

# RIVEREAST News Bulletin

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

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July 31, 2026



**Thanks for the Painting!...** The East Hampton Senior Center was recently gifted a painting of a hummingbird by East Hampton artist GERALYN YOCHER from the East Hampton Arts & Culture Commission. Pictured from left are senior center staff member KECIA HEMHILL, artist GERALYN YOCHER and East Hampton Arts & Culture Commission members ELIZABETH SENNETT and JONI MAXWELL.

## Colchester Budgets Fail For Second Time

By Toriana Williams

Second verse was same as the first for the Colchester budgets Tuesday, as voters once again shot down the proposed town and school spending packages. Residents have made it clear that the previous cuts were not enough, and that they believe spending remains too high.

The proposed \$68.72 million budget total failed by a smaller margin than in the first referendum held in May. The town government budget received 1,469 votes to adopt the budget and 1,773 votes to reject it. The Board of Education budget also failed, 1,401 votes for it and 1,832 votes against.

The defeated proposal, as a whole, represented a 5.1% increase over last year's adopted budget. It included \$49.36 million for the BOE, a 4.4% increase, and \$19.35 million for town government, a 7% increase.

Advisory questions helped to paint a clearer picture of where the struggle to pass the referendum remained. On the town side, 2,016 voters said spending was "too high," while 2,066 voters believed the BOE budget was "too high."

Although the budget was rejected again, voter turnout increased from May's referendum. In the first vote, the town budget received 1,084 'yes' votes and 1,725 'no' votes, while the BOE budget received only 926 'yes' votes and 1,872 'no' votes. The advisory questions also showed that there were fewer participants in May, meaning hundreds more residents turned out to vote this time.

### Response to the Results

Following the vote, town leaders and elected

officials offered sharply different explanations for why the proposal failed and what should happen next.

Board of Finance member John Thomas, a Republican, said, "It's exactly what I was expecting."

Thomas argued that voters have become frustrated with spending and pointed to recent controversies, such as the payout former Superintendent of Schools Dan Sullivan received when he resigned, and rising taxes.

"The town is very unhappy with the things that have been going on for the last couple of years," he said. "The town spoke twice and said they're both asking for too much money."

Thomas believes the BOE receives too much funding and called for a different balance between town and school spending.

"We need to go back to a 60-40 split, so the town has enough money to run, and the school needs to trim off a whole bunch of fat so that the school runs at a more efficient rate," he said.

He then dismissed repeated warnings that additional cuts would damage local schools.

"The annual game that is played of claiming that everything's going to get cut, the students are going to lose and Colchester will no longer be an attractive place for families to move, is nothing but scare tactics," said Thomas.

Another point Thomas emphasized as a scare tactic were increases that officials stressed could not be touched.

*See Colchester Budget, page 27*

## Belletown Residents Split on School Spending

By Anne Lilburn

East Hampton is poised to vote again on its budget referendums on Wednesday, Aug. 5, and on the topic of the education budget, while elected bodies have moved closer to compromise, town residents continue to hold some sharply divided views on whether the budget should pass.

At its July 20 meeting, the Board of Finance set the education budget \$350,000 lower than the previous version of the budget, and \$600,000 lower than the Board of Education's originally approved budget. Both of those prior budgets were rejected in earlier referendum votes.

The version of the budget voters will be greeted with next Wednesday – a \$39.55 million spending proposal – will reflect those \$600,000 worth of reductions. The Board of Education has announced that those cuts will result in several lost programs and positions, among them the Smart Start preschool program, middle school sports, and both a third grade teaching position and a special education paraeducator position.

While some parents and community members expressed their sadness over the loss of these programs at recent board meetings and in online Facebook groups, others felt the education cuts had not gone far enough. Some community members told the *RiverEast* that they believed there was room for cuts elsewhere in the budget.

Resident Bob Yenknor said he does not support the budget, and explained that he did not believe the proposed cuts were sufficient, particularly when compared to the smaller town budget.

Yenknor, who said he formerly worked in corporate auditing departments and as a consultant prior to his retirement, argued for "an independent assessment of what opportunities exist in the budget," something he said he did not believe had been done sufficiently.

Yenknor said he wanted a 0% increase over last year as a starting point, as opposed to the 2.03% increase that is reflected in the current education budget as proposed for this referendum.

He seemed unsympathetic to the district's assertions that inflation and rising insurance costs had pushed the budget higher this year.

"The 64% of the people who do not have children in the school system did not get two or three and four percent raises this year," he said, noting that he is retired and living off a fixed income.

The Board of Education, said Yenknor, "needs to get serious about exploring other options for cost reduction versus cutting positions and programs and let the taxpayers know what options are possible."

He said he wanted to see salaries reconsidered and administrative positions considered for consolidation. He also suggested shifting financial burdens for programs directly towards the families that use them.

"How about a pay-to-play for sports? When I was a kid growing up, we didn't have middle school sports," he said. "How about the preschools? They want to cancel preschools. That's

*See School Spending, page 29*

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The drawings will be held Monday, Aug. 3, at 5 p.m.



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## Summer Programs for Kids at Library

**Pet Professions for Grades 6-12:** Thursday, Aug. 6, at 6 p.m. This program will be presented by staff from Connecticut Humane Society. It will offer a look at the wide array of careers in the animal welfare field. Young people will learn about the skills and education needed for different positions and hear about a typical workday from Connecticut Humane Society staff. Targeted to secondary students; younger siblings welcome.

**Kids' Art Club!** Thursday, Aug. 13, 4 p.m. Join professional collage artist Caitlyn Grabenstein for a hands-on art class designed for children ages 12 and under. Young artists will explore how different images, colors, textures, and shapes can be combined to create imaginative works of art. Bring your creativity and get ready to cut, layer, and create.



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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](http://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, Wednesday Lunches, 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: The Summer MOVEMENT celebration continues through August. This is the final month of the community-wide celebration of movement in all its forms. Be sure to check out the new August programs and activities, designed to get everyone involved. Shopping:** Tuesdays, 8:30 a.m. Shop in Willimantic 8/11 and 8/25, and shop in Manchester 8/4 and 8/18. Also, on Thursday, 8/20, at 8:30 a.m., shop Trader Joe's and Michael's.

**Andover Bingo:** Runs through 7/31. Capture a photo to score a bingo! Your bingo card is in the monthly "Community Connections" news-

Congregational Church News

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

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

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

**AA Meetings:** Saturdays and Mondays, 7 p.m.

**Sonshine Stampers:** Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m.

letter. Complete a bingo, then bring your card to the center to claim your bingo prize. One prize per household. See the newsletter for full details.

**Monthly Veterans Coffee Hour:** Monday, 8/3, 9:30 a.m. Free for all veterans.

**Stretch & Strengthen Fitness Class:** Tuesday/Thursday, 8/4, 8/6, 8/11, 8/13, 8/18, 8/20, 8:25, 8/27, at 8:30 a.m. each day. Class is free.

**Fun with Fondue:** Wednesdays, Aug. 12-26, 3 p.m. each week. Themes: 8/12, Chocolate with Fruit; 8/19, Cheese and Crackers; 8/26, Chocolate with Marshmallows and Toppings. Fee is \$3 per class.

**Thrift Shopping:** Thursday, 8/13, 9 a.m. Explore local thrift stores.

**Disappearing 4-Patch Quilting Workshop:** Mondays, 8/10, 8/17, 8/24, 8/31, from 5:30-8:30 p.m. Fee is \$10 per class. In this sewing workshop, students learn the technique to make a disappearing 4-patch quilt, 64"x 80". First session is required. Bring your sewing supplies. Fabric requirement provided at time of sign-up. Call the center to join.

**Lavender Ridge Farms:** Monday, 8/10, 10 a.m. \$5. Learn about the benefits of lavender as Lavender Ridge Farm comes to the center. Each participant will receive a bundle of fresh lavender and have the opportunity to sample lavender cookies and lavender tea. Registration required. Call the center to register and for a ride.

**Lunch Bunch:** Friday, 8/14, 11 a.m. Enjoy lunch with friends at Lakeview Restaurant in East Hampton. The center will provide transportation to and from the restaurant. Participants are responsible for the cost of their own meal. Registration is required; call the center. For a ride, call 860-498-2326.

**The Summer Scoop! A Passport to Ice Cream:** Friday, 8/21, 1 p.m. Head to Sweet Frog in Manchester. Call the center to register and pick up your passport

**Foot Care with Sue:** Thursday, 8/27, \$42. Call the center for an appointment. Transportation is available.

**Haircare with Helen - Free for Andover Veterans:** Monday, 8/31, 10:30 a.m. As a thank you for your service, Andover veterans are invited to receive free haircuts during this special Veterans Haircut Program. Appointments required. Contact the center for availability and scheduling.

Kids Art Class

The Andover Community and Senior Center is offering a Kids Art Class Wednesday, Aug. 5, at 3 p.m., for kids in grades 4-8. All skill levels are welcome.

The theme is "Stars and Stripes." Supplies are provided.

To register, call the center at 860-742-7305 ext. 4510. Discount available for siblings.

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From the Editor’s Desk

# Observations & Ruminations

By Mike Thompson

Motorcycle crashes seem to always tick up in the summertime – but recently it feels like it has been particularly brutal.

Just in the past week, there have been several serious crashes across the area and across the state. A few of them, tragically, have been fatal – including a crash Monday night in Marlborough that claimed the life of an East Hampton man.

It’s been bad enough that the state police on Monday afternoon met with the media to discuss motorcycle safety.

“Obviously, when you’re on a motorcycle, any event is exponentially more dangerous,” said Lt. Alex Cintron of the Connecticut State Police Traffic Services Unit, according to WFSB-TV Channel 3.

Channel 3 also reported Trooper Tyler Paustian, a Motor Unit instructor with state police, advised additional protective gear beyond helmets.

“Definitely closed-toe boots,” Paustian said, and added, “I know it’s hot out, but leather jackets will save your body.”

Paustian also advised to “spend the extra money and get good pants.”

It also would help, I feel, if the state expanded its helmet law to include *every* motorcyclist in the state. Currently, state law only requires people under age 21 operating or riding a motorcycle in Connecticut – and, bafflingly, even that wasn’t a law until last October.

I’ve been on this soapbox before. It’s been proven over and over and over again that motorcycle helmets save lives. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administra-

tion, research shows that helmets reduce motorcycle rider fatalities by as much as 42%.

Yet only 17 states have universal helmet laws – and, sadly, Connecticut isn’t one of them. Massachusetts and New York do have helmet laws, however. In fact, I remember years ago then-Gov. M. Jodi Rell commented that she’d seen motorcyclists coming in from New York literally pull over and take off their helmet as soon as they cross the Connecticut state line.

Now, I’ve never ridden a motorcycle. I don’t know how encumbering helmets are. Maybe they’re too heavy, make drivers feel restricted, and are overall just a colossal pain. And I do get the appeal of riding down the highway with the wind in your hair.

But the statistics don’t lie. If wearing a helmet can cut the risk of dying in a motorcycle crash by nearly half, why wouldn’t you wear one?

You might argue that it should be up to the rider; that it shouldn’t be a law. But if that were the case, why are there seat belt laws?

Even states that you would never, ever consider a “nanny state” – places like Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee – have universal helmet laws. It’s well past time for Connecticut to join them.

Like I said, at least now there’s a law for riders under 21. So that’s something. But the law really, really needs to apply to all.

\*\*\*

On a (much) more positive note, this sounds like a really fun event coming up in

Editor’s Desk continued on page 8

## Bulletin Board

The recent hype surrounding the release of the “The Odyssey,” Christopher Nolan’s film portrayal of Homer’s epic tale about the Greek hero Odysseus’s perilous return home after the Trojan War, got me to thinking this week about one of the greatest solitary hero films of all time.

I refer, of course, to the 1982 classic “Conan the Barbarian,” starring Arnold Schwarzenegger in his sword-wielding quest to rid the ancient pre-global warming world (which, ironically, appears to consist primarily of endless desert) of the Snake King cult.

My wife maintains that my enthusiasm for the Conan movie stems mostly from the fact that the scantily-clad females in the film apparently acquired their costuming at Victoria’s Secret or the Leather Department at Downtown Dominatrix. I can only protest that most of the action does take place in the desert, after all, and deserts are hot. Nor is the approach to costuming patently misogynistic. Conan himself swaggers through the movie clad in what appears to be a squirrel-skin Speedo that enhances certain male attributes while at the same time providing protection against painful sunburn in especially vulnerable areas.

For those of you who are unfamiliar with the film, Conan sets out on a quest to destroy the insidious Snake King and his cult, not so much out of any great affection for the world or genuine moral outrage, or annoyance over gas prices or “affordability” issues, but because the Snake King gets on his bad side by killing his parents and selling him into slavery.

Yup, it’s that simple.

The villainous Snake King, played by legendary actor James Earl Jones, is either a snake who can turn into a smooth-talking demagogue or a smooth-talking demagogue who can turn into a snake (it’s one of those chicken or the egg things). It occurs to me that this quality would make him an ideal candidate for high political office in today’s government, but far be it from me to cast aspersions on certain individuals who have devoted their lives to what presently passes as public service in our country.

For his part, Conan can barely construct an intelligible sentence. However, while he lacks a glib tongue, he has two things the Snake King doesn’t have: a gigantic sword, and little patience with small talk. He also has a really great-looking girlfriend who stabs people who are foolish enough to disrespect her (well to keep in mind should you have a daughter who could benefit from a strong role model).

The Snake King maintains firm control over his cult by feeding them a sort of green stew consisting of powerful opiates and the body parts of his (now former) detractors. Though lacking a formal justice department to enforce his whims, his minions include a troll-like fellow who bashes dissidents into submission with a gigantic mallet, backed up by a horde of brainwashed disciples eager to fulfill his every wish. This wish list is soon headed by a passionate desire to add Conan’s body parts to the cult’s noxious green stew.

Conan, as you might expect, has other ideas, though, to be candid, he seems to have some difficulty articulating them.

To be frank, our Barbarian seems to have a rather limited grasp of the nuances of foreign affairs – nor is he particularly diplomatic or patient with extended discourse, finding it more expedient to simply resolve differences of opinion with his massive sword. But hey, what do you want? The guy’s a barbarian. On the other hand, not once in the entire movie does he insult anyone as being fat or ugly or threaten to sue them for a billion dollars or dinars or whatever passes for currency in his desert world.

In any event, wading forward through the hacked-up corpses of countless Snake Cult minions (and various other folks unlucky enough to stray onto the scene), Conan (SPOILER ALERT) rescues the half-naked and presumably defiled princess (easily identified as “America” among thoughtful movie-goers who enjoy parables) from the clutches of the foul Snake King, and topples the evil cult.

Did I mention the princess? Well, there’s a princess and I regret to say that she doesn’t appear to be terribly bright, perhaps because she’s indulged in too much Snake King stew.

All in all, it’s a great movie. And really, the understated costuming is exquisite. I don’t care what my wife says.

Jim Hallas

## Rivereast Hours of Operation

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



**Perfect Pirates...** The Colchester Pirates were the 2026 David Zettervall Rookies Tournament champions, polishing off a perfect season this summer in Colchester Little League. The group finished 7-0 in the tourney.

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### Correction

In last week’s *Rivereast*, in the article entitled, “Town Council Approves New Revenue Collector,” Town Council vice chair Jan Lawrence was labeled a Republican. Lawrence is actually a Democrat. The *Rivereast* regrets the error.

### A Belated Thank You

To the Editor:

The East Hampton Old Home Days Committee would like to extend our sincere appreciation to several generous supporters whose contributions were received after our official thank-you advertisement had already gone to print.

We are grateful to Fiona Bain, Terry Conannon, Raymond Nicholos, Jessica Biancato Roche, Gail Scranton, and the Fellowcraft Club of Anchor Lodge No. 112 for their generous donations and support of East Hampton’s Old Home Das.

We would also like to offer a very special thank-you to our 2026 Parade Grand Marshal, Ann McLaughlin, for everything she does for our community. Her dedication, generosity, and community spirit help make East Hampton such a wonderful place to live. Thank you to everyone who helped make this year’s Old Home Days celebration possible.

Sincerely,  
The East Hampton  
Old Home Days Committee

### What Happened to the Roads?

To the Editor:

For months, taxpayers have spoken loudly and clearly. At public meetings, in letters, on social media, and through two failed budget referendums, one message has been consistent: fix our roads.

So what happened?

Instead of making road reconstruction a priority, the Board of Finance and Town Council majority chose to protect other spending. Even after voters rejected the budget twice, they still refused to listen.

Our roads continue to deteriorate. Potholes grow, pavement crumbles, drainage problems worsen, and every year the cost of repairs increases. Delaying maintenance doesn’t save money, it guarantees taxpayers will pay more later.

Safe, reliable roads are not a luxury. They are one of the most basic responsibilities of local government. They affect emergency response times, school buses, local businesses, property values, and every resident who drives our streets.

Many of us supported a long-term road reconstruction plan because it addressed the problem instead of continuing the costly cycle of temporary patches. Investing now is far less expensive than waiting until roads require complete reconstruction.

Taxpayers have spoken. Twice they rejected budgets that failed to reflect their priorities. Yet the Board of Finance and Town Council major-

### RIVEREAST

## News Bulletin

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ity continue to ignore that message.

The question remains: Why won't they listen? If our elected officials refuse to make safe, pass-able roads a priority, taxpayers should remem-ber that when the next election arrives.

Until our elected officials start listening to the taxpayers instead of each other, let's continue voting 'no.' It's the only message that seems to get their attention.

East Hampton deserves better. We deserve roads that are safe, reliable, and reflect the pri-orities of the people who pay the bills.

**Kenneth Lee – East Hampton**

### Thank You for Your Support!

To the Editor:

A huge thank you to everyone who came out to support the Portland Fair Association and the Portland Farmers Fish & Game Club's 3rd Annual Chicken BBQ Dinner on July 18. De-spite the rainy weather, our community showed up and helped make the event a success.

Sue Colby and Ronnie Muskatello would like to thank the members of the Portland Fair Association and the Portland Farmers Fish & Game Club who volunteered their time to help make this event possible.

A special thank you goes to Gotta's Farm, Bud's Café, the Town of Portland, the Brown-stone Quorum, and the Portland Fire Depart-ment for their generous support.

We would also like to recognize Lori and Jeff Adams, Nancy Volpe, Harry Basso, Sebby Ruf-fino, Phyllis Sundell, Kathy Richards, Ian Bour-beau, Bubba Gollareny, and Dave Opuszynski. These volunteers are not members of either or-ganization but generously gave their time on Saturday to help make the event a success.

Thank you to everyone who attended and supported this fundraiser.

**Thanks to all,  
Sue Colby and Ronnie Muskatello  
Portland**

### Vote No on Town Budget

To the Editor:

On Wednesday, Aug. 5, I will be voting 'no' on the town budget for three reasons:

1. Road maintenance and repairs are, again, being underfunded making it impossible for public works to do its job.
2. Unrealized town surplus is being used to buy down the budget to make us think spending has been reduced when it really hasn't.
3. There's a plan to close the dump and move its operation to a private contractor without a transparent, thorough planning process. The public hasn't been made aware of any details. We won't have a voice in the matter except for our vote on Aug. 5.

Please join me in voting 'no' on the town bud-get.

**Alannah Coshow – East Hampton**

### Join the Mission!

To the Editor:

In our corner of Connecticut, litter is a per-sistent problem. You see it along roadsides, in parks, and near the places we love most. It's easy to feel like someone else should fix it.

Superhero Training Corps is a nonprofit based right here in East Hampton, and we be-lieve the answer to that problem is closer than most people think — it's in inspiring better for our kids.

Since 2025, STC organized community clean-ups across five towns and collected more than 1000 pounds of litter with the help of over 50 volunteers and counting. Our participants aren't just picking up trash. They're building habits of civic responsibility, earning real-world experi-ence, and learning what it means to take care of the things around them — one of the three pillars at the heart of everything we do.

This August, we're hosting Power Up at the Park: a free, family-friendly community event that combines superhero-themed activity with sustainability programming and hands-on learning. It's the kind of event our community deserves.

We've been selected for the Sustainable CT Community Match Fund — but we need com-munity support to unlock it. As of today (July 24), we still need 31 donors and \$3,225 before our campaign closes on Aug. 7.

This is a chance for our neighbors to invest directly in something local, meaningful, and built for our kids.

Please visit [patronicity.com/stc](http://patronicity.com/stc) and join the mission.

**Tyler Semrow  
Executive Director, Superhero Training  
Corps  
East Hampton  
[superherotrainingcorps.com](http://superherotrainingcorps.com)**

### August Primary Election

Portland Democrats:

Although we don't think of elections in Au-gust, this year it is very important that we do. All registered Democrats in Portland are eligible to cast their vote in the upcoming Democratic primary rlection to select both a candidate in the gubernatorial race, as well as a candidate for representative in the 1st Congressional District.

The primary will be held on Tuesday, 8/11 at the Portland Middle School from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. Early voting will be at Portland Town Hall beginning 8/3 to 8/9 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., with extended hours of 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on 8/4 and 8/6. Absentee ballots are also available from the town clerk's office up until 8/10. Eligible vot-ers no longer need to provide a specific reason or excuse to request an absentee ballot for any referendum, primary or election.

If you are an unaffiliated voter you are not eligible to vote in a Connecticut primary. How-ever, should you choose to align with a political party you are able to change your affiliation by specific deadlines in order to vote in the upcom-ing primary. The town clerk's office can provide you with enrollment rules.

The primary election is extremely important as it will determine the democratic candidate for governor, as well as the candidate for represen-tative in Congress on the ballot for the general election in November. Because voter turnout is often lower for a primary than a general election your vote matters more than ever.

Please be sure to have a plan to vote in the upcoming Democratic primary in Portland!

**Andrea Alfano, Chair  
Portland Democratic Town Committee**

### Stop the Nonsense

To the Editor:

East Hampton taxpayers have rejected this budget twice. Instead of listening, town lead-ers have responded by increasing the amount of surplus being used to fund projects between the second and third referendum, while claiming they have reduced spending.

Let's be honest: using more surplus is not a budget cut. The spending still happens. The only difference is the source of the money. Telling taxpayers the budget is smaller while replacing tax dollars with surplus dollars is nothing more than a budgeting gimmick.

If voters rejected these expenditures in the operating budget, why should they accept them simply because they are being paid for with sur-plus? That's not fiscal responsibility. It's an at-tempt to avoid addressing the concerns taxpay-ers have raised.

Surplus should be used prudently, for one-time needs and emergencies approved by tax-payers, or to strengthen the town's financial po-sition, not as a way to preserve spending that voters have already rejected.

Twice the voters have spoken. Instead of changing priorities, town leaders have changed the funding source.

Enough. Stop the nonsense. Respect the tax-payers, respect the referendum process, and present a budget that reflects the priorities of the people, not a budget held together by ac-counting tricks.

On Aug. 5, I encourage every voter to send that message once again by voting 'no.'

**Katie Huey – Middle Haddam**



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### Vote For Ellen Paul

To the Editor:

A vote from the 2026 session, for the record.

House Bill 5467 created a single point of con-tact within the state's Department of Economic and Community Development to help small businesses navigate state regulations.

The Republican caucus voted 45 to 4 in favor. State Rep. Steve Weir of the 55th District was one of the four no votes.

For context: Rep. Weir is the immediate-past chair of the Connecticut River Valley Chamber of Commerce.

Forty-five Republicans for. The Chamber's own past chair, against. The record stands on its own.

**Janet Fodaski – Hebron**

### A Budget Built On Illusions

To the Editor:

On Wednesday, Aug. 5, I will be voting 'no' on the town budget for three simple reasons.

First, our roads continue to be underfunded. Year after year, road maintenance is pushed aside, leaving our Public Works Department without the resources it needs to properly main-tain the streets we all rely on. Residents have repeatedly said that fixing our roads should be a top priority, yet that message continues to be ignored.

Second, the proposed budget relies on an an-ticipated surplus from a fiscal year that has not yet been finalized to make it appear that spend-ing has been reduced. But spending hasn't actu-ally been reduced – it has simply been shifted to a different funding source. Using one-time money to pay for ongoing expenses creates the illusion of a smaller budget while avoiding the structural decisions taxpayers have been asking for.

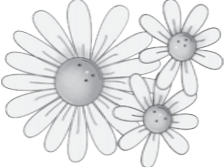
Third, there is a proposal to close the Town Transfer Station and move its operations to a private contractor without a thorough, trans-parent public review. This proposal never re-ceived a full discussion by the Town Council before moving forward. Residents still have not been provided with answers about the long-term costs, traffic impacts, public safety con-cerns, or how future decisions would be made once the service is in private hands. A decision of this magnitude deserves a full public conver-sation before it is implemented.

This is now the third referendum. After two clear 'no' votes, taxpayers have consistently asked for different priorities. Instead of listen-ing, we're being presented with another budget that relies on accounting maneuvers, continues to underfund our roads, and advances major policy changes without sufficient public discus-sion.

On Aug. 5, let's send the same message once again. Demand transparency. Demand account-ability. Demand a budget that reflects the priori-ties of the people who pay for it.

Vote 'no.'

**Michael Pepin – Middle Haddam**



**The “East of the River” Real Estate Report**  
**Selling and Buying at the Same Time: How to Plan It**  
One of the biggest concerns homeowners have is, “How do I sell my current home and buy the next one without ending up with two homes—or no home at all?” The good news is that thousands of homeowners successfully make this transition every year. The key is planning before your home goes on the market. Start by understanding your finances. How much equity do you have? Will you need the proceeds from your current home for the down payment on your next one? Those answers help determine the best strategy. Next comes timing. Depending on your situation, you may sell first, make your purchase contingent on selling your current home, negotiate a longer closing, or arrange a temporary rent-back after closing. Every option has advantages, and the right choice depends on your goals and the current market. Preparation is equally important. Getting pre-approved, knowing your home's value, and understanding what's available in your price range before listing can make the entire process much smoother. Selling and buying at the same time is one of the most complex transactions many homeowners will undertake. Working with an experienced real estate professional early in the process can help you understand your options, avoid costly mistakes, and develop a strategy that's tailored to your situation. The best time to start planning isn't when you're ready to move—it's several months beforehand, while you still have the flexibility to choose the strategy that's best for you.

**Market Snapshot – Past Week**  
Hebron, Andover, Marlborough, Colchester, East Hampton & Portland  
**Single-Family Homes**  
• 6 homes sold  
• Average sale price: **\$541,190**  
• Average sale-to-list ratio: **110%**  
• Average days on market: **7 days**  
• Median days on market: **5 days**  
**Condos**  
• 1 sold at **\$390,000**  
• Sale-to-list ratio: **108%**  
• Average days on market: **1 day**  
*Results vary by price point, condition, and pricing strategy.*



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★ *Letters, cont. from page 5*

doesn't disappear. A private company will recover its costs and earn a profit. The expense simply shifts from the Town budget to taxpayers through private user fees. That's not true savings; it's cost-shifting. Calling it savings while taxpayers still pay the bill is smoke and mirrors. And what happens when the first contract expires? What happens if rates increase or the company is sold? Without a Town-owned Transfer Station, East Hampton loses its leverage, and taxpayers lose their alternatives.

Whether you support privatization or oppose it is not the issue. The issue is whether major policy decisions are made openly by the elected Town Council or behind the scenes through the budget process.

Once again, I ask for your support in saying 'no' to backroom politics and 'yes' to transparency, accountability, and a government that follows the Town Charter. Major policy decisions belong in the public square, not behind closed doors, where residents and every Town Council member have the opportunity to weigh in before decisions are made.

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

Bizzare-O World

To the Editor:

Have you ever felt as though you have been living in an alternate, déjà vu reality? Well, if you haven't been living under a rock for the past 15 years, it certainly can feel that way. I challenge the good people of East Hampton to go back into the archives of this paper and search out Ted Hintz Jr. Sure, you'll find his bids for elections and maybe a few small blips from local clubs. Don't let that lead you astray from the countless articles of and about his years on Town Council that are strife with contention and arguments. Actions against town staff and their job performance that most likely should not have been discussed in public. Even at his last council meeting in 2017, he argued with the then-town manager, Maniscalco, about his anger of the planning and land use department for not issuing permits fast enough for his liking. Well, this stems from an earlier problem from

the town planner resigning from the town; can't imagine why that would have happened. Are you starting to see the correlation and connections yet?

Another example is when the council was doing the contract for then-manager Maniscalco, and Mr. Hintz brought the contract up to a vote to approve or deny, it was approved 4-3. Well, that did not sit well with him and demanded a legal opinion of the vote because he thought his fellow Republican members would side with him, but he was wrong. Remember, last budget season when he demanded a second opinion and was proven incorrect, so then asked for a third opinion? It's like living in bizarre-o world.

If things don't go your way you argue, demand new results, or I know make up your own group where you are the leader. Yes, that's right!! Mr. Hintz is now holding court at the Middle Haddam library to go over town plans. Is this even legal? Are these meetings open to the public, are there recordings? More bizarre-o world type stuff.

I don't know about anyone else, but I've seen enough of this, actually I thought I had seen enough nine years ago, but here we are, in bizarre-o world.

**Rick Wanat – East Hampton**

Have We Learned Anything?

To the Editor:

What else is being done behind closed doors? Many residents remember the controversy surrounding the wastewater treatment plant. Regardless of where you stood on that issue, one concern stood out: major decisions appeared to be moving forward before the public – and even elected officials – had a meaningful opportunity to weigh in.

Now we face a similar situation with the proposed closure of the Transfer Station.

Under our charter, the Town Council is responsible for setting policy. Yet this proposal was never formally presented by the town manager to the council for discussion or direction. It was never debated at a public Town Council meeting. Instead, before the council had an opportunity to establish policy, the town manager

asked the Board of Finance to include the Transfer Station's closure in the proposed budget. That should concern every taxpayer.

The town manager's responsibility is to implement the policies adopted by the Town Council – not to bypass the policy-making process. Whether the issue is the Wastewater Treatment Plant or the Transfer Station, the concern is the same: significant decisions appear to be advancing before the public process has been completed.

Closing the Transfer Station is not simply another budget reduction. It is a major policy decision with lasting consequences. Once the town gives up its grandfathered facility, reopening it would likely be impossible under today's environmental regulations.

Supporters point to an estimated savings of about \$129,000. But if a private company ultimately provides the service, taxpayers will still bear the cost. Before making an irreversible decision, the public deserves to see competitive bids, a complete financial analysis, traffic and safety studies and a full public discussion.

On Aug. 5, a 'no' vote on the general government budget is not a vote against government. It is a vote for transparency, accountability, and adherence to the process our charter requires. Major policy decisions should be made openly, with public participation – not before the public has had its say.

**Melissa Galvin – East Hampton**

Fiscal Novocain

To the Editor:

We are stepped on for wanting to do what the taxpayers are asking us to do – reduce spending, not reallocate surplus funds to projects that benefit a very few. And then they say we should fall for the homestead program which reduces our assessment just so they can spend more and raise taxes without feeling the pain. That's what I call "Fiscal Novocain" – not prudent and responsible fiscal management and practice. Just more spending in the guise of "saving" taxpayers money.

**Alison Walck – East Hampton**

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

East Hampton  
Budget Referendum

To the Editor:

In regards to the East Hampton school budget, author Barbara Kingsolver said it better and with far fewer words than I could.

"Be careful what you give children, for sooner or later you are sure to get it back." Barbara Kingsolver – *High Tide in Tucson*

**David Goodson – East Hampton**

Time Well Spent

To the Editor:

In late afternoon last Monday, July 27, I attended the first session of "Ted Talk" at the Middle Haddam Library. I expected a few interested residents to wander in and out with their questions but the room was filled and the give and take was informative, a bit heated at times but a productive exchange of views and visions. There were many town elected officials in the audience to help put prospective to the discussion, and make it an exchange of ideas.

I went home better informed about issues regarding closing the transfer station, bonding roads, and education just to mention a few items.

And while Ted arranged for and hosted the meeting, his adopted role was to keep the comments focused on the subject at hand. His interest was in learning what people thought about town issues and hearing possible solutions. The meeting resembled public comments at council and board meetings, but with a much more relaxed-while-earnest posture by all. I heartily recommend you attend the next session to share your ideas, ask questions, and stay informed.

Time well spent!

**George Coshow – Middle Haddam**

Where Is the Vote?

To the Editor:

On July 1, Andover's first selectman decided, by himself, to change how the elementary school receives money the voters already approved. For three years the Board of Finance had released the school's budget in ten equal monthly payments, July - April, adopted the way boards adopt things: on an agenda, in public, by a recorded vote. Last July that vote was 7 to 0.

A single email replaced it. Under his scheme, the money would follow only as the school submitted weekly spending registers for the town's approval. No vote of the Selectmen. No Board of Finance vote. One official, one email.

On July 22, the town's own auditor was asked how a change like this should be made. His answer: by a policy adopted by the Board of Finance. By vote.

So where is the vote?

Under legal threat, the first selectman soon abandoned this approach. But this was not an isolated act. The same official reopened a solar contract the school had already signed so the town could be written in. He repeatedly demanded preschool records that federal privacy law forbids the school to release. He mailed every household three flyers urging 'no' votes on the school budget, signed with his name, never his title. And more: I've documented ten separate episodes, each from the town's own minutes and recordings.

Here is why it matters: Connecticut law provides that each town shall, through its board of education, maintain control of its public schools. The town holds title; the elected board, by statute, has the care, maintenance, and operation of the buildings and the lands used for school purposes. Our charter lets the first selectman sit with other boards to coordinate, not to command. A Connecticut Supreme Court case puts it plainly: a board of education is beyond the control of the town or any of its officers in the powers the legislature gave it (Board of Education v. Board of Finance, 127 Conn. 345 (1940)).

The letter of the law is the vote he skipped. The spirit is a school board the voters elected, quietly displaced by one man who would rather run the school himself.

I have laid out all of it, every claim tied to documents you can check, at andoverct.info/series/town-asset. His flyers cited nothing.

Read it, check anything you doubt, and then ask the question the auditor's answer leaves hanging.

Where is the vote?

**Sincerely,**  
**Scott Sauyet – Andover**

*Note: Sauyet is co-chair of the Andover Democratic Town Committee and a member of the RHAM Board of Education, but said he is writing as an individual.*

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### Comrades, Watch Your Language, Not Your Speed

To the Editor:

Flock cameras and similar models are infesting communities nationwide including in Connecticut, plaguing the shoulders of five-lane highways, the grassy curbs directly across from people’s homes in quiet residential neighborhoods, and everywhere in between. Signage announcing them (which is rare) and support for them (which is far more common,) use the misnomer “speed cameras.”

Make no mistake: these cameras are not license plate scanners; they take high-resolution photos of the inside of your vehicle. Mass surveillance is antithetical to public safety. Anyone who ever misconstrues surveillance for safety or security is either being deliberately obtuse or is clinically stupid.

Consciously substitute in your day-to-day speech the euphemistic “speed cameras” for “surveillance cameras” so that the fury can fill you to your fingertips. Two specifically come to mind.

Matylda M. Biskupska – Marlborough

### Reelect Steve Weir!

To the Editor:

What are your values as a resident of the State of Connecticut? Who would you want to represent those values and what you so firmly believe? For us, we want Steve to be that person. We know his family. We know his values as a person of integrity, of faith, of someone who believes in his Eagle Scout motto of “being prepared.”

He brings with him experience as our representative with a 100% voting record both on bills and in committee for four straight years. He listens. He shows up. He responds. He reads every bill carefully and makes common sense responsible decisions on all parts of each bill. Steve has family members who are currently or have been teachers. He was a police officer. He owned small businesses and fostered their growth. He has been a real estate agent.

He was born and raised in Glastonbury and settled in Hebron since 2000, choosing to raise his family here in Connecticut and to be an active part of the local community. He is grounded by family values and works hard to protect and defend the rights of families. Call Steve or email him and he will answer your questions. If you have any doubts ask for clarification. We have no doubts and we have no questions . We support Steve Weir!

Jack and Sandy Hooker  
Hebron Residents for Over Half a Century

### Healthy Aging Starts at Senior Center

To the Editor:

As we grow older, one of the most important things we can do for our health has nothing to do with prescriptions or medical appointments. It is staying connected.

Research continues to show that meaningful social interaction plays a vital role in healthy aging. Regular social engagement has been linked to lower rates of depression and anxiety, improved memory and cognitive function, reduced risk of dementia, better physical health, and even longer life expectancy. Simply put, relationships matter.

Unfortunately, loneliness and social isolation have become significant public health concerns for older adults. Retirement, the loss of loved ones, transportation challenges, and changing health needs can all make it more difficult to stay socially engaged. The good news is that every conversation, every shared laugh, and every opportunity to gather with others helps build stronger, healthier communities.

At the Portland Waverly Senior Center, we believe healthy aging is about much more than growing older. It is about continuing to learn, laugh, contribute, and build meaningful connections. Throughout the year, we offer a wide variety of educational, wellness, fitness, social, and recreational programs designed to help older adults stay active, engaged, and connected.

This month, we are especially excited to highlight two of our larger social events. Join us for our Ice Cream Social, where neighbors can enjoy a sweet treat while catching up with friends and meeting new faces. We will also wrap up the summer with our End-of-Summer BBQ, proudly presented in partnership with the Knights of Columbus.

While these are two of our larger gatherings this month, they are just a glimpse of the many opportunities available at the Portland Waverly Senior Center. From wellness and educational programs to fitness classes, support groups, and social activities, our goal is to provide opportu-

nities that help older adults remain active, engaged, and connected throughout the year.

Whether you attend regularly or are thinking about visiting for the first time, I encourage you to stop by. You may come for the ice cream or the barbecue, but you just might leave with a new friendship.

Healthy aging is not achieved in isolation. It happens one conversation, one smile, and one community connection at a time.

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

### Dementia Talks No. 67

To the Editor:

Dear Alzheimer’s:  
I have come to learn that you are a disease, not an ‘it’ or a ‘who’ or a ‘thing.’

The realization has hit that I cannot touch you but I feel you every day.

You had the audacity to enter our world. Unwelcomed, I might add. We didn’t send you an invite saying “come join our family ... forever and ever!”

My relationship with you, if you can call it that, is tumultuous at best. I have hated you, wished you a slow death, then became uncomfortably comfortable with your presence in our lives. Especially now that we are closing in on 10 years of your arrival into our world.

Mom no longer knows what you have done to her memories, her motor skills; her abilities have slowly gone away, in so many ways it’s hard to process in words. For me, I am thankful she no longer knows you, doesn’t realize what you have taken from her; or who you have taken from her.

She is able to take each moment and live the best that she can live.

I suppose, that is one saving grace, that because of you, I too live in the moment more than I ever have in my life. Why? Because I need to be where ever Mom is in that speck of time, as the clock keeps ticking.

No longer do I ponder life without you in it. All I can do is put one foot in front of the other and support my mom the best way I know how knowing that you are here to stay; and all we (me, my sister, my husband, our families and friends)

can do is be adaptable, flexible, empathetic, love ourselves so we can love Mom even more.

Yes, Alzheimer’s, you are here.

But know this, Alzheimer’s, you are still not welcome. And I will continue to find my voice so that the world sees a day where you are no longer feared. A day when Alzheimer’s, or any other dementia, is an afterthought, not front of mind. A day when the younger generation grows into old age knowing that they had all the tools to control an unwelcomed visitor like yourself.

To others that you have introduced yourself to, I will continue to share our family’s story to wrap them in comfort knowing – they are not alone.

Regards,  
Tonya Maurer – Amston  
Alzheimer’s Hotline 1-800-272-3900

### One Plant at a Time

To the Editor:

Having one foot in the future and another in the past, casts a shadow over the present. But what if you could plant the past in the present, to build a better future? Well now you can.

It’s the end of July and time to check out local pollinator gardens. The plants are still flowering and bees of all kinds are busy at work. There are over 300 kinds of bees in Connecticut. They come in all shapes, sizes and color combinations. Keep in mind that bees are not the only pollinators around, wasps, yellow jackets, birds, even your dog’s whiskers, pollinate, by distributing pollen from one plant to another. Not surprisingly, the best plants to feed our bees and pollinators are your country’s original native plants.

If you’re curious about pollinator plants, visit the gardens at the Old Town Hall and Douglas Library in Hebron. The gardens are both beautiful and easily accessible. Remember, the newly painted Old Town Hall is also home to Hebron’s active historic society. Two more gardens can be found; one at 52 Kinney, the other at 168 Church Street, both complete with educational plaques. These gardens have been designed, installed and maintained by devoted volunteers. Another noteworthy garden is found in the center of Colchester, across from the Town Green.

When it feels like we’re caught, under a dark

shadow in history, The Pollinator Pathway movement brings us light. Non-hybrid native plants offer superior nectar, pollen and nutrition for bees and wildlife alike. They require little water, fertilizer or fuss. They evolved here, in the USA, long before colonists arrived. Pollination plays a critical role in food production and supporting pollinators is easy. Pumpkins, squash, tall thistle, wild mint, wild basil and even European clover, also offer good nutrition, nectar and protein for pollinators.

By nurturing several native plants, from our past, we can build an army of gardens to defend Earth’s future. These almost-overlooked plants continue to offer us hope because they support the necessary ecosystems and pollinators we need today. With several key environmental regulations being weakened, we have a steep slope ahead of us. However, by nurturing healthy bee populations and supporting native species, we can weave the past into the present which supports the future in highly beneficial ways. And we can do this together, one plant at a time. #save17

Jean Tulumieri – Amston

### Leave Weir Alone

To the Editor:

Last week, a couple of letters addressed CT House Bill 6569, which raised the minimum age for marriage to 18 in CT. Presumably, the bill protects individuals under the age of 18 from potential victimization or abuse due in part to a child’s lack of maturity, life experience, and decision making ability. Or, as the letter writers suggest, the bill was designed to protect children. Maybe I missed it, but I don’t recall much of an argument or debate about this topic. Certainly the authors of the aforementioned letters didn’t need to make a compelling case for a bill that is self-evident. But they did anyway.

Aside from espousing the protection of children, the authors also reference the voting record of state Rep. Steve Weir (R-55), who voted no for the passage of Bill 6569...in 2023. Three years ago. Apparently 44 other state representatives also voted no...in 2023. Three years ago. Why are we talking about this now? Bill 6569 is old news. And why is Rep. Weir being singled

See Letters, page 8

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★ *Letters, cont. from page 7*

out for his vote? Is the *News Bulletin* going to print the other 44 names? It seems that the virtue of Bill 6569 is being used to bring negative attention to Rep. Weir. My cynical side wonders if this has anything to do with Rep. Weir’s (R) designation.

And remember, even though multiple states have a minimum marriage age of 18 due in part to a child’s lack of maturity, life experience, and decision-making ability, Nancy Pelosi wants 16 year-olds to vote in presidential elections. Can I get me a ballot, dude?

Instead of impugning Rep. Weir over an already enacted bill, we should be more concerned about Chris Murphy’s unscrupulous proposal to increase the minimum wage to \$25/hour by 2031. What we really need is a bill to protect us from Chris Murphy.

Regards,  
Ed Kozlowski – Colchester

More Meetings Like This!

To the Editor:  
Monday night’s open discussion at the Middle Haddam Library, hosted by Town Council member Ted Hintz, was exactly what many residents and taxpayers have been asking for.

The meeting brought together a diverse group of community members who were eager to listen, ask questions, and share ideas in a respectful setting. It was refreshing to see current and former board members engaging directly with residents in open, thoughtful discussion. Whether everyone agreed on every issue wasn’t the point – the willingness to have an honest, public conversation was.

Good government depends on communication, transparency, and public participation. Monday’s meeting was a positive step in that direction and demonstrated the value of creating opportunities for residents and local leaders to engage with one another.

Thank you, Ted, for taking the initiative to organize this event. I hope it becomes the first of many opportunities for this kind of open dialogue. Our community is stronger when we listen to one another and work together.

Thank you,  
Rebecca Harvey – East Hampton

Apparent Misunderstanding

To the Editor:  
I would like to address the recent discussion surrounding the appointment to the Hebron Board of Education and the comments made at the last Town Council meeting.

There appears to be some misunderstanding about how vacancies on elected boards are filled. Under Connecticut law, Connecticut General Statutes § 10-219, and CGS § 9-167, when a vacancy occurs, the individual appointed must be a member of the same political party as the person who previously held the seat. In this case, the vacant Board of Education seat had been held by a Democrat. Therefore, the Town Council was required to appoint a registered Democrat to fill the position until the next municipal election. Neither an unaffiliated voter nor a Republican was eligible for appointment to this seat.

The Hebron Democratic Town Committee endorsed Jen Person Merkent because she is highly qualified and willing to serve. She is an experienced educator, a parent in our school system, and someone with the knowledge and commitment necessary to contribute to the Board of Education. Most importantly, she volunteered to serve. At the next municipal election, the voters not the Town Council or either political party will decide who fills the seat going forward.

It is also important to note that no Republican or unaffiliated individual came forward seeking this appointment. Like many of our local boards and commissions, filling volunteer positions is becoming increasingly difficult. We should be grateful to those who are willing to dedicate their time and expertise to serving our community.

I was also disappointed by some of the rhetoric directed toward our Town Council and vol-

unteer boards. These individuals devote countless hours to attending meetings, reviewing materials, listening to residents, and making decisions they believe are in the best interest of Hebron. Reasonable people will not always agree with every decision, and respectful disagreement is part of a healthy democracy. However, suggesting that volunteers should simply “do what others want” or face being voted out discourages civic participation and diminishes the value of public service.

Constructive comment, mutual respect, and appreciation for those who volunteer their time are essential to maintaining a strong community. We should encourage more residents to become involved, not create an environment where dedicated volunteers feel attacked for stepping forward to serve.

Cris Lawrence, Chair  
Hebron Democratic Town Committee

Thank You For Voting

To the Editor:  
By the time this letter is published, the results of the July 28 referendum will be known. As I write it, however, the outcome is still uncertain. Regardless of whether you voted ‘yes’ or ‘no,’ thank you for taking the time to participate.

Voting is an important part of the fabric of our community. A referendum is not simply about which side wins. It is an opportunity for residents to make their voices heard and help determine the direction of the town we all share.

Colchester belongs to all of us, and decisions about its future are better when more people participate. I hope turnout for this referendum exceeded the participation we saw in May and that more residents made their opinions known at the ballot box.

Whatever the final result, thank you to everyone who voted, volunteered, worked at the polls, or helped a neighbor participate. Our community is stronger when all voices are heard.

Michael Dubreuil – Colchester  
*Note: Dubreuil is a member of the Colchester Republican Town Committee, but said he is writing as an individual.*

Hebron DPW À La Carte

To the Editor:  
It was another compelling meeting of Hebron’s Department of Public Works Action Committee. On July 20th, the committee responded to requests from members of the public and the Town Council to investigate new options for the DPW project. The approach could be called DPW À La Carte and offers \$4.9 million dollars in up front savings. At a cost of \$10,000, the architects and engineers at Silver Petrucci + Associates provided revised plans which propose that \$2.4 million could be saved by omitting the reconstruction of the transfer station and \$2.5 million could be saved by omitting the reconstruction of the animal kennel. However, these saving come with a warning. The need to upgrade both the transfer station and the animal kennel will not be going away. In fact, the committee has been informed that the State of Connecticut will be enhancing enforcement on transfer stations and animal kennels that are not up to current standards. As Hebron’s transfer station and animal kennel date from the 1970s and 1980s they will certainly be the focus of these upcoming state efforts.

In March, the committee announced the estimated costs of a new Public Works facility, transfer station and animal kennel at \$27.3 million, including possible additional “soft costs.” This is in line with expected construction costs and can be compared to the State of Connecticut’s 2026 allotment of \$27.7 million for a 25,000 square foot DOT maintenance facility in Avon. Actually, with Hebron’s facility at 51,000 square feet, the DPW Action Committee deserves high praise for their effective planning and fiscally responsible attention to detail.

The \$4.9 million in possible saving would be a 17.9% reduction of the \$27.3 soft costs of the project. While this option offers some relief, the need to upgrade both the transfer station and the animal kennel will not be going away. In fact, the Action Committee suggested that embracing these short-term savings would cost the taxpayers of Hebron more in the long run. Unfortunately, our town leaders have been delaying the DPW project for decades and costs continued to grow. There may never be a good time to undertake such a large expense. The possibility of creating a phased plan, DPW À La Carte, has its benefits but also its drawbacks. I urge the residents of Hebron embrace the DPW project and support the efforts of the DPW Action Committee to create the best plan possible.

Sincerely,  
Kevin J. Tulimieri – Amston

Slow Down Before It’s Too Late

To the Editor:  
The proposal to close East Hampton’s Transfer Station and shift operations to a private business is too important to rush. Once this decision is made, there may be no going back.

At the Monday community “Ted Talk” on the budget held at the Middle Haddam Library, many residents spoke about this proposal. What surprised me was how many people, including the Vice Chair of the Board of Finance, were unaware of what is truly at stake if the Transfer Station is closed. That alone tells me the public has not been given enough information to understand the long-term consequences of this decision.

Before taking such a significant step, taxpayers deserve answers. Has a professional traffic study been completed? Has the town evaluated the long-term costs and risks? What happens if the private operator raises prices, changes services, or decides to end the agreement? Most importantly, what happens if this plan doesn’t work? Has a regional agreement with other towns facilities such as Portland or Moodus/ East Haddam been pursued/considered?

The current Transfer Station operates under grandfathered environmental regulations. If it is closed, reopening it in the future would likely be prohibitively expensive, if it could be done at all. This is a permanent decision that deserves careful consideration, not a hurried process.

Good government means looking beyond today’s promises and considering tomorrow’s realities. Once a valuable municipal asset is gone, it is likely gone forever.

On Aug. 5, I encourage residents to vote ‘no’ on the General Government budget. A ‘no’ vote is not a vote against our town; it is a vote to slow down, reconsider decisions that appear to have been made in haste and ensure permanent changes like closing the Transfer Station receive the careful public review they deserve. East Hampton deserves transparency, thoughtful planning, and leadership that gets it right the first time.

A ‘no’ vote is not just about dollars; it’s also about sense.

Rebecca Hodge – Cobalt

Yes Vote Critical

To the Editor –  
We’ve reached a very difficult spot with the East Hampton budgets. Following two failed referendums, the town and education plans have been significantly reduced, but not without pain and anger throughout the community.

The referendum on Wednesday, Aug. 5 absolutely needs to pass. Regarding education, even town officials who previously led choruses of “vote no” have publicly stated that the budget should not be further reduced. Any further cuts are going to drastically impact public education, and that is neither hyperbole nor a scare tactic.

Speaking of the latter, I’ve listened to and read the many comments that people have made about the education budget. I guarantee you that no one on the Board of Education is happy with the prospect of losing middle school sports, the Smart Start program, or that class sizes are going to grow districtwide. We are volunteers, parents, and community members who care about every student in town.

Voter participation matters. People came out and voted no, and as a board, we must respect the results of the referendum. Changes were not made lightly and were based on best practices and careful analysis. Not one decision was made cruelly or to punish anyone.

Editor’s Desk continued from page 4

Portland on Sunday.  
At 1 p.m. at Town Hall, the Town of Portland and the America 250 Portland Committee will dedicate a time capsule of items showing life in Portland today. More than 30 items – including yearbooks, town memorabilia, menus, and other historical treasures – will all be sealed and buried.

We are also against a major time crunch with the first day of school less than one month away. That’s why notices were sent out to Smart Start families – we wanted to give them as much time as possible to enroll their children in other pre-school programs. Students need to be assigned to teachers and classrooms. Schedules and bus routes have the be determined. That work cannot start until we know the bottom line of funding.

Budgeting is about compromise. I believe that we have arrived at a proposal that satisfies the voters without going completely past the point of no return for East Hampton schools. I hope the public shows up to support the proposal and we can move forward with the critical work of educating East Hampton’s children.

There are many important conversations to be had in small towns across the state about the value of regionalization, fair state funding, and where services can be shared. I look forward to those discussions and the actions that will result. But for now, we need to move forward and pass the budget.

Please vote ‘yes’ on Wednesday.

Sincerely,  
Matt Engelhardt – East Hampton  
*Note: Engelhardt said he is writing independently of the Board of Education and Democratic Town Committee.*

Calling It a Cut Doesn’t Make It One

To the Editor:  
Twice now, East Hampton voters have rejected the proposed Town budget. The message from taxpayers was clear: rethink the budget, focus on priorities, and present a plan that reflects what residents have been asking for.

Instead, we’re watching town officials propose using even more of the town’s savings to fund projects that were included in budgets voters have already rejected. Whether those dollars come from the operating budget or from year-end savings, the spending still occurs. Changing the source of the money does not reduce spending.

Yet we continue to hear that the budget has been “cut.” It hasn’t. Spending is simply being shifted from one pocket to another while increasing the amount of savings being used to fund projects. Calling that a budget cut is misleading. Taxpayers deserve honesty, not political spin.

The voters have now spoken twice. Rather than listening, town leaders seem determined to find another way to accomplish the same result. If projects rejected by the voters can simply be funded with savings after the fact, what purpose does a referendum serve?

Residents have repeatedly asked for meaningful investment in our deteriorating roads, a closer examination of recurring spending, and a budget that reflects taxpayers’ priorities. Those requests continue to take a back seat while other projects move forward.

The people of East Hampton understand the difference between spending less and simply paying for it with savings. The voters have sent the same message twice, yet it appears our elected officials still are not listening. Stop trying to convince taxpayers that shifting money around is the same as reducing spending. It isn’t.

On Aug. 5, let’s send that same message once again. Vote ‘no’ and demand a budget that reflects taxpayers’ priorities, respects the referendum process, and starts listening to the people who elected them.

Sincerely,  
Karin Eichten – East Hampton

When will it be unearthed? July 4, 2076 – right on America’s 300th birthday. So kids are especially invited to attend Sunday’s capsule dedication, so that they can be there again for the exhuming in 50 years.

\*\*\*

See you next week.

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**Michigan Memories...** Dave and Nikki Lanzi from East Hampton recently enjoyed a lovely vacation in northern Michigan to celebrate son Ryan and Kacie Lanzi's wedding. They're pictured with son Chapman, girlfriend Hannah, and of course the famous Rivereast in Leland, Mich.!



**Hiking with the Rivereast...** Abby and Ryan Johnson recently went to Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks in June for a 10-day hiking and camping trip. They hiked almost 90 miles during their trip and visited the infamous Jenny Lake, Old Faithful, and Grand Prismatic, and saw herds of bison with their calves, elk, and a few grizzly and black bears! They took this picture at the Lupine Meadows Trailhead in Grand Teton NP, on their hike to Surprise Lake – which they said they were surprised to find still frozen and covered in snow!

## 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!



**Flower Power...** Linda Dellano, Joan Lord, Val Marcia and Linda Keefe (pictured from left) brought the Rivereast to Newport, R.I., for the Rose Cliff Flower Show!



**Celebrating sail250 and Juneteenth...** Alana and Barbara Armfield from Marlborough recently went to Norfolk, Va., and watched the tall ships sail by celebrating sail250 at Fort Monroe, then went to downtown Norfolk to the harbor fest celebration where the tall ships docked. Here they are in front of the United States Coast Guard Eagle, holding the Rivereast!

# 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!

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# Man Dies in Motorcycle Crash

By Toriana Williams

An East Hampton man was killed Monday in one of two serious motorcycle crashes that occurred within days of each other on Route 66 in town.

John Forbes IV, 39, of 205 W. High St., East Hampton, died when his motorcycle collided with a Chevrolet Silverado pickup truck shortly before 6 p.m. at the intersection of Route 66 and Saner Road, state police said.

According to Connecticut State Police, the pickup truck was turning left on to Saner Road when Forbes, who was behind the truck, attempted to pass on the left. The motorcycle struck the front left quarter of the Silverado, police said, causing Forbes to lose control of the vehicle, become separated from

it and strike the ground.

Police said Forbes sustained life-threatening injuries and was pronounced dead at the scene. The crash remains under investigation.

Two days earlier, on Saturday, July 25, two people on a motorcycle suffered severe burns after being found on fire where they crashed on Route 66, said the Marlborough Volunteer Fire Department.

Officials said they didn't know the exact details of how it happened, but the victims' lower extremities were burned after gas on their bodies ignited. One victim was flown to a specialized burn center. The cause of the crash remains under investigation.

## Info on Upcoming Primary Election

A Primary Election is coming up this August. The Democratic Party will hold a primary for Governor, and the Republican Party will hold a primary for state senate.

To participate in the primary, you must be registered in one of the two major parties. If you're currently unaffiliated, you can change your registration up until noon on Monday, Aug. 10, either online at voterregistration.ct.gov or in person at Town Hall by requesting a form from the town clerk or registrars of voters. Forms must be received by noon Aug. 10 to be eligible to vote the next day.

If you switch parties during Early Voting (hours below), you must do so in person by completing a new registration form at the office; you may then vote the following day.

Unaffiliated voters who switch parties to participate in the primary, can switch back by simply filling out a new voter registration card.

You are eligible to vote in the primary if you

will be 18 by Nov. 3, 2026, and are registered in either the Republican or Democratic party.

The registrars of voters will be available to help with in-person registration on Monday, Aug. 10, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Other dates may be available; call to schedule a time.

If you have mobility issues, curbside voting is available during Early Voting and on Election Day. Call our office on 860-295-6166 to arrange it.

Early Voting will take place at Town Hall (Conference Room) between Aug. 3 and 9. Hours are: Monday, Aug. 3, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Tuesday, Aug. 4, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Wednesday, Aug. 5, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Thursday, Aug. 6, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday, Aug. 7, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday, Aug. 8, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Sunday, Aug. 9, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

On Primary Election Day, Aug. 11, the polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m., at Marlborough Elementary School.

## From the Town Manager's Desk...

Keeping Marlborough's Roads Safe for All

As we all enjoy warmer weather, the Marlborough Police Department requests our residents' cooperation to ensure the safety of our streets for all users including drivers, cyclists, and operators of electric bicycles (e-bikes) and electric scooters (e-scooters). While e-bikes and e-scooters offer a convenient and enjoyable way to travel, it is essential that all riders understand and follow Connecticut state laws and local regulations to ensure the safety of everyone in our town.

Parents – Please speak with your children about safe riding practices, verify the classification and power of any e-bike being used, and ensure they understand the importance of always wearing their helmets. Consider carefully whether your child is ready to operate an e-bike or e-scooter safely. Supervision is key, especially for young and inexperienced riders.



Porter

As of Oct. 1, 2025, the State of Connecticut has implemented updated e-bike laws. The Marlborough Police Department would like to remind residents of the following key regulations and safety requirements:

**1. Universal Helmet Requirement.** All e-bike riders, regardless of age or type of e-bike, are legally required to wear a helmet while operating an electric bicycle. This law is intended to reduce the risk of serious injury and reflects the increasing speeds and capabilities of modern e-bikes.

**2. Reclassification of Certain E-Bikes.** Connecticut has updated classifications to address evolving e-bike technology: Class 1: Max motor-assisted speed 20 mph; Motor assists only when pedaling. Class 2: Max motor-assisted speed 20 mph; Throttle assisted, No pedaling needed. Class 3: Max motor-assisted speed 28 mph; Motor assists only when pedaling, Ages 16+ only, NOT allowed on sidewalks, multi-use trails, or bike paths.

**3. Motor-Driven Cycles Require a Driver's License.** E-bikes without pedals and with motors exceeding 750 watts (but under 3,500 watts) are now classified as motor-driven cycles. Operators of e-bikes classified as motor-driven cycles must possess a valid driver's license but are not required to have a motorcycle endorsement. Motor-driven cycles are not allowed on sidewalks, multi-use trails, or bike paths.

**4. High-Powered E-Bikes Classified as Motorcycles.** Any e-bike with a motor exceeding 3,500 watts is classified as a motorcycle and must comply with all related requirements, including DMV registration, proof of insurance, and adherence to motorcycle safety regulations. Operators of high-powered e-bikes must possess a valid driver's license with a motorcycle endorsement.

**5. Prohibited Areas of Operation.** Motorized vehicles – including all classes of e-bikes, e-scooters, and motor-driven cycles – are not permitted in Blish Park, including the beach, pavilion, and playground areas. All motorized vehicles must be responsibly parked in the parking lot.

**6. Rules of the Road.** E-bike and e-scooter operators must obey all traffic laws and regulations including traffic signals and signs, yielding to pedestrians, riding in the proper direction of traffic and operating at safe speeds.

These laws are designed to improve safety for everyone including pedestrians, cyclists, motorists, and e-bike/e-scooter riders. As e-bikes and e-scooters become more common, particularly among younger riders, it is critical that all users understand their responsibilities.

We appreciate your cooperation in helping keep Marlborough a safe and enjoyable place for all.

**David Porter**  
Marlborough Town Manager

## 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.

**Family Movie Night:** Friday, Aug. 14, 8 p.m. All are invited to the town green for a showing of *Zootopia 2*. Bring a chair, some snacks and spend some time with family and friends. An ice cream truck and some activities for the kids will round out the evening.

**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.

**Family Beach Yoga Night:** For ages 3-10.

Wednesday, Aug. 12, 5:30 p.m., at Blish Park. Enjoy family-friendly yoga games/crafts, followed by a post-class sweet treat. 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 are welcome. Registration fee is \$25/resident, \$30/non-residents.

**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.

## 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. here is no nursery care or Sunday School in August and resumes in mid-September. 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.

**Aug. 2** 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. Her sermon, "Soup Kitchen of Galilee," is based on Isaiah 55:1-5 and Matthew 14:13-21. 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.

**Program:** Thursday, Aug. 13, at 11 a.m., in the Thienes Lounge. The public is invited to a no-cost repeat presentation titled "Everybody Dies, No One Wants to Talk About It: Communication and Grief" at the church. For those who find it challenging to talk with someone whose friend, coworker, or loved one has died, presenter Beth Alves will include advice she received on ways to communicate with those who are grieving.

**Second Blessings Thrift Shop** is closed in 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).

Members of the public are invited to

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MEETING

State Project No. 0082-0317

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Tuesday, August 4, 2026, 6:30 p.m.

Middletown High School

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Attend & Learn More: [portal.ct.gov/DOTMiddletown0082-0317](http://portal.ct.gov/DOTMiddletown0082-0317)

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

This rehabilitation will increase the bridge's load capacity and modernize its mechanical and electric systems to provide reliable operation. The rehabilitation will also address the replacement of the deteriorated fender system.

Right-of-way impacts are not anticipated.

Construction is anticipated to begin fall 2028 based on funding and permits. The estimated construction cost of the project is \$87 million. It is anticipated that the project will be funded through a combination of state and federal funds.

Members of the public can submit comments and questions during the two-week public comment period following the meeting. Direct comments and questions by Tuesday, August 18, 2026, to [DOTProject0082-0317@ct.gov](mailto:DOTProject0082-0317@ct.gov), 860-594-2020, or Nicholas Martin at [Nicholas.Martin@ct.gov](mailto:Nicholas.Martin@ct.gov) or 860-594-3609.

ACCESSIBILITY

Spanish translation services will be available in-person and virtually. The recording will also be posted following the meeting in CTDOT's public meeting playlist at: [portal.ct.gov/ctdotvpimarchive](http://portal.ct.gov/ctdotvpimarchive). Non-English closed captioning will be available on YouTube.

For audio only, call 877-853-5257 with Meeting ID 847 5269 7847. Project information can be mailed within one week by contacting Nicholas Martin at [Nicholas.Martin@ct.gov](mailto:Nicholas.Martin@ct.gov) or 860-594-3609.

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

RE7-24-26

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# Selectmen Advance Town Hall Roof Replacement

**By Toriana Williams**

The Marlborough Board of Selectmen approved more than \$900,000 in spending and transfers during its meeting on July 21. This includes a new Public Works vehicle, a Town Hall roof replacement and a sidewalk construction contract.

The board also discussed long-term town priorities, debated a new Human and Social Services assistant position and reviewed several town projects that are in the works.

**Town's Finances**

Finance consultant Tony Genovese presented a year-end review of the town's finances through June 2026 and outlined the transfers needed to close out the fiscal year. During the discussion, BOS Chair Susan McFarland, a Democrat, asked how the town could avoid financial mistakes that had occurred during the past budget cycle.

Town Manager David Porter later explained to the *Rivereast* that one error involved how state Town Aid Road funding had been reported.

"To be transparent in the FY25 budget, I showed income from a state grant program called Town Aid Roads as a general fund revenue," wrote Porter. "Since TAR must be spent on road maintenance and repair, it is accounted for in a separate fund."

Porter explained that the mistake occurred during his first time preparing a municipal budget in Connecticut and while the town did not have a finance director.

"The amount of revenue was small and even accounting for my mistake, we still had a surplus at the end of the year," he said. He added that his answer to McFarland's question of how to avoid more mistakes was that he "would learn from prior experience."

"I also expressed gratitude to have a newly

hired permanent finance director to serve as a second set of eyes on all budget figures," shared Porter.

Genovese estimated the town currently has around \$40,000 in surplus. However, since more bills are still being processed, that number could change.

**Town Hall Infrastructure, Public Works Purchases**

During the meeting, the board approved replacing the Town Hall roof. Planning and Development Director Peter Hughes said the town received five bids for the project, and the lowest bid came in from NSI at \$93,000.

Selectmen approved transferring \$45,000 from funds originally set aside for the Town Garage roof project to complete the Town Hall replacement. Hughes said the existing roof will be stripped and replaced with 50-year shingles.

Afterward, Porter recommended purchasing a new Ford F-450 mason dump truck for \$99,109. He also spoke of eventually replacing the department's aging Ford F-150 with a new Ford F-250 which would cost \$56,580.

Public Works Crew Leader Charles Grossmann told the board the department's existing 2005 F-450 has no trade-in value because of its condition.

The discussion also touched on the town's animal control vehicle.

Porter said purchasing a used minivan for the Animal Control Officer would cost approximately \$18,000 to \$20,000. Instead, he recommended assigning the existing F-150 to animal control while purchasing a new F-250 for the Public Works Department.

McFarland then asked about the balance of the town's automated speed camera fund. Porter said the most recent report showed around \$325,000 remained in that account.

The board approved both truck purchases

depending on the Finance Committee approving the appropriations after the annual audit is complete.

Later in the meeting, selectmen also voted to use speed camera funds to purchase a new Freightliner 114SD Plus dump truck for the Public Works Department at a cost of \$298,713.

Porter told the board he is confident the town will have enough surplus after the audit to support the purchase.

The board also awarded a \$237,775 contract to Nunes CT for the Lake Road Sidewalk Extension project.

**Board's Long-Term Priorities**

Board member Anthony Bratz, a Democrat, shared six proposed goals for the board to consider: communication and public engagement, town-owned property, the food bank, activities for young families, grant opportunities and an overall strategic vision for the community.

While no priorities were officially adopted, Porter said the discussion marked the beginning of an ongoing planning process.

"The discussion was preliminary," he said. "Goals and Objectives will be a recurring agenda item at future meetings."

One of the topics did draw interest and involved town-owned property east of Route 2.

"While there is not yet consensus among BOS members around the highest priorities, there does seem to be interest in deciding what to do with town-owned property on the east side of Route 2, behind Marlborough Commons," wrote Porter.

He also said town staff have already begun preparing for next year's budget process.

"This last budget cycle, Marlborough used the ClearGov platform to present our budget to residents," said Porter. "We received overwhelmingly positive feedback that residents appreciated the clear presentation and comprehensive information from multiple prior years."

He said next year's budget will include more

explanations throughout the document to help residents better understand how tax dollars are spent.

"We are already preparing to further improve our communications next year," added Porter.

**Assistant to Human and Social Services Director**

During public comment, members of the Commission on Aging spoke about a proposed Assistant to Human and Social Services Director position.

Much of the discussion focused on language stating that the employee would help residents reserve park facilities and register for recreation programs when the Parks and Recreation director is unavailable.

Porter defended keeping that responsibility in the job description.

"I explained that this would require only a [minimal] amount of the assistant's time and would allow residents to avoid making multiple trips to try to connect with the recreation director," he wrote.

Porter compared the responsibility to other town hall employees who often help one another if someone is out of the office.

The proposed position would work 20 hours per week and would not be part of the union. Board members ultimately voted to table the discussion until their Aug. 4 meeting where they hoped to receive more information regarding the salary.

**Town Manager Updates**

During town manager updates, Porter reported that radar speed signs have been moved to Saner Road, the Public Works Department completed landscaping and repainting at the Senior Center and the town clerk now has no-excuse absentee voting ballots available.

He also said a repaired fire truck should return to service within the next couple of months, and updates on lake vegetation management and the proposed cell tower are still pending.

## 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 stjoh-fisher30@yahoo.com. The church website is www.stjfhchurch.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 is now open. Access the church website or register directly by emailing stjffai-formation@gmail.com. Register by Aug. 19 to avoid a \$20 late fee, which will apply after that date.

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. For details, see the church calendar available on the church website.

**Community Outreach and Service:** The Community Giving Garden is actively producing fresh produce and meets Mondays at 5 p.m. The garden yields fresh produce delivered weekly to the Marlborough Food Bank. 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.stjfhchurch.org, or look for the church on Facebook (Saint John Fisher Roman Catholic Church).

## Art Display at Town Hall

Marlborough Arts Center announces Linda Gotta's solo art exhibit at the Marlborough Town Hall. The exhibit runs 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 Barbara Lazzari in the Town Hall's tax collector's office or call Marlborough Arts Center at 860-467-6353 or email info@marlborougharts.org.

## Dean's List

Luke Veltri of Marlborough made the spring 2026 Dean's List at Salve Regina University in Newport, R.I.

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Taxes Due Aug. 3

The first installment of taxes for the Oct. 1, 2025 Grand List for real estate, motor vehicles and personal property were due and payable on July 1, and will become delinquent on Monday, Aug. 3.

Failure to pay on time will be subject to interest of one and one-half percent per month reverting to the due date or 18% per year. If you do not receive a bill, check online at [www.marlboroughct.gov](http://www.marlboroughct.gov) bill lookup or contact the Tax Office.

Tax payments can be mailed to Tax Collector, Town of Marlborough, P.O. Box 29, Marlborough, CT 06447, placed in the dropbox outside of Town Hall (no cash), or in person at 26 North Main St. via cash or check only. (Note: credit card payments cannot be accepted in person). You may also pay online [www.marlboroughct.gov](http://www.marlboroughct.gov) with Mastercard, Visa or ACH.

Tax Collector hours are Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Tuesday, 8:30 a.m.-7 p.m.; Friday, 8:30 a.m.-noon.

Senior Center News and Notes

Marlborough Senior Center, 17 School Drive, is open for activities. For more information about any senior center program, or to register, call 860-295-6209 or email [socialservices@marlboroughct.gov](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: Chair Yoga:** Next session 8/4, 8/11, 8/18, 8/25. Cost is \$35/residents, \$40/non-residents. RSVP by 7/31.

**FABBS Exercise:** The August session of the Flexibility, Agility, Better Balance and Strength workout class runs Mondays, Aug. 10-31, from 10:45-11:45 a.m. each week. Movement and exercises are drawn from body building, yoga, ballet and more. Instructor Hilary Celentano. Cost is \$35/residents, \$40/non-residents. RSVP by Aug. 7.

**Encore Club:** Wednesday, Aug. 5 12:30-2 p.m. This special Encore club features Albert Ruggiero and his heartfelt presentation, "Pearls from Carol" – a collection of essays, stories, and poems written by his late wife, Carol. Albert will share selections from the book and discuss the journey of preserving and celebrating Carol's legacy through her words. Afterwards, he will perform on his saxophone. Light refreshments will be served. The event is free.

**Mindfulness with Mary:** Thursday, Aug. 6, 10-11:30 a.m. Start your morning with a mindful meditation session. Mary Klatt is a senior living advisor for Oasis Senior Advisors Central Connecticut. This program is free.

**Caregiver Support:** Monday, Aug. 10, 4-5 p.m. All are invited to this presentation about Careforth and the support available to family caregivers in Connecticut. Learn what services eligible caregivers may receive. Light refreshments served.

**Exploration Station: Sensory Play:** Tuesday, Aug. 11, 10-11:30 a.m. Marlborough Senior Center and Richmond Memorial Library are teaming up for a special drop-in program filled with sensory activities and play for you and

your grandchildren.

**Friendship Tours: GermanFest at the East Hill Farm in New Hampshire:** Oct. 8. Enjoy a homemade Oktoberfest Luncheon, then listen to live German music by Al Brogdon's four-piece Oompah Band. Stop at Yankee Candle's flagship store in South Deerfield, Mass. Cost is \$158/person. More information available at senior center.

**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.

**Eversource:** There are low-income discount rates available for electric bills. Proof required; by appointment only.

**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.

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Land Trust Upcoming Events

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

**Trail Crew Volunteers Needed:** The third Sunday of each month (weather permitting). Volunteers meet up at one of CLT's properties each month to fight invasives, maintain meadows, and other needed stewardship tasks. This event is led by board member and stewardship chair Kevin Byrne, and he can be reached at:

Zumba Classes

Colchester Parks and Recreation is offering a pair of Zumba classes on Sundays in August at the Colchester Senior Center, 15 Louis Lane.

Zumba + Lift is a music-driven fitness program that alternates high-energy Zumba dance cardio with dedicated strength training intervals. It uses 5–15+ pound dumbbells or resistance bands to build muscle and improve stability, but you never dance while holding the heavier weights.

The class will meet Sundays from 11 a.m.-noon, Aug. 9, 16, 23 and 30. Fee is \$46/resident, \$51/non-resident, or a \$12 drop-in fee per person per week. Minimum number of participants needed is five, and maximum is 20.

Senior Center News & Notes

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

**Monday, Aug. 3:** 9 a.m., Making Memories, Exercise w/ Anne; 10 a.m., Sittercize; 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Haircuts; 11 a.m., Learn to Sign; 11 a.m.-noon, Fitness Orientation; 12:30 p.m., Mah Jongg, Bridge, Setback.

**Tuesday, Aug. 4:** 9 a.m., Making Memories; 9:45 a.m., Tai Chi; 10 a.m., Mixed Media Art; 12:30 p.m., Pinochle; 1 p.m., Cornhole; 1:15 p.m., Bingo; 4-8 p.m., Wellness Nights.

**Wednesday, Aug. 5:** 9 a.m., Making Memories, Walking Group; 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Reflexology; 9:30 p.m., Live Well; 10 a.m., Adult Coloring, Hand and Foot Card Game, Sit & Be Fit Video; 1 p.m., Sew-cial Time; 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m., Cardio Drumming.

**Thursday, Aug. 6:** 9 a.m., Exercise w/ Anne, Sittercize; 10 a.m., Sittercize, Wii Bowling; 11 a.m., Yoga; noon, Sr. Benefits Counseling; 12:05 p.m., Chair Massage; 12:30 p.m., Root Beer Float Day, Dominoes, Needlework Club; 1:15 p.m., Bingo; 4-8 p.m., Wellness Nights; 6 p.m., Ping-Pong.

**Friday, Aug. 7:** 9 a.m., Social Service Hours, Open Art Studio; 10 a.m., Sit & Be Fit; 10:30 a.m., Lighthouse Documentary, Choral Group; 11 a.m., Yoga; 1-3:30 p.m., Open Ping Pong; 1:15 p.m., Bingo.

**National Root Beer Float Day:** This day is celebrated annually on Aug. 6 to mark the 1893 creation of the "Black Cow" by Frank J. Wisner in Colorado. All are invited at 12:30 p.m. to celebrate with complimentary root beer floats. This is a free program, but space is limited.

**Lighthouses of the Coast:** Friday, Aug. 7, 10 a.m. To celebrate National Lighthouse Day, all are invited to watch a documentary about the

[kevbyrnect@gmail.com](mailto:kevbyrnect@gmail.com). Trail crew work parties are held the third Sunday of every month usually from 1 p.m. until no later than 3 p.m. (Volunteers can stay for all or part of the hours.) Details of each month's plan will be emailed to you. Sign up at [colchesterlandtrust.org](http://colchesterlandtrust.org).

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

Zumba Gold is a low-impact, modified version of the standard Zumba fitness program. It is designed for active older adults, beginners, and anyone needing a gentler, joint-friendly workout. The program features easy-to-follow Latin and international dance rhythms set to a slower tempo.

The class will meet Sundays from 10-10:50 a.m., Aug. 9, 16, 23 and 30. Fee is \$46/resident, \$51/non-resident, or a \$12 drop-in fee per person per week. Minimum number of participants needed is five, and maximum is 20.

For more information, visit [www.colchester-ct.gov/recreation-department](http://www.colchester-ct.gov/recreation-department) or call 860-537-7297.

lighthouses of the Maine coast and of our own New London Ledge Lighthouse. This is a free program.

**Colchester Garden Club Fairy House Workshop:** Tuesday, Aug. 11, 10:30 a.m. In this hands-on class, the garden club will help you create a house out of flower pots. No experience needed; just bring your imagination. The cost is \$12 per person. Space is limited.

**Holiday Fair Meeting:** Wednesday, Aug. 12, 12:30 pm. This year's Holiday Fair is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 5, and senior center members are invited to come help plan and prepare for this year's event. If you wish to help but cannot attend the meeting see Jodi for more information.

**Trivia Night:** Thursday, Aug. 13, 6 p.m. Snacks will be provided, and cash prizes will be given. The cost is \$7.

**Evening Driver Safety Course:** Tuesday, Aug. 18, 3:30-7:30 p.m. By taking a driver safety course, you'll learn the rules of the road, defensive driving techniques and how to operate your vehicle more safely in today's increasingly challenging driving environment. Open to anyone 50 and over. The cost is \$20 for AARP members and \$25 for non-members. Register by Dec. 11.

**Pizza & A Movie:** Tuesday, Aug. 18, 5:30 p.m. This month's movie is *Voicemails for Isabelle* (2026; rated PG-13). Cost is \$7.

**Beach Party Luncheon:** Wednesday, Aug. 19, 11 a.m. End the summer with an indoor beach party. Jose Paulo will return with his island sounds and upbeat dance music. A lunch of hamburgers with lettuce, tomato and cheese will be served, with macaroni salad, three bean salad, and strawberry shortcake for dessert. Dress for the island breezes. The cost is \$10 per person. Space is limited.

**Ice Cream Sundaes and Outdoor Piano Concert with Jay:** Thursday, Aug. 27, 6 p.m. Bring your own lawn chairs. The cost is \$3 and registration is required.

Ahavath Achim Chicken Barbecue

Congregation Ahavath Achim will hold a takeout-only chicken barbecue Sunday, Aug. 9, from 3:30-6 p.m.

Cost is \$20 for a full dinner, which includes half a kosher chicken, baked potato, coleslaw, dinner roll and cookies.

Orders can be taken over the phone – including on the day of the event – at 860-537-2809.

Christian Life Chapel News

Christian Life Chapel is located at 392 S. Main St. For more information, call 860-398-9119 or email [chapel.colchester@yahoo.com](mailto:chapel.colchester@yahoo.com). The Rev. Don Rivers is 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 learn about Jesus in ageappropriate ways.

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

**Free Community Clothing Swap:** Saturday, Aug. 22, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Bring your gently used clothes and accessories and swap them for other fun fashions.

Steak Dinner at Polish Club

The St. Joseph's Polish Society, at 395 South Main St., is hosting a steak dinner Saturday, Aug. 15.

Dinner will be served at 6 p.m. and includes steak, potato, veggie, and a roll. Matt will play music after dinner, from 7-10 p.m. Tickets are \$25 and must be purchased by Aug. 8.

Stop by the club during regular business hours to purchase your tickets.

Teen Intro to Genealogy

The Colchester Historical Society is offering teenagers a basic introduction to genealogy on Saturday or Sunday, Aug. 1 or 2, from 10 a.m. to noon.

Pick the day you would like to attend and discover the tools available to dig into your family history. This program is free and open to middle school and high school students, who can be dropped off at the Colchester History Museum or be accompanied by parents. It is advisable to bring a laptop or an iPad/tablet to experience first-hand the types of genealogical information that can be found online.

If planning to attend, email [mail@colchesterhistory.org](mailto:mail@colchesterhistory.org) to indicate you are attending, as space is limited.



A yard sale will be held in Amston this weekend to benefit the Abundant Life Chapel School and Orphanage in Liberia. Abundant Life Church in Colchester has donated many items for the sale.

Yard Sale to Benefit Liberian Orphanage

A Community Yard Sale to benefit a Liberian orphanage will be held Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 1-2, from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. both days, at 97 Old Colchester Rd. in Amston.

Wilmot Yalartai began attending Abundant Life Church of Colchester in 2017, attracted by the same name of the orphanage he had recently constructed in Liberia, West Africa. The church and individual sponsors continue to support this grassroots rescue effort and are donating furniture, tools, household items, clothing, etc. for this weekend's sale. A Hebron supporter is hosting this event and has also donated an array of items. The yard sale will be held rain or shine.

Abundant Life Chapel School and Orphanage in Liberia provides education and care in an area of extreme poverty. Yalartai used the sale of his business in Liberia to fund the original building projects. Presently some of the metal roofing is leaking and there is need for large repairs as well as monthly food and supplies. All funds from this weekend's tag sale go directly to the orphanage and should be labeled and mailed to Abundant Life Church, 85 Skinner Rd., Colchester, CT 06415.

For more information, call the church at 860-537-3082. Pastor Charles Brown is the chairman of the board that governs the orphanage.

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# Pastor Starts New Chapter in Colchester

**By Toriana Williams**

Colchester’s newest pastor, Scott Rosen, arrived at Colchester Bible Baptist Church on June 1, where he was welcomed with open arms. Although it may seem like he was just starting a new job, it was actually the beginning of a new chapter in a journey that has taken him across the east coast and through a remarkable transformation of faith.

Now the church’s new senior pastor, Rosen brought with him years of study, ministry experience and a personal story that would surprise many people when they first heard it.

“I was raised Jewish,” Rosen began. “I became an atheist, and then I became a born-again Christian when I was 18.”

That journey then eventually led him to the pulpit.

Rosen grew up in Massachusetts and attended college in Washington, D.C. before returning home. Feeling called to deepen his own ministry, he enrolled in seminary in Virginia Beach, Va.

“[Seminary] is kind of the equivalent of law school for being a pastor,” he explained.

Before coming to Colchester, Rosen worked at the seminary while also serving in ministry. Although he had worked in other roles, Colchester Bible Baptist Church is his first position as a senior pastor.

“I had a position at a church in Massachusetts, which was unpaid, where I was ministering,” he said. “I felt led to get more training so I went to seminary. From there, I had the background to become a pastor.”

From Judaism to atheism to Christianity, Rosen’s journey of faith picked back up due to the influence of people who shared their beliefs with him.

“It was kind of a lengthy process,” Rosen shared. “As I see it, the Lord brought some people into my life who shared the gospel of Jesus Christ. The Lord opened my eyes to what the Bible says, and I put my faith in Jesus to save me.”

Although Connecticut is a new state for him, New England still feels familiar.

“I’m from Massachusetts originally, so I’m used to New England in general,” he said. “I think it’s kind of coming home, really, in many ways.”

Rosen and his family now live in the church’s parsonage on the property. His wife, who grew up in a pastor’s home, understands the unique demands of ministry, he said. Together they are raising several children.

“They’ve been happy about it,” he said when asked about the move. “There’s a number of kids in the church for my children, and we’ve got a big property here that they can play on.”

Life as a pastor, he said, is more than a Sunday morning responsibility.

“I think you’re really always involved,” Rosen said. “Everything we do is towards the furtherance of the gospel and the ministry.”

That means spending time with church members, building relationships and preparing messages each week. And those messages don’t come together overnight.

“I probably invest about 15 hours per sermon,” Rosen said. “And I have two sermons a week to deliver.”

The preparation for his sermons is lengthy and detailed. Instead of choosing a different topic each week, Rosen prefers to work through the Bible one verse at a time.

“My normal approach is to go through a book of the Bible and just work verse by verse,” he said. “I study those verses and explain different passages every week from the book.”

His research often begins with prayer before diving into the work.

“I’ll start off by praying about it, and then I’ll look into the original languages,” such as Greek or Hebrew, Rosen said. “Then I’ll break down the passage and pretty much look at each element of it. I’ll use both the language training I have and also consult commentaries and other resources to really make sure I understand the passage.”

Since arriving in town, Rosen said the congregation at Colchester Bible Baptist Church has made him feel welcome.

“It’s been a good experience,” he said. “I’ve enjoyed the town and the people in the church.”

Although his work and preparation can get complicated, his focus remains on “preaching the word of God,” he shared. “I put a lot of time into my study, and I’ve found that the people who’ve come out have been very receptive to learning what the Bible says.”

The church itself has deep roots in the community. According to Rosen, it was founded in the late 1960s and originally met at the Grange Hall before constructing its current building around the mid-’70s.

Perhaps what is most impressive, he said, is that several founding members still attend today.

“We actually still have a few founding members here who are in their 90s,” he said.

While Rosen has only been in town for a little while, he has already started taking part in community outreach. The church recently hosted a booth at the Lebanon Country Fair and plans to attend the Hebron Harvest Fair and the Had-dam Neck Fair.

“We had some good conversations this week,” he said of the Lebanon fair.

Those events are one way the church introduces itself to the community and offers people an opportunity to ask questions.



Scott Rosen, pictured here with his family, is the newest pastor of Colchester Bible Baptist Church.

“We tell them about the church,” he said. “If somebody is interested in hearing what the Bible has to say about salvation, we’re happy to share that as well.”

While most pastors just want people to attend any house of worship, Rosen explained why those interested should consider Bible Baptist.

“We just teach the Bible here. There’s no gimmicks or anything,” he said. “We use simple music that exalts God, and I just preach from the text for about 40 to 50 minutes to try to feed

God’s sheep.”

Over the years, Rosen said he has seen faith help people through some of life’s darkest moments.

“You have people from all sorts of backgrounds. People have gone through drug addictions, people have had broken homes, people have had failed marriages,” he shared. “God, in his sovereignty, heals those things and works through his children. He really can bring people out of the worst situations and redeem them.”

### National Night Out & Fireworks

The second annual National Night Out celebration will be held Tuesday, Aug. 4, beginning at 6 p.m. (fireworks will begin at dark) at the RecPlex. Rain date is Thursday, Aug. 13.

This is part of a national community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships. This family-friendly event is sponsored by Colchester Pizza, Colchester Police, and Colchester Parks and Recreation. There will be free giveaways, food, vendors,

face-painting, inflatable, DJ Montez, and fireworks!

Please carpool or use the free shuttle bus. The shuttle will begin at 6 p.m. from the Jack Jackter Intermediate School parking lot to the RecPlex and run throughout the night until the fireworks are over.

For more information, call the recreation office at 860-537-7297.

### Colchester Federated Church News

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

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

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

**Summer Tag Sale:** Friday, July 31, 4-7 p.m. and Saturday, Aug. 1, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. All are invited.



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Bacon Academy Trustees and members of the CT AARP and the local AARP Chapter recently gathered in front of Historic Bacon to celebrate a \$10,000 grant from AARP. Pictured are, front row, Cathy Marvin, Dolores Sawchuck, Nora Duncann (AARP State Director) and Andrew Norton (Trustee Chair); back row, Irene Watson, Sheila Graham, Bernie Dennler (First Selectman), Noreen Bibee, Cathy Johnson, Joyce Sypher, Phyllis Moroch, Tom Desserault, Stan Soby and Harry Hom.

Historic Bacon Awarded \$10K AARP Grant

Historic Bacon Academy has been selected as a recipient of a 2026 AARP Community Challenge grant, receiving \$10,000 to support bringing the beloved landmark into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The grant will help fund repaving the building’s parking area and adding a ramped entrance – which are steps toward making the historic site accessible for all. The improvements represent a milestone in the ongoing effort to preserve and restore Historic Bacon Academy for future use as a hub for arts, cultural activities, and education in Colchester. “Accessibility and preservation go hand in hand. This grant allows us to protect a cherished piece of Colchester’s history while opening its doors wider to everyone in our community,” said Andrew Norton, chairman of the Bacon Academy Board of Trustees. “These improvements will make a real difference for visitors of all ages and abilities as we continue to restore

this important landmark.” The AARP Community Challenge grant program makes communities more livable for people of all ages by supporting tangible, quick-action improvements that jump-start long-term change. Now celebrating its 10th anniversary, the program continues to grow and make an impact nationwide. In 2026, AARP doubled the program’s investment and awarded the largest number of grants to date. Nora Duncan, AARP State Director, said that 13 projects were funded in the state, totaling \$107,000. “These funds, along with the generous support we’ve received from the community, make a real difference to a small, all-volunteer board like ours,” Art Liverant, vice chair of the Trustees, added. “We could not do this without that continuing support.” To learn more about how to help or to volunteer, email info@baconacademytrustees.org, visit www.baconacademytrustees.org, or call 860-965-3483.

Veteran Groups Form Memorial Committee

The veterans groups of Colchester have announced the establishment of the Colchester OIF/OEF Memorial Committee – and all are invited to attend the committee’s first official meeting on Thursday, Aug. 13, at 7:15 p.m. at 95 Norwich Ave., to learn more about this landmark project to honor local service members. This initiative represents a unified effort between the Colchester VFW Post 6990, the Colchester American Legion Post 54, and the

Colchester Veterans Honor Guard. The committee’s mission is to oversee the site selection, architectural design, and fundraising for a permanent monument dedicated to the residents of Colchester who served in Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF). Interested residents are encouraged to attend the Aug. 13 meeting to learn more about the project and how they can contribute.

National Night Out

The Town of Colchester invites residents of all ages to come together for an evening of community, family fun, and public safety at National Night Out, taking place Tuesday, Aug. 4, beginning at 6 p.m., at the Colchester RecPlex. National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign designed to strengthen the partnership between law enforcement, first responders, local organizations, and residents while promoting neighborhood spirit and public safety. The evening will feature activities for the entire family, including meet-and-greets with local police officers, and other public safety agencies, emergency vehicles and equipment on display, family-friendly games and activities, community organization and resource booths,

food available for purchase from local vendors, DJ Montez, and an inflatable. The celebration will conclude with a fireworks display sponsored by Colchester Pizza, lighting up the night sky in honor of America 250. Residents are encouraged to carpool to the RecPlex or use the free shuttle bus. The bus will be running from JJIS to the RecPlex, beginning at 6 p.m. Bring lawn chairs or blankets to enjoy the festivities and stay for the fireworks finale. Admission is free, and everyone is welcome to attend. For additional information, contact the Colchester Parks & Recreation Department at 860-537-7297 or visit the Parks & Recreation website or social media pages for event updates.

Veterans Honor Guard Seeks New Members

The Colchester Veterans Honor Guard is actively looking for veterans to become members. When a veteran dies, the family can request military honors by providing evidence of military service to the funeral home. Military funeral honors have been a tradition in the United States military since its earliest days. In Connecticut, the honors are provided by the Connecticut National Guard and local volunteer veteran organizations – including the Colchester Veterans Honor Guard (CVHG). The CVHG was established in 2004. Last year, members participated in more than 230 ceremonies. The 20-member unit is welcoming new veterans to become members. Some members are aging and are no longer able to actively participate in ceremonies, and CHVG is looking for new veterans to replace them so it can continue to provide funeral honors to all deceased veterans. Each member usually participates in several fu-

nerals each month. The CVHG meets the first and third Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m. in the Veterans Room of the old Senior Center at 95 Norwich Avenue. If you are a veteran that can give a few hours a week, you are invited to stop by a meeting to learn what is involved. Compensation is provided for expenses. Contact Al Letendre at 860-537-6516 or le-tendrej@sbcglobal.net for more information.

Bible Baptist Church News

Colchester Bible Baptist Church has a new pastor: Scott Rosen, as of June 1. All are invited for fellowship and to meet him. Sunday School at the church is held at 9:30 a.m. Sunday morning worship service is at 10:30 a.m., and there is also a Sunday evening service at 6 p.m. There is a Wednesday Evening Prayer Service at 7 p.m. The church is located at 38 Chestnut Hill Rd., and can be reached at 860-537-1050. The pastor’s email is pastor@colchesterbible.org, and the church website is www.colchesterbible.org.

Ukrainian Catholic Church News

All are invited to worship each week at St. Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church, 178 Linwood Ave. The church offers Eastern Rite Divine services. Church doors are open for Divine Liturgy on Saturdays at 4 p.m. and Sundays at 9 a.m.; the Sunday service is bilingual. For more information, call the church at 860-537-2069.



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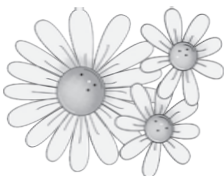


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Absentee Ballots for August Primary

Absentee ballots are now available for the Democratic primary for the party's gubernatorial candidate and U.S. Congress candidate. The primary is being held on Tuesday, Aug. 11, with early voting from Monday, Aug. 3, to Sunday, Aug. 9.

Early voting will be at Town Hall, 33 East Main St., while Primary Day voting will be at the Portland Middle School, 93 High St.

Registered members of the Democratic Party can obtain an absentee ballot application in person at the town clerk's office, by calling 860-342-6743, or visiting the town clerk page of the town's website for additional options. Any application or completed absentee ballot should be returned to the town clerk, mailed back to the town clerk's office at: P.O. Box 71, Portland, CT 06480 or left in the election drop box, located by the rear entrance of the Town Hall.

A recent state law updated the absentee ballot envelope process. Voters using this method are advised to pay close attention to the new instructions to ensure their ballot is received in good order, the town clerk's office said.

Deposits Due for Lancaster 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 is fast approaching.

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.

Residents Sought for Charter Commission

The Portland Board of Selectmen is seeking residents to serve on a Charter Revision Commission.

The municipal charter serves as the local constitution, defining the structure, powers, and duties of the local government. The commission will review the current charter, identify areas for operational improvement, and recommend amendments to better serve the community.

Commission members will review public feedback, research governance models, and draft recommendations for the Board of Selectmen. Final approved changes will eventually be placed on a public ballot for voter approval.

Requirements for service:

- Applicants must be registered voters and full-time residents of Portland;
- Members must attend regularly scheduled meetings, and public hearings over the course of 16-months (from date of appointment);
- The commission must consist of five to fifteen electors (registered voters), not more than 1/3 of whom may hold another public office in the municipality, and with no more than a bare majority from the same political party.

If interested in joining the commission, submit a letter of interest and a brief resume or bio to the first selectman's office at mceppaglia@portlandct.org. Deadline for submissions is Aug. 31.

Resident Elected to Board of Urban League

Portland resident Barry Camara, area director of operations for Starbucks Coffee Company, was elected as a new member of the Board of the Urban League of Greater Hartford at its 2026 annual meeting in June.

The local affiliate of the National Urban League is beginning its 62nd year of continuous service providing education, employment, housing, and health programs while fighting for social justice.

In his role at Starbucks, Camara oversees district leadership and store operations across Connecticut. He is an operations executive with over 20 years of experience. Over his career at Starbucks, Camara has held progressive leadership roles in markets from New York City and Boston to Detroit and Seattle, earning a reputation for developing people, elevating performance, and creating environments where teams and communities thrive. Over the past decade, he has played an instrumental role in developing Starbucks' Black Partner Network affinity group – advancing inclusion, representation, and belonging within one of the nation's largest retail organizations.

Camara has volunteered with Habitat for Humanity and the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and has served on the board of directors of LeaderSpark in Columbus, Ohio, championing leadership development, and expanding opportunity for emerging leaders. He holds an associate's degree in accounting and economics from College Saint Michel in Dakar, Senegal, and a Certificate in Business Administration from Boston University.

The Urban League of Greater Hartford is a community-based, not-for-profit 501(c)(3). Its mission is to promote racial equity through economic empowerment programs in the areas of youth development, adult education, workforce development, housing, personal financial management, community health, and social justice. For more information, visit [www.ulgh.org](http://www.ulgh.org) or follow on social media @ulgh64.



Barry Camara

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# Old Colchester Road Bridge Update

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While others are still talking about the campaign, Jason Guidone is already running it—meeting voters, recruiting volunteers, and campaigning across the district.

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### 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 open. For more information, contact Parks and Rec.

**Recess and Playground Adventure Camp:** Aug. 10-14, 9:30-11:45 a.m., at Veterans Memorial Park. Kids will play classic playground games such as freeze tag and hide and seek, and will also engage in some competitions such as chalk drawing, hula hooping, and sports games. For grades 1-4.

**Hebron Day:** Aug. 29, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at Veterans Parks and St. Peter's Pickleball Courts.

**Tuesday Night 30+ Adult Pick-Up Basketball:** Tuesdays, 7-9 p.m., at the Hebron Elementary School main gym. Participants are required to register/pay online and check in with staff upon arrival. Runs through Aug. 25.

**Tai Chi:** Thursdays, 6:15-7:15 p.m., from Sept. 3-Oct. 15, at Gilead Hill School. This is a low-impact form of exercise focusing on a series of slow, graceful, and continuous movements.

**Take Great Photos with Your Smartphone:** Wednesday, Sept. 9, 6-9 p.m., at the Parks and Recreation Office. For both iPhones and Androids.





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### The Worship Center News & Notes

The Worship Center, a non-denominational Christian church, holds services and programs at 99 Marjorie Circle (unless noted). For more information and full program descriptions, visit [theworshipcenterct.org](http://theworshipcenterct.org) and click on the 'events/calendar' link, or call 860-228-4442.

**Worship:** Services are Sundays at 10 a.m. and are also broadcast on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/TheWorshipCenterConnecticut](http://www.facebook.com/TheWorshipCenterConnecticut) and on YouTube at [www.youtube.com/@theworshipcenter9733](http://www.youtube.com/@theworshipcenter9733).

**Adult Bible Study:** Every Sunday at 9 a.m. The study, on the First Epistle of Peter, is led by Elder George Logan. The theme is "Standing Firm in Grace: A Call to Holiness in a Hostile World." All adults welcome.

**Kingdom Women: Women's Bible Study:** Meets in-person every first and third Thursday from 6:45-7:45 p.m., at the church. The study will continue on the book of Psalms. Zoom access is available. Upcoming: Thursday, Aug. 6.

**Youth Ministry:** Grades 6-12 are invited every first and third Friday of the month from 6:30-9:30 p.m. for activities, games, Bible lessons, dinner, dessert, and community. Upcoming: Aug. 7.

**August Luncheon:** Sunday, Aug. 2, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. All are invited.

**Virtual Prayer Night:** Tuesdays, 7-8 p.m., via Zoom. Contact the church office or website for a link and meeting ID.

**2026 Women's Retreat:** From 5 p.m. Aug. 28 through 1 p.m. Aug. 30, at Enders Island in Mystic. Sign-ups still available

**One-to-One Confidential Christian Care:** Provided by Stephen Ministry to people in difficult life situations. If in need of help, call the church office.

**TWC Upward Running Club:** Upward Running at The Worship Center. This class is designed to improve faith, fitness and fellowship within our community through a walking and/or running program custom made for your fitness level. Download the app, or contact the church office for more details. Training sessions still meeting at the church on Saturdays from 8-9 a.m.

### Good Shepherd Parish News

The Church of the Holy Family (CHF), located at 185 Church St. (Route 85), Hebron, is yoked with St. Columba Church (STC) in Columbia, and together are members of the Catholic Community of the Good Shepherd, with the Rev. Michael Phillippino serving as pastor. The parish office can be reached at 860-228-3727 ext. 105 Tuesday-Friday, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. through Labor Day.

**Mass Schedule:** Mass is offered at CHF Saturday at 5 p.m. and Sunday at 10 a.m., and at STC Sunday at 8 a.m. Visit [www.goodshepherdct.org](http://www.goodshepherdct.org) for weekday Mass times.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:** The pastor is available for the sacrament at CHF on Thursdays at 7 a.m. and on Saturdays at 4 p.m., and at STC on Wednesdays at 7 a.m. and Sundays at 7:15 a.m., or by appointment (church phone ext. 110).

**Praise Band and Choir Rehearsals:** Both groups are on hiatus for the summer months. Rehearsals will resume in mid-September.

**Knights of Columbus Take-Out Chicken Barbecue on Aug. 15:** Tickets for this event can be purchased after all weekend Masses prior to the event, starting on Saturday, August 1. The cost is \$17 per meal and must be paid in advance by cash, credit card or PayPal. Parishioners can also purchase meals online through Aug. 14, either by using the link emailed to them on July 24 or by accessing [www.goodshepherdct.org/events-1](http://www.goodshepherdct.org/events-1). The meal includes half a chicken, a side of barbecue sauce, corn on the cob, coleslaw, beans, cornbread, and a brownie. Pick up your orders from the Knights on Aug. 15 in the CHF church hall (entrance in the back of the church) at the time selected when tickets were purchased: either 5-6 p.m. or 6-7 p.m. Note: This is a pre-order-only event; please, no "walk-ups."

**Cereal & Meatloaves for CSK:** The Community Outreach Committee collects breakfast cereal each month for Covenant Soup Kitchen

### Residents in Pan-Mass Challenge

Three local residents will be among more than 6,000 cyclists taking part in the Pan-Mass Challenge (PMC) Aug. 1-2 to raise money for cancer research and patient care at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

Hebron residents Sara Tarca and Liam Bane, and Amston resident Daniel Foley, are all participating in the two-day bike-a-thon across Massachusetts.

For the 20th consecutive year, 100 percent of every rider-raised dollar at the PMC will go directly to Dana-Farber. For more information, and to donate to the three, visit [www.pmc.org](http://www.pmc.org).

### American Legion Chicken Barbecue

The American Legion's annual Chicken Barbecue is on Saturday, Aug. 8, from noon-3 p.m., at the Legion hall, 18 Main St, Hebron.

The \$15 packaged-to-go dinner includes a barbecued half chicken, cornbread, pasta salad and coleslaw. Ordering in advance is recommended. To order, call Joe Fetta at 203-848-5913 or email Ron Parkyn at [park1969@comcast.net](mailto:park1969@comcast.net) and dinners will be reserved for you.

Pay by cash or check when you pick up your dinner at the Legion in the back parking lot drive through.



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# Renewed Talk About a Homestead Tax Exemption

By Anne Lilburn

Following East Hampton’s recent property revaluation, some elected officials are encouraging the town to consider a homestead property tax exemption, wherein homeowners could potentially see a property tax break for some properties considered as primary homes.

The proposal for the tax exemption, which Town Manager Dave Cox had discussed at several town council meetings earlier in the year, would involve the town opting into a state program that began in 2024 and allows municipalities to exempt a portion of a primary residence property’s assessed value from property tax. New Milford, notably, has enacted such an exemption, and other towns have been considering similar measures.

Support for such an exemption in East Hampton gained new momentum recently when Board of Finance Vice Chair Dan Finn proposed it this summer at a Board of Finance meeting as a way to offset some of the negative impacts of the property revaluation, which hit low-to-middle value residential properties hardest.

“My recommendation to the town council is to immediately pass an ordinance offering a homestead exemption to properties with assessed values under \$390,000 of 22.5%,” said Finn. “That should be enough to help most of the homeowners who saw the most dramatic increases get back closer to where they were, as a portion of the overall grand list, prior to the revaluation.”

## Portland Resident’s Artwork at Library

Artwork by Portland Artist Karen Piazza will be featured through August at Middle Haddam Public Library, 2 Knowles Rd., Middle Haddam. Piazza is a watercolor artist and potter. Her favorite subjects to paint are cafe and market scenes, representing her years living in France. She also creates functional pottery with a deco-

## 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

## East Hampton Library News & Notes

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

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

**Adult Programs: Fresh From the Farmers Market: A Cookbook Club Event:** Tuesday, Aug. 4, 6:30 p.m. Visit your local farmers market, farmstand, or your own garden and prepare a recipe featuring locally grown produce. Bring a prepared dish and 12 copies of the recipe; the library will provide plates and forks. Food should arrive ready to eat.

**Tech Help:** Thursday, Aug. 6, 2-4 p.m. Basic technology help for phones, tablets, and e-readers. No registration required; just bring your device with you.

**Murder Mystery Party: “A Murder Most Curated”:** Thursday, Aug. 6, 6:30 p.m. All are invited to come to the library after hours for an interactive mobster murder mystery. Guests will follow clues, question suspects, and vote on who they think the killer is before the mystery is revealed. Audience participation is encouraged, and guests are welcome to dress in 1920s-1930s Prohibition-era attire. Light refreshments will be served; adults only, registration required.

**Library Yoga (Sears Park) with Amie Meacham:** Tuesday, Aug. 11, 6:30 p.m. Bring a

## Democratic Primary Aug. 11

Absentee ballots are now available for the Democratic primary for the party’s gubernatorial candidate.

The primary is being held on Tuesday, Aug. 11, with early voting from Monday, Aug. 3, to Sunday, Aug. 9. Early voting will be at the East Hampton Town Hall, 1 Community Drive, and Primary Day voting will be at East Hampton High School, 15 North Maple St.

This primary is only open to registered members of the Democratic Party.

While the mill rate would increase, said Finn, the tax burden for many residents would go down, as the tax burden shifted towards commercial properties, which did not see values rise as sharply as residential properties in the recent revaluation.

“It would reduce the overall value of the grand list in East Hampton from its current value of about \$1.75 billion to about \$1.55 billion (that would result in a change of the mill rate from 27.82 as currently proposed to about 31.46),” said Finn. “Assuming that a homeowner in the qualifying group had had an increase of 60% of value previously, they now would have an increase of about 24% which is in line with the increase in commercial values.”

Finn said he supported limiting the value of homes to which the exemption applied, in order to provide relief to those who need it most.

“I do think that there ought to be a cap on the properties able to take advantage of the exemption so that the relief primarily helps those with lower value homes rather than those who can more likely afford the taxes on higher value homes,” he said.

Cox said Finn’s proposal made sense. “Most of the town’s single family and many other residential owners would likely qualify for the exemption,” he said. “In this case, I think the consideration is to reverse or partially reverse some of the shift that took place in the recent revaluation. Likely, thousands of properties could be eligible, and, under the concept presented,

native flair, often texturing and hand-painting her pieces.

An artist reception will be held Friday, Aug. 7, from 4-6 p.m., with refreshments and time to chat with Piazza about her work.

For more information on Piazza, visit [westerlyarts.com/karen-piazza](http://westerlyarts.com/karen-piazza).

can’t be plugged in, medicine, animal diapers and fish tank pumps.

Drop-off times are 8 a.m.-2 p.m. on Aug. 1 and 8. Drop-off is located at the lower end of the building in the garage area by Helping Hands, 27 Skinner St. Please do not drop off your donations at the main entrance to the building or on any other drop off days.

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

mat if you have one and meet at the pavilion for an hour of gentle yoga for all levels.

**Teen Programs: Lunch Bunch Book Club: Grades 6-8:** Wednesday, Aug. 5, 1-2 p.m. Students entering grades 6-8 are invited to our Lunch Bunch Book Club! Bring your lunch and the book you’re currently reading. Chat about books, play games, do crafts, and eat lunch together.

**Teen TCG Club: Grades 8-12:** Friday, Aug. 7, 1-3 p.m. Players of Magic: The Gathering, Pokemon, Yu-Gi-Oh!, and more are invited to join us for an afternoon of friendly competition. Magic: The Gathering decks will be available for new players to use.

**Lunch Bunch for Everyone!:** Wednesday, Aug. 12, 1 p.m. Incoming students in grades 6-9 are invited to one last Summer Lunch Bunch. Bring the book you are reading and your lunch.

**Laser Tag in the Library! Grades 4-6 & 7-12:** Friday, Aug. 14. Grades 4-6 sign up for the 5:30-6:30 p.m. time slot, and Grades 7-12 sign up for time slot 7:00-8:00 p.m. Registration required; spots are limited. Sponsored by the Friends of the East Hampton Public Library.

**Children’s Programs: Lego at the Library: Grades K-6:** Tuesday, Aug. 4, 4:30-5:30 p.m. All are invited each month for a new challenge or theme for you to work on solo or as a team. All Lego bricks provided.

**Dig Into Adventure! Dino Dig at Seamster Park:** Tuesday, Aug. 11, 10 a.m.-noon, at Seamster Park. Excavate dinosaur bones, fossils, shells, and hidden treasures in a giant sandbox dig site, then cool off with a Popsicle treat. Best for ages 2-9. Register or drop in; held at Seamster Park. Sponsored by the Friends of the East Hampton Public Library.

**School Supply Swap:** Friday, Aug. 14, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., and Saturday, Aug. 15, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Browse free donated school supplies. No donation is required to shop; however, if you wish to donate, drop-offs can be made Monday, Aug. 10 – Saturday, Aug. 15, during library hours. Only donate new or gently used items in good condition.

which is allowed as a result of recent changes in the enabling legislation, the impact would be focused on the properties that saw the highest increase in assessed value in the last revaluation.”

The exemption, Cox noted, would not apply to higher-priced properties, commercial properties, second homes or rental/income properties.

Several council members expressed support for the proposal.

Jack Solomon, a Democrat, said he would support it, noting that he felt that the property revaluation led to the defeat of the budgets in the last two referendums.

“The reval moved taxes from commercial and industrial organizations to homeowners,” Solomon said. “This is not logical and I strongly support a Homestead exemption for East Hampton homeowners. This will move the tax burden back somewhat to where they were before the reval.”

Council member Joelyn Leon, also a Democrat, said she too supported the proposal at this point.

“Because of the revaluation, a lot of homeowners’ taxes are going to go up,” she said, “and so this would kind of balance it out and to my understanding, bring the commercial back up to where they probably were, maybe a little bit lower, but not as much lower as they currently are with the revaluation, and so it’ll balance things out and it will help. It’s not going to help everybody, but it will help, I think, the majority of the homeowners that are seeing substantial

## 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.

## Belltown Vintage Motorcar Meet

The Belltown Antique Car Club will present the 59th annual Belltown Vintage Motorcar Meet Sunday, Aug. 2, at the Haddam Neck Fair Grounds, Haddam Neck. Gates open at 8 a.m., show car registration closes at 11:30 a.m., judging begins at noon, and the show ends at 3 p.m.

Fee is \$10 for show cars (includes driver and passengers), and fee for spectators is \$5 (children under 12 are free with an accompanying adult).

This event is a celebration of stock, unmodified antique cars and trucks, domestic and im-

port, 40 years old or older (through 1986).

This year’s Featured Marque (which allows for free admission) is a Pontiac (1926-1986).

The event is rain or shine, field conditions permitting. Refreshments and food will be available to purchase. Please, no bicycles or pets or unaccompanied children.

For more information, including directions and show classes, visit [www.belltownantiquecarclub.org](http://www.belltownantiquecarclub.org), call Peter Christianson at 860-510-3340 or email [belltowncarclub@gmail.com](mailto:belltowncarclub@gmail.com).

ported, 40 years old or older (through 1986). This year’s Featured Marque (which allows for free admission) is a Pontiac (1926-1986).

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.

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.

## Senior Center Upcoming Trips

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

**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 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.

**Beatles Tribute Band & Lunch:** Thursday,

Oct. 15. See Studio Two, a Beatles tribute band, and have lunch at the Farmington Polo Club. Cost is \$132 and includes coach bus transportation. Depart from Stop & Shop, 11 East High St., at 10:30 a.m.

**Joshua in Lancaster, Pa.:** Nov. 13-15. Featuring two shows: Joshua at the Sight & Sound Theater and the Holly Jolly Holiday show at the Dutch Apple Dinner Theater. Cost is \$745 per person double/triple occupancy.

**Christmas in Newport:** Tuesday, Dec. 8, featuring a visit to the Breakers and Marble House mansions and lunch at the Wyndham Atlantic Resort. Cost is \$152. Depart from Stop & Shop, 11 East High St., at 8:45 a.m.

## 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 pay-

## Middle Haddam Past

Historic photos and memorabilia from Middle Haddam’s past, along with nautical artwork and maritime related items of interest, are featured in a special exhibit at Middle Haddam Public Library, 2 Knowles Rd., Middle Haddam, through the month of July.

All are invited to stop by during regular library hours on Monday and Thursday from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. and Tuesday and Friday from 3-6 p.m. to view the display.

## Dean’s List

Payton Polsonetti of East Hampton made the spring 2026 Dean’s List at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Mass.

Polsonetti is a member of the Class of 2029.

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# Council Considers Transfer Station, Snow Shoveling Changes

By Anne Lilburn

At its most recent meeting, the East Hampton Town Council established a monthly budget for August (due to the failure of the proposed 2026-27 annual budget to pass at last month's referendum), and discussed both the proposed sidewalk snow removal policy change and issues related to the town's current transfer station operations and planned future closure.

For August spending, the council voted unanimously to approve the proposed budget of \$6,253,330.

The council also heard from public works director Matt Walsh about the four quotes he's received from different companies for bulky waste disposal — hauling the dumpsters out of the town's transfer station. Town manager Dave Cox asked the council to waive the competitive bidding process for this bulky waste disposal because the town already had those four quotes. Waiving the competitive bidding process, he said, would save the town resources by not requiring town staff to go through the state process of creating a bid proposal package, and would also speed along the process.

"The overall cost of this removal does stack up pretty quickly," said Cox. "It's the largest expense at the transfer station."

Walsh said the public works department had started trying to cut costs at the transfer station after the budget revision following the first failed referendum cut the number of open days at the transfer station. He said the quotes the department received covered both "tipping fees" to dump the trash and also trucking fees, and varied mostly due to the distance trucks from

different removal companies must cover to get to their disposal facilities.

Walsh said that the proposals from the companies would likely lock in a rate for a period of time, but not require the town to pay if they were not using the company's services, meaning that entering into an agreement with one of these companies would not pose a problem if the town did proceed with its proposed plan to close the transfer station by Jan. 1, as discussed in relation to the most recent round of budget cuts.

The council voted unanimously to waive competitive bidding for the contract, which Cox estimated was in the \$100,000 range.

For the next item, regarding potential programmatic changes related to the upcoming budget, including snow removal and the transfer station closure.

Cox said that the intention was for the council to "start talking about those things" and how they might be implemented. For example, he mentioned that the Board of Finance's official recommendation regarding snow removal only specified the removal of overtime for snow removal, and noted that that might allow for some flexibility in "not removing the service altogether."

In terms of the transfer station and its proposed Jan. 1 closure, he said that the Board of Finance's reduction to a half-year of budget costs at the transfer station, particularly when combined with the proposal to consider bids from companies with lower disposal costs, might "buy us some time" and allow the station

to continue operations longer while the town considered all its options.

Council member Tim Feegel, a Republican, noted that the sidewalks around the lake were challenging sidewalks to shovel, which Hintz expressed concerns in taking out overtime related to snow removal, worrying about liability costs if the town were to delay snow removal.

Democrat Karen Wanat asked Walsh if he could provide a map of the sidewalks that were cleared, and Rich Knotek, also a Democrat, expressed particular concern over the lake sidewalks that provided an important recreational path for the town.

Jack Solomon, a Democrat, asked to clarify the proposal that had been received regarding the closure of the town's transfer station.

Cox described the proposal from Belltown Recycling Center as "unsolicited" and said it was "forwarded to the council by council member Feegel, and then subsequently became a topic of conversation in the community and the Board of Finance."

"The proposal probably covers most of what we do at the transfer station and certainly the things we do the most of," said Cox, noting that it covered bulky waste, yard waste and brush, metals. It did not address mattresses or electronics, so the town would need to figure out how to address those things, he said.

The costs to residents would be fee-based, based on weight, and there would therefore be

no cost to the town, said Cox. Both Cox and Walsh emphasized that the town would likely go through a formal process and consider different options related to the proposed closure, including proposals like the one from Belltown as well as other nearby municipalities' transfer stations and other competitive options.

Knotek said he wanted to see "at least equal to or better than acceptance" of different materials under any proposal the town considered.

Cox said that, in comparing the price charged in fees with the cost to the town to dispose of the trash, he estimated that, for some loads, the cost to residents would be smaller, but for many loads, especially large ones, the costs were likely to be higher for users. That is because the taxpayers, he said, are currently subsidizing those very large loads.

There was some discussion about the use of the facility by contractors doing work for town residents who deposited large loads, and some council members wondered if finding ways to prevent contractors from using a facility intended for residents could cut disposal costs enough to prevent the station's closure.

The Town Council meets for its next regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 11, at 6:30 p.m. Prior to that, the town will hold a budget referendum to consider revised versions of the town and education budgets on Wednesday, Aug. 5.

## Light Up the Lake

The Friends of Lake Pocotopaug invites boat owners to decorate their boats with lights and gather for the annual Light Up the Lake on Saturday, Aug. 8, at 8:30 p.m., in the waters in front of CVS/bow & arrow sign.

Then slowly cruise around the lake, when you hear the four blasts of an air horn, passing by Sears Park first, and continue cruising around the lake past many lake and beach associations and bays. Boaters are asked to cruise at no-wake speed.

This is not an organized boat parade. You do not need to fill out an entry form; just feel free to join in. Participate at your own risk. The Friends group said it cannot guarantee that boats will go around the whole lake or pass by at any particular time. Sears Park will be open past dusk for people to park and watch the boats going by.

Property owners, businesses, and lake associations are encouraged to put lights up too!

For more information, call Cap Egan at 860-395-7844.

## Resident in Motorcycle Challenge

On Aug. 2, East Hampton resident Mark Niosi will embark on the 2026 Hoka Hey Motorcycle Challenge, which spans more than 11,000 miles under 11 days on backroads across North America. This Sunday, there will be a community event supporting the upcoming ride.

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.

Niosi will be one of 100 riders, and 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.

Visit [www.MarkyMarkHokaHey2026.com](http://www.MarkyMarkHokaHey2026.com) to make a donation online.

## Lions Club Scholarship Raffle

The East Hampton Lions Club is conducting a raffle to support its annual scholarship program. The club each year offers four \$1,500 awards to East Hampton graduating students.

The raffle offers a \$2,026 grand prize this year. First prize is \$226, with two winners, second prize is \$156 with two winners, and third prize is \$56 with two winners. Winners of the first, second and third prizes are reentered for the grand prize drawing. Seven hundred total tickets will be sold.

The drawing will take place Saturday, Oct. 24, at 2:26 p.m., at the Lions Picnic Pavillion, 62 N. Main St. Winners need not be present.

For more information or tickets, call Lion Tom Denman at 860-519-4951.

## Absentee Ballots for Primary

The Democratic primary for governor will be held Tuesday, Aug. 11, at East Hampton High School, 15 North Maple St. Early voting will occur Aug. 3-9, at Town Hall.

Absentee ballots are available at the Town Clerk's office, located at 1 Community Drive. Office hours are Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.; Tuesday, 8 a.m.-6:30 p.m.; and Friday, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Only Democratic registered voters are eligible to obtain an absentee ballot for this primary.

For more information, call 860 267-2519.

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# All-State Bellringer Headed to Eastern

**By Josh Howard**

Following an all-state senior season at East Hampton High School, 2026 graduate Colin Marshall is headed to play college soccer.

“After years of hard work and determination, I’m blessed to announce my commitment to continue my academic and athletic career at Eastern Connecticut State University,” Marshall posted on social media following his decision last fall. “I’d like to thank my family, friends, and teammates for always pushing me to be my best.”

Marshall departs the Bellringers soccer program after a four-year window of excellence in which East Hampton won a pair of Shoreline Conference (SLC) championships and made the state championship game when he was a freshman contributor in 2022.

This past fall, Marshall was a senior leader and prolific offensive weapon that was named Class S All-State by the Connecticut Boys Soccer Coaches Association and was selected as All-SLC first-team as a forward.

Marshall said he was proud of what the team accomplished during his time at EHHS and that it was rewarding to end his high school career on an individual “high note”, adding, “This year I had more freedom to be my own player and work on my game.”

Playing beyond high school was never a doubt for Marshall, who grew up in a Brazilian household that had a deep passion for the game. His older brother, Ethan, was also an all-con-

ference soccer player for the Bellringers before graduating in 2024.

One of the main things that Marshall said he has learned over the years is the importance of having the right family around, both on and off the field.

“These are the people who matter and you’ll have them for the rest of your life,” noted Marshall.

The Marshall brothers will now reunite at ECSU where Ethan is a student heading into his junior year at the school in Willimantic.

Colin Marshall said his older brother was someone he looked up to growing up and, although injuries limited their time of the field together at EHHS, he referred to the two as “best friends on the field.”

At Eastern, Marshall is joining a Warriors team that is coached by Greg DeVito, the program’s all-time winningest coach and a three-time Little East Conference (LEC) Coach of the Year

Under DeVito’s leadership, the Warriors have won over 65% of their games and captured multiple LEC titles. Following the LEC championship in 2021, Eastern was awarded the Coaching Staff-of-the-Year in the Little East for the second time in four seasons.

Marshall said that DeVito and his staff were one of the main draws to the school, adding, “What stood out to me was how proven and successful they have been.”

Outside of school, Marshall was part of Span-



**Colin Marshall, a 2026 graduate of East Hampton High School, will play soccer at Eastern Connecticut State University.**

ish Club at EHHS and took part in numerous community services activities that benefitted both the school and town.

After living in Belltown his entire life, Marshall said he is ready to ring the next chapter

## 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.

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

**Men’s Group:** The Men’s Breakfast Bible Study will meet Wednesday, Aug. 12, from 7-8 a.m. to share scripture around what the Bible says about being a man. There will be coffee, pastries and conversation

**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).

## Barbecued Chicken Dinner

Haddam Neck Covenant Church is hosting a barbecued chicken dinner drive-thru take-out event on Saturday, Aug. 8, by reservation only.

This is the famous barbecued chicken the church has sold at the Haddam Neck Fair for over 40 years. The dinner includes a barbecued thigh/leg chicken quarter, baked beans, coleslaw, dinner roll and water bottle, for \$15;

cash only, please.

Call in your reservation to the HNCC Church office at 860-267-2336 or email to [officehncc@gmail.com](mailto:officehncc@gmail.com) and indicate your pick-up time between noon and 5 p.m. Order deadline is Aug. 4.

HNCC is located at 17 Haddam Neck Rd. in East Hampton.

## 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.

**Open Mic Night:** Friday, Aug. 4, 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.

**Chatham Community Chess Club:** Wednesdays, Aug. 5 and 19, from 6-9 p.m. All ages and skill levels welcome; lessons available. For more

information, contact [pjhoffman1@juno.com](mailto:pjhoffman1@juno.com).

**Save the Date:** All are invited to the library’s celebration of the nation’s 250th year on Sunday, Sept. 13. The Dirty Blue Shirts, a Living History Collective, will offer a variety of maritime-related demonstrations, talks and exhibits. Refreshments will be served on the library’s new porch.

**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 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, and more.

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

Linefit: Held Mondays, Aug. 17 and 31, Sept. 14 and 28, Oct 19 and Nov. 2, at 2 p.m. Fee is \$18

for the series, or drop-ins welcome for \$5 each week. Class taught by Mariana Sigleski.

Bike Rides for Seniors with Ride Leader Kim Clouser: Friday, July 31, 10 a.m., featuring a ride at Washington Secondary Bike Path, 105 Railroad St., Greene, R.I., with a stop for lunch. Sponsored by Air Line Cycles, the rides are offered for ages 55 and older at a different location every Friday. Call the senior center to sign up at 860-267-4426.

Trips: Goodspeed Matinee of Crazy for You: Thursday, Aug. 6, departing at 1 p.m., for a 2 p.m. show. Cost is \$70 and includes bus donation; sign up in person at the senior center.

East Hampton Lunch Bunch: Enjoy lunch together on Friday, Aug. 14, at the Lakeside Bar and Grill in East Hampton. Meet at the Senior Center at 11:30 a.m. and travel by Xtramile Bus to the restaurant. Payment due from each diner to the restaurant. Different eateries featured every month.

## Potluck and Organ Concert

Haddam Neck Congregational Church, located at 408 Quarry Hill Rd., Haddam Neck, will host a potluck picnic Sunday, Aug. 9, followed by a Broadway Showtune show on the church’s Ahlborn-Galante organ.

The picnic starts at 2 p.m., followed by the concert at 4 p.m. with organist Bob Carangelo accompanied by vocalist Tim Throckmorton, both of Middle Haddam. Bring a side dish to share. Singing along is encouraged!

For more information, call 860-993-5311 or email [mapionzio@comcast.net](mailto:mapionzio@comcast.net).

## VBS at Bethlehem Lutheran

Vacation Bible School at Bethlehem Lutheran Church will be held Aug. 3-7, from 5-8 p.m. each night – including a special kids’ performance on Friday night. Children in kindergarten through fifth grade are welcome.

The theme this year is “Baobob Blast.” Crafts, music, games, and activities will be offered. Supper will be provided.

To register, see the form on Bethlehem Lutheran’s Facebook page, or call 860-267-4272.

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# Officials Remain Divided on Town Budget

By Anne Lilburn

East Hampton’s Board of Finance and Town Council both voted to send a revised \$19.36 million general government budget to a town-wide referendum vote nearly two weeks ago, and while discussions at those meetings seemed to be moving closer to consensus, board and council members remained divided on where they stood on the revised budget.

The last round of discussions, which took place after the town failed to pass a second budget at a referendum on July 14, resulted in \$340,949 worth of cuts. Those cuts included sidewalk snow clearing and the planned closure of the town transfer station (with a plan to enter into a contract with an outside vendor to provide equivalent services). The Board of Finance had, in the prior round of budget revisions, also planned to use some of the town’s surplus to fund one-time capital projects.

“This budget represents a thoughtful compromise,” said Board of Finance member Dan Caterisano, a Democrat. “It is a responsible spending plan that recognizes the financial pressures facing our residents, while still investing in the services that make East Hampton a strong community. I understand that many families are feeling the impact of rising costs, and affordability has been at the forefront of every discussion. At the same time, we have an obligation to maintain public safety, invest in our infrastructure, support our schools, and preserve the quality of life that makes people want to live and raise their families here.”

“Fiscal responsibility doesn’t simply mean spending less,” said Caterisano, “It means making smart decisions that protect the long-term health of our town while respecting taxpayers.”

Fellow Democrat and Board of Finance Vice Chair Dan Finn agreed.

“I’m incredibly disappointed by the results of both [previous] referendums and the need to enact further cuts to both town government and the Board of Education,” said Finn, noting that the town’s use of surplus to fund one-time capital projects helped to reduce the need for additional tax revenue.

“Unfortunately,” said Finn, “the voters who seemed most motivated were those who conflated the changes in their property taxes due to the revaluation (in many cases a large increase) with the change in taxes due to the budget (a very small increase).”

Both Finn and Caterisano urged voters to vote yes.

“If this referendum does not pass,” said Caterisano, “I believe the reductions required to produce another budget will become significantly more difficult. After two rounds of cuts, there are very few areas left where meaningful reductions can be made without affecting the services residents rely on every day. Additional reductions would likely require more substantial cuts to both the town budget and the Board of Education budget. Those decisions become increasingly difficult because they move beyond efficiencies and begin affecting programs, services, and operations that directly impact our community.”

On the other side of the aisle, Republican Board of Finance member Jim Radavich said he continued to oppose the budget, saying that he believed that “town surplus money should be added to our fund balance and not spent on projects that were not voted on in the original budget.”

Radavich also said he was against the closing of the town’s transfer station, noting that it was first brought up for discussion at the board’s July 20 meeting with “no previous discussion.” Radavich worried that a “thorough vetting process is being overlooked” and said he believed “further discussion among town officials and town residents needs to happen first.”

Fellow Republican Board of Finance member Alison Walck echoed Radavich’s concerns about the transfer station and said she also did not support the budget. Walck also said she had not been in favor of using the town’s surplus to fund projects. She likened it to managing her own personal budget

“My feeling is, if I have surplus money, I’m not going to go out to Walmart and just blow

it, because it’s going to be gone,” she said. “I’m a little old frugal lady who believes in saving.”

Walck said that while others favored “spending down the surplus,” she was “more along the lines of, put the surplus in a savings account” to pay for future expenditures, like a new firehouse.

Town Council member Ted Hintz, a Republican, said he continued to urge voters to vote ‘no.’

“While some reductions have been made since the previous referendum, the fundamental issues remain unchanged,” he said in an email. “Taxpayers have repeatedly made it clear that they want the town to prioritize rebuilding our deteriorating roads and focus on core municipal services. Instead, road funding continues to be underfunded while additional spending is preserved by increasing the use of fund balance (surplus) to support other budget items. Using more savings is not a spending cut, it simply changes where the money comes from while allowing the same expenditures to continue.”

Hintz particularly took issue with the closure of the town’s transfer station.

“Closing a municipal facility is a policy decision, not a budget cut,” he said. “The Town Council, the town’s policy-making body, never debated it in public, never voted on it, and residents were never given the opportunity to weigh in before it was folded into the budget.”

Town Manager Dave Cox stated at the council’s July 28 meeting that the proposal to close the transfer station and engage with a private company to provide the town equivalent services, came after a Belltown Recycling Center approached the town, unsolicited, to provide those services. Under the currently proposed plan, the town would operate the transfer station until Jan. 1.

Town Council members Jack Solomon, Rich Knotek, and Joelyn Leon, all Democrats, said

they urged voters to approve the proposed town budget.

“I strongly support the town and the education budgets,” said Solomon. “We have made significant cuts in both budgets. Further cuts will result in significant reductions in what the town and schools can do. You can’t cut the budget without doing less. At some point East Hampton will be a less desirable place to live because the town and educational services normally provided, are not available.”

Knotek indicated his ‘yes’ recommendation for both budgets did not mean he was happy with where they stood. After so many cuts, he said he had concerns about what the next round of cuts might bring.

“In 20 years of service to the town, I have never seen as destructive a budget as the one for the next referendum,” he said. “In one year, we are undoing years of progress that have been built carefully and thoughtfully in making East Hampton a better place: a town where people want to come, raise families and enjoy a great community.”

“To accept this budget, frankly, sickens me,” Knotek said, “but maybe what it will do is stop the downside, make us appreciative of what we have (which is still pretty great), and recommit to a road to progress that we know can be achieved.”

He urged the town to “reset and move forward.”

Town Council chair Dean Markham, a Democrat, said he didn’t even want to consider what would happen if the budgets did not pass.

“I’m an optimist; it’s going to pass,” he said. “I think people have looked at what’s been done. There’s been an honest good faith effort to reduce the budget by the Board of Finance and Board of Education.”

## Police News

7/12: A 16-year-old juvenile of Colchester was issued a summons for disobeying an officer’s signal, reckless driving and failure to have two tail lamps, East Hampton Police said.

7/26: Jacob Paradise, 24, of East Hampton, was arrested and charged with failure to drive right, traveling too fast for conditions and operating under the influence, police said.

From July 20-26, officers responded to 15 medical calls, seven motor vehicle crashes and seven alarms, and made 13 traffic stops, police said.

## 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).

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

**East Hampton Farm Stand Crawl:** Aug. 15, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Support local farms at your own pace! Pick up a free Participating Farm list at East Hampton Recreation or East Hampton Public Library, or visit [www.easthamptonrec.com](http://www.easthamptonrec.com).

**Herbal Walk and Talk:** Aug. 18, 6-7:30 p.m. All are invited to explore common herbs, learn about their traditional uses and take home a bundle of fresh herbs. Cost is \$25.

**Camp Scholarships:** The Belltown Garden Club is offering three camp scholarships to encourage children to explore the outdoors, con-

nect with nature, and learn about gardening and the environment. Scholarships are available for one-week East Hampton Recreation programs. Families interested in applying for a scholarship 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.

## 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.

## 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 a.m. at St. Bridget and 9 a.m. at St. Patrick.

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

Confessions are Saturdays at 3 p.m. at St. Patrick and 6:30 p.m. at St. Bridget.

The parish website is [www.sjprii.org](http://www.sjprii.org).

## Murder Mystery at Library

All adults are invited to a murder mystery party on Thursday, Aug. 6, at 6:30 p.m., at East Hampton Public Library, 105 Main St.

This is an end-of-summer reading celebration specifically for adults, though participation in the summer reading program is not necessary to sign up. “A Murder Most Curated” takes place in CT’s first mob museum; audience participation and 1920s - 1930s Prohibition-era dress are encouraged. Light refreshments will be served.

This Friends of the Library-sponsored event is adults only; registration required. Register at [www.easthamptonpubliclibrary.org](http://www.easthamptonpubliclibrary.org).

## Classifieds Pay

The Glastonbury Citizen & Rivereast News Bulletin

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# State Senate Primary Coming Up

By Toriana Williams

Republican voters in Hebron and Marlborough will head to the polls Tuesday, Aug. 11, to determine who exactly will square off against Democratic state Sen. Cathy Osten in the fall.

Mike France of Gales Ferry, a former state representative, and Hebron's own Jason Guidone, chair of the Hebron Republican Town Committee, are vying for the title of Republican nominee for Connecticut State Senate District 19.

The district includes the *Rivereast* towns of Hebron and Marlborough, as well as Columbia, Franklin, Lebanon, Ledyard, Lisbon, Norwich, Sprague and part of Montville. Osten currently serves as state senator for the district, and is seeking her eighth term in the office she has held since 2013.

For Hebron and Marlborough, polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Aug. 11. Early voting will take place at their respective town halls from Aug. 3 to Aug. 9, with times varying from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Visit town websites for specified times.

France, a former state representative for District 42 who served from 2016 to 2023, said his experience in an elected office makes him the strongest Republican candidate.

“Every election that I have run, I have learned something. Each time has made me a better

candidate,” France told the *Rivereast*. “One of the big things as the voters look to make their decision ... is who has the best opportunity to win in November.”

When asked about his priorities, France shared that affordability is the top issue he hears from voters throughout the district.

“I think the number one issue that I hear about talking to the voters around the district is affordability,” he said. “Many people as they retire are leaving, and they don't want to, but they can't afford to stay.”

France argued Connecticut is now more expensive for residents due to state spending. He also pointed to rising electric bills and the state's public benefit charge.

Public safety is another priority for France, who said he believes crime is underreported because prosecutors are pursuing fewer cases.

“We are seeing a rise in crime across the state. They claim it is not, but it is. Because what they do is they look at convictions, not the actual crime that's happening,” he said.

Drawing on his eight years of serving on the legislature's Appropriations Committee, France said he would work to reduce state spending while maintaining funding for municipalities.

When asked why Republican voters should

nominate him instead of Guidone, France emphasized his previous experience.

“The simple answer is that I have the better chance to win in November [against Osten],” he said. “Based on my experience, and my background, and having a history of winning elections, I have the best opportunity.”

Guidone actually went up against Osten before, in 2024. While he lost that race, he said the run prepared him or this year's campaign.

“The win was building the relationships,” he said. “It was learning the ins and outs of how to actually be a candidate, what it takes to run a campaign.”

According to Guidone, his interest in politics

## 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 males and females ages 13-20 are invited to join. The Cadet program 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 [troopkcadets028@gmail.com](mailto:troopkcadets028@gmail.com).

grew after he became frustrated with how state lawmakers responded to public testimony.

“I did the written and spoken testimony, protests and watched the response from our legislative body, and I didn't really appreciate it,” he explained. “It seemed to me like they were not listening to large volumes of people.”

The experience led him to become active in local politics before launching his first State Senate campaign.

Guidone said affordability is the 19th District's biggest challenge. “Fiscal survival seems to be the pain point,” he said.

He argued that reducing taxes and government costs should be a priority, and added that his plan, if elected, would be to “reduce overhead, reduce taxes, lower the burden on the individuals and the businesses.”

Like France, Guidone said public safety is a major concern. He said conversations with law enforcement officers have led him to believe Connecticut's police accountability laws have created hesitation among officers.

Guidone also said local communities should have greater control over issues such as zoning rather than relying on statewide mandates.

When asked why voters should support him, Guidone said he wants to bring residents' ideas straight to the Capitol. “I want to bring what I see is lacking to the legislative body, and that is the voice of the people,” he said.

## Tri-County Legion Fall Baseball

Tri-County's American Legion baseball program is looking for prospective players for its fall season.

Serious players with a parent residing in Andover, Colchester, East Haddam, East Hampton, Hebron, Lebanon or Marlborough are eligible. The fall league is designed for players who will be between the ages of 12-19 in 2027 and teams will be organized at several age groups, depending on interest.

Go to [www.tcleion.com](http://www.tcleion.com) for more details on the fall format, team makeup and fees.

Deadline to register is Monday, Aug. 3, but some age-group teams are expected to fill up prior to that date.

The fall program will serve as a preliminary tryout for selection to Tri-County's summer 2027 Legion teams, which will be filled through the fall program as well as winter tryouts.

Interested players are encouraged to contact General Manager Len Lampugnale at 860-295-0437 or at [Lampugnale@comcast.net](mailto:Lampugnale@comcast.net) with any additional questions.

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by George M. Mantikas, DMD

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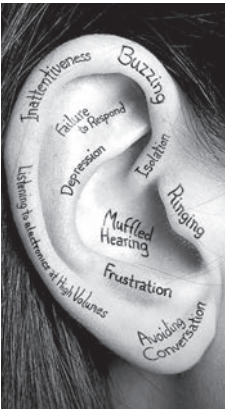
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*P.S. Temporary dentures, also called immediate dentures, are not custom molded to your mouth and may slip or move as your mouth heals from extractions.*

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### ANNUAL BUDGET REFERENDUM WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2026

#### TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON TOWN COUNCIL APPROVED BUDGET - AUGUST 5, 2026 REFERENDUM July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027

|                                                         | ACTUAL<br>2024-2025 | Approved<br>2025-2026 | Town Council<br>Approved<br>2026-2027 | INCREASE/<br>(DECREASE) | 2026 to 2027<br>Percent Change<br>From Original Bud. |
|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>EXPENDITURES</b>                                     |                     |                       |                                       |                         |                                                      |
| <b>EDUCATION</b>                                        | \$ 38,272,708       | \$ 38,762,951         | \$ 39,550,937                         | \$ 787,986              | 2.03%                                                |
| TOWN OPERATIONS                                         |                     |                       |                                       |                         |                                                      |
| ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE                                | 5,112,948           | 5,499,703             | 6,007,809                             | 508,106                 | 9.24%                                                |
| PUBLIC SAFETY                                           | 3,236,287           | 3,656,589             | 3,651,982                             | (4,607)                 | -0.13%                                               |
| HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES                                 | 508,305             | 592,486               | 612,483                               | 19,997                  | 3.38%                                                |
| CULTURE & RECREATION                                    | 1,026,437           | 1,146,735             | 1,137,846                             | (8,889)                 | -0.78%                                               |
| REGULATORY                                              | 500,250             | 561,112               | 572,306                               | 11,194                  | 1.99%                                                |
| PUBLIC WORKS                                            | 2,654,087           | 2,737,319             | 2,632,248                             | (105,071)               | -3.84%                                               |
| TRANSFERS TO OTHER FUNDS                                |                     |                       |                                       |                         |                                                      |
| OTHER FUNDS                                             | 202,500             | 42,500                | 42,500                                | -                       | 0.00%                                                |
| CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT                                     | 1,716,456           | 1,667,700             | 807,800                               | (859,900)               | -51.56%                                              |
| DEBT SERVICE                                            | 3,904,325           | 3,892,636             | 3,893,986                             | 1,350                   | 0.03%                                                |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>                               | \$ 57,134,303       | \$ 58,559,731         | \$ 58,909,897                         | \$ 350,166              | 0.60%                                                |
| <b>REVENUES</b>                                         |                     |                       |                                       |                         |                                                      |
| FEDERAL REVENUES                                        | \$ 3,831            | \$ 2,000              | \$ 2,000                              | \$ -                    | 0.00%                                                |
| GRANTS - STATE OF CT (EDUCATION)                        | 6,925,379           | 6,980,295             | 6,983,110                             | 2,815                   | 0.04%                                                |
| GRANTS - STATE OF CT (OTHER)                            | 1,279,070           | 1,697,192             | 1,918,029                             | 220,837                 | 13.01%                                               |
| LICENSES, PERMITS AND FEES                              | 877,052             | 696,725               | 719,430                               | 22,705                  | 3.26%                                                |
| OTHER REVENUE                                           | 179,279             | 86,529                | 91,639                                | 5,110                   | 5.91%                                                |
| INVESTMENT INCOME                                       | 349,063             | 150,000               | 175,000                               | 25,000                  | 16.67%                                               |
| PROPERTY TAX REVENUE (PRIOR YEARS)                      | 1,252,717           | 926,750               | 951,750                               | 25,000                  | 2.70%                                                |
| TRANSFERS FROM OTHER FUNDS                              | 30,785              | 31,710                | 32,661                                | 951                     | 3.00%                                                |
| <b>TOTAL REVENUES (Before taxes &amp; fund balance)</b> | \$ 10,897,176       | \$ 10,571,201         | \$ 10,873,619                         | \$ 302,418              | 2.86%                                                |
| <b>USE OF FUND BALANCE</b>                              |                     |                       |                                       |                         |                                                      |
| PROPERTY TAXES (Motor Vehicle) Capped at 32.46 mills    | \$ 4,608,670        | \$ 4,046,098          | \$ 3,642,274                          | \$ (403,824)            | -9.98%                                               |
| PROPERTY TAXES (Real Estate and Personal Property)      | \$ 41,986,102       | \$ 43,942,432         | \$ 44,394,004                         | \$ 451,572              | 1.03%                                                |
| <b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>                                   | \$ 57,491,948       | \$ 58,559,731         | \$ 58,909,897                         | \$ 350,166              | 0.60%                                                |
| NET GRAND LIST (REAL ESTATE & PERSONAL PROPERTY)        | \$ 1,114,325,954    | \$ 1,123,554,906      | \$ 1,620,321,010                      | \$ 496,766,104          | 44.21%                                               |
| NET GRAND LIST (MOTOR VEHICLE)                          | \$ 150,039,328      | \$ 126,546,950        | \$ 132,938,060                        | \$ 6,391,110            | 5.05%                                                |
| VALUE OF MILL (REAL ESTATE & PERSONAL PROPERTY)         | \$ 1,097,611        | \$ 1,106,702          | \$ 1,596,016                          |                         |                                                      |
| VALUE OF MILL (MOTOR VEHICLE)                           |                     |                       | \$ 130,944                            |                         |                                                      |
| ESTIMATED COLLECTION RATE                               | 98.50%              | 98.50%                | 98.50%                                |                         |                                                      |
| <b>MILL RATE</b>                                        | 38.04               | 39.71                 | 27.82                                 | (11.89)                 | -29.94%                                              |
| <b>EAST HAMPTON TOWN COUNCIL</b>                        |                     |                       |                                       |                         |                                                      |
| Dean Markham, Chairperson                               |                     |                       |                                       |                         |                                                      |
| Jack Solomon, Vice Chairperson                          |                     |                       |                                       |                         |                                                      |
| Tim Feegel                                              |                     |                       |                                       |                         |                                                      |
| Ted Hintz                                               |                     |                       |                                       |                         |                                                      |
| Richard Knotek                                          |                     |                       |                                       |                         |                                                      |
| Joelyn Leon                                             |                     |                       |                                       |                         |                                                      |
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1TB 7/31

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RE6-26-20

RHAM • RHAM • RHAM • RHAM • RHAM • RHAM • RHAM • RHAM •

KinderRHAMa Preschool Openings

AHM Youth and Family Services has limited openings in the Tuesday/Thursday KinderRHAMa Preschool class at RHAM High School for the 2026-27 school year.

There are full-day and part-day slots available. Parents can choose from 7 a.m.-3 p.m. or 8:30 a.m.-noon. Cost per year for is \$2,490 for the partial day, and \$3,600 for the full day. Fees can be paid in monthly installments. There may be financial aid available to families who qualify.

KinderRHAMa offers structured and unstructured theme-based activities, as well as many enrichment activities. Regular activities

include circle/story time, outside play, literacy, science and math-based activities, and daily arts and crafts projects. The class is led by two trained teachers, and RHAM students also assist in the program.

More information is at ahmyouth.org/programs-services/kinderrhama-preschool-program. Children must be fully toilet-trained to participate.

If you are interested or have further questions, contact Becky Murray at beckym@ahmyouth.org or 860-573-1260.

AHM Youth and Family Programs

AHM Youth and Family Services offers a range of programs for all ages. The Health Matters programs include macrame, watercolor, pottery painting, yoga and more.

Stay tuned to the AHM website, ahmyouth.org, and its social media accounts to learn the latest and sign up.

Red Cross Blood Drive

The RHAM Medical Careers class will host a summer blood drive with the American Red Cross on Friday, Aug. 7, from noon-5 p.m., in the high school gym.

To make an appointment, go to tinyurl.com/rhamblooddrive

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

★ Colchester Budget, cont. from page 1

“I hear from [First Selectman Bernie Dennler] constantly, ‘Well, these are contractual obligations. You know, they’re higher contractual obligations.’” he said. “That’s because he keeps giving them raises. That’s the problem.”

On a different note, Thomas praised the larger turnout, saying both supporters and opponents of the budgets worked hard to encourage residents to vote.

“We all were working very hard to make sure that people didn’t take the day off and go fishing, that they took the day off and went and voted,” he laughed.

Looking ahead, Thomas said he believes much deeper reductions will be needed before voters approve a budget.

“We have to cut something,” he said. “It’s time to cut the fat and trim it down a little bit more.”

Thomas also expressed frustration with fellow BOF members and said they ignored his recommendations throughout the budget process.

“I’ve been the sole voice on the Board of Finance that’s been objecting to all of these increases,” he said. “The town has spoken, and we need to reduce the ask considerably if we’re going to get a budget to pass.”

Board of Education Chair Stefanie Tracey-Calash, a Democrat, viewed the results much differently.

“I am disappointed in the outcome,” she said. “Our children, district staff, teachers and public employees are going to suffer because we can’t come to a consensus as a community.”

Despite being disappointed, Tracey-Calash welcomed the increased turnout.

“26% of our voter base participated,” she said. “While that’s not a huge turnout, it is significant for Colchester, and indicates to me that our community is engaged and involved. That’s never a bad thing.”

She acknowledged that many families are struggling financially.

“I think times are tough,” said Tracey-Calash. “People are being pinched at the grocery store, the gas station and in their own homes – they want to have some control over what’s coming out of their wallets, and I don’t blame them.”

However, she said schools face the same financial pressures.

“We can’t simply ignore our obligations or strip away legally required opportunities from our kids in order to save a buck,” she said.

Tracey-Calash warned that further reductions would more than likely affect programs outside of the district’s core academic and safety priorities.

She said the district would first try to protect “core academic programming, student safety, Special Education services and daily school operations,” but acknowledged that areas such as sports, world language instruction and middle school extracurricular activities could face cuts.

“For those also disappointed by [the] vote, now is not the time to become complacent,” she said. “There will be public meetings in the coming weeks where you can make your voices heard.”

Board of Selectman member Tim Vaillancourt, a Republican, said the referendum results matched what he had been publicly predicting for weeks.

“I’m not surprised in the least,” said Vaillancourt. “I told them. I voted against sending it to referendum. I told them it wouldn’t pass. Nobody listened.”

Vaillancourt argued that town leaders failed, again, to understand voters’ frustration.

“When the referendum got voted down the first time, people had the expectation, ‘We sent this message. People are gonna listen.’ And nobody listened,” he said.

Like Thomas, Vaillancourt believes the BOE budget will require a substantially larger reduction. “It’s \$3 million,” he said. “That’s what the cut’s going to take to pass.”

Vaillancourt questioned whether the reductions outlined by school officials would actually happen if more cuts are required.

“I don’t believe any of it,” he said. “Every year they come to us, ‘We need X amount more.’ Every year there’s hundreds of thousands of dollars left somehow.”

He argued that proposed cuts to athletics and music programs are often used by the board to generate public opposition.

“Band was never gonna get cut,” said Vaillancourt. “It’s just a scare tactic. It’s the same thing with sports.”

Dennler, a Democrat, said voters delivered a clear message.

“The voters have spoken,” said Dennler. “The margin was closer, but it’s clear a majority of voters want to see spending reduced. Our job is to find ways to implement that demand.”

Dennler said both inflation and concerns about preserving local services is likely what contributed to the higher turnout.

“The outcome matters to people’s daily lives in this town, so it’s not surprising to see a high turnout,” he said.

He noted that the BOF will determine the next steps. However, he warned that meaningful reductions will have consequences.

“The message is clear that people want spending reduced,” said Dennler. “That doesn’t mean there’s easy answers.”

Dennler emphasized that Colchester’s town budget has remained relatively lean for years and that many expenses are tied to contractual obligations rather than new programs.

“I believe all options will be on the table,” he said. “I expect to see cuts that will end up affecting both capital maintenance and town services.”

He also urged residents to think about the long-term impact of future decisions.

“We don’t want to dig a hole that we can’t get out of by decimating capital maintenance budgets,” said Dennler. “You can delay paving a road, but you can’t stop paving roads.”

Board of Finance Chair Karen Belding, a Democrat, said officials are already preparing for the next phase of the budget process. “We are working on the exact timeline of next steps now,” said Belding. “I expect this cycle will move more quickly than the last round, since not a lot of key information has changed.”

She said the BOF is likely to hold meetings and make decisions within the next week. She encouraged residents to stay informed and participate in the process.

Belding also added that the board is committed to listening to voters.

“The Board of Finance remains committed to continue following the path laid out by the voters,” Belding said. “I urge all of Colchester to pay attention for information, dates and meetings in the near future as the process continues to unfold so that they can stay educated and avoid misinformation.”

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DOG'S LIFE

★ Answers page 29

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CREATORS NEWS SERVICE

By Neil Manausa

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44 Late pianist Van  
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LEGALS

TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON  
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS  
NOTICE OF HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing at their Meeting on Monday, August 10, 2026 at 6:30pm at the East Hampton Town Hall - 1 Community Drive, Room 117 and via Zoom to consider the following application: **ZBA-26-006:** Kevin & Amanda Reed, Requesting the following variance to section 4.1.E Area & Dimensional standards to allow reduction of side setback variance from 10' to 3' and increase Maximum Lot Coverage from 44.06% to 44.20% for construction of a deck, on 5 Hawthorne Map 10A/ Block 82/ Lot 34A Applications are on file in the Land Use Office and Town Clerk Office 860 267-7450

2TB 7/31, 8/7

TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON  
PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION  
LEGAL NOTICE  
Notice of Hearing

Notice is hereby given that the East Hampton Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing at their meeting on Wednesday August 5, 2026 at 6:30 pm. at the East Hampton Town Hall — 1 Community Drive, Room 107 and via ZOOM to consider **Application # PZC-26-009:** Skinner Street Properties LLC. Special Permit modification to provide for additional mixed use/ commercial and industrial uses, 46 Skinner St. East Hampton, CT 06424. Map 20/Block 48C/Lot 17A. Applications and Plans are on file in the Land Use Office 860-267-7450.

Ray Zatorski, Chairman

2TB 7/24, 7/31

*Portland*

The family of James E. Piatti of Portland is deeply saddened to announce his passing on Monday, July 13, at the age of 71. Born May 29, 1955, Jim was the son of the late Joseph Piatti and Sarah "Sadie" (Long) Piatti of Portland.



Jim was a 1975 graduate of Vinal Technical High School in Middletown, graduating from the Tool and Die trade. He married Rose (Magnano) Piatti, also of Portland, on Sept. 17, 1977. They resided in Portland for 48 years, where they raised their two daughters, Danielle Piatti and Lisa Piatti (Johnson).

Jim was a devoted employee no matter where he worked. He started working at the age of 13 for Portland Boat Works where the owner, Jarv Barton, took Jim “under his wing” and became his mentor, as Jim’s father passed when he was 9 years old.

Jim worked for the town of Portland at the Highway Garage; he was a constable for the town of Portland as well as a volunteer fireman for 50 years for Company #1. He then worked for Continental Can, also known as Stone Container, then Smurfit Stone for 20 years until retirement. He then worked another 20 years for Middlesex Mutual, retiring again in 2020.

His preferred line of work was being in the scrap metal recycling industry for over 60 years. Many called him “Jim the Junk Man.” Wheelin’ and dealin’ brought him much work fulfillment. He loved his “Golden Treasures”. After he retired, he’d help out who ever and whenever was needed. He helped out at Eggs Up Restaurant as he and the owner, Kim Greenlaw, have been friends for 35 years.

He enjoyed helping friends and family using his equipment to get projects done for whom-ever needed. He also enjoyed using his creative “rigging” abilities to conquer what most people would not have challenged. Those who knew him knew him as a human machine. The ability to help others in a situation where most thought was impossible gave him great satisfaction. If you were one of those people, you know!

Jim took care of whoever needed the help – no matter who or what the situation you ALWAYS could ask him for whatever you needed and he without hesitation, would lend a hand.

Although he worked A LOT, he did manage to find non-working enjoyments. Fishing (especially with his nephew Robbie Warner and his daughter Lisa), spending family gatherings and holidays with the ones he loved, dinner dates with his wife Rose, family and friends, casino trips, he loved putting together and maintaining a very large vegetable garden, collecting antiques of all sorts, collecting a variety of cars and trucks . Jim also loved his many dogs throughout his life.

Jim was always up for a planned or spontaneous adventure with his daughter Lisa. She was the apple of his eye, his sidekick, his best friend, his biggest joy in life.

Besides his wife and daughters, Jim leaves behind his brother, Joseph Piatti; his son-in-law, Roger Johnson; his grandson, Jonathan John-

son; his nephew, Robbie Warner and his wife Amanda Warner; his sisters-in-law, Francine Magnano and Donna Zawistowski; many nieces and nephews, cousins; and friends he considered family.

Please make a memorial contribution to the  
Portland Fire Department, Portland Food Bank  
or The Portland Animal Shelter.

He will be buried at the convenience of the family.

## Colchester

Mary Ann Linane

Mary Ann Linane, of Colchester, passed away at her home Thursday, July 23, with her beloved family attentively by her side. She was 82 years old. Mary Ann was born July 4, 1944, in Bridgeport. She was a daughter of the late Louis and Jennie Toth. She grew up in Fairfield and graduated from high school there.



Mary Ann met the love of her life and was married to James Francis Linane on April 4, 1964. The couple settled in Stratford, where they made their home and raised their family. James predeceased her on January 7th of this year, after 61 years of marriage. Mary Ann was a devout Catholic, attending St. James Church in Stratford. She retired several years ago after a varied career, once as a self-employed "Korner Grocery Store" owner in Bridgeport for 10 years. She then went on to be the bookkeeper for Shaw's Grocery Store, retiring from there.

In her free time, Mary Ann could be found in the exercise room, where physical fitness was a priority. She also loved crafting homemade Christmas ornaments and doing needlework. She treasured her time with her family and friends vacationing or celebrating holidays and birthdays together. She will be remembered fondly as a fiercely loyal, strongly independent woman, who made her mind known. If disagreeable, she would merely say, "that's interesting."

Most importantly, Mary Ann was a loving and devoted wife, mother, and grandmother. She will be sadly missed but always remembered with love by her children and their spouses, Sharon (Patrick) Macken of Punta Gorda, Fla., Richard (Michelle) Linane of Colchester; grandchildren, Richard Linane Jr. and Rebecca Linane; a brother, Thomas Toth of Stratford; and many extended family members and friends.

In addition to her husband and parents, she was predeceased by three brothers, Robert, Stephen and William Toth; and two sisters, Barbara Mester and Jacqueline Moylan.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, Aug. 1, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester, beginning with visitation from noon to 2 p.m., followed by a celebration of life memorial service at the funeral home at 2 p.m. Burial will be private.

Donations in Mary Ann's memory may be made to the American Kidney Fund.

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

## East Hampton

## Robert Gendron

With profound sadness, we announce the passing of Robert "Bob" Gendron, 69, of East Haddam. After a recent diagnosis of pancreatic cancer, Bob passed away peacefully on Wednesday, July 22, surrounded by his loving family.



Bob was a devoted father, leaving behind his son Bobby Gendron and stepdaughters Rose Koffman and Rachel Watson. Bob also leaves behind many cherished friends who will forever remember his stories, laughter, and the love he shared with them.

A lifelong Connecticut resident, he was known for his kindness, generosity, humor, and adventurous spirit. Bob was an avid photographer, audiophile, plant grower, and traveler. He was a lover of nature, knick-knacks, unique treasures, animals, fireworks and meteor showers. He shared laughter, even with strangers, and truly understood the meaning of life. His curiosity and empathy brightened the lives of many. His joyful spirit will continue to live on in all who knew him.

The family extends heartfelt gratitude to the team at Hartford Hospital, particularly North 9, for their compassionate care and support during his final days.

In Bob's memory, we encourage you to enjoy some real maple syrup on your pancakes while thinking of him.

In honor of Bob and his wish to help make the world a better place, friends and family are welcome to wear something purple to his funeral. Purple was his favorite color and represents pancreatic cancer awareness. Calling hours will be held Saturday, Aug. 1, from 9:30-10:30 a.m., at Spencer Funeral Home, East Hampton. Mass will follow at 11 a.m. at St. Patrick Church, East Hampton.

## Colchester

## David Robert Proto

David Robert Proto, of Colchester, passed away at home Monday, July 27. He was 58 years old. David was born in New Haven on Sept. 1, 1967. He was the son of Barbara (Dombroski) Moroch of Colchester and the late Robert Riccio.



David had a varied career working as a respiratory therapist in several different settings. He worked at Yale New Haven Hospital, Children's Mercy Hospital in Missouri, and the Hospital for Special Care in New Britain, among others. He also worked at O'Reilly Auto Parts in Norwich. Most recently, David was studying to be a website designer and computer coder.

In his free time, David enjoyed bike riding and other outdoor activities. He was a member of St. Andrew Church in Colchester and was also a member of the Knights of Colum-



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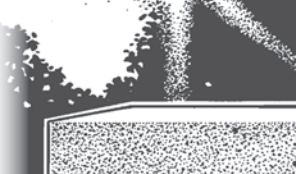
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RES-9-25

Obituaries

ers with her friends, greeting strangers, traveling, music, and playing games, which she often did with a twinkle in her eye and an unexpectedly competitive spirit.

Throughout her life, Lynne looked after others, always thinking of people near and far. She wrote letters, made phone calls, and visited people who needed company, bringing light and love to the world for its own sake. While reading the paper she would clip things out that reminded her of someone, and it always made them feel special to get a little pile of such clippings.

She is survived by Paul Sandahl, her husband of 59 years; her children, David Sandahl and Karen Sandahl, and their spouses, Paula Sandahl and Tory Lawson; her grandchildren, Adam Sandahl, Ryan Sandahl, and Charlotte Lawson; her nieces Diane Fuller Cavender and Kathy Stein; and innumerable friends people she met in chance moments throughout her life.

She was preceded in death by her sister, Muriel Fuller, and her brothers Kirk Spencer, Karl Spencer, and Morty Spencer.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, Aug. 8, at 11 a.m., at St. Peter’s Episcopal Church in Hebron.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to St. Peter’s Episcopal Church.

Portland

George F. Sheehan Jr.

It is with deep love and sadness that we announce the passing of George F. Sheehan Jr. on Sunday, July 26, at the age of 68, after a brief illness. George was born in Providence, R.I., on Feb. 18, 1958, to the late George Sr. and Violette (Gomes) Sheehan. He lived most of his life in Portland, with his wife Eileen of 47 years.



George worked alongside his father for 15 years in the family business Modern Window and Carpet Cleaning. He and his dad became affectionately known as “Big Windows” and “Little Windows” by numerous friends and customers. Upon his dad’s retirement, George continued the family business for another 32 years.

Throughout the years George forged many long-lasting friendships in which he shared many adventures and treasured memories (like “thirsty Thursdays” with Steve). With family and friends George loved to go camping, boating, water skiing, scuba diving, motorcycling and snowmobiling. He also developed a love for SK Modified racing and NASCAR.

George loved machining parts for his friends’ SK Modified race car. Friday nights were spent at Stafford Motor Speedway and camping with friends at the track. Eventually he was presented with an opportunity to be a spotter first for a NASCAR Busch team and eventually a NASCAR Cup team (a dream come true).

George’s last big adventure was fulfilling his bucket list trip in 2025. He and his wife spent a month out west with the motorcycle to see Mount Rushmore, Glacier National Park, Grand Titans, Yellowstone, and more.

Besides his wife Eileen, George is survived by his sister Violette “Mickey” Sheehan, niece

Tammy (Paul) Sullivan, nephew Neal (Michelle) D’Agata, sister-in-law Lorraine Sheehan, and nephew Michael (Leslie) Sheehan. George was predeceased by his brother Wayne.

The family wishes to express their heartfelt thanks to Hospice Home Care nurses and staff, his aides Rashmi and Ama, and our very dear friends, all of whose compassion and kindness brought comfort to George (and much support to Eileen) throughout his illness.

Visitation will be on Friday, July 31, from 5 to 7 p.m. at Biega Funeral Home, 3 Silver St., Middletown. All are welcome to attend a graveside service, which will be held on Saturday, Aug. 1, at 11 a.m. at the Swedish Cemetery, 184 William St., Portland.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to a charity of your choice.

To share memories or express condolences online, please visit [www.biegafuneralhome.com](http://www.biegafuneralhome.com).

COLCHESTER HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION  
LEGAL NOTICE

The Historic District Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, August 10, 2026, at 7:00 P.M., in the Town Hall Meeting Room, 127 Norwich Ave., Colchester, CT 06415 to hear and consider the following petition:

**Certificate of Appropriateness- HDC COA 2026-004 Jack Faski, 35 Hayward Ave** – application for exterior work to replace storm windows

At this hearing interested parties may be heard and written communications received. A copy of this petition is available for public inspection in the Planning and Zoning Department at Colchester Town Hall, 127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester CT 06415 and may be inspected during regular business hours (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday)

Historic District Commission  
Ellen Sharon, Chair

1TB 7/31

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

Notice is hereby given that the Portland Planning & Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, August 6th, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. at the Portland Public Library, 20 Free-stone Avenue, to consider the following:

**PZC Application #25-22:** Proposed Amendment to the Portland 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 14th day of July 2026 Robert Ellsworth, Chairman  
Planning & Zoning Commission

2TB 7/24, 7/31

TOWN OF ANDOVER  
PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION  
NOTICE OF ACTION

The Andover Planning & Zoning Commission took the following actions at their Regular Meeting held on July 21, 2026:

APPROVED:

PZ&C Application 26-7SP, 12 Center Street. A special permit application to construct a market rate accessory apartment pursuant to section 4.11.3 of the Andover zoning regulations. Details of the above-referenced application can be found on the Town of Andover’s website or in the Building and Land Use Department at Town Hall.

Wayne Kasacek  
Zoning Agent

1TB 7/31

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

★ School Spending, cont. from page 1

fine.”

Yenkner called the Smart Start program, which included a certified teacher and met state-required educational guidelines, “free day-care for the 36% of the people who have children in the school system.”

Yenkner added, “I don’t mind paying for something, because that’s the privilege of living in the town. What I do object to is the fact that 36% of the people who have kids in the school system seem to get whatever they want.”

Republican Board of Finance member Alison Walck said she did not support the education budget, and that she would like to see “more budgetary discipline,” and perhaps a reduction in technology use in the schools that she believed would both reduce costs and improve test scores. Walck said the budget process this round had made an impression on her.

“Everyone has a different idea of what is a good budget,” she said. “My kids are grown up, so many things that are important to me are not necessarily important to someone else. And so, for example, if you [have children] in the East Hampton school system, you would pay particular attention to the school system. If you don’t have a dog, you don’t care about the dog catcher. If you don’t use the lake, because you’ve got a pool in your backyard, well, do you care about the lake?”

Walck lamented that these different priorities often led to strained discussions.

“What has happened is, because it’s gotten so splintered, instead of coming together, people have gone apart,” she said.

Former Board of Education member Michael Buck has spoken out in favor of the budget on Facebook and encountered some of that community tension. Buck, who describes himself as a “reasonable conservative,” has said he’s disappointed in the cuts that have already been made, and also in the hostile rhetoric he’s encountered talking about the issue online.

“I knew when I started speaking out that not everyone would agree with me,” he said, “and I welcome respectful disagreement. In fact, it’s healthy. What has disappointed me is that some people have chosen to respond with personal attacks instead of engaging with the substance of what I’ve written.”

“My purpose isn’t to defend every dollar spent or to suggest that school budgets should never be scrutinized. They absolutely should,” Buck told the *Rivereast*. “My goal is to bring some perspective from someone who has actually served on the East Hampton Board of Education and understands how these budgets are built. Many of the biggest cost drivers – state mandates, contractual obligations, inflation, special education requirements, and other legal responsibilities – are not simply optional expenses that a local board can eliminate.”

Buck noted that salaries often involve contracts and cannot be easily and quickly changed. “Real solutions require an understanding of the legal and financial constraints under which local boards operate,” he said.

Buck said he understood why people demanded accountability and also why people were frustrated by rising taxes, especially during a time of rising costs. Still, he said, he was concerned about the rifts that were forming in the community over these issues.

“I hope we can debate ideas instead of attack-

ing the people expressing them,” he said. “That’s the only way a community comes together to solve difficult problems.”

Board of Finance Vice Chair Dan Finn, a Democrat, said he was “incredibly disappointed” by the failure of both budgets to pass the July 14 referendum, and said the board had made its most recent \$350,000 reduction in order to “win the votes of those who were most vocal about their ‘no’ vote previously.”

“That \$350,000 cut amounts to a reduction in the mill rate of about .20,” Finn wrote in an email, “which translates into \$20 annually for every \$100,000 of assessed property. For a homeowner with a house assessed at \$300,000 (appraised value of \$428,571), that’s \$5/month. For \$5/month per household, we could have saved middle school sports, the Smart Start preschool program, [and] reasonable class sizes for 3rd and 4th grade.”

Town Council member Joelyn Leon, a Democrat, said she hoped voters would pass the budget this coming week.

“I urge people to vote yes,” she said. “Am I disappointed in the huge cuts that are being made in the education budget? Absolutely, but if we go to another referendum, then there’s going to be even further [reductions] because we can’t put money back in.”

Leon said she believed that the first two referendums failed because of low voter turnout. While historically on the high side for past budget referendums, the 29% turnout, she said, was still disappointing.

“I do believe,” she said. “I want to believe, actually, that had the majority of the registered voters come out, that this budget would have passed the first time.”

Town Council member Ted Hintz, a Republican, said he had shifted his position away from his previous ‘no’ stance on the education budget.

“Regarding the Board of Education budget, I am not urging voters to vote either ‘yes’ or ‘no,’” wrote Hintz in an email. “Earlier in the budget process, I supported reducing the proposed increase by \$600,000 because I believed there were opportunities to find efficiencies without impacting classroom instruction. The final budget now reflects that level of reduction, and I believe it represents a reasonable compromise. For that reason, I have agreed that I will not campaign against the current Board of Education budget.”

Republican Board of Finance member Jim Radavich said he supports the overall \$600,000 reduction in the Board of Education budget.

Several town council members sought to clarify what they believed was misinformation surrounding the next referendum vote and the Board of Education’s proposed cuts – arguing that a ‘no’ vote on the school budget would not result in a restoration of programs like middle school sports and the Smart Start preschool.

“A former Board of Education member has suggested that a “no” vote will somehow restore middle school sports or the Smart Start program,” said Hintz. “That is simply not possible. With school starting in less than a month, there is no time to hire coaches, finalize staffing, rebuild schedules, notify families, arrange transportation, collect medical and participation forms, and complete the many other steps required to restart those programs.” Finn agreed.

“At this point in the budget cycle there is no option to increase these budgets back up to where I think they ought to have been,” he wrote via email. “The BOE needs to have a budget since the start of school is only a month away. The town needs to have a budget so that they can move forward with providing the services that we all want and need. My recommendation to the town is to vote yes for both budgets. We are way past cutting ‘nice to haves’ from both budgets so any further reductions will further impact programs and services.”

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DOG'S LIFE

TOWN OF COLCHESTER  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
LEGAL NOTICE OF AGENT DECISION

Notice is hereby given that on July 28, 2026, the Duly Authorized Agent for the Colchester Conservation Commission made the following decision:

**W2026-3144** - 336 Halls Hill Rd; Brian Marvin - Applicant/ Owner; Assessor's ID 24-00-001-000, Proposed Duplex, erosion and sedimentation controls, and excavation within 75' Upland Review Area. - **APPROVED WITH STANDARD CONDITIONS**

Dated July 28, 2026  
Conservation Commission  
Falk von Plachecki, Chair

1TB 7/31

LEGAL NOTICE

Public notice is hereby given that the Town Council will consider a waiver of the bidding procedure at the Town Council's regular meeting on Tuesday, August 11, 2026, at 6:30p.m., in the Town Hall Council Chambers, 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, CT 06424. Said waiver is requested by the Public Works Director pursuant to the East Hampton Purchasing Ordinance #117-7, for the waiver of the full competitive bidding process in favor of four quotes for the disposal of bulky waste from the Transfer Station.

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

1TB 7/31

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, August 12, 2026 at 7:00 P.M., to be held virtually through the GoToMeeting Platform, on the following:

**I. Petition 2026-10** – Petition of the Town of Hebron Planning and Zoning Commission to amend the Hebron Zoning Regulations to comply with Special Session CT Public Act 25-1 *An Act Concerning Housing Growth*. Sections to be amended are listed in the Application.

**Planning and Zoning Commission**  
Aug 12, 2026, 7:00 – 10:00 PM (America/New\_York)  
**Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.**  
<https://meet.goto.com/888622381>  
**You can also dial in using your phone.**  
Access Code: 888-622-381  
United States: +1 (224) 501-3412  
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<https://meet.goto.com/install>  
Dated at Hebron, Connecticut, this 29th day of July 2026.  
Frank Zitkus, Chair

2TB 7/31, 8/7

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**WANTED GRANITE STONES:** mill stones, tether stones, entry steps, fence posts, feeding troughs, well covers, sinks, posts, curbing, stone boot scrapers, and carriage steps. 860-216-8144.

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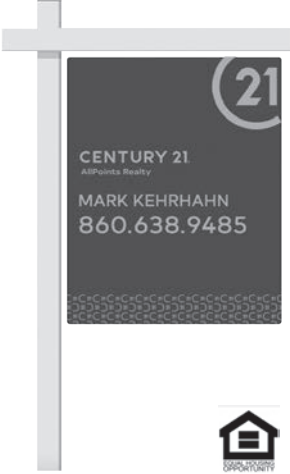
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**MAJOR LANDSCAPING IN HEBRON:** Weeding and other outside assistance. Transport provided as necessary. Wage negotiable. Paid daily. Good for High School Students. 860-377-0188. Text best.

**THE GOOD EARTH GIFT & GARDEN:** seeks part-time help. Mornings and afternoons. Stop in to fill out an application. 582 Norwich Ave, Colchester. Call for an appointment 860-537-4798. Go to thegoodearthgiftandgarden.com and connect.

**UPHOLSTERY APPRENTICE LEARN A TRADE:** Must have experience using power tools, woodworking skills. Part time, 20-30 hours per week. No drugs, no smoking. DL a must, short term travel as needed for overnight installation. Located in Haddam. 860-306-4252.

**Senior Center Assistant**

The Town of Marlborough is accepting applications for the part-time Senior Center Assistant. The SC Assistant works under the supervision of the Director of Human & Social Services, serves as the welcoming face of the Senior Center, and contributes to the daily operations and essential functions of the department. Employment application and job description are available online at [https://www.marlbroughct.gov/job\\_detail\\_T17\\_R63.php](https://www.marlbroughct.gov/job_detail_T17_R63.php). Starting wage is \$23.50 per hour. First review of applications is on Monday, August 3. Submit applications to: Town of Marlborough Clerk P.O. Box 29 26 North Main Street Marlborough, CT 06447 townclerk@marlbroughct.gov

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

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Hours: 3:00 PM-11:00 PM, \$18.00/hour  
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**Walk-In Interviews: Monday-Friday, 10:00 AM-2:00 PM**  
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EMPLOYMENT

**Afternoon Adventures Program Counselor (Part-time)**

The Town of East Hampton is seeking a spirited, creative, and passionate Afternoon Adventures Program Counselor. We are looking for an enthusiastic and dependable individual to join our team and help create a fun, safe, and engaging environment. This is a part-time, after school program that runs from 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm when school is in session. The Afternoon Adventures Program Counselor will supervise and engage children in a variety of recreational, educational, and creative activities, foster a positive, inclusive and supportive atmosphere for all participants, and ensure the safety and well-being of children by following program policies and procedures. The hourly rate is \$17.09. Applicants should submit a cover letter, resume and employment application to the Town of East Hampton, Department of Human Resources, 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, CT 06424, or by email to Human Resources at lseymour@easthamptonct.gov, by August 14, 2026, or until filled. A job description and employment application may be found at www.easthamptonct.gov. EOE/AA/MF.

1TB 7/31

**Afternoon Adventures Program Director (Part-time)**

The Town of East Hampton is seeking an enthusiastic, organized, and compassionate Afternoon Adventures Program Director to lead and oversee our after-school program. The Program Director will create a safe, engaging, and enriching environment for children while supervising staff, coordinating daily activities, and building positive relationships with families and the community. This is a part-time, after school program that runs from 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm when school is in session. Hourly rate is \$22.00 - \$25.00 depending on experience and qualifications. Duties include developing, implementing, and evaluating recreation programs and activities, as well as promoting the programs, training staff and ensuring that all programs comply with safety standards, policies and regulations. The Director should have or be working towards a degree or certification in recreation, child development, or elementary or middle school education. CPR and basic first aid certification, or ability to obtain it is required. Please submit a brief cover letter, a resume and an employment application to the Town of East Hampton, Department of Human Resources, 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, CT 06424, or email to lseymour@easthamptonct.gov, by August 14, 2026, or until filled. EOE/AA/M-F. A job description and employment application may be found at www.easthamptonct.gov.

1TB 7/31

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RE 7-11-25

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RE 26-26-26

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RE 24-24-26

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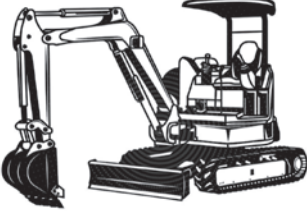
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