

News Bulletin

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

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A close call... “If you have a vehicle fire, get away from it as fast as you can,” said Marlborough Volunteer Fire Department Fire Marshal Joe Asklar after a car went up in blazing flames on Thursday, May 21. No one was injured and the fire was put out quickly. While driving down route 2, a Marlborough resident said she smelled gasoline and noticed a small fire on the front, right-hand side of her vehicle. She pulled onto the off ramp of exit 13 where she then quickly exited before MVFD arrived.

Portland Celebrates Memorial Day

By Anne Lilburn

Portland’s annual Memorial Day festivities have always been a rain or shine event, and rain it did this year — but that didn’t stop local residents, politicians, and even Governor Ned Lamont, from showing up to share a moment of community and to honor service members and fallen heroes.

No one was complaining much about the wet weather.

While the rain was mostly still light, several community groups gathered just prior to the beginning of the parade to assemble floats and prepare to march. Knights of Columbus Council 7 members Bill Caffrey and Ken Woodward were preparing to ride on a float, armed with bags of candy to toss. On the front of the float was a wooden dog, modeled after the actual real dog of St. Mary’s parish priest Father John Antonelle. They said the rain wasn’t bothering them too much.

“We figure if all the men and women who serve in the armed services can do it, it’s the least we can do to show our respect,” said Woodward. Caffrey said his son was a Marine Corps veteran and that he was a “very proud” military dad who also wanted to draw attention to the work that the Knights of Columbus did in the community.

Also lined up to march were kids and their parents, representing various groups. Second grader Teagan Fisher was there wearing a Brownie sash, marching with the Girl Scouts. She said it was her third year.

“I did it for two years and I thought it was fun,” she said, “so I wanted to do it again.”

Standing under an umbrella, she said the rain didn’t really bother her. She said the best part about marching was getting to see people on the sidelines watching her march and having the surprise of seeing them.

Fellow second grader Chad Mooney and his dad, Chad Sr., were there with the Little League. Chad Jr., staying dry under a yellow poncho, said he plays on the Firehawks, and Chad Sr. said he wasn’t deterred by the weather.

“I think it’s fun, yeah,” he said. “Why cancel?”

Several selectmen, including First Selectman Mike Pelton, a Republican, as well as Selectman John Dillon, a Democrat, and Vinnie Pitruzello, a Republican, showed up to march as well. While the high school band may have decided to skip marching, they assembled inside Brownstone Intermediate School’s historic auditorium for a ceremony that offered both serious and fun moments.

Before heading inside, the parade paused outside the school for a rifle salute.

MacKenzie Kelsey, a Portland native who now lives in Middletown, played “Taps” on the trumpet after the salute. She said it was her 24th year performing “Taps” at the event, rain or shine, continuing a tradition that her father, Jeff Kelsey, had started when he was a high school student in 1976.

See *Portland Celebrates*, page 25

Marlborough Honors Fallen Heroes

By Toriana Williams

Despite gray skies, damp grass and the sticky spring to summer air, the town of Marlborough’s Memorial Day parade and ceremony drew a strong crowd Monday afternoon. Residents, in abundance, lined North Main Street waving flags, cheering marchers and pausing to honor the nation’s fallen service members.

Children dressed in red, white and blue sat along the sidewalks with parents and grandparents, while dogs tugged at leashes and wagged their tails as police cruisers, marching bands, veteran groups and community organizations made their way through town toward the town green.

For resident Jane Scacciaferro, attending the parade each year is an important tradition. “It’s to support the veterans, you know?” Scacciaferro said. “I think it’s important to remember the ones who gave their lives for the country, for all of us.”

Scacciaferro, who has lived in Marlborough for eight years, said the event brings the community together in a meaningful way.

“Well, I think that’s important,” she said about

the large turnout. “I think it’s nice for people to show support. I mean, the green doesn’t get used nearly enough in this town, and it’s nice when it does. We just like to support the events that they do here.”

This year’s parade featured dozens of groups, including the Marlborough Jr. Ancient Fife & Drum Corps, the RHAM High and Middle School Band, the CT Valley Field Music group, the Marlborough Volunteer Fire Department, scouts, local sports teams, veteran organizations and more. Residents applauded as marchers and decorated vehicles traveled down Main Street toward the town’s Memorial Day ceremony.

Once the parade concluded, attendees gathered on the town green for speeches, music and tributes honoring military members who died while serving the United States.

Ray Theobald, commander of the local American Legion Post 197, opened the ceremony by welcoming residents and reflecting on the purpose of Memorial Day.

“The purpose of today’s gathering is to re-

member and honor our fallen service members, from past and present, all wars,” Theobald said. “To remember the sacrifices they made in the name of patriotism, service to others, duty and honor, so that our freedom and independent ways of life are maintained.”

Theobald reminded the town that Memorial Day was originally known as Decoration Day following the Civil War. “Remember,” he said. “Freedom is not free.”

Following his remarks, the RHAM Band performed “The Star-Spangled Banner.”

Town Manager David Porter then delivered a lengthy address reflecting on both the history of Memorial Day and the balance between celebration and remembrance during the holiday weekend.

“We gather not to celebrate war,” Porter said, “but to honor courage, sacrifice and a love of country so deep that it accepted the ultimate cost.”

Porter explained that Memorial Day grew out
See *Marlborough Honors*, page 26

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RHAM Operating Budget Rejected Again, CIP Passed

By Toriana Williams

Voters across Regional School District 8 (RHAM) member towns once again rejected the district's proposed operating budget Tuesday, May 26, sending school officials back to revise spending plans for a third referendum. However, voters did approve the district's revised Capital Improvement Plan budget, allowing several planned infrastructure projects to move forward.

The revised RHAM operating budget totaled \$32.8 million for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, a 0.65% increase over the current year's budget. The proposal was down nearly \$840,000 from the previously rejected \$33.66 million proposal, which had represented a 3.19% increase.

The district's revised CIP budget totaled

\$331,037.

Despite major reductions following the first failed referendum earlier this month, the operating budget was still defeated when combined votes from the district's three towns were totaled together.

In Hebron, voters strongly rejected the RHAM operating budget, again, by a vote of 1,222 to 873. Hebron voters also opposed the RHAM capital budget, and rejected it 1,148 to 947.

Meanwhile, voters in Andover approved both proposals. The operating budget passed there 417 to 360, while the CIP budget passed 424 to 350.

Voters in Marlborough also supported the district budgets. Marlborough approved the

RHAM operating budget 319 to 140 and passed the CIP budget 318 to 140.

Although two of the three towns approved the operating budget, RHAM referendums are decided by the total number of votes district-wide rather than by town majorities. Hebron's larger turnout and strong opposition ultimately caused the operating budget to fail overall.

Superintendent of Schools Colin McNamara said he was disappointed by the result. "I am disappointed that the operating budget failed," McNamara said in a written statement following Tuesday's referendum.

McNamara said it remained too early for district officials to determine what additional cuts may be needed. "It's too early to say how we will respond to the outcome of the referendum," he said when asked what staffing, programs or resources could be affected.

Still, McNamara acknowledged that repeated failed budget votes can negatively impact students and school communities. "Anytime a budget fails at referendum, it has a negative impact on students and the entire school community," he said.

He also said officials are not yet prepared to determine whether class sizes could increase next year. "Again, it's too early to say how we will respond to the outcome of the referendum," McNamara said.

The revised budget already included significant reductions following the first failed referendum earlier this month. The largest cuts came from staffing reductions which totaled roughly \$450,000. Those reductions included two high school English teacher positions, one high school science teacher position and one special education paraeducator position.

The district also reduced spending for substitute staffing, temporary custodial help and unemployment line items.

According to McNamara, three of the teaching position reductions were achieved through retirements or resignations. He also previously said the special education paraeducator posi-

tion may need to be reconsidered in the future.

Additional non-personnel reductions totaling more than \$22,000 were also included in the revised proposal. Those changes included reductions to special education tuition and transportation costs, along with savings achieved by pre-purchasing maintenance equipment and repairs using current-year funds.

District officials also made major changes to the capital budget after project estimates increased. The district's planned loading dock replacement project rose in cost from roughly \$424,000 to more than \$507,000. To reduce the impact on taxpayers, officials recommended using \$235,000 from the district's reserve fund for education expenditures. That move reduced the revised CIP proposal from \$566,037 to \$331,037.

The revised RHAM budget also included updated revenue projections. Officials reduced expected excess cost reimbursement funding by roughly \$26,000 but increased tuition revenue after an additional student from Columbia enrolled at RHAM.

With the operating budget now rejected for a second time, RHAM officials are expected to revise the proposal again before bringing it back to voters in another regional referendum in the coming weeks.

AHM Launches New Podcast

AHM Youth and Family Services has announced its new "Here 4 You" podcast.

The premiere episode, launching during Mental Health Awareness month, focuses on how parents can support their children's mental health. Megan Aldridge, AHM's clinical director, talks with Tressa Giordano, AHM's executive director, about the when and where to seek mental health supports for kids.

The full podcast can be accessed on Spotify @AHM's Here 4 You Podcast and on YouTube @ahmyouthandfamilyservices8196/podcasts, or through the AHM website at ahmyouth.org/here-4-you.

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Rotary Donates to RHAM... The East Hampton Rotary Club has announced a \$1,500 grant to RHAM Youth Soccer. The funds will go toward the purchase of a new soccer shed in Marlborough. Pictured are Matt Weeks of RHAM Youth Soccer and Ashley Wolf of the East Hampton Rotary Club.

Project Graduation Event Registration

Registration is open for AHM's Project Graduation event for RHAM graduating seniors! This year's event will be held at Spare Time Entertainment in Vernon on June 16, the night of RHAM High School graduation. AHM's number one goal is to keep RHAM graduates safe on an evening that statistically ranks as the highest in car accidents due to impairment. AHM Youth & Family Services coordinates Project Graduation and has done

so for over 25 years, with thousands of graduates attending this celebration. A scholarship is available for those who are experiencing financial hardship. Graduation signs are also available as a fundraiser for Project Graduation. Register for \$75 per person, and purchase signs for \$20 each, at ahmyouth.org/fundraisers-events/project-graduation.

Summer Programs at AHM

This summer, AHM Youth and Family Services is offering programs for all ages, including First Steps in Music, Forest Fun, Brush, Braid & Bond, Macrame' Headbands, Yoga for Kids, and more. Registration is open now, at www.ahmyouth.org.

Project Graduation Fundraiser

Project Graduation takes place on Friday, June 16 - and fundraising "Congratulations" signs are on sale now. Show your support for RHAM Class of 2026 graduating seniors by purchasing a "Congratulations" sign. These signs will be available for purchase, at \$20 each. Each sign is an 18 x 24 yard sign with yard stake included. There is a blank space on the sign for you to write your graduates' name on it. This fundraiser will help support AHM's Project Graduation event, a drug and alcohol-free celebration on the night of graduation. Visit ahmyouth.org/fundraisers-events/project-graduation/ for more info about Project Grad and to purchase a sign.

Sponsors Sought for Golf Tourney

AHM Youth and Family Services will hold its annual Golf Tournament Friday, July 17, at Blackledge Country Club in Hebron. AHM is currently looking for sponsors and players. Go to ahmyouth.org for more info.

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RES-29-26

RES-29-26



Grateful gardeners...Volunteer members of the Portland River Valley Garden and the Portland Garden clubs planted the Veterans Memorial Garden at the Portland Town Hall on May 21. The red, white and blue flowers were donated by Gotta's Farm and planted in grateful tribute to all veterans who served the nation. Special thanks to Rivereast for always helping us to provide our community with news and information.

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Bulletin Board

I saw a news item the other day about a Michigan police officer who is being hailed as a hero after catching a baby tossed from a burning building.

It seems police were called at about 4:16 p.m. about a fire at a two-story residence. The caller said a porch on the second floor was on fire and a woman and her infant were trapped. A responding officer spotted the woman at an upstairs window and told her to kick out the screen and drop the baby to him. She did.

He caught the baby, handed it to another officer, then put a ladder up under the window to get the woman out. I'm not sure why he didn't just use the ladder in the first place, but maybe the baby was getting impatient. Anyway, it all ended well.

This all got me wondering as to what I would do in a similar situation. I think I could also be a hero, so long as the woman with the baby hadn't grown up in my old neighborhood. If she knew me from back then, the "heroic rescue" would probably go more like this:

"Throw me the baby!"

"No way!"

"C'mon, throw me the baby! I'll catch it!"

"No way! You're a klutz! I remember your father throwing you a football when you were a kid! There's no way I'm throwing you this baby!"

"This is different!"

"You couldn't catch that ball if he handed it to you!"

"That wasn't my fault! I needed glasses!"

"The ball kept bouncing off your head! Or your chest! It was pathetic!"

"I'm taller now! And I have corrective eyewear!"

"Then when you tripped over the lawn sprinkler and sprained your ankle, you told everybody at school it was a football injury!"

"Well, it was! Kinda."

"Was that before or after you ran into the side of the house?!"

"I did not run into the side of the house! I fell into a bush by the side of the house. I never even touched the house. And that was just a couple of times! Maybe three."

"Says you!"

C'mon, throw me the baby!"

"No! Ask that guy standing behind you!"

"You'd rather trust a complete stranger?!"

"Just ask him!"

"He says he's working."

"What do you mean, he's working? He's just standing there."

"He says he doesn't want to get involved until I drop the baby."

"He knows you?"

"No. He's a personal injury attorney."

"What's he doing here?"

"Waiting. He says if I drop the baby, he'll sue me on your behalf. You won't have to pay him a dime unless he wins. He seems pretty confident."

"What if you don't drop the baby?"

"Then he'll sue you for child endangerment. Or the fire department for not having special catch-the-baby training. He appears to be quite innovative."

"You sure he doesn't know you?"

"Well, he says we're all family, but I never saw him before in my life and he sounds like he's from New Jersey."

At this point, of course, the fire department arrives with a ladder, and quickly rescues woman and infant, thereby sparing the child the probability of continuing through life with irreparable brain damage. Deprived of recognition as a hero, I am approached by the personal injury attorney who suggests that I seem to have suffered considerable emotional distress. We then go off together for a cup of coffee to discuss how somebody else's money can help to make me whole again. I've known the guy for three minutes and he's already starting to feel like family.

The End

Jim Hallas

Rivereast Hours of Operation

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

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Vote No To EH Budget

To the Editor:

Every year we are faced with a budget crisis in East Hampton and this year is no different.

The Board of Ed wants more money than last year as always. As outlined in an article written by Ted Hintz Jr., we have a minimum education budget statute here in Connecticut. I'm asking voters to reject the current budget and ask that the Board Of Education re-examine their budget and make the necessary cuts without the threat of cutting athletics and other important programs. If East Haddam can do it we can also.

Respectfully,

Michael Pepin - Middle Haddam

Dementia Talks, We Listen #60

To the Editor:

Update for you, the physical therapist has recommended that mom use a walker. This has been an adjustment. Initially mom was a speed-demon, hustling with the walker out in front of her. Another family member mentioned that is what her mom did as well, so it's not unusual.

Thankfully after several days, seems the walker is now an accepted part of her life.

Now to the other thing that happened.

"The" GI bug hit the community; mom caught it and was confined to her room. Not knowing how long this would last, I stayed with mom during the day. She was slow at kicking the virus, likely not unusual based on her circumstances.

This bug was harder to navigate than COVID back in March. Everything seemed to take longer and mom was in no condition to get up and move around the room. I was able to get a suet feeder up outside her window and we did a fair amount of bird watching; we did puzzles, talked, looked at photo albums and read books.

Mom should have been put on a bland diet immediately, but it took a couple of days, and intervention by myself and the CNAs, to ensure mom had the right type of food. Bananas are much better than french-fries in this situation - just saying.

Then of course as luck would have it, I came down with the bug and wasn't able to be with mom her last 2 days of isolation. This broke my heart, as mom was left in her room alone except for bathroom breaks and when meals arrived. There were 3 'slides' out of the chair as a result because mom was very antsy and wanted to "get" things that were just out of reach. Since she isn't able to fully stand up on her own, she tried to move her chair to where she wanted to go - which landed her butt first on the floor.

To land the plane, the reality of any type of contagion in a managed care community - well just sucks and all we can do is make the best of the situation and advocate for our loved one. One of the things that we can do is have a contract with a home-care agency to provide on-demand care in these types of situations. This would've helped in mom's last two days in isolation. Forever learning...

Wishing you well, and know you are not alone.

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

Enough Is Enough

To the Editor:

It is that time of year again where residents will vote to approve or deny budget increases submitted by the Town and the BOE. This is a challenging time for taxpayers considering personal budgets are maxed out with groceries and utilities to name a couple. With no relief in sight.

Impact on our personal budgets rarely seems to be a factor in the Town or BOE's requests for more funding from taxpayers. It is time for both to learn to do more with less, as taxpayers must do every day.

A little savings daily adds up to large annual savings and that common sense approach seems to be lost on those spending taxpayers' money.

Vote no and send the message - enough is enough.

Bridget McLennan - East Hampton

Common Budget Sense

To the Editor:

East Hampton goes to the polls on Tuesday to vote on the budgets for the upcoming fiscal year. I encourage everyone to vote yes on all three measures: the town budget, the education budget, and repaving the middle school parking lot.

The town council has worked cooperatively with the Boards of Education and Finance to craft spending plans that make prudent investments without significant increases. The

respective members consider and listen to the needs of all East Hampton residents.

The process isn't perfect and disagreements are inevitable, especially in a year with extenuating circumstances such as revaluation.

The proposed plans are solid and will adequately fund our most important assets, such as our schools, our public safety, the lake, and services to seniors. In a year when towns across the state are proposing huge increases, the East Hampton proposals are

modest. They do not ask for any more than what is needed for the community.

I consider school funding to be an investment in East Hampton's future. Today's students are the taxpayers and homeowners of tomorrow. They need our guidance and support to become contributing citizens. They also need teachers who prepare students with the skills and knowledge they will need in college, the military, the workforce, and the community.

The budgets will support student achievement and help retain the excellent educators we have in East Hampton schools. The spending plans promote smart community

growth and address some pressing needs, such as the middle school parking lot.

The budget proposals are common sense plans for East Hampton and continue the progress we have made. I am voting yes on Tuesday, and I hope you will too.

Sincerely,

Jack Solomon - East Hampton

Note: Solomon is a member of the Town Council but is writing as an individual.

RIVEREAST

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

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Two Choices

To the Editor:
We are living in times of extraordinary uncertainty. Throughout Connecticut, towns are facing extremely difficult budget decisions. East Hampton is no exception. In these challenging times, the cost of everything is rising. Personal expenses such as food, housing, utilities, and medical care are increasing, as are our taxes to cover the higher cost of education, public safety and government services.

When creating a budget, local leaders have two choices. They can choose an arbitrary line in the sand and eliminate services to reach a prescribed number, often to the detriment of our children's education and our community as a whole. Alternatively, they can continuously work to find ways to decrease costs, to advocate for changes in the system at the state level, and to put forth a carefully crafted budget that makes some sacrifices while still maintaining the integrity of our schools and our town, helping this community to thrive, both now and in the future. The Board of Education has made a faithful effort to do the latter through health insurance adjustments, reallocation of resources, in-district special education services, energy conservation efforts, shared services with the town, just to name a few.

The education budget was carefully crafted by experienced administrators and meticulously reviewed by Board members. Administrators' expertise lies in understanding state mandates and federal laws, professional certification requirements, the fact that the minimum budget requirement is a fiscal guardrail and not the actual operational cost of running a district, and most importantly, the needs of our children. While we should all be questioning the use of our tax dollars, we should also be listening to the professionals who understand the complexities of our education system.

As individuals, we work hard each day to do what is best for ourselves and our families. As citizens, we are responsible for fostering growth and progress within our community, and that cannot happen without investment. Economic difficulties and inflation are real. Schools and local government are not immune to these challenges and rising costs. But growth and progress cannot happen in our education system, and our community, when we are forced to reduce staff and programming across departments. In fact, we can't even maintain the status quo. In-

stead, we risk significant steps backwards.
Please join me in supporting our senior citizens, our first responders, our children and this community. Vote YES on both the town and education budgets on June 2.

Nancy Kohler - East Hampton

Note: Kohler is a member of the Board of Education but is writing as an individual.

Thank you!

To the Editor:
The Marlborough Preservation Society and the Committee on Marlborough's American 250 Celebration would like to thank our local sponsors and contributors who are helping to make Marlborough's 250 Celebration possible!

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Thank you!! For more information about our sponsors and Marlborough's American 250 Celebration events, please visit our website at www.marlboroughhistory.org

**Romano Ghirlanda, MSHP
Marlborough Preservation Society**

Vote No!

To the Editor:
Residents should look closely at our enrollment numbers and town spending.

Our schools are down approximately 151 students from the end of the 2024 school year through May 2026, and enrollment continues to decline. With fewer students, we should be discussing ways to reduce and manage spending instead of continuing to raise the budget each year.

East Hampton is a small town, not a city. We should be operating within our means and using fiscal responsibility to manage existing resources before asking residents to pay more in taxes year after year. The town has already operated without the positions currently being requested and should continue to do so.

I encourage you to carefully consider the long-term impact on all taxpayers.

Vote No!

Rebecca Harvey - East Hampton

Yes, Yes, Yes

To the Editor:
On Tuesday, June 2, please go to the town hall and vote YES to the three questions. YES to the general government, YES to the BOE, and YES to the reconstruction of the middle school parking lots in conjunction with the paving of Childs road. These budgets were well thought out by some of the best financial advisors in the world, who happen to live right here in town. The investment in infrastructure and education will continue to make Belltown the best it can be. Join me in voting YES, YES, YES!!! Thank you.

Rick Wanat - East Hampton

Flags, Flags, Flags!

To the Editor:
Did people in Marlborough see something patriotic happening on Saturday, May 23, and Sunday, May 24, in the center of town while it was raining? On Saturday, two Marlborough residents began the process of lining the Memorial Day Parade route with American flags. Each flag was precisely the same distance from the street and from the next flag giving an orderly appearance to the display. Deb Bourbeau (Marlborough's America 250 Committee) and Joe Asklar (Fire Marshall) installed the flags from the intersection of School Drive on South Main to Rt 66. Lending a hand for part of this process were two polite young men, Jake and Daniel.

On Sunday, Asklar and Bourbeau finished

the South Main portion before heading to the North Main/Jones Hollow Rd. section to install more flags. They were joined by other helpers to finish the project. These helpers were Kris Hudock and Terry Parker from the Cemetery Committee (who donated the flags), Jeremy Billel and son Caleb from the Boy Scouts, Alan Laliberte from the Fire Commission, Christi Moraga and Louise Concodello from the Marlborough America 250 Committee, and Dylan Machowski. The process was extremely efficient: measure, drill, install; measure, drill, install. Hundreds of flags were installed!

It is the hope that during this particular year, the 250th birthday of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, that these flags will be a reminder of the sacrifices so many have made on behalf of us all to live in freedom. Thanks to all who participated, and thanks to our residents for appreciating the display and its meaning.

Thank you!
**Respectfully,
Deb Bourbeau and Joe Asklar - Marlborough**

Here We Go Again

To the Editor:
Mark Twain once said, "History doesn't repeat itself, but it often rhymes." This story begins 106 years ago in 1920, when my then-16-year-old great-grandmother, Julia Hull Winner, wrote an opinion piece for her local newspaper calling on the citizens of her town to "Wake Up." Julia later wrote a book about Belva Lockwood,
See Letters, page 6

Members of the public are invited to

**CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION**

VIRTUAL PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

**State Project No. 0172-0541
Eastern Connecticut Accessible Pedestrian Signal Upgrades**

Monday, June 1, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

Learn More & Register: portal.ct.gov/DOTEasternCT0172-0541

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

Meeting accessibility and traffic control requirements, these features are expected to enhance pedestrian usage at traffic signals and is intended to reduce crashes between pedestrians and vehicles.

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

Construction is expected to start in spring 2028, depending on funding, right-of-way acquisition, and permits. The estimated cost is \$6 million, with 90% federal funds and 10% state funds.

The public can submit comments and questions during two-week public comment period following meeting. Direct comments and questions by Monday, June 15, 2026, to Balazs Szoke at DOTProject0172-0541@ct.gov or 860-594-2020.

ACCESSIBILITY

Non-English language closed captioning will be available on Zoom. The recording will also be posted following the meeting in CTDOT's public meeting playlist at portal.ct.gov/ctdotVPIMarchive.

For audio access, call 877-853-5257 with Meeting ID 852 7784 2505. Project information can be mailed within one week by contacting Balazs Szoke at DOTProject0172-0541@ct.gov or 860-594-2745.

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

The "East of the River" Real Estate Report

How Appraisals Affect Your Sale

One of the most important — and sometimes stressful — parts of a real estate transaction happens after a seller accepts an offer: the appraisal. When a buyer is obtaining financing, the lender typically orders an appraisal to determine whether the home supports the agreed-upon purchase price. The appraiser's job is to evaluate the property and compare it to recent sales of similar homes in the area. Factors such as square footage, condition, updates, lot size, location, and recent comparable sales all influence the final opinion of value. If the appraisal comes in at or above the contract price, the transaction usually continues moving forward without issue. But when the appraisal comes in low, things can become more complicated. A low appraisal means the lender may not finance the full contract price. At that point, buyers and sellers typically have several options. The buyer may choose to bring additional cash to closing to make up the difference. The seller may agree to reduce the price. Sometimes both parties negotiate a compromise somewhere in the middle. In other situations, the deal may fall apart entirely. This becomes especially important in competitive markets where homes are receiving multiple offers above asking price. Just because buyers are willing to pay a certain amount does not automatically mean the appraisal will support it. That is why factors such as down payment, appraisal gap coverage, and financing strength often matter when sellers evaluate offers. Appraisals can also affect timing. If value is disputed, buyers may request reconsiderations or additional review from the lender, which can create delays in the closing process. For sellers, the key takeaway is this: the highest offer is not always the safest offer. Understanding appraisal risk — especially in fast-moving markets — is an important part of evaluating the overall strength of a transaction. In today's market, pricing strategy and offer structure matter just as much as the final number on paper.

Market Snapshot – Past Week

<p>Hebron, Andover, Marlborough, Colchester, East Hampton & Portland Single-Family Homes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 homes sold • Average sale price: \$415,000 • Average sale-to-list ratio: 106% • Average days on market: 19 days • Median days on market: 19 days 	<p>Condos</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 sold at an average of \$398,000 • Sale-to-list ratio: 105% • Days on market: 5 days <p><i>Results vary by price point, condition, and pricing strategy.</i></p>
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★ *Letters, cont. from page 5*

the first woman admitted to practice before the Supreme Court and the first woman to appear on a presidential ballot. Ironically, when the book was presented as a commemorative gift at an awards ceremony, Julia herself was not invited. She responded with righteous indignation, asking whether a male author would have been treated the same way. She was a Quaker descended from a family that believed deeply in hard work, education, and social activism.

Julia's piece in 1920 could have been written today. She scolded the town's elders, asserting, "Your alarm clock must have stopped. This is not meant for all Gasport but for the old 'fogies' who are retired farmers and are afraid of spending a cent on anything that does not make direct returns to them and the parents whose children are too young to attend school..." She went on to argue that too many of the taxpayers objected to school funding because they were "too stingy." She closed with, "Making 'our school' the best school may not mean anything to you, but what is there to live for if not to be of some benefit to someone beside yourself?" What a timeless call to action from my great-grandmother.

I share her righteous indignation because, 106 years later, we are still watching adults place their own immediate interests above the future of their children and communities. Last Wednesday's budget defeat in Colchester was a vote against education, and it places our community at a critical juncture. There is no fat in the school budget, and every dollar cut from the proposed budget will have real negative impacts on our children, from increased class sizes to deeper cuts affecting world language, the middle school team system, deferred maintenance, and special education. The world is growing more complex — cutting school budgets now will only deepen the challenges our children face when they graduate.

We need every parent, grandparent, and neighbor who believes in these kids to pack the upcoming board of finance and education meetings — and then vote like their future depends on it, because it does.

Jeremy M. McKenzie – Colchester

Vote No

To the Editor:

Unless you can afford to pay more taxes, please join me in voting NO to higher taxes on Tuesday, June 2 at the East Hampton Town Hall.

Melissa Engel - East Hampton
Business Owner

Re-allocate Current Staff

To the Editor:

I attended the East Hampton town Board of Education budget presentation and their workshop. There was little to no discussion regarding potential budget savings due to declining school enrollments, yet there was a very pointed discussion highlighting a projected rise in the kindergarten enrollment driving the need to support an additional teaching position. It would seem to make better fiscal sense to re-allocate current staff and resources.

Gloria Standish - East Hampton

Vote Yes on June 2

To the Editor:

Did you know how much the education budget costs our town per day, or per school day? I know I didn't because I couldn't think of a more irrelevant budget statistic if I tried. Speaking of, I'd like all those arguing a budget cut only means less money than last year, to explain that to the teachers and paras that get cut from employment when the amount of budgeted money will no longer cover their salary, and they have to explain to their families they need to seek new employment. Never mind having to explain that to students who may lose their favorite teacher, or the para that worked with them one on one to help them understand the classwork, and now the time can't be devoted for them to understand. I hope you'll join me in voting yes for the very reasonable, status quo budgets with the smallest percentage increase of all the area towns on June 2.

Paul Wisniewski - East Hampton

Preservation in Action

To the Editor:

Cemeteries are serene fixtures in every community, preserving the memories of those who came before us. Their tranquil character reflects the eternal peace of the deceased, while the headstones stand defiantly against time with a singular purpose: to preserve memory, love, and history.

Despite their quiet and unassuming nature, cemeteries require ongoing care to protect the stories and memories they contain. Recently, the Town of Marlborough has undertaken efforts to better preserve its cemeteries through surveys, documentation, and careful cleaning.

During a recent survey of Jones Hollow Cemetery, a misplaced headstone was discovered. The stone was not merely in the wrong plot, but in the wrong cemetery entirely. By referenc-

ing historic church records, along with Charles Hale's 1930s Work Progress Administration (WPA) cemetery inscription surveys, it was confirmed that the stone rightfully belonged in Century Cemetery. Although the mistake has now been corrected, the mystery remains: how did a headstone end up three miles from its original resting place?

Cleaning efforts have also led to meaningful discoveries, though less dramatic than a misplaced headstone. Through careful restoration, motifs of ivy and oak have reemerged, along with epitaphs ranging from personalized farewells to Biblical verses long obscured by time and weather. To date, every marble monument in Marlboro Cemetery has been cleaned. Additionally, efforts have been made to uncover flush markers, an important step in properly memorializing veterans whose markers were at risk of being lost beneath overgrown turf.

The Town of Marlborough's continued preservation efforts aim not only to safeguard the memories of those interred there, but also to restore the cemeteries' original character and historical beauty.

Zuri Lane-Griffore - Marlborough Sexton

No More Excuses

To the Editor:

The long-awaited Colchester Board of Education forensic audit was released on referendum day. Just in time for transparency, apparently.

I was not a fan of former Superintendent Dan Sullivan. I wanted him fired.

But the forensic audit forces an uncomfortable conclusion: firing Sullivan for cause may have been much harder than I wanted to believe.

Why? Because the audit does not show a superintendent quietly hiding the health insurance reserve crisis from everyone until it exploded. It shows something more troubling for the public: elected officials were warned, privately, in the spring of 2025 that the BOE was not fully funding health insurance based on the town's own outside consultant's projections.

According to the audit, Sullivan said he told others in 2025 that the BOE was not using the full health insurance cost projections in prior budgets. The report also says spring 2025 discussions involved Sullivan, First Selectman Bernie Dennler, BOE Vice Chair Chris Rivers, and Board of Finance member Jillian Vinci.

That matters.

If Sullivan was privately telling elected officials the health reserve was being underfunded, then those elected officials cannot now pretend

they were blindsided. They had a duty to act. They had a duty to ask questions in public. They had a duty to protect taxpayers before the reserve was nearly drained. A joint reserve means joint responsibility. The public deserved warning.

This does not excuse Sullivan. But accountability cannot stop with the man who already left.

The audit already tells us enough. The health reserve was underfunded. Warnings existed. Key officials knew or should have known. The public was not told the full truth.

And yet the audit still has major gaps and glosses over the full history. It did not even interview former Board of Education Chair Donna Antonacci, who has since been appointed to the Board of Finance. Who thought it made sense to appoint the former BOE Chair from the period of this failure to a board responsible for financial oversight? Where is her accountability? Where is the accountability for officials who received warnings and failed to bring this crisis into the open?

Colchester does not need more gaslighting. It needs accountability. No more excuses.

Michael Dubreuil - Colchester

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

Colchester Voters Must Pass Our Proposed Budget!

To the Editor:

If we don't pass our proposed budget and a bunch of our BOE and BOF elected officials are in fear of not being re-elected next election, due to their poor past performance and they quit their jobs, where are we going to get \$500,000 for each one as severance pay? This could cost our taxpayers millions of dollars. This is our top concern.

Frank Blume - Colchester

Note: I am a responsible citizen but speaking as a politician.

An Audit's Story

To the Editor:

After fully reviewing the recently released forensic audit report, some things have become painfully clear.

First, we now know the Health Insurance Reserve Account was purposefully underfunded by Superintendent Sullivan and the school's Finance Director in order to keep the school budget artificially lower. Any talk about a "misapplication of a funding formula" was not an honest mistake. It was deliberate.

Second, Sullivan used Health Reserve equations and line items as a dumping ground for completely unrelated funds in order to fudge budget numbers. The most unbelievable part is he apparently was not shy about doing either. He told people. Openly.

In April 2025, more than a year ago, Sullivan informed a meeting that included Board of Finance member Jillian Vinci and Board of Education Vice Chairman Chris Rivers that he was underfunding the Health Reserve in order to keep budgets lower. No secrecy. No cover story. Just blunt honesty, which is ironic considering how little honesty the public received afterward.

First Selectman Bernie Dennler has openly stated, both in the report and at Town Meeting, that he knew around that same timeframe as well.

What do all three public officials have in common? Not one forced a change. Not one informed the public.

Jillian Vinci, by her own description, is an insurance expert. She knew the reserve was intentionally being underfunded and did nothing? No public warning, no Board of Finance agenda item, nothing.

Chris Rivers, somehow, claimed he "didn't know what he was looking at." For someone who has spent years on the Board of Education, served as Vice Chair, and wrote a book on economics, that is an incredulous admission.

And then there's Bernie Dennler. Yes, he lacks authority over the BOE. But the idea that the First Selectman had no ability to raise alarms or pressure anyone to act is absurd. He is an ex-officio member of the Board of Finance after all. He sounds like the lookout who saw the iceberg coming and, after the Titanic sank, floated away yelling, "What was I supposed to do? I wasn't the captain."

The forensic audit makes one thing undeniable: taxpayers were failed by elected officials and paid administrators alike. Their refusal to act cost this town millions.

At what point do these people stop being "just volunteers" and become accountable for the oath they swore to protect the interests of their constituents?

Jason LaChapelle - Colchester

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

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Enough Is Not Enough

To the Editor:
Why did the Budget NOT pass? One factor could be that in Feb there was a \$19 Million referendum for the athletic fields updates while there was a major short fall in the Health Insurance plans. The audit shows there were errors and malfeasance that occurred, that is in the past. But we can learn from that, that is when it comes to running a Town or a Board of Education all items in their budgets must be reviewed with serious intent to take proper actions. I believe in order to make the budgets pass in an efficient and effective manner in which it meets the needs of the community and allows a satisfactory running of the establishments there must be a complete review of each budget's line items anything above 5% should be taken into consideration for reduction.

Yes, there were several drafts for the budget and each time it was thought this is enough. Well apparently enough was not enough as both budgets did not pass. And so now more review and action must take place

I looked at the budget's line items - especially the BOE Budget and noticed many had 7% increases and several had 10% to 15% increases one had a more than a 70% increase that was a \$24,000 increase for one person. I don't know how that can be justified but certainly the BOE members should scrutinize that line item and ask themselves how and why that could happen. Although the Town budget line items are not as blatantly abusive, I am sure there are some line items that could be scrutinized, for instance an increase of more than 23% (\$25,000) for the 1st selectman's salary is not acceptable even if justified that he started with a lower than par salary. A 10% increase may be justified.

I am glad to see that the 1st selectman said it is time to listen to the community and he looks forward to their input. One way to get this input could be to set up a special hot line email, or placing suggestion boxes at town hall or on the green. I have now given my thoughts. Let's hope many others give their thoughts. I really want to see the budget pass but again, the goal should be budgets that meet the real needs of community while maintaining good government.

Ralph Bianco - Colchester

East Hampton Budget

To the Editor:
East Hampton does not have the tax base to support ongoing increases in funding education year after year without relying on homeowners. Our town does not have the company tax base to support such increases. The BOE should look at administrative staffing reductions as a means to cut costs. Also, make sure that you visit our town website to plug in your revaluation tax numbers to see your new annual tax amount effective in July. You may be astonished at the increase. Vote NO on the education budget.

Thanks,
Jim Radavich - East Hampton
Republican Board of Finance Member

Take a Lesson from Elon

To the Editor:
Elon Musk defines "The Algorithm" as a five step principle of SpaceX: make less dumb, delete, optimize, accelerate, automate. (WSJ 5/23) The Algorithm has propelled SpaceX to the stars and beyond. Musk realized to meet his goals he needed new and innovative ideas for less money.

I wish our East Hampton school system had a mind set to propel them to new heights with smarter ideas, delete where possible, optimize what they have, accelerate, and automate.

While serving on the Board of Finance every new idea was met with, "We can't do that," and excuses. How far do you think Musk would have gotten with a "we can't" attitude?

The superintendent is quoted as saying "give me a chance to do the work". I'd hope part of that work is to advance new money saving ideas to propel the students to the stars. If your attitude is we can't do it and that won't work nothing will change.

As Bob Yenker wrote in last week's River East, if there is a surplus and an infusion of new funds from the state, why are they asking for increased funding from the taxpayers?

Be less dumb, delete, optimize, innovate, try new ideas and maybe you'll be surprised at how far it will take you.

Vote No on tax increases to tell the BOE to be smarter.

Alannah Coshov - East Hampton

Vote No on all East Hampton Budgets

To the Editor:
I'm voting no on the town's operations budget, the Board of Education budget and the proposed parking lot paving project because the taxpayers desperately need relief. This year many of us are facing significant property tax increases due to a very unbalanced revaluation process. As an example, somehow my modest home, which needs significant repairs, is considered to be worth more than the island resort in the middle of the lake one of the East Hampton Town Council members owns. The revaluation needs to be audited, and perhaps the budgets in town do too.

Join me in voting NO on June 2 at the Town Hall.

Bryon Turner - East Hampton

Vote Yes

To the Editor:
As a mom to two kids in East Hampton Middle School, and the PTO Vice President, I have been involved, not just in my children's education, but in the whole school community. What my husband and I have experienced as parents, and what I have seen throughout the school leaves me in awe of our teachers and staff. The school has made measurable progress in academics, arts and music, athletics, and in the courses offered to our students.

We can't afford to abandon that progress through a failed budget referendum on June 2.

Looking back on the year at EHMS, as well as all our schools in the district, I am so proud to enroll my kids here. Listen to the band or chorus: teachers are maximizing our students' talents and helping them develop as true artists. I hope you had a chance to see productions like Willy Wonka, Beetlejuice Jr., or Mamma Mia! The kids nailed their performances and gave everyone something to truly enjoy.

At the middle school, the addition of the Family and Consumer Sciences courses has been a game changer. Yes, students are enjoying learning to cook, but they are also developing personal skills that they will utilize throughout their lifetimes.

As the budget proposal stands, we don't gain

anything new by voting yes. The positions we lost last year and the programs that were cut will not return. However, if we do not pass the budget, we risk deeper cuts with heavy impact across all our schools.

I want to see our progress continue and students continue to shine. I'll be voting yes on June 2, and I hope East Hampton will join me in passing the budget on the first try.

Sincerely,
Shelby Colwell - East Hampton

"Only" \$26 More

To the Editor:
This proposed increase is being discussed by some officials and town members as "only" about \$26 more per month for taxpayers. But residents know this is not just about one year or one increase. It is the compounded effect of budgets and property taxes rising year after year, with little acknowledgment of what that does to families trying to stay afloat in this town.

For many residents, this is not about one isolated increase. Over the last decade, taxes and budgets have continually trended upward. People on fixed incomes or carefully planned retirement budgets may have moved to East Hampton in a financially stable position, only to find the cost of remaining here becoming harder and harder to sustain.

At some point, we have to recognize that affordability is not a secondary concern. It is a primary need. When a household budget exceeds income, families do not simply say, "Oh well, this is important," and demand the bank hand them more money. They tighten their belts, cut costs, delay wants, and focus on just the essentials.

Our town government should not only reflect that same mindset, but also work toward avoiding increases rather than continually expecting them year after year.

Residents of East Hampton are not against schools, services, or a thriving community. We all want our town to succeed. But a thriving town also requires residents who can continue to afford living here. Asking taxpayers to absorb continual increases while dismissing concerns as selfish or short-sighted is unfair and out of

See Letters, page 8

Cost Savings at Hebron DPW

To the Editor:
The DPW Action Committee meeting on May 19 was full of positive developments for this vital project. The decision by the Town Council and the DPW Action Committee to investigate a reduced construction plan, focusing on the rebuilding of the DPW garage, maintenance building and salt shed, is a major step forward and offers the potential for tremendous cost savings. Setting these structures as priorities illustrates a clear awareness of the needs of the town as well as the need to keep the impact to the taxpayers as low as possible.

The new plans being created by Silver Petrucci + Associates will focus on the most important structures and leave the transfer station in its current configuration. This option will likely lead to a sizable reduction in the cost of site preparation and infrastructure. It also opens the door to a staggered phase of expenses that will allow the community to slowly absorb the costs. Once the immediate and critical needs of a new garage facility are met, the opportunity to reorganize the transfer station may become available in the future.

The DPW Action Committee is also exploring the potential of eliminating the animal control facility and engaging in a regional facility. This can be a significant savings in construction costs by eliminating one entire structure and a second septic system. An added benefit is that this may also lead to annual savings by the sharing of operating costs.

In addition to these two major offsets, the DPW Action Committee is getting closer to an agreement with the Town of Colchester to create a temporary transfer station for Hebron residents. The preliminary plans suggest Hebron residents will continue to be able to handle their own trash and recycling in the same fashion as we do today. Perhaps more importantly for the cost to taxpayers, Hebron DPW workers will also be able to handle the trash and recycling the same way as well. This will be a tremendous savings and eliminate the huge expense projected for outsourcing curbside waste pick up.

The DPW project is vital for the community and creating the most responsible plan has been the goal of the DPW Action Committee for many years now. These exciting new options clearly illustrate the desire of the DPW Action Committee and the Town Council to create the best DPW facility at the lowest possible cost.

Sincerely,
Kevin J. Tulimieri - Amston

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★ **Letters, cont. from page 7**

touch with the financial realities many families face.

It is time to seriously pursue cost reductions and spending priorities that reflect both the needs of the town and the ability of residents to sustain them. If town budget officials can continually return to taxpayers for additional funding, then taxpayers can certainly expect them to do the hard work of returning to the drawing board to find meaningful reductions. Let's bring this budget back to a more sustainable level.

VOTE NO on June 2.

Shannon Turner - East Hampton

East Hampton Residents Deserve Better

To the Editor:

There has been a tremendous focus of late on the Water Pollution Control Authority and the lack of transparency regarding the proposed expansion of the water treatment plant. Some have called for town leadership to be dismissed. Any evaluation of job performance should also include a more comprehensive review of other town issues hidden from the public's eye.

As a case in point, consider the following botched failure to maintain our published zoning requirements. In the fall of 2022, a large detached 2 bay garage was constructed on Terp Road. A call to the Building Department uncovers that no permit was taken out. A site visit shuts down completion of the project pending proper applications. Lo and behold, turns out there are setback violations. Variance was requested in 2023 and was denied. Next a modified building permit was submitted to reduce the structure size by 8 ft to conform with the setback requirement.

Fast forward to late 2024 when I inquired about the status of this issue and am told by the Land Use Department that there are "things in the works" to achieve compliance. Employee turnover within some of these departments next adds to the problem. Inquiry next made in September of 2025 and Land Use Department advised that the prior Building Official had stated that the structure size had been reduced. I advised that is not the case and am ultimately told that a three-year statute of limitations may preclude any further action on this structure.

The last chapter of this story involves the case file being sent to the Towns Attorney for review and determination of possible next steps in November of 2025. Numerous follow ups made

over the next few months and officially notified in May of 2026 that essentially the Town cannot proceed with any additional enforcement actions.

Is this really the best that we can do? Staffing turnover needs to be addressed in a timely manner with a clearer picture regarding the status of open issues for incoming staff. E-mail and phone call response times require vast improvements. Otherwise, situations like this become a waste of Town staff time, resources and ultimately results in resident frustration with Town Government. You can and must do better.

Guy Glaude - East Hampton

School Start Times & Importance of Sleep

To the Editor:

I believe school schedules should be pushed back, to benefit the needs of students' sleep. The American Academy of Sleep Medicine recommends that adolescence gets 8-10 hours of sleep each night. Yet statistics show that a majority of students aren't getting that amount of sleep they need. This isn't because of poor time management nor about screen time; during adolescence teenagers go through a biological shift in their circadian clocks that naturally delays sleep cycles. This makes an almost impossible schedule of balancing necessary sleep hours, with school and extracurricular activities.

Forcing students into early school start times combats their biological clocks, leading to academic disadvantages. Sleep deprivation hinders the ability for a student to be able to focus and learn. It also takes a toll physically. People who do not sleep enough may have a higher risk of coronary heart disease, stroke, and high blood pressure. When you sleep, a particular type of immune cell works harder, and without that proper amount of sleep, people are more likely to get colds or other infections. Our bodies use sleep to rebuild muscles, prevent infections, and help our brains work better, critical for students in growing bodies.

Also, shifting school start times will not only be beneficial to students' health, but it would also decrease absence rates. Schools across the nation have been adjusting their start times to align better with science, and the personal needs of students. I hope you highly consider pushing back start times, to benefit the needs and performance of students.

Sincerely,

Lily Koziol - Colchester

Think About It

To the Editor:

In last week's paper, every letter wanting to increase taxes was from a Democrat. Think about that.

Richard Brow - East Hampton

No More "It's Just..."

To the Editor:

From on high you often hear, "It's just X dollars more" a month or a year depending on how you pay your property tax. We have "it's just a burger and a beer a week" or "it's our children's future" or any other excuse for justifying the increased property tax year after year.

We have all had enough with the "it's just" every year. "Justs" add up and now the taxes are unaffordable for many Town residents. And what are we getting for these "justs?" Not much. So just vote NO and see what a difference your voice can make.

Alison Walck - East Hampton

Note: Walck is a member of the East Hampton Board of Finance.

A Vibrant Growing Community?

To the Editor:

The upcoming June 2 Budget Referendum not only establishes the 2026-2027 spending priorities but could change its perception as a very desirable place to reside. If you don't think so, look at the types and costs of new homes being built here. The Referendum is your opportunity to express approval or rejection of the next fiscal year spending plan for our General Government department operations (Administration & Finance, Health & Human Services, Public Works, Regulatory, Culture & Recreation) and Education for our children. To adopt the Budget, voter approval of the bifurcated budget questions, General Government and Board of Education, is required. To those opposed to public spending except for the most minimal of services, their outcry is usually to cut waste but rarely identify specific acceptable programs.

Many citizens have written Letters to the Editor, correcting Mr. Hintz's interpretation of the State Department of Education regulations concerning MBR (Minimum Budget Requirement) and local impact should significant reductions occur. (See Letters from Joan N. Scott & Katrina Ruggiero 5/2/26). I won't dwell on that, only to say if you follow Mr. Hintz and others such as Mr. Bryon Turner's recommendation of cutting the Board of Education Budget by upwards to \$2.6 million, East Hampton would be so severely impacted that such actions would destroy our excellent schools first and the rest of our town soon thereafter. Who would want to live in a dying community?

My family has a long history in East Hampton since first settled in the 1700s. My ancestors, as am I, were sensitive to the cost of property tax, but we have always been forward thinking. I write articles about East Hampton's past. That doesn't mean I want to live as they did then.

Please study the budget before casting your vote on June 2. Look at all the facts, ask questions and get truthful answers, especially the impact it will have on your family's future. Consider as some have pointed out, have the financial where-with-all to send their children to private schools. I applaud their success and their ability to make those decisions, but not at the expense of all the other children in our town. Obviously they believe Budgets could or should be cut reducing their taxes to make up for personal lifestyle decisions.

Dean Markham - Chairman East Hampton Town Council

Budgets

To the Editor:

Expenses can go up, expenses can go down. Expenses do not change the fact when a budget is higher than last year, there is a budget increase. Period.

Ray Zatorski - East Hampton

Three Questions. One Clear Answer: No

To the Editor:

One of the biggest misconceptions during budget season is the claim that questioning spending growth somehow means wanting cuts to services. That simply is not true. No one disputes that costs rise. Health insurance increases, fuel costs rise, contracts go up, and supplies become more expensive every year. The issue is not whether expenses increase. The issue is whether taxpayers should automatically be expected to fund every increase without government first examining priorities, efficiencies, and unnecessary spending.

Over the last two weeks, I have written about two important realities. First, increased expenses do not automatically justify increased budgets. If your household income stays the same while expenses rise, you have not taken a pay cut. Families make these decisions every day, delaying purchases, reducing less important spending, and prioritizing needs over wants. Government should not be exempt from making the same difficult decisions.

Ironically, one council member even suggested residents should consider cutting vacations, dining out, or streaming services in order to afford higher taxes. That completely misses the point. The question should not be how much more residents are willing to sacrifice to support government spending. The question should be what government is willing to sacrifice before asking taxpayers to give more.

Second, Connecticut's own laws recognize that budgets are not designed to increase forever. The state's Minimum Budget Requirement specifically allows flexibility under certain circumstances, including declining enrollment and operational efficiencies. Unfortunately, Democratic leadership continues to rely on the same playbook we saw last year: warnings that questioning spending growth will somehow lead to devastating consequences for services and our community. We heard the same claims then, and residents responded with one of the largest budget vote turnouts in recent memory to reject it. Apparently, that message has not yet been heard.

Now taxpayers are also being asked to approve additional spending for repaving the middle school parking lot. While maintenance matters, priorities matter more. Before adding new spending projects, we should first get our financial house in order. On June 2, make your voice heard. If you believe we need greater accountability, better prioritization, and a more responsible approach to spending, please join me in voting NO on all three budget questions.

Ted Hintz - East Hampton Town Councilor

More Debunked Myths

To the Editor:

We are days away from the June 2 East Hampton budget referendum. Let's debunk some more myths.

Student achievement doesn't justify education spending.

East Hampton students are succeeding in academics, arts, athletics, and citizenship. Assessment scores across the disciplines are well above state averages. We are finally approaching or exceeding the proficiency level before the COVID learning loss. Scores are rising steadily in language arts, math, and science across grades 3-8 in assessments.

Likewise, high school students exceed state levels on the SAT. We continue to see excellent enrollment in advanced placement and early college experience courses, with students earning transferrable credits. Our graduates are getting into their top choices for college or finding success in careers or service.

For some students, achievement is not about academics. Perhaps it's playing a role in a musical at Center, the Middle School, or the High School. Maybe it's earning a varsity letter. Anyone who attended a game, musical, or concert can tell you that East Hampton kids are shining.

Our schools need to do more with less. Exactly how much less? Educators are our most important asset, and they are working miracles in Belltown schools. They purchase their own supplies, make themselves available constantly to families, and build their own skillsets to become even better educators, even as the number of students in their classrooms

See Letters, page 28

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Trip to Lancaster

Zion Lutheran Church is sponsoring a five-day/four-night trip to Lancaster, Pa., Oct. 26-30, 2026 (Monday- Friday). Members of the public are invited to join them. The trip includes travel on a deluxe video-equipped Motorcoach with restroom, four dinners, four breakfasts, and four nights lodging in a single hotel.

Travelers will receive admission to the Sight and Sound Millennium Theater to experience their "JOSHUA"; a show at the Magic & Wonder Theater; the Amish Experience Fisher fam-

ily homestead and school; and Jacob's Choice at the F/X theater. Also included is a guided tour of Philadelphia; a guided tour of Lancaster; and a visit to the charming Kitchen Kettle Village.

Cost of this trip is only \$765 per person, double occupancy (\$934 pp single or \$745 pp triple occupancy). A \$75 deposit is due by June 27; with the balance due by August 19.

For details & reservations, please contact Barbara Shaw at (860) 262-3531.

Portland Fair Planning Underway

Planning is underway for this year's Portland Fair, which will return to its "new" location at Chris Cote's Driving Range on Oct. 2, 3 and 4.

Crafts and Community Tent: This year, the Crafts and Community Tent continues its theme of Reduce, Reuse and Recycle while leaning into celebrating America's 250th birthday. The popular Trashion Show will return on Friday night. Another retuning event is the Triple Crown of Baking held in partnership with the Guilford and Durham fairs. Melissa Kelley, chairperson for the tent, is seeking donations of leftover scrap fabrics for a community weaving project which will culminate in a banner for the tent.

Donations Welcome: The Friends of the Fair campaign continues through June 15. Dona-

tions of \$25 receive a two-day pass to the fair, while a \$40 donation receives a three-day pass. Support helps fair organizers continue to improve the grounds.

Chicken Barbecue: This third annual fundraiser will be held July 20 at Portland Riverfront Park. This event is being held in partnership with Portland Fish and Game Club. All are invited for dinner and musical entertainment. Tickets are \$30 for adults and \$10 for children.

Volunteers Wanted: Volunteers are always welcome. There are open positions for a volunteer coordinator and ribbons/trophies coordinator. If interested in volunteering, email info@portlandfair.com.

Portland Library News & Notes

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

Hours: Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m., - Friday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., - Saturday 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Special Closing: The library will be closed Friday, July 3 and Saturday July 4 for Independence Day.

Children's Programs: Drop-In Playdates: Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m., June 3-17. Kids birth to 5 years and their caregivers are invited to drop into the Wagner Room for some open play with library toys. No registration required.

Summer Reading Volunteer Training: Wednesday, June 10, 3:30 p.m., for students going into grades seven and up. Stop by the library or visit the teen page of the library website to sign up for the Summer Reading Volunteer program. Volunteers will not be able to sign up for volunteer shifts unless they have attended this or another mandatory training session.

Coming Soon! Cook Up an Adventure Summer Reading Program: Visit the library on or after June 22 to pick up your reading log, or visit the Summer Reading portal on the library website to track your reading electronically. Each day you read 20 minutes or more counts towards your summer reading goal. Earn prizes each time you reach five days.

Summer Reading Kickoff: Michael OJ: Wednesday, June 24, 6:30 p.m., at Portland Middle School auditorium. This is a family-friendly magic show featuring audience participation and comedy. Registration requested, but not required. Registration opens on Monday, June 1, at 10 a.m.

Tasty Tales: Mondays at 10:30 a.m. June 22, July 6, 13, 20, 27, Aug. 3. Come to the Mary Flood Room to enjoy stories, rhymes and songs about some favorite tasty treats. A craft project will be offered at the end of each program. Registration is required and begins Monday, June 1, at 10 a.m.

Cooking Around the World: For kids going into grades K-2. Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. June 24, July 8, 15, 22, 29, Aug. 5. Travel around the world as you learn about different cultures through cooking and crafts. Registration opens Monday, June 1, at 10 a.m.

Cooking Academy: For kids going into grades 3-5. Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. June 23, July 7, 14, 21, 28, Aug. 4. Take a new food-themed adventure each week, focused on science experiments, art projects, and cooking. Registration opens Monday, June 1, at 10 a.m.

Red, White and Blue Tye-Dyed Tees: For kids going into grades 6-up. Thursday, June 25, 3 p.m. Come to the library flagpole to tie-dye a red, white and blue T-shirt just in time for the Fourth of July, and then continue the celebration by decorating your own tie-dyed cupcakes. All materials will be supplied. Space is limited; registration opens Monday, June 1 at 10:00 a.m.

Adult Programs: Book Clubs: Talk About Books: Tuesday, June 2, 1 p.m. Three Days in June by Anne Tyler will be discussed. 1st Thursday Night Book Club: Thursday, June 4, 6:30 p.m. The Traitor's Wife by Allison Pataki will be discussed. Mystery Lovers Book Club: Tuesday,

June 9, 1 p.m. Murder Takes a Vacation by Laura Lippman will be discussed.

Movie: Wednesday, June 10, 1 p.m. The Housemaid (2025; rated R) will be shown. Run time is 131 minutes.

Adult Craft Night: Ribbon Flag: Wednesday, June 10, 6 p.m. Create an American flag out of ribbon to display in your home to celebrate America's 250th anniversary. Registration is open now. Space is limited.

Photo Exhibit Reception: Thursday, June 11, 5:30 p.m. This is a reception for "Three Decades of Change on Main Street, 2005, 2015, 2025," by Bob McDougall. Portland Public Library and the Portland Historical Society present the next chapter of Bob McDougall's panorama photography project, a four series visual journey, which includes 2,400 photographs. This exhibit is running from now through June 27.

Adult Summer Reading Program: Cook Up an Adventure: When you sign up for the 2026 Adult Summer Reading Program, you receive a coupon for a free book/books (up to \$2 in value) from the Friends' ongoing book sale & another coupon when you log 2,000 pages. On June 22 register for summer reading and start logging the pages you read. For every adult who joins the reading program and reads at least one book this summer (including audiobooks and graphic novels) the Friends of Portland Library will donate \$3 towards two musical instrument rental scholarships for the 2026-27 school year for two students at Brownstone Intermediate School.

Intergenerational Drumming Circle: Monday, June 22, 6:30 p.m. Gather on the Waverly Town Green for a West African-inspired drum circle led by Mark Zarrillo, knowledgeable in West African music, culture and with 40 years drumming wisdom. Drums will be supplied.

The Full Rise - Sourdough Bread Demonstration: Tuesday, June 23, 6 p.m. This educational presentation that walks through the basics - what sourdough is and how it works. Each participant will bring home a 20g sourdough starter, a starter care card and a classic sourdough recipe. Space is limited; registration opens Monday, June 1, at 10 a.m. This project is made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, administered by Connecticut State Library.

Adult Craft Night: Wire & Sea Glass Jewelry: Monday, June 29, 6 p.m. Local crafter Laurie-Lynne of Creative Girl Studios will teach different techniques to make wire wrapped sea glass jewelry. Each participant will leave with a completed pendant necklace. Registration opens Monday, June 1, at 10 a.m. Space is limited.

Weekly Knifty Knitters Group: Every Saturday, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Adults of all experience levels are welcome to drop in, share ideas, get helpful knitting tips and enjoy chatting with others who enjoy knitting and crocheting. Please note: There is no meeting May 30, as the library will be closed.

Museum Passes & Yard Games: Reservations recommended. Check out the latest on museums for art, nature, history, and fun. Go to the library website and click on Museum Passes or call to reserve a pass. Board games are available to be borrowed without reservation.



Carl Guild & Associates recently received the 2026 Business Growth & Expansion Award by the Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce.

Local Brokerage Receives Award

Carl Guild & Associates, a full-service real estate brokerage, has been named the recipient of the 2026 Business Growth & Expansion Award by the Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce.

The award was presented last week during the chamber's annual Small Business Awards Ceremony at Saint Clements Castle & Marina in Portland, where 12 area businesses were recognized as the chamber's 2026 Small Business Champions.

The Business Growth & Expansion Award recognizes companies that have demonstrated meaningful growth, market expansion, and continued investment in the communities they serve. Carl Guild & Associates was selected from a competitive field of Middlesex County businesses spotlighted for the innovation, hard work, and success driving Connecticut's local economy.

Under the leadership of Broker/Owner Carl Guild, the brokerage has expanded to four office locations in East Hampton, Colchester, Glastonbury and Middletown, with a team of more than

100 trained agents serving clients statewide. "It's an incredible honor to be recognized by the Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce alongside so many outstanding local businesses," said Guild. "This award belongs to every agent who shows up each day committed to our clients and to the communities we serve. Growth only matters when it gives us more ways to take care of people."

The Carl Guild & Associates Scholarship Program, which awards annual scholarships to graduating high school seniors across multiple local school districts. The company also supports a wide range of local charities, nonprofit organizations, youth programs, and community events throughout the towns it serves, and regularly hosts client appreciation events, community gatherings, and family-focused experiences.

"We're more than a real estate brokerage," Guild added. "We're neighbors, advocates, and active participants in the places we call home. That's the standard we hold ourselves to, and it's the standard our clients deserve."

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Elizabeth and Stephen Fengler 42nd Lions 'Round the Lake 5k

The May 24 running of the 41st Marlborough Lions 'Round the Lake 5K was a successful event with 115 registered runners. This year's overall winners were Stephen Fengler of Wallingford, who finished the race with a time of 17 minutes, 6.93 seconds and his sister, Elizabeth Fengler, also of Wallingford, who crossed the finish line with a time of 19 minutes, 54.71 seconds. They had a great turnout and spirits were high in spite of the rainy conditions.

The Marlborough Lions also wish to thank the Community Emergency Response Team

(CERT) members and our Marlborough Constable for providing on-site support for the runners as they traversed town roads. Together, they joined forces to make this year's event both safe and enjoyable.

For further information on how you can become a Marlborough Lions, please call Lions Club Secretary Ken Hjulstrom at 860-490-9116 or Lions Club President Jean Paul Bolduc at 860-798-2054. New members are always welcome.

Senior Center News and Notes

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

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

Events: FABBS Exercise: Flexibility, Agility, Better Balance and Strength workout class. Movement and exercises are drawn from body building, yoga, ballet and more. June session dates: 6/01, 6/15, 6/22, 6/29. 10:45-11:45 a.m. \$40/residents, \$48/non-residents. RSVP by 5/29.

Line Dancing Lessons: All levels welcomed, 55+. Learn step by step and a clap here and there with Instructor Aric of Sound Train Music. June Session 6/4, 6/11, 6/18, 6/28 5-7 p.m., June and July sessions to follow. \$50 Marlborough residents, \$60 non-Marlborough residents. RSVP by 6/1.

Free Art Classes: 6/3, 6/10, 6/17, 6/24 from 1:30-3:30 p.m. No experience or supplies needed. Students will create three landscapes and one seascape using painting, collage and assemblage techniques.

MES Band Practice: Wednesday, June 10, 10 a.m. Students from the fifth grade band will perform a practice show. Coffee will be served.

AHM Grandparent Class: Are you a new grandparent or feel out of touch with this generation? Come join the conversation on Friday June 12th at 11 a.m.

Lunch and Tour of the Residence at Glastonbury: June 16; call the senior center for more information. Transportation available.

Friendship Tours: Lighthouse Cruise: Aug. 12, \$156pp, 18+, open to all towns. Prior to cruise, enjoy brunch at Quonset 'O' Club. 10:15 a.m. departure, 7 p.m. return. RSVP by July 10.

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 Mondays and Tues-

days only. Rides must be reserved two business days in advance. Call 860-295-6209 for more information. Visit www.marlboroughct.gov for the complete transportation policy.

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 open to qualified residents in need.

Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program: Electronic benefit card, preloaded with \$40. For use at participating farmers markets to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables, eggs, honey, and fresh cut herbs. Use at the Marlborough Farmers Market starting June 3 and running every Wednesday after. For Marlborough residents only. Income limit: Household 1 - \$2,461/month, Household 2 - \$3,337

Renters Rebate: Rebates are available for renters age 65+ or disabled. Checks up to \$700 for singles and \$900 for couple. Rebate is based on a graduated income scale and the amount of rent and utility payments (excluding telephone) made in the calendar year prior to the year in which the renter applies. For more information call the assessor's office at 860-295-6201. For application assistance, call the senior center. Renter's Rebate runs through Sept. 30.

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.

New Class Offered at Marlborough Arts Center

The Marlborough Arts Center, located at 231 North Main Street, announced that Lori Neuman will be returning the afternoon of Sunday, June 28 to teach an acrylic painting class for all levels of students. This class will focus on combining brushwork, palette knife, and glazing to create transparent layers. The emphasis will be on painting sky and water.

Class cost is \$75 with all materials provided except for glazing material. Please go to MarlboroughArts.org and click on classes for more information on the class and how to register. To reach the center by phone, call 860-467-6353.

Dog Licenses Available at Town Hall

Dog licenses are now available in the Town Clerk's office. Please check and make sure your dog's rabies certificate is up to date as licenses cannot be issued without a current rabies certificate.

If you register your dogs between June 1 and June 15 and bring an item to donate to the Marlborough Food Bank, your pup(s) will be entered into a raffle for the number one dog tag. The town will draw the winner on June 16. There is one entry per dog.

Congregational Church News & Notes

Sunday Worship at Marlborough Congregational Church, located at 35 South Main St., is held at 10 a.m. The service is also broadcast live every Sunday at mcc.marlconchurch.org and recorded for later viewing. Church pastor is the Rev. Valerie Seaver. Childcare for infants and toddlers is provided downstairs in the nursery, but children are always welcome at the worship service. Sunday School will resume in September.

Sunday, May 30: Service will be led by Worship Assistant, Gwen Lawson. All are invited for refreshments and snacks in the Thienes Lounge following worship.

279th Annual Program Meeting: Sunday, June 7, in the meetinghouse at 11:15 a.m.

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

fee for spayed or neutered dogs is \$8 and \$19 for unaltered. You must license your dog before July 1 or a \$1 late fee will be added each month. If you choose to get your license through the mail, please include \$1.23 for postage, and make your check out to the Town of Marlborough.

The Town Clerk's hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday; 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Tuesday; and 8 a.m. to noon on Friday.

next church-sponsored Drive Thru Café, for Marlborough Food Bank clients and their families with tickets, will be May 31. Second-quarter mission-giving will go to the AHM Mental Health Fund.

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 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Follow the shop through Facebook at Second Blessings Thrift Shop, Marlborough for updates. The eBay shop is open year-round at <https://bit.ly/MCCebay>.

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

St. John Fisher Church News & Notes

St. John Fisher Roman Catholic Church is located at 30 Jones Hollow Rd. Pastor is the Rev. George S. Mukuka, Bill Gilles is deacon John McKaig is senior deacon retired. Heather Mancini is church secretary and can be reached at 860-295-0001; hours are Monday-Wednesday and Friday, 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. People are asked to call before heading over or connect at stjohnfisher30@yahoo.com. The church website is 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: Vacation Bible School will be Aug. 3-7, from 9 a.m.-noon daily. The theme is "Armour of God." Details may be found on the church website. Cindy Bryan, Eileen Gilles and Helena Thomas lead the programs for grades K-10, to include a high school youth group. Registration for the new academic year will be during the summer. Stay tuned on the church website with further information.

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. The annual church picnic is on Sunday, June 14, from noon-3 p.m.

Community Outreach and Service: The Community Giving Garden is starting up and meets Mondays at 5 p.m. The garden yields fresh produce delivered weekly to the Marlborough Food Bank. All May, the church is holding a baby shower to support Caring Families in Willimantic and a fundraiser supporting Birth-Right in East Hartford. On Saturday, June 6, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., the church will host a drive for Journey Home, where gently-used household goods, new bed pillows and gently used furniture are accepted for those who are transitioning to sustainable housing; see details on the church website. 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, or look for the church on Facebook (Saint John Fisher Roman Catholic Church).

Parks and Rec. Programs

Marlborough Parks & Recreation has announced the following. For full program descriptions or to register, visit www.marlboroughct.gov. For more information, call 860-295-6203.

Youth Programs: Netto Summer Day Camp: For grades K-7. June 22-Aug. 14, at Blish Park. Campers will enjoy camp games, arts & crafts, swimming, sports, field trips and special events. All campers are supervised by counselors and lifeguards trained in CPR/First Aid. Fee per week is \$185/resident, \$195/non-resident.

Swim Lessons: Begin the week of June 29. All lesson levels are offered. All lessons are held at Blish Park. Fee is \$65/resident, \$70/non-resident.

Lego - Radical Rides: June 23-27 at Marlborough Elementary School. Ages 5-7 are 8:30-11:30 a.m., and ages 7-12 are noon-3 p.m. Fee is \$155/resident, \$160/non-resident.

Safe Sitter: Saturday, June 27, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., at Marlborough Senior Center. Designed to prepare students in grades 6-8 to be safe when they're home alone, watching younger siblings or babysitting. Fee is \$140/resident, \$145/non-resident.

Skyhawks Basketball Camp: June 22-26, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., at MES. For boys and girls ages 7-12. Fee is \$185/resident, \$190/non-resident.

Skyhawks Camp (Soccer, Baseball and Basketball): June 29-July 2 at MES. Mini-Hawk, for ages 4-6, is 9 a.m.-noon, and Multi-Sport, for ages 7-10, is 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Fee is \$130/residents, \$135/non-residents.

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: Tuesdays, noon-12:45 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 2.

Pickleball: Mondays, 5:30-7:30 p.m., and Tues/Thurs, 9-11 a.m., at Blish Park. Open to all levels of play. Registration is free.

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, games and prizes on the bus. Fee is \$185 (400-level seating), or \$255 (lower-level seating). Bus picks up/drops off at Putnam park and ride in Glastonbury.

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Volunteer Opportunity to Run Food Bank

The Marlborough Food Bank is seeking a dedicated volunteer or volunteers to help support and run the Food Bank, which is a local nonprofit organization.

This position entails not only organizing food donations, stocking shelves, and distributing food to clients, but also ordering from Connecticut Food Share, enlisting student volunteers to assist the stable cadre of volunteers, and soliciting new volunteers as needed.

The Food Bank is open each Tuesday of the week and set up for clients takes place on Monday mornings. Some lifting of light to moderately heavy boxes may be necessary during the Monday set up.

For more information, contact David Pratt or Dawn Tavoleri via email at marlboroughfoodbank@comcast.net.

'Reenactment Day' on May 30

On Saturday morning, May 30, residents are invited to take a figurative walk back in time to meet more than half a dozen figures who lived in Marlborough.

This story tells about the town from Indigenous times to the present. You will join a walking tour that starts at the historic Congregational Church on South Main Street. You will meet your group in the Community Room of the church 20 minutes before starting time to participate in a mini-fair and to get a sticker in your Marlborough 250 Passport; if you don't have a Marlborough 250 Passport, more will be distributed.

RTC To Host Bingo

The Marlborough Republican Town Committee will host a night of bingo Friday, May 29, at the American Legion, 128 East Hampton Rd. Doors open at 6 p.m., and bingo starts at 6:30 p.m.

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

Tickets at the door are \$25.

For more information or to reserve your spots, call or text Zina at 860-798-6038.

There will be four timed tours, each guided, taking place at 10 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 11 a.m., and 11:30 a.m. Attendees may pre-register at marlboroughhistory.org/america-250-events or register at the door if space allows. Every tour visits all eight stations that include famous people such as Mary Hall, the first woman attorney of Connecticut, and members of the Buell family. You will hear an ancient drum and watch a musket shot.

The tour meanders from the church to the cemetery, the library and back to the church for a short car trip to Lake Terramuggus to learn about the Wangunks, who lived in the region before colonial times.

This interactive walk uncovers how Marlborough struggled to become a town, how its people lived through war and change, and how the community rebuilt and renewed itself.

Arts Center Spring Show

Marlborough Arts Center (MAC) will hold its Members' Spring Art Show Saturdays and Sundays through May 31, from 1-4 p.m. each day.

This exhibition showcases works by MAC member artists, featuring paintings, collages, photography, sculpture, ceramics, written works, and more. Marlborough Arts Center is located at 231 North Main St.

For more information, visit www.marlborougharts.org, email info@marlborougharts.org or call 860-467-6353.

Closed for Renovations

The Marlborough tax collector's office will be closed for renovations through May 29.

Payments by check (no cash) can be dropped in the black box outside the Town Hall or paid online at www.marlboroughct.gov.

Marlborough Farmers Market

Zina's Cucina is hosting the Marlborough Farmer's Market every Wednesday starting June 3-Oct. 14, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Attendees can expect live music and artisanal goods such as goat milk soaps, fresh fruits and vegetables, baked goods, a variety of crafts and more.

The market will be held on the Marlborough Town Green, and the first 100 shoppers will receive a free Marlborough Farmers tote bag. Produce farms selling at the market will also be accepting WIC and senior vouchers.

Arts Center Members' Potluck

Marlborough Arts Center will hold its annual members' potluck gathering on Sunday, May 31, from 1-4 p.m.

This will be a celebration of art, creativity, and connection. The People's Choice Award will also be presented. Also, May 31st is the last day of the Members' Spring Art Show & Sale.

Marlborough Arts Center is located at 231 N. Main St. For more information go to www.marlborougharts.org, call 860-467-6353, or email info@marlborougharts.org.



Linda Gotta

Art Display at Town Hall

Marlborough Arts Center announces Linda Gotta's solo art exhibit at the Marlborough Town Hall. The exhibit runs from now through the end of July.

Gotta's mother was an artist, and her father was a builder. For the past two and a half decades, she has dedicated her life to the art of pastel painting, although she has also explored working in watercolor and acrylic.

Gotta's compositions often feature landscapes of farms, beaches, and woodlands, as well as intimate views of flowers, animals, and birds. Light and shadow play a pivotal role in her compositions.

Throughout her artistic career, Gotta has actively sought to enhance her skills and knowledge through workshops and classes. Her work has garnered recognition and accolades, including the prestigious "Best in Show" award from the Connecticut Pastel Society for her painting

titled "On the Ridge." Additionally, she received the "Best Floral" award from the SCAA members' show for her work titled "Meadow."

Gotta was also selected for the spring 2020 *Pastel Journal* magazine's "Pastel 100" list for her abstract painting titled "Timber."

Marlborough Arts Center presents three-month solo exhibitions for member artists in the Town Hall's hallway. For inquiries regarding Gotta's paintings, contact Lazzari in the Town Hall's tax collector's office or call Marlborough Arts Center at 860-467-6353 or email info@marlborougharts.org.

Additionally, several of Gotta's paintings are currently on exhibit at Marlborough Arts Center through the end of May.



Honor Society Inductee... Gregory Jordan of Marlborough was recently inducted into the Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society at the University of Connecticut. He is finishing up his junior year at the Storrs campus, where he holds a 4.0 average. He has been awarded multiple certificates for outstanding achievement in math and physics and has been recognized as a Babbidge Scholar twice. Jordan went to Marlborough Elementary School, RHAM Middle School, and RHAM High School.

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Civilian Conservation Corps children, whose fathers worked in CCC camps during the 1930s, are shown raising the flag at the Historical Museum of the CCC in Stafford Springs. The museum will be the site for a CCC Reunion on Monday, May 25, at 1 p.m. All are welcome to attend. Photo by Marty Podskoch

Celebration, Reunion of Civilian Conservation Corps

On Monday, May 25, a reunion of Civilian Conservation Corps alumni, family and friends will meet at 1 p.m. at the Historical Museum of the CCC at 166 Chestnut Hill Rd. (Route 190) in Stafford Springs.

The reunion will celebrate the 93rd anniversary of the founding of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) by sharing their stories, pictures and memorabilia of the CCC camps. Two of the camps had been in East Hampton, and one in Portland.

All who are interested in the CCC are welcome to attend. Refreshments will be served.

The CCC began March 31, 1933 under President Franklin Roosevelt's "New Deal" to relieve the poverty and unemployment of the Depression. The U.S. Army supervised the camps, which had approximately 200 men each. The first year, 13 camps were set up in these Connecticut towns, state parks and forests: West Cornwall, Housatonic Meadows; Niantic, Military Reservation; Hampton, Natchaug; Haddam, Cockaponset; Union, Nipmuck; New Fairfield, Squantz Pond; Cobalt, Meshomasic; Voluntown, Pachaug; Thomaston, Black Rock; East Hartland, Tunxis; West Goshen, Mohawk; Clinton, Cockaponset; and Burrville, Paugnut. The Army Government Dock in New London was the supply depot for all the Connecticut camps.

In the following years these eight camps were added: Riverton, American Legion State Forest; East Hampton, Salmon River; Danbury, Wooster Mountain; Stafford Springs, Shenipsit; Portland, Meshomasic; Windsor/Poquonock, Experiment

Station Land; Kent, Macedonia Brook, and Madison, Cockaponset.

Single and unemployed men age 18-25 (with fathers on relief) enrolled for six months and worked a 40-hour week for \$30/mo. The gov. sent \$25 a month home to their parents and the boys had five dollars spending money. Enrollees received food, uniforms, shelter, and medical care. During the summer of 1933 they lived in tents; later, they moved into wooden buildings.

Workers built trails, roads, campsites, & dams, stocked fish, built & maintained fire tower observer's cabins & telephone lines, fought fires, & planted millions of trees.

The CCC disbanded in 1942 due to the need for men in World War II.

At the May 25 reunion, Marty Podskoch, author of *Connecticut Civilian Conservation Corps Camps: Its History, Memories and Legacy of the CCC*, will give a brief history of the CCC camps in Connecticut. Then CCC alumni, family and friends will share their stories of their CCC camps, both in Connecticut as well as other states. Families will receive a copy of Podskoch's Connecticut or Rhode Island CCC book. Refreshments will be served.

After the May 25 reunion, the museum will be open every Saturday and Sunday during the spring and summer, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. each week, until Columbus Day weekend, Monday Oct. 12.

For further information, contact Podskoch at 860-267-2442 or podskoch@comcast.net, or visit www.martinpodskoch.com.

Belltown Spring Sprint

The Belltown Spring Sprint 2M Run & Walk is scheduled for Tuesday, June 2, at East Hampton High School on North Maple Street.

Onsite registration and check-in open at 5:30 p.m. followed shortly by the Kids Race on the high school track at 5:45 p.m. The main two-mile walk and run kicks off at 6:15 p.m., taking participants through the flat neighborhoods surrounding the school.

This annual event helps raise funds for the East Hampton High School Project Graduation to provide a safe, substance-free celebration for graduating seniors.

To sign up or for more information, visit runsignup.com/Race/CT/EastHampton/EastHampton5K. The first 100 people to register for the two-mile event will receive a free pair of custom socks.

Bevin Bells to Host Open House Factory Tour

Bevin Bros., America's only dedicated bell manufacturer, will welcome the community for an open house factory tour on Saturday, June 20, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at its East Hampton facility, located at 17 Watrous Street.

The event will give visitors a behind-the-scenes look at the craftsmanship, equipment, and people behind Bevin's historic American-made bells. Founded in 1832 and now in its sixth generation of family ownership, Bevin Bros. continues to manufacture bells in East

Hampton, a town long known as "Belltown."

Guests will have the opportunity to tour the factory floor, learn about the bell-making process, meet members of the Bevin team, and see how traditional manufacturing techniques continue to support modern products, custom work, and American-made craftsmanship.

The open house will include guided tours, product demonstrations, and a Q&A with staff. Admission is free, and attendees do not need to register in advance.

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.

Fee is \$775 per child; additional children in a family are \$725. Scholarships are available for

families with demonstrated financial need.

In Summer Theater Camp, mornings are devoted to skill-building workshops, and afternoons are dedicated to rehearsals for the camp's mainstage production - which this year will be Disney's hit musical *Frozen*.

For more information or to register, visit www.yppca.org or email info@ypcca.org.

Artwork Sought for Display

The East Hampton Arts & Culture Commission is seeking to purchase an original piece of artwork by a local East Hampton artist for permanent display at the East Hampton Senior Center.

The commission is looking for a vibrant, welcoming wall piece approximately 18" x 24" in size that will bring warmth, color, and visual interest to the senior center space. Artists are encouraged to submit colorful and uplifting works such as still lifes, abstract pieces, collage, mixed media, or other framed wall art suitable for public display.

As part of its mission to promote local art and

support East Hampton's artistic community, the Arts & Culture Commission is proud to provide opportunities for local artists to share their work in public spaces throughout town.

The selected piece should arrive professionally matted and framed and ready for hanging. The Arts & Culture Commission will pay up to \$300 for the artwork.

Local artists interested in being considered may submit images of available work, along with dimensions, medium, and pricing information, to the town manager's office via email at csiros@easthamptonct.gov. All submissions must be received by Friday, June 5.

East Hampton Library News & Notes

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

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

Adult Programs: Herb Your Enthusiasm: A Cookbook Club Event: Tuesday, June 2, 6:30 p.m. Bring a dish where herbs are a key flavor. Sample and discuss recipes and take home an herb from the library's Mini Herb Planting Station. Also, welcome special guest Michele Valley from Wildcraft Herb Shoppe. Bring a prepared dish and 12 copies of the recipe to share. Food should arrive ready to eat; the library will provide plates and forks. Register or drop in.

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

Library Yoga (Sears Park) with Amie Meacham: Tuesday, Jun. 9, 6:30 p.m. Library

Yoga heads to Sears Park for the summer! Bring a mat if you have one and meet at the pavilion for an hour of gentle yoga for all levels.

Teen Programs: Middle Grade D&D: Create a Character! For Grades 5-7: Monday, June 8, 6-7:30 p.m. Learn to create a character for Dungeons & Dragons. Beginners and returning players welcome. All supplies provided; incoming fifth-graders welcome.

Ultimutt Study Break with Jovie the Therapy Dog: Tuesday, Jun. 9, 5:30 p.m.-6 p.m. EHHS students can stay pawisitive during final exams with the ultimutt study break. Visit with Jovie, the library's favorite therapy dog. She'll give you a little love and help with that calculus study guide, probably.

Children's Programs: Lego at the Library: Grades K-6: Tuesday, June 2, 4:30-5:30 p.m. All Lego bricks provided.

Drop-In Sensory Play: Wednesday, June 3, 10:30 a.m.-noon. Drop in for a sensory play time where children can explore water play, themed sensory bins, and a variety of textures, materials, colors, and tools. Caregivers and children are invited to move at their own pace.

DIY Days: K-8: Saturday, June 6, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Children and families in grades K-8 are invited to create a different toy, game, or treat together. No registration required; just drop in.

Read to a Therapy Dog: Grades K-3: Thursday, Jun. 9, 4:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m. Readers will be assigned a 15-minute time slot between 4:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m. to read to Jovie, a certified therapy dog. This is a great opportunity to read aloud in a comfortable environment, which can help improve comprehension and confidence.

Save The Date!

Chatham Historical Society will host a town wide tag sale on Saturday, June 20, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. For applications, contact Mrs. Day at 860-705-0959.

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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East Hampton Town Council Revises Sewer Rules

By Anne Lilburn

East Hampton's Town Council met on Tuesday, May 26 for its regularly scheduled meeting, and sewers were once again on the agenda, even as the June 2 budget referendum date rapidly approached.

The council heard public comment from residents regarding a proposed ordinance that would amend the town's code to make connection to the sewer system voluntary "in most cases." Previously, the town's code had required residents whose homes were located on a sewer line, either new or existing, to connect to that new sewer line, at their own expense, and to abandon their septic systems if sewer became available on their street.

Town Manager Dave Cox explained some of the more specific details, adding that he suggested modifying the proposed ordinance to make some of the language clearer, particularly as it concerns new construction.

The proposed new ordinance would allow existing properties that were built prior to the existence of sewer on their street to choose not to connect, but would still require any new construction that was built on an existing sewer line

to connect to the sewer. It would also require any new development that was approved with sewers as a part of its plan to adhere to those approval guidelines.

Per Cox's suggested revision, the ordinance would also provide an exception for new construction that was, for example, located on a large lot where connecting to the existing sewer line might be prohibitively expensive. In cases where the cost of connecting to the existing sewer line was greater than the cost of installing a private septic system that met all health and environmental requirements, the town's WPCA could grant an exception. With that said, for homes built in new developments that were approved only with a sewer connection, this exception would not apply.

As for worries around what would happen if a homeowner's septic system failed, Cox said that properties were still subject to existing health regulations. "The maintenance of our sanitary or septic systems, our on-site systems, is required under other sections of statute and code not necessarily related to sewer use," he said.

The council voted unanimously to approve

the ordinance, which will then take 21 days to become effective.

The council also approved an application from Epoch Arts for Neighborhood Assistance Grant funding. The grants are funded by corporate donations that are made in exchange for tax breaks, and the council must approve the application by the non-profits. The council set a public hearing date for June 9 for public input on the application.

The council also considered modest changes to fees charged to the public for driveway permits and charges for town police officers working private duty jobs. The driveway permit, for example, would increase from \$25 to \$37 in order to cover the cost to the town for their online permit tracking system. The resolution passed, with only Ted Hintz, a Republican, voting against it.

Council member Rich Knotek, a Democrat, updated the council on the seating of the town's agriculture commission. He thanked fellow council members Tim Feegel, a Republican, and Karen Wanat, a Democrat, for working alongside him to help seat the committee, be-

fore reading the names of proposed agriculture commission members.

Steve Strong, Teesha Grant, George Krivda, Chris Bitel, Rick Walker, Mark Barmasse and Cathy Reardon were named to the commission, with Marty Voelker and Ray Nichols named as alternates.

Upon hearing Mark Barmasse's name, Hintz expressed concern that "Mark Barmasse was the chair of the WPCA for the last, I don't know, probably 20 years, and since we just removed that board, I have a concern with just throwing him on the next board that just came up," said Hintz.

"The committee interviewed Mr. Barmasse," said Knotek, "and his background, his education, training, where he grew up, in fact, lends itself very well to this type of activity and we're pleased to make that recommendation."

Hintz then moved to vote on the appointments individually. All of the proposed members were appointed, with only Hintz voting against Barmasse's appointment. The council will meet for its next regularly scheduled meeting on June 9.

Goff House Donations Welcome

Donations to the 2026 Joseph N Goff House Gazebo Concert Series are still being accepted.

All concerts are held in the East Hampton Village Center Gazebo on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m., starting June 18 and running through Aug. 6 (except for Old Home Days week). Concerts will feature a different local talent each week.

Donations, which are tax-deductible, help pay for the bands and promotional materials.

Checks made out to Joseph N. Goff House Inc. can be mailed to P.O. Box 337, East Hampton, CT 06424. Any amount is appreciated, or donate by level:

Special Grants or Awards, Over \$250; Maestro, \$250; Soprano, \$150; Alto, \$100; Tenor, \$50; Bass, \$25.

For further information, call Melissa Pinonzo at 860-993-5311.

Absentee Ballots for Budget Vote

Absentee ballots for the upcoming June 2 East Hampton budget referendum are available at the town clerk's office, located at Town Hall, 1 Community Drive.

Office hours are Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.; Tuesday, 8 a.m.-6:30 p.m.; and Friday, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

All registered voters and individual property owners with an assessment of not less than \$1,000 on the 2025 Grand List are eligible to ob-

tain an absentee ballot for this referendum. For more information, call 860-267-2519.

The budget referendum will also include a vote to appropriate funds from the Capital Reserve Fund for the Middle School Parking Lot Repaving project.

The 2026-27 referendum will be held at Town Hall Tuesday, June 2. Voting will be between 6 a.m. and 8 p.m.

Senior Center News & Notes

East Hampton Senior Center, 105 Main St., announces the following. Advance 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.

Simply Social Women's Group: Monday, June 16 at 10 a.m. This is a low-key opportunity to meet others and share resources with the theme of Sisterhood. Please note: WWW will meet once a month starting in June.

Linefit: Every other Monday until Aug. 18, at 2:30 p.m. Drop-ins welcome for \$5. Class taught by Marianna Sigleski.

Traiblazers Walking Group: Monday, June 1 at 9 a.m. Join the Senior Center for a weekly morning walk on the Air Line trail, 69 Smith St.

Yarn Yogis: Every Wednesday at 10 a.m. Starting June 3, the Knitting Club from East Hampton Congregational Church will start meeting at the Senior Center for the summer.

Beading with Joann: Thursday, June 4 at 11 a.m. Join Joann Ewing in a hands-on class where you can make beads from scraps of thread. Class is free but registration is requested.

Honoring the Journey: Thursday, June 4 at 11 a.m. A continued discussion group to help individuals navigate their feelings around loss and prioritize safety, validation and the transition from pain to integrated memory.

Design and Create: Thursday, June 4 at 1 p.m. Join staff member Cindy Houle to for a hand-on class featuring a different project each session.

Bike Rides for Seniors: Friday, June 5 at 10 a.m. Ride at the Air Line Trail State Park, 69 Smith St, East Hampton. Bring your bike, helmet and water bottle. Call 860-267-4426 for ride information and to register.

Old Home Day Parade Float Meeting: Friday, June 5 at 11 a.m. Help plan and create the East Hampton Senior Center Old Home Day Parade float - riders needed! The theme for this year's parade on July 11 is Bells, Boats and birth of our Nation! America 250.

AARP Safe Driving Class: Friday, June 5 at 11:30 a.m. Join millions of drivers who have taken this class offered by AARP to sharpen skills and become eligible for a discount on auto insurance. Cost is \$20 for AARP members or \$25 for nonmembers, payable the day of the class by check or cash to AARP.

Save the Date! A planning meeting for the East Hampton Senior Center Old Home Day Float will be held on Friday, June 5, at 11 a.m. Bring your ideas. This year's theme is "Bells, Boats and Birth of Our Nation," for America 250. Float riders needed; the parade date is Saturday, July 11.

Trips: New Britain Museum of American Art: Wednesday, June 10. Transportation included. Depart from the Senior Center at 10 a.m. for an 11 a.m. guided tour of the American Canvas exhibit followed by lunch, that you bring, at the nearby Walnut Park. Drink and dessert provided by Senior Center. Cost is \$22.

Lavender Farm in Killingworth: Thursday, June 25. Depart from the Senior Center at 11 a.m. and enjoy a day at this lovely farm, stroll the grounds filled with many lavender varieties, browse the gift shop and enjoy your lunch - drink and dessert provided. Cost is a \$4 donation for the bus ride.

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. Call the center to sign up.

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.

Parks & Rec. News and Notes

East Hampton Parks & Recreation has announced the following items of interest. For more information or to register, call 860-267-7300 or www.easthamptonrec.com.

Golf Tournament: At Blackledge Country Club in Hebron Thursday, June 4. There is a 10 a.m. shotgun start. This is a four-person scramble format. Lunch/dinner and two drink tickets are included for every golfer. Not a golfer? Register just for dinner (\$50), Sponsorship options available as well. There will be a fundraiser raffle, on course contests and prizes. The tournament benefits Sears Park playground, Seamster Park playground and the Jefferey Leith Memorial scholarship. Cost is \$140.

Decoupage Shell Keepsake Dish: Monday, June 1, 6:30-8 p.m., at Town Hall. All are invited to this relaxed coastal-inspired evening of creat-

ing your own elegant keepsake jewelry dish.

Beginner Pickleball Clinic: Saturdays, June 6-20, 10-11:30 a.m., at the East Hampton High School tennis courts. Fee: \$110/residents, \$115/non-residents.

Junior Golf Clinic: With instructor Gerry D'Amora, golf pro, at Portland West. D'Amora will focus on teaching the fundamentals of the game starting with teaching the proper grip, alignment and swing. Grades K-2 are Thursdays, 4-5 p.m., June 4-25; grades 3-5 are Saturdays, noon-1 p.m., June 6-27; and grades 6-8 are Wednesdays, 4-5 p.m., June 10-July 1. Fee is \$120 per person.

Golf Clinic for Ladies: With instructor Gerry D'Amora, golf pro, at Portland West. Tuesdays, 5:30-6 p.m., June 10-July 8. Fee is \$150 per person.

Christ Episcopal Church News

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

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

Returnable Cans and Bottles: All are asked to place donations in the cans by the shed. Note: It would be very helpful if glass bottles and aluminum cans could be separated prior to drop off.

Bible Study: Contact Bobette Reed Kahn at bobette@khan.com if you are interested in participating. Bible Study takes place via Zoom at 6 p.m. Wednesdays.

June 7: Sunday, June 7 is the last day for choir and Sunday school. Maggie Labinski will preach and co-preside at the service.

Church Picnic: Will be held Sunday, June 7 from 1 p.m.-4 p.m., at Dick and Linda Napolitano's home on Lake Pocotopaug. A sign-up sheet will be available at church. Call Linda for more information.

Food4Lives Warm Weather Clothing Drive: Patty Kloo is collecting warm weather new or nearly new clothing for un-housed persons in Middletown. Needed are t-shirts, shorts, pants, light sweaters, hoodies, sweatshirts, sandals/sneakers and underwear in adult sizes small to XXL. Clean items should be placed in the blue tote in the Parish Hall.

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

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The Old Home Days Parade will make its triumphant return Saturday, July 11, at 11 a.m. Pictured is a scene from the 1920 parade.

Old Home Days Parade to Return

The Old Home Days Parade will return Saturday, July 11, at 11 a.m.

The theme of this year's Old Home Days is "Bells, Boats and Birth of our Nation." The parade will celebrate the town's history as Belltown, its connection to ship building, Lake Po-

cotopaug, and America's 250th birthday.

It's not too late to join the parade; visit www.ehohd.org to register. For information, contact Bo Tinson at 860-414-9712 or RLTinson@gmail.com.

America 250 Community Treasure Hunt

In celebration of America 250, Bevin Bros. Mfg., makers of Bevin Bells in East Hampton, is bringing patriotic fun to the community with a special treasure hunt: "13 Bells for 13 Colonies."

Beginning June 1, Bevin Bros. will hide 13 numbered bells around East Hampton, with each bell representing one of the original 13 colonies. Community members are invited to search for the bells while out and about around town.

Those who find a bell are encouraged to take a photo with it and either email the photo

to sales@bevinbells.com or bring the bell to the Bevin Bros. factory office at 17 Watrous Street in East Hampton. Photos may be shared by Bevin Bros. to celebrate the finders and the community spirit of the event.

As a special thank-you, anyone who brings a found bell to the factory office will receive a second America 250 commemorative bell to celebrate the nation's birthday. The treasure hunt will continue until all 13 bells have been found, so residents and visitors are encouraged to keep their eyes peeled. You never know where a bell might appear!

Congregational Church News

The Congregational Church of East Hampton, 59 Main St., welcomes all to Sunday worship at 10 a.m., with the Rev. Robin Bloundon providing the sermon. Coffee hour and fellowship are provided directly after the service.

For more information, visit cc-eh.org. Office hours are Monday and Wednesday, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

The Great Restaurant Raffle

The Friends of the East Hampton Public Library group is holding The Great Restaurant Raffle through May 31. A \$20 ticket enters you to win one of three local restaurant gift card bundles. Purchase three or more tickets to be entered into the golden ticket prize.

Tickets can be purchased by cash or check in person at the library (105 Main St.), or via the link on the library's website easthamptonpubliclibrary.org.

All funds raised benefit the East Hampton Public Library.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church News

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

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

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

St. Patrick Church News & Notes

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

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

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

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.

Men's Group: The Men's Group will meet on Wednesday, June 10 from 7 a.m. to 8 a.m. to share scripture around what the Bible says about being a man. There will be coffee, pastries and conversation.

Chicken BBQ: The drive-thru Chicken BBQ will be held Saturday, June 13, from noon to 5 p.m., at the church field. The meal includes a leg/high chicken quarter, baked beans coleslaw, dinner roll and water bottle for \$15. Call or email the church with your order and pickup time.

Baby Bottle Drive: The Baby Bottle Drive to benefit the ABC Women's Center will end on

Father's Day, June 21. Bottles are available at the church.

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 10:15 a.m. in the chapel. The next study will resume in the fall.

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

Middle Haddam Public Library News

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

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

Featured Artist for May: Maureen Girard, a Connecticut-based painter. Her paintings may be viewed at the library throughout the month. Join the library for an artist's reception on Friday, May 29 from 4-6 p.m.

Chatham Community Chess Club: Wednesdays, June 3 and 17, 6-9 p.m. All ages and skill levels welcome; lessons available. For more information contact pjhoffman1@juno.com.

Mahjong: Mondays, 10:30 a.m. All levels of experience welcome. Contact the library for more information.

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

Yoga with Erin Day of Ten Summit Yoga: Mondays and Saturdays at 9 a.m., and Tuesdays at 7 p.m. Cost is a \$17 drop-in fee. To register, email tensummitst@gmail.com or call 860-262-0246.

The Board of Directors for the Middle Haddam Public Library will hold a Dedication Ceremony of Memorial Plaques in honor of Leonard Nelson Blake, Dr. Cynthia Wyeth Peterson, and Dr. Gerald Alan Peterson on Sunday, June 7 from 2-4 p.m. Join the library for music and light refreshments.

Senior Center Upcoming Trips

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

Newport Flower Show "Pearl of Newport": Friday, June 19, departing the Stop & Shop parking lot at 8:30 a.m. Rosecliff Mansion is the backdrop for the Newport Flower Show where participants can stroll the first floor of the mansion and the grounds filled with floral arrangements, shop the marketplace and have free time in downtown Newport. Cost is \$136.

Boston Tall Ships: Tuesday, July 14, depart-

ing from Stop & Shop at 9:30 a.m. Experience the fleet of international tall and military ships in Boston Port as part of Sail250; lunch at Jimmy Buffets' Margaritaville; browse Faneuil Hall then board the Charles I for a narrated cruise. Cost is \$183.

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

CDHR to Host Car Show

All are invited to the fourth annual Horsepower Car Show, hosted by the CT Draft Horse Rescue on Saturday, June 6 (rain date is June 7) at Powder Ridge Mountain Resort, 99 Powder Hill Rd., Middlefield.

There will be live music by Beth & the Boys, raffles, games, food/drink, and trophy awards. There will also be a special appearance by Sam and Pete, the CDHR ambassador Clydesdales.

Cars arrive from 9-11 a.m., gates open at 11 a.m., and awards will be given at 2 p.m. Car entry fee is \$20, and no pre-registration required. General admission is \$5 per person.

Epoch Arts Accepting Tag Sale Donations

Epoch Arts is accepting donations 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 diapers

and fish tank pumps.

Drop-off times are 8 a.m.-2 p.m. on 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 the 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.

0.5K Extreme Endurance Challenge

The Rotary Club of East Hampton will hold its first-ever 0.5K "Extreme Endurance Challenge" Sunday, June 7, at 11 a.m., at Sears Park, finishing at Lakeside Bar and Grill.

The event will feature a 0.31-mile trek that is almost entirely flat (4" curb elevation). All participants who successfully cross the finish line will receive a commemorative medal and 0.5K oval car decal.

Participants are encouraged to wear their most creative outfits, with prizes awarded for the best dressed.

At the finish line, all participants will receive a snack and ticket for a beverage provided by Lakeside Bar and Grill.

Tickets are \$30 for adults, \$15 for kids and \$5 for dogs (on a leash), and include a race T-shirt, a 0.5K sticker, a hot dog, a doughnut, and a beverage ticket for Lakeside. Sign up online through the Rotary's website (www.easthamptonrotary.org) or in person the day of event at Sears Park. (A \$5 "day of" fee will be assessed for those who don't pre-register.)

Proceeds directly benefit the East Hampton Rotary Club's local initiatives, including community service projects that support East Hampton and Marlborough.

Contact Tracey Gardiner at Cladalass24@hotmail.com or 401-556 8172.



Rockin' and a-rollin'.... The Jukebox 45 Show Band would like to thank everyone for coming out to their benefit concert for East Hampton High School's Project Graduation. The show was sold out, and a good time was had by all.

Residents to Vote on Budget Referendum June 2

By Anne Lilburn

Next week, East Hampton residents will vote at a budget referendum on June 2. Voters will be weighing in on the town's proposed FY 2027 general government budget of \$20,301,504 and FY 2027 education budget of \$40,150,937.

In a year when property revaluations hit many East Hampton residents hard, the budget has been a contentious topic for many. At recent town council meetings over the past couple months, some residents expressed displeasure with the proposed increase over the past year, with a proposed 3.23% increase to the overall budget and a proposed 3.58% increase to the education side of that budget.

Many council members, Board of Finance Vice Chair Dan Finn - a Democrat - and Superintendent of Schools Timothy Van Tassel all made the case recently that the town, like

many others in the state and country, faced an unusual year with rising health care premiums and inflation driving up the cost of running the town. They also faced much of the budget being devoted to previously-negotiated, fixed "people costs," including salaries and benefits, that are harder to trim. They argued that keeping the budget flat, in these inflationary times, would result in cuts to services.

The town's proposed mill rate, at 28.67, is significantly lower than the prior year, with a 27.8% reduction, due to that same property revaluation, which saw many relatively lower-to-mid priced homes facing steep increases in values, adding to the grand list totals while also shifting tax burden around. Council members had previously expressed concerns that the revaluations might negatively impact those who would have a harder time managing an increase, but conceded that the revaluations were in line with

increasing property values statewide, which is also a challenge faced by many communities.

On the town website's budget page, voters can find a FY 2027 Property Tax Estimator that will allow them to locate their property and download their field card that will show them what they are estimated to pay in property taxes according to their current assessment value and the proposed budget mill rate. Council members and Cox have referred people to this tool to assess how the proposed budget might affect them. That estimator can be found at <https://easthamptonct.gov/1749/Annual-Budget-2026-2027>.

One thing that council members from both parties have agreed upon this budget season has been the importance of showing up to vote. At a town council meeting earlier this month, council member Joelyn Leon, a Democrat, lamented that turnout was typically low for bud-

get referendums. She said she worried low turnout would mean that people who relied on the schools and other town services could see steep cuts if the budget did not pass.

She argued in favor of supporting education in town, making the case that strong schools strengthened property values and economic development, and that they were good for the community. Council Chair Dean Markham, also a Democrat, said that if the budget did not pass, he worried that people would see cuts to services they did not want to lose.

On the other side, council member Ted Hintz, a Republican, has said repeatedly that he does not believe the budget is going to pass and has argued that declining school enrollment should result in cuts to the education budget.

One thing they all agreed on, though: residents should show up to vote and make their voices heard.

EHHS Class of '67 Reunion

Members of the East Hampton High School Class of 1967, take note! The '67 Bellringers will get together Saturday, Sept. 12, from 2-5 p.m., at the Dublin. As usual, order off the menu and pay as you go. Call or text 860-682-2067 to reserve your spot.

East Hampton, Let's Celebrate America 250!

This summer, as July 4 nears, the EH America 250 committee is inviting homeowners and businesses around East Hampton to help celebrate America's 250th anniversary by decorating your homes in the spirit of America 250.

Bring out the flags, bunting, red, white, and blue lights, patriotic porch décor, and historic flair. Fill the streets with American pride so that everyone who drives through town can see East Hampton celebrating in a big way.

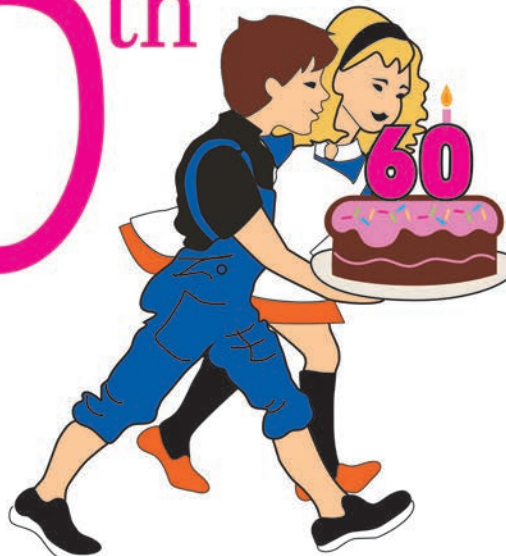
Plaque Dedication Ceremony

The Board of Directors of the Middle Had-dam Public Library invites all to a Dedication Ceremony of Memorial Plaques on Sunday, June 7, from 2-4 p.m., at the library, 2 Knowles Rd.

The plaques are in honor of Leonard Nelson Blake and Dr. Gerald Alan Peterson & Dr. Cynthia Wyeth Peterson. Light refreshments and beverages will be provided, and a string quartet will perform.

All are invited to come celebrate the library's new porch addition and celestial garden armilary.

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Eggplant Rollatini Rolled eggplant stuffed with ricotta, prosciutto and roasted peppers
Stuffed Pork Chop Stuffed with broccoli, gorgonzola cheese and ritz crackers in a brown cognac sauce
Chicken Marsala Sautéed with mushrooms, shallots in a marsala wine sauce
Stuffed Sole Crab meat stuffing served over spinach
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Auditions for CCT Summer Theater

The Colchester Community Theatre (CCT) will hold its Summer Children's Theater Workshop in July – and auditions will be Sunday, June 14, from 1-3:30 p.m., and Monday, June 15, from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Auditions will take place at the Congregation Ahavath Achim (Colchester Synagogue) on 84 Lebanon Ave.

The workshop is open to all children entering grades 2-12. Every child must audition to attend the program. There are no exceptions. All children who enroll are accepted. Auditions are solely for the purpose of cast placement. Each child is to bring sheet music or an instrumental recording and be prepared to sing. An accompanist will be provided.

This year, CCT will produce Disney's *Dare to Dream JR.*, a musical revue featuring vari-

ous Disney songs, including newer fan-favorites from *The Princess and the Frog*, *Coco*, *Encanto* and *Frozen II*.

Required pre-registration must be completed at www.colchestercommunitytheatre.com/summer-workshop. The workshop fee is \$140/child. Additional forms required to be completed by a parent/guardian will be available at auditions. Children only need to attend one audition, not both dates.

The workshop will be held at Bacon Academy auditorium July 6-17, Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m.-noon, culminating in a show on July 18 at 2 p.m.

Contact Diane Ozmun at 860-908-9286 or email info@colchestercommunitytheatre.com for additional information.



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Pre-Sale Bracelets for Lions Carnival

The Colchester Lions Club will continue its annual Carnival on the Green Friday, May 29, from 6-10 p.m., and Saturday, May 30, from noon-9 p.m. Weather conditions may affect operating hours. Ride vouchers are \$35.

Tag and Bake Sale at St. Andrew

There will be a Tag Sale and Bake Sale at St. Andrew Parish Hall, 128 Norwich Avenue on June 6, from 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. A variety of items will be available. The church requested "no early birds, please." For more information, call Barbara at 860-303-7814.

History Museum Open Sundays

The Colchester History Museum is 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." You can also experience histories of people and places in the "ABCs of Colchester History" exhibit.

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 or 860-537-3240.

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, June 1: 9 a.m., Making Memories; 9 a.m., Exercise w/ Anne; 10 a.m., Sittercize; 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Haircuts; 11 a.m., Learn to Sign; 11 a.m.-noon, Fitness Orientation by appointment; 12:30 p.m., Mah Jongg; 12:30 p.m., Bridge; 12:30 p.m., Set Back.

Tuesday, June 2: 9 a.m., Making Memories; NO Tai Chi; 10:30 a.m., Garden Club Container Workshop; 12:30 p.m., Pinochle; 1 p.m., Cornhole; 1 p.m., AARP meeting at Papa Z's; 1:15 p.m., BINGO; 4 p.m.-8 p.m., Wellness Night.

Wednesday, June 3: 9 a.m., Making Memories; 9 a.m., Walking Group; 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Reflexology; 10 a.m., Adult Coloring; 10 a.m., Hand and Foot Card Game; 10 a.m., Sit & Be Fit Video; 10:30 a.m., Life Review; 10:30 a.m., Caregivers Series; 11:15 a.m., TVCCA Carb Myth Presentation; 1 p.m., Sew-cial Time; 1:30 p.m., Cardio Drumming; 2:30 p.m., Cardio Drumming.

Thursday, June 4: 9 a.m., Exercise w/ Anne; 10 a.m., Sittercize; 10 a.m., Wii Bowling; 11 a.m., Yoga; Noon, Sr. Benefits Counseling; 12:05 p.m., Chair Massage; 12:30 p.m., Dominoes; 1 p.m., Needlework Club; 4 p.m.-8 p.m., Wellness Night.

Friday, June 5: 9 a.m., Social Service Hours; 9 a.m., Open Art Studio; 10 a.m., Sit & Be Fit; 10:30 a.m., Choral Group; 11 a.m., Yoga; 1 p.m.-3:30 p.m., Open Ping Pong; 1:15 BINGO.

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Fundraiser for Giving Garden

The Colchester Giving Garden has started its 14th season of growing and donating fresh vegetables to help feed those in need in the community – and a fundraiser to support its mission is coming up.

The garden is all-volunteer, and all are welcome to join in. No gardening experience is necessary. The open work time is Tuesdays at 5 p.m. at the garden. The garden is located at 95 Norwich Ave.

On Monday, June 1, from 5-9 p.m., Mel's Downtown Creamery, 32 Norwich Ave., will donate a percentage of its sales to the Colchester Giving Garden.

For more information about the garden, email Colchestergivinggarden@gmail.com or look for the garden on Facebook.

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Bacon Thrower Headed to Bucknell

By Josh Howard

With the track and field outdoor championship season on the horizon, Bacon Academy standout thrower Liam Sweeney wants to close out his high school career with a bang before he tackles the next challenge on the collegiate level.

"I am incredibly excited to announce my commitment to Bucknell University to continue my academic and athletic career at the Division I level," Sweeney announced on Instagram in April. "I want to thank my parents for their endless support throughout this entire journey, I couldn't have done it without you."

Sweeney will join a Bison team at Bucknell – a private liberal-arts college in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania – that competes in the Patriot League.

College athletics is a four-year journey for Sweeney, who didn't start throwing competitively until his freshman year at Bacon Academy.

Over the last four years, Sweeney has crafted an impeccable resume that includes multiple conference and state championships during both the indoor and outdoor track and field seasons.

Sweeney is coming off an indoor season where he won both the Eastern Connecticut Conference (ECC) championship and the Class S state championships in the shot put. He went on to place top three in the event at both the State Open and New England Championships, qualifying for both the New Balance Nationals and Nike Nationals.

His efforts this past winter helped the Bobcats place third overall in conference.

Following the indoor season, Bacon Academy head coach Steve Browning said that Sweeney returned "very composed and methodical" for his senior season and has delivered as both a

competitor and leader.

Along with his success in the shot put, Sweeney has also excelled in the weight throw, discus, hammer throw, and javelin.

This spring, he has continued to stack up wins and most recently captured another ECC title in the shot put on May 20.

It's been a rapid rise to the top of the leaderboards for Sweeney, who first started his athletic career on the soccer field through Colchester Youth Soccer. In middle school, Sweeney began doing CrossFit and credited the high-intensity strength and conditioning programs for helping with his power and explosion as a thrower.

Sweeney noted that becoming a state championship thrower is a combination of strength and technique, adding "More important, it's about doing things that are productive."

When he first started competing his freshman year at Bacon, Sweeney recalled nearly qualifying for states his first season, which intensified his passion for the sport.

Additionally, he credits coaching for helping him take his love of throwing to the next level. Browning and Kevin Gilhuly have helped guide him at Bacon Academy, while Matt Ellis has been his coach and mentor in the offseason.

Ellis is the owner of Elite Throws Coaching in Rhode Island and Sweeney has been making the trip to the Ocean State to receive coaching on a regular basis. Ellis stated that Sweeney "works extremely hard at his craft."

"The best thing about Liam's throwing journey is how he has become a student of the sport," added Ellis. "He's very coachable but he also studies the events and corrects things on his own. He watches videos, social media posts from Olympic level throwers, and is constantly breaking down



Liam Sweeney, a senior at Bacon Academy, has committed to throw for the track and field program at Bucknell University in Pennsylvania. Sweeney is surrounded by his family at his signing day at Bacon Academy in April.

technique to improve his performances."

At his next stop, Sweeney will join a seasoned coaching staff that includes the program's head coach Kevin Donner and assistant coach/throws coach Ryan Protzman.

After visiting several schools, Sweeney said "Bucknell was really the one that stood out to me."

"It's a great program and they have great coaching," added Sweeney, who will study mechanical engineering.

Ellis believes that Sweeney has the right mindset to succeed at the next level.

"He also understands this sport is a long

game and how progress is not linear," explained Ellis. "There are so many ups and downs. He has stayed patient and consistent and worked so hard to get where he is right now."

But before he packs his bags for college, Sweeney is hoping the last month of his high school career is the most productive and best one yet.

The Class S state championship are slated for Monday, June 1, with the State Open scheduled the following weekend. If all goes well, return trips to regionals and nationals will also be in Sweeney's future.

Local AARP 40th Anniversary and Luncheon

The next meeting of the Colchester-area Chapter 4019 of AARP is on Tuesday, June 2, at Papa Z's, 713 Middletown Rd. The gathering starts at 12:30 p.m., with lunch being served at 1 p.m.

At the meeting, the Colchester-area chapter will celebrate its 40th anniversary as a local chapter of AARP, observe the 250th anniversary of the country, and install its officers for

2026-27. In addition to the luncheon, there will be a trivia game and door prizes.

The cost for the luncheon is \$30 and includes meal, tax and tip. Any senior in the Colchester area is invited to attend. Send an email to irenenorm@comcast.net to obtain information about where to mail a check in order to be able to attend, or with any questions.

Local Scout Leads Food Drive

Colchester's Troop 13 is rallying behind Life Scout Anthony DePaola as he works toward completing his Eagle Scout Service Project - a community food drive benefiting Catholic Charities of Norwich.

DePaola is collecting non-perishable food items such as canned vegetables, soups, pasta, rice, and other long lasting staples. Residents can drop off donations at a drive through event at St. Andrew's Church, 128 Norwich Ave., in Colchester on June 7, June 14, and June 21 from 9:45 a.m. to noon.

Garden Club Plant Sale

The Colchester Garden Club plant sale will be held Sunday, June 14, during the Colchester Business Association's Tag Sale on the Green. The club will sell houseplants, annuals, perennials, herbs, shrubs, and garden/plant related items from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. on the Colchester Town Green.

Rain date is June 28.

Purchases support our community beautification efforts, public education programs, youth activities, and senior center programs. For more information about the Colchester Garden Club contact colchesterclub@yahoo.com.

Resident Graduates

Erin Dalton of Colchester recently graduated from Salve Regina University in Newport, R.I.

Residents Graduate

Colchester residents Jordan Malloy and Ryan Claffey recently graduated from Stonehill College in Easton, Mass.



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Bacon Academy's annual Senior Awards & Scholarship Night was held on May 19. Amongst the scholarships given out were eight by the Bacon Academy Scholarship Fund and one by the Colchester Hayward Volunteer Fire Co. Recipients of those awards, starting from the left are Troy Johnson, Madison Lévasseur, Ahviel Rodriguez, Corinne Toennes, Brynn Herboldt, Bela Dec, Kylie Borenko, Liana Southworth and Jillian Snow.

Bacon Academy Trustees Present Annual Scholarships

On May 19, the Bacon Academy Board of Trustees continued its long tradition of bestowing scholarships and awards at Bacon Academy's Senior Awards and Scholarship Evening. Recipients of Bacon Academy Board of Trustees Scholarships and Awards are, starting from left, Jillian Snow, Otis Prize, Brynn Herboldt, Charles H. Blacker Scholarship, Elijah Banks, Adam Piekarcz Scholarship, Sokhano Nguon, Gilbert Lamb Memorial Essay Prize, Benjamin Buyniski, Otis Prize, and Charlotte Galarneau, Senior Math Award.

Recipients not pictured are Rachel Rumph, Pierpoint Bacon Scholarship, Ethan Creutz, August Gorreck Memorial Scholarship, and Lanie McIllduff and Ethan Cruetz, Stanley Weich Athletic Prize.

Representing the Board of Trustees are Andrew Norton, Chairman, and Cathy Johnson, Treasurer.

Learn more about the scholarships and awards by visiting <https://baconacademytrustees.org/scholarships.html>

Co-Ed Adult Softball

Colchester is 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 June 1, at which point game schedules, rules and more information will be sent out. For more information, call Colchester Parks and Recreation at 860-537-7297.

To register in Colchester, go to colchesterct.recdesk.com/Community/Home. To register in East Hampton or Portland, use their town websites.

Summer Book and Bake Sale

The Friends of Cragin Memorial Library will hold its Summer Book and Bake Sale at Cragin Memorial Library, 8 Linwood Ave., from June 5-10.

On Friday, June 5, from 4-7 p.m., there will be a pre-sale admission charge of \$5 to pick the "cream of the crop." There is no admission charge from Saturday-Wednesday. The schedule is:

Saturday, June 6, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sunday, June 7, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.; Monday, June 8, and Tuesday, June 9, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; and Wednesday, June 10, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

There will be a Monday-Wednesday special: fill a box or bag for \$5.

The Friends will have many books, including large-print books and audiobooks. The Friends will also have music, movies, puzzles, and games.

Also at the sale, the Friends will celebrate America 250th by offering an accessible table with books and media related to America during the Revolutionary period.

Baked goods will be for sale, and will be individually wrapped.

The Friends said that while it cannot accept debit cards or credit cards, an ATM is close by.

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

Land Trust Upcoming Events

The Colchester Land Trust (CLT) is hosting the following upcoming events. All are invited. Visit ColchesterLandTrust.org for all details on upcoming 2026 events so far.

Trail Crew Volunteers Needed: The third Sunday of each month (weather permitting). Volunteers meet up at one of CLT's properties each month to fight invasives, maintain meadows, and other needed stewardship tasks. This event is led by board member and stewardship chair Kevin Byrne, and he can be reached at: kevbyrnect@gmail.com. Trail crew work parties are held the third Sunday of every month usually from 1 p.m. until no later than 3 p.m. (Volunteers can stay for all or part of the hours.) Details of each month's plan will be emailed to you. Sign up at colchesterlandtrust.org.

Connecticut Trails Day! Forest Bathing at Salmon River State Forest: Sunday, June 7, 10 a.m.-noon. Join Lisa Hageman and Liza Sivek for a moderately slow-paced, three-mile hike with the practice of Forest Bathing. For this meditative, quiet hike, meet at the Air Line Trail South/"Hairpin Turn" parking lot at 280 Bull Hill Rd., Colchester (see directions on the site). From there, walk to the Salmon River Forest trail nearby. There is no fee for this hike; it is free to all for Connecticut Trails Day. Rain postpones to a date to be announced. This hike is not suggested for smaller children, and it is not stroller-friendly. Sign up at colchesterlandtrust.org.

Fairy House Builders Wanted! The second annual Fairy House Trail is coming to Colchester – but CLT needs help to make the magic happen. Want to build a fairy house for the trail? All ages and skill levels welcome! Groups, individuals, and businesses welcome. There will be a Popular Vote for favorite houses. Had a house in last year's trail? Bring it again! Email/call/text lizasivek@gmail.com or 203-278-5492 with questions. Adding your fairy house to the trail is free; however, there are a few rules to keep the fairies, nature, and wildlife safe. Please read the guidelines online. Sign up at colchesterlandtrust.org

Blue Moon Owl Prowl: Sunday, May 31, 7:30 p.m. Join host Liza Sivek for an Owl Prowl night hike under the rare Blue Moon at Bulkeley Hill Preserve. Soft drinks and snacks will be provided. After a talk, take a moonlit hike through the BHP trails, using recorded barred owl calls to attract local resident owls. This is a slow hike, on a wooded trail with rocks, roots, etc. Red light flashlights will be used by the guides. Approximate length of hike is about a leisurely mile, with several stops to call owls. More details online. Sign up at colchesterlandtrust.org.

CLT at Farmers Market: The CLT Booth will be at the Colchester Farmers Market on the Green on Sundays, July 26, Aug. 23 and Sept. 27. All are invited to stop by and learn more about the land trust.

Senior Center Upcoming Trips

Colchester Senior Center has the following upcoming trips. 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.

City Island Lobster House – Bronx, N.Y.: June 4, departing at 8 a.m. Cost is \$171/person, which includes transportation and lunch.

Amish Country Two-Day Adventures: June 23-24, departure time TBD. Experience an authentic Amish dinner prepared by an Amish family and see the play *Joshua*. Cost is \$509/person (double or triple occupancy) and includes transportation, 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, local tours, food and more in Berlin, Prague, Vienna, Budapest, and Krakow. The 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. Cost is \$949/person (double or triple occupancy).

Germanfest – Inn at East Hill Farm, Troy, N.H.: Thursday, Oct. 8, 7:45 a.m. Enjoy a home-made Oktoberfest luncheon at the Inn at East Hill Farm, live German music, and more. Cost is \$158/person and includes transportation and lunch.

Studio Two – The Beatles Tribute Band: Thursday, Oct. 15, at 10 a.m. Enjoy music and a family-style menu at the Farmington Polo Club. Cost is \$132/person, and includes transportation, entertainment and lunch.

Special Education Records Disposal

The Colchester Board of Education will destroy any and all special education records and section 504 records of students who graduated or would have graduated with the class of 2020.

If any student, as described above, would like a copy of their special education or 504 records, they must request a copy of the records prior to destruction on July 15, 2026.

Forward all requests to the Dept. of Pupil Services and Special Education, 380 Norwich Ave., Colchester, Ct., 06415, or by calling the Pupil Services office at 860-537-3103.

Upon request, records will be available for pickup only at the Dept. of Pupil Services.

Resident Graduates

Davin Roy, of Colchester, graduated cum laude with an MBA from Shepherd University in Shepherdstown, W. Va. Davin worked as a graduate assistant strength and conditioning coach with multiple Shepherd teams.

Fundraiser for Giving Garden

The Colchester Giving Garden has started its 14th season of growing and donating fresh vegetables to help feed those in need in the community – and a fundraiser to support its mission is coming up. The garden is all-volunteer, and all are welcome to join in. No gardening experience is necessary.

The open work time is Tuesdays at 5 p.m. at the garden. The garden is located at 95 Norwich Ave. On Monday, June 1, from 5-9 p.m., Mel's Downtown Creamery, 32 Norwich Ave., will donate a percentage of its sales to the Colchester Giving Garden. For more information about the garden, email Colchestergivinggarden@gmail.com or look for the garden on Facebook.

Discover 'Exuberantly Decorated Arts'

A new exhibit, "Discovering Colchester's Exuberantly Decorated Arts: 1760-1820," opens at the Colchester History Museum with a special program on Sunday, May 31, at 2 p.m.

The exhibit showcases Revolutionary War-era furniture and textiles, highlighting local cabinetmakers and creative women whose works are now part of major museum collections. Historians Arthur Liverant and Kevin Tulimieri will narrate the opening program.

Visit the exhibit Sundays from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. or by appointment to explore Colchester's remarkable legacy. Come discover the material goods created right here in Colchester in the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

For more information, call 860 537-4230 or email mail@colchesthistory.org.

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: 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. She is the author of *Anglerfish: The Seadevil of the Deep*.

Youth Services Summer Programs

Summer is almost here—and so are Colchester Youth Services summer programs.

Registration is now officially open, and spots are already filling up fast. Most of the programs are designed for youth entering grades 4-12, with a variety of activities planned all summer long.

To secure a spot, and for more information, visit colchester-youth-services.jumbula.com/home.

Ladies Guild Offering Trip to See Joshua

The St. Andrew Ladies Guild is sponsoring a trip from Sept. 16-18 to Lancaster, Pa., to see *Joshua*.

In addition, the Ladies Guild will have dinner with an Amish family, travel through the Amish countryside, visit Kitchen Kettle Village, and visit the Seltzer's Smokehouse.

Trip cost is \$699 for a double room, or \$849 for a single. Transportation will be on a deluxe motorcoach. For more information, contact Barbara Gozzo at 860-208-4121 or barbogzzo@gmail.com.

Vendors Sought for Tag Sale

The Colchester Business Association is looking for vendors for its annual Colchester Tag Sale event. The event will be held on Town Green on Sunday, June 14, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. A rain date will be scheduled for June 28.

The CBA plans to have over 100 vendors selling products and tag sale items. There will also be food vendors. Spaces for tag sale and non-business are \$35.

For applications, visit ColchesterCBA.com or email info@colchesterctbusiness.com.



Marina Swanback

ECC Names Colchester Resident 'Rising Star'

Colchester resident Marina Swanback, Norwich Technical High School student and Team Captain of the Griswold Girls High School Lacrosse team, has been recognized by the Eastern Connecticut Conference with both the Rising Star Award and the Sportsmanship of the Year Award.

Swanback was honored for her leadership, dedication, and commitment both on and off the field. The Rising Star recognition highlighted her athletic growth and impact within the conference, while the Sportsmanship of the Year Award reflected the integrity, character and leadership she demonstrated throughout competition.

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

Voters Pass Town, RHAM Budget, Rejects AES Spending

By Toriana Williams

Voters in Andover finally approved the town budget and both Regional School District 8 (RHAM) proposed budgets. However, they rejected the proposed budget for Andover Elementary School during the town's second referendum of the season on Tuesday, May 26.

The referendum was bifurcated this time around, which meant voters cast separate ballots for the town and education budgets after earlier proposals failed and forced officials back into budget discussions.

Residents approved the proposed \$13.51 million town budget for the 2026-2027 fiscal year by a vote of 412 to 367. The revised proposal represented a 4.8% increase over the current year. Voters in Andover also approved the RHAM operating budget by a vote of 417 to 360 and passed the RHAM Capital Improvement Plan by 424 to 350.

However, the proposed Andover Elementary School budget was ultimately rejected by a relatively close vote 431 to 343.

The revised AES budget total \$5.01 million, a

9.82% increase over the current year. That was lower after revisions were made to a previously proposed 11% increase that garnered strong opposition from residents.

Meanwhile, RHAM's revised district-wide operating budget total \$32.8 million, a 0.65% increase over the current year. Andover's share of the RHAM budget will actually decrease by roughly \$84,000 after district officials discovered an accounting error that resulted in money being returned to member towns.

Advisory question responses showed that residents remain concerned about the elementary school budget. Many towns surrounding Andover share similar concerns about their own education budget this season.

For the town budget, 401 voters thought it "too high," while 280 thought it "just right" and 62 thought it was "too low." The AES budget faced much stronger opposition. 556 voters said the school budget was "too high," while only 172 called it "just right" and 120 said it was "too low."

Speaking after referendum results, Andover

Superintendent of Schools Valerie Bruneau said she was somewhat surprised by the outcome. She explained that many residents appeared focused on the education side of the budget despite what she described as available town funding sources.

"There was little expectation for town-side cuts knowing that there is a vast amount in fund balances and in the other town capital accounts," she said. Bruneau also noted that Andover budget votes historically tend to fall along similar margins.

"Historically Andover does win or lose at the same 55/45 percentage," she said.

Still, she believed some residents may not have fully understood the overall tax impact of the revised proposals. "What I was surprised at is that the numbers were not out there," Bruneau said. "The whole town os down below 3% and yesterday that fact hasn't been widely dispersed."

She added, "All three budgets could have passed and the total ask would have been under \$300k"

Bruneau warned that the failed AES budget

will likely lead to staffing and programming reductions. "Student programming and staffing will definitely be affected," she said. "It is a shame that students will directly be affected."

According to Bruneau, Andover schools had recently seen strong academic progress while maintaining smaller class sizes. "We have had a very successful year on benchmark assessments when the [Board of Education] supported reasonable class sizes," she said.

However, she said maintaining those staffing levels may become difficult as officials work to lower the budget. "We will have to advocate to keep that," Bruneau said. "However, supporting staff will have to be decreased."

She estimated paraprofessionals may be among the first positions reduced. "I estimate paraeducators will need to be reduced for sure," she said. Bruneau also said officials may eventually consider combining grade levels depending on how much the budget is reduced. "We may look at merging the lower grades, one through three," she added.

Congregational Church News

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

Children's Church: Is provided. Choir: At 9 a.m. Sundays in the sanctuary.

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

AA Meetings: Saturdays and Mondays, 7 p.m. Sonshine Stampers: Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m.

Tag Sale: Saturday, June 6, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Bingo and Baskets: Friday, June 19. Dinner at 5:30 p.m., games at 6:30 p.m. Fee is \$15 per person.

Community & Senior Center Happenings

The Andover Community and Senior Center (ACSC), located at 25 School Rd., is open Monday-Thursday from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. and Friday from 9 a.m.-noon. All are welcome. For more information, call director Tess Grous at 860-742-7305 ext. 4510 or at 860-798-6862.

The center's monthly newsletter is available online at www.andoverconnecticut.org. Copies are also available at the center, Town Hall, and Andover Public Library. To receive the newsletter by email each month or to reserve space, call 860-742-7305. Also call the center if interested in volunteering. Evening hours are available. Call or stop by the center if interested.

Transportation: Call 860-498-2326 to schedule transportation. Provide a one-week notice for all appointment requests. Transportation to town events, voting, and ACSC activities to Andover seniors, veterans, and disabled are welcome.

Regular Weekly and Monthly Programs: For a list of regular weekly and monthly events, such as Movies, Luncheons and Special Speakers, Yoga, Dominos, Tai Chi, trips to the library and the food pantry/Foodshare truck, Chair Massage, and more, see the monthly newsletter. Transportation is available.

Special Upcoming Events: Step into the Summer Kickoff MOVEMENT: Join as the center launches their Summer Kickoff MOVEMENT - a celebration of movement in all its forms. Starting in May, enjoy new activities and refreshed favorites designed to get everyone involved.

Shopping: Tuesdays, 8:30 a.m. Shop William's 6/2, 6/16, 6/30. Shop in Manchester on 6/9, 6/23. Transportation is available. Thursday 6/18, 8:30 a.m. shop Trader Joe's & Michael's.

Family Bingo: Friday, 5/29, 6-8 p.m. Family Bingo is back. Sign up is required - Limited to 60 People. \$10 per person. Includes a slice of pizza, pad of bingo sheets and dessert. Call the center, 860-742-7305 x4510 to register.

AARP Driver's Safety Class: Saturday, 5/30, 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. \$20 for AARP members, \$25 for non-members. The location is at the center. To register, call the center or 860-647-9196. Completion may save you money on insurance premiums. Open to all ages.

Lunch at The Center (BAF): Wednesdays, noon. 6/03 Birthday Bingo - cupcakes & light lunch. 6/10 is grilled lunch with guest speaker Chuck from Dunbar Jewelers. Chuck will be bringing the ultrasonic cleaner to clean and check your jewelry. 6/17 is light lunch and bingo prizes. 6/24 is light lunch and bingo prizes. Registration is required - Call the center. As always, transportation is available.

Kid's Art Class with Kim (BAF): Wednesday, 6/10, 6/17, 3 p.m. \$18 per class or \$35 for both. There is a discount for siblings. This class is perfect for all skill levels. Space is limited. Supplies

Committee Looks to Fill Vacancies

The Andover Community Fund at the Greater Hartford Gives Foundation (formerly Hartford Foundation for Public Giving) is accepting applications to fill vacancies on its Community Fund committee - and the deadline to apply is June 1.

The Andover Community Fund Committee is responsible for selecting and distributing funds awarded by Greater Hartford Gives to local nonprofits to assist in projects that will help enhance and benefit the residents of Andover.

For more information, email the committee at andover@greaterhartfordgivescf.org.

are provided. To register, contact the center.

Chair Massage: Wednesday, 6/3, 6/10, 6/17, 6/24, 4 p.m. \$34. Unwind with a relaxing 20-minute chair massage from licensed massage therapist Linda. Call Linda to reserve your spot at 860-655-4409.

Walking Club: Tuesdays, Thursdays, 2 p.m. Low-key, no-pressure walking club. Groups forming now for walks along the Rails to Trails, the track at Long Hill or indoors at the center. Contact the center if you are interested.

Foodshare Truck: Wednesday, 6/3, 6/17, 9 a.m. Free transportation to Andover Congregational Church is available; contact the center. For more information on other available dates and times, contact Joan Soucy at 860-208-3226.

The Summer Scoop! A Passport to Ice Cream: Friday, 6/5, Kloter Farms Ellington. The center hosts a summer long journey for residents where passports will take you to area ice cream shops. Call the center to register and pick up your passport. 6/19, Shady Glen in Bolton.

Father's Day Breakfast: Thursday, 6/11, 9-10 a.m. Free. Enjoy a special brunch as you celebrate and share appreciation for Fathers and role models. Registration is required. Call the center.

Senior Art Class with Kim (BAF): Thursday, 6/11, 10-noon, \$15. Focus - Watercolor Book student choice. This class is perfect for all skill levels. Space is limited. Supplies are provided. To register, call the center.

Foot Care with Sue: Thursday, 6/18, 9 a.m. \$42. Routine nail trimming and care, callus and corn reduction, foot assessments and skin care, early identification of potential concerns, education on proper foot health and prevention. Call the center for an appointment. Transportation is available.

Lavender Ridge Farm: Friday, 6/19, 11 a.m. \$15 per person. Take a walk through the lavender fields. Pick your own lavender, enjoy lavender cookies and tea, take home a lavender booklet (50 ways to use lavender) & peruse the shop. Recommended: good walking shoes & a sun hat. Caution: uneven terrain & plenty of bees. Max 12 attendees. Sign up is required, call the center.

Stained Glass: Friday, 6/26, 6 p.m. \$65. No prior experience is needed. Focus - Fairies. This class fills up quickly. For students 16+ & all materials included. Registration is required. To register, call the center.

Senior Garden Club: If you would like to participate in the joy of gardening, call the center. Plants in the Senior Beds are now in the ground. Weed, water, repeat until harvest.

Casino Trip: Friday, 6/26, 10 a.m. Hop on the bus for a trip to Mohegan Sun. The bus will return at 1 p.m. Space is limited. To reserve a seat, call 860-498-2326.

Donations Sought for Book Sale

Donations of gently-used books, DVDs, CDs and audiobooks are welcome for the upcoming Andover Friends of the Library's Book & Bake Sale on Saturday, June 6.

Bring your donations to the library on these days only: any Wednesday through May 27 between 10 a.m. and 7 p.m., or on Saturday, May 16, between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Do not leave items outside.

The Friends will not accept VHS tapes, encyclopedias and textbooks, magazines, or *Reader's Digest* condensed novels.

The last day to accept donations for this sale is Wednesday, June 3.

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



Rain poured down on Portland residents during their Memorial Day parade, but they did not let that sully the point of the holiday. They gathered together in remembrance of all fallen soldiers on Monday, May 25.

★ *Portland Celebrates, cont. from page 1*

"My dad taught me to play trumpet when I was a little girl," she said, "and I ran around the Legion Hall with him and I started playing trumpet with him, and it meant a lot to meet all the veterans and hear their stories."

She said that as she got older she wanted to play with him, but "he told me, 'You can only play if you can play it well.'"

"He made me audition," she laughed, "and the first year, I couldn't play it well enough, and he said, 'Maybe next year.'"

Kelsey, who described herself as her dad's "mini me," said she finally began performing next to him as a 12-year-old in 2002, stepping out of her role in the middle and high school band each year to perform alongside him. Her dad, Jeff, died "very unexpectedly" in 2018, and Kelsey said that people were worried she might not want to do it after that. They didn't have to worry, she said.

"First of all, my dad would haunt me from the grave," she said, laughing, but also, "I grew up in this town, I know these veterans. I know the people who have passed away in the last year, and it means a lot to me."

"Taps," she said, was an important piece of music.

"Those simple notes are just a way to say thank you," she said, saying that she hears veterans' stories often in her career as a paramedic and a nurse. "It's a last little tribute that you can say thank you, and it means a lot."

Indoors at Brownstone School, "The Singing Trooper" Daniel Clark performed patriotic and military songs, and local politicians, including State Senator Norm Needleman and State Representative Christie Carpino gave short speeches.

Carpino noted how soaked everyone in the

audience was.

"You'll notice some of us are wet," she said to chuckles in the audience, adding that she thought that was important. She said "keeping those who didn't come home" in mind was essential on that dreary day, adding that "the least we can do is march in the rain" to honor them.

Needleman remembered both those who were lost and those who came home with survivor's guilt, sharing the story of a Vietnam veteran and remembering how many from that fight were not received home with welcome arms.

The biggest guest of honor at the event, however, was Governor Ned Lamont, who showed up just before the ceremony began, in an unanticipated twist.

Pelton said he had heard from Needleman earlier in the day, who told Pelton that he had seen Lamont at an event earlier in the day and invited him to join him in Portland.

Lamont said he thought he might be in "the most patriotic place in the most patriotic state," and encouraged those in the audience to remember those who had served, "not just on Memorial Day," but all the time.

Appropriately on the rainy day, he referenced early American author and statesman Thomas Paine's writing about "sunshine patriots" who flee in trying times, and spoke of the importance of defending the country and its ideals.

"When you see a vet," he said, "thank them."

Pelton said he found the governor's speech "moving and meaningful," adding that it was well-received.

"I was personally extremely happy he came," said Pelton, "and invited him to come back and visit again soon."

Obituaries

Andover

Leon Price

Leon Price, of South Windsor, passed away on March 11, 2026, in the Philippines. He was born in Chicago, Illinois, on September 8, 1942, to the late Leon and Sarah "Lucky" Williams.



Leon earned a Master's Degree in Biology and spent over 20 years working as an industrial hygienist with Aetna ensuring employee safety across America. Throughout his life, he was known for his intelligence, curiosity, and ability to connect with people from all walks of life.

In his younger years, Leon enjoyed fixing computers, working on cars, and drag racing. As he grew older, his interests expanded to include art, theater, travel, and reading. He especially loved visiting the Philippines, a place that became very close to his heart. Leon traveled extensively around the world and had a gift for making friends everywhere he went. He was sociable, warm, and always enjoyed a good conversation.

Leon also had a passion for books and technology, and at one time sold computer books, combining two of his lifelong interests.

He is survived by his six children, grandchildren, extended family, and many friends who will remember his adventurous spirit, kindness, and vibrant personality.

Leon will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him. A graveside service will be held on Saturday, May 30, 2026, at 1 p.m. at Townsend Cemetery in Andover.

If you are one of Leon's children whom we are not in contact with, please call 860-268-0348.

East Hampton

Margaret Susan Bannon

It is with heavy hearts we announce the passing of our beloved mother, grandmother and great grandmother. Margaret Susan Bannon entered eternal rest on May 20 at the age of 79 yrs.

She leaves behind her loving daughter Karen Young and her son-in-law Scott Young. Her beloved grandson Jereme Roy and his wife Jessica Roy two great-granddaughters Emily Roy and Kayla Roy, and granddaughter Amanda Roy.

Along with many other family members and extended family. Margaret was one of a kind; she worked at Colonial Market in East Hampton for over 10 years. People would go to her register just so they could talk and see her.

She truly is remembered for her smile, sweetness and kind manner. She also loved her Church which was St Patrick's, she was an active member. She started Adoration at the church (profound Love, devotion and intense admiration towards people as well as worship).

Margaret had her beautiful Jeep Liberty which she called (Queen Victoria). Margaret also had true, loving, compassionate people and friends in her life that were so important to her. Margaret will truly be remembered and never forgotten.

She will be remembered as a special loving person, mother, grandmother, friend, mentor and just pure Love.

A Funeral Liturgy will be celebrated on Friday, May 29 at 11 a.m. in St. John Paul II Parish of St. Patrick in East Hampton followed by burial in St. Patrick Cemetery. To leave online condolences please visit www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Portland

Theresa (Tobias) Field

Theresa (Tobias) Field, 90, wife of the late David VanNess Field, peacefully passed away Wednesday, May 13, 2026. Born June 19, 1935, in Hazelton, Pa., she was one of 17 children born to the late Blanche (Golab) and Steven Tobias.



Theresa moved with her family at the age of 14 to Middletown, and later moved to Portland to raise her six children with her beloved husband David. Theresa worked for many years at Elmcrest Hospital until retirement.

Known for her kindness, strength, warmth, and sense of humor, she treasured time spent with her family. Her home was always filled with love, laughter, and compassion.

She is survived by her brother Thomas Tobias and sister Monica Termine; her children: Joseph Field, Theresa DiPace, Cathy Field, and David Field and wife Karen; many nieces and nephews, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and a great-great grandson Axel whom she loved to see smile and laugh.

Theresa lived a full and meaningful life here with those who loved her and now, after many years apart, is reunited with husband David, favorite son Michael Field, and beautiful daughter Patricia Kravka, both who predeceased her.

The family would like to offer a heartfelt thank you to the staff at Wadsworth Glen for their care and support.

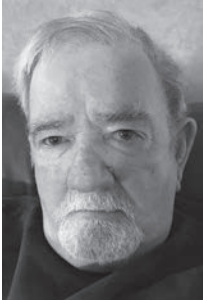
A memorial service will be June 4, 2026, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Biega Funeral Home 3 Silver St. Middletown, CT. Burial will take place on a later date at the family's discretion.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to the Nathaniel B. Field Memorial Foundation, Inc. 32 Old Country Road East, Hadam CT 06438.

Colchester

William John Fiondella

William John Fiondella, fondly known as Bill, of Colchester, passed away at home after a long illness on May 20. He was 78 years old. Bill was born in Norwich on April 18, 1948. He was a son of the late Marshall and Mildred (Metzler) Fiondella. He was a proud veteran, having served during the Vietnam War with the US Army and later with the U.S. Air Force.



On Oct. 9, 1976, he married the love of his life, Kathleen Olson. The couple made their home in Colchester and had many lifelong friendships with their neighbors. Bill retired several years ago after a long career as a professional driver for Max Finkelstein. In his free time, Bill enjoyed riding motorcycles and fishing. Most importantly, he will be remembered for his friendly disposition and ability to strike up a conversation with anyone he met.

Bill will be sadly missed but always remembered with love by all who knew him, especially his wife of 50 years, Kathy; a daughter, Priscilla Yates of Texas; three grandchildren; two sisters, Tina (Kenneth) Angell of Norwich, Carolyn (Robert) Angell of Colchester; a brother in law and sister in law Peter and Shellene Olson; his father-in-law, Paul Olson; and many extended family members and friends. He also leaves his beloved chihuahua, Bailey, who will miss him dearly.

In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by four siblings, Marshall Jr., Daniel, Joseph, and Marie Pettengill.

A graveside funeral service was held in the New St. Andrew Cemetery, Gillette's Lane, Colchester on Tuesday, May 26, with full military honors.

Donations in his memory may be made to the Middlesex Hospice: www.middlesexhealth.org.

The Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester has been entrusted with care of arrangements. For online condolences or to share a story of Bill, please visit www.auroramccarthy-funeralhome.com.

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



Commander Ray Theobald, Chaplain Ralph Braun, State Sen. Cathy Osten (D-19) and State Rep. Steve Weir (R-55) saluted the American flag as "Taps" echoed throughout the town green during Marlborough's Memorial Day celebration.

★ Marlborough Honors, cont. from page 1

of local efforts after the Civil War, when communities decorated the graves of fallen soldiers with flowers and held remembrance ceremonies.

"The origins of Memorial Day are fundamentally local," Porter said. "This day began, not with the president laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, though he certainly will do that. It began with grateful Americans mourning the loss of their loved ones, and honoring the sacrifices made to preserve and advance this American project."

He also thanked volunteers who helped prepare for the holiday by placing American flags throughout town and at veterans' gravesites.

"In Marlborough, we are fortunate to have dedicated volunteers who help us remember by placing an American flag at the grave markers of every veteran laid to rest in our cemetery," Porter said.

Porter acknowledged the contrast many Americans feel during Memorial Day weekend, which is often seen as both a solemn holiday and the unofficial beginning of summer.

"On one hand, you see flags at half mast, quiet ceremonies at veterans memorials and people standing with hands over their hearts during a moment of silence," he said. "On the other hand, Memorial Day weekend is also one of the busiest travel periods of the year, with road trips, sales at stores, family cookouts and recreational events that feel more like celebration than remembrance."

Still, Porter said those traditions can coexist if Americans remember the reason for the holiday. "Pausing a cookout for a moment of silence, bringing children to a parade or a cemetery or telling a family story about someone who served, can weave remembrance into even the most casual traditions," he said.

State Sen. Cathy Osten (D-19), a Vietnam-era veteran, also addressed the crowd and spoke personally about her military service. "I joined the military three days after I turned 18, in the Vietnam era," Osten said. "So I did that because I believe in this country, and I always will believe in this country."

Osten then recited the famous poem "In Flanders Fields," which drew quiet attention from the audience gathered near the veterans monument. Before finishing, she reminded residents that Memorial Day should honor all who suffered because of military service.

"Remember, this day is a day to remember those who gave all," Osten said, "whether they gave all in combat, or they gave all after in post traumatic stress or those who died from Agent Orange, all related to their service."

State Rep. Steve Weir (R-55) also spoke. He thanked residents who attended despite threatening weather earlier in the day. "Thank you to all of you out there who braved the impending weather," Weir said.

Weir reflected on the approaching 250th anniversary of the United States and praised the nation's long history. "This great experiment of this nation, we are here living free after 250 years," he said, "is something that I don't think any other country in the world can say as successful as we have."

Quoting portions of a speech delivered by the 20th U.S. President James Garfield, Weir urged attendees to continue honoring veterans long into the future. "Because of their service, we're able to gather, we're able to worship like we want," Weir said. "We're able to say what we want. We're free to make of ourselves what we want."

Music remained a major part of the ceremony throughout the afternoon. The CT Valley Field Music group performed "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot," while the RHAM Band later played a patriotic medley.

Toward the end of the ceremony, members of the color guard stepped forward to place a memorial wreath at the veterans monument outside town hall. Organizers then prepared for a ceremonial rifle volley, though damp weather caused some difficulties.

"Like in the days of old, they may or may not fire in damp weather," Theobald told the crowd with a laugh. "We're gonna do the best we can."

After the attempted volley, the crowd fell silent as "Taps" echoed across the town green.

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"A monument should cost no more than a family can afford."

★ Letters, cont. from page 8

grow. Last year's budget resulted in the loss of 14 positions. That impact is profound on the people we need to support. If we keep asking them to do more with less, we risk losing talented and devoted teachers and staff.

The greedy Board of Education doesn't care about anything but schools.

This one might be insulting if it weren't so laughably false.

The Board of Ed is made up of taxpaying volunteers. We care about the quality of our roads, the facilities for our seniors, and the response time of our public safety providers.

Is our focus on education? Yes, that is literally our function. We aren't the Lake Commission. I wouldn't want someone like me in charge of paving streets. I don't think anyone on the Board of Ed takes their responsibility lightly. I certainly know we don't have disdain for taxpayers. We are simply trying to offer the best education possible on a budget the community can support.

Please vote yes on June 2.

Sincerely, Matt Engelhardt - East Hampton

Note: Engelhardt is a member of the East Hampton Board of Education but said he is speaking as a taxpayer.

Colchester Socializing

To the Editor:

Folks need to socialize more. (Not to be confused with becoming socialists! And you don't need to be a socialite either.) Interact more with your fellow citizens. A fine way to do this is at a social club. Maybe it's the Senior Center, or your church. Perhaps you belong to a civic or service organization, like the Lions. Participate! Contribute ... and not just money. Paying dues to your club is fine, but contributing and engaging are at least as important. If you've gone to the trouble to join and paid your dues, reap the benefits of involvement.

If you already are involved, you are in the minority of members who give time to their organizations. I am a member of St. Joseph's Polish Society. It is a great place to socialize. The members are welcoming and friendly. The Board and staff are a dedicated group of good people. Participating in events and helping to keep the facilities spiffy is very gratifying. St. Joe's holds many functions throughout the year, including the annual golf tournament, funding scholarships. They participate in the Annual Toys for Tots Army vs Navy Toy Drive. Their Lenten fish

fries and special events provide ample occasions for a good time. And, of course there are the polka dances!

More significantly, membership provides a strong sense of belonging, of community and family, of heritage. You meet people with whom you have common points of connection: geographically, socially and historically. Conversations hold meaning, not just anecdotes and opinions. If you are a member, give yourself a break, make it a habit to drop by once a week for a beer and conversation. Whichever organization you belong to, really take part! Contribute. Help rebuild society by being more social.

John Barnowski - Colchester

Note: Barnowski is a member of the Democratic Town Committee but is writing as an individual.

We have a Process, Let's Use It

To the Editor:

The way to determine what budget(s) our residents want for 2026-27 is through the Referendum vote on June 2. Recent Town Council meeting public comments introduce conflicting messages as to what the "town" wants regarding the size of the budget. Many of those present expressed the view the budget should remain flat, or even decrease. Others expressed a desire to maintain the school budget as presented, with the resultant increase in expenditures. And others may sit quietly, as recent meetings have been loud, contentious and intimidating. Deciding what the town "wants" based on that kind of input makes little sense and excludes most of the residents.

The Council, Departments, Board of Education and Superintendent are charged with proposing budgets based on mandates and priorities identified in recent cycles with clear indication of the fiscal implications, not to decide solely among themselves what priority changes to put forward for town-wide consideration. That would be policy making by a small select group, driven by most vocal, well-organized, or even personal interest.

That does not mean the message to manage spending is to be glossed over or ignored. I would venture that message is universally shared - by current budget drafters, supporters and opponents alike. And if our residents confirm through their vote that the proposed budgets are too much, then town officials will know where the majority stands and should act accordingly. But a no vote only tells the town to cut expenses, not how to make those cuts. Only a revised budget and referendum may do that. It's messier than budget by fiat. It adds cost. But it is exactly as mandated in the type of citizen driven town government we have.

Russell Kaplan - East Hampton

Support For a No Vote Required

To the Editor:

Fellow taxpayers of East Hampton, the leaders of EH continue to advocate for more money for the BOE. The recent letter by one writer from the BOF states "the schools budget increase is a very modest 3.58%". Modest by whose standards? The BOE? Certainly not the majority of voters. The current inflation rate in the U.S. is 3.8%. Social Security increase is 2.8%. The average salary increase is estimated to be 3.5%.

It looks like the average EH taxpayer will be paying any increases to their income directly to the BOE. And the rest of the town of EH has to suffer a minus 12.8% reduction in capital expenditures? Another writer quotes education staff and program reduction as a result of the last budget. They did not mention what reductions occurred in the rest of the town budget. And what hardship did the administrators suffer? Obviously, the real world has not intruded on the BOE consciousness.

Letters to Riverast in recent editions urge the good people of EH to vote NO on the proposed 2027 BOE budget. In those letters is an implied request for the estimated 64% of the residents of EH who do not have children in the schools to vote NO. Prior BOE budgets have historically passed simply because the 36% with school children vote in favor of the "modest" increases, while the truly affected majorities don't show up to say NO.

Another writer claims to "debunk budget myths," making 4 points as to why the education budget cannot be lowered, yet makes no mention of the smaller budget that the rest of town operations are forced to share. (And for the record, that writer is a prominent member of the BOE, writing as an individual. No bias there, right?).

In the last two issues, out of 10 letters supporting the BOE budget, three are individuals, two are Democratic Town Committee members, one EH town council, two BOE, and two BOE. On the non-support side, 9 people have written; three are individuals, three Republican Town Committee, two EH town council, and one BOF. Since the pro-education officials occupy key seats in our government, are vocal in support of egregious spending, and the opposition voices are yet to be heard in any volume, it is likely that BOE will be granted their demands again. Unless, of course you get out to vote NO on June 2.

Bob Yenker - East Hampton

Advertisement for HARRINGTON REAL ESTATE featuring a photo of a house and contact information for Jim Harrington (860-966-9966).

Crossword puzzle titled 'BAD GUYS' with a grid and clues. See Answers, page 27.

Answers to the crossword puzzle, categorized by ACROSS and DOWN.

LEGAL NOTICE: TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION. Notice of Hearing regarding PZC-26-005.

LEGAL NOTICE: TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON. Notice regarding Sewer Use at the regular meeting of the East Hampton Town Council.

MARLBOROUGH CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING. Notice regarding Road Culvert Replacement.

LEGAL NOTICE: TOWN OF HEBRON CONNECTICUT WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY. Public Hearing (Virtual) June 9, 2026.

LEGAL NOTICE: HEBRON HISTORIC PROPERTIES COMMISSION. Notice regarding historic properties.

LEGAL NOTICE: TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY. PUBLIC HEARING regarding 2026-2027 Operation, Maintenance & Repair Budget.

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON

The East Hampton Town Council will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, June 9, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. during the Regular Town Council Meeting in the East Hampton Town Hall Council Chambers, 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, CT 06424 for the 2026 CT Neighborhood Assistance Act Program Application received from Epoch Arts.

A copy of the Neighborhood Assistance Act application is available in the Town Clerk's Office.

EAST HAMPTON TOWN COUNCIL
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Jack Solomon, Vice Chairperson
Timothy Feegel
Ted Hintz, Jr.
Richard Knotek
Joelyn Leon
Karen Wanat

1TB 5/29

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Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/abq-nscy-jpp>
Or dial: (US) +1 515-518-4027 PIN: 606 490 745#
More phone numbers: <https://tel.meet/abq-nscy-jpp?pin=3206034651507>

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT A PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD BOTH VIRTUALLY AND IN-PERSON (RHAM MIDDLE SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER) ON MONDAY, JUNE 1, 2026, AT 6:30 P.M. TO DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING: 1. CALL TO ORDER 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE 3. "TO PRESENT AND DISCUSS THE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 8 PROPOSED OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGETS FOR 2026-2027." 4. PUBLIC COMMENT 5. ADJOURNMENT

DATED AT HEBRON, CONNECTICUT, May 27, 2026
REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 8
HEATHER SUMMERER, CHAIRPERSON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 8 BOARD OF EDUCATION

1TB 5/29

TOWN OF PORTLAND PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION LEGAL NOTICE OF DECISION

At the May 21, 2026 meeting, the following actions were taken:

Approved with conditions Application #25-16: 45 Glastonbury Turnpike (driveway access to this landlocked property is through 39 Isinglass Hill Road aka 45 Isinglass Hill Road). Request for a Special Permit Modification to move 4 approved silos to a new location 200 ft to the south. Application of CT Explosives and property of Hale Hill Farm Inc. Map 120, Lot 24. Zone R-25.

Approved with conditions Application #25-17: Courtney Lane. Proposed 2 lot subdivision. Application and property of T.C.B.S. Properties. Map 15 Lot 36-3. Zone RR. Dated at Portland, CT this 27th day of May 2026

Robert Ellsworth, Chairman
Planning & Zoning Commission

1TB 5/29

Place Your Classified Ad Online!

Visit www.glcitizen.com and click "Classifieds" Fill out the fields and submit payment via PayPal.

7-3-2025

TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON ANNUAL BUDGET REFERENDUM TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 2026

**TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON
TOWN COUNCIL APPROVED BUDGET (June 2, 2026 Referendum)
July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027**

	ACTUAL 2024-2025	Approved 2025-2026	Town Council Approved 2026-2027	INCREASE/ (DECREASE)	2026 to 2027 Percent Change From Original Bud.
EXPENDITURES					
EDUCATION	\$ 38,272,708	\$ 38,762,951	\$ 40,150,937	\$ 1,387,986	3.58%
TOWN OPERATIONS					
ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE	5,112,948	5,499,703	6,048,309	548,606	9.98%
PUBLIC SAFETY	3,236,287	3,656,589	3,699,082	42,493	1.16%
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES	508,305	592,486	631,483	38,997	6.58%
CULTURE & RECREATION	1,026,437	1,146,735	1,168,646	21,911	1.91%
REGULATORY	500,250	561,112	598,801	37,689	6.72%
PUBLIC WORKS	2,654,087	2,737,319	2,770,497	33,178	1.21%
TRANSFERS TO OTHER FUNDS					
OTHER FUNDS	202,500	42,500	42,500	-	0.00%
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT	1,716,456	1,667,700	1,448,200	(219,500)	-13.16%
DEBT SERVICE	3,904,325	3,892,636	3,893,986	1,350	0.03%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 57,134,303	\$ 58,559,731	\$ 60,452,441	\$ 1,892,710	3.23%
REVENUES					
FEDERAL REVENUES	\$ 3,831	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ -	0.00%
GRANTS - STATE OF CT (EDUCATION)	6,925,379	6,980,295	6,983,110	2,815	0.04%
GRANTS - STATE OF CT (OTHER)	1,279,070	1,697,192	1,918,029	220,837	13.01%
LICENSES, PERMITS AND FEES	877,052	696,725	719,430	22,705	3.26%
OTHER REVENUE	179,279	86,529	91,639	5,110	5.91%
INVESTMENT INCOME	349,063	150,000	175,000	25,000	16.67%
PROPERTY TAX REVENUE (PRIOR YEARS)	1,252,717	926,750	951,750	25,000	2.70%
TRANSFERS FROM OTHER FUNDS	30,785	31,710	32,661	951	3.00%
TOTAL REVENUES (Before taxes & fund balance)	\$ 10,897,176	\$ 10,571,201	\$ 10,873,619	\$ 302,418	2.86%
USE OF FUND BALANCE					
PROPERTY TAXES (Motor Vehicle) Capped at 32.46 mills	\$ 4,608,670	\$ 4,046,098	\$ 3,754,022	\$ (292,076)	-7.22%
PROPERTY TAXES (Real Estate and Personal Property)	\$ 41,986,102	\$ 43,942,432	\$ 45,824,800	\$ 1,882,368	4.28%
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 57,491,948	\$ 58,559,731	\$ 60,452,441	\$ 1,892,710	3.23%
NET GRAND LIST (REAL ESTATE & PERSONAL PROPERTY)	\$ 1,114,325,954	\$ 1,123,554,906	\$ 1,622,755,060	\$ 499,200,154	44.43%
NET GRAND LIST (MOTOR VEHICLE)	\$ 150,039,328	\$ 126,546,950	\$ 132,938,060	\$ 6,391,110	5.05%
VALUE OF MILL (REAL ESTATE & PERSONAL PROPERTY)	\$ 1,097,611	\$ 1,106,702	\$ 1,598,414	\$ 130,944	
VALUE OF MILL (MOTOR VEHICLE)			\$ 98.50%		
ESTIMATED COLLECTION RATE	98.50%	98.50%	98.50%		
MILL RATE	38.04	39.71	28.67	(11.04)	-27.80%

EAST HAMPTON TOWN COUNCIL
Dean Markham, Chairperson
Jack Solomon, Vice Chairperson
Tim Feegel
Ted Hintz
Richard Knotek
Joelyn Leon
Karen Wanat

1TB 5/29

"PET OF THE WEEK"



Three-year old Marcie is a long-haired looker who is best described as a bit down on her luck but making the best of it. Marcie has shown that she enjoys people and is very pleased to spend her time with a reassuring person who showers her with affection. She mostly likes to chill and observe her surroundings, although she can be tempted to play when the spirit moves her. If you are an adopter with a soft spot for gentle souls who have earned a spot of good fortune, come meet Marcie.



Hi, I'm Taylor, I am a 2 month old German Shepherd/Siberian Husky mix. I currently weigh about 10lbs (I think I may be approximately 55lbs full grown with my parents' gene influence). I'm still learning about the big world, but am an active, mischievous, and adventurous girl who wants to get out and about with you! I absolutely must share my space with another dog as I love them so much (I wouldn't mind a dog savvy cat or cat two in addition either). Gentle children 6 years of age and older are in my wheelhouse as well!

**FOR MORE INFO ON ADOPTING CATS OR DOGS, CALL 860-569-0722
VOLUNTEERS & FOSTER HOMES NEEDED - CALL: 860-569-0722**

Protectors of Animals, Inc. 144 Main St., Unit O, E. Hartford, CT 06118
A non-profit, all volunteer animal rescue organization,
rescuing abandoned, abused and impounded cats and dogs. WWW.POAINC.ORG

RE5-29-26

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF PORTLAND

A certified list of the Republican party-endorsed candidate for the Town of Portland for election as Portland Registrar of Voters will be on file with the Office of the Secretary of the State, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut, and copies thereof will be available for public distribution.

A Primary will be held August 11, 2026 with August 3rd through 9th for early voting, if the required primary petition(s) for opposition candidate(s) is filed, pursuant to Sections 9-382 to 9-450 of the Connecticut General Statutes, not later than 4:00 p.m. on June 9, 2026. Petition forms, instructions and information concerning the procedure for filing of opposing candidacies, including schedules, may be obtained from: Pauline Neumann, Republican Registrar of Voters, 33 East Main Street, Portland, Connecticut.

Attest: Michael V. Tierney
Town Clerk of Portland
Dated at Portland this 25nd day of May 2026

1TB 5/29

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF ANDOVER 2026 - 2027 NOTICE OF ANDOVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BUDGET MEETING TUESDAY, June 2, 2026 - 7:00 p.m.

The Electors and Citizens qualified to vote in town meetings in the Town of Andover are hereby notified that the Andover Elementary School Budget Meeting of the Town of Andover will be held at the Andover Elementary School in the Gymnasium - 35 School Road - Andover, Connecticut on Tuesday, June 2, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. For the following purposes:

- To choose a Moderator for said meeting
- For review and discussion only, but no action taken upon the budget of the Andover Elementary School for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027, as prepared by the Board of Finance, and voting will be deferred to the subsequent Budget Referendum at the Andover Town Community Room.
- Adjourn

Copies of the proposed Town Budget will be available in the Town Clerk's Office. Voting by absentee ballot or any other means is not permitted for this meeting.

Dated at Andover, Connecticut this 29th day of May, 2026.
Andover Board of Selectmen

1TB 5/29

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING

The Marlborough Zoning Board of Appeals will hold the following public hearing on Wednesday, June 10, 2026, at 7:00 P.M. in the Marlborough Town Hall, 26 North Main Street.

APPLICATION #ZBA-03-25 - Diane Prentice (Applicant/Property Owner) 33 Myrna Drive - is seeking variance of Article Three A.1, Minimum Requirements, Article Three A.3 Conformity of Buildings & Land, Article Three A.5 Reduction of Lot Areas or Minimum Required Yards, Article Three A.9 Minimum Required Yards, Article Six D. 2 b Side Yard Setback, in order to construct a garage with a Side Yard Setback of 7.1 feet where 15 feet is required.

APPLICATION #ZBA-04-25 - Heather Burgess (Applicant/Property Owner) 85 North Main Street - is seeking variance of Article Three A.1, Minimum Requirements, Article Three A.3 Conformity of Buildings & Land, Article Three A.5 Reduction of Lot Areas or Minimum Required Yards, Article Three A.9 Minimum Required Yards, Article Six D. 2 a Front Yard Setback, & Article Six D.4 Building Coverage, in order to construct a deck with a Front Yard Setback of 26.7 feet where 40 feet is required and building coverage of 13.5% where 10% is allowed.. Interested parties can review the application materials in the Land Use/Building Department during normal Town Hall hours. Written testimony should be sent at least 24 hours ahead of the public hearing date to building@marlboroughct.gov, and oral testimony may be given during the public hearing.

2TB 5/29, 6/5

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF HEBRON REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS HEBRON CENTER PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY SUPPLEMENTAL WELLS RFP 2026-13

The Town of Hebron is soliciting Proposals from licensed Connecticut Water Supply Driller Contractors (W-1) to provide well drilling services.

RFP packages are available at the Town Manager's Office, 15 Gilead Street, Hebron, CT 06248, by calling 860-228-5971 x122, on the Town of Hebron website <https://hebronct.com/contact-us/bids/> or on the CTDAS website at www.biznet.ct.gov. An original and three (3) copies of the sealed Proposal must be received in the Town Manager's Office, in envelopes plainly marked "RFP Hebron Center Public Water Supply Supplemental Wells RFP # 2026-13" by 10:00 a.m. on Friday, June 12, 2026. The Town of Hebron reserves the right to accept or reject any and all Proposal, or any part thereof, if it is in the best interest of the Town.

Donna Lanza
Interim Town Manager

1TB 5/29

REAL ESTATE

RENTALS

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GLASTONBURY - LOVELY LARGE FURNISHED HOME: with all utilities included. WiFi to share with professionals. Veterans, elderly people welcome. Background check. \$950/monthly plus security deposit. Call Richard 860-716-1227.

STORAGE UNITS AVAILABLE: East Hampton Self Storage. 196 E High Street, East Hampton. Text 860-267-4858.

FOR LEASE COLCHESTER: 2-story cold storage barn including 1 garage. 780sqft each level. Near Route 2. To view property or information call Harold at 860-662-2700.



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RE5-29-26

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CT14-24

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, June 8, 2026 at 6:30pm at the East Hampton Town Hall - 1 Community Drive, Room 117 and via Zoom to consider the following application: ZBA-26-005: Kenneth Barber, Requesting the following variance to section 4.4.E Area & Dimensional standards to allow reduction of front setback (Pecauset Trail) from 50' to 20'.88" and front setback (Daly Rd.) from 50' to 43'.4", and increase Maximum Lot Coverage from existing 12.6% to 14.4% for construction of 24' x 32' Barn, on 39 Daly Road, Map 33/ Block 87/ Lot 5A. Applications are on file in the Land Use Office and Town Clerk Office 860 267-7450

2TB 5/29, 6/5

LEGAL NOTICE MARLBOROUGH ZONING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

The Marlborough Zoning Commission will hold the following Public Hearing Thursday, June 4, 2026, at 7:00 PM at the Town Hall, 26 No Main Street

APPLICATION #Z-02-26-Zoning Amendment Committee

- Article Six F.4c.2 floating zone minimum road frontage
- Article Six F.4.C.4 Floating Zone minimum lot size
- Article Six F.4.C.9 Floating Zone open space
- Article Six F.4.C. 13 Floating Zone permitted user DMR, ALD, & PRRD - minimum land area per unit

Written testimony will be received at the public hearing and written testimony can be sent to the Building/Land Use Department at the Town Hall ahead of the public hearing. ERIC COLANTONIO, ZONING COMMISSION CHAIR

2TB 5/22, 5/29

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, June 10, 2026 at 7:00 P.M., to be held virtually through the GoToMeeting Platform, on the following:

1. Petition 2026-03 & 04: Petition of the Town of Hebron Department of Public Works Action Committee for Special Permit and Site Plan Modification, in accordance with Section 2.C.4.1 of the Hebron Zoning Regulations, to demolish and reconstruct a new Department of Public Works and associated facilities, including Transfer Station at 550 Old Colchester Road, R-1 District.

Planning and Zoning Commission
Jun 10, 2026, 7:00 - 10:00 PM (America/New_York)
Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.
<https://meet.goto.com/440080213>
You can also dial in using your phone.
Access Code: 440-080-213
United States: +1 (646) 749-3122
Get the app now and be ready when your first meeting starts:
<https://meet.goto.com/install>
Dated at Hebron, Connecticut, this 21st day of May 2026.
Frank Zitkus, Chair

2TB 5/29, 6/5

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF PORTLAND

A certified list of the Democratic party-endorsed candidates for the Town of Portland for election as Portland Registrar of Voters will be on file with the Office of the Secretary of the State, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut, and copies thereof will be available for public distribution.

A Primary will be held August 11, 2026 with August 3rd through 9th for early voting, if the required primary petition(s) for opposition candidate(s) is filed, pursuant to Sections 9-382 to 9-450 of the Connecticut General Statutes, not later than 4:00 p.m. on June 9, 2026. Petition forms, instructions and information concerning the procedure for filing of opposing candidacies, including schedules, may be obtained from: Maureen O'Doherty, Democratic Registrar of Voters, 33 East Main Street, Portland, Connecticut.
Attest: Michael V. Tierney
Town Clerk of Portland
Dated at Portland this 22nd day of May 2026

1TB 5/29

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WANTED TO BUY

DEE'S ANTIQUES, PAYS \$\$ CASH MONEY \$\$: Buying gold jewelry, sterling silver jewelry and gold and silver coins. Military items, musical instruments, vintage advertising signs and memorabilia, old toys, old hunting, and fishing items. Servicing the community and family respectively for 50 years. Call 203-235-8431.

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 and 1 male, 4 months old. Looking for their forever home. 860-978-0587.

WANTED TARGET SHOOTING PERMISSION: on private 3-10 min acre. Pay \$100/day 3 days summer. Former USMC Officer, Mark 860-982-7164.



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.

BUYING COLLECTIONS & ACCUMULATIONS, FREE REVIEW: Comic Books, Vintage Toys, Sports Cards, Adv Signs/Cans (Soda, Beer, Gas Station), Zippos, License Plates, Jewelry, Postcards, Etc. Call/Text 860-817-4350

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.

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EMPLOYMENT

Children's Librarian

The East Hampton Public Library seeks an enthusiastic, friendly, and forward-thinking Children's Librarian to lead our active Children's Department. Serving a community of approximately 13,000 residents, our Library is a vibrant hub for families, with 1,000 participants in last year's Summer Reading Program and strong, ongoing outreach to local schools and childcare centers.

This is a fast-paced, highly interactive position for someone who thrives on being busy, enjoys connecting with people, and is excited to bring fresh ideas to life. The ideal candidate will create welcoming, engaging library experiences by providing excellent customer service, reader's advisory, reference, and technology assistance to children and caregivers. They will design and deliver a wide range of programs for children from birth through age 12, with a focus on early literacy, learning through play, and community engagement, and will play a key role in planning and executing large-scale events such as Summer Reading and other community programs.

The Children's Librarian will develop and manage a relevant, inclusive collection; supervise and mentor paraprofessional staff; and contribute to ongoing outreach and partnerships with schools and community organizations. We are looking for someone who is adaptable, community-focused, and eager to try new ideas and approaches, with the ability to manage multiple priorities in a busy environment and a genuine passion for working with children and families. Candidates should demonstrate knowledge of children's literature and child development; strong communication and supervisory skills; and comfort working with a wide range of technologies and diverse populations.

Qualifications include a Master of Library Science degree from an accredited institution, or a bachelor's degree with a commitment to complete the MLS within two years, along with at least two years of relevant experience working with children. This position requires one evening per week and participation in a rotating Saturday schedule. The Children's Librarian may also be asked to assist in other areas of the library as needed.

This is a full-time, bargaining unit position with benefit package. \$33.67 per hour beginning 7/1/2026.

Applicants should submit a cover letter, resume and employment application to the Town of East Hampton, Department of Human Resources, 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, CT 06424, or by email to HumanResources@easthamptonct.gov, by June 19, 2026, or until filled. Job description and employment application are available at www.easthamptonct.gov. EOE/AA/M-F.

1TB 5/29

DRIVER/ASSISTANT WANTED: Driver needed to take me from Colchester home to Aquatic Therapy in New Britain, early afternoons. SUV or semi-SUV needed. May need assistance in walker or wheelchair entering pool building. Will need assistance getting in pool chairlift. \$25/hr, 4 hours. Call 860-537-4657.

NOEL'S MARKET: Help Wanted. Bakery, early morning hours. Deli, all shifts available. 860-537-5988.



HELP WANTED

Help needed in our Printing Department. Full and Part-time Hours Available Monday - Friday

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RE5-29-26

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For our day support program, which is from 8am-4pm and 2pm-5pm, the towns are in Salem, Groton, Hebron, Lebanon, Higganum, East Haddam, New London, Norwich, East Hampton, Colchester.

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

These positions are in Colchester.

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

RE3-15-24

Classifieds Pay

The Glastonbury Citizen & Rivereast News Bulletin

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RE3-29-24

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FOR SALE

24' POOL FOR SALE: 1 year old. Needs new liner. \$400/BO. You take down/take away. 860-659-7455. Call or text. Marlborough.

FOR SALE: 2010 Mercedes Benz E350 4matic. 194,000 miles, great condition. \$3700.00 Call 860-978-0587.

TAG SALE: Church of St. Andrew the Apostle, 331 Orchard St, Rocky Hill. Saturday June 13th 8am-4pm and Sunday June 14th 9am-12pm \$0.50 admission. Early birds Saturday 7-8am \$5 admission. Purchase bags to fill \$5 Saturday 3-4pm and Sunday 9am-12pm.

TAG SALE SAT 5/30: 8am-2pm, Rain or Shine. 25 Heritage Dr, Marlborough. Clean out of shed and basement - sporting, tools, holiday décor, jewelry armoire, XL men and women clothes, great deals.

END ROLLS OF NEWSPRINT: Great for art projects, wrapping and packing, table coverings for public dinners, etc. **THE GLASTONBURY CITIZEN.** 87 Nutmeg Lane (off Oak Street) 860-633-4691.

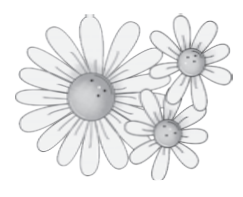
TAG SALES
ESTATE SALE: Many vintage books and other items. Adult trike, diecast cars, dishes, furniture, odds and ends. All 1/2 price. Fri, 4pm-7pm, Sat 9am-12pm, Sun 2pm-5pm. 11 Injun Hollow Rd, Haddam Neck.

MULTI FAMILY TAG SALE: Saturday May 30th, 9am-3pm, Roundhill Rd, Wethersfield. HO Train Set original box, Foss Ball Table, vintage china, Oreck Vacuum, household items, shoes and clothing, something for everyone.

TAG SALE SATURDAY, MAY 30TH: 9AM. 68 Portland Road, Marlborough. PHASE 2 of "Seniors Cleaning Out So Our Kids Won't Have To." Thanks to all who came last fall. Come back again! **LOW PRICES!!**

AUTOMOTIVE
2007 TOYOTA TACOMA: Access Cab, 4x4, AC, Bed Liner, Tool Box. 80,800 miles. Great Condition. No Rust. \$18,500 OBO. Call 860-467-6669 or 860-709-2312.

PINEBROOK RD, COLCHESTER NEIGHBORHOOD TAG SALE: Multiple houses! Furniture, gym equipment, yard care, kitchenware, home décor, toys, kids clothes, etc! Friday, 5/29, 3pm-7pm. Saturday 5/30, 9am-7pm, Sunday, 5/31 8am-12pm.



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Beer Can Chicken Thighs \$2.49lb.	Kretschmar Turkey Off The Bone \$9.99lb.	Finlandia Swiss Cheese \$7.99lb.	Sahlens Smokehouse Ham \$9.99lb.
Fresh Garlic Bread 19 oz. \$3.99	Lofthouse Frosted Cookies Asst Var 13.5 oz. \$5.99	Store Baked Pistachio Muffins 4-Pack 20 oz. \$6.99	Cantaloupes or Honeydew Melons \$2.99ea

Grocery Specials

Ken's Salad Dressings All Var. 9 oz. \$1.88	Lipton Recipe Secret Dip Mixes All Var. 2-2.6 oz. \$1.88	Best Yet Apple Juice 64 oz. \$1.98
Toasted Crackers All Var. 8 oz. \$2.88	Nestle's Tollhouse Morsels All Var. 10-12 oz. \$4.88	Pasta Roni Mixes All Var. 4.6-6.2 oz. \$1.88
Green Giant Canned Vegetables All Var. 14-15 oz. \$1.48	Tuttorosso Tomatoes All Var. 28 oz. \$1.88	Dole Fruit Bowls 4-Pack All Var. 16-17.2 oz. \$2.88

Frozen & Dairy

Ellio's 9-Slice Pizza 18.3 oz. \$3.88	Encor Entrees All Var. 26-28 oz. \$3.88	Eggo Waffles All Var. 10.75-12.3 oz. \$2.88
International Delight Creamers All Var. 32 oz. \$3.88	Florida's Natural Orange Juice All Var. 52 oz. \$3.88	Cabot Sour Cream 16 oz. \$1.88

Produce

Zucchini or Summer Squash \$1.69lb.	California Red Grapes \$2.99lb.	Georgia Vidalia Onions \$.99lb.
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Gourmet Deli

Boar's Head Low Sodium Classic Chicken \$11.99lb.	Boar's Head Gouda Cheese \$7.99lb.
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