeting Platform, on the following:  
I. **Petition 2026-02:** Petition of Megan Armes to operate a dog training and grooming facility in existing space at 522 Church Street in accordance with Section 3.E.2.1.7 of the Hebron Zoning Regulations, Amston Village District. **Continued from March 25, 2026.**  
**Planning and Zoning Commission**  
Apr 22, 2026, 7:00–10:00 PM (America/New\_York)  
**Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.**  
<https://meet.goto.com/414277309>  
**You can also dial in using your phone.**  
Access Code: 414-277-309  
United States: +1 (872) 240-3311  
**Get the app now and be ready when your first meeting starts:**  
<https://meet.goto.com/install>  
Dated at Hebron, Connecticut, this 8th day of April 2026.  
Frank Zitkus, Chair

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

The public hearing on the following application, which was originally scheduled for the April 15, 2026, Regular Meeting of the Colchester Planning and Zoning Commission, has been POSTPONED. The Colchester Planning & Zoning Commission will hold a Special Meeting on April 22, 2026, beginning at 7:00 PM at the Colchester Senior Center at 15 Lois Lane, Colchester, CT to hear and consider the following application(s):  
**PZC2026-004 Town of Colchester Planning & Zoning Commission** Regulation change application to add new Section 8.13.1.A Twelve Month Moratorium on Manufactured Home Parks (MHPs).  
At this hearing, interested persons may be heard and written communications received. A copy of these applications is located in the Land Use Department and Town Clerk's Office, Town Hall, 127 Norwich Avenue, and may be inspected during regular business hours (8:30 AM - 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday). Application materials are also available on the Colchester Planning & Zoning Commission webpage at <https://www.colchesterct.gov/planning-zoning-commission>.  
Planning & Zoning Commission  
Joseph Mathieu, Chair

## HELP WANTED

Help needed in our Printing Department.  
**Full and Part-time Hours Available Monday – Friday**  
**Email Jim for more information:**  
[jim@rarereminder.com](mailto:jim@rarereminder.com)  
*No phone calls please. Must be 18 years old.*



## TOWN OF ANDOVER CT

### VACANCY Accounting Associate

The Town of Andover is seeking applications for a full-time Accounting associate. This position is responsible for the daily operations of the finance department at the town of Andover. This position involves the performance of a variety of professional accounting and financial control functions for the Town of Andover.

The job description and application for this position are available at [www.andoverct.org](http://www.andoverct.org). This position is 30 hours per week, Monday-Thursday. This position is in the AFSCME local 1303 of Council #4 AFL-CIO and subject to collective bargaining.

To apply, send a Resume and Cover Letter to the Office of the Town Administrator, Town Hall, 17 School Rd, Andover, CT 06232, or email it to [adminassistant@andoverct.org](mailto:adminassistant@andoverct.org).

This posting will remain open until the position has been filled. EOE M/F  
Salary Commensurate on Experience and Qualifications

# EMPLOYMENT

**CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH IN SOUTH GLASTONBURY:** is seeking a reliable and conscientious individual to serve as sexton/custodian. Responsibilities include maintaining clean and orderly buildings, managing supplies, preparing spaces for worship services, rituals, daily use, and special events (including setup and takedown), and coordinating with clergy and staff to ensure all spaces are ready for use. Qualified candidates will have prior custodial or maintenance experience and the ability to perform physical tasks (lifting up to 25 pounds, bending, and standing for extended periods). The ideal candidate demonstrates strong attention to detail, dependability, and respect for the church's mission and community. This is a part-time position (up to 30 hours per week) with flexible scheduling, including some weekends and occasional evenings. No benefits are offered. Please submit a resume and brief statement of interest to Lynne David, 860-633-4651, extension 2, [lynne.david@southchurch2.org](mailto:lynne.david@southchurch2.org).

**GLASTONBURY HOUSING AUTHORITY - SEASONAL MAINTAINER/GROUNDSKEEPER:** The GHA is seeking individuals to perform a wide variety of semi-skilled tasks in connection with the maintenance of apartment grounds and buildings, and landscaped areas. Must possess a valid CT Motor Vehicle Operator's license and be at least 18 years of age. Seasonal: Mid-May to August. 40hrs/week. Job application and full job description available at the Main Office, 25 Risley Road, Glastonbury, CT 06033 or from our website at [www.glastha.org](http://www.glastha.org). No phone calls please. Deadline: Until Filled AA/EOE.

**YOUTH COORDINATOR:** part-time, per diem, to plan and lead weekly in-person youth gatherings - including Bible study, fellowship, worship, and service activities. [sprc@southumc.com](mailto:sprc@southumc.com). 860-573-4601.

**PCA NEEDED PART-TIME:** Early mornings and evening hours available. Approximately 15-20 hours weekly. For personal care, cooking, cleaning, and errands. Bending/lifting, must be able to lift 40+lbs. Time & half for holidays. Weekly pay through payroll company. \$23/hr. Background check and drug test required. Willing to train. 860-949-7016.



## HELP WANTED - PUBLIC WORKS FOREMAN TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH

The Town of Marlborough is accepting applications for applications for a Public Works Foreman. This is a full-time (40 hours per week) position responsible for leading the crew that maintains town roads, stormwater drainage systems, vehicle and machinery fleet, transfer station, town buildings, playing fields, cemeteries, and parks. The Foreman reports to the Town Manager, schedules crewmembers, and plans daily operations. Applicants should have a high school diploma or GED, a current CT CDL, and experience paving and maintaining roads. Experience leading teams or training others is preferred. The expected wage range is \$40.00-\$45.00 per hour, depending on experience and qualifications. The total compensation package includes health and dental insurance, employer HSA contribution, 457 defined contribution retirement plan with employer match, employer sponsored life insurance, tuition reimbursement, professional development, accrued leave time (vacation and sick), and 12 paid holidays. Employment Application available at [www.marlbo.info/employmentapp](http://www.marlbo.info/employmentapp) or the Town Clerk's Office. Completed applications are to be submitted to the:

Marlborough Town Clerk  
26 North Main Street  
P.O. Box 29  
Marlborough, CT. 06447

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