

Paulie's Push Makes Its Way Through Area

By Anne Lilburn

Last week, an unusual procession made its way through Portland and East Hampton. Five airline beverage carts, with an RV behind them, made their way through the towns. Leading the march from behind one of the carts himself was retired United Airlines flight attendant Paul Veneto.

The mini-parade through East Hampton, Portland, and over the Arrigoni Bridge into Middletown, was part of "Paulie's Push" a walk designed to honor the lives lost nearly 25 years ago on Sept. 11, 2001.

Massachusetts-based Veneto began Paulie's Push in 2021 to mark the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, pushing a beverage cart from Boston's Logan Airport to Ground Zero in Manhattan, commemorating the path of United Airlines Flight 175. The following year, in 2022, he pushed a beverage cart from the Washington D.C. area's Dulles Airport to the Pentagon. In 2023, he followed the path of United 93, pushing from Newark to Shanksville, Pa., and in 2024, he pushed from Boston's 9/11 Contemplative Garden to Ground Zero to honor American Flight 11.

This year, his fifth, he returned to the Rivereast area for the third time as he pushed from Boston, beginning on Aug. 15, with a plan to arrive at Ground Zero in New York City on Sept. 11. This year, he said, was "Everyone's Push," with five carts making the journey – one honoring each lost flight and the fifth marked with all four flight numbers. Anyone who wanted to, he said, was getting a chance to push one of the carts with him, and in Portland and East Hampton, community members, from high school students to senior citizens, and firefighters to state



Last Friday, Aug. 28, Portland Fire Chief Rob Puida and his family, Portland resident and Ground Zero site bricklayer Leslie Houghton, state Rep. Christie Carpino (R-32), and Portland First Selectman Mike Pelton pushed beverage carts alongside retired United Airlines flight attendant Paul Veneto as part of "Paulie's Push" to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

lawmakers, came out to join in and push alongside him.

As a Boston-based flight attendant who preferred the "transcon" flights that took him back and forth to Los Angeles and San Francisco, Veneto often worked Flight 175 and knew the crew. He said he began his career as a flight attendant with a charter airline in 1981 and started with United in 1997. It was a job that he

loved, he said, and he got to see the world and have fun doing it.

"I went to work and I couldn't wait to get work because I loved my job," he said. "I liked the people I worked with, I loved the passengers."

Once 9/11 happened, everything changed. "For me it just took the enjoyment out of the whole job, out of the industry," he said, noting

that it was hard to enjoy it when he couldn't fully trust passengers.

He said the lost crew that he knew also never left his mind after that day.

"I had a picture [of them] on my flight bag," he said. "Five days after 9/11 I had it made, and I attached it to my flight bag and for ten years I flew around with that picture, of the crew that I knew. That was my way of making sure we never forget."

Veneto flew for a decade after 9/11, eventually retiring around 2013, he said, but he still kept remembering that day, even as the years went on. He said that when he started his first push, in 2021, he wanted to make sure people remembered that crew, as he called them the "first first responders" that day.

"When the buildings came down that morning, I saw that like the rest of the world," he said. "The first thought was like, oh my God, people are gonna forget what happened in the beginning of this. Why wouldn't they, watching that scene?"

"I was shocked like everyone else," he said, "but I kept thinking, people are going to not talk about what happened on those airplanes, and what happened up there was pretty bad."

That first year's push, from Boston to New York, was going to be it, he said. He said he achieved his goal of getting national, and even international, media attention, and he heard from crew members' families, including the sister of one of the Flight 77 pilots, who told him her brother "would've loved to fly with me and I would've love to fly with him," Veneto said.

He decided to continue with future pushes

See Paulie's Push, page 26

Hebron Harvest Fair Returns Next Week

By Toriana Williams

For four days each September, a quiet field in Hebron turns into a smorgasbord of lights, music, food, rides, animals and people. It's been described that the transformation is almost as exciting as the fair itself.

The 55th annual Hebron Harvest Fair will return Sept. 10 through 13, bringing one of the town's biggest traditions back to life. For Fair Superintendent Mike Koyzra, who is serving in this position for the first time after more than 30 years with the Hebron Lions Club, the fair is about the people, the volunteers and giving back to the community.

Koyzra said the fair has been an important part of Hebron for more than five decades.

"For 55 years, it's been bringing the community together," he said. And this year, there will be plenty to entice the community to gather. The fair will feature what Koyzra said is the largest midway of any fair in Connecticut, with more rides than other fairs in the state.

Visitors will have a chance to watch the Flying Cortes, DockDogs, Rosaire's Royal Racing

Pigs and Puppy Pals. Music will fill the fairgrounds each day as well, with Nashville Drive performing Thursday night, Raise Your Hands on Friday, Backstage Pass on Saturday and Better Than Ezra headlining Sunday. There will also be a community stage with different performers throughout the weekend.

For thrill-seekers, Flying Cortes promises plenty of excitement. "One of the performers gets shot out of a cannon," said Koyzra.

This year will also bring a new act to the fair. Puppy Pals will take the place of last year's sea lions, who were originally scheduled to perform. Koyzra said the sea lions were unharmed after their truck was involved in an accident in early August, but the truck suffered enough damage that the act could not make it to the fair.

The fair's organizers then found Puppy Pals, a group of performing dogs that will show off tricks and other skills. There will also be a big Ferris wheel this year, shared Koyzra.

Koyzra said the fair alternates between having a roller coaster and a large Ferris wheel, and this

year it's the Ferris wheel's turn for some love. The view from high above the fairgrounds will offer a different look at the busy weekend below. But visitors won't have to worry about paying to park before they even walk through the gates.

Parking will be completely free this year. Koyzra said the decision was made partly because of the rising cost of living.

"Things happen in the economy and the inflation intervals," he said. "We're like we kind of got to do our part to help people out a little bit."

The fair will also offer a Thursday night admission discount, with admission at \$5. People who buy tickets online in advance can also save money. Online admission for the rest of the weekend is \$18.95, compared to \$20 at the gate. Tickets can be purchased at tinyurl.com/3jhej2nw.

Koyzra said the free parking is another way to make the fair a little easier on families.

"We will be one of the only major fairs in Connecticut that don't charge for parking," he said. See Hebron Harvest Fair, page 30

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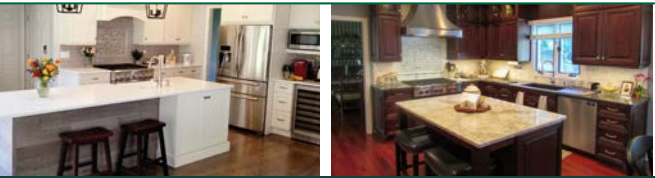
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Benefit Concert for CVC

There will be a benefit concert for the Community Voice Channel – the public access channel for Andover, Hebron and Marlborough – coming up in Ellington in September. Rock This Town will host a benefit show for Community Voice Channel (CVC) entitled “Rock This Town presents A CVC Benefit Show” on Sunday, Sept. 13, from 11 a.m.-7 p.m., at Market Park, 72 Maple St., Ellington.

This immersive music event will bring together top artists, emerging talents, engaging activities, food trucks, vendors, and music enthusiasts to celebrate the future of CVC. Tickets are \$10 for ages 16 and over, \$5 for ages 5-15, and free for ages 4 and under. For tickets and more information visit tinyurl.com/cvcbenefit.



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Fundraiser to Support Community Voice Channel

By Toriana Williams

Music, food, games and community spirit will come together next weekend for a special fundraiser to benefit what, for many, is a vital community resource.

A “Rock This Town” benefit concert to support the Community Voice Channel (CVC) will take place Sunday, Sept. 13, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., at Market Park, located at 72 Maple St. in Ellington.

The event will feature a full day filled with live music, with 10 bands taking to the stage. There will also be food trucks, local vendors, activities for children, face-painting and raffles. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children and free for children four and under. Tickets can be purchased at tinyurl.com/56h6f9y4.

The concert isn’t a day of music just for the sake of it; it’s intended as a fundraiser for the CVC, a local public access TV station that has served the area since 1991.

Melanie Merkel, the outreach training manager at CVC, said the station gives local people a chance to learn about TV and media.

“It’s all for free in return for a show or a program,” said Merkel.

People who live or teach in the seven towns served by the CVC can learn how to film, work in a studio and edit videos. The station also helps people create local programs.

The seven towns include Andover, Bolton, Hebron, Ellington, Marlborough, Tolland and Vernon. CVC has education, government and public access channels, and its work includes local meetings, school and library programs, community events and music shows.

“It’s almost like PBS, but on a local level,” she said.

For CVC volunteer Bernie Palka, music has been a big part of his life for many years. Palka, a musician, became involved with the station after meeting Merkel at a trade show. He took a CVC course and began working on a show afterward. He has now been involved with the station for years and has worked with more than 30 bands.

Palka’s music show is called “Rock This Town,” and he’s also helping with the benefit concert. Several bands that have worked with him throughout the years have offered to perform at the fundraiser for free.

“They volunteered their time to do this show,” said Palka. “It’s amazing.”

Palka said the event is also a chance to help young people discover music and television. He shared that he hopes young people will see the bands, learn about performing and maybe become interested in making their own shows as a result.

“It’s about music and the musicians for me,” said Palka.

The concert will include more than one kind of music genre. Palka said people shouldn’t ex-

pect only loud rock music; there will be classic rock, country, new country and several other styles performing.

“I don’t want people to come and think it’s going to be some kind of heavy metal rock concert. It’s not that – it’s a family thing,” said Palka.

And don’t worry – families will have plenty to do between the performances. One particularly exciting attraction will be a monster obstacle course for children. Merkel described the course to be about 40 feet long and will be free for kids to use. Students from the Ellington Art Department will also volunteer their time to help.

“They’re going to do free face-painting,” said Merkel.

The event will also have local food trucks and vendors for visitors to peruse. Guests are encouraged to bring lawn chairs or blankets to sit on, and the concert is alcohol-free, making it a family-friendly place to spend the day.

Attendees will also be able to come and go during the concert. A wristband will allow guests to leave and return during the event.

The fundraiser comes at a pivotal time for the CVC. The station is funded in part by cable customers in the seven towns it serves. As more people stop using cable and switch to internet-only service, the station loses some of that integral funding.

Merkel explained the situation: “We’re losing a lot. It seems like everybody is dropping cable.”

Merkel said CVC wants to keep its services available for local residents. The station has a 4K studio and modern equipment that people in the community can use for free, and the station also wants to make sure future generations can participate as well.

“We want to keep this going. We want to be able to keep this around for future generations,” said Merkel.

Merkel shared that she believes the station, and what it offers, helps people use their right to speak and share ideas. “It’s your freedom of speech,” she said.

Palka shares that goal as well. He said he is thankful for the musicians, volunteers, camera crews and plenty others who are donating their time to make the concert happen.

“I’m honored to have all these people and all these bands do this,” said Palka.

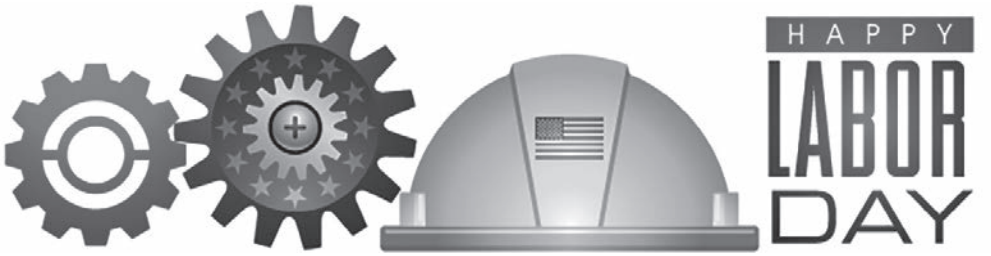
Mick Niewinski is also helping Palka with the event. The two musicians have played together for about 34 years. Niewinski will help with sound and will perform with two bands.

The concert is the first event of its kind for the CVC. Organizers hope the community will come out and support the station.

“I just want people to show up,” summarized Palka.

“It’s going to be a fun day,” promised Merkel.

See More Regional News, page 31



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From the Editor’s Desk

Observations & Ruminations

By Mike Thompson

If you haven’t voted yet – or even if you have – today’s the day!
Marlborough is in the running to be named Hallmark’s Merriest Christmas Town of 2026.

Earlier this year, Hallmark launched a special nationwide search to celebrate the communities that bring the spirit of Christmas to life. People were invited to nominate towns they felt best captured the heart, wonder and joy of the holiday season – and Marlborough was one of the towns put forth!

Hallmark reviewed the submissions, and selected Marlborough as one of the 25 finalists! Now, I don’t know how many towns overall were nominated, but to be one of 25 finalists in a nationwide search is pretty cool. Marlborough is the only Connecticut town in the running.

If you want to help Marlborough make it, you can head over to merriestchristmastown-scontest.hallmarkchannel.com and cast your vote! Voting wraps up today, Sept. 4. Now, voting began last month, so you may have cast a ballot already – but have no fear. You can vote once per day if you want to.

After the community selection period concludes, a panel of judges will evaluate all 25 finalist towns based on Community Spirit, Holiday Traditions, Neighborhood Charm and Goodwill. And then the winner will be chosen!

Now, whoever wrote the submission for Marlborough really nailed it. Here’s the description for Marlborough on the Hallmark website:

“If you are looking for the absolute blueprint of a classic, heartwarming New England Christmas movie, look no further than Marl-

borough, Connecticut. Our small town embodies the exact warmth, history, and community spirit that defines a Hallmark holiday.

A Marlborough Christmas feels like stepping back in time. The holiday season is anchored by the historic 1740s Marlborough Tavern, where centuries of cozy hospitality set the perfect winter backdrop. Down the road, the festive Shops at Marlborough Barn bustle with neighbors finding unique treasures, while the rolling fields and rustic barns at The Farm at Carter Hill capture the true essence of countryside charm and small-town connection.

Our landscapes and neighborhoods literally glow with festive pride. The serene, snow-dusted shores of Lake Terramuggus reflect the quiet beauty of a New England winter, while the rest of the town bursts into a vibrant celebration during the annual Magical Marlborough Christmas light contest. Neighbors turn their homes into sparkling masterpieces, bringing joy to anyone driving down our winding back roads.

The pinnacle of our season is a grand, community-wide celebration that feels straight out of a script. The town comes together for an unforgettable evening featuring a spectacular Lighted Fire Truck Parade, where local volunteer firefighters deck out their rigs in brilliant displays to escort Santa Claus into the heart of town. The night culminates in a breathtaking fireworks show, illuminating the winter sky over cheering families bundled up in scarves and mittens.

The magic extends just beyond our borders, too. Marlborough sits right next door to

Editor’s Desk continued on page 6

Bulletin Board

There was one of those feel-good stories on the TV news the other day about some kid working in a fast-food burger joint who got accepted to go to Harvard this fall.
“Oh,” sighed my wife. “What a wonderful story.”
“Yeah, yeah,” I said.
“No,” she retorted. “It’s a really nice thing. It’s really hard to get into Harvard.”
“Right,” I said.
“Well, it is.”
“I could have gone to Harvard,” I said.
She got this expression on her face like the Archangel Michael was descending from the heavens to give her two tickets to see her beloved Buffalo Bills win a Super Bowl. Like that’s ever going to happen. Buffalo winning the Super Bowl, I mean. A visit from Archangel Michael, well that could actually happen.
“You?” she managed to croak. “Gone to Harvard?”
“Sure,” I said.
“Well, why didn’t you?”
“The four L’s,” I said.
“The four L’s? What are the four L’s?”
“Lousy grades, Lack of interest in community service of any kind, Lazy, and an inclination toward juvenile delinquency.”
“That’s three L’s,” she remarked.
“I rest my case.”
“I can’t believe you were that bad. You must have had some sort of ambition as a kid. I mean all boys want to be something when they grow up, right? Fireman. Policeman. Cowboy.”
“Well, sure,” I said. “Of course. We all had our dreams. I mean anything is possible when you’re a kid. Even kids who spend hours constructing magnifying glass death rays to incinerate the local ant population have dreams. They may be unhealthy dreams, but they’re dreams.”
“So, what did you want to be?”
“A Playboy Magazine photographer.”
“I should have known.”
“What, you were expecting ‘philanthropist’ or ‘professional martyr’ or something?”
“Lord, no. But Playboy photographer, that’s just so...so...tawdry.”
“Hey, when I was about 12 or 13 all the guys dreamed of becoming a Playboy photographer.”
“Okay, you can spare me the details of whatever occupies an adolescent boy’s dreams. You guys are bad enough when you’re awake and pretending to be adults. Honestly, Playboy photographer?”
“Beats the hell out of telling everybody, ‘Hey, fellas! When I grow up, I want to be a proc-tologist!’”
“You’ve got a point there.”
“Then I wanted to join the Army, but I was too young and my father wouldn’t sign the papers.”
“I’m surprised. I would have expected him to drive you down to the recruiting station right then and there, before you changed your mind.”
“Not as surprised as I was. His exact words were, ‘You’re too [blanking] stupid to be in the Army! You’re going to college!’”
“He probably figured you were less likely to get large numbers of your own people killed in college.”
“So, then I met you and here we are.”
“But no Harvard.”
“Nope. No Harvard. But that’s okay. Actually, you might say Harvard’s loss was your gain.”
“No, you might say that. I’d prefer to think the gain was all yours. In fact, I’d insist on it.”
“That does seem to be the general consensus,” I admitted.

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.



Hops Does it Again!... The Hebron Hops of the 35 + Men’s Baseball league defeated the River Valley Outlaws at Pat Kidney Field in Middletown to capture their state-record 12th straight championship! Local players Lee McPeck, Bill Eller, Zach Cloft and Bill Ruggiero helped the Hops continue their dynasty run and keep the trophy in Hebron.

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Supports DeCaprio

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

It is my pleasure to offer my wholehearted support for Mark DeCaprio to continue to serve as our state representative for the 48th District.

Mark is a man of integrity, and service, and strong leadership. As a Navy nuclear submarine veteran, he understands the importance of commitment, accountability, and putting others before himself. He has continued that same spirit of service in the community by volunteering at the Covenant Soup Kitchen in Willimantic, starting in 2017 for seven years. He also served in local government in Lebanon on the Board of Selectmen, the Zoning Board of Appeals, and the Board of Education.

Mark believes in protecting our constitutional freedoms, parental rights, local control, and the rule of law. He understands the challenges Connecticut families face every day, from the rising cost of living to concerns about government overreach. He is committed to making our state more affordable while ensuring our communities retain a strong voice in local decisions, including planning, zoning, and housing.

The residents of Colchester, Bozrah, Franklin, and Lebanon deserve a representative who will hear and listen to what people think, lead with integrity, and work tirelessly on behalf of the people he serves. Mark has demonstrated that kind of leadership throughout his life, and I have every confidence he will continue to bring that same dedication to Hartford.

This November, I respectfully ask for your support and your vote to reelect Mark DeCaprio. He is a strong voice for the people of the 48th District and will continue to represent our communities with honesty, integrity, and a genuine commitment to public service.

Sincerely,
Rich Tanner – Colchester

Celebrating 25 Years

To the Editor:

Marlborough is fortunate to have a senior center that has become an important part of our community – and this year, we have 25 years to celebrate!

As Baby Boomers reach retirement age and people live longer, the number of older adults continues to grow. In fact, the U.S. Census Bureau projects that in 2034, the number of Americans aged 65 and older will exceed the number under age 18 for the first time in U.S. history. Marlborough is no exception to this trend; the number of our residents aged 65 and over increased from 471 in 2000, the year before the Senior Center opened, to more than 1,230 in 2020, according to the last census, and has continued to grow since then.

Our senior center is a vibrant community hub that offers exercise and wellness programs, educational opportunities, arts and crafts, games, social events, holiday celebrations, and trips. These activities promote physical and mental well-being while providing opportunities to socialize, learn, pursue interests, have fun, and make meaningful connections. Most importantly, it helps our older adults stay active, engaged, independent, and connected to our community.

We invite everyone – young and old – to join us at the Senior Center, 17 School Drive, on Saturday, Sept. 19, starting at 1 p.m., as we celebrate 25 wonderful years! The anniversary party will feature the Silk City Jazz band, caricature artist, photo booth, games, food, fun, and activities for all ages. The celebration is a perfect opportunity for our residents to see what a vital and welcoming resource we have right here in our community, and to discover all that the senior center has to offer.

Peggy Golfin, Chair
Marlborough Commission on Aging

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Rosenfeld for the 34th
To the Editor:
As summer comes to an end and the leaves will start to change, I would like to introduce another change, Meghan Rosenfeld for our state representative. We need this change from our current and past representative to a leader who will actually work for the people of our district. Meghan is a proven leader and understands the struggles of all of our residents. Meghan has, and will continue to be, an advocate for education, healthcare, and security for our aging community.
Our district needs a person who will work with the state and bring meaningful funding into our communities, while lowering our local tax burden. Meghan Rosenfeld is just that person. Vote for Meghan in November.
Rick Wanat – East Hampton

Elect Melissa Ziobron
To the Editor:
Send Melissa Ziobron to Hartford to represent East Hampton in the State Legislature. Melissa is hard-working and will represent East Hampton well.
During her previous terms as state representative, she attended East Hampton events and meetings, listening to our concerns and informing us of changes in Hartford. She is a communicator!
As a BOE member, Melissa understands the huge burden unfunded mandates have put on town budgets and will work toward solutions to diminish those burdens. With Melissa's knowledge and experience she can have a real impact in Hartford, reducing government demands and strangleholds on towns which will in turn help control taxes.
Join me in voting for Melissa Ziobron in November.
Alannah Coshow – East Hampton

Heal Now, Collaborate Next
To the Editor:
This year's brutal East Hampton referendum season was as ugly as we've seen, and there are scars that may not heal. But for now, we can all exhale and take comfort in the fact there won't be another budget vote until late spring.
However...
The referendum is the endgame. The real work takes place between now and next May or June, long before anyone casts a ballot, posts a sign, or makes their opinions known on social media.
Several points have become clear:
-- We can't let history repeat itself. Emotions ran overly high during this referendum, with the plot often being lost and the argument turning personal. Budgets should be negotiated and evaluated on need and honest debate, not political differences.-- Social media has become toxic. Yes, Facebook provides an opportunity to discuss issues and share information, but increasingly, local groups have become platforms for mistruth, insults, and even hate speech. We should be better than that.
-- It's time for effective collaboration. We saw more communication between the respective budgeting bodies – the Town Council, Board of Finance, and Board of Education. However, it was one-sided. I respect the Republicans who not only attended tri-board meetings but offered meaningful ideas. I appreciate town residents who spoke about the budgets, whether in favor or against.
-- The dialogue on budgeting needs to be ongoing. We can't wait until the referendum is near before we start really debating priorities. Let's have these conversations throughout the year so that by the time the community votes, we aren't surprised by what we are asking taxpayers to consider.
-- We are not alone, and we need help. East

Hampton was one of numerous towns that had a difficult budget season. The state needs to offer more support for education, and we need to be active in raising the issue. Meanwhile, we should explore areas where we can regionalize with our neighbors, both on education and general government.
Local government does not have to be antagonistic. We do a disservice to the community when we dismiss each other's ideas or refuse to listen based solely on the letter next to a person's name.
So let's take a minute to lick our wounds and then collaborate to make sure the next budget season goes far more smoothly for all involved.
Sincerely,
Matt Engelhardt – East Hampton
Note: Engelhardt is a member of the East Hampton Board of Education and East Hampton Democratic Town Committee, but said he is writing independently of both.

Two Stacks of Mail
To the Editor:
Since the middle of July, eight letters have appeared in these pages telling us good things about state Rep. Steve Weir. I went back and read them all, and I believe every word. He remembers your children's names at the Apple Fest. He volunteers at the Harvest Fair and once worked a shift at a busy local restaurant, apron and all. He answers his cell phone. Four of the eight points to his 100 percent voting record, which, as one letter honestly puts it, shows that he shows up.
Then I noticed something odd. In eight letters of praise, not one defends a single vote he has cast. One brings up his vote against ending child marriage but argues only that it is three years old and that other legislators voted the same way. Two more explain, in general terms, that a legislator sometimes opposes a good bill because of hidden or unrelated provisions, but never name a bill or a provision.
Last week, Mr. Weir joined in with a letter of his own. He tells us he reads every bill and votes 'no' when the details would hurt us. Which details? Which bills? Go back and read it: in his own case for reelection, the man present for every vote of his four years does not name, let alone defend, one of them. The letters questioning his record read differently. Since May, more than 20 of them have discussed at least 15 specific votes, with bill numbers and tallies anyone can check: the budget carrying \$630,000 for our five towns, help for small businesses, safety fences around pools, ending child marriage, and more.
So we have two stacks of mail. One tells us who Steve Weir is: a kind, hard-working, and decent community member. The other shows us what he does with the vote we lend him every two years. Neither stack disputes a word of the other. Both can be true at once. However, only one of them is about the job. If anyone, including Mr. Weir, believes those votes were the right ones for the 55th, the page is open: pick one and make the case. Until someone does, I am with Ellen Paul, who talks about the votes because she is not afraid of them: ellenforstaterep.com.
Sincerely,
Chesney McOmber – Andover

Celebrate With Us!
To the Editor:
Join us for the 25th anniversary celebration of the Marlborough Senior Center. Everyone is invited!!
Location: Marlborough Senior Center, 17 School Street, Marlborough.
When: Saturday, Sept. 19, 1-4:30 p.m.
You will enjoy an amazing live jazz band, great food, an antique car show, yard games, ice cream/ food trucks, a caricature artist and much more. Bring your family, friends and neighbors to this wonderful event. We look forward to seeing you there.
Donna Kane – Marlborough
Note: Kane is a member of the Marlborough Commission on Aging.

Elect Melissa Ziobron
To the Editor:
Melissa Ziobron worked tirelessly for our district during her six years as our state representative. As a Council member, I can tell you she never missed an opportunity to help us locally or intervene at the state level when we needed her.
Her work ethic is admirable. After a day's work in Hartford, she was often in our audience keeping tabs on the pulse of our town. On weekends she was everywhere, making sure she doesn't miss a beat with her constituents – and she did not. She deserves our support and she has mine.
Vote for Melissa this November. We don't need another Democrat in Hartford.
Mark Philhower – East Hampton

Weir Works for All
To the Editor:
I am writing to endorse Steve Weir for another term as our state representative for the 55th district. He has been working hard for all of us and will continue to do so. He hasn't missed a single vote and showing up is half the battle. It's also evidence that he takes his job seriously. He gets involved with many things that are happening in the towns he covers. He's ready to listen to all of us and do what he can to effect change where needed. We are clearly ruled by the Democratic Party in this state, and it's getting harder to make ends meet.
There have been several letters claiming that Steve has voted against some bills with very desirable names. Most people are aware that these bills have many other parts that are tucked into them that are not so desirable. Steve reads the entire bill and sees unintended consequences. When he votes 'no' it is because of other things in the bill that the letter writers don't tell you. Don't be fooled by these letters. You can go and read these bills yourself or contact Steve and he will tell you why he voted 'no.'
Citizens need all our support, and we need more Republicans elected to strike a proper balance in governing. Steve Weir is a great example of a Representative with honesty and integrity, working for all the people, and not just "playing politics". We need him to be re-elected. Please vote for Steve Weir.
Respectfully submitted,
Georgette Conrad – Andover

Another Great Concert Series
To the Editor
Another wonderful Joseph N. Goff House Gazebo Concert Series is complete and the Goff House Board of Directors would like to take this time to thank everyone for their part in making this annual tradition such a success.
Each year, donations from local residents, businesses and friends of the concert series help pay for six different local bands, as well as concert posters and signs, which were created by Walt Jedziniak Photography and Gioielli Design, both from East Hampton. The Congregational Church of East Hampton generously allows the use of church grounds and bathrooms during the concert season, and use of the gazebo is provided by East Hampton Public Schools.
Girl Scout Troop 62059 was on hand each week selling snacks to support their community projects and the bands were just fantastic to work with. Let's not forget the audience members, who are the life of the concerts! Your weekly presence makes the shows so enjoyable and you are always so generous with donations to local charities and organizations when we pass the basket at intermission.
Many thanks to everyone and we look forward to next year's series.
Sincerely,
The Joseph N. Goff House Board
Dean Markham, Melissa Pionzio,
Mallory Kokus, Rebecca Tinelle
and Adele Cyr

Long Overdue
To the Editor:
Let me tell you about librarians.
Mrs. Hatch, who ran my elementary school library, taught us to read stories aloud and had a gift for putting the right book in the right hands at the right moment. Some of you have heard me tell of her before. I make no apologies. She earned it.
A junior town librarian of my childhood broke a rule for me. Adult cards began at 13, and then only with parents' permission; I was 10 and had read my way through the children's room. She glanced around to see that no one was looking, then issued the card. In gratitude I tried to teach her to juggle. I was probably a terrible teacher at 10. I hope she kept practicing. I am ashamed to say I no longer remember her name. I have never forgotten the card.
In high school, Miss K taught me what research actually is: not finding an answer but testing one. Where did this come from? Who wrote it, and what did they want me to believe? What would it take to prove it wrong? I have leaned on those questions my entire adult life.
So when I learned a librarian was running for state representative in the 55th District, I was delighted even before I read a word of her platform. Then I read the record. Ellen Paul leads the Connecticut Library Consortium, helping more than a thousand libraries of every kind pool their buying power. And in 2025 she helped pass two state laws: the e-book pricing law, Public Act 25-9, four years of coalition
See Letters, page 6

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The “East of the River” Real Estate Report

When Does a Price Reduction Make Sense?

No seller wants to reduce their asking price. But sometimes a price reduction is the smartest move—and sometimes it's completely unnecessary. The key is understanding **why a home isn't selling**.
If a property has been on the market longer than comparable homes, showings have slowed, and buyers consistently aren't making offers, the market may be signaling that the price is too high.
In that situation, waiting can make things worse. New listings continue to hit the market, while buyers begin wondering why the home hasn't sold. A well-timed price adjustment can expose the property to a new group of buyers and generate renewed interest.
But price isn't always the problem.
If buyers are coming through the door but consistently mentioning condition, presentation, or a particular feature, reducing the price may not be the best first solution. Sometimes addressing the underlying issue makes more sense.
Sellers also shouldn't panic after one slow weekend or because another home sold faster. Every property is different.
The decision should be based on **showing activity, buyer feedback, competing listings, recent sales, and current market conditions**—not emotion.
A price reduction isn't necessarily a sign that something went wrong. When the market is telling you something has changed, adjusting strategically can prevent you from chasing the market downward later.
The goal isn't simply to maintain your asking price. **It's to achieve the best possible final outcome.**

Market Snapshot – Past Week

Hebron, Andover, Marlborough, Colchester, East Hampton & Portland	
Single-Family Homes	Condos
• 18 homes sold	• 4 sold
• Average sale price: \$572,145	• Average sale price: \$391,500
• Average sale-to-list ratio: 105%	• Average sale-to-list ratio: 102%
• Average days on market: 36 days	• Average days on market: 16 days
• Median days on market: 10 days	• Median days on market: 16 days

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



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★ *Letters, cont. from page 5*

work with a Republican senator among its lead champions, and the freedom-to-read law, Public Act 25-168, which protects a library’s ability to carry the Bible as surely as any book someone else would remove.

Our current representative voted against the e-book bill, and against the budget act carrying the freedom-to-read provisions.

Ellen Paul is a candidate who has never held office but spent years on Congressman Joe Courtney’s staff, who ran the East Hampton library when it won a statewide excellence award, and who, as a legislative outsider, helped deliver two state laws. A librarian on the ballot! I can’t stop asking myself, “How did we get so lucky?”

I have spent a lifetime being handed the right book at the right moment. On November 3, I get the chance to hand something back. (ellenforstaterep.com)

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.*

Voting for Weir

To the Editor:

I had the pleasure of meeting Steve Weir many years ago while I served as voluntary Senior Coordinator for Andover seniors. During those years I watched him become more and more involved with the town, including our seniors. He has served the town of Andover in a knowledgeable and caring way. Steve is not the type of man that brags about what he has accomplished but just goes about doing what he believes is in the best interest of the towns he represents. Steve always comes to the events held in town whatever the cause, talks with many people to get their ideas and opinions on various subjects. For years when the seniors needed money to hold weekly lunches and there was no money in the budget, Steve appeared and supported us with whatever needed to be done. He attends meetings and voting days in Hartford and does not quickly vote ‘yes’ or ‘no’ on any issue. Steve reads everything and gives the best answer that will help all residents.

I will be casting my vote for Steve Weir in November and urge all of you to do so. Thank you.

Cathy Palazzi – Andover

Attracted to Hebron History

To the Editor:

According to Tripadvisor.com, four out of the top six tourist destinations in Connecticut are attractions that showcase our dynamic history. The number one attraction is Mystic Seaport, which welcomes over 250,000 visitors each year. The Mark Twain House, Olde Mistick Village and Gillette Castle are the additional historic attractions. The Connecticut Office of Tourism reports that Gillette Castle leads in attendance with a remarkable 300,000 visitors each year. While William Gillette’s historic castle is indeed impressive, the trails, gardens, grounds, campsites and view of the Connecticut River attract many of these visitors.

In Hebron, Tripadvisor highlights Gay City State Park as a notable attraction that has gained 4.5 out of 5 stars. The review left by Heather B. of Norwich remarks on the mix of history and beauty, “This is a great place to hike. We loved exploring the different ruins we found along the way. There is so much history to learn about the old city that used to stand in that spot.” While there are no specific attendance numbers for Gay City State Park, the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection reported that 14.5 million people visited our State Parks in 2025. Perhaps the most compelling fact is that the average before 2020 was between 7 and 8 million visitors per year.

But Gay City is only the tip of the tourism iceberg for Hebron. The world’s leading authority on historic stonewalls, Professor Robert Thorson of the University of Connecticut Earth Science Department, has confirmed the unique and historic characteristics of the stonewall laneways built between 1740 and 1840 at 17 Kinney Road/the Horton Property, “I have never seen a series of stonewall laneways like this. It took the planning and effort of the community to create them... This is a beautifully preserved community landscape, rather than the hodge podge of walls built by individual farmers.” He noted the preservation of 17 Kinney Road is important “because this is a larger state wide concept... In terms of historic significance... this can be considered an excellent example, perhaps best in

state, where the community really got organized to maximize land potential.”

Located at the heart of Hebron center, and now connected to downtown by 9 Pendleton Drive, 17 Kinney Road is positioned to be featured as a jewel of Connecticut’s tourism and outdoor recreation economy. Please visit Save Hebron Center on Facebook and #Save17.

Sincerely,
Kevin J. Tulimieri – Amston

Meet Melissa

To the Editor:

If you haven’t met her already, I would like to introduce you to a great legislator, whom I have known for quite some time. Her name is Melissa Ziobron and has represented us previously for three terms in the Connecticut State General Assembly, after first winning election in November 2012. Her record of providing common sense government with a rural touch from the communities she represented, was outstanding as she became more and more influential during those six years.

Melissa embodies the core Republican principles of individual freedom, limited government and fiscal responsibility. She has stayed heavily involved in the community and is fully committed to students, parents, schools, and the taxpayer, as a member of the East Haddam Board of Education. However, she sees things going the wrong direction in Hartford, which is adversely affecting all of us, and she is primed and ready to serve us once again.

One of these issues going the wrong way is the lack of state funding to our schools through the Education Cost Sharing (ECS), which has not changed its funding formula since 2013 to account for inflation. This has continuously put upward pressure on our property taxes. As we have seen through each successive budget cycle, this is unsustainable, and good leadership in Hartford matters, and a continued strong voice from our community also matters.

Melissa is uniquely gifted, experienced and ready to take the baton from Irene Haines, who has also served us very well. She is the right person to win the race to serve us yet again in the same exemplary way. She has my full support and she deserves your full support as well! Pass the word, and look for her name on the ballot for District 34 Representative this November! You’ll be glad you did!

Nathan Jaycox – East Hampton

So Much For Fiscal Responsibility

To the Editor:

The town of East Hampton once again had the opportunity, concerning the BOE’s lack of fiscal restraint, to ease the ever-growing tax burden on the people of East Hampton. Sadly, the Town Council, the BOF and the BOE have failed to respect the desires of all the people in town. In case you forgot, 67%+ of our property taxes is spent on the school budget. An estimated 36.6% of the families in EH have school-age children 18 or under, and the majority of the people in EH get bullied into paying the BOE’s demands for more money every year. Our town roads will go un-repaired, our police will remain under-staffed, town services will be struggling to keep up, taxes will once again increase, our lake health will continue to struggle, and our seniors will suffer, all because the town operations budget had to take a 2% cut, while the BOE celebrates its greed with a 2+ percent increase, keeping the burden on the 64% of the taxpayers.

State law decrees that education budgets cannot be reduced from the current year. Zero increase is allowed, but reduction is not. The BOE budget is created taking into account potential state funding. Any funding that the state provides this year is in no way guaranteed for the next year. So if the state decides not to provide funding for next year, equal to this year, the taxpayers of EH will have to make up the deficit, because the education budget cannot be reduced. That means more money out of your pocket, because the BOE obviously doesn’t have to ever worry about cutting spending. Constantly increasing taxes (the majority of which goes to the school budget) will also serve as a deterrent to people looking at EH as a home.

There are two positives that bear mention. One: next year is an election year, so perhaps the voters will select people who will actually stand up to the BOF and BOE. Two: all the letters that have been written supporting a ‘no’ vote can be used again next year, since nothing will change except the dates, sad to say. Remember the definition of insanity.

Regards,
Bob Yenker – East Hampton

Editor’s Desk continued from page 4

the regional favorite Lights in Motion display in neighboring Hebron, a spectacular drive-through light show synchronized to holiday music that rounds out a perfect winter weekend.

Marlborough isn’t just a place on a map, it is a community where holiday traditions are woven into our history, our landscape, and our hearts. We would love to welcome you to experience our town’s magic firsthand.”

I mean, wow. Quite the description (and a nice Hebron shout-out to boot!). If Marlborough officials were ever interested in hiring a PR person for the town, they might want to find out who wrote that description and sign that person up!

Anyway, back to the contest. If Marlborough happens to win, the town will receive the

opportunity to serve as the filming location for a future Hallmark holiday movie. How cool would that be?

So again, head on over to merriestchristmastowncontest.hallmarkchannel.com and cast your vote!

Before I go, a bit of housekeeping is in order. Next Monday is Labor Day, and while the office is closed that day, our deadline will remain the same. All copy for next week’s issue must be submitted by noon Tuesday, Sept. 8. No exceptions will be made.

So enjoy the long weekend! But don’t enjoy it so much you forget about the *Rivereast*.

See you next week.

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Votes Against Protecting CT Vulnerable Citizens
To the Editor:
In their August letters, Mr. Sauyet and Ms. Wilkinson pointed us to Rep. Weir’s actual record for District 55. Woefully, Rep. Weir voted against Senate Bill 397 and House Bill 8004, too, which all together were passed to protect Connecticut citizens against ongoing federal law enforcement abuses: banning masks, limiting courthouse arrests, empowering civil lawsuits against abusive force, and limiting private data dissemination.
After reaching out when the federal government first began militarizing law enforcement in early 2025, I have had multiple pleasant but pointed conversations with our representative; still, he did not vote for these protections. Our community deserves vision, discretion, and courage in defending our Hebron freedoms.
David Olio – Amston

Touch A Truck Thanks
To the Editor:
The Exchange Club of Portland held its 15th annual Touch a Truck Event at the Portland Fair grounds on Sunday, Aug. 30.
Without the support of area businesses and individuals the success of this event would not have been possible.
The Exchange would like to thank our “18-Wheeler” sponsor: Casella Waste Systems
Our “Monster Truck” sponsors: Bill’s Auto, DRVN Enterprise, Law office of George Law, and Tehrani Law Group.
Our “4 x 4 Truck” sponsors: Barnum Financial, Portland Automotive, Portland Collision, Petzold’s Marine Center and Sharr Realty.
The Exchange would also like to thank businesses, organizations and individuals who contributed vehicles to the event. Portland Police Department, Portland Public works, Portland Fire Department, CWPM, Glastonbury Volunteer Ambulance, MurderCycles Motorcycle Club, Thompson Landscape, M & J Bus Service, Butler Construction, Dick Lawton & Son, 1st Co. Governor’s Foot Guard, Untouchable Towing, RT Relocation, and JV Express.
Proceeds from this year’s event will support the creation of a “Championship” sign honoring Portland High School’s state championship teams from over the past decade – and in earlier years.
Thank you again for your support.

Land Acquisition in Hebron
To the Editor:
Some residents and members of the community power structure have asked if open space purchases will diminish the town’s capacity to accommodate more single-family or multi-unit housing or commercial development. The answer is ‘no.’
All the properties that Hebron and the state purchased were for state forest addition, wildlife management area expansion, the protection and perpetuation of farmland operations, scenic vista preservation, and natural resources protection. The latter includes wetlands, water-course and ground water protection, flood control, oxygen production, carbon sequestration, historic site preservation, animal habitat, and recreational greenways.
Most of the sites that have been acquired were not conducive to development, due to geological and hydrological characteristics. Some parcels had access problems, some required cost-prohibitive stormwater management and road systems, some would not have met building requirements under state and PZC regulations, some would have required environmentally unacceptable cutting and filling, and some had soils that could not have accommodated on-site septic systems. While incredibly valuable for farming and preservation, the properties purchased for open space were unsuitable for housing or commercial development.
The bulk of Hebron’s land is in private ownership, and the property owners that the town and state have dealt with were adamant about passing it forward for farmland continuance or conservation purposes.
Transportation, some water availability, and sewer infrastructure are in the center of town. To state that Hebron has no plan or vision for its future development is to ignore the collective wisdom of hundreds of very-well qualified people that is reflected in Hebron’s Plan of Conservation and Development. This document is redrafted every ten years and is the product of generations of Planning and Zoning, Con-

servation, Economic Development, and other boards, with ample review and public hearing input. Folks should read this plan before making judgements. For several decades, this blue-print promoted Hebron’s measured growth and prevented inappropriate development. It has preserved the rural ambience that attracts us to live here.
While theTown can set some of the conditions for acceptable housing, infrastructure and commercial development, residents must understand that development of any kind is driven primarily by private sector market forces. It is a partnership between government and a free enterprise system and a mindful balance between preservation and progress.
Lastly, if you want to see Hebron’s beautiful vistas saved – buy them. That’s the purpose of our conservation land acquisition program. Fund it.
Jim Cordier – Hebron

What’s Homegrown Leadership About?
To the Editor:
Many of you have seen my campaign signs around town that say “homegrown leadership” and wondered what that means. Growing up in both East Hampton and East Haddam has given me perspectives others simply don’t have. My baby clothes hung on the line next to the Moodus Reservoir. At age 5 I moved to Tartia Road in East Hampton, attended kindergarten in Middle Haddam, and went through East Hampton schools. At 15 I returned to Moodus and graduated from Hale-Ray High School. I worked at Frank Davis Resort and grabbed pizza at Diamond, just like so many of my classmates. This community shaped my perspectives and my work ethic.
Our small hometowns are special. We have

state parks, walking trails, running rivers, and precious lakes right outside our doors, along with unique small businesses and eateries. We enjoy award-winning theater, world-renowned manufacturing, and hometown hardware stores where friendly faces are ready to help. Our community is safe, and many of our public schools are staffed by friends and neighbors. We pay our fair share to fund local and state government and insist it live within its means. We want our money spent wisely and expect a real return on that investment. We are proud to live in small towns supported by volunteers of every kind.
Yet in Hartford a growing number of legislators believe our residents can afford to hand over still more of their hard-earned money, and they push for greater government overreach into our lives. Higher taxes and more spending rank as the top priority of the super-majority party. Their agenda is very different from ours. They favor big government that expands bureaucracy and slow progress. Their first instinct when facing complex problems is to throw more of your money at them. The result has been out-of-control spending and higher taxes for all of us.
This same mindset has pockets of support here at home, including from my opponent. That is not entirely her fault; she only recently moved into the district and does not fully share our history. I am running again to make government work for you, not the other way around. I bring real roots and real results from two decades of community advocacy and volunteerism. I ask for your vote – not simply as a candidate, but as a neighbor who understands what makes our towns worth protecting with the experienced leadership you deserve.
Melissa Ziobron – East Haddam
Note: Ziobron is running for the 34th District in the state House of Representatives. The district covers East Hampton, East Haddam and Salem.

Who Is Ellen Paul?
To the Editor:
Who is Ellen Paul? Why is she running to unseat a conservative Republican State House incumbent whose voting record demonstrates ineffectiveness? Why is she gaining momentum in the 55th District? And what has she done to enrich the lives of people in Connecticut?
Ellen Paul is the Democratic candidate for state representative in the 55th District, which includes Hebron, Andover, Marlborough, and parts of Glastonbury and Bolton. She is a librarian by profession, a mother of two elementary-school children who attend public schools, and a Glastonbury resident.
Ellen Paul is no newcomer to Hartford or to the legislative process. For more than 30 years, the voice of the 55th District has been compromised when its representative has not been part of the majority party. Ellen believes the district deserves a representative who will be heard in Hartford and who can help ensure that the concerns and priorities of the 55th District are part of a successful legislative process.
She has already demonstrated that she knows how to turn ideas into action. Ellen has shepherded legislation through the legislative process – from transforming policy ideas into legislation, to understanding the critical importance of committee work, educating decision-makers and stakeholders, and ultimately celebrating the passage of laws that benefit Connecticut’s libraries.
Ellen is a librarian who brings people together. As executive director of the Connecticut Library Consortium, she has worked with more than 1,000 libraries across Connecticut – including public, school, and college libraries – to enhance services and save taxpayers money.
And Ellen is not simply talking about representing the 55th District—she is already out listening.
See Letters, page 32

ENTERTAINMENT



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St. Andrew Church Cemetery Notice

Members of Guardian Angels Parish are working to clear St. Andrew New Cemetery and to help us preserve the beauty and dignity of this sacred place, we are working to clear the cemetery of items that interfere with mowing, routine maintenance, and the overall appearance of the grounds.

Families are asked to visit their loved one's gravesite and remove any glass lights, rocks, ceramic pots, shepherd's hooks, planted flowers, shrubs, trees, or other decorative items that are not permitted under the cemetery's Rules and Regulations.

Please note the following:
Decorations are limited to one display per lot in a portable plastic or metal rectangular box

placed no more than 10 inches from the monument.

As stated in the cemetery Rules and Regulations, trees, shrubs, flowers, bric-a-brac, lighting, and other plantings placed in the ground are not permitted and may be removed without notice.

Any non-permitted items remaining in the cemetery may be removed as part of this clean-up effort to ensure the cemetery can be maintained safely and respectfully.

If you have any questions, please refer to the Rules and Regulations that accompany your cemetery deed, or call the Guardian Angels Parish Office at 860-537-2355.

Celebrate Colchester Returns Sept. 19

Celebrate Colchester, a family-friendly community festival that brings together residents, local businesses, organizations, artisans and performers, will return next month.

The event will be held Saturday, Sept. 19, from 1-5 p.m., on the Town Green.

Visitors can enjoy a variety of activities throughout the day, including: Local artisan and community vendors, Interactive activities for children and families, live DJ and concert with Sister Funk, food vendors and sweet treats, community organization exhibits, games, giveaways and raffle opportunities, bounce house, face-painting and Touch A Truck.

Celebrate Colchester emphasizes community involvement by featuring local businesses, nonprofits, schools, clubs, and civic organizations. Vendors are encouraged to create engaging,

family-friendly experiences by offering an activity at their booth, helping to make the event interactive for attendees of all ages.

Proceeds from vendor raffle basket donations benefit the Colchester Parks & Recreation Day Camp Scholarship Fund, helping ensure that local children have the opportunity to participate in summer camp regardless of financial circumstances.

Celebrate Colchester is presented by Colchester Parks & Recreation. For current event information, visit www.colchesterct.gov/recreation-department.

Local vendors, businesses and organizations are welcome to participate in the event; if interested, email parksandrec@colchesterct.gov or call the office at 860-537-7297.

Senior Center News & Notes

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

Monday, Sept. 7: Center closed for Labor Day.

Tuesday, Sept. 8: 9 a.m., Making Memories; 9:45 a.m., Tai Chi; 10 a.m., LTCOP Meeting; 12:30 p.m., Pinochle, CHOICES Counseling; 1 p.m., Cornhole; 1:15 p.m., Bingo.

Wednesday, Sept. 9: 9 a.m., Making Memories, Walking Group; 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Reflexology; 10 a.m., Adult Coloring, Hand and Foot Card Game, Sit & Be Fit Video; 10:30 a.m., A New Chapter presentation; 1 p.m., Sew-cial Time; 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m., Cardio Drumming; 2:30 p.m., Staff Meeting.

Thursday, Sept. 10: 9 a.m., Exercise w/ Anne; 10 a.m., Sittercize, Wii Bowling; 11 a.m., Yoga; noon, Sr. Benefits Counseling; 12:05 p.m., Chair Massage; 12:30 p.m., Dominoes, Needlework Club.

Friday, Sept. 11: 9 a.m., Social Service Hours, Open Art Studio; 10 a.m., Sit & Be Fit; 10:30 a.m., Choral Group; 11 a.m., Yoga; 11:15 a.m., Chatham Health Education Series; 1-3:30 p.m., Open Ping Pong; 1:15 p.m., Bingo.

Movie Time – Forrest Gump: Tuesday, Sept. 15, 9:30 a.m. The center said it has received several requests to show this movie again. The movie is two and a half hours long. This is a free program and popcorn will be served.

Another Year Older Is a Bushel of Fun Luncheon: Wednesday, Sept. 16, 11 a.m. All are invited to this this apple-themed luncheon. Colchester guitarist and vocalist Bobby C. will perform some favorites from the '70s. After the performance, enjoy a lunch of stuffed pork loin with cornbread stuffing, apple sauce, seasoned rice, broccoli, multigrain rolls and apple pie. Cost is \$10 per person (60 years old and over). Space is limited.

Emergency Services Presentation: Thursday, Sept. 17, 11 a.m. Members of the Colchester Fire and EMS Services will present information about the department's services, organizational structure, and work it does to support and protect the community. They will also discuss how

the department partners with other local stakeholders and prepares for emergencies that may impact the community. This program is free and open to all.

Celebrate Colchester Volunteers Needed: Saturday, Sept. 19, 1-5 p.m. The center is looking for volunteers to man its booth at Celebrate Colchester on the town green. At the booth, there will be information about the senior center, as well as a scavenger hunt that attendees can participate in to win a small prize. The center is looking for volunteers who can work 12:30-2:30 p.m. and 2:30-5 p.m. Call the office to sign up if you can help.

AARP Driver Safety Course: Wednesday, Sept. 23, 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. You'll learn the rules of the road, defensive driving techniques and how to operate your vehicle more safely, and you may qualify for a discount from your insurance provider. Open to anyone age 50 and over. Cost is \$20 for AARP members and \$25 for non-members. Register by Sept. 18.

1970s Name That Tune: Monday, Sept. 28, 10:30 a.m. Picture it: you jump in your car (maybe a Firebird or a Datsun), head to McDonald's for the new Quarter Pounder, and the Bee Gees are on the radio as Casey Kasem counts down; life is good. All are invited to come test your knowledge of '70s music (all genres – not just disco). This is a free program. Refreshments will be served.

Groovy Birthday Party Finale: Wednesday, Sept. 30, 11 a.m. Celebrate birthdays (past, present and those yet to come) and the end of senior center month with a giant '70s-inspired birthday cake. Bring a picture and/or story to share from one of your favorite birthday parties and play some nostalgic party games. The center will also draw the names of the disco ball scratch-off raffle winners. This is a free program.

Birthday Cake Project: Wednesday, Sept. 30, 2 p.m. Some families do not have the financial means to buy a birthday cake or the items to bake one. In honor of National Senior Center Month, the senior center will collect boxed cake mix, canned frosting, canned Sprite or other lemon-lime flavored soda, 9x13 aluminum pans with plastic lids, and packaged birthday candles. On Sept. 30, gather together to make Birthday Cake kits for the Colchester Food Bank. If you are a senior center member and would like to volunteer to make the kits, register with the office.

Land Trust Upcoming Events

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

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

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

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

Scholarship Event

The St. Joseph's Polish Society at 395 South Main St. will host an event to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the society's scholarship program.

Every year, the St. Joseph's Polish Society hosts a golf tournament with the proceeds going toward scholarships for high school seniors going into college. This year's event will be on Saturday, Sept. 12. As the golf tournament is full, there will be a separate event at the club that is

open to the public on the same day.

Tickets are \$25 each and include your choice of a chicken or steak dinner. Dinner will be served from 2-5 o,m, Jonny Debit will perform from 2-5 p.m., and the band merge right will perform from 5:30-9:30 p.m.

If interested in purchasing tickets, stop by the club during regular business hours. For more information, call 860-537-2550.

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 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.

Westchester Church News

Westchester Congregational Church, located at 98 Cemetery Rd., holds worship Sundays at 10 a.m. All are welcome to attend. The church choir always welcomes new members. Services are also available on Zoom; visit www.westchestercongchurch.org for login information. Sunday School for children meets during the worship service.

Twelve-Step Meetings: Al-Anon meets in Canney Hall Wednesdays at 7 p.m. AA meets in Canney Hall Fridays at 7:30 p.m.

Scouts: The church sponsors Scouting America Troop 109. During the school year, Troop 109 meets on Tuesdays at 7 p.m.

Outreach and Other Opportunities: Knit-

ting Group meets Thursdays at 10 a.m. Many knitted, crocheted, and quilted items have been sent to Native American reservations, hospitals for babies, and other places to help those in need. The Blessings Box is at the end of the church parking lot and contains donations of non-perishable food, personal care, and other items for those in need. Take what you need; donate what you can. Also, the church sponsors the Wounded Warrior Project, a donation opportunity to help veterans.

For more information, visit westchestercongchurch.org, email westcongchurch@gmail.com or call the church at 860-267-6711. Pastor Ron Lake can be reached at 860-428-3460.

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Two Arrested After Damage Reported at RecPlex

By Toriana Williams

Two people were arrested after police investigated vandalism at the RecPlex on Old Hebron Road, including damage to the grass and security cameras, according to Connecticut State Police.

Police were called on Aug. 25 around 7 a.m. after a public works employee found deep tire tracks in the grass.

An 18-year-old Colchester resident, Avery Berry, was arrested and charged with third-degree criminal trespass and second-degree criminal mischief, police said. Berry was given a total bond of \$5,000. The case is set for Sept. 8 at Norwich Superior Court.

A second person, who was 17 at the time, was also arrested and charged with the same crimes, police said. Due to being a minor, his name was not released. The case is set for Sept. 9 in Waterford Juvenile Court.

Police said photos showed an orange Jeep Wrangler had driven through the grass. Public works employees were familiar with the Jeep from earlier incidents at the RecPlex.

“The Jeep has been seen in other parts of Colchester by public workers and a license plate had been obtained prior to this incident,” said police.

Police later found the Jeep at a residence; officers said grass and mud were still on the Jeep’s wheels and lower sides.

First Selectman Bernie Dennler told the *Rivereast* that repairs are expected to cost between \$1,500 and \$2,000. About \$900 will be used to repair the grass, while about \$800 will be used to fix the damaged cameras.

Man Rescued After Tree Falls on Legs

By Toriana Williams

A man was taken to a local hospital after a tree fell onto his legs while he was cutting it near McDonald Road in Colchester on Monday afternoon, Aug. 31.

The tree landed on the lower half of his legs, just above his ankles, according to Fire Chief Steve Hoffmann. He received minor injuries, but was “more or less stuck,” said Hoffmann.

Hoffmann estimated the tree was about 12 inches in diameter; emergency personnel used airbags from their rescue truck to lift the tree and free the man.

CCT Cabaret Night Out

Colchester Community Theatre will hold its third annual Cabaret Night Out on Friday, Sept. 18, and Saturday, Sept. 19, at 7:30 PM at St. Joseph Polish Society.

Both evenings will feature musical theater, singing, instrumental performances, raffles, and more.

Single tickets are \$20, or you can purchase a table of 8 for \$144 (\$16 savings). Bring food, your friends, and enjoy beverages from the bar. This event is for ages 21 and up.

Get tickets at colchester.ludus.com.

Residents Graduate

The following Colchester residents graduated in May from the University of Rhode Island:

Gracyn Kane, who graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering; Samuel Miller, who graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in industrial and systems engineering; Matthew McCune, who graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in computer science; Eric Assaf, who graduated with a Master of Business Administration degree; Tamie Hamilton, who graduated with a Master of Business Administration degree.

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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.

History Museum Open Sundays

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

This spring you can view the museum’s newest exhibit: “Every Possible Means: Colchester’s Role in the Revolutionary War.” You can also experience histories of people and places in the “ABCs of Colchester History” exhibit.

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

For more information, contact the Colchester Historical Society at mail@colchesterhistory.org or 860-537-3240.

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Cindy Pierce-Brundrett (left) has been named a Melvin Jones Fellow by Lions Clubs International Foundation. Pictured presenting Pierce-Brundrett with the plaque is Carol Marchigiano, immediate past president of the Colchester Lions Club

Lions Club Member Named Melvin Jones Fellow

Cindy Pierce-Brundrett has been named a Melvin Jones Fellow by Lions Clubs International Foundation in recognition of serving the world community.

Named for the founder of Lions Clubs International, Melvin Jones, the fellowship is the foundation’s highest honor, given in recognition of commitment to community service.

Pierce-Brundrett has been an active Colchester Lions Club members for many years, serving as Lion Tamer and on the club’s board of directors. She has chaired many events, including the annual School Backpack Drive and Sightsaver Day.

Pierce-Brundrett received a finely-crafted plaque and lapel pin acknowledging her dedication to the foundation’s humanitarian goals. As a Melvin Jones Fellow, she becomes part of the growing network of individuals who are committed to improving the quality of life for people locally and in communities around the world.

The Colchester Lions Club has 84 members and usually meets the second Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. at St. Joseph’s Polish Club.

Lions Clubs are a group of men and women who identify needs with the community and work together to fulfill those needs.

For more information or to get involved with the Colchester Lions Club, please visit www.colchesterlions.org.

CCT to Hold Auditions for *Frozen*

Colchester Community Theatre has scheduled auditions for its February 2027 production of *Disney’s Frozen* through special arrangement with MTI.

In the beautiful mountainous kingdom of Arendelle, Princesses Anna and Elsa grow up sheltered inside their castle, isolated from the world and increasingly distant from each other. When Elsa is crowned queen, the magical powers she’s desperately tried to conceal from her sister take control, and she flees into the mountains. As a ferocious winter descends on Arendelle, Anna sets off on an epic journey to find Elsa and bring her home – with the help of hardworking ice harvester Kristoff, his loyal reindeer Sven, and a happy-go-lucky snowman named Olaf. Full of magic, humor, and a stunning musical score, *Frozen* is a powerful tale of sisterhood, acceptance, and finding the real meaning of true love.

Auditions will be held Sunday, Oct. 4, from 2:30-4:30 p.m., and Monday, Oct. 5, from 6:30-8:30 p.m., at the Congregation Ahavath Achim (Colchester Synagogue) on 84 Lebanon Ave. Please prepare 32 bars of a song that showcases your voice. An accompanist will be provided. No a cappella or backing tracks, please. Sides from the show will be available at auditions. All auditionees should be prepared to move. Please bring comfortable clothes and appropriate footwear (jazz shoes or sneakers) to learn a brief dance combination.

To sign up for auditions and receive additional information regarding the musical, please visit www.colchestercommunitytheatre.com. CCT is seeking a diverse and talented cast ages 16 and up. Young Anna and Young Elsa are open to performers in Grade 6 and up, while Olaf is open to performers in Grade 6 through adult. Please refer to the character breakdown on the website.

For more information, email info@colchestercommunitytheatre.com.

Show dates for this production are Feb. 12, 13 and 14. Anyone who is unable to attend the auditions on the above dates must contact us before Oct. 4 to make other arrangements.

Garden Club ‘Plants and More Sale’

Colchester Garden Club is having its fourth annual “Plants and More Sale” on Sunday, Sept. 20, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., at 35 Hayward Ave.

There will be locally grown perennials, houseplants, garden tools, handmade gifts, flower pots, and more. Purchases help the Colchester Garden Club with its programs including community beautification, senior center activities, youth gardening, and public educational programs.

Deadline Soon for Golf Classic

The Colchester Hayward Volunteer Fire Company (CHVFC) annual Golf Classic will be held Monday, Sept. 21, at Blackledge Country Club in Hebron – and the deadline to register is fast approaching.

There will be burgers and dogs for lunch, steak tips for dinner, a hole-in-one prize, and raffles.

Golfers must register by Sept. 12, at CHVFC. org/golf.

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Route 2 Safety Concerns Bring Officials Together

By Toriana Williams

Concerns about safety in the Route 2 construction zones in Colchester gathered town and state officials to meet and discuss changes to the current traffic pattern.

The concerns came after a Colchester resident contacted officials about what the resident called an “Urgent Safety Crisis” on Route 2. The complaint focused on lane changes and traffic patterns in the construction area.

State Rep. Mark DeCaprio (R-48) said his office, First Selectman Bernie Dennler, the Connecticut Department of Transportation and other government officials received the resident’s email on Aug. 12.

“I wrote the individual back [that] we would follow up with the DOT immediately and re-inforce the urgency of developing a traffic pattern that prioritizes safety and avoids hazardous conditions,” wrote DeCaprio to the *Rivereast*.

A virtual meeting was then held on Monday, Aug. 24 with DOT officials, Dennler, town officials and Colchester’s resident state trooper, Sgt. Zachary Cash.

“Problems with the roadway were discussed in detail,” said DeCaprio.

He said officials did not yet know the exact number of traffic incidents connected to the construction area; however, he said there had been multiple crashes and other “close call” situations. DeCaprio asked DOT officials to review the concerns and possible solutions brought up during the meeting “and come back to the group with changes to improve the situation and make

this traffic pattern safer,” he said. DeCaprio shared he is still waiting for a timeline from DOT about when officials would respond. Dennler said he also has concerns about the construction area and lane changes.

“The construction area and confusing lane changes are a concern for anyone who has driven through that area,” Dennler wrote to the *Rivereast*.

Dennler said he has already contacted DOT about his concerns, and that he also passed along concerns he’s received from Colchester residents.

“While the town cannot control activity on state roads, we will continue advocating for the safety of our neighbors and visitors to Colchester,” said Dennler. He added that he will continue to share information from DOT through his weekly newsletter on the town website.

CTDOT Said Drivers Must Slow Down
DOT shared with the *Rivereast* that the goal of the Route 2 projects is to improve safety and road conditions in both directions through Colchester.

The agency said it is still looking into the number of crashes that happened in or near the construction zones since work has begun, and that they have not yet compared the crash history with previous years. However, the agency did provide speed data from its Know the Zone Work Zone Speed Control Program.

During the warning period from June 1 through June 30, about 34% of vehicles traveling

westbound on Route 2 in Colchester were driving above the posted speed limit, according to DOT. The highest speed recorded was 98 miles per hour.

DOT said speeding is a problem in Colchester and in work zones across the state.

“What we’re seeing in Colchester and work zones across the state is people are driving far too fast,” said the agency.

The department pointed to the dangers drivers face in construction areas, including lane closures, traffic shifts, heavy equipment and workers near the highway.

“As this work continues, we’re reminding the public of the important role they play in keeping workers and other drivers safe,” said DOT.

The agency urged drivers to slow down, move over when required, pay attention, avoid distractions and drive sober.

“By slowing down, moving over, remaining vigilant, ditching the distractions and driving sober, we can prevent crashes and ensure safer roads for everyone,” said DOT.

DOT Still Looking into Crash Numbers

Officials have asked DOT for more information about the crashes in the Route 2 construction zones. The department said it is are still looking into how many crashes have happened and whether they caused injuries, deaths, roll-overs or long road closures.

The agency also said it is checking how many crashes have happened while the current lane patterns were in place, and that they regularly review safety in their work zones.

“Through these reviews, we ensure proper signage, pavement markings, traffic drums and cones, and equipment are in place throughout the work zone and across the corridor,” said DOT.

The agency also confirmed that it has heard concerns from Colchester officials and residents, and shared that DOT officials have met with town officials before and are willing to continue talking with local officials about safety concerns.

Budgets Pass at Referendum

By Toriana Williams

The third time was the charm for the Colchester budgets, as voters Tuesday passed the 2026-27 town government and Board of Education budgets.

According to unofficial results, over 3,200 Colchester residents and taxpayers participated in voting, a similar turnout for the second referendum.

The proposed town budget garnered the most support with 1,945 ‘yes’ votes and 1,310 ‘no’ votes. The proposed Board of Education budget received 1,854 ‘yes’ votes and 1,395 ‘no’ votes.

Combined, the budgets total \$67.85 million, a 3.77% increase from last year’s adopted budget. The town’s operation budget comes

to \$19.06 million, a 5.38% increase from the 2025-26 town operations spending proposal, and the BOE’s budget is \$48.79 million, or a 3.16% increase from the 2025-26 budget.

The proposed effective mill rate is 30.43, an increase of about 1.7%. The Board of Finance is expected to formally set the mill rate at its Sept. 9 meeting.

First Selectman Bernie Dennler shared a quick comment with the *Rivereast* Wednesday morning.

“I want to thank everybody who participated this year,” he said. “We had record turnout multiple times, and we landed in a better place because of it.”

For more on Tuesday’s referendum, see the *Rivereast* Facebook page.

AARP Meets Sept. 8

The September meeting of the Colchester-area chapter of AARP will be held Tuesday, Sept. 8, t the Colchester Senior Center. The board will meet in the conference room at noon. Members will meet in the senior center at 12:30 p.m., and are asked to bring refreshments to share.

As the chapter renews its meetings in September, the topic will be “Building Bonds: A Fun Start to Our Year” presented by member Noreen Bibee. This will be a casual meeting to learn a little more about each other.

All seniors in Colchester and surrounding towns are invited to attend.

Police News

8/17: Carlos Matthew Torres, 31, of Colchester, was arrested and charged with third-degree criminal mischief, disorderly conduct and violation of protective order, state police said.

8/22: Dean William Molinari, 40, of Salem, was arrested and charged with operation of a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol/drugs; drinking while driving; traveling too fast for conditions; illegal tampering with, altering or bypassing the operation of an ignition interlock device; failure to drive in proper lane; and operating a motor vehicle with unsafe tires, police said.

8/23: Ryan Skye Mokrzycki, 22, of Lebanon, was arrested and charged with second-degree failure to appear, police said.

Pumpkins & Pooches to Return

Pumpkins & Pooches, hosted by the Colchester Dog Park, will be held Sunday, Oct. 18, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m., at Priam Vineyards.

Families, kids and dogs are welcome! There will be pet-related vendors, raffles, treat bag decorating, and other activities for the kids, while supplies last. Dog costume contests will take place at 2 p.m.

Dogs must be vaccinated and on leashes. No retractable leashes please.

Organizers are still accepting pet-related vendors. Contact tagnobark@gmail.com for more information.

Vendors Sought for Fall Fair

Colchester Federated Church’s annual Fall Vendor Fair will be held Saturday, Nov. 7, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. – and participants are sought.

This local fair showcases crafters, vendors, farmers and more. If you would like a table to sell your goods, reach out to Renee Misbach at rouillette01@snet.net for more information.

Bible Baptist Church News

Colchester Bible Baptist Church holds Sunday School at 9:30 a.m., followed by the Sunday morning worship service is at 10:30 a.m. 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. Pastor Scott Rosen can be emailed at pastor@colchesterbible.org, and the church website is www.colchesterbible.org.

Christian Life Chapel News

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

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

Children’s Worship: Sundays at 10:30 a.m. Kids learn about Jesus in ageappropriate ways.

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

Resident Produces 9/11-Inspired Tribute

Colchester resident Robert Carley has a new photo exhibit, which will go on display at Slater Memorial Museum in Norwich on Sept. 12 and run through early December.

About 150 photos from all over the country will be displayed, with stories about how Carley located them. For 25 years, Carley has been chronicling 9/11-inspired flag tributes with his camera, and has traveled to 46 states.



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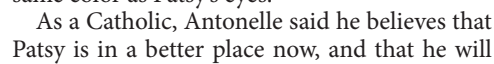
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Priest's Beloved Dog is Mourned by Community

"Immediately, the kids loved him, and that's why he was so well socialized," he said, "because

Antonelle said Patsy had dealt with breed-specific health problems most of his life, including pancreatitis, and he was on a special diet and receiving regular health care, but his health took a turn this past year when he began dealing with a heart arrhythmia that would cause him to



“[Animals] bring comfort and peace and joy, as we all are meant to do. They have the same purpose as we do, I believe, and sometimes they may be better at it than we are because they’re less complicated than we are,” he said. “You know, there’s talk about the Rainbow Bridge and all that, and I do believe that he’ll be there. He’ll be there waiting, and so that’ll be a joy for both.”

Space is limited for both events. For additional information and a registration form, email carol.hill@comcast.net.

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Celebrating National Senior Center Month in Portland

By Sarah Elliott-Caratasios, LMSW

September is National Senior Center Month, a time to recognize the extraordinary role senior centers play in communities across Connecticut and throughout the country.

This year’s national theme, “Happier Birthdays Happen Here,” may sound at first like it is about birthday cakes, candles and celebrations. But its meaning goes much deeper.

A happier birthday represents another year lived with connection, purpose, independence, friendship and opportunity. It means not simply adding years to life, but continuing to find meaningful ways to live those years. That is why senior centers truly are at the heart of our communities, helping older adults continue to live, connect, grow and thrive. That is what today’s senior centers are all about.

The National Council on Aging describes senior centers as dynamic community hubs that help older adults remain healthy, connected and engaged. Nearly 10,000 senior centers across the country serve approximately one million older adults, providing everything from wellness and educational programs to social opportunities, meals, benefits assistance and connections to critical resources.

Here in Portland, we see the meaning behind this year’s theme every day and take great pride in the community we have built together.

The Portland Senior Center is a place to exercise, learn something new, take a trip, attend a workshop, enjoy a meal, participate in a support group or simply sit down with someone and have a conversation.

But what happens here extends far beyond a calendar of activities. We connect older adults and their families with resources and services. We provide transportation opportunities that help people remain active and independent. We offer health and wellness programming, educational workshops, technology assistance,

Class of ’86 Reunion

The Portland High School Class of 1986 will hold its 40-Year Reunion Saturday, Oct. 17, at 6 p.m., at Fox on the Green, Portland West Golf Course, 105 Gospel Lane. Mercy/Xavier/Vinal alums are also welcome.

Cost is \$36/person and includes apps/buffet. There will be a cash bar.

Send Venmo payment to @rebecca-graves-91.

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

Hours: Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m., - Friday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., - Saturday 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. **Holiday Closing:** The library will be closed Saturday, Sept. 5, and Monday, Sept. 7, for Labor Day.

September is Library Card Sign-Up Month – A Library Card Hits All the Right Notes! Visit the library any time in September to sign up for a library card, or show us your library card to win a small prize. Did you know that you can listen to music on Hoopla with your library card? Ask to hear what PPL is listening to. Then guess which member of the library staff is listening to which album to be entered into a raffle. The winner chooses a book to add to the library’s collection.

Children’s Programs: Fall Storytimes: Start the week of Sept. 7. Registration opens Monday, Aug. 31, and space is limited. **Preschool Storytimes (ages 3-5):** Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. Sept. 8-Oct. 27. **Toddlers and Tots Storytime – Mother Goose on the Loose (ages 0-2):** Wednesdays at 10:15 and 11:15 a.m. Sept. 9-Oct. 28.

Here There Be Dragons! Thursdays at 3:30 p.m. Sept. 17, 24, Oct. 1, for grades 3-5. Dive into a world of dragons in this three-week program. Create your own dragon eyeballs and eggs, forge your own weapons to battle some ferocious dragons in the library, and work together to escape a dragon’s lair escape room. Registration is required and opens on Monday, Aug. 31, at 10 a.m.

Teen Advisory Board: Monday, Sept. 21: 3:30 p.m., for students in grades six and up. Are you interested in helping plan programs and pick out materials for the library? Come for an introductory meeting and let staff know what you want to see at the library. No registration required. Snacks will be provided.

Adult Programs: Photo Exhibit Reception – “Portland x Portland”: Saturday, Sept. 12, 1 p.m. In this special exhibit, 13 Portland photog-

caregiver support, benefits information, social activities, day trips, creative programs and opportunities to volunteer and give back.

We work alongside community organizations, health care providers, local leaders and other partners to bring information and resources directly to the people who need them.

Sometimes the most important thing we provide is something that cannot be measured on a calendar at all: belonging.

Someone walks through the doors for the first time not knowing anyone and eventually finds a group of friends. Someone who has been spending too much time alone discovers a weekly program that gives them something to look forward to. A caregiver finds support and realizes there are resources available to help. Someone learns about a benefit or service they never knew they qualified for. A person who thought the senior center “wasn’t for them” walks in and discovers just how much is happening inside.

These moments matter.

Across Connecticut, senior centers are doing this work every day. While every center reflects the needs and personality of its own community, collectively they are helping older adults remain engaged, informed, active and connected.

The senior center of today is not simply a place to go as we age. It is a place to continue growing. It is a place to learn technology at 75, try something new at 80, make a new friend at 85, volunteer, exercise, travel, create, laugh and continue contributing to the community at every age.

That is why this year’s theme is so fitting. “Happier Birthdays Happen Here” reminds us that aging should not be viewed only through the lens of what changes or what may be lost. It should also be about what remains possible.

The National Council on Aging says happier birthdays are built through connection, purpose, support and community, and senior centers bring those elements together every day.

National Senior Center Month is also an opportunity to challenge outdated ideas about what a senior center is or who it is for.

If you have never visited your local senior center because you think you are “too young,” too active or simply not a “senior center person,” September may be the perfect time to walk through the doors.

You might be surprised by what you find. You

raphers – Susan Anderson, Gabriela Andrew, Michael Beck, Dan Castelli, Beau Doherty, Chris Edie, Terry Grady, Chris Graham, Janet Lopes, Cara Mac, Lucinda Patrick, Sarah Weeden and Frank Winiski – will offer their perspectives of their hometown. This reception is sponsored by the Friends of the Portland Library. The exhibit will run from Sept. 8 through Oct. 8.

Songs From the Bend in the River: An Untold Story of American Music: Wednesday, Sept. 9, 6:30 p.m. After 30 years of traveling the world as a musician and songwriter, Portland native Joe Flood discovered that he shared a musical lineage with three important 19th century songwriters from Middletown: Henry Clay Work (1832-1884), composer of “Marching Through Georgia” and “Grandfather’s Clock,” once the most popular song in America; Reginald Dekoven (1859-1920), the first successful American operetta composer; and Edward Barrett (1817-1914), an Irish immigrant blacksmith and broadside poet who wrote lyrics to traditional airs. Touching as it does on blackface minstrelsy as well as the beginnings of American musical theater and the roots of American folk music, this musical era – largely before the dawn of recorded music – is little spoken of or understood today, the library said. In this presentation, Flood will sing the songs and explain the context. Registration is requested.

Weekly Knitty Knitters Group: Every Saturday, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Adults of all experience levels are welcome to drop in, share ideas, get helpful knitting tips and chat with others who enjoy knitting and crocheting. Note: There is no meeting on Sept. 5, because the library will be closed.

Movie: Wednesday, Sept. 9, 1 p.m. *Devil Wears Prada 2* (2026; rated PG-13) will be shown. Run time is 120 minutes.

Book Clubs: Mystery Lovers Book Club: Tuesday, Sept. 15, 1 p.m. *The Maid* by Nita Prose will be discussed. **Book Club for Solidarity and Community:** Saturday, Sept. 26, 1 p.m. *This Book Is Anti-Racist* by Tiffany Jewell will be discussed. **1st Thursday Night Book Club:** Thursday, Oct 1, 6:30 p.m. *The River We Remember* by William Kent Krueger will be discussed. **Talk About Books:** Tuesday, Oct. 6, 1 p.m. *Fresh Water for Flowers* by Valerie Perrin will be discussed.

may find exercise and wellness programs, educational presentations, volunteer opportunities, support groups, technology assistance, community events, creative programs, trips, friendships and resources you did not even know existed.

More importantly, you may find a community.

At the Portland Senior Center, we are incredibly proud to be one small part of a much larger network of senior centers across Connecticut doing this important work.

This September, as we celebrate National Senior Center Month, we celebrate far more than our programs or our building. We celebrate the people who walk through our doors. We celebrate friendships formed, resources discovered, new experiences shared, independence supported and lives enriched. We celebrate growing older while continuing to grow. Because a birthday represents another year of life. And when those years include connection, purpose, laughter, support and community, they can truly be happier ones.

Happier Birthdays Happen Here.

And we plan to celebrate all month long! The Portland Senior Center has lots of special activities, programs, surprises and opportunities planned throughout September in honor of National Senior Center Month. Whether you are already part of our Senior Center family or have never walked through our doors before, we invite you to stop in, join us and see for yourself

what today’s senior center is all about.

There may even be a few surprises along the way, because after all, what’s a birthday celebration without a little fun?

As we celebrate National Senior Center Month, it is also important to remember that strong senior centers need strong community support. The programs, transportation, resources, staffing and services that older adults and their families rely on do not happen without continued investment and advocacy.

We encourage residents to learn about the senior center in their community and understand the services it provides. Attend local meetings, stay informed about municipal budgets and decisions that may impact senior services, ask questions, speak up and make your voice heard. When important budget issues affecting your local senior center come before your community, participate in the process and vote.

Advocacy is not only about protecting what senior centers offer today. It is about making sure these vital community resources are here for the generations that will need them tomorrow.

Senior centers serve our parents, grandparents, neighbors, caregivers, friends and, one day, they may serve us. Supporting them is an investment in the health, independence and well-being of the entire community.

Note: Elliott-Caratasios is senior services administrator/municipal agent for the Town of Portland.

St. Mary Church News & Notes

St. Mary Roman Catholic Church, located at 45 Freestone Ave., invites all to attend its services and events. For more information, visit www.stmaryportlandct.org.

Worship: Weekday Masses are Monday and Tuesday at 8 a.m., and Friday at 12:10 p.m. Weekend Masses are Saturday at 5 p.m. and Sunday at 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Reconciliation: Saturdays between 4 and 4:45 p.m. Call 860-342-2308 to make arrangements. **Baptism:** Call Sue Ferraiolo at 860-

342-2308 to make arrangements. **Marriages:** Contact the office at 860-342-2328 to make an appointment with the Rev. John Antonelle.

Holy Hour Benediction: First Friday of every month following the 12:10 p.m. Mass.

Blessed Mother Mass: First Saturday of every month at 9 a.m.

Hours of Operation: Church hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. Office hours are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday-Friday.



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Vocal Chords Seek New Members

The Middlesex Hospital Vocal Chords (MHVC) are searching for men and women to join the chorus. MHVC said it is especially interested in expanding alto, tenor and bass sections. No auditions or prior experience are required. Rehearsals are Tuesdays, 6:45-9 p.m., at St. Francis Church's Msgr. Fox Parish Hall, 10 Elm St., Middletown, as MHVC prepares for its holiday concert on Sunday, Dec. 6, at 2 p.m., at Portland High School. New members may join until Sept. 8. This community-focused group's repertoire

includes hits from past and present, along with classical and patriotic selections. The group currently has around 90 members; you do not need any affiliation with Middlesex Health to become a member. Concert proceeds and funds from MHVC's annual Patron Drive go back to the community through scholarships awarded to Middlesex County seniors who plan to study nursing or music. For more information, visit vocalchords20.org or call 860-342-3120. You can also find the Vocal Chords on YouTube and Facebook.

Zion Lutheran News & Notes

Zion Lutheran Church is located at 183 William St. All are invited to participate in worship. Sara Stall-Ryan is pastor. **Worship Notes:** Zion offers Sunday worship each week at 9 a.m. Zion holds worship service outside once each month, weather permitting. The next outdoor service is scheduled for Sept. 27. Bring a comfortable chair. All are welcome. **Learning:** Sunday School for children ages 3 through 8th grade will be on hiatus for the summer and resume in the fall. **Men's Ministry:** Zion is initiating a Men's Group that will discuss and work on church projects and service projects around town. Call

Jerry Peuse at 860-894-2880 for more details. **Year-Round Giving:** Pull tabs are collected year-round and donated to the Ronald McDonald "House that Love Built," supporting families with seriously ill children. Zion recycles computer ink cartridges to support office supplies for Sunny Hill Preschool and Zion. Pull tabs and used ink cartridges may be dropped off at the church on Sunday morning, or by calling the church office. For more information about any church activities, or if you are in need of pastoral assistance, call 860-342-2860, email zion.lutheran@snet.net, or visit zionlutheranportland.org.

Community Stroke Education Class

There will be a Community Stroke Education Class, presented by Middlesex Health in partnership with the Portland Fire Department, on Thursday, Sept. 10, at 7 p.m., at Portland Fire Department Company No. 2, 594 Main St. Join Ryan Snow, Middlesex Health Community Stroke Educator, along with Portland Fire Department members, for an informational session on what you need to know about strokes. Learn signs and symptoms, risk factors and

preventative measures, and learn background on emergency medical services, the emergency department and in-patient care. This informational session will be followed by a Q&A session with both Snow and the fire department personnel. The class is open to the public, and no RSVP is needed. For more information, email Snow at ryan.snow@midhosp.org.

Public School Preschool Screening

Connecticut public schools are responsible for identifying children who are eligible to receive special education services. Valley View School in Portland will conduct a preschool screening on Friday, Sept. 11, for children ages 3 to 4 years. The screening is designed to answer any questions or concerns about a child's development as well as identifying children who may be eligible for the preschool selection process. During the screening your child will meet with members from our preschool team and participate in a variety of activities. These activities assess different developmental areas includ-

ing cognition, communication, fine and gross motor skills, and social interaction. During this time, the parent/caregiver will meet with another member of the team to discuss your child's adaptive and personal social skills. Following the screening, you will receive a letter stating your child's result. In order for your child to attend Valley View preschool program, they must participate in the screening process. Peer role models are determined on a year-to-year basis. For more information and to schedule an appointment, call Valley View School at 860-342-3131.

Zion Offering Lancaster Trip

Zion Lutheran Church is sponsoring a five-day/four-night trip to Lancaster, Pa., Nov. 2-6; please note the trip dates have changed. 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. 31; with the balance due by Sept. 21. For details & reservations, please contact Barbara Shaw at 860-262-3531.

Senior Center News & Notes

The Waverly Senior Center, 7 Waverly Avenue, announces the following. **Registration is required for all programs** unless noted; for more information or to register, call 860-342-6761. Senior center hours are Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Friday, 9 a.m. to noon. Visit www.portlandct.org/senior-services for more information, including a calendar of events. **Food Bank:** Open at the senior center on Mondays and Thursdays from 9 a.m.-noon. Donations welcome, but please only leave donations during Food Bank hours. **Mobile Food Pantry:** The Food Share Mobile Pantry comes to the Food Bank every other Monday. The senior center will be closed Labor Day, Sept. 7, so the next Mobile Pantry date is Sept. 21. **Weekly Programs:** **Monday, 9/7:** The senior center will be closed for the Labor Day holiday. **Tuesday, 9/8: Bears on a Journey,** 9:30-11 a.m. – help make fleece teddy bears for cancer patients. Also, donations of light fleece (one yard or more) are sought for making teddy bears for cancer patients throughout Connecticut. To donate, call 860-342-0809; **Congregate Meal, noon.** Menu: Greek chicken breast, tomato cucumber salad, barley pilaf, tzatziki sauce, milk, mixed fruit cup. **Coupons for Troops,** 1-4 p.m.; **Setback,** 1 p.m.; **SyncoCize II,** 5-6 p.m., fee is donation to instructor. **Wednesday, 9/9: Light Aerobics,** 9:30-10:30 a.m.; **Chair Yoga with Gia,** 10:30-11:15 p.m., fee is a \$5 donation to instructor. **Thursday, 9/10: Seated Stretch & Tone,** 9:30 a.m.; **Knit & Stitch,** 10 a.m.; **Congregate Meal,** noon – \$3 suggested donation (must fill out form). Menu: beef stroganoff, egg noodles, mixed veggies, cheddar biscuit, string cheese, apple; **Mah Jongg,** 12:30 p.m.; **Scrabble,** 1 p.m. **Friday, 9/11: Light Aerobics,** 9:30-10:30 a.m.; **Chair Yoga with Gia,** 10:30 – 11:15 a.m., fee is a \$5 donation to instructor. **Special Events:** Unless noted, **registration is required for all programs.** Also, unless noted, all programs are free. **Note:** There will be no blood pressure clinic or health chat in September. **Wednesday, Sept. 9:** Shoreline Trolley Museum, 9 a.m.-noon. Ride on the historic Portland Car 2350, view Osprey nest, and travel along the shoreline. Lunch (pizza) will be delivered. Cost (including lunch) is \$13, plus a \$5 ride fee. **Thursday, Sept. 10:** The Wall That Heals, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Visit The Wall That Heals, a three-

quarter scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. Leave the Senior Center at 10 a.m. to visit the memorial, followed by lunch at The Broken Crust. Cost is a \$5 ride fee. Pay for your own lunch. Rain date: Sept. 11. **Thursday, Sept. 10:** Community Quilters' Group, 7-9 p.m. This is a group dedicated to the art of quilting and passing on the knowledge of this art. All skill levels and ages welcome. No registration required, but must fill out senior center membership form before joining group. **Friday, Sept. 11:** Family History Research, 10:30 a.m.-noon. Ken Doney is back to show you how to research your own family history. **Monday, Sept. 14:** Cooking for One with Chef Marilyn McGrath, 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m. Enhance your cooking skills, enjoy social interaction, learn how to maximize food budget and learn how to reduce food waste. Don't forget to bring a take-home container. Space is limited. Class cost: \$10. Call 860-342-6761 to sign up or go to MyActiveCenter.com. **Monday, Sept. 14:** Bloom Therapeutic Plant & Nature Program – Herbal Salts Workshop, 1 p.m. Registration required. **Tuesday, Sept. 15:** Watercolor Painting Classes with Bivenne Staiger, 9:30 a.m.-noon. A new six-week session starts. Make payment to instructor. Contact bivenne@yahoo.com for more information. **Wednesday, Sept. 16:** 2026 Southeast Healthy Living Expo, 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m., at Dodd Stadium in Norwich. Sponsored by Senior Resources Agency on Aging. There is a \$5 ride fee. To sign up, call 860-342-6761 or sign up online at MyActiveCenter.com. **Thursday, Sept. 17:** Sweet Treats and Conversation with Community Leaders, 1 p.m. Speaker to be determined. **Monday, Sept. 21:** Veterans' Benefits Workshop, 10 a.m.-noon. Learn about programs and services offered to veterans and surviving spouses. **Medical Rides:** The center offers ADA-accessible transportation for seniors to medical rides, on a first-come, first-served basis. The fee is \$5/person, round trip. Please give at least a two-week notice. **Foot Care:** The center is taking appointments for a Foot Clinic with Stacey Cormier, RN; services starting at \$35. Call to register and for more information. **Massage by Joan:** Thursdays and Fridays, by appointment only. Call Joan at 860-301-6507. **Hair by Jessica:** By appointment only. Call Jessica at 860-751-9215.

Kindergarten Registration

Valley View School is holding kindergarten registration for the 2026-27 school year. Parents/guardians whose children will be five years of age on or before Sept. 1, 2026, should: contact Valley View School at kregistration@portlandct.us to indicate if you will be registering your child for kindergarten. Please provide your child's full name, date of birth, phone number, address, and parent's names. Further information regarding kindergarten registration will be provided once you contact the school.

First Congregational Church News

All are welcome to First Congregational Church, 554 Main St., for worship each Sunday. Pastor is the Rev. Judith Meyers. This week's sermon title is "Due Process." **Sunday Worship:** Worship starts at 9:30 a.m. Fellowship Hour to follow. **Sunday School:** Sunday School for children ages K-8th grade is provided. **Year-Round Giving:** Neighbors in Need collects donations for the Portland Food Bank. Items needed are canned soups, beans, Chef Boyardee items, peanut butter, protein bars, canned protiens, individual snacks, fruit cups and juice boxes. For more information about church services or activities, go to firstchurchportlandct.org or call 860-342-3244.

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Portland Remembers Sept. 11

This September marks the 25th anniversary of the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. To mark this significant anniversary, members of the community are invited to attend A Service of Prayer, Remembrance, and Hope at First Congregational Church of Portland, located at 554 Main St., at 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 11. This multifaith service will include prayers

and readings from several religious traditions, inspiring music, moments of silence, and reflections from community leaders. Together, participants will remember those who died, acknowledge the sacrifices made by so many in the aftermath of the attacks, and offer prayers for healing and hope.

Program on Invasive Plants

There will be a presentation on Invasive Plants in Connecticut on Wednesday, Sept. 30, from 6:30-8 p.m., in the Mary Flood Room at Portland Library, 20 Freestone Ave. Rose Hiskes, the co-chair of the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group, will share information on current invasive plants found in Connecticut. The presentation will include

information on how we can identify the plants and what steps we should take to mitigate their role in our gardens and community. This event is sponsored by the Portland River Valley Garden Club and light refreshments will be served. This event is open to the public, so register through the library’s website, at www.portlandlibraryct.org.

Parks and Rec. News & Notes

Portland Parks and Recreation offers various programs for adults and children. For a complete list, full course descriptions and costs, or to register, visit portland.recdesk.com or call 860-342-6757. Advanced registration is required for all programs. **Come on Over 5K:** Saturday, Sept. 26, 10 a.m., at Riverfront Park. **USTA Youth Tennis Lessons Fall (Grades 1-8):** Tuesdays and Thursdays, Sept. 8-Oct. 20, at the Portland High School tennis courts. Grades 1-2 meet from 5:30-6:30 p.m. and 6:30-7:30 p.m. All players in their first session receive and keep a new age-appropriate racquet and ball. **Junior Golf (Grades K-8):** Grades K-2 and 3-5 clinics are held Mondays, Sept. 7-28, from 4-5 p.m. and 5:15-6:15 p.m. Grades 6-8 clinics are held Tuesdays, Sept 8-29, from 4-5 p.m. Clinics held at Portland West Golf Course. **Ladies Golf:** Tuesdays, Sept. 8-Oct. 6, 5:15-6:15 p.m., at Portland West Golf Course. **First Aid, CPR & AED Certification Course:** Monday, Sept. 28, 5:30-8:30 p.m., at Buck-Fore-

man Community Center. **Kids’ Blast:** This is an afterschool (3-6 p.m.) childcare program available to students enrolled in grades K-6 in the Portland Public School System. Membership registration is open for the 2026-27 school year. **Kids’ Blast Jr.:** Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays at 9 a.m. at the Buck-Foreman Community Center. Kids’ Blast Jr. is a school readiness program open to children ages 3 to 5 1/2 (or entering kindergarten). Led by Summer Quest Kiddie Camp Director Darcy Parmelee, kids will enjoy mornings of themed games, crafts, and age-appropriate activities. **Tai Chi for Long Life:** Wednesdays, 9:30-10:15 a.m., or Saturdays, 10:30-11:15 a.m., at Riverfront Park. **Bench and Tree Donation Program:** Parks and Recreation is accepting donations for benches and trees at the Portland Recreational Complex. If you’re interested in dedicating a bench or tree, call Andy for more information at 860-342-6757.

Fall Soccer Registration Open

Portland Soccer Club has announced fall 2026 registration for the Rec Season is open. Players will be grouped according to birthdays on or after Aug. 1 of each year with kids born up to July 31 of the following year. When you log in at clubs.bluesombrero.com/portland-soccerclub, the registration system will ask for your player’s information, including birthdate. Register by Monday, Sept. 7. Cost is \$75. Late registrations are subject to a late fee. Each Dribbler and Kicker player will receive a team jersey. Each Pre-K player will receive a jersey and a size-3 ball. The season is from September to October. All games are Saturday mornings at the Portland Recreational Complex. Kickers have

an additional practice on Wednesdays. Players will be groups by birthdate: U4: 8/1/2022 to 7/31/2023 (PreK); U5: 8/1/2021 to 7/31/2022 (Dribblers); U6: 8/1/2020 to 7/31/2021 (Dribblers); U7: 8/1/2019 to 7/31/2020 (Kickers); U8: 8/1/2018 to 7/31/2019 (Kickers). Financial assistance is available on a limited basis. For additional questions, contact Chad Wilson (president) at nosliw.dahc@gmail.com; Chris Donahue (recreational director) at Donahuecj@sbcglobal.net; or Jeffrey LaBonte (assisting with registrations) at 714jrl@gmail.com.

Senior Mixed Golf League

The six-week 2026 Fall Tuesday Morning Senior Mixed Golf League starts Tuesday, Sept. 8, at Portland West Golf Course. All skill levels, and all seniors from the *Rivereast* towns, are welcome to join. Email Jack Anderson at jackande52@aol.com for more information.

Little League Golf Tournament

Portland Little League will hold its annual Golf Tournament Friday, Sept. 25, at Portland Golf Course. Sponsorships are available and raffle prize donations are welcome. For more details, visit tinyurl.com/pllgolf.

President’s List

Caitlin Walsh of Portland made the spring 2026 President’s List at Eastern Connecticut State University.



Best in Show... Portland Exchange member Jamie Leonard (left) presents Lieutenant Andy Ariza with the Best in Show award at the Exchange’s recent Touch A Truck event. Those who attended the event voted for the favorite vehicle. Proceeds from this year’s event will support the creation of a “Championship” sign honoring Portland High School’s State Championship teams. Over the past decade-and in earlier years. This sign will celebrate those achievements and will be installed beside the “Welcome to Historic Portland” brownstone as visitors enter town from the bridge.

9/11 Morning Service of Remembrance

Zion Lutheran Church invites the community to attend an outdoor service of remembrance on the morning of Friday, Sept. 11, to mark the 25th anniversary of the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. The lowering of the American flag to half-staff, prayers, readings, bell-tolling, candle-lighting and classic rock songs will follow the timeline of the attacks. The service begins at 8:30 a.m. and ends at

10:10 a.m., with one intermission. Chairs and water will be provided. In the case of rain, the service will be held inside in the Fellowship Hall. After the service, the church sanctuary will be open for prayer and reflection through 11:00 a.m. The church is located at 183 William St. All are asked to park in the front parking lot.

The Great Portland Scarecrow Contest

The Portland River Valley Garden Club is sponsoring a Scarecrow Contest at this year’s Portland Fair. Whether your scarecrow is funny, spooky, whimsical, patriotic, harvest-themed, or completely one-of-a-kind, visitors to the fair will vote for their favorite scarecrow. The top entries will win cash prizes: first prize is \$100, second prize is \$50, and third prize is \$25. Gather your straw, flannel, overalls, and cre-

ativity, then bring your best scarecrow to the fair. Drop-off is Thursday, Oct. 1, between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Pickup is Sunday, Oct. 4, at 5 p.m. Scarecrows must be able to stand or be secured to the ground. Visit either the Portland River Valley Garden Club or the Portland CT Community pages on Facebook for more information and to fill out a registration form.

Volunteers Needed for Wellness Expo

The Portland Waverly Senior Center is looking for volunteers to help at its upcoming Wellness Expo, which will be held Wednesday, Oct. 21, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at the center. Volunteers will serve as greeters at entrances, welcome attendees, and help make sure everyone signs in as they arrive. You will not need to volunteer for the entire

event. Organizers plan to break the day into shorter shifts so that volunteers will also have plenty of time to walk around, visit the vendors, and enjoy everything the Wellness Expo has to offer. If you would like to volunteer for a shift, call the senior center at 860-342-6761 to sign up or stop in the office, at 7 Waverly Ave.

Residents Graduate

Portland residents Giuliana Discenza and Jenna Randazzo graduated in May from the University of Rhode Island. Discenza graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science and a Bachelor of Science Business Administration degree in supply chain management. Randazzo graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree in marketing.

Land Record Fraud Alert System

The Portland town clerk’s office reminds property owners that they can sign up for a free land record fraud alert. With Fraud Alert, you can receive an email alert whenever a document, such as a deed, mortgage or lien is recorded under your name. Documents can be viewed online or at the Portland town clerk’s office. Residents and property owners are encouraged to participate in this free service. Sign up at www.portlandct.org/town-clerk, or for questions related to the service, call the Portland town clerk’s office at 860-342-6743.

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Budget Passes on Eve of New School Year

By Anne Lilburn

On Wednesday, Aug. 26, literally the day before students returned to school, East Hampton residents voted for the fourth time on the town's education budget – and it finally passed.

The town reported that the unofficial results stood at 1,460 ‘yes’ votes to 1,285 ‘no’ votes. At 2,745 voters, the turnout was higher than the previous referendum's 2,652 voters.

The budget, weighing in at \$39,500,937, was the same number that had been considered (and rejected by just 32 votes) at the third referendum on Aug. 5, but also marked a \$600,000 cut from the Board of Education's originally proposed 2026-27 budget.

The successful passage of the budget marks the end to what had been a roller coaster ride of a budget season for the town – in a year that included a challenging property revaluation that hit low-to-mid range property values particularly hard. The general town operations spending package didn't pass until the third try in early August.

After the second referendum, the school district had announced cuts to several staff positions and programs, including the district's

Smart Start preschool and middle school sports. Both of those programs, whose loss provoked community outcry, were later restored after funding came through in unanticipated ways: the Smart Start program through additional state funding to now cover its entire cost, and middle school sports through community-level donations.

Board of Education Chair Nancy Kohler described her feeling as one of relief.

“It was a very long and difficult summer for everyone involved in the budget process,” she said. “And while we are relieved, it is hard to feel like this was a victory. Over the past two years, the district has lost over \$2 million in programs and services that were valuable and meaningful to our students and families. It is a challenge that will be difficult for us to overcome moving forward.”

Kohler said she was “hopeful that the community will come together and future budget deliberations will result in more favorable outcomes and we will be able to restore some of what has been lost.”

In a Facebook post, the Democratic Town

Committee, which had supported the budget and encouraged a yes vote, thanked voters for turning out to support the budget.

“Thank you to everyone who came out and voted yes,” they wrote. “This budget season was a slog but now we can move forward and do the best for our town and our schools. There is plenty of work to be done to continue to serve our constituents. We welcome the conversation and input from all sides. Strong communities are built on strong ideas, even those that may civilly disagree. Let's be the example we want for our families, taxpayers, and neighbors.”

On the other side, the town's Republican Town Committee, which had advocated for a no vote, also claimed victory.

“This budget cycle was a victory for taxpayers,” the committee wrote on its official Facebook page. “Voting NO prevented major increases to the Town Government and Board of Education budgets, reducing overall spending

by \$2,289,938. ... This outcome was only possible through the participation of active and engaged voters. Thank you for your efforts.”

Meanwhile, the school year began in East Hampton, with both students and faculty returning to the classroom with the budgetary drama behind them, but still fresh. The district officially revealed its theme for the new year, “East Hampton Public Schools: The Heart of the Community” and announced a renewed partnership with the Middlesex County United Way.

The return of students marked a return to the routine of the school year and the business of educating young people, said Kohler.

“The excitement and renewed energy of a new school year are a reminder of why we do what we do,” she said. “While the next budget cycle is already underway, we will continue to focus on our students and on making East Hampton Public Schools the best that they can be.”

EHHS Class of ‘76 Reunion

The East Hampton High School Class of 1976 will hold its 50th Class Reunion Saturday, Sept. 19, from 5-10 p.m., at Campagna Restaurant, 151 Marlborough St. in Portland. This is the old Brownstone Restaurant where the Class of ‘76 celebrated Senior Class Night!

Cost is \$45 per person and includes a buffet dinner and dessert. There is a cash bar. Guests are welcome; however, payment cannot be re-

ceived at the door the night of the event.

Send your RSVP to Cheryl (Edwards) Randino at ehhs1976@gmail.com. Payments must be received by Sept. 9. PayPal or Venmo are accepted to the above email address, or send a check payable to Cheryl E. Randino, 56 Garnet Ridge Drive, Tolland, CT 06084.

Also, all attendees are asked to notify Randino of any dietary restrictions.

Lake Friends Wine-Tasting Fundraiser

The Friends of Lake Pocotopaug (FOLP) will hold its annual Wine-Tasting Fundraiser on Sunday, Sept. 13, from 1-4 p.m., on Laurel Island. Proceeds from the event will support FOLP's projects and ongoing efforts to preserve and improve Lake Pocotopaug.

Tickets are \$50 per person and include round-trip boat transportation to Laurel Island, wine tasting, limited beer tasting, a souvenir glass and a light snack. Soda will also be available for non-drinkers.

Guests are invited to relax and explore the island. A teacup raffle will feature a variety of prizes. Jack Solomon will be available to answer questions about the history of Laurel Island, and a representative from the Lake Commission will be on hand to discuss Lake Pocotopaug and an-

swer questions.

Boat transportation will run continuously from 1-4 p.m., departing from Ace Marine East LLC at 70 North Main St. Event parking will be available at Sears Park.

Outside food and alcohol are not permitted. Smoking is prohibited, and private boats will not be allowed to dock on the island. The event will be held rain or shine.

A limited number of tickets are available and may be purchased in advance or at the dock, subject to availability. Tickets are also available from any FOLP member.

For tickets, contact Kevin Kuhr at 860-395-7548. For additional information, visit Friends of Lake Pocotopaug on Facebook.

Class of ‘56 Reunion

The East Hampton High School Class of 1956 will celebrate its 70th Class Reunion on Thursday, Sept. 17, from 12:30-4 p.m., at The Dublin, at 42 East High St.

As usual, order off the menu and pay as you go.

Call Joan {Avery} Measimer at 860-788-7198 for more information or to make reservations.

EHHS Class of ‘67 Reunion

Members of the East Hampton High School Class of 1967, take note! The ‘67 Bellringers will get together Saturday, Sept. 12, from 2-5 p.m., at the Dublin. As usual, order off the menu and pay as you go.

Call or text 860-682-2067 to reserve your spot.

Independent Party Endorses Ziobron

The Independent Party of Connecticut has endorsed Republican Melissa Ziobron of East Haddam for state representative in Connecticut's 34th House District.

The 34th District covers East Haddam, East Hampton and part of Salem. Ziobron previously served in the same seat from 2013-19.

The Independent Party of Connecticut said it believes Ziobron's leadership and commitment to the residents of the 34th District make her an excellent choice for state representative.

“The Independent Party of Connecticut is pleased to endorse Melissa Ziobron,” said Lance Lusignan, authorized agent for the Independent Party of Connecticut. “Melissa understands that Connecticut residents want leaders who will listen to them, work across party lines, and focus on results rather than political rhetoric. We believe she will bring a strong voice for the people of the 34th District to Hartford.”

Ziobron said she was honored to receive the endorsement.



Ziobron

“I'm honored to have the endorsement of the Independent Party of Connecticut,” said Ziobron. “What I appreciate most about this party is their commitment to good governance, vibrant debate and an informed electorate. That's the approach I've brought to public service for over 20 years, and it means a great deal that they continue to see me as someone committed to these principles. The people of the 34th District want results, and that's what I intend to deliver.”

The Independent Party has continued to expand its presence across Connecticut by supporting candidates who are willing to put their constituents and communities ahead of partisan

politics.

“Our goal is simple: bring more common sense, accountability, transparency, and independent thinking to Connecticut government,” Lusignan said. “Melissa Ziobron represents the type of candidate we believe can make a difference in Hartford.”

The Independent Party looks forward to working with Melissa Ziobron throughout the campaign and, if elected, with her as she represents the residents of the 34th District.

Praise Worship at the Fair

Haddam Neck Covenant Church will host Sunday morning contemporary praise worship at the bandstand at the Haddam Neck Fair on Sept. 6 at 11 a.m. Music will be provided by the HNCC choir, accompanied by Jan Ulanowicz on keyboard, Wayne Visintainer on bass guitar, Frank Natter on guitar and Matt Seymour on drums.

Also, at the fair, all are invited to the HNCC

barbecue pit for the church's famous barbecue chicken with fresh locally-grown corn on the cob. A portion of the proceeds support charities and mission work.

Haddam Neck Covenant Church is located at 17 Haddam Neck Rd., the road to the Fairgrounds. For more information, visit www.hn-covenantchurch.org.

Haddam Neck Covenant Church News

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

Men's Group: The Men's Breakfast Bible Study will meet at the church on Wednesday, Sept. 9, from 7-8 a.m., to share scripture around what the Bible says about being a man at home, at work and in life. There will be coffee, pastries and conversation.

Ladies' Fellowship: Will meet on Thursday, Sept. 10, from 1-3 p.m., at Mary's house.

Chicken Barbecue: All are invited to join the church at the Haddam Neck Fair, Sept. 4-7, for HNCC's famous barbecued chicken.

Children's Coat Drive: Foster children who enter the foster care system need warm winter coats. The church is collecting new winter coats for babies through teenagers up to Sunday, Sept. 27, for the Norwich office of the Department of Children and Families.

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: Rehearsals will resume in the fall, on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. New members 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.

Resident Graduates

Morgan Garcia of East Hampton graduated in May from the University of Rhode Island, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in elementary education.

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Lake Pocotopaug Closed Due to Algae Bloom

By Anne Lilburn

Lake Pocotopaug closed to the public for swimming last week, due to a challenging algae bloom that could threaten people’s health.

The town’s Parks and Recreation Department announced the closure of the swim area on Friday, Aug. 28. As of press time Wednesday, Sept. 2, the swim area was still closed.

Chatham Health District, which regularly monitors the lake’s water quality, said in its Aug. 28 report that “visual observations for Cyanobacteria were taken at Sears Park and the adjacent property this morning. Water conditions in the public swim area and adjacent properties were poor. Dense bright green surface accumulations covered the entirety of the public swim area and adjacent properties.”

The department noted that “cyanobacteria may submerge into the water column and diminish the density of the surface accumulations, [but] the risk posed to swimmers remains high.”

Cyanobacteria, also known as blue-green algae, occur naturally in Connecticut lakes and ponds, according to the state’s Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) website. The algae are photosynthetic, using sunlight to produce their own food, and, when under control, are an important part of aquatic ecosystems, according to the Environmental

Protection Agency (EPA). However, when they grow rapidly, in a so-called “bloom,” they can release toxins that are harmful to humans and animals.

Cyanobacteria “thrive in warm, slow-moving water,” like lakes in summer, according to the EPA, and their harmful blooms tend to occur when water temperatures are warmer. Because cyanobacteria absorb sunlight and release heat, they can make water temperatures even warmer, starting a cycle that favors their further growth.

Cyanobacteria can migrate up and down the water column, getting nutrients from the deeper, darker layers and then using them to grow in the upper layers where there is more light, according to the EPA. That’s why the town’s Conservation and Lake Commission has been working to reduce the nutrients that enter the lake, including from fertilizers used on lawns that then run off into the watershed when it rains.

“The algae challenges and Sears Park closure we’re seeing are a reminder that protecting Lake Pocotopaug is a year-round effort,” said the town’s Lake Commission in a Facebook post. “There is no single fix. A healthier lake comes from thousands of choices and decisions in the lake, along the shoreline, and throughout the entire watershed. That’s why we must keep in-

vesting in education, Lake Smart practices, watershed improvements, and responsible in-lake management. Every property and every action can be part of the solution.”

The commission said that Chatham Health would continue to monitor the situation and the lake’s swim area would reopen if conditions improved.

“Toxin testing will be conducted before the swim area is reopened,” they advised. “Please avoid contact with visible blooms and keep pets away from affected water.”

Lake Commission Chair Jay Hartling noted that the closure was disappointing after a relatively clear summer on the lake.

“The combination of significant heavy rainfall and the resulting watershed loading of nutrients appears to have overtaken the progress we had been seeing in the lake this summer,” he said. “The recent cyanobacteria bloom is disappointing, but it also reinforces how much lake health is tied to what enters the lake from the entire watershed, particularly during heavy rain events.

“While this is certainly a setback, the commis-

sion remains focused on the longer-term work of reducing nutrient loading, improving watershed practices, and evaluating the most effective lake management strategies. There is no single solution, but the work continues.”

Chatham Health District said they would be increasing their monitoring schedule and would lift the closure notice if conditions improved. In the meantime, they advised residents to remain cautious around the lake.

“Residents should avoid contact with water that looks green or blue-green throughout (sometimes described as looking like pea soup),” the notice advised. “Any mats, films, or scums on the surface of the water that are blue-green in color, look like spilled paint, or have a noxious odor should be reported to Chatham Health District and avoided.”

“We very much appreciate Chatham Health’s continued monitoring and their careful approach to public safety,” said Hartling. “They will continue to monitor conditions, and we will stay closely engaged as we move through the remainder of the season.”

Police News

8/25: Kaden Hall, 19, of East Hampton, was issued a summons for: operating a motor vehicle with a license that has been suspended, refused or revoked; failure to obey an officer’s signal; operating an unregistered motor vehicle; operating a motor vehicle without insurance; and speeding, East Hampton Police said.

8/27: Christopher Machnik, 18, of East Hampton, was issued a summons for operating a motor

vehicle under suspension and traveling unreasonably fast, police said.

8/27: Crystal Bianco, 44, of Deep River, was issued a summons for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended registration and failure to obey a stop sign, police said.

From Aug. 24-30, officers responded to 17 medical calls, four motor vehicle crashes and seven alarms, and made 17 traffic stops, police said.

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.

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.

Red McKinney Golf Tournament Oct. 7

The 33rd annual East Hampton Rotary Red McKinney Golf Tournament will take place Wednesday, Oct. 7, at Blackledge Country Club in Hebron, with a 10 a.m. shotgun start.

This year marks the sixth year the tournament has been held in honor of longtime Rotarian Red McKinney, whose generosity, kindness and dedication to service made a lasting impact on the community, the Rotary said.

The entry fee is \$135 per golfer. Golfers may choose between Blackledge Country Club’s two courses when registering, until each course is filled. Foursomes traditionally fill quickly, so early registration is encouraged.

Registration includes 18 holes of golf with cart, complimentary range balls, full-service bag drop, custom scorecards and cart signs, a putting con-

test, on-course contests, a sandwich at the turn, and dinner following the tournament. Golfers will also have opportunities to participate in contests including Closest to the Pin, Longest Drive and Closest to the Line.

Following golf, participants will gather for dinner featuring an auction, Tee-Cup Raffle and raffle drawings.

Sponsorship opportunities are still available for businesses and community partners interested in supporting the event.

Registration Golfers can register online at easthamptonrotary.org or through the tournament registration page at tinyurl.com/rotarygolftourney.

For sponsorship information or questions, contact Pam at easthamptonctrotary@gmail.com.

‘Driving for Drafts’ Charity Golf Tournament

The 12th annual Driving for Drafts fundraising event to benefit Connecticut Draft Horse Rescue (CDHR) will be held Saturday, Sept. 12, at Portland Golf Course, 169 Bartlett St., Portland.

There is a shotgun start at 1 p.m., with check-in beginning at noon. Enjoy a grilled lunch and a buffet dinner along with raffles and prizes. Cost is \$175 per person. Sponsorships are also available. Registration closes on Sept. 5.

To sign up as a participant or become a spon-

sor, forms are available at www.ctdraftrescue.org/2026-golf-registration-and-sponsorship, or send an email to cdhr.golf@gmail.com.

CDHR is a nonprofit organization in East Hampton dedicated to saving the lives of neglected or abused draft horses as well as draft horses headed to slaughter. For more information, volunteer opportunities, or to donate, visit www.ctdraftrescue.org or www.facebook.com/ctdraftrescue.

Middle Haddam Public Library News

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

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

250th Celebration: 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.

Chatham Chess Club: Wednesdays from 6-9 p.m. Sept. 16, Oct. 7 and Oct. 21. All ages and

skill levels are welcome; lessons available. For more information, contact pjhoffman1@juno.com

Open Mic Night: Friday, Sept. 18, 6-8 p.m. Come perform or just watch. Performers, call the library to sign up, at 860-267-9093.

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

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

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

Senior Center News & Notes

East Hampton Senior Center, 105 Main St., announces the following. **Advance registration is required for all programs** unless noted; register at myactivecenter.com or by contacting the center at 860-267-4426 or seniorcenter@easthamptonct.gov. Senior center hours are Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Visit www.easthamptonct.gov/east-hampton-senior-center for more information and a full list of regular weekly and monthly activities, including games, quilting, Bible study, tap dance, and more. To join the senior center, just stop by and fill out some paperwork. Joining is free for East Hampton residents.

Holiday Closing: The senior center will be closed Monday, Sept. 7, in observance of Labor Day.

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One Killed in Crash Involving Dump Truck

By Anne Lilburn

An East Hampton motorcycle crash involving a dump truck resulted in the death of one motorcycle rider and left another badly injured last week. The crash occurred near the intersection of Gulf Road and Colchester Avenue/Route 16, near the Colchester town line. The East Hampton Police Department reported that they, along with the East Hampton Fire Department, East Hampton Ambulance Association and the Colchester Fire Department, responded to the accident at approximately 4:21 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 27. Two Life Star crews responded to the scene, the police said, and one person died at the scene, while the other person was flown by Life Star to Hartford Hospital. East Hampton police said that person was still in the hospital as of press time. The East Hampton Volunteer Fire Department said that Route 16 was closed for several

hours while emergency crews worked. Video showed helicopters landing in a grassy field. “Due to the nature of the incident, two Life Star helicopters were requested for two patients,” the fire department posted on Facebook. “A landing zone was established on Gulf Road at Salmon River State Park. The first Life Star helicopter landed, followed approximately two minutes later by the second helicopter. This response required significant coordination between fire, EMS, police, dispatchers, and the Life Star flight crews.” The deceased individual was identified as Jaime Brouwer, 49, from Jewett City. The police department said that the accident was being investigated by the department’s Accident Reconstruction Team and encouraged anyone who witnessed the accident to contact them at 860-267-9544.

Women Bowlers Needed

The Tuesday Night Women’s League (One Night Out) at Kickback ‘N Bowl in East Hampton is looking for bowlers. The league needs nine full-time bowlers. There is one full-time team needed, of at least five but up to seven; one team is looking for three full-time bowlers; and one team needs one full-time bowler. There are also several teams looking for subs. Bowling starts on Sept. 8 and runs for 28 weeks. Practice starts at 6:20 p.m. with bowling

Congregational Church News

The Congregational Church of East Hampton, 59 Main St., welcomes all to worship Sunday, Sept. 6, at 10 a.m., for worship and communion. The scripture reading for this Sunday’s service is Romans 13:8-14. Guest the Rev. Kathy Peters will deliver a sermon entitled “Putting on the Light of Christ.” Peters is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ. Coffee hour will follow the service. **Save the Date: Welcome Sunday, Sept. 13:** The church will begin a new theme for this year focusing on the words of Psalm 46:1: “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.” Following worship, gather for a potluck lunch, called “Grateful Gatherings.” A take-home craft based on the theme will also be available for all ages, providing an opportunity to carry the message of Psalm 46:1 home with them. All are welcome. **AA Weekly Meeting:** Sundays at 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. **East Hampton Food Bank:** A weekly collec-

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. **Summer Hours:** Monday - Wednesday, 10 a.m.- 8 p.m.; Thursday - Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. **Adult Programs: Library Yoga with Amie Meacham:** Tuesday, Sept. 8, 6:30 p.m. Join Yoga 200 Certified instructor Amie Meacham for an hour of all-levels yoga. Bring a mat and wear comfy clothes. **Book Club Al Fresco (Sears Park):** Wednesday, Sept. 16, 6:30 p.m. Grab a copy of this month’s selection and join us for a casual discussion with lakeside views. **Tech Help:** Thursday, Sept. 17, 2-4 p.m. Basic technology help for phones, laptops, tablets, and e-readers. No registration required; just bring your device with you. **Belltown Book Brunch:** Friday, Sept. 18, 11 a.m. Talk about what you’re currently reading while enjoying coffee, tea, and a breakfast treat.

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.

starting at 6:30 p.m. As One Night Out is a sanctioned league, every bowler needs to pay the \$28 sanction fee. Also, weekly dues are \$20, which covers the cost of three games and the prizes and banquet at the end of the year. For more information, email kickback-bowlinfo@gmail.com or call 860-267-4800. This is a league with cash prizes, and all experiences are welcome.

tion is held for the Food Bank. **Aluminum Food & Soda Can Tabs:** Ongoing collection which will be donated to the Shriners Children’s New England hospital in Springfield, Mass. Proceeds support childhood surgeries performed there, where no patient is charged a fee. **Church World Service School Supply Kits:** The church is collecting school supplies for children throughout the world. A donation box is available. **Women’s Fellowship Dignity Drive:** This is an ongoing collection to support women and girls in need, both globally and right here in our community. Collecting feminine hygiene products for our local food bank and schools, as well as Church World Service. For more information, visit cc-eh.org or call the office at 860-267-4959. Office hours are Monday and Wednesday, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Note: The church office will be closed on Labor Day, Sept. 7.

Register or drop in. **Teen Programs: Chapter Chat with Keri & Friends: Grades 7-10:** Tuesday, Sept. 8, 6 p.m. Read and discuss a new book every month. **Teen TCG Club: Grades 8-12:** Saturday, Sept. 12, 1-3 p.m. Players of *Magic: The Gathering*, *Pokémon*, *Yu-Gi-Oh!* and more are invited to an afternoon of friendly competition. *Magic: The Gathering* decks will be available for new players to use. **Middle Grade Dungeons & Dragons: Grades 5-7:** Monday, Sept. 14, 6-7:30 p.m. Jump into the world of *Warrior Cats* in this adventure based off the popular series by Erin Hunter. **Teen Advisory Board: Grades 8-12:** Tuesday, Sept. 15, 6 p.m. Plan programs, improve the Teen Space, and take a leadership role in shaping how the library serves teens like you. **Tween Food Fight! Grades 4-7:** Saturday, Sept. 19, 1-2 p.m. Join in on the Snackitecture Challenge and build structures with our secret ingredients. There will be prizes. Sponsored by Teen Advisory Board. **Children’s Program: DIY Days: Grades K-8:** Saturday, Sept. 19, 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Children and families are invited to create a different toy, craft, or treat together.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church News

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



SOOP’s On!!!!... Local band Seat Of Our Pants returns to the Bay Point Club on Friday, Sept. 11, at 7 p.m. A local favorite, this will be the band’s eighth appearance at the historic club located at 24 Spellman Point Rd. in East Hampton. There will be a suggested donation at the door. Advanced tickets are not available.

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 seidltsbcglobal.net for a nomination packet or go to the Hall of Fame website at ehahof.wixsite.com/bellringer for information.

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. **Sweater Weather Pumpkin Wreath:** Friday, Sept. 18, 6:30-8 p.m., at Town Hall. Create a sweater-inspired pumpkin wreath, beginner-friendly. Hot apple cider included. Cost: \$45. **Basic Car Care & Vehicle Safety Maintenance Workshop:** Saturday, Oct. 3, 8-9:30 a.m., at East Hampton High School, with Tracey Gar-

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 seidltsbcglobal.net if interested.

diner, owner of Tag Rally Sport. Cost: \$30. **Afterschool Programs at Memorial School (Grade K- 3): Beginner Spanish:** Thursdays, Sept. 24, Oct. 1 and Oct. 8, 3:30-4:30 p.m. Students will explore greetings, colors, and numbers. Cost: \$60 for all 3 classes. **Pinecone Bird Feeders:** Tuesday, Oct. 6, 3:30-4:30 p.m. Kids will create their own pinecone bird feeders to take home. Cost: \$20. **Build-A-Bird House:** Tuesday, Oct. 20, 3:30-4:30 p.m. Kids will build and decorate their very own bird house. Cost: \$25.

Christ Episcopal Church News

Christ Episcopal Church, 66 Middle Haddam Rd., Middle Haddam, holds in-person and Zoom services at 10 a.m. on Sundays. All are welcome. To connect electronically, go to www.christchurchmiddlehaddam.com for directions. The Holy Eucharist will be celebrated with the Rev. Diana Rogers, priest-in-charge. **Food Bank Donations:** Food items for the East Hampton Food Bank may be placed in the black totes at the rear of the church. **Returnable Cans and Bottles:** All are asked to place donations in the cans by the shed. Note: Glass bottles and aluminum cans should be separated prior to drop-off. **Food4Lives Warm Weather Clothing Drive:** Patty Kloo is collecting warm weather new or nearly new clothing for un-housed persons in

Flags to Be Placed for 9/11

On Saturday, Sept. 5, volunteers will place over 400 flags at the corner of Route 66 and Main Street, as a tribute to all the first responders who lost their lives in the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. There were over 400 first responders killed that day, including 340 members of the New York Fire Department, 23 members of the New York Police Department, 17 Port Authority officers, 10 ambulance workers, and others. The flags will remain until the night of Sept. 15. All are invited to stop by and pay homage.

‘Bike Rides for Seniors’ on Hold

AirLine Cycles has informed the East Hampton Senior Center that there will be no official Bike Rides for Seniors on Fridays until further notice. Regular participating riders are encouraged to head out as a group on their own to nearby short route locations, while the “away game” rides at other locations will be rescheduled at another time, once the ride leader is available.

Praise Worship at the Fair

Haddam Neck Covenant Church will host Sunday morning contemporary praise worship at the bandstand at the Haddam Neck Fair on Sept. 6 at 11 a.m. Music will be provided by the HNCC choir, accompanied by Jan Ulanowicz on keyboard, Wayne Visintainer on bass guitar, Frank Natter on guitar and Matt Seymour on drums. Haddam Neck Covenant Church is located at 17 Haddam Neck Rd., the road to the Fairgrounds. For more information, visit www.hn-covenantchurch.org.

Middletown. Needed are T-shirts, shorts, pants, light sweaters, hoodies, sweatshirts, sandals/sneakers and underwear in adult sizes small to XXL. Clean items should be placed in the blue tote in the Parish Hall. **Labor Day Tag Sale:** Save unwanted items in good condition for the Tag Sale. Donations can be dropped off at the Parish Hall entrance during the week; call Dick Napolitano at 860-490-8006. Pick-up is available. **Haddam Neck Fair Cookie Booth:** Parish members are need to donate money to cover the cost of cookie dough and to work shifts at the fair on Labor Day weekend. Dawn Gingras can be reached at mgingras39@gmail.com if you have questions. Sign-up sheets are located in the back entry of the church. **Information/Assistance:** Contact Senior Warden Donna Hryb at

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Historical Society to Open Monthly

On Sundays, Sept. 6, Oct. 7 and Nov. 8, from 11 a.m.-2 p.m., the Hebron Historical Society, located at 26 Main St., will open its doors and welcome visitors to see its America 250 exhibit, which traces Hebron's development from 10,000 years ago to modern suburb.

"Defining a Sense of Place in an Age of Cyberspace" is an exhibit organized around the theme that the land in Hebron has been shaped by the people and events that occurred

in its past and will continue to be reshaped it in the future.

Changes in the land due to global, national and regional events have all affected Hebron. The goal of the exhibit "Defining a Sense of Place in an Age of Cyberspace" is to allow visitors an opportunity to understand how a small town became interconnected with a wider world.

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 or call 860-530-1281.

Youth Basketball: Registration is open for the Recreational basketball program, for grades K-12.

Grip n' Rip Fall Tennis: Tuesdays, Sept. 8-22, 4:30-5:30 p.m., at RHAM High School. Develop new skills and techniques through activities, drills, and games. The classes will be run by Shaun Keane, who has over 20 years of running tennis clinics to a variety of ages. Instruction will be differentiated among the levels of the players in the clinics to ensure each player is improving on their skill set.

Home Alone Safety for Kids: Saturday, Sept. 12, 5-6:30 p.m., at Gilead Hill School. This is a class for boys and girls ages 8-13 who are left home alone. This interactive course will cover safety concerns parents have when their children are by themselves.

Babysitters Training: Saturday, Oct. 3, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., at Gilead Hill School. This is an entry-level course intended to teach age-appropriate skills necessary to care for children of all ages using team babysitting, mother's helper and individual babysitting concepts. The course focuses on safety with emphasis on prevention. Basic first aid, including adult and child CPR (requires passing written and skills testing to receive a two-year certificate) included. Booklet, handouts and Babysitter Safety Certificate of completion included. Please bring lunch. Registration deadline: Thursday, Oct. 1, 5 p.m.

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St. Peter’s Turkey Dinner

St. Peter’s Episcopal Church will hold its next monthly community dinner on Saturday, Sept. 19, from 4 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. or sold out. The church is located at 30 Church St. (Rt. 85) in Hebron.

The menu will include turkey breast, gravy, stuffing, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce, green beans, roll, and your choice of dessert. The cost is \$18.

This is a takeout-only dinner, with no preorders or reservations. Two car hops will come to your vehicle as you line up in the parking lot. They will take your money, number of meals, and dessert choice. They will re-

turn with your change and meal and place it in your vehicle. You will not need to get out of your vehicle. Cash or credit card will be accepted.

The church said this is a very popular meal, and advised people to arrive early. If the two lots are filled, and the meal is ready, the church said it may start 15 or 20 minutes before 4 p.m.

As part of the St. Peter’s outreach programs, a portion of each meal sold this month will go to the Tara Farm Rescue in Coventry.

For more details, call the church at 860-228-3244 or visit www.StPetersHebron.com.

United Brethren of Hebron Synagogue News & Notes

United Brethren of Hebron Synagogue, located at 10 Church Street (Route 85) in the center of Hebron, invites all to welcome in the Jewish New Year by participating in High Holiday services.

Rosh Hashanah begins on the evening of Friday, Sept. 11, at 6:30 p.m., with a Zoom service. On Saturday morning, Sept. 12, meet to worship in person beginning at 9:30 a.m. at the synagogue. A special children’s service will be held first, at 9 a.m. At the end of the morning service, all are invited to come for apples, honey and cake to welcome in a sweet new year.

Yom Kippur begins with an evening Kol Nidre service at 6:30 p.m. at the synagogue on Sunday, Sept. 20. The next morning, Monday, Sept. 21, Yom Kippur services start at 9 a.m. with a children’s service. Then, services for all ages begin at 9:30 a.m. with the additional Yizkor service held at approximately 11 a.m. and the closing service beginning at 5:30 p.m. The closing service will also be on Zoom. A breakfast potluck dinner will be held around 6 p.m. at the synagogue.

There is no charge to attend services. All are welcome.

In keeping with the holiday season, the synagogue asks those who attend services to bring a bag of food for the Hebron Interfaith Human Services (HIHS) food bank, or to make a monetary donation to HIHS.

The historic synagogue building needs a new roof and other major renovations, and United Brethren asked all to consider donating to its capital campaign. To learn more, go to the GoFundMe site at www.gofundme.com/f/support-united-brethren-hebrons-vital-work.

United Brethren of Hebron offers a flexible, inclusive approach to Judaism. The synagogue combines elements from both the Conservative and Reform traditions in its services, and its membership includes interfaith families and couples.

If you are interested in attending services, becoming a member or would like to learn more about the synagogue, call 860-337-3618, email ubofhebron@gmail.com or visit www.ubofhebron.org.

St. Peter’s News & Notes

St. Peter’s Episcopal Church, located at 30 Church St., welcomes all to worship. Priest is the Rev. Ron Kolanowski. For more information, visit stpetershebron.com or search for St. Peter’s Hebron on Facebook.

Sunday Worship: For the summer, services are at 9 a.m., followed by a coffee hour in the parish hall. Rite 1 will be celebrated through Labor Day weekend. The service is streamed live on Facebook; visit www.stpetershebron.com to join. St. Peter’s will return to two Sunday services at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. on Sept. 13.

Weekly Virtual Coffee Hour: Wednesdays at 10 a.m., via Zoom. Call the office at 860-228-3244 for Zoom information.

Sunday School Registration: Registration will begin in early September. Contact the office for information.

Outreach: Food donations support the local food pantries. A collection basket is in the church and outside the parish hall. St. Peter’s

maintains a nature preserve in the center of Hebron for use by local nonprofits. The church is also a supporter of Project Hope (homeless shelter) in Willimantic.

Weekly Meetings: Contact the church for more information on the following: Balance Class: Mondays, 10:30-11 a.m., \$5 – no Balance Class on Labor Day; Connect: Mondays at 2 p.m.; Weekly Weeders/Garden Group: Mondays at 4 p.m.

Monthly Meetings: Building and Grounds, Community Events planning, Finance, Liturgy, Pastoral Care and Vestry. Also, the Women’s Club typically meets the third or fourth Sunday each month for crafting and fellowship. The St. Peter’s 200th Anniversary Celebration Planning group meets the third Thursday of each month at 5 p.m. All are welcome to join. A Meditation Class is held the fourth Wednesday of each month at 4:30 p.m. in the church sanctuary. All are welcome.

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 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 currently on hiatus. All rehearsals take place at CHF from 7-8:30 p.m. and will resume Tuesday, Sept. 22, for the Choir and Thursday, Sept. 24, for the Praise Band. New voices and instruments are always welcome.

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA): Meetings for this ministry will start Sunday, Sept. 27 in the CHF Parish House, after the 10 a.m. Mass. The sessions will run 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. and are open to adults who wish to join the Catholic Church, Catholic adults who have not yet completed the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Holy Eucharist and Confirmation), and Catholic adults who wish to learn more about their faith. Email ocia@goodshepherdct.org for more information and to register.

Meat Donations for Hebron Interfaith Human Services (HIHS): The Community Outreach Committee is reaching out to parishioners to donate meat (any kind and amount) to HIHS. All meat donations must be delivered directly to HIHS on 26 Pendleton Drive, which is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9 a.m.–6 p.m., and Fridays, 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Contact Monica (860-

228-4211) for more information.

Cereal & Meatloaves for CSK: The Community Outreach Committee collects breakfast cereal each month for Covenant Soup Kitchen (CSK) in Willimantic; the next date is Sept. 13. Cereal donations are also welcome any time; place bagged donations in the oak collection box near the CHF Robing Room. The parish also provides meatloaves to CSK each month. Parishioners can deliver a cooked meatloaf to the freezer in the garage (use side entrance) closest to the CHF Parish House or the freezer in the STC church hall by the 4th Tuesday of the month. Meatloaves are delivered the next day. The next due date is Sept. 22. Contact Diane (860-508-9959) for more information.

Bicycle Drive for Windham Area Interfaith Ministry (WAIM): The Community Outreach Committee is supporting WAIM’s drive for rideable adult bicycles and working bicycle equipment (Ulocks, tire tubes, pumps, chains, helmets, etc.) for adult transportation. Donors can drop off bicycle and/or equipment donations at the CHF garage (use the left side garage door). Donations can also be brought to the WAIM loading dock on Riverside Drive in Willimantic on Tuesdays through Saturdays, 9 a.m. to noon. The drive will continue through September.

Parish Picnic: The second annual parish picnic will be held Sunday, Sept. 20, at Columbia Recreation Park. See the parish bulletin for more information.

Homebound Ministry: The parish ministers to homebound parishioners who wish to receive the sacraments. Call the parish office (860-228-3727 ext. 105 or 110) to set up a schedule.

Health Ministry: This ministry has wheelchairs and walkers available to parishioners who may need them. Contact the parish office (see info above) or email parishhands@goodshepherdct.org for more information and where to donate.

Senior Center News & Notes

Russell Mercier Senior Center has announced the following programs. For more information, see the online senior newsletter at hebronct.com/town-departments/senior-center, or call the center at 860-228-1700.

Registration is required for all programs, unless noted, by calling the center or stopping in. If the program has a fee you must pay at the time of registration with cash or check. Register at the programs/transportation office window.

Special Events: All About Tomatoes Cooking Demo: Wednesday, Sept. 9, 1 p.m. This month, Ruth Reinwald, Senior Services program coordinator, will demonstrate how to make fresh salsa and bruschetta using fresh garden tomatoes. Samples will be available. Register ASAP.

Popcorn and a Movie: Monday, Sept. 14, 1 p.m. *Michael* will be shown. The film tells the story of Michael Jackson’s life beyond the music. Rated PG-13, the movie runs two hours and seven minutes.

Lunch and Legislative Update with State Rep. Steve Weir: Wednesday, Sept. 16, 12:30 p.m. Join state Rep. Steve Weir (R-55th District) for lunch and a legislative update. A light lunch will be provided for free.

Back to School Trivia Challenge: Monday, Sept. 21, 1 p.m. This free trivia game will feature a variety of categories. Teams will compete for bragging rights. Light refreshments will be served.

AARP Driver Safety Class: Tuesday, Sept. 22, 8:50 a.m.-1 p.m. Cost: \$20 for AARP members/\$25 for non-AARP members, payable by cash or check. You may be eligible for a multi-year discount on your auto insurance.

Ten Warning Signs of Dementia: Wednesday, Sept. 23, 1 p.m. Dr. Howard A. Selinger, chairman of the Department of Family Medicine at the Frank H. Netter, MD School of Medicine at Quinnipiac University, will lead this free presentation on how to recognize the signs of dementia.

Trips: The Big E: Wednesday, Sept. 23. Cost \$5 per person; tickets can be purchased online or at the gate. It’s Connecticut day at the Big E! Leave the driving to the center and skip the parking hassle.

Annie at the Goodspeed Opera House with Lunch at the Gelston House: Thursday, Dec. 3. Cost is \$112 per person (includes transportation, ticket, and lunch). Space is limited; purchase tickets by Oct. 3.

Recurring Daily/Weekly Happenings: Some programs have a fee, and some are no-cost, and most require pre-registration. More information in the monthly newsletter or at the senior center.

Monday through Friday: Exercise Equipment Room, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., or 9 a.m.-noon on Fridays.

Mondays: Massage, 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; Enhance Fitness via Zoom with Paul Smith, 9-10 a.m.

Tuesdays: Tech Connect Appointments, 9-11 a.m.; Knitting/Crocheting Group, 10:15-11:45 a.m.; Hand and Foot Canasta (cards), 12:45-3:15 p.m.; Card-Making, 1-2:15 p.m. (pre-registration required).

Wednesdays: Enhance Fitness via Zoom with Paul Smith, 9-10 a.m.; Free Zumba Gold Video, 10:15-11:15 a.m.

Thursdays: Weekly Shopping Trip (locations vary), 8:15 a.m.; Massage, 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; Yoga, 9-10 a.m.; Sunshine Singers, 10:15-11:45 a.m.; Tai Chi, 10:15-11:15 a.m.; Mahjongg, 12:45-3:15 p.m.; Bingo, 1-3 p.m.

Fridays: Enhance Fitness via Zoom with Paul Smith, 9-10 a.m.; FABBs, 10:45-11:45 a.m.; Caregiver Support Group (3rd Friday), 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; Golden Oldies Men’s Social Group (4th Friday), 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

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School Board Plans Next Steps for HVAC Project

By Toriana Williams

The Marlborough Board of Education approved financial transfers totaling \$48,486.45 at its Aug. 27 meeting. They began planning new goals for the board and recently hired Superintendent of Schools Paul Smith.

The meeting also included updates on a major school building project, the start of the school year and summer work at Marlborough Elementary School.

Board Approves Year-End Financial Transfers

Of the biggest actions of the night was the approval of the district's 2025-26 financial transfers.

Smith said the district expects to finish the fiscal year with a surplus of \$48,486.45. The money is expected to go into the district's 2% fund after the fiscal year audit is completed.

The discussion also looked ahead to the town's audits. Board member William Guzman, a Democrat, shared that the 2024-25 audit was close to being finished. The 2025-26 audit is expected to be completed by April 2027.

Major Alteration Moves Forward

The board received an update on the planned major alteration project concerning a proposed roof replacement and improvements of the

HVAC systems. There is not currently an estimated cost for the project.

Guzman said eight companies submitted bids to become the owner's project manager, and the building committee will meet Tuesday, Sept. 8, at 6 p.m. in the school library to review the proposals.

The committee plans to look at each company's experience and references. The companies' fees had not yet been given to the committee members, so those numbers are expected to be discussed at the upcoming meeting.

"We'll bring them to you, and then you can vote on them," said Smith.

The project will go to referendum before funding for construction can move forward.

Goals Still Being Written

The board began work on its goals for the next two years. The current board goals cover 2024-2026, and the new draft goals would cover 2026-2028. Smith also presented draft goals for himself for the 2026-2027 school year.

Smith said he wanted the board's goal and his own goals to work together.

"That way we have the superintendent and the board all working on the same things," he said.

Smith said his draft used four main areas

that are similar to the board's previously written goals. He said the new goals could be more ambitious and take the board in a new direction.

Members will review the drafts and send their ideas to Board of Education Chair Raymond Morris, a Democrat, by Sept. 17. The board did not read the drafts aloud, and said it hopes to create its final goals at the September meeting and planned to vote on them then.

Smith added he believes his superintendent goals can be completed in one year, while the board's goals should cover two years.

"The superintendent should be working harder than the board is," said Smith.

School Years Starts Smoothly

School leaders reported that the new school year has started well at Marlborough Elementary School. Principal Paula Graef said the start of school has been smooth while she has welcomed Smith and Assistant Principal Jennifer Renkiewicz to the district.

"It's been super smooth," said Graef. She added that she had heard positive comments from staff and families as well.

Renkiewicz described the school's meet-and-greet before the first day of school. She said

many families attended and that students were excited to see their classrooms.

"There was such an excitement of families and students coming back in and seeing their old teachers and seeing their new classrooms and everyone walked out smiling and ready for the next day," she said.

Summer Work Included Building Upgrades

John Mercier, director of operations, shared a list of summer projects that had been completed at the school. The work included a new grant-funded greenhouse, drainage work near the community room, playground and grounds work, floor clearing and maintenance of the boiler, generator, heating and cooling systems, roof, plumbing, fire safety equipment and elevator.

The district also updated its Chromebooks, Wi-Fi equipment, cameras, door access systems and school software. Food service equipment was inspected, and a new food service point-of-sale system was put in place.

Morris praised the people who worked over the summer.

"This building is pristine. It sparkles," said Morris.

Congregational Church News & Notes

Sunday Worship at Marlborough Congregational Church, located at 35 South Main St., is held at 10 a.m. in the air-conditioned sanctuary. The service is also broadcast live every Sunday at mcc.marlconchurch.org and recorded for later viewing. Church pastor is the Rev. Valerie Seaver. There is no nursery care or Sunday School in August; they will resume Sept. 20. Children are always welcome at the worship service. The deacons have 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.

Sept. 6: The service will be led by Seaver. Holy Communion will be served and is open to all, regardless of church affiliation, including children with parental guidance. After worship all are invited to Coffee Hour in the Thienes Lounge for snacks and refreshments

Community Sing, led by Seat of Our Pants member Carolyn Brodgerski, is Saturday, Sept. 5, at 7 p.m., in the Thienes Lounge. All who enjoy singing, including musicians, are welcome. Music is provided.

Weekly Program: Senior Stretch and Strengthen meets Fridays from 9:45-10:45 a.m., upstairs in the Thienes Lounge. Cost is \$25 per class. Try it for free on Sept. 4. All are welcome.

AA: The church sponsors three weekly meetings: Wednesdays at noon and Thursdays at 5:30 p.m. in the Youth Room and Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Fellowship Hall. The Sept. 9 Wednesday evening meeting features a potluck anniversary dinner. Doors open

Country Line Dancing Fundraiser

There will be a Country Line Dancing fundraiser Friday, Sept. 11, from 6-9 p.m., at the Marlborough American Legion, 128 East Hampton Rd.

Aric Lemeiux of Sound Train Music will DJ and lead country line dancing. Cost is \$10. Feel free to bring your own snacks. There is a cash bar. The event is open to the public.

Grief Share Support Group to Start

A Grief Share support group will begin Tuesday, Sept. 29, and will run every Tuesday until Dec. 8. The first session will begin at 4:30 p.m. at Fellowship Community Church, 24 South Rd., and run until 6:30 p.m. Attendees will be given a schedule for subsequent sessions at the first group meeting.

The group consists of 13 videos and discussion sessions, with the last session on Tuesday, Dec. 8, which will be the last video and a Celebration of Life to honor your loved one.

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

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

Senior Center News and Notes

Marlborough Senior Center, 17 School Drive, is open for activities. For more information about any senior center program, or to register, call 860-295-6209 or email socialservices@marlboroughct.gov. Also contact the senior center for a list of regularly occurring weekly and monthly programs, such as billiards, Mahjongg, 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.

Chair Yoga: Seated in a chair, explore gentle movement, practiced breathing and peaceful mindfulness. Next session: 9/8, 9/15, 9/22, 9/29. Fee: \$35/Marlborough residents, \$40/non-residents. RSVP and payment due by 9/4.

FABBS Exercise: Flexibility, Agility, Better Balance and Strength workout class. Movement and exercises are drawn from body building, yoga, ballet and more. Instructor Hilary Celenzano. Next session: 9/7, 9/14, 9/21, 9/28; 10:45-11:45. Fee: \$35/residents, \$40/non-residents. RSVP and payment due by 9/4.

Legislative Update with State Rep. Steve Weir: 9/9, 1 p.m. Weir (R-55) serves as the state representative for Marlborough, Andover, Hebron and portions of Bolton and Glastonbury.

Thin Blue Line: 9/17, 10 a.m. Author Greg Dillon will share his story-turned-book, about a former FBI agent who discovers FBI misconduct, and is subsequently demoted, harassed at home and threatened with termination. Even after a major courtroom victory and landmark decision, the agent realizes retaliation has only just begun.

Senior Center 25th Anniversary Party: Saturday, 9/19, 1-4:30 p.m. The party will feature a live swing band, ice cream truck, photo booth, games, car show and more. All are welcome. The event will be held rain or shine.

Birthday Club: Tuesday, 9/22, 1-2 p.m. September birthdays will be celebrated with cake! Open to all friends and family. It does not have to be your birthday month to celebrate; however, if it is please RSVP.

Big E – CT Day: Beckish Senior Center in Columbia has invited the Marlborough Senior Center along on its Big E trip on Wednesday, Sept. 23. Cost is \$25/person for coach transportation. Departs from Beckish Senior Center at 10 a.m. and returns approximately 7 p.m. Limited seating is available.

Open Discussion on Open AI: 9/30, 1-2 p.m.

and "Guilt and Anger." This is not a consecutive program. If you have started a Grief Share program before and have not finished or come in the middle of the sessions, you may still participate again.

There is a \$25 one-time registration fee, which includes the workbook. You will get the workbook at the first session. If you have already paid the registration fee from the previous Grief Share program, you will not need to pay again.

For more information, call 860-338-1060 or email shopgirl53@sbcglobal.net. Registration is on GriefShare.org. Click 'Find a Group' and look for Fellowship Community Church. You may register there to see the schedule for the sessions and other information pertaining to Grief Share.

Paul A. Kriksciun has dedicated his career to helping organizations navigate complex technology and now focuses on making artificial intelligence accessible and understandable for everyone. All are invited to come learn and ask questions.

Friendship Tours: GermanFest at the East Hill Farm in New Hampshire: 10/8. 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

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Learn to Play Mah Jongg

Marlborough Arts Center, located at 231 N. Main St., is offering American Mah Jongg classes this fall for teens and adults.

This six-week session is for beginners and advanced beginners. The instructor, Barbara Hahn, has been teaching for 15 years at local senior centers and libraries.

Classes will be Thursdays 6-8:30 p.m., from Sept. 17 to Oct. 29; or Fridays, 2-4:30 p.m., from Sept. 18 to Oct. 30. There will be no classes Oct. 8 and 9.

Fee is a \$60 donation to the Marlborough Arts Center, plus a \$15 fee for the 2026 NMJL Card, which is yours to keep.

For more information and to register, go to MarlboroughArts.org. For questions, call 860-467-6353 or text 860-926-7500.

Parks and Rec. Programs

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

Youth Programs: Soccer Shots: Saturdays, Sept. 12-Nov. 7, at the West Road upper field. No session Oct. 10. Mini, for age 2, meets 3-3:30 p.m., and fee is \$105/resident, \$110/non-resident. Classic, for ages 3-5, meets 4-4:45 p.m., and fee is \$113/resident, \$118/non-resident.

After School Co-Ed Kickball: For grades 5 & 6. Wednesdays, 3:15-4:15 p.m., Sept. 16-Oct. 21, at MES. Registration fee is \$30.

Sparkling Spinners: Dance class for ages 3-5. Wednesdays, 4:30-5 p.m., Sept. 16-Nov. 18, at Dance Dynamics in Hebron. Fee is \$150.

Tiny Twirlers: Dance class for ages 2-3. Tuesdays, 6-6:30 p.m., Sept. 15-Nov. 17, or Saturdays, 9:30-10 a.m., Sept. 19-Nov. 21. Classes held at Dance Dynamics in Hebron. Fee is \$150.

Skyhawks Multi-Sport Tots: Wednesdays, Sept. 23-Oct. 28, at Marlborough Elementary School. Ages 2-3.5 meet 5-5:45 p.m., and ages 3.5-4 meet 6-6:45 p.m. Parent participation required for ages 2-3.5. Fee: \$102/resident, \$107/non-resident.

Mad Science – Fall Crazy Chemworks: For grades K-6. Thursdays, 3:15-4:15 p.m., Oct. 15-Nov. 19, at MES. Fee: \$144/residents, \$149/non-residents.

Crayola Imagine Arts Academy – Epic Landmarks Throughout History!: For grades K-6, at MES. Tuesdays, 3:15-4:15 p.m., from Oct. 13-Nov. 24. Fee: \$144/residents, \$149/non-residents. No class on 11/3.

Town Hall Closed

Marlborough Town Hall will be closed Friday, Sept. 4, and Monday, Sept. 7, in observation of Labor Day.

Setback Tournament,

There will be a Setback Tournament Friday Sept. 18, at the American Legion Post 197, 128 East Hampton Rd. Registration is at 6 p.m., and the games start at 6:30 p.m.

This is a Round Robin-style tournament, and cost is \$10 per person. Prizes will be awarded for first, second and third place. There will also be raffles and a 50/50. (All proceeds go to the ladies auxiliary.) For more information, contact Sharon at 860-805-6917.

Town-Wide Tag Sale Coming

Marlborough Parks & Recreation is organizing the annual Town-Wide Tag Sale, coming up Saturday, Oct. 3, from 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Registration forms are available in Town Hall or online at www.marlboroughct.gov.

Fee is \$25 with a deadline of Oct. 1; no exceptions.

Resident Graduates

Kyle Liang of Marlborough graduated in May from the University of Rhode Island, with a Master of Business Administration degree.

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St. John Fisher Church News & Notes

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

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.stjfchurch.org, or look for the church on Facebook (Saint John Fisher Roman Catholic Church).

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★ Paulie's Push, cont. from page 1

once he realized the impact he was having, he said. People connected with him on the route. Someone donated an RV. These days, he has a small volunteer support crew providing support on his course, and receives support and places to stay in local communities.

Portland is one of those towns, and Fire Chief Rob Puida said that Portland Fire Department was happy to host Paulie and his crew at the firehouse on Friday, Aug. 28.

"We didn't choose Paulie; Paulie chose us," he said. "When he came through here last time, the story goes, when he crested over the hill coming down Route 66 and he saw the large American flag, he said it started to really hit home to him that this was something special and meaningful. His team said that he always remembered coming over that hill with that big American flag, so they reached out to us and they asked if we wouldn't mind hosting them as a stop along the route."

Puida said the department had appreciated getting to trade stories and bond with Paulie at the firehouse, and some even joined him along the route on Friday.

"He took one of the firefighter's air packs and he wore it for half the trek [from East Hampton to Portland], said Puida, noting that that gear weighed about 30 pounds. "He said, 'If those firefighters could climb 60 flights on 9/11, this is nothing for me.'"

At the firehouse on Friday afternoon, where the crew was resting after that long push on a hot, humid afternoon, Portland Senior Services Administrator Sarah Elliott-Caratasios was delivering pizzas for Paulie and his crew. It was a small gesture to make them feel welcome, she said.

"Although we are a very small town, we do things really big," she said, "and the community comes together to do huge things."

On Saturday, Puida himself joined the walk along with his family as they left the firehouse and headed towards Middletown via the Arrigoni Bridge. Firefighters had hoisted up a large American flag on the cranes of two trucks at the entrance to the bridge.

Joining him for part or all of the walk that day were First Selectman Mike Pelton, selectmen Andrea Alfano, Vinnie Pitruzzello, and John Dillon, as well as Portland resident Leslie Houghton, a bricklayer who worked at Ground Zero while it was being rebuilt.

As Veneto pushed his chart at a quick clip, he turned around every few yards to lead the other four carts and wave to crowds. Every once in a while, someone would hop off the curb to join him in his push or share a thought with him.

Two of those people who rushed to say hello were Peggy Parsons of East Hampton, and Barbara Parsons of Rockfall. Peggy ran up to Veneto for a hug as if he were an old friend, and later explained, with tears in her eyes, that she hadn't met him before, but felt connected to his cause.

"God bless him and god bless the people, anyone lost," she said. "He's a wonderful man. Think of everybody every day; life is short."

Also in attendance on Saturday was state Rep. Christie Carpino (R-32). Carpino and state Sen. Norm Needleman (D-33) had both been in attendance the prior day, as Veneto arrived in Portland from East Hampton. When he arrived there, he was met by a crowd, including some Portland Public Schools students.

"We made a promise to never forget the tragedy of 9/11," said Carpino in a Facebook post last Friday. "Today, I had the honor of joining members of the community to show our support for Paulie's Push as he made his way through Portland. Paul Veneto is a retired flight attendant who made a promise to never forget the senseless deaths of 9/11. ... As we approach the 25th anniversary of 9/11, we must continue to keep their memories alive."

"As we approach the 25th anniversary of Sept. 11, a day still seared into American memories, efforts like 'Paulie's Push' remind us why we can never forget," Needleman said in a statement. "Paul's efforts remind us of the tireless, meaningful work and sacrifices made by so many in our darkest hours to support and protect our communities. I'm grateful for his efforts and look forward to see him complete his journey to Ground Zero honoring our nation."

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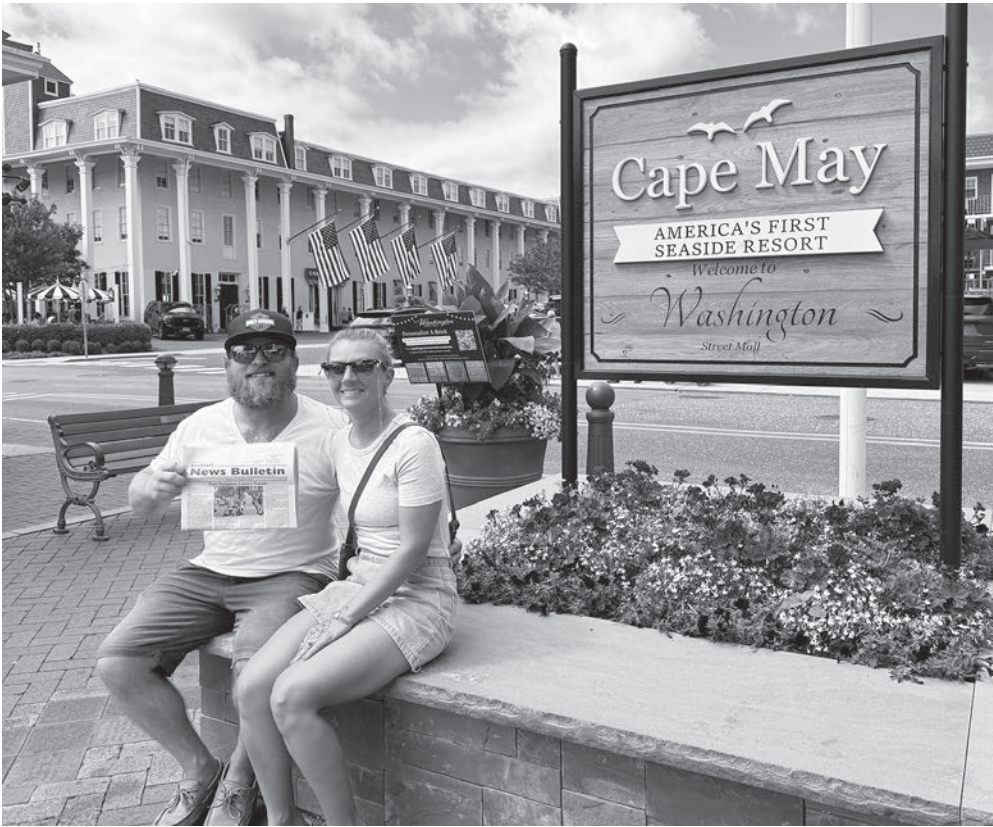
Fun in Scotland... Golf widows Dawn Garcia (left) from Hebron and Pam Joslyn (right) from East Hampton enjoyed a day at Bogbain Farms in Invergordon, Scotland, with the owners, the MacGregors, and their friends.



Guten Tag!... George and Elizabeth Chrostowsky recently visited Breitnau, Germany. It is a quaint little town nestled in the Black Forest of Germany. This area of Germany is home to cuckoo clocks and the renowned Black Forest cake.

Where in the World is the *Rivereast*?

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



Camping at Cape May... Nick and Heather Delisle of Marlborough camp in a new spot every summer – and this year they chose Cape May in New Jersey. And of course, they brought along the *Rivereast*!



Great Times at the Castle... Bonnie Breinburg, Jane Muskatello and Jeanne Bishop brought along the *Rivereast* on a recent trip to Gillette's Castle. Bonnie was visiting from New Jersey, and requested a visit to the East Haddam landmark. She loved every quirky/interesting part of it – which Jane and Jeanne said they do as well! They said it's worth a trip every now and then to marvel at the great craftsmanship that was performed there.

Where in the World?

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Selectmen Approve New School Funding Procedure

By Toriana Williams

Despite objections from a board member and a sharp warning from the Board of Education over the legality and financial implications of the change, the Andover Board of Selectmen approved a new funding procedure for Andover Elementary School during a lengthy Aug. 10 meeting.

The 4-to-1 vote came after nearly an hour of debate over whether the town should continue transferring one-tenth of the school’s annual appropriation each month or instead fund school expenses as they come.

First Selectman Jeff Maguire, a Democrat, argued the new approach would allow the town to earn tens of thousands of dollars in additional interest. BOE Chair Caitlin Greenhouse, unaffiliated, and Superintendent of Schools Valerie Bruneau argued the existing system is necessary for the school’s operations and that the proposed change could violate state law and the town charter.

During the meeting, Selectman Scott Person, a Democrat, was appointed as vice first selectmen and there was discussion on the Long Hill Bridge and other town projects.

Debate On New School Funding Procedure

The most consequential discussion during the meeting centered on school funding.

Maguire said the town had been sending approximately \$483,000 to the school at the beginning of each month, even though the school did not necessarily spend all of that money immediately. He proposed funding accounts payable and payroll as needed instead, allowing the town to keep more money in accounts that accrued interest.

“What I’m asking and what I’m trying to do is fund the school’s expenses, which are with town money because those are town expenses, fund it as they need it,” said Maguire. He estimated the proposal could generate between \$20,000 and \$50,000 worth of interest for the town.

Town attorney Dennis O’Brien told the board that, in his opinion, the authority to make the funding decision rested with the BOS. He added, “The only way to find out whether there’s any kind of illegality here is if in the course of doing this, if the Board of Education and the school was negatively affected by the implementation of this plan.”

Bruneau strongly disagreed with the proposed process. She said the school needs pre-

dictable monthly funding, and she objected to the idea that the school would have to provide financial information to receive money already appropriated by taxpayers.

“We do get one-tenth for 10 months. That is what we need,” Bruneau said.

The discussion became increasingly heated between Maguire and Bruneau as the contentious back and forth continued. Maguire argued he was requesting only basic accounting information, such as a check register, rather than individual receipts. Bruneau maintained that the new process would effectively require the school to justify its financial needs to the town.

At one point, Selectwoman Anne Cremé, a Democrat, suggested that the school open its own account that could accrue interest. Maguire rejected that proposal and said interest should ultimately benefit Andover taxpayers rather than remain under school control.

The board eventually voted on the proposal. Cremé voted ‘no’ while the rest of the board voted in favor of the proposal, with the new AES funding procedure approved.

Public Comment

During public comment, BOE member Shannon Loudon, a Democrat, criticized the funding decision. She argued that the previous process had been functioning properly and that the change was responsible for the legal expenses now being incurred.

“The funding process to AES wasn’t broken, and it became policy appropriately through the Board of Finance,” said Loudon. She added that the school had been receiving funds every month and that the existing process “was working just fine and was approved by all three boards.”

BOE Chair Defends Position

After the meeting, Greenhouse wrote to the *Rivereast* defending the BOE’s position and challenging both the process and authority behind the funding change.

“The Board of Education’s main concern is the daily operation and management of 35 School Road in Andover,” said Greenhouse, referencing the address of the elementary school.

Greenhouse said Maguire presented the pro-

posed funding change to her in June and that she advised that it should be discussed at a future BOF meeting. She said the procedure nevertheless changed July 1 “without discussion or formal action by the Board of Education, Board of Finance or Board of Selectmen.”

She argued that Andover’s town charter places day to day town operations on the shoulders of the town administrator and excludes the BOE from the town administrator’s financial and purchasing oversight. She also cited Connecticut law as giving the BOE discretion over its approved appropriation after a budget is passed.

“The first selectman or Board of Selectmen does not have the authority to unilaterally change the established funding process or condition the release of school funding on additional weekly documentation or municipal approval,” wrote Greenhouse.

Greenhouse said the school’s cash balance is needed to cover expenses while waiting for grant reimbursements and tuition payments, as well as payroll, special education obligations and unexpected costs.

She also challenged the town’s estimate of possible interest savings and said the BOE had not seen a professional analysis demonstrating how much the proposed change would actually save.

Greenhouse said the BOE has asked the state Department of Education to review the dispute and will work with state officials and its attorneys to determine what happens next.

Other Business

After a brief discussion of whether the vice first selectman position should be filled by seniority or political balance, Person was appointed by a 4-to-1 vote, with Cremé voting against. Her and Person were the only two candidates who put their names forward.

Town Administrator Matt Streeter discussed the Long Hill Bridge project, which he said remained on schedule. Crews were waiting for a micropile crew while continuing to remove the old foundation. The Percy Cook Trail plan was described as being on the “back burner,” said Streeter, but Maguire pressed for the town to decide how previously paid engineering work would be reimbursed through a grant.



Church Celebrates Baptisms... On Sunday, Aug. 16, Andover Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, gathered at Andover Lake for a baptism service. Following morning worship, several individuals of different ages entered the water to receive the sacrament of baptism, surrounded by family, friends, and members of the congregation. The Rev. Rose Nilson led the baptisms with assistance from her husband, Brian.

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Obituaries

Portland

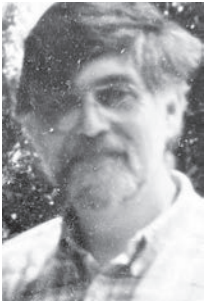
Craig Pitkin

On July 27, Craig Pitkin passed away peacefully at home. He was 77 years old.

He was preceded in death by his wife Rae, the love of his life.

Craig believed that to live in the hearts of those we leave behind, is not to die. He will be deeply missed.

A private celebration of life will be held for close friends.



Marlborough

Philip Carmine Conderino

Philip Carmine Conderino, 75, of Henrico, Va., passed away Tuesday, Aug. 18.

Born May 1, 1951, in Hartford, Phil was raised in Marlborough, where he attended RHAM High School and was part of the 1968 state championship soccer team, a title he was still happy to bring up decades later. He went on to attend Dean Junior College before beginning a career that would define much of his working life: 25 years with Coca-Cola and other soda companies. Never one to stay still for too long, he eventually struck out on his own, opening Freedom Carpets, and building it into a business he was proud to call his.

In 1986, Phil and his wife, Karen, whom he was married to for over 50 years, settled in Willington, where they raised their family. He later served as president of Willington's youth recreational soccer league, trading in his own soccer cleats for the sidelines and proving that once a soccer man, always a soccer man.

Phil was a man of simple joys and steady loyalties. He loved a good road trip, especially one that ended at a national park he hadn't explored yet. He also looked forward to fishing trips with his Pennsylvania crew. He was a regular on the golf course with his friends, and for most of his adult life he kept a standing monthly card game going with Karen and the same close friends he'd had since high school. He was a devoted and occasionally weary fan of UConn women's and men's basketball, the Boston Red Sox, the Boston Celtics, and, perhaps most impressively, the Minnesota Vikings, a loyalty that says as much about his character as anything else in this obituary.

Phil is survived by his wife, Karen Conderino; his children, Amber Stanwix (John) and their daughter Violet, Michele Conderino, and Dan Conderino (Kristen) and their daughter Sloan; his sister, Laura McNaughton (Harold "Bud" Newman); and many friends who were as close as family. He was preceded in death by his parents, Catherine and Anselmo Conderino, and his older brother, Michael Conderino.

A celebration of life will be held at the Marlborough Tavern, 3 East Hampton Rd., Marlborough, on Saturday, Sept. 12, from 4-7 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made in Phil's memory to Open Doors (opendoorsct.org), a Norwalk organization dedicated to preventing and ending homelessness.



Colchester

Evelyn Frances Bennett

Evelyn Frances Bennett, of Colchester, passed away on Wednesday, Aug. 19, at Hartford Hospital after a long illness. She was 77 years old. Evelyn was born on April 30, 1949, in Manchester, to the late Gerald and Bessie Ambo.

She married the love of her life, Kenneth Paul Bennett on June 20, 1970. The couple settled in Colchester, where they made their home and raised their family. Evelyn retired several years ago after a 35-year career as a quality control inspector for Sylacon Plastics in Deep River.

In her free time, Evelyn loved putting together a challenging jigsaw puzzle or crocheting a handmade treasure for her family and friends to have. She enjoyed bird watching, especially the beautiful hummingbirds. Most importantly, she will be remembered for the love and devotion she gave selflessly to her family.

In addition to her husband Kenneth, she leaves her children, Angela and spouse, Brian Swanhaus of Waterford, John and spouse Theresa Creder of Middletown, Lori Creder of Norwich, Brenda Curtis of Jewett City; sisters, Dolores Langer of Brockdon, Mass., Judy Abbate of Florida; four grandchildren; and many extended family members and friends. In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by seven siblings.

A celebration of life memorial service will be held on Friday, Sept. 11, beginning at noon, with visitation at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester, followed by a graveside service at 2 p.m. in Linwood Cemetery, Colchester.

For online condolences or to share a memory story of Evelyn, please visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.



Portland

Frank Colonghi

Frank Colonghi of Portland passed away peacefully Tuesday, Aug. 18, surrounded by the family who loved him deeply.

Born April 21, 1951, in Middletown, Frank was raised in a close-knit Italian family where faith, family, hard work, good food, and laughter were central. His parents, Frances and Joe, and his grandmother Rose were especially important influences, along with many close extended family relationships.

Frank attended Xavier High School in Middletown and St. Michael's College in Vermont. He built a successful 40-year career in the construction industry, earning respect for his skill, work ethic, and the strong relationships he formed. His crews often referred to one another as "brother."

Frank lived life fully and with enthusiasm. He enjoyed running, cycling, skiing, hunting, fishing, and boating, and was an accomplished barefoot water skier. His adventurous spirit led him to scuba diving, where he became a certified divemaster and explored shipwrecks. He spent many cherished days on the water, including frequent trips to Block Island, tropical islands, and Rhode Island beaches where lasting memories were made with friends and family.

He was larger than life, with an unforgettable smile and a great sense of humor. Frank loved



to laugh and bring joy to others. He was also an excellent cook, and some of his happiest moments were spent around the table with family and friends.

Above all, Frank loved his family. He was a devoted husband to his wife and soulmate, Jan, and a loving father to his son, Zach, and daughter, Francesca Bruzzese, and her husband, Dante Bruzzese. He was a proud and loving "Poppy" to his grandson, Rocco. He also shared a special bond with his mother-in-law, Jeanne Schmidt, and was joyfully awaiting the birth of his grandson, Giulio Frank, who will carry his name.

Frank's faith in God was a source of strength throughout his life, especially after his diagnosis of glioblastoma in 2015. He faced his illness with remarkable courage and without complaint, supported by the devoted care of his wife and son so he could remain at home surround-

ed by love.

He will be remembered for his courage, humor, generosity, adventurous spirit, and deep devotion to his family. His life leaves behind countless stories, laughter, and a lasting legacy of love carried on through his children and grandchildren. Now, after a long and courageous journey, Frank is at peace in the loving care of the God in whom he placed his faith.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held Monday, Aug. 24, at St. Sebastian Church, with interment in the Swedish Cemetery, Portland. D'Angelo Funeral Home, 22 South Main St., Middletown is in charge of arrangements.

"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want."
- Psalm 23

Frank was deeply loved, and he will be deeply missed.

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

★ Hebron Harvest Fair, cont. from page 1

said.

While the fair may look like a giant party to visitors, a huge amount of work happens long before the gates open. Organizers plan for the next fair almost as soon as the current one ends. "It's pretty much an all year thing," said Koyzra.

After the fair, members hold a critique in October to talk about what worked, what didn't and what could be improved for the following year. Then the planning continues.

Koyzra said the fair is the Hebron Lions Club's largest fundraiser, but the money doesn't stay with the club.

"Monies that we raise from the public have to go back to the public," he explained.

The club's charities committee decides where the money goes. Each April, the club holds a night of giving and invites recipients to attend. For Koyzra, seeing those organizations benefit is one of the best parts of the work.

"That's what makes it, that's what it's all about," he said.

The Lions Club also helps put on other community events, including the town's firework show.

That means a trip to the fair can be more than just a fun day or night out. By buying a ticket, eating fried dough, playing a game or taking a ride, fairgoers are also helping support charitable causes. There's nothing better than a good time that benefits others in return.

Koyzra said many people probably don't even realize how much their support helps.

"I don't think the fairgoers and patrols realize that they're really helping out these local state and national charities also," he said.

That spirit of community has helped keep people coming back year after year. Koyzra shared that people often talk about how much they look forward to the fair. In the past, the town even had a saying for the event.

"The slogan used to be, 'See you at the fair,' from people in town," he said. That strong bond,

close-knit community and excited feeling is still around today.

The fair has also become a place where people make new friends. After more than 30 years with the Lions Club, Koyzra said every year brings new memories.

"Every year, there is something that changes a little bit," he said.

He described meeting new friends through vendors and fairgoers, and he said the small changes made each year help keep the event fresh.

This year, organizers listened to people who wanted another place to enjoy a drink while listening to music. A second beer location will be set up near the stages. And then, Koyzra spoke of "the transformation" with an unexpected level of awe.

Perhaps one of the most amazing parts of the fair happens before the event even opens. Koyzra described watching the fairgrounds change from a mostly empty space into a busy little city.

"It's like a whole city pops up, and that's for our town," he said.

Then, almost before anyone knows it, the fairgrounds are filled. The speed of the change apparently amazes even those who have witnessed it several times before.

"It's kind of awe inspiring how quick that happens and how quick everything goes and how all the pieces fall into place," he said.

For visitors, the final result is a colorful world of rides, lights, music, food and entertainment. For the volunteers behind the scenes, it's the result of months of planning and years of experience. Koyzra is quick to point out that he is only one small part of the concerted effort.

His biggest message is one of gratitude to the people who make the fair possible.

"From the members to the volunteers, this is a huge combined effort," he said. He added, "The members and the volunteers are the ones who really deserve credit for getting the fair going every year."

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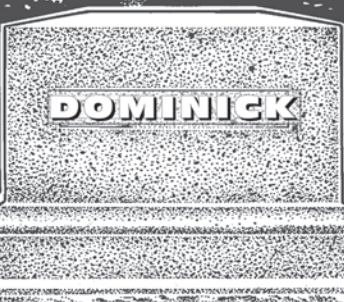
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Needleman Endorsed by Independent Party, Retired Teachers

The Independent Party and the Association of Retired Teachers of Connecticut each recently endorsed state Sen. Norm Needleman (D-33) in his bid for another term in office.

Needleman representing the 33rd Senate District, which includes Colchester, East Hampton and Portland, as well as Chester, Clinton, Deep River, East Haddam, Essex, Haddam, Lyme, Old Saybrook and Westbrook.

Needleman welcomed the Independent Party endorsement.

“To consider issues solely on party lines does a disservice to the depth and importance of the many problems our state needs to fix, and to receive the support of the Independent Party reinforces my work to represent all of our community’s needs,” he said. “Each issue brought to the Capitol needs thorough, meaningful review and I am committed to continuing this important work should I earn another term in the Senate.”

Needleman was previously endorsed by the Independent Party in his successful 2020, 2022 and 2024 campaigns for state Senate.

Needleman said he is also grateful for the endorsement of the Association of Retired Teachers of Connecticut.

“Without our teachers, our students can’t

properly thrive, and to ensure Connecticut education remains strong, we need to continue to give them the support they need,” said Needleman. “This recognition inspires me to continue serving our communities now and in the future, with an eye on continuing to preserve the educational quality we rely on.”

So far this year, Needleman has additionally received the endorsements of the 314 Action Fund – an organization that supports electing Democrats with a background in science to public office – and the American Federation of Teachers (AFT).

Needleman serves as Senate chair of the Energy and Technology Committee, vice chair of the Planning and Development Committee and a member of the Commerce, Finance, Revenue and Bonding, and Transportation committees.

Needleman, who was first elected to the state Senate in 2018, is seeking his fifth term.



Needleman

Volunteers Wanted for Stream Assessments

The Salmon and Eightmile River watershed organizations are hosting a training program for volunteers in September to assist with biological stream assessments.

Aquatic benthic macroinvertebrates (water bugs) are good indicators of water quality and stream health. Learn how to collect and identify stream macroinvertebrates in this training program which will include an indoor workshop followed by field training at selected sites.

The training program will be held on Saturday, Sept. 12, from 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., and includes field time. The indoor workshop will be held at Burnham Brook Preserve, 2 Dolbia

Hill Road-East, East Haddam, starting at 9 a.m. After the classroom portion, we will head to Devil’s Hopyard State Park, East Haddam.

Registration is limited to 20 participants. This program is appropriate for high school age and above, however a parent/guardian must accompany a minor. To register or for any questions, contact Pat Young at salmon-riverct@att.net or info@eightmileriver.org.

Collectively, the Salmon and Eightmile River watersheds cover over 200 square miles and include the towns of Bolton, Colchester, Columbia, East Haddam, East Hampton, East Lyme, Glastonbury, Haddam, Hebron, Lebanon, Lyme, Marlborough and Salem.

Weir Receives Independent Party Endorsement

State Rep. Steve Weir (R-55) has received the endorsement of the Independent Party of Connecticut in his campaign for re-election to represent Connecticut’s 55th House District.

The endorsement follows a vote of the Independent Party’s State Central Committee and will place Weir on the Independent Party line on the November ballot, in addition to his Republican endorsement.

Weir said he was honored to receive the endorsement and added he believes it reflects an approach to public service centered on independent thinking, listening to different perspectives and working with people regardless of political affiliation.

“I’m honored to receive the Independent Party’s endorsement,” said Weir. “I have always believed that good representation starts with listening. I represent Republicans, Democrats, independents and people who don’t identify with any political party. My responsibility is to listen to all of them, consider ideas on their merits and make the decisions I believe are best for the people and communities I represent.”

The Independent Party of Connecticut emphasizes independent thinking, government accountability, fiscal responsibility and candidates willing to put the interests of their constituents ahead of partisan politics.

Weir said maintaining political balance in Hartford is particularly important today. Democrats currently hold approximately a two-to-one majority in both chambers of the Connecticut General Assembly.

“I don’t believe one party has all the right

answers all of the time,” Weir said. “Regardless of which party is in the majority, our government benefits when there are different perspectives at the table, people willing to ask questions, and legislators willing to work together when they find common ground.”

“Connecticut faces real challenges with affordability, the cost of government, housing, education and creating an environment where families and businesses can prosper,” Weir continued. “Those challenges aren’t Republican or Democrat challenges. Solving them requires thoughtful debate, independent judgment and a willingness to work with others.”

Weir added that accepting an endorsement does not change his obligation to independently evaluate issues that come before the legislature.

“An endorsement should never mean surrendering your independence or committing yourself to someone else’s political agenda,” Weir said. “I’ll continue doing what I’ve done since I was first elected: listen to everyone, work with people across the political spectrum and judge each proposal on its merits and its impact on the people I represent.”

The 55th House District includes Andover, Hebron, Marlborough, and portions of Bolton and Glastonbury.



Weir

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Dancing with the Stars

AHM Youth and Family Services will present a “Dancing with the Stars” fundraiser Saturday, Sept. 19, at the RHAM High School auditorium, 85 Wall St., Hebron.

This community-centered event pairs local “celebrities” with dance studios to learn and perform a choreographed routine on stage.

Submissions Accepted for ‘Fall Into Art’

AHM Youth and Family Services is holding the second “Fall Into Art” autumn-themed community art show on Saturday, Oct. 24. Enjoy local art, craft projects, and a visit from AHM’s mascot, Pendelton the Owl!

Local artists and community members of all ages are invited to participate in this autumn-

Teams will have individual fundraising pages to earn “fan votes” before the event. Voting will be open Sept. 1-17. A panel of judges will choose an overall winner the night of the event.

Tickets are \$12/person when purchased in advance online, and \$15 at the door on Sept. 19.

For more information, visit ahmyouth.org.

themed day of fun. To submit your artwork for display, use the form at ahmyouth.org/fall-into-art-registration.

This free event is held during Hebron Harvest Moon Festival, in collaboration with the Hebron Creative Collective.

For more information, visit ahmyouth.org.

RHAM Music Mattress Showroom Fundraiser

The RHAM Music Boosters group is hosting the return of its 1-Day Mattress Sale Fundraiser, partnering with Custom Fundraising Solutions to make the event possible.

For one day only on Saturday, Sept. 26, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., the RHAM High School cafeteria (85 Wall St., Hebron) will be transformed into a full-scale mattress showroom. Custom Fundraising Solutions (CFS) will provide brand-new mattresses at up to 50% below retail value. The sale will feature such brands as Purple, Simmons Beautyrest Black, Helix, Therapedic, Tranquility Sleep Systems, and more. Every purchase supports the students – even if you just want a luxury pillow.

What’s available at the sale: twin mattresses starting at \$199; full mattresses starting at \$289; queen mattresses starting at \$299; king mattresses starting at \$499; and master suite luxury options ranging from \$1,500 to \$3,500+.

Adjustable power bases, CordaRoy’s Convertible Bean Bag/Nest chairs, luxury sheets & pillows, body massagers, and mattress protectors will also be sold below retail the day of

the event. Delivery, old mattress removal, and 0% financing options are available, with orders ready for delivery or pickup 12 to 14 days after the sale.

Every mattress is brand-new, built-to-order, comes in all standard sizes, and carries full 100% factory warranties. Every purchase directly supports the RHAM High School Music Department.

For more information, search for “RHAM Mattress Fundraiser” on Facebook.

AHM Fall Brochure Released

Registration is now open for AHM Youth and Family Services’ fall programs.

AHM said it has many activities lined up for all ages, including theater, macrame, messy hands, and more. The fall brochure also has information about QPR, Drug Take Back, and special events.

Visit ahmyouth.org to view the program listing and to sign up.

“PET OF THE WEEK”



One-year-old Mr. Genius might seem ironically named, as he can sometimes be found hiding beneath his bed. Not the move of the smartest in the room. But rather than lack of intelligence, Mr. Genius’ hiding is the product of his timidity. He likes the company of gentle people and other friendly cats and in the presence of both, his path to confidence and bravery will be accelerated. He would appreciate an adopter who understands that the shy fellow they meet on adoption day is a different cat than the one who will emerge when comfort and patience are given in liberal amounts.



Felix, 3 mths, is a sweet, chill go with the flow tuxedo. He is very easy going. He likes his playtime and will run around with his siblings when they encourage him but he really enjoys lounging around or sitting in the cat tree and watching the birds outside. He is very affectionate and loves being carried around like a baby. He is just a love sponge who can’t soak up enough attention! Felix would fine going home with one of his siblings but he would also be fine as a single kitten as long as he gets the attention he craves because he loves his people.

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★ Letters, cont. from page 7

tening to its residents. Look for her at community events. As of September 1, she has knocked on more than 2,000 doors, meeting residents and hearing their concerns, ideas, and hopes for the future.

She is preparing to bring those voices to Hartford and turn the concerns and visions of people in the district into action and, where appropriate, legislation. Ellen wants to meet and hear from as many residents of the 55th District as possible. Her website, ellenforstaterep.com, provides more information about her background, priorities and positions on the issues.

A vote for Democrat Ellen Paul is a vote for the voice of the 55th to be heard in Hartford!

Respectfully submitted,
Dianne Dunn – Marlborough

***Note:** Dunn is co-chair of the Marlborough Democratic Town Committee, but said she is speaking as an individual.*

Deliberate Denial?

To the Editor:
“Many farmers support local schools through farm tours and educational programs, helping children learn where food comes from.” – (tinyurl.com/ValueofCTDairySources)

Once again I tip my hat to Lebanon, where farmers of all kinds have graciously opened their farms to the public in honor of 250 years of farming in the U.S.A. This dedicated group of people not only work for today, they work for tomorrow. Together, along with educating the public, they are putting as much land as possible into the safe hands of land preservation. Today, Connecticut forests’ and CT farmlands’ biggest threat is development. Development that is no longer knocking on our doors but slamming the doors down. It’s great to meet people who are supporting sustainable solutions and not creating chronic problems.

The recent purchase of the Pendleton Drive property, complete with drawings of a road, is disappointing at best. Sticking a road in those acres feels like the past five years didn’t happen. Countless letters, research, tours, hay rides, environmental reports, professionals and Hebron residents, support saving the old Horton land, a.k.a. 17 Kinney Rd. However, despite these efforts, Hebron’s Town Council pushes for development through that sensitive landscape. New roads means storm drains, salting, plowing and maintenance at the taxpayers’ expense. Roads, especially, through properties like this, greatly increase the risk of well water contamination from de-icing salts and vehicular pollution.

Meanwhile, CT Water is no longer accepting new customers, which means watershed residents would face super complex circumstances. If commercial water cannot be piped in, to replace contaminated well water, reverse osmosis machines would need to be added to affected homes, at the town’s expense. These systems use loads of water, work based on a 3-1 ratio of salted to “fresh,” leaving behind enormous amounts of concentrated brine now considered hazardous waste.

It would be great if Town Hall could join the ranks of Lebanon farmers who are going organic, where they can, and coming up with new, creative, more environmentally friendly solutions for old problems. We don’t need a new road on the Pendleton property, nor do we need to connect to JHBlvd. Hebron is doing fine. What we do need is to rebuild the Public Works, secure residential water supplies and preserve our historic farmland, particularly on the Raymond Brook Watershed. We need leaders to endorse sustainable solutions and not contribute to our growing problems. #save17

Jean Tulimieri – Amston



Real-World Experience

To the Editor:

As a UConn student entering my third year of school, it’s now time to start thinking about getting possible internships. When looking for internships, I know it is vital to connect and talk with as much people as possible. A few months ago, state Rep. Steve Weir had approached me about a connection that could possibly lead to landing an internship. He had already known that I had aspirations of becoming a pilot and understood I have a passion for aviation. After a few texts and phone calls back and forth, I got connected to one of his connections at Bombardier.

All of this ultimately led to a tour at Bombardier’s facility at Bradley International Airport in Windsor Locks. While at the facility, I gained insight about the company’s history, values, and future plans for Bombardier as a whole. I experienced first-hand Bombardier’s Hartford maintenance hangars and learned about their procedures and processes when repairing business aircraft. Now I will be connected with someone internally at bombardier and I am one step closer to landing a position that I am passionate about.

One thing I appreciate with elected officials is experience outside of government and I believe that Rep. Weir embodies this well. Steve had his own lawn care business, worked in real estate and has many other experiences from outside of politics. Real-world experience matters to me in politics because having it shows that he was just like you or I. In my case he was once 20 years old and trying to see what he wanted to do with his life, and it ultimately worked out, which is encouraging for me. I believe without those experiences he wouldn’t have built the connection network that he has today, and I wouldn’t have been able to begin my journey in working in the aviation industry.

I would like to personally thank Mr. Weir for this opportunity and his commitment to helping his constituents.

Daniel Krawczyk – Hebron Junior at the University of Connecticut

Keep Asking the Hard Questions

To the Editor:

Whether the Colchester budget passed or failed, I write to all concerned citizens with one message: Stay involved.

Well-run businesses and households regularly review their revenues and expenditures throughout the year. Why should our town and school system be any different? We should not wait until the next budget season to discover financial problems, unexpected expenses, or difficult choices. I will be urging both the Board of Education and Board of Finance to continuously review spending, revenues, and priorities throughout the year.

No more crazy surprises when the next budget season arrives.

We also need to continue holding those in positions of authority accountable and asking the hard questions. For example: Does Colchester need both a superintendent and an assistant superintendent? Why? What does each position provide, and is that value worth the cost to taxpayers?

Every position should be able to answer those questions – including positions at the top. Teachers, parents, and even our children were asked to make difficult sacrifices this budget season. Administrative positions should receive the same level of scrutiny. When these questions were raised, too often the conversation was brushed aside with what I call “education speak” and quickly pivoted back to the emotional impact of potential cuts to children.

I have a child at WJMS, and I am already seeing changes in his schedule. The curriculum needs attention, and I expect our children will need additional support from Mom and Dad to help round out their education and growth this year. Perhaps there is a silver lining in this challenging year: families may become even more engaged in their children’s education.

But we cannot stop here.

Please stay active. Attend meetings. Read the budgets. Ask questions. Demand answers. Speak respectfully, but don’t be afraid to challenge decisions.

I know there are many of us who are finished with simply being told what we must accept or comply with. Our elected officials work for the citizens who elected them.

Keep asking the hard questions. That is how we stay informed. That is how we stay involved. And ultimately, that is how we hold our government accountable.

Olivia Duksa, Chair Colchester Republican Town Committee

Weir for Entire Community

To the Editor:

I first met Steve Weir shortly after moving to Marlborough in May of 2024. My first interaction with Steve was entering my driveway on a scooter. He was informing district members and handing out pamphlets regarding the upcoming election. Through friends I was formally introduced to Steve. He treated me like his own neighbor – friendly, honest and straightforward. Since 2024 I have met with Steve many times. We both share the same passion of aviation, which allowed me to get to know him further.

During the Hurricane Helene disaster, he and I flew from Connecticut in a Hughes 500A to provide lifesaving airlift capabilities. That eight-hour flight from Connecticut to just north of

Asheville, N.C., allowed me time which many of his voters will never have access to. Throughout the trip we flew approximately 25 hours; just him, myself and the mission. I got to know about him, his past, his family and his aspirations and why he continues public service.

I can say without a doubt regardless of which political affiliation you vote for, Mr. Weir is for our entire community. I have watched him fight for our district and state in Hartford firsthand. He reads each bill to ensure our word is reflected in legislation. He cares deeply for our community, and is putting in long hours each day, every night taking work home with him to ensure our voices are heard. I have many other examples of why I trust Steve. If you see me around town just say hello; I would be happy to share.

Sincerely,
Jon Behuniak – Marlborough

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★ Answers on page 33

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CREATORS NEWS SERVICE

By Neil Manausa

ACROSS

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Just e-mail us at classifieds@rarereminder.com or call 860-563-9386.

Deadline is every Tuesday at 10am for that week's papers.

Town of Colchester Legal Notice

In accordance with CGS 12-110, the Colchester Board of Assessment Appeals will be meeting to hear appeals related to the assessment of motor vehicles on Tuesday September 15, 2026 from 6:30pm to 8:00pm at the Colchester Town Hall (127 Norwich Ave., Norwich Ave., Colchester CT). No appointments are necessary. Appeals will be heard on a first come, first serve basis.
Krista Kardys
BAA clerk

1TB 9/4

TOWN OF COLCHESTER CONSERVATION COMMISSION LEGAL NOTICE OF AGENT DECISION

Notice is hereby given that on August 31, 2026, the Duly Authorized Agent for the Colchester Conservation Commission made the following decision:
W2026-3146 - 13 Homonick Rd; Clifton O'Donal - Applicant/ Owner; Assessor's ID 02-08/011-000, Proposed stump removal, filling, and grading within 75' Upland Review Area. - **APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS**
Dated August 31, 2026
Conservation Commission
Falk von Plachecki, Chair

1TB 9/4

LEGAL NOTICE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS TOWN OF HEBRON, CONNECTICUT

The Hebron Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing at a Special Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, September 15, 2026, at 7:30 PM, at the Hebron Town Office Building, 15 Gilead Street, Hebron, CT, concerning the following:
1. Petition 2026-01: Request of Frank & Elizabeth F. Cianci for a variance to Section 2.E.5 of the Hebron Zoning Regulations, to allow a 24' x 24' accessory structure (detached two-car garage) to be located 16' from the front property line where the minimum front yard setback is 50', on premise located at 114 Cone Road, R-1 District.
Dated at Hebron, Connecticut, on this 2nd day of September 2026.
Interested persons may appear and all written communications will be received.
Legal Notice will be published on the Town of Hebron Website at <https://hebronct.com/agendas/>

2TB 9/4, 9/11

LEGALS

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE TOWN OF ANDOVER PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION

The Andover Planning & Zoning Commission will hold a hybrid in person and online Public Hearing Tuesday, September 15, 2026 to hear the following application and receive public comments: Application 26-22C: Proposal to amend various sections of the Andover Zoning Regulations concerning the Mixed-Use Floating Zone. Applicant: Design Professionals
Comments, questions or concerns may be presented at the public hearing or submitted in writing to the Andover Building and Land Use Office, 17 School Road, Andover, CT 06232.
Applications and exhibits are on file in the Building and Land Use Department for public inspection or online on the Town of Andover's website.
Instructions for joining the public hearing via Zoom are posted on the town's website in the Calendar.
Wayne Kasacek
Zoning Agent

2TB 9/4, 9/11

LEGAL NOTICE FOR BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS SEPTEMBER MOTOR VEHICLE APPEALS

In accordance with Connecticut General Statute Sec. 12-110, the Board of Assessment Appeals shall meet at least once during the month of September for the sole purpose of hearing only appeals for motor vehicles that appear on the prior October 1 Grand List.
The Hebron Board of Assessment Appeals will meet at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, September 8, 2026 and Thursday, September 10, 2026 to hear appeals for October 1, 2025 Grand List Motor Vehicle assessments ONLY. Such appeal shall be made in person to the Board at the Hebron Town Office Building, 15 Gilead Street, Lower Level, Hebron CT. Appeals will be heard on a first-come, first-served basis. It is recommended that appellants bring the vehicle to the hearing along with any documentation that will support your appeal. Agents representing the appellant must have a letter of authorization to represent the property owner at the appeal. Per CT State Statute 12-71d(b), appeals can only consider the MSRP (Manufacturers Suggested Retail Price). The Board cannot hear appeals based on mileage and/or condition of the vehicle.

2TB 8/28, 9/4

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EVENTS

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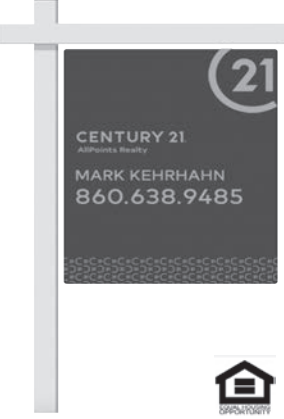
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REG-26-26

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Marlborough Elementary School is accepting applications for a full-time Paraeducator position for the 2026–2027 school year. The position will begin upon hire and will follow the school calendar, with a work schedule of Monday through Friday, 6.5 hours per day. Interested candidates may apply online by visiting the district website at: www.marlborough.k12.ct.us and selecting "District," then "Employment Opportunities" and "Employment Vacancies." For more information, please call 860-295-6236. EOE.

1TB 9/4



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REG-24-26

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REG-15-24

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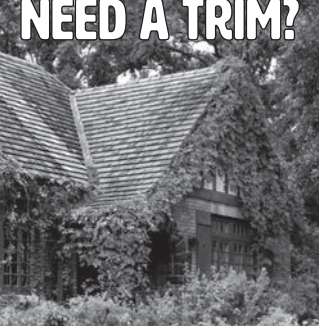
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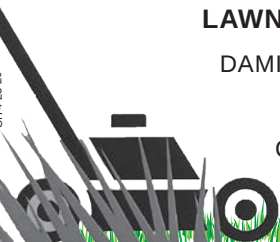
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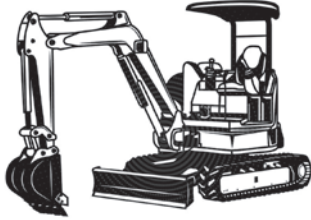
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RE 9-4-26

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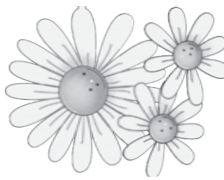
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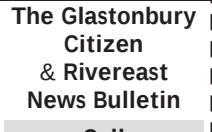
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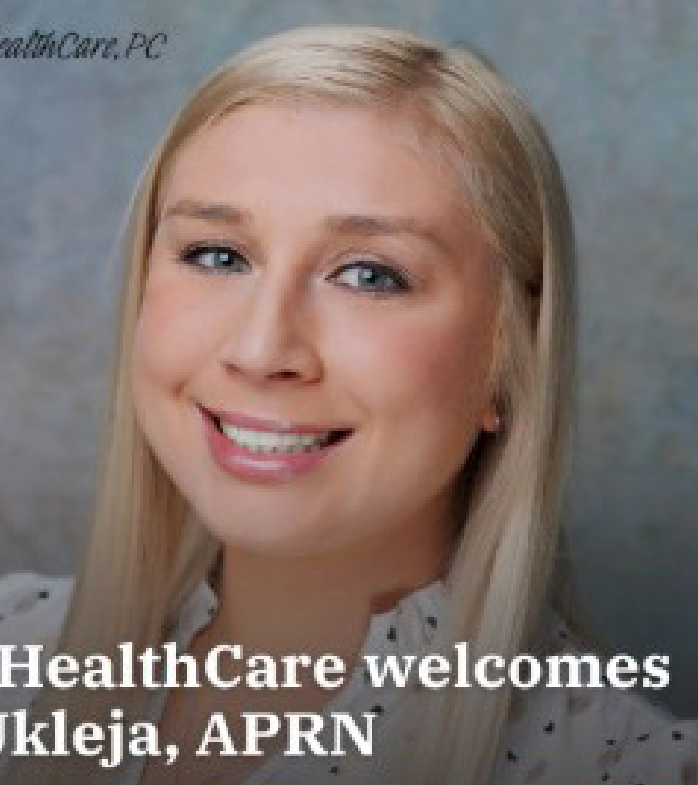
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