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RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

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

Volume 47, Number 20

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July 3, 2026



Saluting the Flag... Deepak and Sohumi with East Hampton Cub Scouts Pack 57 are shown supporting Flags over East Hampton on Flag Day.

Belldtown Preparing To Celebrate America

By Anne Lilburn

East Hampton is ready to celebrate the 250th birthday of America this summer, with parades, a staged reading of the Declaration of Independence, and a patriotically themed Old Home Days.

East Hampton America 250 Committee Co-Chair Kevin Reich said the committee was celebrating the semiquincentennial all year long, but that July was obviously the peak time for anniversary festivities.

For a traditional parade, the town will be participating in the Middlesex County all-county Fourth of July parade at 10 a.m. in Middletown on Saturday, and Reich said a group of people would be putting together an East Hampton float for the event.

Reich said he himself was particularly looking forward to a staged reading of the Declaration of Independence, part of a nationwide initiative taking place in communities throughout the country. In East Hampton, the document will be read by Neal Kirk, said Reich, who added that Kirk will be dressed in colonial garb for the ceremonial event, which will be held on July 8 at 6 p.m. at the Old Home Days fairgrounds, located behind Center School at Bevin Park.

Old Home Days itself will also be a patriotic affair for this year, its 46th, with a theme of "Bells, Boats and Birth of Our Nation." The three-day event will run July 9-11.

Old Home Days Association President John Tuttle said that tying in the event to the 250th had always been a part of the association's plans,

adding that "Bells, Boats and Birth of Our Nation," was chosen as a theme to highlight East Hampton's traditions of both bell-making and shipbuilding.

"Right from the start, we wanted to have our theme aligned with America's 250th birthday, and we wanted to tailor it also directly to our hometown," he said.

"[Old Home Days is] always an event, a weekend, where we focus on celebrating ourselves and having pride in our community," he said. "And so that's no different this year than any year, even though we're maybe thinking on a more national basis."

All the usual rides, games and entertainment will be there, said Tuttle, but because of the patriotic theme, T-shirts will come in red, white and blue colors, and the parade this year would have some added fun features, including a "line up of cars" in red, white and blue.

"You know, a red, white and blue Corvette; a red, white and blue Jeep; a red, white and blue pickup truck," he said. "We're having some fun with that, to try to do something different in the parade and have all of those American-made cars each by the color of the flag, lined up in groups of three."

"I've been running around the Stop and Shop parking lot, leaving fliers on people's cars who have a white Jeep or a red pickup," he laughed. "I just leave a note on their windshield saying, 'We need your car in the parade, please call me!'"

See Celebrate America, page 8

Hebron Fireworks Show Joyfully Blasts Off

By Toriana Williams

The Hebron Lions Club's annual fireworks celebration brought together families, friends and neighbors for an evening filled with laughter and community spirit at the Hebron Fairgrounds on Saturday.

While rain threatened, it thankfully stayed away, leading to a warm summer evening as hundreds of people spread blankets across the grass, unfolded lawn chairs and settled in for a night of tractor pulls, delicious fair foods, live music and one spectacular fireworks show.

Long before pyrotechnics arrived, the Lions Fairgrounds on Route 85 were buzzing with fun. The smell of fried dough drifted through the air alongside the most delicious macaroni and cheese that could be found. Children excitedly ran around, having ice cream to help beat the heat with their families. The rumble of powerfully loud engines echoed across the grounds as tractors lined up for one of the event's biggest attractions.

Each pull drew cheers from the crowd as driv-

ers pushed their pedals to the customized metal. Thick clouds of dust kicked up behind the tractors while the engines roared louder with every foot they traveled down the track.

Many families loved the tractor pulls just as much as the fireworks. Angela Brand was watching with her husband Matt and two kids, Stella and Jaxon.

"We just have fun watching the pulls and we can just pull up the kids to fireworks," she said. "We're big fans of the tractor pulls."

Her kids each had their own favorite part of the night. Young daughter Stella smiled as she explained "fireworks" are her favorite part of the event. "I like watching them, and they're colorful," she said. Her brother Jaxon also didn't hesitate with his favorite part: "the tractors."

As the sun slowly dipped below the horizon, the summer weather could not have been better. The sky turned beautiful shades of orange as families tossed footballs in the parking lot and friends played cornhole with one another.

Nearby, volunteers from Wishes on Wheels

spent the evening raising money for Make-A-Wish Connecticut while giving children a chance to enjoy a miniature Jeep course. Towering over the display sat the organization's eye-catching monster truck, which certainly drew curious visitors throughout the evening.

Volunteer Rob Apinis explained how the organization helps children throughout the state. "Wishes on Wheels is a group of volunteers that has been together for 27 years. We raise money for Make-A-Wish Connecticut. We do all sorts of different events."

Make-A-Wish CT is the local chapter of the national Make-A-Wish Foundation, which is a nonprofit organization that grants wishes to children with critical illnesses. They strive to help create life-changing experiences for the children and their families, such as meeting a favorite athlete or musician, taking a dream vacation, and more.

Wishes on Wheels' biggest fundraiser to help support the national chapter comes later in the

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East Hampton Old Home Days



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July 9, 10 & 11
Bevin Park
Center School Grounds
7 Summit St., East Hampton

Old Home Days, also dubbed the “Glorious Celebration”, is celebrating its 46th year. The concept of Old Home Days in East Hampton dates back to the Village Improvement Society, begun in 1912 when local church societies organized to work together for the betterment of the community. It is now annually organized by the all-volunteer Old Home Days committee and supported by donations from the community and its businesses. This year Old Home Days is celebrating America’s 250th year. With the theme “ Bells, Boats and the Birth of our Nation”.

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 **Summer's Most Spectacular Raffle!** 

The 46th annual raffle features BIG prizes from local businesses; \$10 per ticket with only 1,500 tickets being sold – take a chance! Drawing on Saturday, July 11th at 8:10PM

..... **BIKE RAFFLE**

Every night Old Home Days will be giving away 15 bikes with helmets! 1 ticket per child per night under the age of 12. Pick up a free ticket at the front entrance beginning at 6pm. Drawing will be between 7 and 8pm nightly. Child must be present to WIN!!

..... **MIDWAY & CARNIVAL**

OHD has partnered with Marenna Amusements. Enjoy whirling, twirling, spinning and fun rides. Tickets will be available at carnival ticket booth. Looking for the most bang for your buck? Consider purchasing an all-you-can-ride wristband at the times below – from thrill-seekers to junior riders, we have you covered!

Family Night!	Thursday, 7/9 (6p-10p) wristbands are \$25	Friday, 7/10 (6p-11p) wristbands are \$30	Saturday, 7/11 (after the parade till 11p) wristbands are \$30
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..... **ENTERTAINMENT**

Thursday, 7/9 6:30PM DJ Eye Z 	Friday, 7/10 6:00PM The Locomotives Band 8:30PM Frankie Justin	Saturday, 7/11 1:30PM Two Strings Down 4:30PM Mischief Band 8:30PM Big Deal Rock
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★ ★ ★ ★ ★ **LET'S NOT FORGET THE CARNIVAL FOOD!** ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Enjoy a variety of OHD favorites from our local civic organizations and food vendors!

..... **PARADE SATURDAY 11:00AM**

The OHD Parade takes center stage on July 11th. The parade starts at the high school at 11am and heads down Route 66 to Summit Street, then down to the Village Center. The road will close at 10:50am so be sure to get there early for great seats anywhere along the route. OHD announcers will be at the Gazebo downtown introducing the marching bands, floats, entertainers, fire trucks and more.

..... **RAILS TO TRAILS 5K RUN**

Friday evening at 7pm, enjoy the 5th annual “Rails to Trails” 5k run starting at Connecticut Draft Horse Rescue Farm on Chestnut Hill. The route runs down the shaded Airline Trail to Center School and registration can be found at www.EHOHD.org. If you haven’t yet registered, sign up and pay your race fee on the Center School Grounds on Thursday, July 9th from 6-10pm or Friday, July 10th from 5-6:00pm. Shuttle buses are available starting at 6pm with the last shuttle leaving at 6:30pm.

Ground Rules: The Old Home Days Committee requires that ALL pets, except service animals, and ALL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES be left at home. Children should be supervised at all times. Thanks in advance for your gracious cooperation to help us make this an amazing and safe weekend for everyone.

For more details, visit: www.EHOHD.org  **Follow us on Facebook: East Hampton Old Home Days**

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



Kids covered their ears as home-renovated tractor engines exploded with power during the Hebron Lions Club’s annual fireworks celebration last Saturday. An American flag waved proudly in the wind as competitors vied for the top spot at the event.

★ *Hebron Fireworks, cont. from page 1*

year.

“Our big event is our convoy that we run, and that’s on Sept. 27, where we have 500 big trucks come in and families come in and trucks pay to join the convoy,” said Apinis.

Apinis said he first became involved after witnessing the massive truck convoy from a highway overpass.

“I got involved with Wishes on Wheels 14 years ago when I was watching from a highway bridge, and I saw this huge convoy of trucks going underneath it,” he said. “I wanted to know what it was about, thought it was great and been involved ever since.”

He shared that learning that the group supports Make-A-Wish CT made all the difference. And before returning to greet more visitors, he thanked everyone who helped support their efforts. “We’re a 100% volunteer organization, and we wouldn’t do it without the generous donation from the general public.”

Before the explosive fireworks show began, longtime visitor Jim Maynard shared that the fairgrounds have become familiar territory after living nearby for over 30 years.

“We’ve come to the fairs, watched the demolition derbies. This is almost like old stomping grounds here,” he said.

More importantly, Maynard also shared that he believes community events like this bring people together in ways that are increasingly rare.

“I think it’s important that [people] get together anytime. It gets everyone to know each other a little better, and people are not as unsociable as they are when they’re driving down the road, cutting you off,” he laughed.

Soon, darkness settled over the fairgrounds, conversations grew quieter and children climbed onto their parents’ shoulders. Hundreds of eyes turned toward the open sky. Then came the first boom.

A brilliant burst of colors exploded overhead, red and gold that drifted like growing rain. Seconds later, bright blue sparks settled into silver stars filled the sky before fading away into the nothingness. Each explosion echoed across the grounds as cheers and applause erupted from the crowd.

Maynard added that evenings like this remind everyone of what truly matters.

“It’s a good thing to bring people back together to realize that we are around here doing the same thing,” he said. “We’re all just trying to get through every day.”

Regional • Regional • Regional • Regional • Regional • Regional • Regional

Rivereast Standout Athletes of the Week

By Josh Howard

Travis Raines – East Hampton High School (Baseball): Raines was named All-Shoreline Conference second-team following a sophomore season where he excelled from both the plate and mound this past spring. Raines pitched the most innings of the team, leading the Bellringers in strikeouts, and had the second-most RBIs and third-most runs scored to help power East Hampton’s line-up.

Skyla Rascati & Kiley Scott – Portland High School (Tennis): Rascati and Scott were named All-Shoreline Conference (SLC) honorable mention after serving as the Highlanders top doubles team this past spring. The pair of seniors capped their time at PHS by defeating Haddam-Killingworth’s Brianna Schaefer and Lyla Ford (6-1, 6-3) in the team’s home finale. Rascati will now attend Providence College and major in marketing. Scott will major in nursing at Eastern Connecticut State University.

Elle Boutilier – RHAM High School (Lacrosse): Boutilier was named All-Central Connecticut Conference (CCC) after leading the Raptors in assists this season. Boutilier, who just completed her sophomore year, netted 39 goals and dished out 11 assists to finish second overall on the team in points with 50. Boutilier was one of three Raptors to earn the honors as teammates Reagan Tyler and Elizabeth Sementa also earned all-conference.

Riley Stolzman – Bacon Academy (Softball): Stolzman was named Class M All-State after powering the way as the Bobcats won a second straight Eastern Connecticut Conference (ECC) championship and made a state tournament run. Stolzman, a junior, was also named the ECC Division II Tournament Most Valuable Player (MVP) and won 17 starts this spring, striking out 215, and leading the team in RBIs and finishing with the second-most hits



Travis Raines, who just finished his sophomore year at East Hampton High School, was named All-Shoreline Conference following his second season on the diamonds with the Bellringers.

and third-most runs on the team as the Bobcats reached the Class M state semifinals.

More Regional News, page 19

★ CELEBRATING ★

250

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From the Editor’s Desk

Observations & Ruminations

By Mike Thompson

Happy Independence Day!
Of course, this isn’t any old Independence Day. This is a big one – number 250. I wasn’t around for the Bicentennial in 1976, but I’ve heard all my life how big the festivities were then, and if the plans we’ve seen for the 250th (or Semiquincentennial, if you’re so inclined) are any indication, them I’m guessing it was huge indeed.
For weeks, there have been notices on these very pages about various 250th celebrations happening in the area. The lion’s share will of course be happening over the course of the next week or two, not just in *Rivereast*-land but across the state.
Many of these events, I’m predicting, will feature the playing of a patriotic tune or two. The annals of American music are full of wonderful songs saluting, and celebrating, the good ol’ U.S. of A. So I thought that, this week, I’d write about one of my favorites. It’s a song I first heard probably no more than 10 years ago, but it actually dates back to the 1940s.
“The House I Live In” was originally written in 1942 for the Broadway revue *Let Freedom Sing*. It was made famous, though, a few years later, when Frank Sinatra sang it in the 1945 short film also called *The House I Live In*. Sinatra’s version became a hit, and he would go on to perform it live many, many times over the years – including at the presidential inaugurations of John Kennedy in 1961 and Ronald Reagan in 1986.
It’s easy to see why the song was so loved – particularly be presidents. It speaks to so much of what makes American great. While perhaps not as well-known these days as “The Star-Spangled Banner” or “America the Beautiful” – like I said, I didn’t even discover it until I was in my 30s – it definitely deserves to be remembered. So, I thought I’d share it. Enjoy:
What is America to me?
A name, a map, or a flag I see?
A certain word, “democracy”?
What is America to me?
The house I live in, a plot of earth, a street
The grocer and the butcher, and the people that I meet
The children in the playground, the faces that I see
All races and religions, that’s America to me
The place I work in, the worker by my side
The little town or city where my people lived and died
The “howdy” and the handshake, the air of feeling free
And the right to speak my mind out, that’s America to me
The things I see about me, the big things and the small
The little corner newsstand and the house a mile tall
The wedding in the churchyard, the laughter and the tears
The dream that’s been a-growin’ for a hundred and fifty years
The town I live in, the street, the house, the room
The pavement of the city, or a garden all in bloom
The church, the school, the clubhouse, the millions lights I see
But especially the people
That’s America to me
See you next week – and Happy 250, America.

Bulletin Board

This week, I would like to address a more serious topic than usual: xenotransplantation. Xenotransplantation, for those of you who don’t have Nobel Prizes in science or medicine (yeah, I had to look it up, too), is a fancy word that refers to “modifying pig organs for human use.” As I understand it, this is done by mixing human cells with pig cells. Not being a scientist, I’m not sure how this is accomplished. Maybe they use a blender.

Whatever the method, it is widely believed that a breakthrough in this field could solve the ongoing organ transplant shortage in this country. (I mean, there’s only so many motorcyclists, you know?) But others fear this well-intentioned experimentation could result in the creation of what some are referring to as a “Pigman.”

That’s right. Pig as in pig and Man as in yours truly.

I have to be honest here (for once): I don’t share the worries about creating a race of Pigmen. In fact, the concept of adapting pig organs for human use strikes me as being a lot like mixing vanilla ice cream with...well...vanilla ice cream. Or like spending \$100 million on a government study to determine why the majority of patrons at strip clubs are men.

You may see where I’m going with this. If not, bear with me.

Scientists claim that the creation of Pigmen may eventually allow us to grow more compatible organs to use in transplants. But why pigs? Why not mix our cells with kangaroos? Or koala bears. Everybody loves koala bears. Who would object to sharing their cells with a koala bear?

My guess is that this is all about genetic compatibility.

The fact is (as most any woman will be happy to tell you), most men are already pigs, or so close to being pigs that it’s really not worth making a fuss about. It’s true of course. We spend our younger years obsessing about sex and our final impotent years saying stupid stuff like, “When I stop looking, I’ll be dead.”

(Regarding the latter remark, I should point out that real pigs have the high ground here as a dead pig provides delectable bacon while a dead lecher is just another dead lecher, though I suppose there are certain social benefits. Certainly, it makes our city parks somewhat more attractive.)

Male piggishness knows no bounds. We fail to pick up our dirty socks; we eat potato chips in forbidden areas of the house; we’d rather watch NFL cheerleaders gyrate than go to the ballet; we thoughtlessly scratch ourselves in inappropriate places at inappropriate times; our idea of fine art is “Dogs Playing Poker” (on velvet); we pretend we’re not home when our mother-in-law calls on the phone for a ride to the emergency room; we insist that beer is a food group; and so on and so on.

As for swine, here’s a little information on the four-legged variety that may sound familiar to women who have been married for a number of years (or, if you’re really unlucky, only a few months, or maybe a couple of weeks).

- Pigs communicate with a variety of grunts and squeaks.
- Pigs are very intelligent animals. According to the Humane Society, pigs are smarter than 3-year-old children (but just barely).
- Domesticated pigs can be trained to do tricks and even use a litter box.
- Pigs, boars and hogs are omnivores and will eat just about anything.

Need I say more?

Okay, they’re also kind of cute, don’t you think? Some might even say adorable.

I should probably add that despite the excitement surrounding the possible creation of a Pigman (including, I imagine, the possibility of a new TV series entitled “Fun With the Pigman” on the History Channel to complement shows like “Swamp People,” and “Ancient Aliens,” and “Hitler Goes to Rio,” and similar historical material of great educational value), concerns have been raised about the ethical implications of Pigman experiments. As one article has noted, “There is a worry that humanized animals, or animals with human brains, could pose a threat to humanity.”

Considering the state of the world these days, you don’t have to be a pig to find that funny.

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.



Gold Brings Home the Gold... The RHAM Youth Lacrosse U12 Girls Gold team winning the Connecticut Valley Youth Lacrosse Championship on June 6. The girls not only won the championship game, but all of their regular season games as well. Pictured are players Mila Rayhall, Haddie Esposito, Grace Barstis, Avery Bell, Lillian Parenteau, Eloise DeMaria, Leria Guidicelli, Liv Delaware, June Ball, Maggie Gower, Lainey Mullen, Dakodah Wilson, Shelby St. Mary, Lena Sena, Morgan Ba-taille and Sloane Smith. Not in photograph: Alice Schleicher and Celina DeMaria. Also pictured are coaches Katie Gower, Christine Parenteau and Nicole Ball.

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

Thank You, Thank You

Thanks from the PTO

To the Editor:

I wish to thank all the residents of Andover who worked to make the 250th Event at the Andover Sportsmen’s Club a success.

There was a cannon firing, Governor’s Foot Guard, helicopter rides, classic cars, fire trucks, music played all day, popcorn, cotton candy, water, two food trucks (hot dogs/hamburgers & Kona Ice). There was a bench that was raffled off with money going to the Andover Food Pantry, and a bench that was presented to the Andover Sportsmen’s Club to thank them for letting us use their property and for getting a lot of the event together. The Andover Recreation Committee supplied the Bounce House, bag toss, and other games. They also provide the cotton candy and popcorn machines.

The Republicans and Democrats worked together to make and serve popcorn. The scouts in town made and handed out the cotton candy. Wreaths Across America had information for people to take. Andover Fire Department had sand art, jewelry, balloon animals for all.

Between the raffle for a bench, water and just donations a total of \$584.31 was donated to the Andover Food Pantry.

Again I thank all who worked to make this event a success and especially the Andover Sportsmen’s Club. Thank you

Carol Barton – Andover

Note: Barton is chair of the Andover Republican Town Committee.

To the Editor:

The Marlborough Elementary School PTO would like to thank our Platinum Sponsors for the 2026 Fun Run: Three Fellas Pizza and Paul’s Auto Repair. The PTO Fun Run was held in April and raised \$38,805.27. This money is used throughout the school year for educational enhancements, school supplies, field trips, community events and more.

Thank you, Three Fellas Pizza and Paul’s Auto Repair, for supporting such a big fundraiser!

**Best,
The MES PTO**

Budget Debate

To the Editor:

Each week, I read about the budget debate. Those who ask us to vote ‘no’ state that the town needs to cut spending. Now that a new, smaller budget has been proposed, we are still being asked to vote no. In some letters last week, writers stated that the new budget cuts still were too small. Another writer indicated concerns that the wrong line items were on the chopping block.

As someone who knows little about how a town/school budget should be funded myself, I am left curious about what these writers want these cuts to be. What services, programs, projects, and staff do you believe should be reduced? I look forward to reading your ideas next week ahead of the referendum.

Ashley Hicks – East Hampton
See Letters, page 6

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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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★ *Letters, cont. from page 4*

A Vote Today, A Workaround Tomorrow

To the Editor:

The Board of Finance recently removed more than \$450,000 in projects from the proposed 2026-27 budget and announced plans to fund those same projects using an anticipated surplus from the current fiscal year. Those projects include school security improvements, middle school flooring, heating system repairs, fire department parking lot work, and Hales Brook Crossing improvements. The issue is not whether these projects are worthwhile. The issue is whether taxpayers should have a meaningful voice in deciding how their money is spent. By removing these projects from the budget and proposing to fund them later with surplus funds, the Board of Finance effectively takes them off the ballot and out of the hands of voters. Even more concerning, the fiscal year is not yet over. The surplus being discussed is only projected, yet officials are already deciding how it will be spent.

This raises an important question: Shouldn't the same rules apply to all surplus-funded projects? At the last referendum, taxpayers were asked to vote on the middle school parking lot project because it was proposed to be funded from the town's accumulated surplus. Voters rejected it. Now the Board of Finance proposes to spend more than \$450,000 from an anticipated surplus without giving taxpayers the same opportunity to vote. If a parking lot funded with surplus dollars required voter approval, why don't these projects?

Taxpayers deserve a consistent process. The funding source should not determine whether voters get a say. Otherwise, projects can be moved on and off the ballot depending on which outcome elected officials prefer. If the Town truly expects to have surplus funds available, why wasn't there a discussion about directing some of that money toward one of East Hampton's most frequently cited concerns – our deteriorating roads? A referendum is not a suggestion. It is the direct expression of the public's will. When elected officials can remove projects from voter consideration and fund them

later through alternate sources, taxpayers are left wondering whether their vote matters at all.

On July 14, taxpayers will once again have an opportunity to make their voices heard. I encourage residents who share these concerns to join me in voting 'no' on both budget questions.

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

Grateful for Colchester

To the Editor:

I recently had major surgery that required emotional support both prior- and post-surgery. During this event that I became even more grateful for our decision to move to Colchester 12 years ago.

First, I want to give a public shout out to my husband, Donn, who was there to execute my every wish while allowing me to remain as self-empowered as possible. For all those of a certain age who remember *Bewitched*, my husband allowed me to feel like Samantha who only had to wiggle her nose for things to come true. "Would you like me to go do that?" became his auto-response, whether it was running errands, communicating with family and friends on my behalf, or keeping our house and garden in order during a chaotic time. He was my arms and legs at the hospital when they were both otherwise occupied with IV tubes or auto-massage machines and was my biggest cheerleader when I'd suggest a scenic stroll around the hospital floor. He won acclaim for managing my communication text groups, providing daily statuses to friends and family. It's not easy being the personal assistant to a Type A personality. After 46 years of marriage, he has it down pat.

I also want to thank my neighbors at North Woods of Colchester who rose to the occasion in ways I couldn't imagine. Your prayers and words of encouragement heading into my surgery allowed me to feel as confident as possible as I faced my procedure. You've allowed me to be vulnerable and strong, sometimes within the same conversation. Your focus on a positive outcome allowed me to believe that it would come to light. Your messages of healing strength were a beacon during a very challenging storm. When we moved to Colchester, I wasn't quite sure I was ready for an over-55 community. The

support I have received since moving here tells me it was the best move we could have made.

Finally, thank you to my angels on Earth who have been my rocks. I am blessed to have friends that anticipate what I need even before I do. When I chose purple as my power color, you incorporated it via snuggle socks, balloon messages, blankets, flowers, bracelets, fingernail polish, ring camera dances, books, cards and texts, and pictures of you proudly rocking your purple clothing. I am grateful to have been on the receiving end of your loving support.

At a time when we are hearing and seeing daily examples of inhumanity worldwide in the news, I am here to state that in the little town of Colchester, truly good people walk among us daily.

Cindie Friedman – Colchester

What Seventy Dollars Cost

To the Editor:

Andover 'no' voters, I understand the impulse. Budgets keep climbing, paychecks and pensions don't; a referendum is one remaining place we can plant a foot and say "enough." But let's discuss what the vote bought, and what it cost.

Between the first budget and the last, the school budget dropped \$224,261. Discount \$5,000 for two extra referendums, spread it across 3,150 residents: we save \$69.61 each. Call it seventy bucks. Real money, yes, but the bill landed directly on the children.

To close the gap, the Board was forced to cut:

- * Two paraprofessionals, the extra hands for kids who need a boost. Gone.

- * The Spanish program. Not Cervantes yet, but the second-most spoken language in the country, during the years a young ear picks it up easily. Adiós, Spanish.

- * Stipends for teachers who stay past the bell: curriculum work, robotics coach, yearbook, Jazz Club. All gone.

- * And the library. They eliminated the librarian, with nothing left even for new books. The room is still there, and the shelves. The person who turns it into something a child loves is not.

Let me say that again, because I can't get past it: We cut the school library.

Let me tell you about Mrs. Hatch. At my childhood's Great Plains Elementary, the best part was this mystical, magical room called The Library. Mrs. Hatch ruled the roost. She read us stories when we were small; as we grew, she taught us to read those stories to the littler ones. She showed us how to research, how to branch

out to new kinds of books. She taught us to care for a book, to never abuse one. And she taught one little boy a lifelong love for reading. Mrs. Hatch may have been 50, but to a third-grader that was as old as the hills, with wisdom to match.

We've decided our schoolchildren don't need a Mrs. Hatch.

We're terribly wrong. In today's faster, more distracted world, there's nothing a child needs more than someone to hand them the right book at the right moment.

I keep coming back to those seventy dollars. Who among us would trade a child's library for seventy dollars? And the fight isn't over: the same needs return next year. Only now one year of a child's reading life has vanished.

When you spend your seventy dollars, spare a thought for what it cost.

Sincerely,

Scott Sauyet – Andover

***Note:** Sauyet is co-chair of Andover DTC and member of RHAM BOE, but said he is writing as an individual.*

Fun with Numbers

To the Editor:

As we struggle with our current budget process, I cannot help but wonder if people really understand what the numbers that are thrown around truly signify. As an example, here in Colchester, our superintendent of schools quit his job. I don't know about you but every time I quit my job I didn't get paid anymore. Here it is different. He will get paid I believe until October 2027. The cost is one half million dollars. Of course a replacement will have to be hired to do his job at the cost of at least another half million dollars.

To put that in perspective, if the average home in Colchester pays five thousand dollars in taxes, this will equal the taxes paid by two hundred households. Think about that for a minute. Do our elected officials really comprehend what the numbers truly mean?

Joseph Hnat – Colchester

Thanks for Article

To the Editor:

The Colchester Area Chapter #4019 of AARP would like to thank you for the article about our chapter's 40th Anniversary this year. Your reporter captured the spirit of our group very well and we hope the article will encourage other seniors in our geographic area to join us.

I do want to point out that the correct spelling for the last name of our longtime member Goldie, is Liverant, NOT Limerant. Typos do happen now and then, but I do want Goldie's name to be known correctly seeing as she will be celebrated for a milestone 100th birthday very soon.

Thank you for making the public aware of organizations and their milestones in your publications!

Sincerely,

Irene Watson

Colchester AARP President

A Minor Error

To the Editor:

Being an old scold, I must point out an error in the Portland Committee on Solidarity's recent announcement of its Juneteenth celebration.

In their announcement, the committee said that the Emancipation Proclamation, signed by President Abraham Lincoln on Jan. 1, 1863, declared that "all persons held as slaves...henceforth shall be free."

That's not true. The Emancipation Proclamation covered slaves living in the Confederate States. It did not cover slaves living in the Union. Lincoln was concerned that a sweeping Emancipation order would drive slave states such as Maryland and Kentucky out of the Union and into the Confederate States.

At the conclusion of the Civil War in early 1865, Maryland, Kentucky, Missouri and Delaware still recognized slavery. The 13th Amendment to the United States Constitution was ratified by the states on December 6, 1865, ending slavery throughout the country, both North and South. Congress required that all Confederate states seeking readmission to the Union had to, among other things, fully recognize the 13th Amendment.

Lincoln pushed hard to secure Congressional approval of the 13th Amendment so that it could be sent to the states for ratification. He succeeded in gaining Congressional approval. He was assassinated before the 13th Amendment was ratified by the states.

Mark Shea – Moodus

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Voting No Again

To the Editor:

There is a great song in country music by Lorie Morgan. The title is “What Part of No Don’t You Understand?” The voters of East Hampton (should I say those who took the time to show up and vote) turned back both the town budget and the Board of Education budgets. The Board of Education did at best minor reductions to their budget. What part of ‘no’ doesn’t the Board of Education understand?

I will be voting ‘no’ again to the BoE budget; I haven’t yet decided on the town budget.

Get out and vote. July 14 at the Town Hall, 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. It’s easy and only takes a few minutes. This is the most important vote as it directly affects your “pocketbook” and your quality of life in our lovely town.

Lori Wilcox – East Hampton

Support Belltown Budgets

To the Residents of East Hampton:

I recommend support of the revised East Hampton budgets. The new proposal results in a mill rate of 28.22 which is a reduction of about 29%. The overall budget goes up by 1.7%, which is much lower than the rate of inflation. I understand that the finances of each of us is under pressure and it is hard to afford any increase.

This is a budget which is fair to taxpayers and provides the services people want. It supports public safety by including the vacant police positions that some wanted to remove but that the chief discussed at the Board of Finance. It uses the available funds to reduce the mill rate and lowers what we have to pay.

In the *Rivereast* two weeks ago there were interviews with our high school valedictorian and salutatorian in which they discuss their education in East Hampton and the value of their education in East Hampton. We should support the education of our young people; it’s in the interest of all.

Jack Solomon – East Hampton

*Note: Solomon is a member of the East Hampton Town Council.*

Reflections on the 250th

To the Editor:

On the eve of our 250th birthday, it’s important to reflect upon the uniqueness and exceptionalism that has made America the longest continuously-operating system of government in the world. Our system has led to a society promoting the greatest individual freedom, prosperity, and economic mobility of any country in history. It’s not an accident that so many blessings have been bestowed upon us.

Americans were the upstart descendants of western Civilization’s evolution and were regarded by England as her colonial subjects. Following a decade of abusive and punitive subjugation, America fired the ideological and philosophical shots heard around the world. We would no longer be subjects of the Crown, and most importantly, we declared that our rights were natural rights deriving from God, not from any monarch.

Throughout the entirety of human history, the individual had always been subordinate to the collective and existed to serve its interests. Whether it was a tribal chieftain, warlord, king, or bishop, some authority always dictated the manner and purpose of an individual’s life. For the first time, Americans turned that relationship on its head and declared that the collective now existed to serve, support, and protect the interests of its individuals! Individuals were sovereign and owned themselves.

The entrepreneurial spirit of American citizens was unleashed. A meritocracy was organically generated and baked into our DNA. Unbelievable feats and accomplishments became commonplace and expected. People, when left to freely pursue their own-chosen dreams, create tremendous value for others as well as themselves in the process. The symbiotic relationship between the individual and the collective in our American System has served us very well.

But as Ronald Reagan has said, “freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction.” Sustaining individual liberty which is secured by limited government requires all of us as individuals to be self-governing by our own accords. We all need to adhere to a value system that leads us to always do the right thing even when no one is watching. It is a manner of an honor code, and it allows us to enjoy our respective individual freedoms without having undue oversight of our private activities and personal affairs.

On this Fourth of July, let us share with one another the joy we feel as Americans and the gratitude we hold for the beautiful nation who secures our freedom for us.

Sam Prentice – Andover

Present. Future. Past

To the Editor:

“HEBRON, CT-Weeks after Connecticut’s dairy farmers pleaded with state officials for help making ends meet in a milk-negative state, aid appears to be on the way. Gov. Ned Lamont, at an event in Hebron, announced that he is planning to release \$22.5 million from Connecticut’s recently created Federal Cuts Response Funds to provide immediate relief to the state’s dairy farmers.” -ctnewsjunkie.com, 6/13/26.

At a time when sustainable living and local food are gaining popularity, we hear farmers are struggling and sadly watch productive farmland fall to development. This is troubling but, Hebron can help.

Right here, in Hebron Center, an important patch of farmland has been under the constant threat of development for decades and it’s time to put an end to that. It’s time the old Horton land (17 Kinney Rd.) be moved into the capable hands of Hebron’s Open Space Commission. These remaining 53 acres of historic farmland, supply water to corresponding neighborhoods, showcase terrific trees, offer connections to Native Americans, generate additional crops for local farms and a direct link to numerous older families in Hebron. To know your past is to know your future. Farming and land preservation, in Hebron, is our past, it’s our present, and, according to climatologists, it should be our future as well. A future of waste not, want not.

In just two decades, Connecticut has seen a 63% decline in dairy farms leaving fewer than 80 remaining in the state. New rhetoric dictates that open land costs your town money. However, when you read about the income farms, and open land, contribute to our economy, you

might think again. One cow generates an estimated \$3,631 in taxes annually, Dairy operations generate 816 jobs and \$17.4 million in taxes per year. Losing farms leaves gaping holes in sister industries like veterinary care and equipment dealers. Farmland supplies food, scenic vistas and an important connection to our past.

Residents favoring fresh food, farmers’ markets, local hay, outdoor activities and Hebron’s history should consider saving 17 Kinney, with its high water table, trees, laneways and fertile soils. If we truly want to support farming, water and sustainable living, now is the time and the Raymond Brook watershed is the place. This place gives us a chance to protect the present, safeguard the future and honor the past. Let’s do something revolutionary. Let’s #save17.

Jean Tulumieri – Amston

Respect the Voters

To the Editor:

Board of Finance Vice Chair Dan Finn has stated that the “wrong people” determined the outcome of the budget referendum because they voted ‘no,’ while suggesting those who stayed home would have voted ‘yes.’

Dismissing voters because you dislike the outcome is disrespectful to every taxpayer who took the time to participate in our democratic process. In America, elections and referendums are decided by those who vote, not by speculation about those who chose not to.

On July 14, let’s send that message again. Vote ‘no’ and remind our elected officials that every vote cast counts – and that the people who vote are the people who decide.

Alison Walck – East Hampton

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

Budget and Fireworks

To the Editor:

Two unrelated subjects. One, letters in the recent *Rivereasts* show that the current East Hampton majority of (read Democrats) officials are clearly supporting increased taxes, with no plans or desire to make any serious attempt to listen to the majority of the voters. BOE’s demand for a \$39 million budget graciously cut their request by \$250,000. How thoughtful.

Many current BOE members and supporters are of the same education-focused background so that is a sure way to not change anything, hence the ongoing budget issues. The BOE goes straight to cutting teachers, classes, programs, and somehow fails to look at the administration’s bloated budget, or consider other opportunities that are outside of the academic knowledge base. If the BOE truly was interested in keeping taxes low, they would welcome input from all the townspeople.

We need people who will think outside the box, such as the suggestion to leverage volunteer tutoring resources from the community, or charging a flat fee per student, thus reducing the burden 67% of taxpayers. Other towns have fund raising events to support budgets, certain school functions are non-educational and can be run at a lower cost by a third-party. Reducing administration expenses should be a priority. Apparently, the BOF and TC have agreed that no further effort to cut spending is necessary.

Supporters of fiscal responsibility (read Republicans) are being shouted down. If the good people of EH are truly frustrated with this approach, be sure to vote NO at the next referendum. Maybe the message will be heard that the town officials must get serious about cutting spending.

Item number two: There has been a recent call to postpone the use of fireworks on the lake  
*See Letters, page 30*

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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](http://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. The Christian Education team has provided quiet activity bags, found in the narthex, for the youngest children to borrow and enjoy at summer services and bulletins with word games, mazes, and picture finds for Sunday school-age children.

**July 5** is a Communion Sunday. Holy Communion is open to all, regardless of church affiliation, including children with parental guidance. The service will be led by Seaver, leaning into the nation's 250th anniversary with her sermon titled "A Freedom That Cannot Be Taken Away." After worship all are invited to Coffee Hour in the Thienes Lounge for snacks and refreshments.

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

meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m. in the Youth Room.

**Outreach:** The church collects non-perishable food items year-round for Marlborough Food Bank with a basket located in the narthex for Sunday worshippers to bring donations. The next church-sponsored Drive Thru Café, for Marlborough Food Bank clients and their families with tickets, will be Sept. 27.

**Second Blessings Thrift Shop** is closed in July and August and will reopen in September. Follow the shop through Facebook at Second Blessings Thrift Shop, Marlborough for updates. The eBay shop is open year-round at [bit.ly/MCCebay](http://bit.ly/MCCebay).

**General Information:** Marlborough Congregational Church is an Open and Affirming faith community and all are welcome. 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](mailto:pastorval@marlconchurch.org), or contact the church office at [office@marlconchurch.org](mailto: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. Carlos Zapata, 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](mailto:stjohnfisher30@yahoo.com). The church website is [www.stjfishchurch.org](http://www.stjfishchurch.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. 10-14, 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.

**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. In July, the church collects for its backpack and school supplies drive. Monetary donations are accepted supporting the students and families at Marlborough Elementary School. 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.stjfishchurch.org](http://www.stjfishchurch.org), or look for the church on Facebook (Saint John Fisher Roman Catholic Church).

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

★ Celebrate America, cont. from page 1

The parade this year – held Saturday, July 11, at 11 a.m., starting at East Hampton High School – will also include the return of a much-beloved bagpipe and drum group, Tuttle said. He said there will also be a grassroots civilian flyover, with "more aircraft than ever before." He said he estimates the flyover will be around 11:30 a.m.

For runners, Old Home Days will also include the annual Rails to Trails 5K event, on Friday, July 10 at 7 p.m. The race starts at Connecticut Draft Horse Rescue, located at 113 Chestnut Hill Rd.

For those who might be out of town for the holiday, Reich said not to worry: the celebration of America's 250th wouldn't be ending in July in East Hampton. The East Hampton Lion's Club, he said, would host a town-wide picnic at Sears Park on Aug. 8 from 5-8 p.m., followed by

a "Light Up the Lake" event at 8 p.m., where the goal was to decorate with red, white and blue lights.

"People are going to be decorating their boats and riding around the lake, and it's going to be a good time for all," he said.

Cap Egan, Old Home Days Press Chair and East Hampton America 250 supporter, said the upcoming events are a special opportunity to unite the town.

"These events are an opportunity for East Hampton to come together, reflect on our nation's history, and celebrate the community traditions that make our town special," she said. "From patriotic music and historic readings to parades, bells, boats, and lights on the lake, East Hampton is proud to mark America's 250th anniversary in a meaningful and memorable way."

For more on Old Home Days, see [ehohd.org](http://ehohd.org).

Parks and Rec. Programs

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

**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.

**Youth Programs: Netto Summer Day Camp:** For grades K-7. Weekly through 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:** All lesson levels are offered. All lessons are held at Blish Park. Fee per week is \$65/resident, \$70/non-resident.

**Crayola Arts – Bouncy Bendy Arts in Motion:** For grades K-6. July 6-10, 9 a.m.-noon, at MES. Make masterpieces with real moving parts, create the illusion of movement, and discover art processes that use motion to get results. Fee: \$193/resident, \$198/non-resident.

**Soccer Shots:** Saturdays, July 11-Aug. 15, at West Road Memorial upper field. Mini, for age 2, meets 9-9:35 a.m., and Classic, for ages 3-5, meets 9:45-10:30 a.m. Fee for Mini is \$90/resident, \$95/non-resident. Fee for Classic is \$113/resident, \$118/non-resident.

**Skyhawks Flag Football Camp:** For ages 7-12. July 13-17, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., at MES. Boys and girls learn skills on both sides of the football including the core components of passing,

catching and defense. Fee is \$165/residents, \$170/non-residents.

**Skyhawks Sand Volleyball Camp:** For ages 10-14. July 20-24, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., at Blish Park. This program is designed for the beginning and intermediate player. Boys and girls will develop skills through game-speed drills and daily scrimmages. Fee: \$165/resident, \$170/non-resident.

**Family Beach Yoga Night:** Tuesday, July 21, 5:30 p.m., at Blish Park. Bring your own yoga mat or towel. Parent/guardian must be present. The class is geared toward children ages 3-10 and their families, but all kids welcome. Registration fee is \$25/resident, \$30/non-resident.

**Skyhawks Mini-Hawk Camp (Soccer, Baseball and Basketball):** For ages 4-6. July 27-31, 9 a.m.-noon, at MES. This multi-sport program teaches children the essentials of each sport. Fee is \$150/resident, \$155/non-resident.

**Horseback Riding Lessons:** Ages 5 and up. Lesson days and times are flexible. 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.

**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.

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

Dean's List

Tyler Fitzgibbons of Marlborough made the spring 2026 Dean's List at Hofstra University in Hempstead, N.Y.

Fitzgibbons is majoring in music business.

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Senior Center News and Notes

Marlborough Senior Center, 17 School Drive, is open for activities. For more information about any senior center program, or to register, call 860-295-6209 or email [socialservices@marlboroughct.gov](mailto:socialservices@marlboroughct.gov). Also contact the senior center for a list of regularly occurring weekly and monthly programs, such as billiards, Mah-jongg, 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: Resin Ocean Side Table:** July 8, 1-3 p.m. Make an ocean-inspired side table with resin in this craft class. All supplies provided. Cost is \$50.

**Cooling Plants for Summer:** July 10, noon-1 p.m. Explore some plants that can help us beat the summer heat, learn how we use them, and create your own cooling face mist to take home. Cost is \$10/resident \$12/non-resident.

**Birthday Club:** July birthdays will be celebrated July 28 from 1-2 p.m. with cake. Open to all friends and family. It doesn't have to be your birthday month to celebrate, but if it is, RSVP.

**Chair Yoga:** Next session 8/4, 8/11, 8/18, 8/25. Cost is \$35/residents, \$40/non-residents. RSVP by 7/31.

**Friendship Tours: Lighthouse Cruise:** Aug. 12, \$156/person, 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.

**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 every Wednesday. For Marlborough residents only. Income limit: Household 1 - \$2,461/month, Household 2 - \$3,337.

**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 Tuesdays only. Rides must be reserved two business days in advance. Call 860-295-6209 for more information. Visit [www.marlboroughct.gov](http://www.marlboroughct.gov) for the complete transportation policy.

**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.

**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.



**Lions Induct Officers...** The Marlborough Lions Club recently elected members for the upcoming year. Attending the Officer Induction Ceremony were, from left, Ken Hjulstrom (1st Vice President), John Glynn (President), Tom Reiser (2nd Vice President), Sia Dowlatshahi (who performed the induction ceremony), Mike Waszkelewicz (Treasurer), Megan Lloyd (Secretary), Brian McDermott (Membership Chairman) and Jean Paul Bolduc (Immediate Past President). The club thanked Past President Jean Paul Bolduc, who served the club in that position for the last two years. The Marlborough Lions Club's primary goal is to provide services for those with vision impairment; however, the Lions also serve their community by supporting local social services such as the Marlborough Food Bank and by providing free annual vision screening for our children at Marlborough's elementary school. If interested in joining the club, reach out to club president John Glynn at 860-989-0939 or club membership chairman Brian McDermott at 860-918-0800.

**Dean's List**

Gabriella Zickmann of Marlborough, a graduate of St. Bernard High School, made the spring 2026 Dean's List while studying English at Muhlenberg College in Allentown, Pa.

**Residents Graduate**

Marlborough residents Dylan Kolakowski, Garrett Nicol and Elizabeth Peters recently graduated from Roger Williams University in Bristol, R.I.

**Dean's List**

Areana Petraiulo of Marlborough made the spring 2026 Dean's List at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wis.

Petraiulo is pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in exercise physiology.

**Provost's List**

April Snyder of Marlborough made the spring 2026 Provost's List at Hofstra University in Hempstead, N.Y.

**Dean's List**

Marlborough residents Dylan Kolakowski and Garrett Nicol made the spring 2026 Dean's List at Roger Williams University in Bristol, R.I.

**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.

For the past two and a half decades, Gotta has dedicated her life to the art of pastel painting, although she has also explored working in watercolor and acrylic. Her compositions often feature landscapes of farms, beaches, and woodlands, as well as intimate views of flowers, animals and birds.

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](mailto:info@marlborougharts.org).

**Marlborough Farmers Market**

Zina's Cucina is hosting the Marlborough Farmers Market every Wednesday until Oct. 14, from 4-7 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.

**Resident Graduates**

Lauren Fenton of Marlborough recently graduated from Emmanuel College in Boston.

Fenton graduated summa cum laude, with a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing.

**Holiday Closing**

Marlborough town offices will be closed Friday, July 3, in observance of Independence Day.



### The "East of the River" Real Estate Report

**Downsizing: What Homeowners Often Overlook**

For many homeowners, downsizing sounds simple: sell your current home and buy something smaller. In reality, there's often much more to consider. One of the biggest surprises is that a smaller home doesn't always mean lower monthly expenses. A newer home, condo, or desirable location may come with higher property taxes, HOA fees, or insurance costs. It's important to compare the total cost of ownership—not just the purchase price. Timing is another factor. Many homeowners need the proceeds from their current home to purchase the next one. Planning ahead can help avoid feeling rushed or needing temporary housing between closings. Then there's the challenge of belongings. After living in a home for decades, most people have accumulated far more than they'll take with them. Downsizing often takes months, so starting early can make the process much less stressful. It's also worth thinking beyond today's needs. Would a first-floor primary bedroom be helpful? Less yard maintenance? Extra space for family to visit? Choosing a home that fits both your current and future lifestyle can make a significant difference. Finally, remember that downsizing isn't just a financial decision—it's an emotional one. Leaving a home filled with memories can be difficult, and careful planning often leads to a smoother transition. For many homeowners, downsizing offers greater flexibility and less maintenance. The key is starting the conversation before you have to move, rather than when you need to move.

**Market Snapshot – Past Week**

Hebron, Andover, Marlborough, Colchester, East Hampton & Portland

| Single-Family Homes                       | Condos   |
|-------------------------------------------|----------|
| • 16 homes sold                           | • 0 sold |
| • Average sale price: <b>\$588,094</b>    |          |
| • Average sale-to-list ratio: <b>108%</b> |          |
| • Average days on market: <b>7 days</b>   |          |
| • Median days on market: <b>5 days</b>    |          |

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

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# Highlanders Goalie Headed to Springfield



Gracie DeRing, a recent graduate of Portland High School, will play soccer at Springfield College.

By Josh Howard

After being honored as the conference's best goalie, Portland High School's Gracie DeRing will soon be protecting the collegiate nets.

"I am so excited and grateful to announce my commitment to Springfield College where I will be continuing my academic and athletic career," DeRing announced this spring. "Thank you to my coaches and family for all of their continued love and support these past four years — I don't know how I could've done it without you. Lastly, thank you to Coach Shade for giving me this amazing opportunity."

DeRing's journey to Massachusetts has involved a quick learning curve, as she didn't start playing goalie until she was a freshman in high school.

In youth soccer, she played primarily in the field before offering to learn the ropes in net during her first season at PHS.

"We had a senior in goal and no backup goalie," recalled DeRing, who approached her coach offering to fill that void. "I just wanted to contribute and have the opportunity to have an important role on the team."

When the Highlanders starting goalie went down with an injury, she was thrust into the spotlight in year one where she helped Portland reach the Class S state semifinals.

DeRing called her first year on the high school fields "eye-opening," adding, "I fell in love with it immediately and knew it was what I wanted to keep doing."

DeRing officially over the fulltime duties as a sophomore where she was named All-Shoreline Conference honorable mention in 2023.

This past fall, DeRing took her game to another level as she was named the SLC Goal Keeper of the Year after she held a half dozen opponents scoreless and another four opponents to a single



DeRing is coming off a senior season with the Highlanders in which she was named the Shoreline Conference Goal Keeper Of the Year.

goal. She was also selected All-SLC first-team.

Head coach Cory Tobler said DeRing is a player that "does not come around very often" and that her shift from field player to goalie was incredible to watch.

"She is one of the hardest workers I have coached," added Tobler. "As a captain for us this year, her leadership was a huge reason why we had the season we did. I know she is going to have a successful career at Springfield College, and we are going to miss her at PHS."

Over the last four years, DeRing noted that she has enjoyed being the last line of defense for the team and that the position in goal has helped her discover her "voice on the field."

"I like having that pressure — I work well under pressure," she noted. "It's helped me find my comfort zone. When I make a big save, it feels like my hard work has paid off."

Along with playing for the Highlanders, DeRing also played basketball at PHS, leading the Highlanders in blocks this past season.

Off the field, DeRing was part of National Honor Society and Key Club at the high school and was the president of the Leo Club, a youth branch of the Portland Lions Club designed for teens and young adults, which provides leadership training and opportunities to volunteer, raise funds, and make an impact in the local community.

It was during her junior year at PHS that DeRing decided that she wanted to play soccer beyond high school.

After looking at her options and sending film out to a few schools, the Pride of Springfield reached out with an offer.

"It's a great school," DeRing said of the private university that sits on 100 acres. "I like it not only because I am able to play soccer there, but it's also a great community."

The Pride's program is led by Kursten Shade, who guided Springfield to 11 wins and a spot in the New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference (NEWMAC) championship game in her first season at the helm. Following a slow start, Shade's squad won seven straight games, including two in the conference tourney to reach the title game for the first time since 2021.

After living in Portland her entire life, DeRing said she is looking forward to a fresh start in Springfield where she will study exercise science.

"I'm excited to find my people," she noted. "People who I will know for the rest of my life and be really good friends with."

## Deposit Due Date Extended for Trip

Zion Lutheran Church is sponsoring a five-day/four-night trip to Lancaster, Pa., Oct. 26-30 — and the due date for the trip deposit has been extended.

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 family 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.

The trip includes travel on a deluxe video-equipped motorcoach with restroom, four dinners, four breakfasts, and four nights lodging in a single hotel. Cost of this trip is \$765 per person double occupancy (\$934 pp single or \$745 pp triple occupancy). A \$75 deposit is due by Aug. 3; with the balance due by Sept. 9.

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

## Zion Lutheran News & Notes

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

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

**Learning:** Sunday School for children ages 3 through 8th grade will be on hiatus for the summer and resume in the fall.

**Men's Ministry:** Zion is initiating a Men's Group that will discuss and work on church projects and service projects around town. Call Jerry Peuse at 860-894-2880 for more details.

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

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

## Free Show Tomorrow

Tony Rome and The Peacemakers will stop at Portland Saturday, July 4, for a free show at Adams Plaza, Route 66 in Portland. This year's tour is called the Sons of Liberty tour. All are welcome. This show runs one hour, and starts at 2 p.m.

Rain date is July 5. Bring a lawn chair.

## Town Offices Holiday Closing

The Portland town offices will be closed Friday, July 3, in observation of Independence Day.

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# Portland’s ‘Duffy’ Recalls Devastating Circus Fire

By Anne Lilburn

Portland resident Wayne “Duffy” Duff will turn 92 this summer, but he still remembers the summer he turned 10 – when he barely escaped the Hartford circus fire.

“I remember everything,” he said.

It was July 6, 1944 when his mother, an Elmcrest Hospital nurse and a single mother, took her almost-ten-year-old son to the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus that was being held under a huge big top tent in Hartford. Thousands of people filled the tent when the fire started. The tent had been waterproofed with paraffin wax and gasoline, and the fire spread quickly.

Duff, who has been known as “Duffy” since he was a kid, said that when the fire first started, it was confusing.

“The woman in the center ring had just brought the lions out,” he said, “and they just started running around just right away, and I heard her yell and scream, and I thought she said ‘fight’ because I’m ten years old, and I go ‘what?’ And then she goes, ‘Fire!’ and my God.”

Duff said he held his mom’s hand while they

escaped.

“I had to, [in order] to get through the crowd,” he said. “If I fell down, you were all over, you got trampled.”

Duff said some good luck with their seating had likely saved their lives.

“We were going to be up by where the fire started,” he said, towards the back of the tent, “but then we got there early, so my mother got better seats, down halfway at the center ring.”

That seating change, closer to the ring and towards the aisle, put them in a good position to escape.

“We were so lucky,” he remembered. “We were right by the railing, and [when we were] going down, we were only up ten rows of seats. We pushed the wooden railing over, and you had to jump down about a foot or two, and there was an exit for us right there. ... We were right there at the end, [so] we were lucky. I mean, people were merging, but at least we could get in with the merger.”

“I just kept going,” he said. “I looked back maybe once and heard everybody screaming, and everybody where it started up there was just



Portland resident Wayne “Duffy” Duff was not quite 10 years old when he and his mother barely escaped the Hartford circus fire with their lives. He has a collection of newspaper clippings related to that fateful day, and shared his story with the *Rivereast* last month.

## Celebrating 60 Years of Marriage

Robert W. Jones Jr. and Nancy McDonald Jones will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on July 3.

The couple grew up in central Massachusetts and met at a high school dance at age 16. After a lengthy courtship, they were married on July 3, 1966, at St. Joseph’s Church in Fitchburg, Mass., followed by a reception at The Buttercup Hill Tea Room in Lunenburg, Mass. Family members still fondly recall that their wedding day was the hottest day of the year in 1966, and it is rumored that the wedding cake was beginning to melt in the sweltering summer heat!

After beginning their life together, Robert and Nancy made their home initially in Middletown and then permanently in Portland, where they have resided for the past 54 years and have become cherished members of the community.

Robert devoted 35 years to education as a high school social studies teacher at Middletown High School. Nancy dedicated her career to nursing, serving patients for many years at Middlesex Memorial Hospital and later at Covenant Village Pilgrim Manor in Cromwell.

Together, Robert and Nancy have built a loving family that includes three children, six grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

The couple traveled extensively all around the globe as their children became adults, including trips to Mexico, the Caribbean, Europe, Asia and beyond. Now enjoying retirement, they continue to lead active and fulfilling lives. Nancy is an avid walker, volunteers generously at the Portland Senior Center and enjoys exercising at the YMCA. Robert stays busy by gardening, keeping in touch with family and friends and proudly serves as the family’s historian and genealogist, preserving memories and traditions for future generations.



Nancy McDonald Jones and Robert W. Jones Jr.

The couple especially treasures spending time with their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren who live throughout New England. Family gatherings, celebrations, and creating lasting memories remain at the heart of their lives together.

Congratulations to Robert and Nancy on 60 wonderful years of marriage, love, laughter, family, and friendship. May your diamond anniversary be filled with joy, cherished memories, and many more happy moments together.

in turmoil. They were falling. They fell down, so probably half of them that died were all trampled. Once you fell down, you just wouldn’t [be able to get up].”

Once out of the tent, the escaping crowds ran into what were then farm fields.

“I don’t remember how I came home or how I got home,” Duff said, “but I remember we stopped at the end of the field.”

It was all over a short time later.

“Ten minutes,” he said. “That’s all it took — or less — to burn the three tents.”

“We’re lucky we were alive,” he said with emotion.

In the years that passed, Duff and his mother never really talked about that day, he said.

“We hardly brought it up afterwards,” he said.

He said he didn’t think about the fire much at all until he got older. He went back to school in the fall, and no one was talking about it. After graduating high school, he began a long career working as a truck driver, and later took a job driving a motorhome for NASCAR star Joey Logano’s father.

He also worked as a volunteer firefighter in Portland, beginning at the age of 20. He served on active duty, responding to fires, for 35 years, he said, but never thought of the fire he survived as a child when deciding to volunteer. It was just a way to help his community, he said, and had nothing to do with the circus fire.

“I never even thought of that,” he said.

Duff said he didn’t really start thinking about the circus fire again until he was in his 30s. He said he heard about an anniversary event with a survivors’ gathering, and decided to attend. Since then, he said, he’s been a regular at the annual services. Over the years, he made friends with survivors and came to know the stories of those who lost their lives. It’s important to remember, he said, because so many young lives were lost. It’s something he says is evident when you hear the names read aloud.

“In 1944, all the guys were in the war,” he explains, and moms took their kids to the circus

as a treat. He said many of the victims were children, who died alongside their mothers while their fathers were fighting in World War II, not long after D-Day.

“When they read the list off at every service, every year,” he said, “it’d be like a mother and three kids, let’s say, or a mother and five kids, and they all perished. All the husbands were overseas.”

Now that the group of survivors has gotten older, and dwindled, along with the police officers who organized the events, he says it’s more important than ever to make sure people remember what happened, and to remember those who died, and those who survived.

Duff himself has proven to be a survivor in more ways than one. He’s currently battling stage four lung cancer, which he says has also spread to his spine, as well as melanoma. For his 91st birthday last year, he hosted a fund-raising event at Concentric Brewing Company that drew hundreds of people and raised over \$16,000 for Middlesex Health’s Cancer Center, he said.

His birthday is coming up at the end this month, and Duff said he’s not sure exactly how he’ll be celebrating – but you can be sure that he’ll be celebrating survival.

## Dean’s List

Paige Fitzgibbons of Portland made the spring 2026 Dean’s List at Roger Williams University in Bristol, R.I.

## Nominations for Sprit of Portland Award

Nominations are being accepted for the 16th annual Ralph Paley Spirit of Portland Award.

The award was initiated to honor Portland’s unsung heroes. It was developed to show gratitude for that giving spirit in our Portland community, and in honor of Ralph Paley, who organizers say gave so much of himself to the town.

The deadline for nominations is noon Tuesday, Sept. 1. Pick up and drop off the nomination form at the Waverly Senior Center, 7 Waverly Ave.

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# Remembering the Wangunk People on the 250th

By Anne Lilburn

The United States is celebrating its 250th anniversary as a country, but Wangunk elder and East Hampton resident Gary Red Oak O’Neil wants everyone to remember that the Wangunk tribe was here 250 years ago as well.

“We were a thriving community, and we were going up and down the river. We were living our lives, and then the settlers came,” said O’Neil, noting that the Wangunk, whose territory stretched across the land that is now known as the *Rivereast* towns, were traders.

“We were dealing with furs. We were dealing with vegetables, especially in the fall,” said O’Neil.

Their trading partners, he said, stretched up and down the Connecticut River, from the Tunxis up river to the Nehantic (also known as the Niantic) near where the river empties into Long Island Sound.

The Portland area, he said, had long been the center of the Wangunk community, as a place where they could farm, and access the river to launch canoes.

“We would go up with boatloads – canoes, they were basically canoes – and [the Wangunk] were filling their canoes with vegetables, dried beans, all of that stuff,” he said.

The fertile soils along the river, he said, were good places to grow crops.

“They had been here for thousands of years and they had kind of had everything down where they knew what to grow,” he said. He noted that the Wangunks “moved seasonally, [with] the river when it flooded, so they could be found in different areas, and they would go back to those areas depending on the time

of year. They had been moving seasonally for years, so that was just the way it was. You moved depending on the season.”

The river was always a meeting place for the tribe, he said, and there were traditions, he said, that had been going on for generations, some dating back hundreds of years – or even a thousand years, he said – before European settlers.

“In Portland, every April, there was a group of Wangunks from this area,” he said. “They could be from Middletown, they could be from Portland, they could be from East Hampton, Marlborough. Everybody gathered in April and went down and had a men’s weekend” with the Nehantic down river, somewhere near the area now known as Old Lyme, he said.

Things changed quickly when the European settlers arrived, said O’Neil.

When European settlers first arrived in the area in the 17th century, he said, the Wangunk consolidated their territory, establishing themselves more firmly in the Portland and Middletown areas. They became established in particular on the Portland side, where a reservation eventually ended up being located. It was the result of conflicting cultural ideas around property rights.

“Coming from England, [the settlers] had a whole thing about property,” he said, “and the Wangunk were always sharing the water, the land, all of that, and that all changed because they — the English — had a different vision of property.”

The English, he said, believed in private property, and “the Wangunks didn’t understand that theory,” O’Neil said. “As a result, property was

starting to be eaten up and then the Wangunk started being pushed even more.”

Around 250 years ago, as the Declaration of Independence was being signed, the Wangunks were finding themselves in a very different position from the Founding Fathers.

“It was called displacement,” said O’Neil. “And all of a sudden, Wangunks were trying to go in a different direction, meaning they were going up the river, they were going different places, but they were being displaced because their property that they knew of was not theirs anymore.”

The early days of European settlement included skirmishes and battles between the Wangunk and the English, but later, the Wangunk began intermarrying, both with Europeans as well as African Americans, he said. Some Wangunk were sold as slaves, he noted.

Intermarriage was the reality of living in a world with new groups of people, he said, but it was also a survival strategy.

Tribe members forged friendships and business relationships with local families, and O’Neil said that Wangunks were known as the local midwives in Marlborough in the early days of the country. They also built many of the stone walls on farms in the area, having been hired by local farmers, and worked in timber mills, helping to build the towns that had forced out some of their own communities.

O’Neil himself said he traces his lineage back

to an ancestral line called the Jonathan Palmer line, which has been recorded in East Hampton and Marlborough since the early days of the United States. He said his family members were hired by Bevin Bells in the early days of the company and maintained good friendships with the family over the years.

Over the generations, the tribe dispersed somewhat, said O’Neil, but the stories and traditions continued to be passed down the line. He said he learned much from talking with his grandmother as a kid. He would accompany her on walks in the cemetery as she visited her late husband’s grave, he said, and she would share stories – and history – with him.

“That’s where my love for history and genealogy grew out of as a young [kid],” he said. “You know, I was seven, eight years old, going with her to the cemetery, and as a result, when I became so the Wangunk Elder, no one in the Wangunks questioned it. It was the way it was supposed to be.”

Now, O’Neil said he wants to make sure others know those same stories. He’s been working to make sure Wangunk history is taught at local schools and that the tribe’s stories are shared at local events.

As people celebrate the 250th anniversary of our country and look back to its early history, O’Neil hopes people will take time to remember the people who lived here before the United States started, and who continue to live here today.

## Senior Center News & Notes

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

**Mobile Food Pantry:** The Food Share Mobile Pantry comes to the Food Bank every other Monday. The next date is July 6.

**Special Events:** Unless noted, **registration is required for all programs**. Also, unless noted, all programs are free.

**Bingo Canceled:** Bingo with Sean, scheduled for July 8, has been canceled.

**Monday, July 6:** Heart of Health & Community Wellness Series. There will be a Blood Pressure Clinic from 10-11 a.m., and a Chatting with Chatham Health wellness presentation on Gut Health from 10:45-11:15 a.m.

**Monday, July 6:** Bloom Therapeutic Plant and Nature Program: Growing a Tea Garden, 1 p.m. There is a \$20 fee.

**Thursday, July 9:** Sweet Treats and Conversation with Community Leaders, 1 p.m. This month’s community leaders are to be determined.

**Wednesday, July 15:** Trip to Lyman Allyn Museum & Lunch. Leave the center at 9:15 a.m. Ride fee is \$5 and admission fee is \$9.

**Wednesday, July 15:** Walking Club, 9 a.m. Meet at the intersection of Breezy Corners and the Air Line Trail.

**Wednesday, July 15:** Threads of Time Community Quilt Celebration, 12:30-2 p.m. All are invited to this celebration of quilts, community and shared heritage. A light lunch and tea will be served.

**Friday, July 17:** Visit the Shrine of Lourdes in Litchfield with lunch at the on-campus cafe. Leave the center at 9:30 a.m. There is a \$5 ride

fee, and you pay for your own lunch.

**Monday, July 21:** Veteran Benefits Workshop, 10 a.m.-noon. Learn about programs and services offered to veterans and surviving spouses.

**Thursday July 23:** Drumming Circle, 2-3 p.m. No experience needed and instruments will be provided. Cost is a \$5 donation to the food bank. Registration required.

**Monday, July 27:** Monthly technology workshop, 11 a.m. This month’s program will be an introductory session for the new Portland Senior Center Digital Legacy Project. Explore ways to share your memories and pastimes through written reflections and/or digital storytelling. Create a collection of your history and heritage to share with family and friends.

**Monday, July 27 & Tuesday, July 28:** Elder Classes at Camp Bethel. Sign up for one or two days of day classes at Camp Bethel. Bus leaves each morning at 9 a.m. and returns at about 3 p.m. Classes and lunch are free. Visit the center for an application to attend and for more information about classes that are available. There is a \$5 ride fee per day of attendance.

**Medical Rides:** The center offers ADA-accessible transportation for seniors to medical rides. The fee is \$5/person, round trip. Please give a two-week notice.

**Foot Care:** The center is taking appointments for a Foot Clinic with Stacey Cormier, RN; services starting at \$35. Call to register and for more information.

**Massage by Joan:** Thursdays and Fridays, by appointment only. Call Joan at 860-301-6507.

## Residents Graduate

Portland residents Jessica Bobko-Quintiliano and Tyler Spada recently graduated from the University of Hartford.

Bobko-Quintiliano received a Master of Science degree in nursing, and Spada received a Bachelor of Science degree in architectural design and technology.

## Chicken Barbecue July 18

The Portland Agricultural Fair and Portland Fish and Game Club will sponsor their third annual Chicken Barbecue on Saturday, July 18, from 4-7:30 p.m., at Portland Riverfront Park, 284 Brownstone Ave.

Adult meals cost \$30 each and will consist of half a barbecued chicken with an ear of corn and French fries. A child’s meal, for children under 12, will consist of chicken ten-

ders, an ear of corn and French fries. Soda and water will be available for purchase. Meals can either be eaten onsite or take them to go. Entertainment will be provided by Paul Christopher and Round 3. Also, the raffle will be held once again.

Tickets can be purchased from any Portland Fair or Portland Fish and Game member or at Bud’s Café on Main Street.



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# Andover Shows Off Classic Cars for America 250

By Toriana Williams

The sound of classic engines, the smell of fresh popcorn and the sight of gleaming chrome filled the Andover Sportsman's Club on Saturday as the town celebrated America's upcoming 250th birthday with its first ever car show.

Despite hot sunshine bearing down on spectators, hundreds of visitors enjoyed a day packed with activities. Food trucks, helicopter rides, bounce houses, live music and dozens of classic cars gave families plenty to see while celebrating both American history and the culture of beautiful cars.

As anyone who owns a classic car would know, car shows are about more than polished paint and powerful engines. Each vehicle carries a personal story, decades of memories and countless hours – or years – of work.

Stephen King, chairman of the board for the Andover Sportsman's Club, said the event came together after town officials approached the club about hosting a celebration for America's 250th anniversary.

"The town of Andover reached out to me," King explained. "They asked if we would host an event on our grounds. So I talked to our board of directors and we decided it was a good idea to do it."

The club temporarily closed its shooting ranges to welcome the public for the celebration. "We have 150 acres here," King said. "Overall, the feedback has been great, and I think we may do it again."

Although the celebration was originally planned as a one-time event, King said the positive response has him thinking about making the car show an annual tradition.

## Commemorative Reading of Declaration of Independence

All are invited to the Town Hall Gazebo on Wednesday, July 8, at 6 p.m., to participate in a reading of the Declaration of Independence, to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the first reading at the State House in Philadelphia.

Just as the Declaration of Independence was read to the people for the first time on July 8, 1776, now, Americans in all 50 states, five territories, D.C., U.S. minor outlying islands, and wherever they may live throughout the world,

## Summer Programs for Kids at Library

Here are this summer's first few programs offered for kids taking place at Andover Public Library. All programs are held at the library this summer. Call the library to sign up or with any questions, at 860-742-7428. You can find the complete summer program flyer posted on Andover Public Library's Facebook page.

**¡Amigos!** As part of the Early Roots Collaborative, parent ambassador Doris Maldonado Méndez and AES student Marie will lead another bilingual summer series at the Andover Library, sharing stories designed to help young children explore big feelings, relate to peers, and celebrate the strength of community. This year's lineup also includes a midsummer "Navidad en

"This was intended to be just this year only, but I've had so much feedback that we may do this again," he said.

King believes classic cars fit naturally into the America 250 celebration because, "the reason is to get people together," he said.

One of the event's most eye-catching vehicles belonged to Ed Elderkin of Windham, who proudly displayed his 1963 Chevrolet Nova SS. Elderkin has owned the car for eight years, but his love for muscle cars stretches back much further. "I've always had cars," he said.

His connection to the Nova goes all the way back to his teenage years.

"Just the fact that I had one in high school," Elderkin said when asked about the car's special meaning.

Working on classic cars has also been a lifelong career. "Did it for a living all my life," he shared, explaining that he worked as an automotive machinist. When asked how he first became interested in cars, and if it started in childhood, Elderkin answered with a smile. "Fact is, I never grew up."

Before retiring, he also spent years drag racing. "I drag raced for many, many years," he said. "Now that I've retired from that, this is what I do." Like many enthusiasts at the show, Elderkin enjoys the friendships that come with attending events across Connecticut.

"We do a couple or three a week," he said of his regular car show schedule.

Nearby sat Joe Kubish's 1967 Corvette Stingray, a car he has owned since 1989. Growing up during the 1960s sparked his lifelong interest in classic cars.

"I like all old cars," Kubish said. "Just being a

will read the Declaration of Independence 'together.'

The reading will be divided up the reading among those who show up to participate. If you would like more information or to confirm your participation, contact Susan Camoroda, municipal veterans representative, at veterans@andoverct.org. Additional information also can be found at hawaiiamerica250.org/sharing-the-spirit-of-america.

Julio," inviting families to learn, laugh, and grow together, where we will have a special guest. Future dates are Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. July 18 and July 25 (Navidad en Julio).

**Bingo for Kids!:** Tuesday, July 7, 4 p.m. There will be snacks and small prizes. Best for grades 2-6, with adult helpers for younger players. Space for 12 participants.

**Coyotes for Kids!:** Wednesday, July 8, 4 p.m. Certified Master Wildlife Conservationist Paul Colburn returns to the library to tell kids all about coyotes in Connecticut: their history, habitat, diet, behavior and more. Program targeted to kids aged 12 and younger.



Joe Kubish's 1967 Corvette Stingray sat beautifully amongst other cars that lined up beside it. "You stop on the gas and it breaks the ground," he said. "They don't make cars like this anymore."

kid growing in the '60s."

Although the Corvette looked much the same when he bought it, Kubish has done extensive mechanical work over the years, including replacing the engine. His favorite part of the Corvette remains its incredible power.

"You stop on the gas and it breaks the ground," he said. "They don't make cars like this anymore."

The Andover event marked a special milestone for both Kubish and his Corvette. "It's been off the road for 29 years," he said. "So this is kind of like its rebirth." Most of the time, the Corvette stays safely tucked away. "It's fun to go get ice cream in this car, but other than that, it's sitting in the garage," Kubish said.

Perhaps the rarest vehicle at the show was Gene Charney's 1965 Ford GT40. Earlier, King described it as "the rarest car we have here today."

Charney explained why so few people ever get the chance to see one. "They only made just about 120 of them in 1965," he said. "There's not too many around."

The GT40 became a labor of love after Charney purchased it in 1990. He completely restored the car himself. "I did the whole thing," he said. "From the ground up." The project stretched over the course of decades. "I got the car in 1990, and it wasn't completed and ready for the road until 2024," Charney said.

Even after spending so much time restoring it, Charney's favorite part of attending the car

show has more to do with those who attend. "I just like talking to the people," he said.

Visitors often share the same reaction when they see the rare sports car. "The most common comments I get are, 'I've never seen one of these,' and 'Thanks for bringing it.'"

Bob March of Coventry also fulfilled a lifelong dream by purchasing his 1971 Mustang Mach 1 three years ago.

"I always wanted one of these when I was in high school, but I could never afford it," said March. Now, decades later, that dream has finally come true.

"Now I'm able to have one," he said.

March's Mustang remains remarkably original, with its original body panels and distinct Mach 1 package still intact. Like many owners, March treasures the conversations that happen around his vehicle.

"Just talk to people about cars, stories behind them and stuff like that," he said of what, at shows, he enjoys.

He also hopes the hobby will continue with the next generation. "I'm going to leave this to my kids," he said.

Looking around the show, March felt optimistic about its future.

"I think it was pretty nice," he said. "I think it'll take off once people hear more about it." For a first-year event in a small town, he believed attendance exceeded expectations.

"For a first-time event, it's an awesome turnout."

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

## 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, "Community Connections." Transportation is available.

**Special Upcoming Events: Shopping: Tues-**

days, 8:30 a.m. Shop in Willimantic on 6/30. Transportation is available.

**Kids' Art Class with Kim (BAF):** This class is perfect for all skill levels. Space is limited. Supplies are provided. Contact the center and ask about the summer schedule.

**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.

**Lawn Games:** Tuesdays, 1 p.m. Enjoy classic lawn games including Yahtzee, Tic-Tac-Toe, Yard Pong, Ring Toss, and Cornhole. Lemonade will be served. All are welcome. To register, contact the center.

**The Summer Scoop! A Passport to Ice Cream:** Fridays, 7/10 and 7/24, 1 p.m. Watch for location and dates. The center is hosting a summer-long journey for residents where passports will take people to area ice cream shops. Call the center to register and pick up your passport.

**Zumba Gold:** Interested in more Zumba? Let the center know. The center is currently looking for instructors for the summer and beyond.

**Foot Care with Sue:** Thursday, 7/23, 9 a.m. Cost is \$42. Call the center for an appointment. Transportation is available.



A Sweet Treat... In "The Summer Scoop" program, Andover seniors beat the heat by traveling to various area ice cream shops. The most recent stop was enjoying sundaes, cones, and milkshakes at Shady Glen Ice Cream Shop in Manchester. From left are Janice Bazzanni, Ashley Roberts, Mary Duval, Phoebe Reuthe, Perri Lindley, Louise Goodwin, Joe King, Marge Surdham, Kalina Zieba, Julia Haverl, Ricky Kauffman and Lois Popoff.



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WJMS Honor Roll

William J. Johnston Middle School has announced its honor roll for the fourth quarter of the 2025-26 school year.

Grade Six

**High Honors:** Adrianna Anastasiou, Emma Barthel, Delaney Berta, Olivia Bishop, Elisabeth Boutote, Camila Bravo, Harper Brenek, Calleigh Carroll, Camilla Carroll, McKenzie Clarkin, Maggie Cleary, Sofia Contreras, Owen Cote, Kennedy Cove, Cole Deacon, Amelia Fluck, James Ford, Caroline Frasier, Hugo Gostkiewicz, Hunter Graham, Isabel Hawes, Maureen Hickey, Harper Johnson, Caysen Jones, Sean Jones, Jameson Kelleher, Brendan King, Zoey Koji, Lucas LaBarre, A'Mya Laureano, Edward Lengel, Danny Liu, Aubrey Margelot, Olivia McClain, Skyler Michaud, Julian Mula, Amelia Mundell, Mackenzie Nadeau, Charlotte O'Hara, Daniel Page, Bella Panus, Connor Peck, Luca Rago, Luke Reid, Liliana Rioux, Elva Seals, Logan Sevigny, Summer Slocum, Leonora Smith, Hayden Sposito, Levi Stahl, Stanley Szczur, Jacob Talarczyk, Kaydence Trudeau, Lucy Verruso, Charlotte Walls, Joseph Whitley, Reika Zaler.

**Honors:** Brynne Alford, Roaa Ali, Giuliana Arrigoni, Emily Auresto, Nhyira Badu, Gabrielle Bagnati, Belen Barrios-Valenzuela, Finley Blanda, Samantha Busby, Grant Caplet, Olivia Christoff, Bevin Cowell, Daymon Delaware, Drew Dugan, Lilith Erdman, Henry Farrington, Jojo Feinberg, Patrick Feldhouse, John Forbes, Nolan Goggin, Leyawin Grigas, Zayer Harrington, Brandon Hopkins, Alexa Juarez Martinez, Emily Krepcio, Brent Lachapelle, Sarah Langdon, Karson Lastrina, Stella Launonen, Piper Lenk, Harrison Maher, Gabriella Mauro, Addison McElroy, Aria McLaughlin, Emily Melgey, Brody Michaud, Juliana Michaud, William Pagel, Lilu Parks, Kaitlyn Peck, Jillian Post, Anthony Previti, Leia Priore, Samantha Roberts, Nelson Rooney, Ryan Rowe, Mason Ryan, Xavier Smith, Joseph Spineti, Samuel Standish, Evelyn Suski, Luke Theriault, Nicolette Tichy, Skylar Tierney.

Grade Seven

**High Honors:** Lyra Ackroyd, Lukas Anastasiou, Brynn Angell, Kaydence Bedner, Delaney Beirn, Grace Bisi, Olive Boyd-Bingham, Hannah Buyniski, Sarah Candler, Liam Cassidy, Camden Christoff, Jace Collins, Nora Creutz, Stella DeGaetano, Neil Drylie, Jayson Eisenberg, Antonio-James Ferreira, Honorah Gillespie, Grady Greene, Addison Grosso, Aubrey Henry, Chris-

Dean's List

Colchester residents Birch Collins and Amaya Zavistoski made the spring 2026 Dean's List at Roger Williams University in Bristol, R.I.

tian Ingalla, Isabela Ireland, Violet LaRose, Zachary Martino, Isabel Mattison, Mairead McGloin, Jasmine Morin, Evan Pazul, Kailynn Rancourt, Autumn Rettig, Kendall Scholl, Sophia Sherry, Otto Walter, Sophie Wilson, Grace Wissler.

**Honors:** Camden Allard, Jenalise Aquino, Elizabeth Belding, Danika Bennett, Samantha Bertash, Mason Catalina, Elizabeth Coats, Ava Craig, Josephine Doelger, Landon Duhamel, Lochlan Fabry, Aiden Francis, Hayden Fraser, Eve Gould, Alexander Graham, Liam Hagan, Joshua Hunt, Adeline Jordan, Cameron Kaiser, Jace Kaur, Grayson Kerrigan, Juliet Koonankeil, Sloan LaParre, Adrien Lavertue, Ava Lizondro-Pane, Ethan Lukra Matos, Joseph Marotta, Carson Moroch, Jacob O'Connor, Socrates Pena Valenzuela, Isaac Pensa, Joziah Perez, London Peterson, Rylan Ramos, Rory Richardson, Logan Roberts, Landon Roman, Parker Sbona, Ethan Schoen-Rene, Angel Sereno, Tyler Siena, Bryson Simone, Kayden Summerlin, Abigail Van Zilen, Daniel Vashbinder, Adam Wilinski, Liliana Yu, Cody Zajac.

Grade Eight

**High Honors:** Fabiola Berard, Terry Boaz, Paul Brodeur, Nina Caplet, Olivia Carrington, Chloe Civardi, Tristan Cote, Bailey Cowell, Bree-na Cowell, Carter Doutre, Jacob Durfee, Lily Eppler, Caitlyn Griffin, Alexander Healy, Lily Koji, Hunter Kovach, Lilah Martz, Ryder Michaud, Camille Mickens, Lyra Riley, Payton Shelden, Lunaya Urban, Emma Verruso.

**Honors:** Gabriella Bishop, Emilie Boutote, Jacob Bradow, Jacqueline Busby, Molly Buscetto, Cali Cruz, Sophia Dean, Lauren Dittmann, Lucas Dubreuil, Evan Faber, Benjamin Healy, Ruby Jeffries, Stella Kauffman, Carlton Kristoff, Kaylee Krol, Jackson Lenk, Ryan Lombardo, Reagan Manganello, Grace McAlpine, Axel Monaco, Peyton Moynihan, Hannah Nitkowski, Makayla Oddis, Stella O'Kane, Lauryn Pac, Molly Parsons, Harper Perry, Josslyn Post, Braeden Richards, Jenna Schoen-Rene, MacKenzie Schulze, Logan Szewczyk, Muhammad Usman, Jake Ward, Jack Wissler.

Ukrainian Catholic Church News

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

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

Dare to Dream Jr.

The Colchester Community Theatre Summer Children's Theatre Workshop will present Disney's *Dare to Dream Jr.* on Saturday, July 18, at 2 p.m., in the Bacon Academy auditorium.

This is a musical revue that follows an eager group of trainees on their first day at a fictional Walt Disney Imagineering Studio. As the group sets out to help each other discover their dreams, they work together to explore the power of dreams to unite, inspire and make anything possible. Drawing from a century of Disney films, *Dare to Dream Jr.* features songs appearing for a first time ever in a Disney stage

musical, including fan-favorites from *The Princess and the Frog*, *Coco*, *Encanto* and *Frozen II*. This musical revue is a mix of contemporary songs, classics, and brand-new medleys.

Tickets for this production are \$8 each (adults & children) and may be purchased online with assigned seating at [www.colchestercommunity-theatre.com](http://www.colchestercommunity-theatre.com). Tickets will also be available at the door on the day of the performance if not sold out prior.

Call Diane Ozmun at 860-908-9286 or email [info@colchestercommunitytheatre.com](mailto:info@colchestercommunitytheatre.com) for additional information.

Residents Invited to Participate in America250 Community Concert

Community members throughout Colchester and surrounding towns are invited to take part in a special patriotic community concert celebrating America250 and the nation's 250th anniversary.

The community-wide musical collaboration will bring together singers and instrumentalists for a fall performance featuring patriotic and Americana-inspired music. Musicians of all experience levels are encouraged to participate, including members of local choirs, bands, orchestras, high school music programs, churches, and community organizations, as well as individuals who simply enjoy performing music.

This America250 celebration aims to unite the community through music while honoring the history, spirit, and traditions of the United States. The project represents a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to celebrate America's 250th anniversary through a unique community collaboration, bringing together residents of all ages and backgrounds to create a memorable musical experience. Organizers hope to create an inclusive event that showcases the talent, pride, and shared spirit of the region.

"We are excited to welcome musicians and singers from across the community to come

Dean's List

Calloway Toth of Colchester made the spring 2026 Dean's List at Delaware Valley University in Doylestown, Pa.

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*Celebrating 33 Years in Colchester*

Colchester Special Olympics 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Fundraiser at Blackledge Country Club

..... Friday, August 7, 2026 .....

Registration starts at 7:30am • Best Ball – Shotgun start at 9am

Please join us in support of the Colchester Special Olympics by playing in our 17th annual golf tournament. Come *play*, be a *sponsor*, or *donate* a raffle prize – 100% of contributions support our local team. A light breakfast, grab and go lunch, and a buffet dinner is included with golf registration. Raffle prizes will be drawn during dinner. This fundraiser provides the opportunity for us to offer year-round sports training and competition in Bowling, Swimming, Track & Field, and Golf for people with intellectual and/or other challenges, by giving them opportunities to improve their physical fitness, demonstrate courage, form and foster friendships, and gain confidence. It is also a tremendous help to our athletes' families, mine included, giving us all added friendships and perspectives. Colchester Special Olympics is a registered non-profit organization and any donation made is tax-deductible. The course does not allow walk-ons for tournaments so please register by July 26th so we can get an accurate headcount.

**Golf & Sponsorship Registration:** <https://give.soct.org/colchestergolf>

Thank you so much for your support with this fantastic cause. We appreciate everything you do to help us! See you on August 7th!

Please call or email any questions to Tim at: (cell) 860-608-0056, or email [teamcolchesterso@gmail.com](mailto:teamcolchesterso@gmail.com) Looking forward to seeing you there!



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**Flag Day Celebrated...** VFW/American Legion and Boy Scout Troops 13, 72 and 109 met on the Town Green Sunday, June 14, and commemorated Flag Day with a short but meaningful ceremony, which included retiring and destroying dozens of worn flags through fire. First Selectman Bernie Dennler also spoke to the gathered public, reminding everyone of the significance of Flag Day (Congress adopted the flag in 1777), as well as thanking veterans who have served their country, as June 14 was also the 251st anniversary of the founding of the U.S. Army.



### Touch-a-Truck is July 2

Families are invited to climb aboard, explore, and discover a variety of vehicles at the annual Colchester Touch-a-Truck event on Thursday, July 2, from 6-8 p.m., on the Town Green. This free event gives children and adults the opportunity to get an up-close look at the trucks, equipment, and vehicles that serve the community every day.

Attendees will have the chance to explore a wide range of vehicles, including emergency response vehicles, construction equipment, public works trucks, and other specialty vehicles. Representatives from local organizations and agencies will be on hand to answer questions, demonstrate equipment, and share information about their work in the community.

"We are excited to welcome families back for another year of Touch-a-Truck," said the Colchester Parks and Recreation Department. "This event gives children the opportunity to see these impressive vehicles up close and meet the people who operate them every day to keep our community safe and running smoothly."

The event is open to children of all ages and their families.

For additional information, or to bring your vehicle, please contact the Colchester Parks and Recreation Department at 860-537-7297.

### Christian Life Chapel News

Christian Life Chapel is located at 392 S. Main St. For more information, call 860-398-9119 or email chapel.colchester@yahoo.com. The Rev. Don Rivers is pastor.

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

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

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

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

**Donuts with Don:** Fridays at 10 a.m. This is a relaxed gathering and open discussion on the theme: "How does God fit in this thing called life?"

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

The following Colchester residents made the spring 2026 Dean's List at Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Worcester, Mass:

Abigail Belding, a member of the class of 2028 majoring in biomedical engineering; Aidan McLoughlin, a member of the class of 2026 majoring in architectural engineering; Charles Rose, a member of the class of 2029 majoring in mechanical engineering and robotics engineering;

**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.

**Goodspeed – Annie and Lunch at Gelston House:** Thursday, Sept 24, 7:45 a.m. The musical that stole America's heart comes home to celebrate its 50th anniversary on the stage where it all began! Cost is \$105 per person. This includes transportation and lunch at the Gelston House. Space is limited.

**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

### Historic Buildings Open July 4

The Colchester Historical Society is celebrating the 250th birthday of the nation by opening some of the town's historic buildings on Saturday, July 4, from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. The Nathaniel Foote House, the Colchester School for Colored Children, and the Colchester History Museum will all be free and open to the public that day.

In addition, a "scavenger hunt" laminated printout will be hung from entry posts at the Colchester Burying Ground for those who would like to explore the town's oldest cemetery.

The Colchester History Museum will also feature a short video of the Gershom Bulkeley Tomb Excavation in the room at the museum, which contains artifacts from the archaeological dig of the tomb in 2002.

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 homemade 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.

**Presentations on 2027 Trips:** On Sept. 2, at 10:30 a.m., there will be a presentation on the **Discover Mackinac Island** trip running May 1-9, 2027. This tour of Illinois and Michigan runs nine days, eight nights, and cost is \$4,299 (double occupancy). Then, on Oct. 19, at 10:30 a.m., there will be a presentation on the **Cultural Treasures of Japan** trip running Oct. 7-20, 2027. This trip is 14 days, 13 nights, and cost is \$9,999 per person (double occupancy).

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**Special Education Records to be Destroyed**

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.

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.



## Outreach and Other Opportunities: Knit-









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CCSU Dean’s List

The following area students made the spring 2026 Dean’s List at Central Connecticut State University:

- Amston: Dakota Babbitt
- Andover: Alaric Erami, Quinn Mcshane, Samera Raza
- Cobalt: Zakary Robichaud
- Colchester: Heather Apinis, Allie Donovan, Zack England, Tiffany Gallicchio, Katherine Grelotti, Allyson Hickey, Grant Johnson, Calem LePage, Rebecca Magyarik, John Marburger, Tyler Nguyen, Eve Marie Svata, David Wrinn, Zeek Zurita.
- East Hampton: Sydney Blyler, Natalia Calvo, Austin Cuthbertson, Patrick Gavrylchuk, Nicole Koval, Noelle Lavender, Jimmy O’Brien, Matthew Penn, Konrad Piech, Mikaela Rich,

- Christopher Ruggiero, Katherine Searles.
- Hebron: Neelia Bergeron, Chloe Cadenhead, Maja Knutsen, Lauren Lord, Ryan Nolt, Harris Reid.
- Marlborough: Addison Brown, Emma Chase, Micayla Chicoine, Maxwell Czarnecki, Kara Goldstein, Izzy Henderson, Daniel McGuire, Ace McLeod, Isabelle Mondo, Jake Pantelone, Carolyn Parker, Jake Soboleski, Sam Spinelli, Annalise Tyminski, Xaden Vardanian.
- Portland: Amanda Austin, Julia Capello, Molly Coleman, Sasha Connolly, Jenna Converse, Noah Decker, Bethany Doscher, Kadir Hamidovic, Mckenzie LaMalfa, Katherine McGrew, Travis Poulin, Bridget Reddington, Elliott Rowland, Dan Stewart, Lillian Tabellione, John Thompson, McKayla Wilk.

Police Cadets Seek Members

Teens considering a job in law enforcement or the military, or just want to serve the community, are invited to join the Connecticut State Police Cadet program.

The program meets twice a month on Wednesdays from 6:30-8 p.m. at the State Police barracks in Colchester and we are looking

for both male and females ages 13-20. The Cadet program has been in existence since 2007 and focuses on building confidence, improving physical fitness and leadership training.

If interested in attending a meeting or for more information, call 860-465-5468 or email troopcadets028@gmail.com.



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REC-26-24

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| <p>Michelob Ultra 18 Packs 12 oz. Cans or Bottles</p> <p><b>\$17<sup>99</sup></b> plus dep.</p>                                         | <p>Samuel Adams Assorted 12 Packs 12 oz. Cans or Btls.</p> <p><b>\$15<sup>99</sup></b> plus dep.</p> | <p>On The Rocks Assorted Cocktails 750 ml</p> <p><b>\$19<sup>99</sup></b></p>                         | <p>Mionetto Prosecco Brut 750 ml</p> <p><b>\$15<sup>54</sup></b></p>                           | <p>Grey Goose Vodka 750 ml</p> <p><b>\$21<sup>99</sup></b></p>                                                         |
| <p>High Noon Vodka Seltzers 12 Packs 12 oz. Cans • Asst.</p> <p><b>\$27<sup>99</sup></b></p>                                            | <p>Lawson's Sip of Sunshine IPA 4 Pack 12 oz. Cans</p> <p><b>\$12<sup>99</sup></b> plus dep.</p>     | <p>Meiomi Pinot Noir 750 ml</p> <p><b>\$17<sup>76</sup></b></p>                                       | <p>Bacardi Assorted Rum 1.75 Liter</p> <p><b>\$19<sup>99</sup></b></p>                         | <p>Long Drink Assorted 6 Packs Excludes Strong D</p> <p><b>\$12<sup>99</sup></b></p>                                   |
| <p>Busch or Busch Light 30 Packs 12 oz. Cans</p> <p><b>\$19<sup>99</sup></b> plus dep.</p>                                              | <p>Woodbridge Wines Assorted 1.5 Liter</p> <p><b>\$10<sup>99</sup></b></p>                           | <p>Coors Light or Miller Lite 30 Packs 12 oz. Cans</p> <p><b>\$25<sup>99</sup></b> plus dep.</p>      | <p>Cupcake Wines Assorted 750 ml</p> <p><b>\$7<sup>76</sup></b></p>                            | <p>The Retreat Sauvignon Blanc 750 ml <b>2023 Vintage - 90 Pts. Wine Enthusiast</b></p> <p><b>\$9<sup>99</sup></b></p> |
| <p>Michelob Ultra Zero Non-Alcoholic 12 Packs 12 oz. Cans</p> <p><b>\$12<sup>99</sup></b> plus dep.</p>                                 | <p>WYNK THC Assorted 4 Packs 3mg THC</p> <p><b>\$12<sup>99</sup></b></p>                             | <p>Athletic Assorted Non-Alcoholic 12 Packs 12 oz. Cans</p> <p><b>\$15<sup>99</sup></b> plus dep.</p> | <p>Fever Tree Premium Mixers 4 Packs 12 oz. Btls.</p> <p><b>\$4<sup>99</sup></b> plus dep.</p> | <p>Aperol Aperitivo 750 ml</p> <p><b>\$25<sup>99</sup></b></p>                                                         |

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CIT7-2-25



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RE4-10-26



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RE8-15-25

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The Hebron Transfer Station will be closed Saturday, July 4, in observation of Independence Day.



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Members of the Peters family gathered at Burnt Hill Park on Saturday, June 20, for the town’s annual Juneteenth Celebration. The family – descendants of formerly enslaved Hebron resident Cesar Peters – organized the program.

Juneteenth Celebration a Grand Success

On Saturday, June 20, the sun shone on Burnt Hill Park for Hebron’s fifth annual Juneteenth Celebration. The event was a partnership between the Coalition on Diversity & Equity (CoDE) and the Peters family – descendants of formerly enslaved Hebron resident Cesar Peters. Members of the Peters family organized the program.

A special part of this year’s event was the Hebron Town Council issuing a proclamation naming June 20, 2026 Juneteenth Celebration Day and Peters Family Day in Hebron. Chairwoman Tiffany Thiele read the proclamation as council members Sean Fitzgerald, Jan Lawrence, and Claudia Riley, and interim town manager Donna Lanza looked on — with hugs all around following the reading.

Singing, dancing, drumming, and saxophone playing, kids’ games – an d a wonderful sharing by members of the Peters family about their history and ancestry – rounded out the day. Craig

Wright served up delicious soul food, with Lisa Johnson providing the poundcake.

Many groups and people partnered to make the day a success. They included: Town of Hebron, Hebron Parks & Rec Department (Craig Bryant, director), Hebron Historic Properties Commission (Mary Ann Foote, chairperson), St. Peter’s Episcopal Church, Gilead Hill Congregational Church, and Douglas Library.

Performers included: Charles Taylor IV (saxophone); Edith Peters and grandchildren (singers); JAB Singers (Jahdaia Smith, Alonna Thompson, Joshua Smith, Daelynn Holloway), Karl Jancis, teacher, and RHAM Middle School students (dancing); and Anna Bech and Loretta Heinan (poem).

Members of the Peters family who helped plan and organize the event included Zakiyyah Hassan, Janis Peters, Jay Whitsett, Edith Peters, and Karleka Norman.

Independence Day Celebration

All are invited to begin their Independence Day celebration in true Hebron fashion by gathering at 9 a.m. on July 4 outside the Old Town Hall in the center of town.

This year’s program will feature the presentation of the 250th Oratorical Essay Contest Award, where the winning student will present the winning essay.

The one-hour program will also include patriotic music, songs, and poetry, along with a commemorative Flag Ceremony conducted by local veterans. Hebron Scouts will assist in

a public reading of the Declaration of Independence.

Also, visitors will have the opportunity to view a community collage reflecting what freedom means to many neighbors, purchase commemorative 250th anniversary merchandise, and enter a raffle for a handmade quilt. The program will conclude with the address, “Let Freedom Ring.”

Attendees are asked to wear red, white and blue if they can, and bring or buy a bell to join in “Let Freedom Ring.”

Christ Lutheran Church News and Notes

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

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

**Bible Studies:** Sundays at 10:30 a.m., following service and fellowship time. All are welcome. Also, there is a once-a-month **Men’s Bible Study**, which will next meet Wednesday, Aug. 5, at 7 p.m. The current series is: “Seven Christian Rules Christians Should Break as Often as Possible.” **Women’s Bible Study** will be

Thursday, July 9, at 6:30 p.m. Topic: Prayer.

There is also a **Weekly Podcast** during which Hardaway discusses biblical topics. This week’s topic: Romans 8. To access the podcasts, go to [clchebron.org](http://clchebron.org) and click on “Our Pastor,” or access via the CLC Facebook Page

**Early Childhood Center (Daycare):** Offers childcare, preschool, and before/after school care, and is open to all faiths. **Registration for summer camp (ages 5-12) is open.** Camp is held weekly, and runs through the week of Aug. 10-14. For more information, call director Jennifer Johnson at 860-228-5134. Application forms are at [www.clecchebron.org](http://www.clecchebron.org).

Parks and Rec News & Notes

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

**Summer Camp Registration** is now open. For more information, contact Parks and Rec.

**Wet and Messy Camp:** July 6-10, 8-11 a.m., at Hebron Elementary School. In this camp your child will make slime, goo, puffy paint, oo-black, engage in experiences, and more.

**Crafty Kid Adventure Camp:** July 6-10, 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., at HES, for ages 5-10.

Gilead Congregational Church News

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

**Worship – Summer Hours Now in Effect:** Sunday worship is at 9:30 a.m., followed by coffee hour at 10:30 a.m. Services can also be viewed online at YouTube at [www.bit.ly/Gilead-ChurchUCC](http://www.bit.ly/Gilead-ChurchUCC) and on Facebook at [tinyurl.com/GileadChurchUCC](http://tinyurl.com/GileadChurchUCC).

**Upcoming Events and General Announcements: Outdoor Garden Summer Worship:** This summer, the church will offer two opportunities to worship outdoors in the church’s garden space. Outdoor worship will be Sundays, July 12 and Aug. 23, at 9:30 a.m. Remember to dress for the weather and bring your water and lawn chair. Note: in case of inclement weather, worship will move indoors to the sanctuary.

**Summer Potluck and Prayer Gatherings:** All are invited for two special evenings of food, fellowship, and prayer this summer. Just bring a sweet or savory cookout dish to share. The first gathering is Wednesday, July 22, at 6 p.m.

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**Successful Softball Season...** The East Hampton/East Haddam Majors Little League softball team had a strong season this year, advancing to the District 11 championship game. Pictured are, front row: Bridey Erlandson, Charlotte Arnold, Claire Roberge; back row: Bristol Terry, Cam Sweeney, Olivia Gianinoto, Victoria Dean, Scarlett Ware, Ivy Caselli, Paisley McKnight. Not pictured: Opal Cone. Manager is Chris Arnold, and coaches are George Krug and Wes Terry.



**Scholarship Awarded...** The Congregational Church of East Hampton recently awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to Grace Pekar, daughter of Kristine and Mark Pekar. The scholarship was given because of her dedication to school, community and church. She will be attending Ithaca College in Ithaca, N.Y., and studying music.

Tennis Program for Adults

The East Hampton Recreation tennis program for adults is held every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8-11 a.m., at the East Hampton High School courts.

Players from all *Rivereast* towns are welcome. This mixed-doubles program is free, requires no partners and is open to all levels of adult play, except beginner. Pre-registration is not required; just show up.

For more information, call or text Natalie Hurt at 860-227-8538.

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.

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.

For more information, visit [cc-eh.org](http://cc-eh.org) or call the office at 860-267-5989. Office hours are Monday and Wednesday, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Where’s Bell?

The Friends of East Hampton Public Library, in partnership with businesses in East Hampton, is holding the third annual “Where’s Bell?” contest through July 31.

Pick up a game sheet for free at the East Hampton Public Library, then during the month of July stop by as many participating businesses as possible and find the Bell mascot hidden within.

Those that return their game sheets to the library by Aug. 7 will be entered into prize raffles based on how many businesses they were able to check off the list; attached receipts from participating businesses earn you additional chances to win. This year’s prizes are sponsored by Carl Guild & Associates.

For more information, email [friendsofephpl@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofephpl@gmail.com).



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**Eagle Scout Shelving...** Aiden Gora of East Hampton Boy Scout Troop 8 designed and built new shelving for the East Hampton Senior Center Have a Heart Boutique as part of his Eagle Scout project. Aiden installed the piece on June 5 with help from his dad, Adam Gora. Pictured are Aiden and senior center director Holly Marrero.

## 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, bed-frames, 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 July 11 and 25, Aug. 1 and Aug. 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](http://www.epocharts.org).

## Old Home Days 5K

The 2026 Old Home Days Rails-to-Trails 5K Run will be at 7 p.m. Friday, July 10. This is a point-to-point 5K race that will start at Connecticut Draft Horse Rescue.

Shuttle buses will be provided starting at 6 p.m., departing from Center School. There will be no parking at the start. New for 2026, the last shuttle bus departs Center School at 6:35 p.m. The race starts promptly at 7 p.m.

The first mile of the race leads you down Chestnut Hill Road to Route 16, crossing over Route 16 to Alden's Crossing and taking a right onto the Air Line Trail. You will continue approximately two miles down the shade covered Air Line Trail, crossing Forest Street, exiting at

### Taxes Due

Taxes for real estate, personal property and motor vehicles levied on the Oct. 1, 2025 Grand List were due and payable July 1, and the final day to pay without penalty is Monday, Aug. 3. Real estate and personal property taxes totaling more than \$100, as well as motor vehicle taxes totaling more than \$500, may be paid in two equal installments.

Property owners are responsible for ensuring that all taxes are paid when due. Failure to receive a tax bill does not relieve the taxpayer of the responsibility to pay taxes owed, including any applicable interest charges for delinquent payments. If you did not receive your tax bill, please contact the Collector of Revenue at [tax-collector@easthamptonct.gov](mailto:tax-collector@easthamptonct.gov).

Late payments accrue interest at a rate of

### Recreation News

East Hampton Recreation has announced the following items of interest. For more information, full event descriptions, and to register, call 860-267-7300 or visit [www.easthamptonrec.com](http://www.easthamptonrec.com).

**Mad Science Camp:** July 13-17, 9 a.m.-noon, at Center School, for ages 5-10. Cost is \$115.

**Art Explosion Camp:** July 20-24, 9 a.m.-noon, at Center School, for ages 5-10. Cost is \$115.

**Hoop it Up Basketball Camp:** July 13-17, 9:30-11:30 a.m., at Center School, for grades 1-6. Cost is \$140.

**Coastal Christmas in July:** July 29, 6:30-8 p.m., at Town Hall. Fee is \$45.

**Camp Wildwood at Lake Pocotopaug at Sears Park:** Aug. 17-21, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., for ages 6-12. Cost is \$225.

**Camp Scholarships:** The Belltown Garden Club is offering three camp scholarships to encourage children to explore the outdoors, connect with nature, and learn about gardening and the environment. Scholarships are avail-

able for one-week East Hampton Recreation programs, including Farm to Table, Nature Explorer Camp, Camp Wildwood, Beach & Water Play (pre-K) and Summer Camp at Sears Park. Families interested in applying for a scholarship for any of these week-long programs should contact the East Hampton Recreation Department for application information and eligibility requirements.

**Golf Tournament:** Thursday, Sept. 3, at Blackledge Country Club in Hebron. The event will feature 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. A highlight of this year's tournament will be a Hole-in-One contest, where golfers will have a chance to win a 2026 Nissan Rogue SV. There will also be a raffle contest and prizes. The tournament benefits East Hampton Sears Park Playground equipment. Cost is \$145 per golfer.

## Help Keep Lake Pocotopaug Healthy

Homeowners who live both on Lake Pocotopaug and in the watershed can take advantage of the town's LakeSmart Program to help keep the lake clean.

The LakeSmart program offers advice on things homeowners can do to their properties – such as limiting use of fertilizers (especially bad ones with high phosphorus or nitrogen contents). Homeowners can learn about things to do to prevent water runoff, such as adding plantings on downhill slopes, creating permeable pathways, and the proper use of gutters and

## Police News

6/24: Myles Byrnes, 29, of Clinton, was arrested and charged with second-degree threatening, first-degree harassment, and disorderly conduct, East Hampton Police said.

6/26: Aiden Hoyt, 20, of Middletown, was arrested and charged with evading responsibility resulting in injury or property damage, failure to grant right-of-way at a highway junction, falsifying marker plates (misuse), illegal operation of a motor vehicle under suspension and illegal operation of motor vehicle without insurance, police said.

6/27: Ted Theriault, 48, of East Hampton, was

## Old Home Days Returns for 46th Year

The community tradition known as Old Home Days, affectionately called the "Glorious Celebration," returns for its 46th year on July 9, 10 and 11.

With roots dating back to 1910 and the founding of the Village Improvement Society, Old Home Days continues to celebrate community spirit and East Hampton traditions. Today, the event is organized entirely by the dedicated, all-volunteer Old Home Days Committee and funded solely through generous donations from local residents and businesses.

This year's America 250 theme, "Bells, Boats and Birth of Our Nation," will be front and center during the annual parade on Saturday, July 11, at 11 a.m. Parade participants are invited to showcase and honor a local business in their float designs. Marching bands, local businesses, community organizations and residents are encouraged to take part. Parade registration is available at [www.ehohd.org](http://www.ehohd.org).

Families can look forward to the return of

## EHMS Honor Roll

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

**Grade Eight**

**High Honors:** Anabela Amarel, Pranud Anthony, Juliana Aresco, Wade Aresco, Daniel Arndt, Nicholas Bagley, Cassandra Bombaci, Whimsy Brand, Charlotte Burgin, Colton Burgin, Ryley Cohen, Abigail Coleman, Alexa Colwell, Ella Conforto, Abigail Coyne, Natalie Dean, Kayleigh Doll, Mia DonAroma, Aubree Dunnells, Jacob Duranleau, Kayla Engelhardt, Evelyn Fielding, Brayden Formigilo, Clara Foulis, Lucas Gionfriddo, Cayden Guite, Sofia Halley, Jackson Hall, Lennox Hanna, Brooke Hawes, Madison Herman, Callahan Hines, Mira Hogan, Zoe Holzer, Gabriel Hunt, Taylor Karabetos, Adriana Karas, Thomas Kellogg, Isabella Kiernan, Keegan King, Chanuk Kulatunga, Emilia Luparia, Olivia Luparia, Sara Maalouf, Josslyn Marrero, Cameron Marzi, Natalie Maxwell, Cole McCarthy-Nowak, Charles Montalbano, William Muzzy, Grayden O'Hearn, Carter Pattison, Tiffany Pinzon, Bryson Rall, Mia Ricciardelli, Emma Roberge, Tyler Roman, Riley Rosa, Sophie Roy, Jaksin Sandquist, Isabella Secondo, Luca Serra, Emily Stiles, Abigail Tinney, Trevor Ushchak, Sophia Vargas Mendez, Lukas Werme, Jackson Wilks, Harper Woodson, Zachary Zabroski.

**Honors:** Mila Chipman, Madison Connors, Calum Danaher, Pierce Drobiak, Alexander Farrell, Mason Ferguson, Tobias Finn, Avery Gaughran, Nolan Hilton, Elijah Kramer, Brayden Landry, Zackary Lavender, Joseph Ploszay, Jacob Sylvester, Devin Werme.

**Grade Seven**

**High Honors:** Bridget Adams, Gianna Baio, Anthony Balamucki, Calan Bengtson, Jayden Caliskan, Michael Cerreta, Connor Chretien, MariAnna D'Amore, Hudson D'Elia, Allie Dipace, Emmie Dugan, Hunter Ellis, Audrey Embacher, Emma Emery, Anabia Fahd, Lucas Farias, Isabelle Fromme, Avery Gelineau, Olivia Gianinoto, Brayden Goodwin, Alex Gora, Owen Grendzinski, Cecelia Guest, Kennedy

Hall, Autumn Hatcher, Aiden Heath, Gabriella Hill, Grace Holman, Lillian Jewart, Gracie Johnson, Benjamin Kennedy, Thomas Kokus, Alice Kowalewski, Ava Kroeber, Gavin Ladue, Matthew Lessard, Matylda Lukaszczyk, Elaina Matte, Leah McCormick, Kaylani Melendez, Kaylee Melendez, Blake Milardo, Kayla Mitkiewicz, Ainsley Mortimer, Liam Mutters, Riley O'Connor, Bryson Paddock, Ravin Perera, Ashley Phillips, Aaron Pierson, Aiden Pierson, Logan Pinkleton, Ella Ploszay, Blake Rau, Max Rawlinson, Bryanna Ray, Savannah Russo, Maiya Sadowski, Joseph Salafia, Mason Seaman, Alexandria Smith, Josie Tiano, Alessia Vargas Mendez, Philip Vinciuilla, Maria Vitiello, Jeffrey Walitynski, Scarlett Ware, Katherine White, Dyani Williams, Evan Yacono.

**Honors:** Mitchell, Bombaci, Kadyel Cardona, Dylan Gionfriddo, Collin Kloepper, Bella MacNeil, Kaiden Shakir, Lukas Vai, Lionel Wilson, Veda Youngs.

**Grade Six**

**High Honors:** Blake Aresco, Charlotte Arnold, Jarek Barillaro, Ivy Caselli, Colby Christensen, William Clark, Taelyn Colwell, Fiona Coyne, Islay Danaher, Abigayle Defond, Violette DeSimone, Henry Distin, Michelle Drlik, Rylan Ellison, Sawyer Farrell, Whitney Fielding, James Finn, Colin Fitzgerald, Benjamin Foulis, Mason Gorra, Lucas Granatowski, Kayla Hawk, Miles Hibbele, Aria Hinds, Willow Kelley, Natalie Kellogg, Brennan King, William Krotky, Connor LaBonia, Eli LaPlant, Charliz Lemire, Gabriella Martino, Aiden Mathieu, Quinn Mathieu, Charles McCarthy-Nowak, Oliver McCarthy-Nowak, Sawyer McCarthy-Nowak, Cash McGlynn, Ashlyn McWade, Colin Meier, Francis Mezzatesta, Lorenzo Milardo, Mia Mojica Encarnacion, Camden Montalbano, Isabelle Nunes, Cooper O'Hearn, Jordan Ortuso, Megyn Perez, Owen Phillips, John Reis, Scarlett Remele, Claire Roberge, Jonah Robinson, Jeremy Royce, Brooke Scanlon, Peyton Schoonerman, Lorenzo Secondo, Marco Serra, Bodhi Shumbo-Jenks, Violet Smith, Melania Wiesner, Harper Wilcox, Joel Zavattero, Nolan Zavattero.

**Honors:** Calista Armitage, David Burgh, Scarlett Coleman, Noah Faucher, Quinn Gould, Hailey Guiheen, Jillian Meacham, Benjamin Munoz, Dalton Neary, Brody Pinney, Hans Smutz, Addison Trombino, Ian Williams.

## Dean's List

Camryn Sprague of East Hampton made the spring 2026 Dean's List at Assumption University in Worcester, Mass.



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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:** Will meet Wednesday, July 8 from 7-8 a.m., to share scripture around what the Bible says about being a man. There will be coffee and pastries.

**Chicken Barbecue:** The next drive-thru Chicken Barbecue will be held Saturday, Aug. 8, from noon to 5 p.m., at the Church field.

**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., though it’s on hiatus for the summer. 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](http://www.hn-covenantchurch.org).

Christ Episcopal Church News

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

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

**Returnable Cans and Bottles:** All are asked to place donations in the cans by the shed. Note: Glass bottles and aluminum cans should be separated prior to drop-off.

**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.

**4th of July:** Churches and individuals may

join in the State of Connecticut Ringing of the Bells Celebration on July 4th. Come to the front foyer of CCMH at 1:45 p.m. to honor the 250th anniversary of the country. The church bell will be rung 13 times at 2:00 to honor the original 13 colonies and the founding of the nation.

**Cobalt Lodge Service:** The monthly service will be help immediately after church on July 19. Anyone can join this ministry.

**Labor Day Tag Sale:** Save unwanted items in good condition for our Tag Sale. Contact Dick Napolitano at [rnap1137@gmail.com](mailto:rnap1137@gmail.com) for additional information.

**Haddam Neck Fair Cookie Booth:** Parish members are need to donate money to cover the cost of cookie dough and to work shifts at the fair on Labor Day weekend. Dawn Gingras can be reached at [mgingras39@gmail.com](mailto:mgingras39@gmail.com) if you have questions. Sign-up sheets are located in the back entry of the church.

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

Senior Center News & Notes

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

**Short Story Discussion:** Wednesday, July 8, 2:30 p.m. Join staff member Melissa Pionzio for a monthly short story discussion. This session features “The Yellow Wallpaper.”

**Bike Rides for Seniors:** Friday, July 12, 10 a.m. Ride at Hop River Trail, 249 Columbia Ave., Route 66, Willimantic. For riders age 55 and older. Bring your bike, helmet and water bottle.

**Ice Cream Social – Memory Lane:** Friday, July 12, 1 p.m. Celebrate National Ice Cream Month as you stroll down Memory Lane and view canvases photos featuring members, groups, and activities from years past. Share memories and stories. Interested in taking a photo canvas home. A separate complimentary lottery drawing will be held for each canvas to ensure everyone has a fair chance if multiple people would like the same one.

Dean’s List

Aiden Sones of East Hampton made the spring 2026 Dean’s List at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.

Dean’s, President’s List

The following East Hampton students made the Dean’s List and President’s List at the University of Hartford:

**Dean’s List and President’s List:** Serenity Lachance, Jordan Murphy, Jenna Murphy, Sonja Venetianer.

**Dean’s List:** Jackie Laboy, Natalie Sherer, Kali Trapp.



Hunter and David Heine took advantage of the face-painting that was available as one of the many activities at the recent Pride Stroll in East Hampton.

Love, Unity Celebrated at Pride Stroll

On Saturday, June 25, East Hampton CT Pride, a part of the Coalition on Diversity & Equity, partnered with the Village Center Merchants to host the annual Pride Stroll in East Hampton’s Historic Village Center.

Residents and families from East Hampton and surrounding towns came to the Village Center to participate in various pride-related happenings, including a DJ, face-painting, a bike decorating parade and contest, Once Upon A Queen Story Time with Miss Summer Orlando, 20+ vendor and resource tables, and other pride-themed merchant specials and activities. The evening ended with a 21+ Pride Karaoke event at Rule of 3 Brewing.

East Hampton CT Pride was founded in June

2021 as a community for East Hampton LG-BTQ+ residents and allies.

“With the extremely polarized state of the world in regard to LGBTQ+ matters, it is more important than ever to reflect boldly affirming love, support, acceptance, and visibility for our queer community members,” said East Hampton Pride Founder Stephanie Heine. “We were so excited to see so many new faces from across the state coming together to join in love and unity, and we look forward to hosting another wonderful event next year.”

To learn more and to stay up to date with East Hampton CT Pride happenings, visit [www.east-hamptonpride.com](http://www.east-hamptonpride.com) or follow on Facebook at [facebook.com/groups/easthamptonpride](https://facebook.com/groups/easthamptonpride).

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.

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.

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 Pocotopaug, and America’s 250th birthday.

It’s not too late to join the parade; visit [www.ehohd.org](http://www.ehohd.org) to register. For information, contact Bo Tinson at 860-414-9712 or [RLTinson@gmail.com](mailto:RLTinson@gmail.com).

Provost’s List

Emily Jovel of East Hampton made the spring 2026 Provost’s List at Hofstra University in Hempstead, N.Y.

NEW LOCATION!

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East Hampton, CT 06424



Chatham Dental Center

Advanced Dentistry

Dr. Dikshant Kathuria, DDS

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[www.BelltownRecycling.com](http://www.BelltownRecycling.com)

RE5-30-25

DISCARDING RECORDS

Class of 2019 and 2020

The Student Services and Special Education Department of East Hampton will destroy any and all special education/504 records of students who graduated or would have graduated with the Class of 2019 and 2020. These records may be helpful or necessary for future referrals to social security and other state services. These records will be destroyed on July 20, 2026.

If any student, as described above, would like his/her special education/504 records, he/she must submit a written request for a copy of the records no later than July 10, 2026. Please forward all requests to Rodney Mosier II, Director of Student Services and Special Education, East Hampton School District 1 Community Dr, Suite 1, East Hampton, CT 06424

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**Scholarship Presented...** Kevin Reich, chair of the East Hampton Democratic Town Committee, presents its annual scholarship to Marley Zinkerman from East Hampton who is planning to major in speech pathology at Ole Miss (University of Mississippi).

TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH, CONNECTICUT

Invitation to Bid

Town Hall Roof Replacement

Sealed Bids for the Town Hall Roof Replacement Project will be received by the Town of Marlborough at the Town Clerk's Office until 10:00 AM local time on Thursday, July 16, 2026. Received Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at this time.

Bids shall be Lump Sum.

Prospective Bidders may examine the Bidding Documents on-line at [marlboroughct.net](http://marlboroughct.net) or CT DAS CT Source website and may obtain copies of the Bidding Documents from the Building Land Use/Building Department by calling 860 295 6202 or e-mail [Building@marlboroughct.net](mailto:Building@marlboroughct.net).

To receive the documents via package services, send a completed pre-paid pickup label from either UPS or FEDEX to the Issuing Office. PDF copies are available upon request after receipt of the non-refundable fee.

The date that the Bidding Documents are transmitted by the Issuing Office will be considered as the Bidder's date of receipt of the Bidding Documents. Partial sets of Bidding Documents will not be available from the Issuing Office. Neither Owner nor Engineer will be responsible for full or partial sets of Bidding Documents, including Addenda if any, obtained from sources other than the Issuing Office.

**A pre-bid meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, July 8, 2026, at Town Hall, 26 North Main Street Marlborough, CT. Attendance at the pre-bid meeting is highly encouraged but is not mandatory.**

The successful Bidder will be required to provide a Performance Bond in the amount of one hundred percent of the Contract Price.

The Owner is exempt from payment of Sales and Use Taxes on all materials and equipment to be permanently incorporated in the Work. These taxes shall not be included in the Bid.

Attention of bidders is particularly called to the requirement for all contractors and subcontractors to provide affirmative action to ensure equal opportunity employment as noted in the Governor's Executive Orders 3 and 17.

The bidder agrees that its bid shall be good, capable of being accepted, and may not be withdrawn for a period of sixty (60) days, Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays excluded, after the opening of bids.

The Town reserves the right to waive any technical defects in the bids; to reject bids which do not conform to the terms and conditions described in the specifications; to reject any, any part of, or all bids; to waive informalities or irregularities in the bidding process; and to accept that bid which the Town deems to be in its best interest, whether or not it is the lowest dollar proposed.

All work to be performed in connection with the proposed project will be subject to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, ordinances, and regulations.

If the Town determines, in its sole discretion, to proceed with the work, the successful bidder must execute and deliver an Agreement and furnish valid Certificates of Insurance with full policies, a Performance Bond, and to the Town prior to the start of any work.

It is the responsibility of the bidder to ensure that it has received all addendums to this Invitation to Bid prior to submitting a bid. This Invitation to Bid is not binding in the Town.

The Town reserves the right to revise or amend the plans and specifications from time to time as it deems necessary.

This Invitation to Bid has been prepared solely to solicit bids and does not constitute a contract offer.

The Town reserves the right to amend, cancel, postpone, withdraw, or resubmit this Invitation for Bid at any time if it is in the best interest of the Town to do so.

The Town is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Minority/Women Business Enterprises are encouraged to apply.

Town of Marlborough, Connecticut  
By: David R. Porter, Town Manager  
Date: June 24, 2026

2TB 7/3, 7/10

### 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.

### Dean's List

The following East Hampton residents made the spring 2026 Dean's List at Springfield College in Springfield, Mass.:

Thomas Fenton, who is majoring of business management; Tyler Khongkham, who is majoring in health science/pre-PT; Aiden Nolan, who is majoring in ginance; and Aiden Palen, who is majoring in biology.

### Resident Graduates

Madison Phillips of East Hampton recently graduated from Emmanuel College in Boston.

Phillips received a Bachelor of Arts degree in criminology and criminal justice.

### Absentee Ballots for Budget Referendum

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

Office hours are Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Tuesday, 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; and Friday, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (The office will be closed Friday, July 3, for the Independence Day holiday.)

All registered voters and individual proper-

### Middle Haddam Public Library News

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

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

**Featured Art for July:** Historic photographs of the Village of Middle Haddam.

**Open Mic Night:** Friday, July 17, 6-8 p.m. This event might be held outdoors on the lawn, weather permitting, so plan to bring your lawn chairs. Come and share your talent or just listen and enjoy. Performers, call the library to sign up at 860-267-9093.

**An Afternoon of Blues, Jazz and Poetry:**

### HOF Association Accepting Nominations

The East Hampton Athletic Hall of Fame Association is accepting nominations through Aug. 26. If you know of who you feel is a worthy candidate – which could be an athlete, coach, team, or contributor – email [seidlt@sbcglobal.net](mailto:seidlt@sbcglobal.net) for a nomination packet or go to the Hall of Fame website at [ehahof.wixsite.com/bellringer](http://ehahof.wixsite.com/bellringer) for information.

The induction ceremony will be Friday, Oct. 30, at 6 p.m., at Blackledge Country Club.

The Hall of Fame's objective is to recognize exceptional local athletes and achievements.

Also, the association's membership and committee are very small and new members are sought, preferably those who have a knowledge of history of sports in East Hampton to join our team. Email [seidlt@sbcglobal.net](mailto:seidlt@sbcglobal.net) if interested.

### Dean's List

The following East Hampton residents made the spring 2026 Dean's List at Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Worcester, Mass:

Amber Murphy, a member of the class of 2028 majoring in civil engineering; Jarod Ondas, a member of the class of 2029 majoring in mechanical engineering; William Bothamley, a member of the class of 2029 majoring in aerospace engineering; and Zachary Selger, class of 2029, majoring in aerospace engineering.

### Yarners at Senior Center

For the summer, the East Hampton Yarners knitting club from East Hampton Congregational Church will meeting at East Hampton Senior Center, 105 Main St., on Wednesdays at 10 a.m.

ty owners with an assessment of not less than \$1000 on the 2025 Grand List are eligible to obtain an absentee ballot for this referendum. For more information call 860 267-2519.

The East Hampton budget referendum will be held at Town Hall, 1 Community Drive, between the hours of 6 a.m. and 8 p.m. on Tuesday, July 14.

All are invited to a performance with musicians Lynn Tracey and Hannah Ardens on Sunday, July 19, at 5 p.m. Original poetry selections will be provided by Sympetalous – a.k.a. Stan Lindh.

**Chatham Community Chess Club:** Wednesday, July 15, 6-9 p.m. All ages and skill levels welcome; lessons available. For more information, contact [pjhoffman1@juno.com](mailto: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](mailto:tensummitst@gmail.com) or call 860-262-0246.

### Senior Center Upcoming Trip

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

**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.

### 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. 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 Pionzio at 860-993-5311.

### Early Bird Tickets for Haddam Neck Fair

Early Bird tickets for the 2026 Haddam Neck Fair are now on sale.

Celebrating its 114th year, the Haddam Neck Fair will return Sept. 4-7. For a limited time, Early Bird tickets will be available at a discounted rate, giving attendees the opportunity to experience everything the fair has to offer while saving money and avoiding lines at the gate.

The four-day fair features classic fair foods, agricultural exhibits, live entertainment, competitions, family-friendly activities, and more.

Early Bird tickets will be available until July 31, and can be purchased at [bit.ly/HNFTickets26](http://bit.ly/HNFTickets26).

For more information about the Haddam Neck Fair, including event details and updates, visit [www.haddamneckfair.com](http://www.haddamneckfair.com).

### Residents Graduate

Three East Hampton residents recently graduated from the University of Hartford.

Serenity Lachance received a Bachelor of Arts degree in English, Cheyane Nichols received a Bachelor of Science degree in biomedical engineering, and Natalie Sherer received a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering.

### Dean's List

Shea Krassner of East Hampton made the spring 2026 Dean's List at Roger Williams University in Bristol, R.I.

www.creators.com

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CINEMA CLASSICS



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**A Great Get-Together...** Members of the East Hampton High School Class of 1952 held their 74th reunion luncheon Friday, June 12, at The Dubliner. Pictured from left are, standing, Barbara Griifin Skinner, Janet Hartinger Marchand and Barbara Holmquisr Hallberg; sitting, George Loos, Raymond Frosti, Allan Caffyn and Bill Hennessey.

### Local Rider to Take on Motorcycle Challenge for Kids

On Aug. 2, East Hampton resident Mark Niossi will embark on the 2026 Hoka Hey Motorcycle Challenge, which spans more than 11,000 miles under 11 days on backroads across North America.

And he's doing it all to support kids.

In the motorcycle challenge, riders follow a predetermined route revealed in stages at the start and at designated checkpoints. No GPS is allowed – only turn-by-turn paper directions. Sleeping must be done beside the motorcycle in all weather conditions, no hotels allowed. Throughout the event, all 100 new participants are tracked live, allowing family, friends, and supporters around the world to follow their progress in real time.

The Hoka Hey Motorcycle Challenge was founded to honor veterans and Native American traditions, promoting perseverance, respect, honor, kindness, and a deeper appreciation for what truly matters in life. Many riders also use the journey as a platform to support causes, raising awareness, and giving back to charities and communities.

Niossi is dedicating his journey to supporting children and families affected by Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD) through Mile Monsters Inc., a nonprofit focused on creating memories and providing assistance for kids facing life's toughest challenges.

"Every mile has a purpose," says Mark. "The kids I ride for fight every day, so I'll keep pushing for them."

Everyone is invited to stop by, learn more about the journey, sign the bike, and help fuel the miles at a community event hosted by 9 Lives Barbershop, 82 Main St. in East Hampton, on Sunday, July 19, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. The event will feature live music, food, raffles, vendors, and family fun.

Visit [www.MarkyMarkHokaHey2026.com](http://www.MarkyMarkHokaHey2026.com) to make a donation whether it's helping with



**Mark Niossi**

a tank of gas, buying a meal along the road, or offering words of encouragement, every act of kindness helps keeps him moving and supports the children who are at the heart of his ride.

### Bethlehem Lutheran Church News

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

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

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

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—Davy Crockett

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East Hampton, CT 06424

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### Win a 2026 Chevy Colorado Pick-Up Truck

The East Hampton/Marlborough Rotary Club is selling raffle tickets for its largest fundraiser of the year. The drawing will be held at East Hampton Old Home Days on Saturday, July 11, at 8 p.m., at Bevin Park on the Center School grounds. The grand prize is a 2026 Chevy Colorado LT crew cab truck.

The second prize is a cabin stay on Laurel Island, Lake Pocotopaug, third prize is an Estate Planning gift certificate at Kenneth Barber and Associates, and fourth prize is a \$250 gift certi-

cate to Lakehouse Bar & Grill.

Only 800 tickets will be sold, at a price of \$100 each ticket.

Winners need not be present and are responsible for all federal and state taxes.

Most of the tickets are already spoken for but occasionally a longtime buyer decides it's time to pass the raffle ticket number off to someone else. If you would like to be added to the waiting list, call Rotarian Pam Greenwald at 860-965-4646 or email [pjoslyngreenwald@gmail.com](mailto:pjoslyngreenwald@gmail.com).

### East Hampton Library News & Notes

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

**Hours:** Monday - Wednesday, 10 a.m.- 8 p.m.; Thursday - Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. **Holiday Closing:** The library will be closed Friday, July 3, for the holiday.

**Adult Programs: Library Yoga with Amie Meacham (Sears Park):** Tuesday, July 14, 6:30 p.m. Bring a mat if you have one and meet at the pavilion at Sears Park for an hour of gentle yoga for all levels.

**Book Club Al Fresco (Sears Park):** Wednesday, July 15, 6:30 p.m. Grab a copy of this month's selection and come to Sears Park for a casual discussion with lakeside views.

**Tech Help:** Thursday, July 16, 2-4 p.m. Basic technology help for phones, laptops, tablets, and e-readers. No registration required; just bring your device with you.

**Belltown Book Brunch:** Friday, July 17, 11 a.m. Meet to talk about what we are all currently reading while enjoying coffee, tea, and a breakfast treat. Register or drop in.

**Teen Programs: Lunch Bunch Book Club: Grades 6-8:** Wednesday, July 8, 1-2 p.m. Bring your lunch and the book you're currently reading. Chat about books, play games, do crafts,

and eat lunch together.

**Middle Grade Dungeons & Dragons: Grades 5-7:** Monday, July 13, 5:30-7:30 p.m. No previous playing experience or past participation required. All supplies provided; incoming fifth-graders welcome.

**Lunch Bunch – The Next Chapter (Freshmen Only!):** Wednesday, July 15, 1-2 p.m. This is a freshmen-only version of the lunchtime book club! Bring your lunch and the book you are currently reading.

**Children's Programs: Lego at the Library: Grades K-6:** Tuesday, July 7, 4:30-5:30 p.m. Work solo or with friends on a new challenge or theme each month. All Lego bricks are provided; just bring your creativity and get ready to build.

**Mommy and Me Yoga:** Monday, July 13, 10:30-11:15 a.m. Caregivers will be guided through gentle yoga poses and movement while children are welcome to join in or play freely in the space. For children 18 months-5 years and their caregivers. Bring your own mat or blanket; registration required.

**STEMtastic: Parts!:** Tuesday, July 14, 10:30-11:30 a.m. or 6:30-7:30 p.m. Participants will explore how different body systems work through hands-on activities. Best for ages 3-8; register or drop-in.

### Dean's List

Aiden Sones of East Hampton made the spring 2026 Dean's List at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.

Ephraim J. Butson of East Hampton was named to first honors on the spring 2026 Dean's List at Clark University in Worcester, Mass.

## Belltown Motors

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**Belltown Motors will be closed on Friday, July 3rd for the holiday. Happy Fourth of July!**



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**★ Letters, cont. from page 7**  
until July 15th in an effort to reduce harm to the nesting baby eagles. First, all fireworks except for sparklers and fountains are illegal in Connecticut. Only licensed professionals can use other types of fireworks in regulated displays. Second, fireworks that are shot over the lake deposit all sorts of residue, wadding, paper, and chemicals into the lake. That means that the clean lake you all desire is endangered by use of fireworks. So rather than postponing, how about just not doing them at all? Unfortunately, informal surveys show a widespread belief that people will ignore the baby eagles, as well as helping to keep the lake clean. Do the right thing; pass on the fireworks.

**Bob Yenknor – East Hampton**

## Reflections on Marlborough House

To the Editor:  
Since moving from Madison to East Hampton, my wife and I often travel Route 66 between East Hampton and Middletown. As we approach Portland, the former campus of Elmcrest Psychiatric Institute comes into view.  
Much of the campus has changed, with apartments and commercial buildings replacing many original structures. Yet several historic buildings remain, including the Marlborough House, known to me from my years at Elmcrest.  
I served on the hospital staff as Director of Admissions and later Director of the Day Hospital. At that time, the Marlborough House was a residential treatment center for adult patients, where psychotherapy, psychiatric consultation, and group therapy were central to care.  
For years after Elmcrest closed, the Marlborough House seemed forgotten while other parts of the campus were altered or demolished. I wondered whether it would disappear as well.  
Recently, I have been pleased to see it restored. Its repaired and repainted exterior gives new life to a building that once played an important role in the care of many people.  
Each time I pass, I think of former patients, colleagues, and a period in psychiatric care that has largely passed. Mental health treatment has changed greatly over the decades, and the remaining Elmcrest buildings stand as reminders of that earlier era.  
For me, the Marlborough House is more than a surviving building. It bridges past and present, preserving memories of the people and work that once filled its rooms.  
I am grateful to the current owners for preserving this historic structure and ensuring that an important piece of local history remains visible for future generations.

**James J. Monahan, Ph.D., DABPP  
East Hampton**

***Note:** Monahan is the former Director of Admissions and Director of the Day Hospital, Elmcrest Psychiatric Institute.*

## When is Enough Enough?

To the Editor:  
For the third consecutive year, First Selectman Bernie Dennler is asking Colchester taxpayers to approve a budget that increases spending and raises taxes once again. After three straight years of increases, this is no longer an isolated request – it has become his pattern.  
Each year, taxpayers are told the increase is “only” a few dollars a week or “only” a few dollars a month. But those small amounts quickly add up to hundreds – and then hundreds become thousands – placing a growing strain on household budgets.  
At the same time, the cost of living continues to rise. Groceries, utilities, insurance premiums, prescription medications, gas, and heating costs are all increasing. With winter approaching, many families are already asking how they will afford to heat their homes. Residents are paying more for nearly everything, while town government continues to ask for more and more each year.  
This year’s budget requires taxpayers to absorb additional costs, including a nearly \$500,000 payout to the former superintendent, signed by the Democratic chair of the BOE. In addition, taxpayers are being forced to cover the consequences of failures in oversight of the Joint Health Reserve Fund – failures that are costing taxpayers millions this year and are projected to cost millions in future years.  
Taken together, these actions reflect serious fiscal management failures under the Dennler administration and add significantly to the tax burden already placed on residents.  
Think about the impact on your neighbors: the retiree on a fixed income, watching expenses rise while income remains flat. The young family balancing a mortgage, childcare, and rising costs. The single parent trying to stretch every paycheck until the next one arrives.  
For these households, another tax increase is not an abstraction. It means buying fewer groceries. Delaying a prescription. Postponing car

repairs, home maintenance, or utility payments.  
These are not budget line items – they are real choices Colchester residents are being forced to make.  
Government has a responsibility to manage taxpayer dollars carefully, because every dollar collected in taxes is a dollar that is no longer available to families.  
Before asking residents to pay more, town leaders – especially the Dennler administration – should first demonstrate that they can responsibly manage the resources already entrusted to them.  
Colchester deserves leadership that recognizes there is a limit to what families can afford.  
For many taxpayers, that limit has been reached.  
Enough is enough – Vote ‘no.’  
**Colchester deserves better,  
Cyndee Laribee – Colchester**

## Out of Touch with Electorate

To the Editor:  
The events following the defeat of both budgets have been very telling.  
Let’s start with the Tri-Board meeting and the Board of Finance meeting held to determine budget reductions. The Board of Education, the Board of Finance, and the interim superintendent knew they were not going to eliminate Band or World Language. Yet those programs were presented as potential cuts. Why? Because they knew support for the budget was eroding, and they needed to generate a reaction from their base to counteract the more than 2,000 voters who rejected it.  
Think about that.  
Why use students, teachers, and parents as leverage in a budget debate when there was never any intention of making those cuts? Whether you agree or disagree with that assessment, many residents are asking why those programs were placed on the table in the first place if they were never serious options.  
At its core, many residents believe this reflects a troubling mindset. They see elected officials who are eager to spend taxpayer dollars but less willing to acknowledge or respect the concerns of those who voted ‘no.’  
Another question deserves an answer: Why are we still waiting for our next budget referendum when more than 20 Connecticut towns have already held their second or even third budget votes? Why the delay? Is it because our first selectman is on vacation? He is on vacation; meanwhile, many families are struggling with rising costs. At a recent Senior Center meeting, one resident who said she had paid taxes for 35 years told the first selectman that another tax increase could force her to move. The response from Bernie was simply, “I’m sorry.” For many residents, that answer offered sympathy but no alternative solutions.  
The message from the electorate has already been delivered. If town leaders continue to ignore it, residents have the opportunity to make their voices heard again much clearer and stronger.

**Lance Lusignan – Colchester**

## Let Positivity Win

To the Editor:  
It’s undeniable that Americans have never been so politically divided. The gap between left and right is getting bigger, and with it, the tone in which we treat each other has gotten more negative by the week.  
It doesn’t have to be that way in a small town. Let me rephrase that: should not be that way in small towns like East Hampton.  
Regardless of the results of a referendum or what stickers we display on our bumpers, we are all neighbors and want what’s best for our community. We may disagree about funding or policy, and that’s healthy. We should have those debates and perhaps keep our minds open to different ideas.  
Instead, we’ve taken to lobbying insults and questioning each other’s sincerity. We’re using Facebook groups and letters to the editor to scream how wrong or misguided we believe others to be. We know that example is being set at the national level. It should not be leaking into town government, but here we are approaching another referendum, and the outrage is already starting to fly.  
I’m going to keep it positive. I hope East Hampton residents will show up and vote yes on Tuesday, July 14. I believe the proposal before voters is responsible. I also believe it addresses the results of June’s failed referendum.  
On the school side, we are looking at a reduction of \$250,000 more from the initial proposal. That is not a token amount. It will affect class sizes and programming, and again we are asking our educators to do more with less. They are up to the challenge, as they have shown repeatedly. We shouldn’t rely on their good nature and professionalism as a budget strategy.  
I’ve heard some good ideas proposed by

people with whom my politics don’t align. For example, regionalism is a positive step. There are ways to work with our neighboring communities that will reduce costs without impacting services. Those solutions are not going to be immediate, but we can initiate the discussion.  
Let’s establish forums to exchange ideas, and keep an open mind even if someone has an adverse opinion than your own. If nothing else, it will make East Hampton a more pleasant community.  
Please vote ‘yes’ on July 14.  
**Sincerely,  
Matt Engelhardt – East Hampton**  
***Note:** Engelhardt is a member of the East Hampton Board of Education and East Hampton Democratic Town Committee, but said he is writing independently of both.*

## Feeling Lucky?

To the Editor:  
Colchester taxpayers are heading back to referendum, and the sales pitch is already familiar. “It’s only \$20 a month.” “Skip Starbucks.”  
They say that every year. And after years of Bernie Dennler’s tax increases, many taxpayers are already paying about \$1,000 more per year.  
That is not Starbucks money. That is the difference between breathing room and falling behind.  
But this year has an even bigger problem: revaluation. Colchester’s next revaluation is already underway. That means your tax burden could shift based on how much your home value has increased compared to everyone else’s.  
Officials will tell you there will be “winners and losers.” Great. So before we even know who loses, taxpayers are being asked to approve a budget increase of more than 5%, while nearby towns are holding increases to 3% or less.  
What does a loser look like? It could be the family that bought a modest house years ago and now sees the assessment double. It could be the homeowner surrounded by new construction pushing close to \$1 million. It could be a senior on a fixed income whose house got more valuable on paper, even though their bank account did not.  
And once the town decides your home is worth more, you do not pay with paper money. You pay with real money.  
So no, this is not about skipping Starbucks. It is about whether people can still afford to live in Colchester.  
If I want to gamble, I will go to Foxwoods. I am not voting to raise taxes again before the revaluation casino tells taxpayers who the losers are.  
**Michael Dubreuil – Colchester**  
***Note:** Dubreuil is a member of the Colchester Republican Town Committee but said he is writing as an individual.*

## Budget Referendum

To the Editor:  
As East Hampton approaches its second referendum, I can’t help but remember the promise our candidates made during town elections just this past November. It wasn’t a crazy, over-the-top promise that was clearly a political stunt, and certainly not one which would threaten the basic human services which we rely on in our small corner of the globe that we call home.  
It was a promise to serve from “the middle.”  
What this means to most of our friends and neighbors who we’ve elected to serve is to preserve the basic things that all of us, regardless of our political views, value and count on in our town. This year, it has meant crafting a budget with no room to spare in delivering:  
- 24/7/365 ambulance service. Quick, responsive, life-saving help when we need it the most;  
- ‘Round-the-clock police protection which answers all emergencies, despite the heavy workload officers face dealing with a depleted force;  
- Fire and emergency protection by a dedicated department of volunteers which saves our town millions through their generosity of time and professionalism;  
- Senior Center services, the demand for which has grown exponentially over the years and outpaces the ability of our small staff to support;  
- And as important as any of the above, the education and life skills for our youth who will need every bit of a leg-up when they ultimately face the big world outside of East Hampton.  
And let’s not forget the contributions to our community by all of our town employees, who serve selflessly throughout town to make our lives better. I am always amazed at their ability to squeeze value out of the budgets they have to work with. I don’t believe we have ever been blessed with a better team than this.  
The upcoming second referendum reflects a 1.54% increase in total real estate, personal property and motor vehicle taxes over last year. While I believe that we’ve had to take a step backwards as a result, I think it’s a good budget from the standpoint that no one is completely happy, and it helps answer the concerns that a

revaluation year has dumped in our laps.  
In any event, please go to the polls and support the vision of East Hampton which you want to see.

**Rich Knotek  
East Hampton Town Council**

## Without Respect, Voters Must Reject

To the Editor:  
Taxpayers voted for less spending in the June 2 referendum, rejecting both the town budget and, by an even larger margin, the Board of Education budget.  
Rather than honoring that directive, the majority on the Board of Finance and Town Council are proposing to use approximately \$450,000 in surplus funds to prop up continued high spending. This foregoes meaningful spending reform and attempts to placate voters through budgetary sleight of hand. Responsible municipal budgeting calls for maintaining healthy reserves for true emergencies and capital needs, such as road repairs, not for propping up oversized operating budgets.  
The Board of Finance proposed only a minimal reduction to the Board of Education’s spending increase. Instead, officials are looking to cut essential road repairs and maintenance while also reducing access to the town transfer station.  
Most residents already receive very little return on their high property taxes. The bulk of those taxes support the Board of Education, where taxpayers voted for less spending, yet core town services relied upon by all residents are being slashed. Delaying road maintenance today will only result in significantly higher repair costs and potential liability in the future. Access to the town transfer station is already limited, and reducing it further would affect the very property owners who fund the town’s budget. Is this retribution for voting ‘no’?  
Raiding our savings to cover up high spending and avoid making difficult but necessary decisions is irresponsible. Defunding repairs to our deteriorating roadways is an insult to taxpayers.  
On July 14, residents should vote ‘no’ again to demand a responsible budget that keeps the town within its means, protects vital services, and respects the will of the voters.

## Bryon Turner – East Hampton Support 2nd Budget Referendum

To the Editor:  
On July 14th, East Hampton voters and qualified property owners have the important responsibility to vote for the town’s budget at referendum to accept the revised general government, education and capital budgets for the fiscal year July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027, as revised by the Board of Finance and adopted by the Town Council.  
Rejected in the June 2nd referendum, the Board of Finance, Board of Education, Town Manager, Superintendent of Schools and Town Council have worked diligently since then to reduce the budget proposal as was the interpreted desire of the majority of those who voted in that initial referendum. Most disappointing for all (whether pro or con) is that only about 23% of those eligible cast their votes at the initial referendum.  
Our republic, now celebrating its 250th anniversary, is a participatory democracy. It doesn’t work well if you don’t participate.  
The budget document now before us, attempts to maintain the crucial services important for the vitality, quality of life, health and well-being in this beautiful central Connecticut setting we call home. After the first referendum, the Board of Finance and Education undertook the process of reducing the budget and financial impact to each of us. We, the taxpayers, have had many difficult choices this year as we faced the impact of state mandated property revaluation. The results of revaluation are not subject to voter approval. However, it is fair to say that our vote on the annual budget considered it as we decide where our voice could be heard. Voting against the annual operating budget was a way dissatisfaction with revaluation could be addressed (vocally), but in doing so actually hurt all making East Hampton their home.  
Now, I ask you to support the revised budget on the 14th and not to forget all the critical and crucial services available to us, such as an award winning Library, a vibrant active and growing Senior Center, ambulance and fire departments whose volunteers don’t ask what is the budget when someone in our family or neighbors is in need, or our police officers, who are trained first responders. There is so much more, from beautiful surroundings to community involvement. If maintenance of all those features is important, please consider all those intangibles as you consider your referendum vote. Thank you.  
**Dean Markham  
Chairman, East Hampton Town Council**





**When In Rome...** Lily LeMay Bowen and Edward Bown noticed the day before they traveled from Marlborough to Rome that friends of theirs would be in were in Rome at the same time. So, they arranged to meet in front of the Pantheon in the heart of Rome. Though the domed building was constructed 2,000 years ago, it is “a marvel still today,” Lily said. Pictured from left are Marco Irizarry, Kim Irizarry, Lily LeMay Bowen, and Edward Bowen, all of Marlborough.



**Bonnie and the Bell!**... Bonnie Tierney, a proud Connecticut native, recently discovered one of the 13 Bevin Bells hidden throughout East Hampton. Entering the United States Air Force from Connecticut in 1973, Tierney has always carried an appreciation for her home state and the community that shaped her journey. Tierney said finding one of the historic Bevin Bells was a meaningful reminder of her enduring connection to East Hampton and the rich history that surrounds it.

## Where in the World is the *Rivereast*?

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



**Digging the Dam...** Stephanie, Charlotte and Billie Bunting of Colchester brought the *Rivereast* to Hoover Dam in Nevada.



**Lovely Leesburg Library...** Mary Ann Wall from East Hampton is with Jane Marston and Lynette Stevens from Leesburg, Florida, previously from East Hampton. Wall brought the *Rivereast* to Friends of the Leesburg Library.

# Where in the World?

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

Submit your travel photo holding the *Rivereast News Bulletin*, and you will win a \$25 Gift Card to Campagna Restaurant if your photo is one the four entries selected!

To enter, email your photo and address to: [bulletin@glcitizen.com](mailto:bulletin@glcitizen.com)

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Obituaries

Glastonbury

Marcky Foster

Born on Aug. 4, 2021, our beloved Marc Joseph Foster, Jr. ("Marcky") gained his angel wings and made his way to Heaven on Monday, June 22, surrounded by the love of his family after a courageous battle with ETMR cancer. A fighter through and through, Marcky made sure to give his loving father one last Father's Day together before saying goodbye.

Though his time on earth was far too short, Marcky filled every day with laughter, strength, and determination. At just four years old, he taught everyone around him what courage truly looks like. He faced every challenge with a brave spirit and a strength that inspired all who knew him.

Marcky leaves behind his devoted parents, Amanda and Marc Foster, who spent every day of his journey by his side, loving him fiercely, advocating for him tirelessly, and making every moment count. He also leaves behind his siblings, Nina and Jack, who brought him joy and were loved by him just as deeply, and his pups Bergy and Macky, whom he loved beyond words.

He is survived by his "army": his great-grandfather, Henry Tillotson ("Pop") (Crystal VanAllen); his grandparents, Michael ("Grampy") and Amy Ciarcia ("Mimi"), Dawn Foster ("Grandma") (Mark Kehrhahn), and Carl Foster ("Papa") (Liz Downing); his aunts and uncles, Jason Foster and Mary Cerio, Amy and Jesse Carabase, Abby Ciarcia and Shane Johnson, Kate and Joe Hoerner, Paul Ciarcia ("Uncle P"), and Julia Ciarcia (his treasured "Auntie J") and Nick Portal; and his cousins Jesse, Sophia, Niko, Otto, Lincoln, Sebby, Sofia, and Maverick. Marcky shared an especially deep bond with his cousin Sophia, whose love for him was immeasurable. He also leaves behind countless extended family members, friends, caregivers, and supporters whose lives were forever changed by knowing him.

Marcky had a personality larger than life. He loved the color purple, dinosaurs, snakes, dancing to "Sweet Caroline," Magna-Tiles, Super Mario Brothers, Bluey, and Bass Fishing Productions on YouTube. He rarely accepted "no" for an answer and somehow always managed to charm his way into getting what he wanted. He was feisty and fearless, stubborn in the best ways, and determined to live life on his own terms. His smile and laugh could brighten the darkest day, and his spirit touched the hearts of everyone he met.

The family would like to express their deepest gratitude to the extraordinary doctors, nurses, and caregivers at Connecticut Children's Medical Center, Mass General Hospital, and Lucile Packard Children's Hospital. Their compassion, dedication, and support meant more than words can express throughout Marcky's journey. Because of them, Marcky's family had almost two difficult but love-filled years with him after the



initial diagnosis. While our hearts are broken by his absence, we find comfort in knowing that Marcky is free from pain, running, playing, and smiling once again. You're a turtle now, sweet boy. Marcky's life reminds us to be kind, to appreciate every blessing, and to hold our loved ones close. His legacy of strength and resilience will live on in all who knew and loved him. Calling hours were held Friday, June 26, with a memorial service that day, in Mulryan Funeral Home, 725 Hebron Ave., Glastonbury. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Jonah Finn Foundation (www.jonahfinnfoundation.org) in Marcky's memory. For online condolences, please visit www.mulryanfh.com.

Marlborough

Charles Edwin Denler

Charles "Charlie" Edwin Denler, 91, passed away peacefully Friday, June 19. He was born May 3, 1935, to the late George and Marie Denler. He was a "Charlie" through and through – never a Charles – as well as a favorite "uncle Charlie" to a host of nieces, nephews, friends, and a beloved grandpa to Tyler, Moriah and Jack. Charlie crossed paths with his future wife in an unexpected way; while picking up his date, he was immediately captivated by her friend, Beverly, and her gentle presence, warm smile, and unforgettable blue eyes. They were married June 1, 1957, and settled in Marlborough. Charlie's legacy is etched in the foundation of the houses he built as the owner of "Denler Construction." He found immense fulfillment in overseeing each project from the blueprint to the final nail. For many years, he was a familiar and beloved face at the Marlborough Congregational Church, known for his leadership as a deacon and his beautiful voice in the choir. In his later years he became the primary caregiver for his wife, who had Alzheimer's, supported continuously by his devoted daughter LauraLee and her partner Tara. Through every chapter of life Charlie's big heart, sharp sense of humor, and love for telling stories remained an anchor for his family and a joy to all who knew him.

Charlie leaves behind his daughter, LauraLee, and her partner, Tara of Old Saybrook; his son, Charles of East Haddam, and wife, Joanie of Greenwich; and his beloved sister Katie, of Amston. He was predeceased by his wife, Beverly; his son Scott; and his three sisters, Elizabeth, Beverly and Teresa. A private gathering to celebrate Charlie's life will be held in the near future. In lieu of flowers, please consider mailing a donation to the Alzheimer's Association at: 10 Executive Drive, Suite 202, Farmington, CT 06032. Please make to Attn: In memory of Charles "Charlie" Denler. To leave online condolences, please visit www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.



Colchester

William Floyd Otfinoski

William Floyd Otfinoski, fondly known as Bill, of Colchester, passed away peacefully at home on Wednesday, June 24, with his loving family attentively by his side. He was 88 years old. Bill was born on July 9, 1937, in Meriden. He was the son of the late William and Catherine Otfinoski. Bill earned a master's degree in college and took a job with Pratt and Whitney Aerospace, advancing through the years in administration. Bill married Jean Anderson in August of 1990. The couple resided in Colchester, where Bill became actively involved with the Colchester Senior Center. He will be remembered as a kind, loving, and devoted family man, with a gentle soul.

He will be sadly missed but always remembered with love by all who knew him, especially his wife Jean Anderson; children, Eric Otfinoski of California, William and his wife Naomi Murata Otfinoski of California, Nathan Otfinoski of Massachusetts, Tyler and his wife Marissa Otfinoski of Massachusetts; grandchildren, Hope, Ryder, and Colin; a sister, Bernadette Bennett and husband Phillip Bennett; several nieces and nephews; and many extended family members and friends. In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by a brother, Robert Otfinoski. Funeral services will be held privately, according to his wishes. The Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester has been entrusted with care of arrangements. For online condolences, please visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.



East Hampton

Eileen LaFountain

Eileen Bernadette (Gleason) LaFountain, 68, of East Hampton, beloved wife of Patrick LaFountain passed away Friday, June 26, at Middlesex Hospital. Eileen was born Oct. 28, 1957, in New Britain. She was the daughter of the late Milton Gleason and Helen Kosakowski Gleason. She met her husband Patrick LaFountain in high school in Enfield in 1973. They have been together ever since that time, and have lived together in East Hampton since 1984. They married on May 21, 1977 and have been married 49 years, and have two children together, Meghann Eileen and Justin Patrick. Eileen had worked for the State of Connecticut in the accounting office for the Department of Revenue Services. Besides her parents, she was predeceased by her twin brother, Milton Mark Gleason and her nephew Nathan Harrison. She is survived by her husband Pat and her two children and their spouses, Meghann LaFountain and her husband Brendan McGann of Meriden and Justin LaFountain and his wife Julia LaFountain of Wethersfield. She also leaves her sister Mary Anne Dahlia, sister Katherine Harrison and her husband Brett, and sister Elizabeth Gleason

along with her nieces and nephews. A private funeral will be held at St. Patrick Church. In lieu of flowers or donations please give your loved ones a big hug because you never know what is going to happen. To leave online condolences, please visit www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Colchester

Charles Baier Jr.

Charles Max Baier Jr., fondly known as Charlie, of Colchester, passed away peacefully at home Sunday, June 28, with his loving family attentively by his side. He is 83 years old. Charlie was born on Oct. 31, 1942, in New London, to the late Charles and Helen (Pukas) Baier Sr. On June 29, 1968, he married the love of his life, Patricia M. Williamson. The couple settled in Colchester where they made their home and raised their son and daughter. Charlie had a tremendous love of baseball. He coached instructional league baseball for over 20 years in Colchester, and he also volunteered as coach for the Bacon Academy JV team for many years. Charlie retired in 1999 after a long and successful career ending as the machine shop coordinator for United Technologies Research Center. In his free time, Charlie volunteered at the Connecticut Draft Horse Rescue in East Hampton. Most importantly, he will be remembered as a hardworking family man, who was soft spoken and a good friend to all who knew him. He will be sadly missed but always remembered with love by his wife, Pat of nearly 58 years; his children and their spouses, Richard Baier (Angela Maple) of Colchester, Vt., Lisa (Roy) Castle of Scotland, Conn.; two grandchildren, Thomas and Abigail Castle; and many extended family members and friends. Calling hours were held Wednesday, July 1, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The burial will be held privately, according to his wishes. Donations in Charlie's memory may be made to the Connecticut Draft Horse Rescue: www.ctdraftrescue.org. For online condolences or to share a story of Charlie please visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.



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Obituaries

Hebron

Lucille Merritt Sobielo

Lucille Merritt Sobielo, 76, of Hebron, passed away Tuesday, June 16, after a long battle with cancer. She was born Nov. 16, 1950, in Willi-mantic, to Whitney Bailey Merritt and Marion Hathaway Naiss.

She is survived by her sisters, Lois Cole and April Lusher, and her children, Amanda Forbes and Michael Sobielo. She was predeceased by her parents and her siblings, Whitney Merritt Jr., Harriet Leverton, and Maryann Moreau.

Lucy was an integral part of the Hebron community. From helping construct the HES playscape in the late 1980s to being an active member of the Amston Lake Association and the Women’s Auxiliary, she was always willing to lend a hand. She frequently donated themed prize baskets and handmade afghans to local church bingos and community fundraisers.

She may be best known for her efforts to keep Hebron’s roadsides free of abandoned cans and bottles. Lucy also worked for more than 20 years at the Hebron dental office of Dr. John Pickett. During that time, she made countless friends and acquaintances, literally and figuratively giving everyone who passed through the office a reason to smile. There was hardly anywhere in town she could go without running into some-one who was happy to see her.

She will be greatly missed by her family,

friends, and the community she loved so much.

A private family ceremony will be held. Fol-lowing the ceremony, family and friends are invited to gather in celebration of Lucy’s life on Monday, July 13, at 11 a.m., at First Con-gregational Church of Andover, 359 Route 6, Andover, CT 06232, where stories, memories and laughter will be shared in her honor. Those wishing to attend the private ceremony are asked to reach out directly to the family for ad-ditional information.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the American Cancer Society. And please, purchase a \$1 scratch ticket for yourself in Lucy’s honor. She would like that.

For an online memorial guestbook, please visit [www.potterfuneralhome.com](http://www.potterfuneralhome.com).

LEGALS

Water System Flushing

The Town Center Water System and Royal Oaks Water Sys-tem will be flushed starting Monday, July 6, 2026 through Friday, July 10, 2026.

The Town of East Hampton Water Department periodically flushes its water lines to ensure that the valves are in good working order and to maintain water quality. Flushing will be between the hours of **8:00am and 3:00pm**. Please excuse any temporary drop in pressure and any possible discoloration of the water during flushing operations. Customers are advised to avoid using washing machines, dishwashers or other water using devices during flushing operations. Running the cold water will help to clear discolored water. If discolored water or low pressure persists into the next day call the Town of East Hampton Water Dept. at 860-267-2536.

2TB 6/26, 7/3

TOWN OF PORTLAND

Legal notice is hereby given to the taxpayers of the Town of Portland that the first installment of Real Estate and Personal Property taxes on the Grand List of October 1, 2025 are due and payable on July 1, 2026. Motor vehicle taxes will also be due in one installment.

Taxes not paid in full on or before August 3, 2026, become delin-quent and subject to interest at the rate of 18% per annum (1.5% for each month or fraction thereof) dating back to the original due date of the bill. Two months of interest will be due on August 4, 2026. Minimum interest charge is \$2.00.

Quarterly water and/or sewer usage bills are due and payable July 20, 2026. Payment not made in full on or before August 20, 2026 will be subject to interest of 1.5% per month from due date. Payments are accepted in person at 33 East Main Street, Port-land, CT or by mail: Portland Collector of Revenue, P.O. Box 71, Portland, CT 06480-0071. Payment can also be made online at [www.portlandct.org](http://www.portlandct.org) or placed in the drop box.

As a matter of law, the taxpayer is liable to the town for the tax or water/sewer installment(s) as they become due and payable. Therefore, failure to receive a bill does not relieve the taxpayer of the statutorily required interest when a payment is late.

Regular office hours are as follows:  
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday: 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Tuesday: 8:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
Friday: 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.  
Holiday hours:  
Friday, July 3rd closed  
Michele B. Nuhn, CCMC, CCMO  
Collector of Revenue

3TB 6/26, 7/3, 7/24

LEGALS

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

The Colchester Planning & Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on July 15, 2026, beginning at 7:00 PM in the Colchester Town Hall Meeting Room at 127 Norwich Ave, Colchester, CT and online via Zoom to hear and consider the following application(s):

**PZC2026-010 Eat Drink & Be Merry (Applicant/Owner)** Special Permit and Site Plan Application for a retail sales/service development at 79 Middletown Road (MBL 06-00-003-000). Zoning District: Suburban Use (SU) and Aquifer Protection Overlay Zone (APOZ).

**PZC2026-011 Center Village Duplexes** Special Permit and Site Plan Modification Application for an increase in the size of a ground/freestanding sign in the Town Center District per Section 11.6 of the Land Development (Zoning) Regulations and for the placement of such sign.

At this hearing, interested persons may be heard and written communications received. A copy of these applications is located in the Land Use Department and Town Clerk’s Office, Town Hall, 127 Norwich Avenue, and may be inspected during regular business hours (8:30 AM - 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday). Application materials are also available on the Colches-ter Planning & Zoning Commission webpage at <https://www.colchesterct.gov/planning-zoning-commission>.

Planning & Zoning Commission  
Joseph Mathieu, Chair

2TB 7/3, 7/10

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

Notice is hereby given that the Portland Planning & Zoning Commission will hold a Virtual Public Hearing on Thursday, July 16th, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. Public access is through Zoom link A at [www.portlandct.org](http://www.portlandct.org) to consider the following: **PZC Application #25-22**: Proposed Amendment to the Port-land Zoning Regulations. Changes to sections 5.1, removal of retail motor fueling stations as an allowed use. Application of the Town of Portland.

At this hearing interested persons may appear and be heard and written communications will be received. A copy of this application is available for public review in the Portland Land Use Department.

Dated at Portland, CT this 18th day of June 2026 Robert Ellsworth, Chairman  
Planning & Zoning Commission

2TB 7/3, 7/10

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7-3-2025

Marlborough Legal Notice  
Official Notice of Democratic Primary State and District Offices Only

Notice is hereby given that a Primary of the political party listed below will be held in Marlborough on August 11, 2026 for nomination to each office indicated below.

Notice is also hereby given that the following are the names of the party-endorsed candidates, if any, for nomination to each office indicated, together with the street address of said candidate. The party-endorsed candidates, if any, are indicated by an asterisk. Additionally, the following are the names of all other candidates who have filed their certificates of eligibility and consent to primary or have satisfied the primary petitioning requirements in conformity with the General Statutes as candidates for nomination to each office indicated, together with the street addresses of said candidates.

| Office   | Party      | Candidate    | Address                              |
|----------|------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|
| Governor | Democratic | *Ned Lamont  | 4 Ashton Drive, Greenwich, CT 06831  |
| Governor | Democratic | Josh Elliott | 28 Cobblestone Dr., Hamden, CT 06518 |

Dated at Hartford, Connecticut, this 26th day of June, 2026.

Stephanie Thomas

Secretary of the State

The foregoing is a copy of the notice which I have received from the Office of the Secretary of the State, in accordance with Section 9-433 of the General Statutes. As provided, such primary will begin with early voting on August 3, 2026 through August 09, 2026, and the primary of the referenced party for nomination to the state or district offices therein specified will be held on August 11, 2026. The hours of voting during early voting and at said primary and the location of the polls will be as follows:

Early Voting - Hours of Voting

| Date            | Hours                   | Location                                                               |
|-----------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| August 03, 2026 | 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. | Marlborough Town Hall<br>26 North Main Street<br>Marlborough, CT 06447 |
| August 04, 2026 | 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.  |                                                                        |
| August 05, 2026 | 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. |                                                                        |
| August 06, 2026 | 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.  |                                                                        |
| August 07, 2026 | 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. |                                                                        |
| August 08, 2026 | 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. |                                                                        |
| August 09, 2026 | 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. |                                                                        |

**Primary Day Voting:** August 11, 2026

**Hours of Voting:** 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

| Location of Polling Place:                                                        |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Elmer Thienes Mary Hall Elementary School<br>25 School Drive Marlborough CT 06447 |
| Absentee Ballots will be counted at the polls.                                    |

Dated at Marlborough, Connecticut, this 26 day of June, 2026.

Lauren A. Griffin, Marlborough Town Clerk

1TB 7/3

TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH, CONNECTICUT  
Invitation to Bid  
3 Wilhenger Drive Exterior Painting

**Sealed Bids for the 3 Wilhenger Drive Exterior Painting Project will be received by the Town of Marlborough at the Town Clerk’s Office until 10:00 AM local time on Thursday, July 23, 2026. Received Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at this time.**

Bids shall be Lump Sum.

Prospective Bidders may examine the Bidding Documents on-line at [marlboroughct.net](http://marlboroughct.net) or CT DAS CT Source website and may obtain copies of the Bidding Documents from the Building Land Use/Building Department by calling 860 295 6202 or e-mail [Building@marlboroughct.net](mailto:Building@marlboroughct.net).

To receive the documents via package services, send a completed pre-paid pickup label from either UPS or FEDEX to the Issuing Office. PDF copies are available upon request after receipt of the non-refundable fee.

The date that the Bidding Documents are transmitted by the Issuing Office will be considered as the Bidder’s date of receipt of the Bidding Documents. Partial sets of Bidding Documents will not be available from the Issuing Office. Neither Owner nor Engineer will be responsible for full or partial sets of Bidding Documents, including Addenda if any, obtained from sources other than the Issuing Office.

**A pre-bid meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, July 15, 2026, at 3 Wilhenger Drive Marlborough, CT. Attendance at the pre-bid meeting is highly encouraged but is not mandatory.**

The successful Bidder will be required to provide a Performance Bond in the amount of one hundred percent of the Contract Price. The Owner is exempt from payment of Sales and Use Taxes on all materials and equipment to be permanently incorporated in the Work. These taxes shall not be included in the Bid.

Attention of bidders is particularly called to the requirement for all contractors and subcontractors to provide affirmative action to ensure equal opportunity employment as noted in the Governor’s Executive Orders 3 and 17.

The bidder agrees that its bid shall be good, capable of being accepted, and may not be withdrawn for a period of sixty [60] days, Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays excluded, after the opening of bids.

The Town reserves the right to waive any technical defects in the bids; to reject bids which do not conform to the terms and conditions described in the specifications; to reject any, any part of, or all bids; to waive informalities or irregularities in the bidding process; and to accept that bid which the Town deems to be in its best interest, whether or not it is the lowest dollar proposed.

All work to be performed in connection with the proposed project will be subject to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, ordi-nances, and regulations.

If the Town determines, in its sole discretion, to proceed with the work, the successful bidder must execute and deliver an Agreement and furnish valid Certificates of Insurance with full policies, a Performance Bond, and to the Town prior to the start of any work.

It is the responsibility of the bidder to ensure that it has received all addendums to this Invitation to Bid prior to submitting a bid.

This Invitation to Bid is not binding in the Town.

The Town reserves the right to revise or amend the plans and specifications from time to time as it deems necessary.

This Invitation to Bid has been prepared solely to solicit bids and does not constitute a contract offer.

The Town reserves the right to amend, cancel, postpone, withdraw, or resubmit this Invitation for Bid at any time if it is in the best inter-est of the Town to do so.

The Town is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Minority/Women Business Enterprises are encouraged to apply.

Town of Marlborough, Connecticut

By: David R. Porter, Town Manager

Date: June 30, 2026

2TB 7/3, 7/10

Marlborough Legal Notice

Official Notice of Republican Primary State and District Offices Only

Notice is hereby given that a Primary of the political party listed below will be held in Marlborough on August 11, 2026 for nomination to each office indicated below.

Notice is also hereby given that the following are the names of the party-endorsed candidates, if any, for nomination to each office indicated, together with the street address of said candidate. The party-endorsed candidates, if any, are indicated by an asterisk. Additionally, the following are the names of all other candidates who have filed their certificates of eligibility and consent to primary or have satisfied the primary petitioning requirements in conformity with the General Statutes as candidates for nomination to each office indicated, together with the street addresses of said candidates.

| Office           | Party      | Candidate      | Address                                |
|------------------|------------|----------------|----------------------------------------|
| State Senator 19 | Republican | *Jason Guidone | 94 Cone Road, Hebron, CT 06248         |
| State Senator 19 | Republican | Mike France    | 17 Garden Drive, Gales Ferry, CT 06335 |

Dated at Hartford, Connecticut, this 26th day of June, 2026.

Stephanie Thomas

Secretary of the State

The foregoing is a copy of the notice which I have received from the Office of the Secretary of the State, in accordance with Section 9-433 of the General Statutes. As provided, such primary will begin with early voting on August 3, 2026 through August 09, 2026, and the primary of the referenced party for nomination to the state or district offices therein specified will be held on August 11, 2026. The hours of voting during early voting and at said primary and the location of the polls will be as follows:

Early Voting - Hours of Voting

| Date            | Hours                   | Location                                                               |
|-----------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| August 03, 2026 | 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. | Marlborough Town Hall<br>26 North Main Street<br>Marlborough, CT 06447 |
| August 04, 2026 | 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.  |                                                                        |
| August 05, 2026 | 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. |                                                                        |
| August 06, 2026 | 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.  |                                                                        |
| August 07, 2026 | 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. |                                                                        |
| August 08, 2026 | 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. |                                                                        |
| August 09, 2026 | 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. |                                                                        |

**Primary Day Voting:** August 11, 2026

**Hours of Voting:** 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

| Location of Polling Place:                                                        |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Elmer Thienes Mary Hall Elementary School<br>25 School Drive Marlborough CT 06447 |
| Absentee Ballots will be counted at the polls.                                    |

Dated at Marlborough, Connecticut, this 26 day of June, 2026.

Lauren A. Griffin, Marlborough Town Clerk

1TB 7/3



HEBRON LEGAL NOTICE

OFFICIAL NOTICE OF REPUBLICAN PRIMARY STATE AND DISTRICT OFFICES ONLY

Notice is hereby given that a Primary of the political party listed below will be held in Hebron on August 11, 2026 , for nomination to each office indicated below.

Notice is also hereby given that the following are the names of the party-endorsed candidates, if any, for nomination to each office indicated, together with the street address of said candidate. The party endorsed candidates, if any, are indicated by an asterisk.

Additionally, the following are the names of all other candidates who have filed their certificates of eligibility and consent to primary or have satisfied the primary petitioning requirements in conformity with the General Statutes as candidates for nomination to each office indicated, together with the street addresses of said candidates.

| Office                      | Party      | Candidate      | Address                                |
|-----------------------------|------------|----------------|----------------------------------------|
| State Senator - District 19 | Republican | *Jason Guidone | 94 Cone Rd., Hebron, CT 06248          |
| State Senator - District 19 | Republican | Mike France    | 17 Garden Drive, Gales Ferry, CT 06335 |

Dated at Hartford, Connecticut, this 23rd day of June, 2026.

Stephanie Thomas

SECRETARY OF THE STATE

The foregoing is a copy of the notice which I have received from the Office of the Secretary of the State, in accordance with Section 9-433 of the General Statutes. As provided, the primary will begin with early voting on August 3, 2026 through August 9, 2026, and the primary of the referenced party for nomination to the state or district offices therein specified will be held on August 11, 2026. The hours of voting during early voting and at said primary and the location of the polls will be as follows:

| Hours of Early Voting:                          | Early Voting Location for All Hebron Democratic Party Voters                              |
|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday, Aug. 3, 2026 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.    | Hebron Town Office Building<br>Lower Meeting Room<br>15 Gilead Street<br>Hebron, CT 06248 |
| Tuesday, Aug. 4 2026 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.     |                                                                                           |
| Wednesday, Aug. 5, 2026 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. |                                                                                           |
| Thursday, Aug. 6, 2026 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.   |                                                                                           |
| Friday, Aug. 7, 2026 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.    |                                                                                           |
| Saturday, Aug. 8, 2026 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.  |                                                                                           |
| Sunday, Aug. 9, 2026 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.    |                                                                                           |

Poll Hours on Primary Day: August 11, 2026 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Location of Primary Day Polling Place for all Hebron Republican Party Voters : Hebron Elementary School  
92 Church Street, Hebron, CT 06248

Absentee ballots will be counted at the Primary Day Polling Location at the close of the polls.

Dated at Hebron, CT, this 25th day of June, 2026.

Town Clerk, Francesca Villani

1TB 7/3

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF ANDOVER REVENUE

COLLECTOR'S NOTICE

To the property owners of the Town of Andover:

The first installment of the taxes listed on the October 1, 2025 Grand List becomes due and payable to the Town of Andover on July 1, 2026. Payments must be US postmarked, paid on line, or brought to Town Hall by August 3, 2026 to avoid an interest charge. Interest will be charged starting August 4, 2026 on all delinquent bills at a rate of 18% per year (1½% per month) from the due date of July 1st, with a minimum charge of \$2 for each bill.

View or pay taxes online at [www.andoverct.org](http://www.andoverct.org). Cash, check or money order payments are accepted at the Town Hall during business hours. Payments by check or money order may be mailed to the Tax Collector's office or placed in the drop box outside Town Hall. Typical office hours during collection months are Monday 8:15am- 7pm, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 8:15 am-4pm. Please refer to [www.andoverct.org](http://www.andoverct.org) for updated office hours.

Failure to receive a tax bill will not invalidate the tax or any interest which may, by State law, accrue.

If you have any questions, please contact the tax office at 860-742-4035 option 4.

3TB 6/26, 7/3, 7/24

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, July 15, 2026 at 7:00 P.M., to be held virtually through the GoToMeeting Platform, on the following:

I. **Petition 2026-08:** Petition of Friends of RHAM High School Football, Inc. for Special Permit approval to install temporary outdoor lighting at RHAM High School athletic competition field between September 8th and October 6th, 2026, per Section 5.F.3.3 and 5.F.3.5 of the Hebron Zoning Regulations, 85 Wall Street, Residence-1 District.

**Planning and Zoning Commission**  
Jul 15, 2026, 7:00 – 10:00 PM (America/New\_York)  
**Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.**  
<https://meet.goto.com/993052741>  
**You can also dial in using your phone.**  
Access Code: 993-052-741  
United States: +1 (872) 240-3212  
**Get the app now and be ready when your first meeting starts:**  
<https://meet.goto.com/install>

Dated at Hebron, Connecticut, this 26th day of June 2026.

Frank Zitkus, Chair

2TB 7/3, 7/10

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WANTED TO BUY

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

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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](mailto:dmbappraisal@sbcglobal.net).

WANTED:

Individual firearms, collections & estates including, military & related items. Federally licensed firearms dealer. Appraisal. Richard Pleines. 860-663-2214.

WANTED:

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](mailto:dmbappraisal@sbcglobal.net).

PETS

**BILL THE POOPER SCOOPER:** I'll clean your yard of dog poo. Dog walking available. Free estimates. Call 860-861-9027.

**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](http://paws-n-heel-dogtraining.com).

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CARL GUILD & ASSOCIATES

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JIM HARRINGTON

860-966-9966

JIM@HARRS.COM

RE7-3-26

CINEMA CLASSICS

\* Answers on page 28

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
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| 17 |    |    |    |    | 18 |    |    |    |    |    | 19 |    |    |    |
| 20 |    |    |    | 21 |    |    |    |    |    | 22 |    |    |    |    |
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| 67 |    |    |    |    |    | 68 |    |    |    |    |    | 69 |    |    |

CREATORS NEWS SERVICE

By Neil Manausa

ACROSS

1 Retired, in a way

5 Monte \_\_\_\_

10 Rant's companion

14 Wash

15 20 quires = \_\_\_\_

16 Children's book author Blyton

17 Very, in Vichy

18 A Starr

19 Tibetan gazelles

20 Laurence Olivier film

23 University in upstate N.Y.

24 Prisoner of Hercules

25 Queen of the Misty Isles

28 Town near Padua

30 Takes for oneself

32 Suffer pain, British style

36 Savings acronym

37 Olivier-Leigh film: 1937

42 High or low card

43 Gal Gadot, for one

44 Captures audio

47 Probability ratios

50 Decree

51 Island in the West Indies

54 Andean tuber

56 Olivier-Scacchi film: 1984

60 Box

62 Cargo hoist

63 Creek in Montana

64 Perry's creator

65 Mountain ridge

66 De France and Du Diable

67 Bandy

68 "The Sun Also \_\_\_\_"

69 To be, to Tacitus

DOWN

1 Rite place?

2 Ken's significant other

3 Turns inside out

4 Lucy's love

5 Freight

6 The Little Mermaid

7 Yearly gains: Fr.

8 Maggiore or Como

9 "Typee" sequel

10 Entertain richly

11 Loss of appetite

12 By means of

13 Sullivan and Norton

21 Painter Rivera

22 Enthusiastic follower

26 "Leave no \_\_\_\_ unstoned": Ogden Nash

27 "\_\_\_\_ tale's best for winter": Shakespeare

29 American inventor's monogram

30 On the briny

31 Endangered goose

33 "Metamorphoses" author

34 Capone foe

35 Not std.

37 Passenger

38 Gelid

39 Detailed accounts

40 Crow over

41 Something to flip

45 Earthy pigments

46 66, for one

48 Wooden pins

49 Play parts

51 Inlets

52 Conjoin

53 Made from computer bits

55 Got up

57 A tower in Genesis

58 Adriatic port

59 Garfield's pal

60 Tennis unit

61 \_\_\_\_ rata

EMPLOYMENT

PART-TIME BAKER NEEDED, GLASTONBURY:

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RE3-15-24

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Lic. # RES 0707452

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REALTOR

RE7-3-26

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**TOWN OF PORTLAND  
PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION  
LEGAL NOTICE OF DECISION**

At the June 25, 2026 meeting, the following actions were taken:  
**Approved Application #25-19:** Proposed Amendment to the Portland Zoning Regulations. Changes to sections 2.4, 5.1, 5.4, 6.1, 7.3.4.A, 10.5.1.4, 10.6.2. These changes are being made in response and to comply with Public Act 25-1. Application of the Town of Portland.  
**Approved Application #25-20:** Proposed Map Amendment to the Portland Zoning Map. Creation of a Parking Management District overlay zone that will cover a large portion of the downtown as well as the parcels fronting route 66. These changes are being made in response and to comply with Public Act 25-1. Application of the Town of Portland.  
Dated at Portland, CT this 26th day of June 2026  
Robert Ellsworth, Chairman  
Planning & Zoning Commission

1TB 7/3

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE  
TOWN OF ANDOVER  
INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSION**

The Andover Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission will hold a hybrid in person and online Public Hearing Tuesday, July 7, 2026, at 7 Pm in the Town Hall Community Room to hear the following application and receive public comments: Application 26-2W Replacement of Bridge No. 001007, Lake Road over Cheney Brook at Bausola Road.  
Comments, questions or concerns may be presented at the public hearing or submitted in writing to the Andover Building and Land Use Office, 17 School Road, Andover, CT 06232. The application is on file in the Building and Land Use Department for public inspection or online on the Town of Andover's website.  
Instructions for joining the public hearing via Zoom are posted on the town's website in the Calendar.  
Savannah Kitchin  
Inland Wetlands Agent

2TB 6/26, 7/3

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REG-26-26

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REG-26-26

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**1-1/4" Crushed Stone**  
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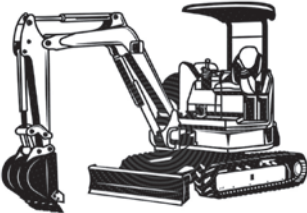
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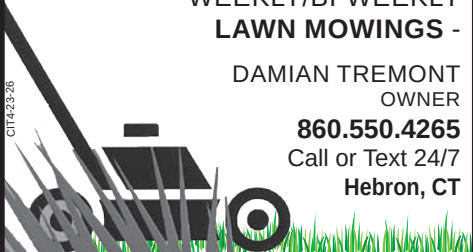
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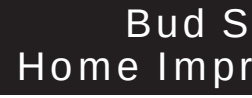


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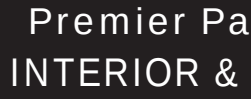
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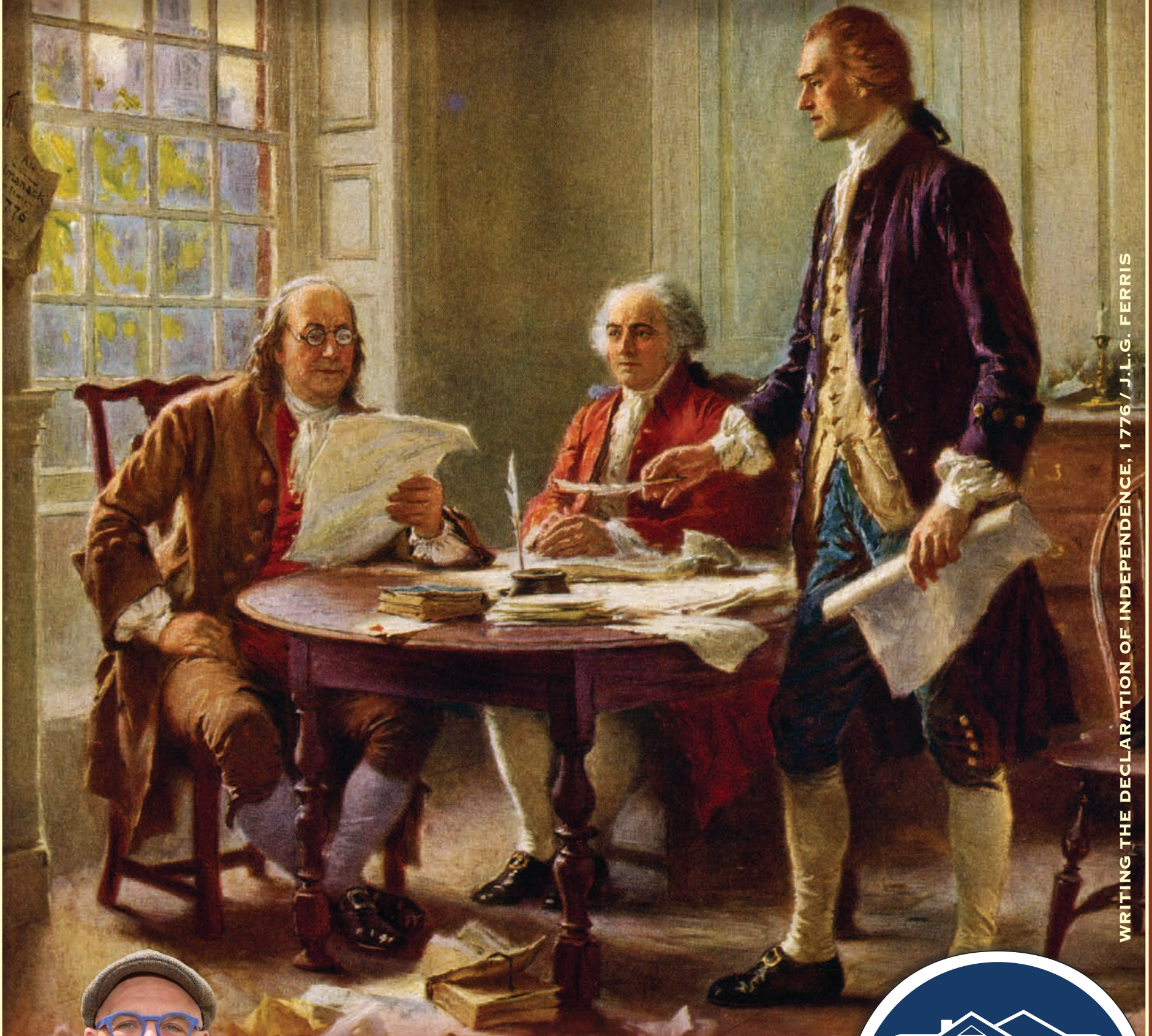
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