



We Remember
September 11, 2001

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RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

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

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September 11, 2026



Remembering 9/11...Members of the Portland Leo Club helped place flags at St. Mary's Cemetery, in honor of the first responders who lost their lives during the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. From left are Brooks Olivia, Reese Nicol, Jack Hal-linean, Miles Matterfis, Declan Thomas and Liam Witschy.

Through The Lens, A Country United

By Toriana Williams

It began with smoke.

On Sept. 11, 2001, Robert Carley was sitting in his office in Stamford, looking across the Long Island Sound. He could see the smoke rising into the sky from New York.

Carley didn't realize until later that what he was seeing would change the direction of his life. The next day, he began noticing something else; flags were everywhere.

People carried them, painted them and turned everyday objects into bright red, white and blue signs of hope.

A person walked back and forth over I-95 carrying a large flag. A store owner painted an American flag on a pumpkin. A two-story flag appeared near a cemetery in Darien.

Carley had only recently begun taking photography seriously at that point in time. He had inherited his father's old Nikon film camera and had always enjoyed street photography, but after the Sept. 11, his camera became a way to preserve history.

"I saw the incredible demonstrations of patriotism. They were beautiful, and I felt like I had to record them," said Carley. "I had to chronicle them."

And that's what he's been doing for the past 25 years.

Carley, who lives in Colchester and is now retired, has spent the last quarter-century traveling across the country to photograph the American flag in all its different kinds of forms and glory.

More than 100 of those photographs, along

with flags Carley made himself, will be on display at the Slater Memorial Museum in Norwich in an exhibition called "Stars and Stripes: The American Flag from 9/11 to 250."

The exhibition opens Sept. 12 at the Converse Art Gallery and runs through Dec. 5. The opening reception is at 1 p.m. and is free and open to the public.

When Carley spoke with the *Rivereast* about his journey, the exhibition became less of a collection of photographs and more a collection of memories and stories.

Looking for the Stories

After the devastating terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, American flags became difficult to find as stores quickly sold out.

"People wanted to wave the flag and rally around the flag," said Carley. When people couldn't buy flags, they made their own.

Some painted flags on their homes. Others painted cars, trucks and other objects. For many people, creating something was a way to deal with the pain.

"They channeled their anger into creative ways. They started making flags," said Carley. "It was therapeutic. It was cathartic for them."

Carley realized he wanted to capture those creations before they disappeared. And he didn't stop with a click of the camera – he wanted to know the person behind the flag.

"I don't just take the photo. I interview the person who created the flag," he said. "That's

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A Special Connection to Ground Zero

By Anne Lilburn

Like many people, Sept. 11 is a sad day for Portland resident Leslie Houghton.

Houghton is a born-and-raised New Yorker who grew up on Manhattan's Upper West Side, and she said remembers the Twin Towers well. She had been at the World Trade Center just a week before the towers fell, visiting a friend who worked at the Express clothing store there.

When the towers fell, Houghton said, she was a student at Mercy University in Westchester County, just north of the city.

"My mom was still in Manhattan, [and] my sister," she said. "It was awful because we could not get in touch. The phone lines weren't working; I couldn't get on a train."

She said she also thought of her friend who worked at the site. Fortunately, the friend had the day off – but Houghton didn't know that at the time.

"She happened to be off that day, but I couldn't get in touch with her. It was very scary, not knowing if she was in to work that day," she said. "It was awful."

But while many New Yorkers who were alive during the 9/11 attacks may look at the Ground Zero site and feel only sadness, for Houghton, it's also a place of hope and rebirth. It's a place where she came into her own in a career as a bricklayer, and where she feels proud to have worked rebuilding the World Trade Center site.

Houghton said she had moved back into the city in the years following 9/11, and was working as a bartender in Manhattan's Chelsea neighborhood when she came across an ad in the newspaper for a program that provided training for "non-traditional employment for women."

"It was literally around the corner from the bar that I was working at," she said, "and it just helped women get into the trades. It was 33 months. It wasn't paid. They did give you a Metro Card so you could get to work or get there, but it was just a training, and every week you did something different; maybe you could visit the plumbers union, or you had an electrician that would come in and do some work with you,

or there was a carpenter there. So, you could learn a little bit about everything."

Her time in that program led her to a career in construction, she said, and she found herself drawn to masonry work, loving the precision and skill of the work. She eventually became a union bricklayer.

In 2011, Houghton got a job working at Ground Zero in lower Manhattan, and worked there on and off over the next five years. She worked on both the new 2 World Trade Center Tower – which is still under construction and sits nearby, but not in the footprint of, the previous Tower 2 – and also at the new 3 World Trade Center Tower, which has since been completed. Working on those sites, she said, was different from other jobs she'd had.

"It was a strange feeling," Houghton said. "There was this camaraderie amongst the workers. We all had the same goal: to help New York rise to the top – you know, from under the ashes of the World Trade Center, and come up bigger

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DTC Chili Cook-Off

The Andover Democratic Town Committee will hold its third annual Chili Cook-Off Sunday, Sept. 20, from noon-2:30 p.m. Enter a pot of your best chili! There will be prizes for the best and runner-up chilis. Contestant fee is \$15. All are also invited to come sample the chilis and vote for your favorites. Fee is \$10 for a sample of all of the chilis, and chips. There will also be a bake sale. Proceeds go to the Andover Food Pantry and the Andover DTC. Contact Catherine Crémé to register, at cat.creme2023@gmail.com.

WAIM Fall Flea Market

Windham Area Interfaith Ministry (WAIM) will hold its Fall Flea Market, "Fifth Floor Treasures," on Saturday, Sept. 19, from 8 a.m.-noon, at 866 Main St. Discover a one-of-a-kind indoor flea market experience on WAIM's fifth floor. Items range from snow shoes to microscopes, and everything in between. Payment can be by cash, charge or check. WAIM (Windham Area Interfaith Ministry) is a social-service nonprofit that serves Andover and Hebron, as well as Ashford, Bolton, Chaplin, Columbia, Coventry, Hampton, Lebanon, Mansfield, Storrs, Scotland, Willington, Windham, and Willimantic. For more information, call 860-456-7270 ext. 104 or Kathy Callahan at 860-228-0873.



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Congregational Church News

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

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

Community & Senior Center Happenings

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

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

Transportation: Call 860-498-2326 to schedule transportation. Provide a one-week notice for all appointment requests. Transportation is available for town events and meetings, voting, senior events, group shopping and medical appointments. Transportation available to Andover seniors, veterans, and disabled are welcome. The driver shifts end at 5 p.m. If assistance is required, passengers may bring an aid (age 18 or older).

Regular Weekly and Monthly Programs: For a list of regular weekly and monthly events, such as Movies, Wednesday Lunches, Stretch & Strength fitness classes, Chair Massage and more, see the monthly newsletter, "Community Connections." Transportation is available.

Yoga Classes: Chair Yoga with Haley: Mondays at 11 a.m. and Fridays at 8:30 a.m.; fee is \$7 per class. **Gentle Yoga with Haley:** Fridays at 10 a.m.; fee is \$10 per class. **Yoga with Linda:** Thursdays at 5:45 p.m.; fee is \$10 per class.

Monthly Veterans Coffee House: Monday, 9/14, 9:30 a.m. This is a free opportunity to connect with fellow veterans, share stories, build friendships, and enjoy a cup of coffee in a relaxed setting. All veterans are welcome.

Shopping: Tuesdays, 8:30 a.m. Shop in Wil-limantic 9/22 and in Manchester 9/15, 9/29. Transportation is available. And on Thursday, 9/17, 8:30 a.m., shop Trader Joe's & Michael's.

Lunch Bunch: Friday, 9/18, 11 a.m., to Main Moose, Columbia. Enjoy lunch with friends at a local restaurant. The center will provide transportation to and from the restaurant. Partici-

Craft Supply Tag Sale

Andover Congregational Church, 359 Route 6, will hold a Craft Supply Tag Sale Saturday, Sept. 26, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., on Saturday, Sept. 26.

If you are a crafter and have craft supplies you no longer need or want, or if you are in search of new supplies, this may be the event for you. Vendor tables are available for \$20. Leave a message at the church, at 860-742-7696, for an application or more information.

Donations will also be accepted.

America250 Songwriter Program at Library

Andover Public Library invites all to celebrate both America250 and some of Connecticut's contributions to the American Revolution with Connecticut songwriter and performer, Kent Besocke.

This rescheduled program takes place on Wednesday, Sept. 16, at 6 p.m. The evening features an hour's worth of music and stories, revealing Connecticut's hidden history, folklore, and legendary figures.

RSVP is not required but is requested, by calling 860-742-7428.

Annual Steak Dinner

The Andover Volunteer Fire Department's annual steak dinner will be Saturday, Sept. 26, from 5-7 p.m., at the firehouse on School Road.

This meal includes all you can eat sirloin steak, served with a baked potato, salad, fresh baked bread, beverages and ice cream. Eat in or take out.

Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 for seniors (age 62+) and \$10 for children ages 6-12.

Tickets can be purchased from any fire department member, on Wednesday evenings at the firehouse, or by calling Mindy at 860-706-3074, Karen at 860-377-1599, or Chief Ron Mike at 860-335-0264. A limited number of tickets will be available at the door.

a.m. Sundays in the sanctuary.

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

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

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

pants are responsible for the cost of their own meal. Registration is required; call the center. For a ride, call 860-498-2326.

Breakfast Bunch: Friday, Sept. 25, 9:30 a.m., at Rein's Deli in Vernon. Participants pay for their own meal. Registration required; call the center. For transportation, call 860-498-2326.

Trip to the Hebron Harvest Fair: Friday, Sept. 11, noon. Admission is free for seniors.

Trip to the Yale Peabody Museum: Thursday, Sept. 24, at 10:30 a.m. Admission is free. Pay for your own lunch at Wood-N-Tap in Newington. Call the center to register.

Playtime with Munchkins: Tuesday, 9/15, 10-11 a.m. Bring your littles and connect with other young parents in the area. Coffee will be provided for parents.

Intro to Tai Chi: Tuesday, Sept. 15, 1:30 p.m. Introduction to Tai Chi & Chair Tai Chi. This class is designed for all fitness levels. Learn the basic principles and flowing movements of Tai Chi. Call the center to sign up.

Quilting Workshop: Mondays, Sept. 21 and 28, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Cost is \$10 per class. Learn the technique to make a 60-degree triangle table runner. Bring your sewing supplies. Call the center for fabric requirements and to sign up.

Kids' Art Class with Kim: Wednesdays, 9/23 and 9/30, 3 p.m. Theme: Jelly Fish. This class is geared toward kids grade 4-8 and is for all skill levels. Supplies provided. Discount for siblings. To register, call the center at 860-742-7305 ext. 4510.

Paint Night with Kim – A Community Event: Friday, 9/25, 6-8 p.m. Fee is \$20/person. Ages 12-16 should be accompanied by an adult. Paint a bittersweet wreath. No experience necessary; step by step instruction provided. Call the center to register by Monday, Sept. 21.

Bingo & Basket Raffle

Andover Congregational Church, located at 359 Route 6, will hold a Bingo & Basket Raffle Night on Friday, Sept. 18, starting with dinner at 5:30 p.m. The game starts at 6:30 p.m.

Admission is \$15 and includes dinner, drink, dessert and bingo. No reservations required.

Leave a message at the church at 860-742-7696 for more information.

Barbecue and Car Show

Andover Congregational Church, 359 Route 6, will hold a Barbecue and Car Show on Friday, Sept. 11, from 4 p.m. until 8 p.m.

The Cheap Brew Band will perform from 6-8 p.m.

All are welcome to show their car – it doesn't matter if it's a show queen or a daily driver.

There is no entry fee to show your car. Admission is \$15 and includes hamburgers and hot dogs with all the fixin's.



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Wreaths Across America Committee Meeting

Wreaths Across America will return in December – so it's time to start wreath sponsorship efforts.

The first Wreaths Across America committee meeting of the year will be Saturday, Sept. 19, at 11 a.m., in the Andover Community and Senior Center.

The 2026 Wreaths Across America Theme is "Remember Me." All are invited to attend the

Sept. 19 meeting to help continue to grow this event in our community.

The committee is also reaching out to all the veterans in Andover – if anyone would like to volunteer to lay one of the ceremonial wreaths at the Opening Ceremony on Dec. 19, contact Susan Camoroda at 703-472-3209 or veterans@andoverct.org.

Caregiver Support Group to Meet

The Andover Caregivers Support Group will meet Thursday, Sept. 24, at 7 p.m., at the Andover Public Library on Route 6. The meeting will run for one hour.

The public is invited to attend and hear from guest speaker Jane Fisher, from Oasis Senior Advisors.

Oasis Senior Advisors provides free, personalized guidance to seniors and their families who are searching for the right senior living or care options. Because Oasis operates locally, the company says its advisors have extensive knowledge of senior living and care options in the area. They help families understand the differences among communities, evaluate the pros and cons of each option, and identify the right questions to ask when making this important decision.

The meeting will conclude with its usual "Show and Tell" segment, where participants are

encouraged to share handy tips, tools, or gadgets that assist in caregiving.

The meeting provides a safe and welcoming space for individuals who are navigating the challenges, stresses, and rewards of caring for loved ones. Caregiving can be a demanding journey, and this support group is designed to bring together individuals who are traveling the same road, offering a space to share experiences, learn about resources, and connect with others who understand firsthand the challenges of caregiving.

Whether you have recently stepped into the role of caregiver or have been providing care for years, this group aims to foster a sense of community, reassurance, and encouragement.

For more information, call co-host Dianne Grenier at 860-742-3033 or Cathy Palazzi at 860-916-6122.

Fund Now Accepting Grant Applications

The Andover Community Fund at the Greater Hartford Gives Foundation announced today that it is now accepting grant applications for projects that strengthen the wellbeing, vibrancy, and resilience of the Andover community. Applications are due Oct. 1.

Full details of the Request for Proposals (RFP) – including funding priorities, eligibility guidelines, and how to apply are available at greaterhartfordgives.org/andovercf.

To explore eligibility guidelines, review examples of past funded projects, or learn more about the application process, visit the Andover Community Fund page at the Greater Hartford Gives Foundation at greaterhartfordgives.org/andovercf.

For organizations interested in learning more about the new application, you can sign up for an online information session on Sept. 15 by emailing the committee at andover@greaterhartfordgivescf.org.

Cookbook Club

All are invited to join the Andover Public Library Cookbook Club. The club's next session will be Tuesday, Sept. 22, at 5:30 p.m., and focus on dishes found in cookbooks written by Sandra Lee (*Semi-Homemade*).

The library has a small supply of cookbooks by this author that you can borrow. Make one of the dishes you find and bring it to the library on Sept. 22, to share in a "themed potluck."

If planning to attend, or for more information, call the library at 860-742-7428.

Paint Night with Kim

The Andover Community & Senior Center will hold Paint Night with Kim, a community event for ages 12 and up, on Friday, Sept. 25, from 6-8 p.m. Ages 12-16 should be accompanied by an adult.

You will paint a bittersweet wreath, to welcome the colors of fall. No experience or necessary, and step by step instruction will be provided.

Cost is \$20/person. Register by Monday, Sept. 21, by calling the center at 860-742-7305 ext. 4510.

The “East of the River” Real Estate Report

Selling an Estate or Inherited Property

Selling a home after the death of a family member can feel overwhelming because several things may be happening at once: probate, legal paperwork, belongings to sort through, decisions about repairs, and ultimately the sale itself. The best place to start isn't necessarily cleaning out the house or calling contractors. It's determining who owns the property and whether probate is required. Depending on how the home was owned and the estate was structured, the estate may need to go through Connecticut Probate Court. An executor or administrator may need to be formally authorized before the property can be sold. That doesn't necessarily mean you have to wait until the entire estate is settled before preparing or selling the home. But it's important to understand where the estate is in the probate process, who has authority to sign, and what approvals may be required.

Next, determine what the property is worth in its current condition. Families often assume they should renovate before selling. Sometimes that makes sense; other times, cleaning out the property and selling as-is produces a better financial outcome. Before spending money, compare the likely return against the cost, time, and effort involved.

There may also be mortgages, liens, taxes, and estate expenses to consider, so involving the appropriate attorney and tax professional early is important. My biggest advice is to develop a plan before doing the work. Understand the probate situation, establish the home's value, and then decide what preparation actually makes sense.

Market Snapshot – Past Week
Hebron, Andover, Marlborough, Colchester, East Hampton & Portland

Single-Family Homes
• 6 homes sold
• Average sale price: **\$523,167**
• Average sale-to-list ratio: **104%**
• Average days on market: **18 days**
• Median days on market: **15 days**

Condos
• 0 sold

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



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From the Editor’s Desk

Observations & Ruminations

By Mike Thompson

Where were you when the world stopped turning
On that September Day?

As hard as it is to imagine, it’s now been 25 years since the horrific terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. If you’re above a certain age – I’m guessing 35 or so? – you know exactly where you were, and what you were doing, when you learned the World Trade Center was struck. I for sure know where I was. And while it’s a story I’ve told before, it feels worth sharing again, as we mark a quarter century since, really, everything changed.

I was one week into my first reporting job, at the *Journal Inquirer* in Manchester, busily putting together a story recapping the previous weekend’s Hebron Harvest Fair. I was very much focused on writing the story – so focused, in fact, I didn’t notice that, gradually, the desks around me were emptying. Finally, I heard Don, one of the more veteran reporters at the paper, announce as he walked back to his desk behind mine, “A plane just crashed into the World Trade Center.”

That was enough to break me out of the little Hebron zone I was in that morning. I did a slight double take – “What??” – and looked up to see that, indeed, the corner of the office I and several other reporters sat in was fairly deserted. I looked down the hallway and saw the vast majority of people were gathered around the one TV in the office, in-

tently staring at what was on the screen. Like I said, I was very new on the job, and I knew I had a deadline I had to make with this story, so I didn’t have time to waste. But I also very much wanted to know what it was that had drawn people’s eyes to that TV screen. Had I heard Don correctly?

I got up out of my chair and quickly walked down the hallway to sneak a peek. What I saw of course was an image that would soon be seared into an entire nation’s memory banks: an aerial image of the Twin Towers, with smoke billowing out. I don’t recall for sure if the second plane had hit yet at that point, or if it was still that brief period after the first one where everybody thought that, hopefully, this was just a terrible accident. As bizarre as it sounds now, there were a few moments when people actually thought that. Like I said, there was still a certain innocence at that point in time.

What I do recall is thinking that I needed to get back to my desk and hurry up and finish that story. Again, I was very new on the job, and wanted to make a good impression. So I hustled back to put the finishing touches on my fair recap.

The story about the Hebron fair didn’t run that day. Still trying to work my way around the computer system, I had misfiled the story and (mistakenly) thought I had destroyed it. I

Editor’s Desk continued on page 5

Bulletin Board

“It was a dark and stormy night,” I wrote.
“What are you doing?” asked my wife, rambling in from somewhere.
“Writing the great American novel,” I said.
“I thought you were going to cut the grass.”
“This is important,” I said. “I need to record my profound thoughts as they occur to me.”
“In that case, you should have plenty of time to cut the grass,” she observed.
“Did Faulkner have to cut the grass?” I retorted. “Did Salinger? Or James Joyce? How about the guy who wrote *Jonathan Livingston Seagull*?”
“*Jonathan Livingston Seagull*?”
“Yeah. I forget his name.”
“One of the greats. Whoever he was.”
“Indeed.”
“So, read me what you’ve got so far.”
“It was a dark and stormy night,” I recited. She waited expectantly.
“What do you think?” I said.
“That’s it?”
“So far.”
“What’s the plotline going to be?”
“It hasn’t come to me yet.”
“Characters?”
“Nope.”
“No characters?”
“I’m thinking maybe a zombie. He could be a symbol of our decrepit American society as he staggers around biting people. Maybe I’ll give him a dog as a loyal companion.”
“Ah. The great American novel. With zombies and a pet dog. Cunning.”
“You sound skeptical.”
“How about a woman? I think the great American novel needs to acknowledge women for a change.”
“Yeah, I’ll probably want to have a couple of hot sex scenes to boost sales, so I’ll need a woman character. Maybe a couple of them.”
“I was thinking of a strong, assertive woman with a mind of her own. Someone with great inner power and fortitude.”
“Ah. Like Xena, Warrior Princess. I like it.”
“Right,” she sighed. “Like her.”
“I’m joking,” I assured her. “There’s no room for lighthearted misogyny in the great American novel. It has to be deep, dark and obscure with unintelligible symbolism and lots of multi-syllable words that readers will be forced to look up. It must stand as a lasting monument to the author’s genius.”
“Meaning you.”
I blushed.
“See Dick run. Run, Dick, run. Run, run, run. See Sally run. Run, Sally run. See Jane-”
“Very amusing.”
“I’m referring to the intellectual depth of your newspaper columns,” she said. “Particularly those that reference me.”
“Oh,” I said.
“Richard Bach,” she said, looking at her phone.
“What?”
“Richard Bach. He wrote *Jonathan Livingston Seagull*. Says here he was married four times and sold 44 million copies of the book.”
“Forty-four million?!”
“That’s what it says.”
“That’s a lot of books.”
“Sure is. Probably made him a very rich man.”
“Hmmm.”
“What are you doing now?” she said as I tore the page out of my notebook.
“Change of plans,” I replied. “Say hello to Bertram Livingston Beaver.”
“Oh, great,” she muttered. “A zombie beaver with a pet dog. I can hardly wait.”

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.



Remembering 9/11... Colchester resident Robert Carley has spent more than two decades traveling the country and taking pictures of various paintings and other works of art commemorating the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. One of the pictures he snapped is this one of the side of a Bridgeport pizza parlor. He had taken the photo in 2003.

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

Weir’s the Way

To the Editor:

We need to return Steve Weir to Hartford as our state representative for the 55th District. Steve has proven himself to be a tireless advocate for the towns of Marlborough, Andover, Hebron and parts of Bolton and Glastonbury. Our small towns need a strong voice speaking out for our interests. Steve is that person.

Steve Weir is a former police officer and is currently a small business owner. Steve knows how critical it is to create an environment that promotes a Connecticut where people can thrive and feel safe. In times when so many young people and retirees are leaving Connecticut, we need to address the issues that will encourage people to stay here rather than fleeing to other states with lower taxes and a lower cost of living.

Steve has the energy and dedication needed to take our message to the State House and is committed to fighting for us. But first, Steve needs us to fight for him. Steve needs your vote in November to reelect him as our state representative for the 55th House District. I will be supporting Steve. I am asking you to do the same.

PS: If you see a really tall guy going door to door while riding a scooter, say hello. You’ll be glad you took the time to chat with him.

Ken Hjultstrom – Marlborough

Note: Hjultstrom is a member of the Marlborough Board of Finance, but said he is speaking as an individual.

Votes with Integrity!

To the Editor:

Steve Weir votes with integrity! When presented with the budget document, hundreds of pages long, after midnight, for a vote the next day, he found that special interest bills were added into the document. Many of these bills were completely unrelated to budget issues (the legislation at hand), hadn’t had proper discussion, and were things that should have been heard on the house floor. Because there was not proper time to look at the impacts of all of the bills that were added into the budget legislation, and these additions didn’t go through proper democratic routes, he voted ‘no.’

It was not that he voted against our towns getting the money that was included in the budget, he was in favor of that. It was that there were too many special interests and unknowns, many of which might not have been in the best interest of his constituents, that legislators were just trying to push through without due diligence. (The system and process are broken!)

Steve’s personal experiences, being a former police officer, building his own small business from scratch, and family experiences as public school teachers, give him a very well-rounded perspective. Before you make your decision on how to vote in the next election, please look at where Steve stands on issues, and if you don’t agree with a vote, don’t jump to conclusions; take a few minutes to reach out to him and ask him about it.

Cheryl Lage – Amston

RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

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

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

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Supports Weir

To the Editor:

I am writing to express my support for Steve Weir in his reelection bid for state representative.

My first contact with Steve came when I reached out to him about an issue affecting the customers of a nonprofit organization that I run. Since then, I have had the opportunity to see firsthand his willingness to listen to everyone he meets and his genuine interest in understanding people's concerns.

Steve has always been open about his voting record and willing to explain the reasons behind his votes. I appreciate that transparency and his willingness to engage in thoughtful conversation, even on issues where people may have different perspectives.

I also see how hard Steve works on behalf of the people he represents, and I am impressed by his dedication and commitment to serving his community.

For these reasons, I am pleased to offer my support for Steve Weir in his reelection bid.

Don Hoerman – Amston

The Leader We Need

To the Editor:

I am voting for Melissa Ziobron to be our representative in Hartford.

Melissa previously stood for our community as our state representative and did an excellent job of making our concerns known in Hartford. She is the leader that we need – someone who understands our town and the issues facing all of us:

High State Taxes; Unfunded Mandates; Excessive Electricity Costs; Outrageous Public Service Charge.

I encourage others to vote for Melissa who will be our voice in Hartford and do not forget to take advantage of early voting.

Bridget McLennan – East Hampton

I’m Supporting Weir

To the Editor:

I have known Steve Weir for more than 25 years. We have been neighbors and family friends since Steve and his family moved to Hebron in 2000, and over those years I have gotten to know Steve not just as our state representative, but as a neighbor, friend and someone I know I can count on.

I have operated a dairy farm for almost my entire life, and farming comes with its share of challenges. Steve understands many of the issues farmers face, from the cost of doing business and finding reliable labor to protecting farmland and keeping farms viable for the next generation. He has helped me personally on the farm (once or twice rather memorably when he helped me corral some cows that escaped to the road), and I know he has been a strong advocate in Hartford for farmers, agriculture and farmland preservation.

More importantly, Steve is accessible. When I have a question or problem, I can call, text or email him and know he will respond. Recently, I had concerns about an invasive weed affecting my crops. Steve got involved and worked with both the Department of Agriculture and DEEP to help me get answers. That's the kind of representation I appreciate.

Our relationship goes well beyond politics. Steve and I have attended the same church and served together on the Board of Trustees and Building Committee. I've seen firsthand his willingness to volunteer, help others and follow through on his commitments.

After more than 25 years as his neighbor and friend, I know Steve to be reliable, hardworking, accessible and trustworthy. He has always been there when I needed a hand, and I am proud to support Steve Weir for another term as our state representative.

Ned Ellis – Hebron

Voting for Rosenfeld

To the Editor:

As Labor Day has just passed, I'm reminded that unions built the middle class. Meghan Rosenfeld has been endorsed by the Connecticut State Building Trades, and as a member of UA Local 777, a Building Trade union, I'm proud to support Meghan for the Connecticut state assembly! I know she'll stand for the working class in this state, for blue collar jobs and fair wages for all workers.

Join me in voting for Meghan Rosenfeld for the 34th District!

Paul Wisniewski – East Hampton

What a Day On the Course!

To the Editor:

A huge 'thank you' to everyone who helped make our golf tournament such a wonderful success! We are incredibly grateful to our generous sponsors for supporting our event and our community. Your contributions make it all possible!

Tile Sponsor: Executive Auto Group
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And thank you to our golfers! Thank you for coming out, bringing your A-game, enjoying some friendly competition and making the day so much fun! We hope you had as much fun as we did!

And to everyone who purchased raffle tickets, helped behind the scenes, or simply cheered us on – thank you!

It truly takes a village to make an event like this happen, and we are so lucky to have such an amazing community behind us.

Until next year....may your drives be long, your putts be straight, and your scorecards kind!

East Hampton Recreation

Open Future in Hebron

To the Editor:

Thank you to Jim Cordier for your letter to the editor last week and the clear explanation of the role of open space in Hebron. Land preservation is not a barrier to commercial development; it is the engine that powers free market private sector investment. As Mr. Cordier confirmed, all the properties acquired by the town have specific valuable characteristics, like important natural resources, including, wetlands, forests, active farmland, recreational greenways and historic features. The protection of these significant places is what makes Hebron special and maintains our unique identity. This is what attracts businesses and residents to Hebron and supports our local economy.

Appropriately, Mr. Cordier points to Hebron's Plan of Conservation and Development as the guiding force. As the names suggests, this is a robust plan that address both conservation and development in a balance. The POCD is updated every 10 years and Hebron's POCD was updated in 2024. It is a living document that, as stated on Page 1, "is designed to be a working tool for those who will use it – the town boards and commissions that establish town goals, policies and action items. Our purpose is to provide both a vision and a pragmatic road map that will be used on an ongoing basis to guide the future of our town." In addition to the members of the boards and commissions, I would encourage all residents to be familiar with the POCD. Hebron is perfectly placed to embrace an exciting and sustainable vision supported by this exemplary road map.

On Page 3 of the POCD is a quote from President John F. Kennedy, "I look forward to an America which will not be afraid of grace

and beauty... which will preserve the great old American houses and squares and parks of our national past, and which will build handsome and balanced cities for our future." It is up to us today to embrace our distinctive local past and our balanced future. The history found at 17 Kinney Rd. covers over 250 million years, including ancient geology, extraordinary Indigenous history, our first colonial settlers, the enslaved and free Black communities, 20th century agriculture and the modern era. The natural beauty and vibrant wetlands found there are a vital part of the Raymond Brook Watershed, which feeds our primary source of future drinking water. Please visit Save Hebron Center on Facebook for more information and #Save17.

Sincerely,
Kevin J. Tulimieri – Amston

Thank You, Ann

To the Editor:

I am writing to express my heartfelt gratitude and admiration for Ann McLaughlin and our local VFW for creating an extraordinary tribute in our community in honor of our 9/11 first responders.

From my home across the street, I had the privilege of watching Ann and the VFW members carefully place each American flag into the lawn. Seeing the dedication, respect, and quiet reverence they brought to setting up the display was a deeply moving experience in itself.

Now, looking out my window at that sea of red, white, and blue, I am filled with overwhelming pride and appreciation. It is a breathtakingly beautiful tribute; a powerful, visible reminder of the heroic firefighters, police officers, EMTs, and service members who risked everything for others, and a solemn homage to those we lost.

Ann McLaughlin and the dedicated members of the VFW have given East Hampton a profound gift of remembrance. Thank you for your tireless service to our community, your patriotism, and for reminding us all of the strength and gratitude that bind us together.

Sincerely,
Meghan Rosenfeld – East Hampton
Candidate for State Representative

Rosenfeld for State Rep

To the Editor:

Meghan Rosenfeld is a mom of six, an educational leader and a lifelong advocate for families, students and neighbors who often get left behind. She truly understands how decisions made in Hartford affect real life for working families, students and seniors.

Meghan has been an active member of the East Hampton community. She presently serves on the East Hampton Commission on Aging as well other local nonprofit boards. Meghan is running to be a solution-based voice for East Hampton, East Haddam and Salem.

Meghan is running on a platform to defend democracy and civil rights, fix school funding to strengthen whole communities and build towns where people can stay and thrive. Meghan will be a strong advocate for education, seniors and taxpayers. I encourage you to support Meghan on Tuesday, Nov. 3rd.

Kevin M. Reich, Chair
East Hampton Democratic Town Committee

Steve Shows Up

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter to recognize Steve Weir and the impact he has had on my life. Throughout my time in the Army, Steve has been someone I have been able to look up to, learn from, and rely on for guidance. He has helped me become a better soldier, but more importantly, he has helped me become a better man.

Steve has been there for me during some of the hardest moments of my life. After losing my father, I was going through a difficult time and needed someone to help guide me. Steve stepped in when he didn't have to. He had no obligation to be there for me, but he chose to be. He gave me advice, support, and guidance when I needed it most. He became someone I could turn to for direction and someone who genuinely cared about how I was doing.

Steve has also given me opportunities to see what true public service looks like. He invited me to the Connecticut State Capitol, where

See Letters, page 6

2ND ANNUAL

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Editor’s Desk continued from page 4

went into a bit of a panic. *This is supposed to be in today’s paper*, I thought. *They’re counting on it being in.*

At that point, I hadn’t read any of the wire stories, still hadn’t truly understood the gravity of what had happened down in New York. My editor, however, had – so when I told her what happened with the filing, she didn’t react quite the way I thought she would. She cut me off after a few seconds of sheepish explanation on my part, and just to do the story for tomorrow.

I walked back to my desk, somewhat amazed she hadn’t been angrier about it, and

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★ Letters, cont. from page 5

I was able to see firsthand the work that goes into serving the people of the state. Being able to experience that with him gave me a different perspective on leadership and public service.

From serving as a police officer to serving as a state representative, Steve has consistently dedicated himself to helping others. He leads by example and has taught me the importance of integrity, hard work, responsibility, and doing the right thing even when nobody is watching.

My Army career has come with challenges, but Steve has always encouraged me to keep pushing forward and hold myself to a higher standard. The lessons he has taught me are things I will carry with me throughout my military career and the rest of my life.

I am extremely grateful for everything Steve has done for me. He stepped up during a time when I needed someone, and I will never forget that. His guidance, support, and example have helped shape the person I am today. I truly believe I am a better man because of him.

Respectfully,
Kyle Crosskey
U.S. Army Recon, Hebron

Rosenfeld – A True Leader

To the Editor:

In last week's letters to the editor, Melissa Ziobron certainly made an argument for what kind of leader she is not. She is not a leader who looks to the future, but instead relies on the past. She is not a leader who respects all of the constituents within the 34th District. She is not a leader who can promote her self without demoting and belittling others. She is not a leader who can pull herself up by the boot straps, walk-through mud, and be prosperous.

By implying that Meghan Rosenfeld is not qualified because she simply was not born and raised here is simply belligerent arrogance. The fact that Meghan explored numerous places to set roots and chose East Hampton proves that she has more love for our area than simply somebody who is here by chance, Meghan is here by choice. I reject the idea that one cannot understand a place if they were not born

and raised there. By implying that, Melissa suggests that anybody who is not born and raised in the community cannot have the knowledge or ability to serve the community; how incredibly myopic.

I would say that Meghan's experiences throughout the United States while she pursued her higher education and advancing her professional career has given her a better understanding of how she can help our community. Challenging herself to better herself by taking on ever increasingly demanding careers and having the courage to move to unfamiliar places and become a standout citizen. Meghan is a member of the Commission on Aging in East Hampton, an advocate for the senior center and the senior citizens of all of our communities. Meghan is a lover of the arts, a staunch supporter of many community theatre programs.

We do not need somebody in this community who will fight against us. We need a leader who will fight for us! That leader is Meghan Rosenfeld! Join me in supporting Meghan for state representative of the 34th District of Connecticut; vote Row A Nov. 3rd.

Rick Wanat – East Hampton

Seniors, Be Aware!

To the Editor:

I have been living in Marlborough for more than 50 years. Being a retiree on a fixed income, I worry about the future as our taxes continue to rise significantly every year. In reviewing the outcomes from the most recent government sessions I was alarmed to see that our state representative from the 55th district, Steve Weir, voted to reject \$630,000 in state aid to our district. I do not understand why Steve would have rejected any funds which would help our town. He may not be concerned about cost but most seniors are. Thankfully, he failed to prevent this economic aid from returning to the taxpayers of our towns but I am concerned that we will not be so fortunate in the future,

As we continue to watch difficult municipal budgets force small towns, in particular, to struggle with rising property taxes and an increasing population of retired seniors, we need

to ensure that our representatives in Hartford are fighting to bring tax dollars back to our district. Seniors, in particular, should insist that our interests are being represented as taxes rise and towns are forced to bear the burden.

For this reason I am asking that people vote for Ellen Paul! We need a change and we need it now! Ellen Paul is young, enthusiastic and she has the energy and commitment to make sure that the needs of retired people are not forgotten. She is new to public service and is willing to run because she knows we need a change and she knows we need it now! In her platform, she states, "Elected office should be public service, not a lifetime job or an opportunity for personal profit. I support reasonable term limits, banning elected officials from trading individual stocks while in office, and requiring legislators to hold regular public town halls in the communities they represent."

I don't know how anyone could not agree with Ellen's position! We seniors have more than paid our share in taxes over our lifetimes and now is not the time to bypass any monies which will help to reduce our taxes. Please support seniors by voting for Ellen Paul.

George O'Brien – Marlborough

Look In the Mirror

To the Editor:

Mr. Engelhardt of the East Hampton BOE/DTC wrote in the *Rivereast* about the "ugly" recent referendum season. Sir, I strongly suggest you and the BOE look in the mirror for the root causes. Once again, blame is apparently placed on the voters for standing up to the yearly money grab by the BOE. Many people were/are angry because the BOE steadfastly refuses to reduce spending. True, they "reduced" their budget demands by \$600,000 as part of the \$39,500,000 budget (that's .015%) to achieve a 2.3% increase, while the town operating budget has a paltry \$19,000,000 that is a 2.0% decrease. Be sure the BOE will be demanding a much larger increase next year.

Mr. Engelhardt talks about not letting "history repeat itself." Is that "history" he refers to the history of BOE demanding a 5%+ budget

increase, followed by emotional extortion with threats of cutting teachers or programs? Does that history include the strategy, making dire threats of educational weaknesses, provide meaningless platitudes, shifting school related funds over to the town operating budget, and take no substantive action? Mr. Engelhardt calls for "collaboration," but based on history, the BOE meaning is "give us lots of money and don't challenge us." The next budget season can go smoothly, if the BOE will step up to take real fiscal responsibility and cut spending. History shows the BOE continues to put the burden of increasing taxes on the majority of taxpayers who do not have children in the school system. So, yes, let's not let "history repeat itself"

Mr. Engelhardt refers to "insults" in his letter, How about town officials who called the 'no' voters "anti-education" and "Republicans." One BOF member blamed the voters for not passing the budget on the first referendum. The chairman of the TC apparently believed that because the voters said 'no,' "people didn't understand." Real leaders listen when voters speak, not make excuses, point fingers, call people names, and offer weak solutions.

Mr. Engelhardt correctly talks about exploring options concerning spending reduction. Readers will note numerous suggestions for cost reduction continue to be dismissed, if not outright ignored. These ideas should have been part of the current budget season, not food for thought. Action can be taken, not just talked about, regarding "pay to play," per student subsidies by the family, fundraising, administrative cost reduction, and elimination of small programs.

We can still vote 'no' until you listen.

Regards,
Bob Yenknor – East Hampton

Ziobron a Proven Leader

To the Editor:

It is critically important that we inject real common sense and courage into our state government. Melissa Ziobron is a proven leader who will work for us and our state to bring transparency to the legislature and put an end to back room deals that do not truly represent we the people. Connecticut is a beautiful state with a heritage to be proud of, and we must fight for the integrity of our home state. She will work to ensure that our hard-earned dollars are spent judiciously, and our government operates within its means.

Melissa Ziobron represents the small-town values which have built our state, and she will work to protect that heritage. She cares deeply about the environment and preserving the scenic places we enjoy and the need for quality local education.

I hope you will join me in voting to return Melissa Ziobron to the Connecticut state legislature so we can keep Connecticut great!

Cathy Ann Clark
Middle Haddam Historic District
East Hampton

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TOWN OF COLCHESTER PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION LEGAL NOTICE OF DECISION

At its Regular Meeting of September 2, 2026, the Colchester Planning & Zoning Commission made the following decision (s):

PZC2026-015 John Tomczak (Applicant/Owner) Site Plan Application to construct a 48' x42' (2,016 SF) accessory building at 22 Davidson Road (MBL 4W-07/005-002) that exceeds the size permissible by the Zoning Enforcement Officer pursuant to Section 15.4 of the Town of Colchester Land Development (Zoning) Regulations. Zoning District: Rural Use (RU). **Approved.**

Planning & Zoning Commission
Joseph Mathieu, Chair

1TB 9/11

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Steve Weir for State Rep
To the Editor:
It is my distinct pleasure to endorse Steve Weir for another term as our state representative for the 55th district, which includes Andover, Hebron, Marlborough, and portions of Glastonbury and Bolton.
I have known Steve since he moved to my town of Hebron 26 years ago, coming from adjacent Glastonbury. In those ensuing years, he and his family have become embedded in our town's daily lives, embracing the best that our community has to offer. He has been involved in town government, serving as a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals. He also served as chairman of Gilead Congregational Church's Board of Trustees.
In the greater picture, he has created several businesses, including one, a successful restoration company, that created over 50 jobs for its employees when it was sold in 2022. In 2011, he was named the Business Person of the Year for the Connecticut River Valley Chamber of Commerce. Also, he has been a police officer in the past, a profession woefully underappreciated.
To those who would criticize Steve's vote on some certain topic, I understand completely, because I've been there. As my town's first selectman, I sometimes had to make decisions that were necessary, but not universally popular. He does his homework in order to cast an informed vote. Steve has a remarkable 100% attendance rate in Hartford over his four years in office, showing his commitment to his constituents.
For years I was the recipient of his daughter Meredith's venture in growing food items; she would deliver to my doorstep each week wholesome fresh vegetables, eggs, and blueberries. That's Steve at his best, rearing his children to be productive members of our society, embracing the work ethic. He even formalized the arrangement by incorporating it as Gilead Hill Farm, LLC to show his daughter the business end.
In January of this year, being a veteran, I attended the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame induction in Rocky Hill. Each year, only 10 to 14 veterans are chosen for this honor. To my surprise and delight, Steve was there to witness the ceremony, important to our state's veterans.
Steve Weir has shown all of us that he has been dedicated to serving our communities with diligence, integrity, and thoughtfulness. Please vote for him on Nov. 3.

Sincerely,
Robert Norton Warner – Hebron

“PET OF THE WEEK”



Meet Lainey! She is an 18 month old German Shepherd/ Siberian Husky mix that is on the smaller size and weighs 30lbs. She is a very sweet girl and loves attention and snuggles! She is eager to please and listens to her commands. She enjoys her walks and LOVES other dogs - she adores couch cuddles with her foster siblings and follows their lead. Lainey would love a home where her humans are around most of the time and with a friendly, playful dog sibling or two. She would also do well in a home with children 10 years and older.



Smoke is a gorgeous 1-year-old girl who is simply an absolute doll! She gets along wonderfully with other cats and dogs, making her a great addition to a home with furry friends. While being picked up and held isn't necessarily her favorite thing, don't let that fool you—she absolutely craves attention and affection! She loves being petted, spending time with her people, and soaking up all the love you're willing to give her. If you're looking for a beautiful, affectionate young cat who can happily share her home with cats and dogs, Smoke may be your perfect match! Come meet this special girl and prepare to fall completely in love.

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The Leadership Our Community Deserves
To the Editor:
A recent letter from an Andover resident brought back a vivid memory from when I was a single mom raising my son.
My mother and I introduced him to the wonder of stories almost as soon as he could sit. The library became our weekly oasis. We would leave with an armful of books – far more than the “one or two” books I heard other parents allowing their children. We knew we'd be back the following week for more. And when we exhausted our local library's shelves, our library card opened the doors to neighboring towns.
That experience taught me something I never forgot: libraries are investments in people.
That is why I am so enthusiastic about Ellen Paul for state representative in the 55th District.
As executive director of the Connecticut Library Consortium, Ellen has spent her career helping libraries serve their communities better – connecting people with information and resources, strengthening programs, supporting lifelong learning, and responding to the changing needs of the people they serve.
Those are not just library skills. They are leadership skills.
Ellen knows how to listen, bring people together, stretch resources, solve problems and turn community needs into action. Most importantly, she understands that government should work for the people it represents – not the other way around.
We need that kind of leadership in Hartford.
I urge voters in Andover, Bolton, Glastonbury, Hebron and Marlborough to take a serious look at Ellen Paul. Visit ellenforstaterrep.com, and don't just take my word for it – email Ellen at ellen.a.paul@gmail.com. Ask questions. Hear what she believes and what she will fight for.
I believe Ellen Paul has the experience, values

and leadership our district needs, and I strongly urge you to support her for state representative.

Sincerely,
Karen Wilkinson – Marlborough

Note: Wilkinson is a member of the Marlborough Democratic Town Committee but said she is speaking as an individual.

Who's Defending Weir's Voting Record?
To the Editor:
Many letters have appeared supporting Steve Weir for 55th District Representative. Most of these have focused on Weir's personal qualities and his attendance at votes. But none that I can recall defend Weir's voting record. Where is the substance on his term in office?
Several letters critical of Weir's performance have specifically detailed his votes that are difficult to understand. I, and I'm sure many other voters, would like to know why he voted against money for our towns, voted 'no' to banning child marriage, and the rationale for other problematic votes that have been questioned in prior letters to the editor. On the troublesome voting record that has been raised in these pages, the only response we see is that Steve is a hardworking family man who reads the bills in their entirety and shows up for every vote. But why does he vote the way he does?
In his own letter to the editor asking to continue his tenure in the House, he states that he believes that listening to different perspectives and finding common ground are important legislative qualities, but then why run out the clock on a session to prevent action on a bill? That doesn't sound like common ground.
Some might say that Weir won't vote for a bill that he has thoroughly researched and has provisions he can't support. If that results in no vote after no vote and no productive legislation to his name, then that's not how representative

government works. We all must compromise and so it is with legislation. If every bill had to have unanimous support, with every member agreeing with every detail of the legislation, nothing would get done and it seems clear that Weir hasn't done much.
So, in future letters to this paper supporting Weir, I'd like to see some specific explanation of his voting record and how it supports the communities of the 55th.

Drew Golfin – Marlborough

Note: Golfin is co-vice chair of the Marlborough Democratic Town Committee and a member of the RHAM Board of Education, but is writing as an individual.

Weir Is My Choice
To the Editor:
I've noticed an interesting pattern in the recent letters to the editor supporting and opposing candidates for the 55th State House District. The letters supporting Steve Weir seem to come largely from everyday residents – neighbors, community members and voters who aren't typically involved in party politics. Meanwhile, many of the letters attacking him have come from people closely involved with one political party or its local town committees.
That distinction matters.
There's nothing wrong with being active in a political party. But when the political insiders are lining up on one side and ordinary residents are speaking up on the other, I think it tells us something about the choice before us.
Do we want someone who represents a political organization, or someone willing to represent the people who actually live here?
For me, that choice is pretty clear.
If you want an independent voice for our communities at the State Capitol, vote for Steve Weir.

Bill Hodge – Hebron

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The four Colchester Cougars youth football squads – including the seniors, pictured here – were in action last weekend.

Youth Football Recap

The four Colchester Cougars youth football squads were in action last weekend. Here is how they fared:

Seniors: The boys and girls faced challenges that were tough to overcome but eventually they did in the 3rd and 4th quarter. Garrett Berg-Johnsen led the defense, getting a sack in the backfield and multiple tackles made by Bo Thody, Sam Gorman, and Monty Ramer. Aiden Francis stepped in as quarterback in the second half and performed well. The Cougars made multiple completions to different receivers in the second half, though ultimately lost.

Juniors: Varsity: Lost to Killingly 22-15, in the home opener. The Cougars made several adjustments offensively and defensively at half-time to come back out and score 13 points while holding Killingly scoreless in the second half. Standout players were Christian Nunez Melendez and Xavier Smith.

Juniors: JV: Played an intersquad Blue vs.

White matchup on Friday night. These games are intended to increase game experience and further develop the players. Certain players really stood out, including Greyson Smith and Connor Brayman on offense and defense, and Cameron Brodeur at running back. Newcomers Samuel Frasier and Michael OKane were high impact the entire match.

Micros: Against a 40-man Killingly squad draped in maroon, the 14-player Colchester Cougars Micros stepped onto the field knowing every one of them would have to play both sides of the ball without much rest. As the hits mounted and injuries thinned their exhausted ranks, the Cougars refused to back down, but the score didn't end in their favor.

Peewee: The defense stepped up with several stops and a recovered fumble. The offense once again improved its play this week.

This Sunday, the Cougars will take on the Tolland Eagles in Tolland.

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.

High Holiday Schedule

All are invited to Congregation Ahavath Achim for the 2026 High Holidays. The synagogue is located at 84 Lebanon Ave. The schedule is:

Rosh Hashanah: Erev Rosh Hashanah: Friday, Sept. 11, 7 p.m.; Rosh Hashanah – Day 1: Saturday, Sept. 12, 10 a.m.; Rosh Hashanah – Day 2: Sunday, Sept. 13, 10 a.m.

Yom Kippur: Kol Nidre: Sunday, Sept. 20,

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.

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, non-profits, 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.

Land Conservancy Upcoming Events

The Colchester chapter of Avalonia Land Conservancy is hosting the following upcoming events. All are invited. Visit avalonia.org/events for all details on upcoming 2026 events.

Trail Crew Volunteers Needed: On the third Sunday of each month from 1-3 p.m. (weather permitting), volunteers meet at one of Colchester's preserved properties to remove invasive plants, maintain meadows, and other stewardship tasks. Volunteers can help for all or part of the events. To sign up, please contact Steward-

ship Chair Kevin Byrne, who can be reached at kevbyrnect@gmail.com. Details of each month's plan will be emailed to you.

Colchester Chapter at Farmers Market: The Colchester chapter of Avalonia will host a table at the Colchester Farmers Market on the Green on Sunday, Sept. 27. All are invited to stop by to meet your Land Trust volunteers and learn about activities and how you can help preserve Colchester's open space.

CCO Looking for Members

Colchester Choir and Orchestra (CCO) is welcoming new members looking for a social orchestra and choir with a passion for music. Seats are open in all sections, both choir and orchestra.

Many adult members join with their school-aged children and/or spouses, CCO said, making it a true family activity. There are no auditions, but being able to read music is helpful.

For more information, to register and to see videos of past performances, visit www.colchesterct.gov/colchester-choir-orchestra

Rehearsals are held on Thursdays – choir

from 6-7:30 p.m. and orchestra from 7:30-9 p.m. – at the William J. Johnston Middle School band room.

There are two sessions to accommodate your schedule. Session 1 started Sept. 10 and runs through Dec. 10, with a Holiday Homecoming concert on Saturday, Dec. 5. Session 2 is Jan. 7-April 8, 2027, with a concert on Saturday, April 10. Cost is \$20 per session or \$35 for both.

Register online at colchesterctrec.reccdesk.com/Community/Home or call the Recreation Office at 860-537-7297.

Land Trust Merges with Conservancy

After two years of consideration, the Colchester Land Trust has merged with Avalonia Land Conservancy, a Ledyard-based nonprofit organization that conserves more than 8,100 acres of land in southeast Connecticut.

Salem Land Trust also merged with Avalonia.

Colchester Land Trust (CLT), a nonprofit organization, was formed in 2002 by a group of concerned citizens determined to preserve land from rapid development. In 2004, CLT achieved federal nonprofit 501(c)3 status, and received its first four-acre donation of land in 2006. Soon after, in 2007, 18 acres known as the "Gateway to the Air Line Trail" became available, followed by a 62-acre conservation easement.

In 2009, CLT collaborated with the Town of Colchester to increase the town-owned Ruby Cohen Woodlands, and then received two wooded parcels, 25 acres on Usher Swamp Road and 15 acres on Bulkeley Hill Road.

In 2013, CLT became one of just 13 Connecticut land trusts and one of 301 in the nation to achieve accreditation; it was re-accredited for

the third time earlier this year.

In 2015, CLT began work to preserve the 88-acre Tangletree Farm on Lebanon Road by applying for a US Dept. of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service, grant to purchase an agricultural conservation easement. In 2016, the 115-acre subdivision adjacent to the 15-acre set-aside on Bulkeley Hill presented itself. CLT launched its 200-Acre Farm and Forest campaign, which successfully repaid loans for both properties.

Tangletree remains a working farm, and Bulkeley Hill Preserve is a public venue, with parking, signage, blazed trails, and an outdoor classroom. In addition, both properties conserve environmentally significant land and water resources in Colchester.

Watch for further Colchester chapter of Avalonia events in the *Rivereast*, in the Colchester section under the header "Land Conservancy Upcoming Events"

For more information on the land conservancy, visit avalonia.org.

Library Friends Book Collection Day

The Friends of Portland Library will accept donations of gently used, clean and resaleable books, CDs, DVDs and puzzles on Saturday, Sept. 19, from 10 a.m.-noon, at the library, 20 Freestone Ave.

Volunteers will be available to assist at the side door of the library. Donated materials are resold at the ongoing Second-Hand Prose book sale and at the Fall Book Sale. Proceeds support the adult and children's library programs; the purchase of new materials; and sponsorship of

museum passes that offer free or reduced admission to local museums.

All donated items must be in a saleable condition. Items that are dirty, moldy or in poor condition cannot be accepted. No textbooks, business books, computer books, VHS videos or magazines, please. Donations are tax-deductible and acknowledgement forms will be available.

Visit www.friendsofportlandlibraryct.org for more information.

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. 14: 9 a.m., **Making Memories, Exercise w/ Anne, CoA Meeting;** 10 a.m., **Sittercize, Haircuts with Deborah;** 11 a.m., **Learn to Sign;** 11 a.m.-noon, **Fitness Orientation;** 12:30 p.m., **Mah Jongg, Setback, Bridge.**

Tuesday, Sept. 15: 9 a.m., **Making Memories;** 9:30 a.m., **Movie Time;** 9:45 a.m., **Tai Chi;** 12:30 p.m., **Pinochle;** 1 p.m., **Cornhole;** 1:15 p.m., **Bingo.**

Wednesday, Sept. 16: 9 a.m., **Making Memories, Walking Group;** 9 a.m.-3 p.m., **Reflexology;** 10 a.m., **Adult Coloring, Hand and Foot Card Game, Sit & Be Fit Video;** 11 a.m., **Bushel of Fun Luncheon;** 1 p.m., **Sew-cial Time;** 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m., **Cardio Drumming.**

Thursday, Sept. 17: 9 a.m., **Exercise w/ Anne;** 10 a.m., **Sittercize, Wii Bowling;** 10:30 a.m., **Shopping Trip;** 11 a.m., **Yoga, Emergency Services Presentation;** noon, **Sr. Benefits Counseling;** 12:05 p.m., **Chair Massage;** 12:30 p.m., **Dominoes, Needlework Club.**

Friday, Sept. 18: 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;** 1-3:30 p.m., **Open Ping Pong;** 1:15 p.m., **Bingo.**

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.

Disco Dinner Dance: Thursday, Sept. 24, 5-7:30 p.m. Cost is \$15/person and includes pizza, salad, beverages and tie-dye cakes. DJ Montez will spin all of our favorite disco and '70s tunes. Don't like to dance? Come and listen to the music. For senior center members 55 and over. Disco attire is not required but fully encouraged.

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.

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Land Trust Upcoming Events

The Colchester Land Trust (CLT) is hosting the following upcoming events. All are invited. Visit ColchesterLandTrust.org 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.

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.

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

Police News

8/22: Dean Molinari, 40, of Salem, was arrested and charged with DUI, Colchester Police said. He was also arrested and charged with fourth-degree larceny as a result of a May 25 incident at the Colchester Stop and Shop, police added.

8/30: Jason Niro, 52, of Colchester, was arrested and charged with third-degree larceny, Colchester Police said.

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.

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.

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CCT’s Cabaret Night Out is Back

By Toriana Williams

Alright Colchester, get ready for quality entertainment and a fun night out with friends or family. Colchester Community Theater (CCT) will host its third annual Cabaret Night Out on Friday, Sept. 18, and Saturday, Sept. 19, at 7:30 p.m. The event will be held at St. Joseph Polish Society, 395 S Main Street.

So, what is a cabaret?

According to Wallis Johnson, director and vice president of CCT, “it’s like a wonderful show of different people’s talents.”

This year’s show will feature about 18 acts. Performers will sing songs, duets, play instruments and perform much more. Each person puts their own act together before sending in a sort of audition video to be considered for the show.

Johnson said the event is also a way for people to discover new talent.

“It’s giving actors a chance to perform,” she said. Some people who perform at the cabaret have never been in a CCT production before. This event gives them a chance to meet the theater group and be part of the community.

In fact, some previous cabaret performers later auditioned for the theater’s musical shows. Johnson called it “a great community building event.”

The night is meant to be easy and relaxed. Guests can bring their own food, such as snacks, desserts or other finger foods. Drinks

can be bought from the Polish Society bar and brought into the event room. There will also be basket drawings, a 50/50 raffle and more.

And yes, guests can dress up if they want. “If they feel like getting all dressed up, that’s wonderful,” said Johnson. But fancy clothes are not required.

The show is expected to last about an hour to two hours. Masters of Ceremonies will introduce the acts, and performers will bring their own special style to the stage. There may even be a surprise for people who think a cabaret is only about singing.

Johnson said one act is “a skit that was written just for the cabaret.” The writer will also perform in the comedy skit.

“I think people don’t always expect that at a cabaret. They expect mostly like singing,” said Johnson.

The event is for adults ages 21 and over. Tickets are \$20, or guests can buy a table for eight for \$144. Tickets can be purchased at colchester.ludus.com/index.php.

Most of all, Johnson wants people to come, relax and have a good time.

“I’m really excited for it,” she said. She added, “They can just come with their friends, sit, bring some snacks to eat and enjoy some beautiful music.”

Sounds like a perfect kind of night.

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.

Salmon River Run Celebrates 20th Anniversary

The Salmon River Run, organized by the Colchester Land Trust (which is now part of the Avalonia Land Conservancy), will celebrate its 20th anniversary on Saturday, Oct. 3, at 10 a.m., at the Comstock Covered Bridge in Colchester.

The 5.5-mile race takes runners through the Salmon River State Forest on a scenic course featuring a mix of pavement, dirt roads, and the old railroad bed, with a fast downhill finish back

toward the Salmon River.

Handcrafted pottery race mugs will be awarded to the top three finishers in each age division. Following the race, runners and volunteers can enjoy the traditional post-race barbecue and awards celebration along the riverbank.

Runners of all ages and abilities are welcome. Learn more and register at www.salmonriver-run.org.

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Balloon Fun... Scouts from troops 72 and 109 in Colchester enjoyed playing on the giant water balloon at Camp JNWebster in Ashford for a week this summer.

Senior Center Upcoming Trips

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

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

Majestic Cities of Central & Eastern Europe: Oct. 4-17, departure time TBD. Enjoy multi-night stays, local tours, food and more in Berlin, Prague, Vienna, Budapest, and Krakow. The 14-day, 13-night trip includes airfare, hotels, and meals (12 breakfasts, one lunch, and six dinners). Contact senior center staff for availability and pricing.

Ocean City, Maryland: Oct. 13-16, depar-

ture time TBD. Spend three nights directly on the beach. Cost is \$949/person (double or triple occupancy).

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

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

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

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.

The CHVFC is a nonprofit organization that has been providing service to the Town of Colchester and its neighboring communities since 1854. The tournament is held to

raise funds to support our school scholarship fund, recruitment, retention and maintain the fire company’s Schuster Park training facility and event venue.

If you are interested in being a sponsor or player, email CHFD28golftournament@gmail.com, or visit the CHVFC Facebook page at www.facebook.com/ColchesterFD.

Golfers must register by Sept. 12.

Abundant Life Church News & Notes

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Children’s Church: Meets Sunday mornings after worship service.

Call the church office at 860-537-3082 for more information, or visit AbundantL.com.

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.

Program on Spotted Lantern Fly

The Colchester Garden Club invites anyone who is interested in learning more about the invasive Spotted Lantern Fly (SLF) to its Tuesday, Sept. 22, meeting, taking place at 6 p.m. at Cragin Memorial Library, Norton Room A, 8 Linwood Ave.

Dr. Gale Ridge of the Connecticut Agriculture Experiment Station will be speaking about the Spotted Lantern Fly and other invasive insects.

This is an important and timely presentation as the sightings of SLF have significantly increased in Colchester and surrounding towns, the Garden Club said.

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.

Oktoberfest at Polish Club

St. Joseph’s Polish Club, at 395 South Main St., will present Oktoberfest on Saturday Oct. 17, from 1-5 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

There will be a Stein-Hoisting contest, pretzel toss contest, and cornhole. The food booth will sell food including bratwurst and sauerkraut. There will also be a bake sale. German-style music will be provided by Dennis Polisky & Maestro’s Men in the pavilion.

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 10:35 a.m. Kids learn about Jesus in ageappropriate ways.

Men’s Bible Study: Starts Monday, Sept. 21, at 7 p.m. The study will be on the book of Romans.

Women’s Bible Study: Resumes Tuesday, Oct. 6, at 10 a.m. The study will be on the book of Revelation

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

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.

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Colchester Budgets Pass, Spending Freeze Lifted

By Toriana Williams

Colchester voters finally approved both the town and Board of Education budgets on Tuesday, Sept. 1, ending a long and often-heated budget season.

More than 3,200 residents and taxpayers voted in the third referendum. The town budget passed with 1,945 ‘yes’ votes and 1,310 ‘no’ votes. The Board of Education budget passed with 1,854 ‘yes’ votes and 1,395 ‘no’ votes.

Together, the two budgets total \$67.85 million, a 3.77% increase from last year’s adopted budget. The town’s operating budget stands at \$19.06 million, up 5.38% from the 2025-26 spending package, and the BOE budget is \$48.79 million, a 3.16% increase from 2025-26.

Despite passage, advisory questions still showed spending concerns for both budgets. For the town budget, 1,644 voted ‘too high’ while 1,087 voted ‘too low,’ and 521 voters did not answer. For the BOE budget, 1,680 voted ‘too high’ and 1,116 voted ‘too low,’ while 456 did not answer.

The proposed effective mill rate is 30.43, an increase of about 1.7%. It was expected to be conclusively set at the Sept. 9 Board of Finance meeting, which occurred after press time.

This vote came after voters rejected the budgets twice before. Turnout started strong and was about the same as the second referendum, even increasing compared to the first. First Selectman Bernie Dennler, a Democrat, said the vote was the largest budget referendum turnout, and had the most ‘yes’ votes for a budget, since 2010.

Several town leaders offered strong opinions on the lengthy process. Comments from the three major boards showed both relief and concern about what comes next.

Board of Finance Reaction

Board of Finance member John Thomas, a Republican, said he was surprised the budgets passed. Thomas said the voters had become incredibly involved during the budget process.

“The people in Colchester spoke up in a very big way,” he said.

Thomas said he was happy that residents paid close attention to the budget. He also admitted that he still disagreed with the school budget figure.

“I think they’re still way over budget, but everybody knows my opinion,” he said.

The biggest issue for Thomas, he said, was the cost. He said town officials have a duty to think about what residents can afford.

“I don’t believe that our job, as for the finance [board] members, is to pass something that

people can’t afford,” he said.

He warned that some residents may face hard choices because of the cost of living in town.

“I do believe that there are going to be people, with this budget, who are going to have to make some very hard decisions on whether they can even stay in town, and that’s very sad,” said Thomas.

In the end, however, he was glad the budget passed because the town needs money to keep running.

“I didn’t expect it to pass, but I certainly am glad that it did for the one fact that the town needs to be able to operate,” he said.

Board of Finance Chair Karen Belding, a Democrat, also said the vote brought relief.

“It’s definitely a relief,” said Belding. “It’s been a very long process for everyone – residents, the Board of Finance, the town and the schools – and I think we’re all ready to move forward.”

Belding said one of the hardest parts was finding a balance between the town’s needs and what residents could afford to pay on top of the increase of everything else.

“There really weren’t easy choices – every reduction has an impact somewhere,” she explained. Belding also said misinformation made the process harder.

“Another challenge this year was the amount of misinformation circulating, particularly on social media,” she said.

Voters became more interested as the process continued, according to Belding.

“Whether people supported the budgets or opposed them, they were paying attention, and more and more of them came out to vote,” said Belding. “That’s a good thing.”

She shared that the debate was more intense than normal.

“Going through three referendums also meant the conversation went on much longer than a typical budget season,” Belding explained.

Board of Selectmen Reaction

Dennler said he was happy the town could move forward.

“It feels great to be able to move forward and get back to the important work we do for our town,” he said, noting that road work, other projects, community programs and events can now move ahead.

The town’s budget freeze has also been lifted. Some services will return right away, while others will take several weeks, Dennler said. Transfer station and town clerk hours are expected to return the following week, and library hours

and senior center evening hours are expected to return later this month.

Dennler said one challenge was that the majority of the public debate focused on the school budget.

“I would have liked to talk more about roads, funding maintenance of buildings and grounds and public safety during budget season,” he said. He shared that the town may have missed a chance to improve fire and EMS coverage and traffic safety.

In regards to the results of the advisory questions, Dennler said they were similar to what the town has seen in recent years.

“I have talked to a few people who voted ‘yes and too high’ who told me they wanted to support local services and are frustrated with how inflation and national trends are impacting local costs,” he said.

Dennler added that the strong voter turnout showed that residents care about their town.

“I think it says something positive about Colchester that people are so engaged and passionate about our community’s future,” he said.

Board of Selectmen member Tim Vaillancourt, a Republican, said he was not surprised by the results – and noted that both budgets were down from what voters first rejected. At the initial budget referendum on May 20, the proposed town budget was \$19.52 million, a 7.93% increase, while the proposed education budget of \$50.87 million, which represented a 7.55% increase. Voters overwhelmingly rejected both spending packages.

“People demanded serious cuts to the massive increase asked for again this year,” said Vaillancourt.

He said he wished the final increase could have been zero, but he also understood why voters approved the budgets.

“I’m very proud of the progress we were able to make,” he said.

Vaillancourt also said he believes the growing number of voters is a good sign for the town.

“People’s eyes have been opened. I hope they stay informed and involved no matter what par-

ty you belong to,” he said.

He also had a message to share with residents who took part in the process.

“To all who got involved and demanded accountability, this is a victory for you,” said Vaillancourt. “Pay attention, folks; it’s your money.”

Board of Education

Judy O’Meara received a baptism by fire in which she was appointed acting superintendent during such a contentious budget season. She echoed similar sentiments and said school officials were relieved after the vote.

“Our team is very relieved that the budget has passed and that we can now move forward and focus on the school year ahead,” said O’Meara. She thanked the three boards for their countless hours of work.

O’Meara shared that the school budget process was especially difficult, as the spending increase had to be cut multiple times before arriving at a number that proved palatable to voters. The school budget that ultimately passed Tuesday was more than \$2 million less than the number first rejected in May.

“Every reduction represented something meaningful, whether it was a position, a program, a resource or a service that supported our schools,” she explained.

She said one of the biggest impacts for students will be fewer middle school athletic opportunities; staffing cuts could also affect programs and services.

“Our priority continues to be protecting the classroom experience as much as possible while providing students with a safe, supportive and engaging school experience,” said O’Meara.

O’Meara added that the strong debate showed that people care about Colchester’s schools.

“At times, the conversations were difficult, but I believe there is value in hearing different perspectives and having community members engaged in the process,” she said.

Now that the vote is over, O’Meara hopes the community can focus on the school year.

“Ultimately, our children are what bring all of us back to a common purpose,” she said.

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.



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Selectmen Hear Updates on Well, Smoke Shop, Budget

By Anne Lilburn

Portland’s Board of Selectmen met for its regularly scheduled meeting on Sept. 2, to discuss, among other things, whether the body should still be called the “Board of Selectmen.” (Spoiler alert: it’s still the Board of Selectmen, for now.)

The board handled some regular and procedural business, including receiving their monthly budgetary update from Director of Finance Tom Robinson, and congratulating the Police Department on receiving its Connecticut Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POST) Tier 3 certification, which is the highest level of accreditation awarded by the organization. The board also declared September Library Card Signup Month, and encouraged residents to go to the library and get a library card.

First Selectman Mike Pelton, a Republican, also provided an update on the town’s chip-sealing road maintenance, which he said typically happened this time of year. This year, he said, it would be delayed until next spring, which “should give us more time to get caught up on some curbing and other things that we’ve been backlogged on.”

Selectmen Vinnie Pitruzzello, a Republican, and Andrea Alfano, a Democrat, gave the board an update on their “Efficiency and Cost Initiative,” which is also known as the “Efficiency and Shared Services Initiative.” Pitruzzello and Alfano have been meeting with different departments in town to discuss both creative and straightforward ways to save money and build efficiency in town offices and government.

Pitruzzello said he had asked Robinson to provide numbers answering the question of “if we had a flat budget [next year], totally flat, no

increases, what would the increase in the mill rate need to be in order to support that?”

The answer, the finance director said, was about 2.69 mills.

“Not to alarm everybody,” Pitruzzello said, “but if you kind of start looking at next year and why it’s so important to start looking at some of these cost reductions, 2.69 [is] just to maintain a flat budget. ... If the departments come back, including the Board of Ed, with just a 3% increase, we’re in the 6, 7% increase for next year.”

“If this is even directionally correct,” he continued, “and I think it is, this just underscores why this costs reduction initiative is so important and why we really have got to get ahead of it.”

Pelton agreed.

“You guys will learn more as you’re talking to the managers and figuring out what they’re doing and people are thinking,” he told Pitruzzello and Alfano, adding that he thought they were doing a great job of “kind of changing the thinking on this and looking at everything.”

Pelton also brought up Brainerd Place, mentioning that construction continued at the site, and also pointing out that there was now excess Brownstone that was on the property and that had been consolidated onto one site. The builders, he said, would “love to give it back to the town,” adding that it was a “pretty big pile.”

Selectman James Tripp, a Democrat, urged Pelton to talk to the Brownstone Forum, mentioning that there were upgrades happening at Riverfront Park and noting that the brownstone might be put to good use there.

Director of Public Works Jason Morrocco

also provided an update about the new town well, along with Pelton. They said they now projected a daily yield of 1.1 million gallons per day from the new well.

The well is “capable of pumping about 1.57 million gallon per day,” said Pelton, but “that might cause a draw down to the Carr Brook, so the range that [we are] looking at through modeling is 1.1 million gallons per day.”

Morocco said that it was recommended to keep the town’s usage to 70% of the yield, which should cover the town’s current average daily use of just under 700,000 gallons per day, with a peak use of 1.1 million gallons per day. The town is hoping to have the well and pump house up and running by July 2028.

Pelton also provided an update on smoke shop King Smokers, which recently lost its license from the state Department of Consumer Protection. Despite losing its license and locking its front door, the business has still been letting people in and selling items to them in cash, said Pelton, who added that the attorney general’s office was aware of the problem. The problem of smoke shops breaking rules was a state-wide one, he added.

King Smokers could not be reached for comment for this story.

Selectman Bobby Hetrick, a Republican, asked if King Smokers was the only smoke shop in town, and several board members mentioned

that there was one other. The selectmen discussed whether it was worth talking with Town Planner Dan Bourret about restricting future smoke shops in town, similarly to the way the town recently banned new gas stations.

Pelton also mentioned a request he received from a resident, who asked the board to consider changing their “selectman” titles to something more gender-inclusive, such as “select board member.” Alfano pointed out that a change like that would be something that might be included in the town’s planned charter revision, which led to conversation on that topic.

Speaking of the charter revision, Pelton said that the town had received 10 applications as of that Sept. 2 selectmen’s meeting. While many wanted to get started with the charter revision, the selectmen were also aware that, once they officially named the committee, the clock would be ticking on deadlines for work that that committee would be tasked with.

In preparation for this, while the board members reviewed and vetted potential committee members, selectman John Dillon, a Democrat, suggested that they needed to get working quickly on providing guidance for what parts of the charter the selectmen want the committee to focus on.

The Board of Selectmen will meet for its next regular meeting on Sept. 16.

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.

Flags to Remember First Responders

Drivers traveling along Route 66 through Portland and Columbia this week saw a familiar symbol of patriotism and remembrance: rows of American flags standing proudly along the roadway.

The display is part of a regional effort taking place through Sept. 14, with more than 425 American flags being placed along the Route 66 corridor. The flags are being displayed to honor the first responders who lost their lives while serving others during the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

Among those taking part in this meaningful community project is the Portland Leo Club, sponsored by the Portland Lions Club. This year marks the third year that the local Leo Club has participated in the Route 66 flag initiative.

Members of the Leo Club helped place flags

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.

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.

Director of Public Works Jason Morrocco

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.

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Cyclocross Racing Comes to Portland

By Anne Lilburn

Anyone who’s ever been curious about cyclocross racing will have a chance to see it up close and in person this weekend, Sept. 12-13, at Camp Ingersoll in Portland.

East Hampton-based Stage 1 Cycling Club, which is affiliated with AirLine Cycles, will be hosting the event, called the Belltown Throwdown, which they expect to draw hundreds of cyclists over the two competition days. The race is part of the Project Mayhem Cyclocross Series, which features six races and three clinics at locations throughout the state of Connecticut.

Cyclocross, for those unfamiliar with it, is a form of bicycle racing that USA Cycling describes on its website as “a unique, non-Olympic discipline of cycling that can be best described as a cross between road cycling, mountain biking and steeplechase.”

“Cyclocross, often referred to as ‘cross’ or CX, is a sport that has its origins in Europe in the early 1900s,” according to USA Cycling. Courses “can consist of grass, dirt, mud, pavement, short, steep hills, off-camber sections and a few obstacles. Obstacles may include low, wood planks (called barriers), stairs, unrideable steep hills, or logs. These force the rider to get off and remount their bike multiple times a lap. These technical elements along with the unpredictable weather and course conditions all add to the sport’s allure.”

“Cyclocross was basically started so that the road racers had something to do during the winter, and they would race in fields and stuff in Europe, and then the sport spread,” said Jake Kravitz, a Stage 1 team member who serves as a race announcer and also helps organize the event.

Kravitz, who lives in East Hampton, said the race had been part of the Connecticut race series since 2017, and originally took place at Nelson’s Campground before moving to the Had-

dam Neck Fairgrounds, and then eventually to Camp Ingersoll about five years ago.

The Camp Ingersoll course, he said, is roughly 1.6 miles long, and involves some obstacles that can be traversed either by getting off the bike or by “bunny hopping” over them, beach riding through sand near the lake, and a hill that he said is not a joke.

“We’ve got a giant run up called the FOC Hill, because one of our sponsors is [brewing company] Fat Orange Cat,” he said. “One year we actually offered \$100 to anybody who could ride up it without putting a foot down. It’s super steep. One person was able to do it towards the end of the day.”

Adult races will range in duration from ultra-beginner 30-minute races to 50-minute pro-level events. There will also be shorter kids’ races and a 10-minute-long, free, non-competitive event for kids 10 and under on a separate mini-course.

AirLine Cycles owner Brian Holdt said this event, and the store’s sponsorship of the Stage 1 Cycling Club, were important parts of the business’ connection to the community. Holdt noted he has been involved with Stage 1 Cycling since its early days, when it was affiliated with a bike store in Wallingford where he worked as a teenager. The club began at that shop back in 1987, but started to dwindle after the Wallingford store closed. When Holdt opened AirLine Cycles a decade ago, he revamped it and started to build the team up again.

Kravitz said that the event would include riders ranging in age from 5 to 75, and said that he expected some past national champions to be competing as well. He said he loved cyclocross as a sport, for both competing and spectating, because “there are so many opportunities to see racers on the course and so many opportunities for spectators. Because of the short track nature of it, you might do five, six, seven, eight laps of



Hugh Felter, of Portland, and Charlie Nablo, of Haddam Neck, both members of the Stage 1 Cycling Junior Team, compete at last year’s Belltown Throwdown cyclocross event. This year’s event will take place at Camp Ingersoll in Portland on Sept. 12-13. Photo by William Kurtz.

a short course in the 45 minutes that your race is – so if your family comes to see you, you get to go by them a whole bunch of times and they get to cheer for you.”

He said cyclocross events were festival-like, a “like a party with a bike race,” with music and food trucks that made the sport particularly well-suited towards spectating.

He also said that the event would include two introductory clinics on Friday night for those

who might be curious about the sport. Those clinics will be hosted by two former national champions, Ellen Noble and Stephen Hyde. People can bring their bike and try it out, he said, and if they wanted to, they could sign up to race the next day in the novice/beginners’ race.

Anyone curious about the event can find more information at the Stage 1 Cycling Team Facebook Page, or sign up at www.bikereg.com/belltownthrowdown1#Register.

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 a.m.

The church is located at 183 William St. All are asked to park in the front parking lot.

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 next Mobile Pantry date is Sept. 21.

Weekly Programs: Monday, 9/14: Light aerobics, 9:30 a.m.

Tuesday, 9/15: 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: turkey kielbasa, sauerkraut, pierogies and onions, string cheese, pineapple cup; **Coupons for Troops,** 1-4 p.m.; **Setback,** 1 p.m.; **SyncoCize II,** 5-6 p.m., fee is donation to instructor.

Wednesday, 9/16: 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; **Fiber Arts Group,** noon; **Bridge,** 2:30-4 p.m.

Thursday, 9/17: Seated Stretch & Tone, 9:30 a.m.; **Knit & Stitch,** 10 a.m.; **Congregate Meal,** noon – \$3 suggested donation (must fill out form). Menu: chicken fajitas with flour tortillas, lettuce, salsa, cheese, Spanish rice and veggies, yogurt parfait, fruit and granola; **Mah Jongg,** 12:30 p.m.; **Scrabble,** 1 p.m.

Friday, 9/18: 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.

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.

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REP-11-26

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From the Committee on Solidarity

Twenty-five years ago, at 8:46 a.m. on Sept. 11, 2001, a sunny, virtually cloudless, day in New York City, our lives and our world changed forever. I remember that my local television newscast was interrupted to show a passenger jet slamming into one of New York City's iconic "twin towers." As the smoke and flames made it obvious that hundreds of people had likely been killed, the shocked and horrified reporter wondered aloud at the cause of this terrible accident.

Seventeen minutes later the second tower was hit by another jet. Within minutes of the recognition that these crashes were not accidental, came the voiced speculation as to whether other sites or government centers were at risk. About 35 minutes later we learned that the Pentagon had been hit by another plane and 25 minutes after that we learned of a jetliner crashing into a field in Pennsylvania.

Wherever you were and however you learned this news, it is likely that for most of the next 24 hours, you watched repeated films of these events, you watched the towers crashing onto the streets of New York City and you held close to your friends and loved ones as you felt a vulnerability that you had never experienced. Coupled with that vulnerability was a feeling of helplessness at what had happened to 'us.'

As part of beginning our recovery, we mourned the almost 3000 deaths from that horrific day and we were supported by people across the country and people across the world. The editor of France's largest newspaper wrote "We Are All Americans" and our president, George W. Bush said: "Today, our nation saw evil, the very worst of human nature. And we responded with the best of America - with the daring of our rescue workers, with the caring for strangers and neighbors who came to give blood and help in any way they could."

Later, we rewatched the films and memorized the stories of the lost as we supported each other in our months-long grief over this unimaginable act. President Bush called for national unity and prayers for the victims while citing the 23rd Psalm and telling us to fear no evil. He reassured us that we would survive these awful events and that those responsible would be brought to justice. We were thankful for his leadership.

Reflecting on the anniversary of that terrible day, let us never forget the fear, the pain and the overwhelming sense of helplessness that we experienced but, more importantly, let us remember that in the days and weeks that followed, the pain and grief were eased by our solidarity and resilience as we supported each other; friends and strangers alike—regardless of race, age, gender or political party. As Maya Angelou wrote (and as we seemed to understand after 9/11): "We are more alike, my friends, than we are unlike."

In last month's column, we celebrated indigenous peoples and described the Wangunk tribe of "River People" whose homeland included Portland and communities along the Connecticut River. By way of exciting follow-up news, please note that the Brownstone Quorum is planning a Wangunk memorial to be placed at the Portland Riverfront Park. Contributions to this memorial may be sent to: Brownstone Quorum %Tom Bransfield, P.O. Box 420, Portland, CT 06480 Attn: Wangunk Memorial Fund.

Solidarity Book Club also invites community members to join us at the library at 1 p.m. on Sept. 26 for a discussion of the book *This Book Is Anti-Racist* by Tiffany Jewell. We invite the public to join us for our monthly meetings on the second Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m. (next meeting Oct. 13). You may join us in-person at the Waverly Senior Center or online at www.portlandct.org/zoom, Zoom B (ID:352 700 8408, password: 113ct). Agenda, minutes, and general information can be found at portland.org/solidarity-task-force. If you are interested in the committee, you do not have to be a member to participate! To learn more about the committee and its workgroups, email Portlandctsolidarity@gmail.com.

Portland Committee on Solidarity

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. The worship service is held outside once each month, weather permitting. The next outdoor service is scheduled for Sept. 27. Bring a comfortable chair. All are welcome.

Learning: Rally Day, fun for all and registration for Sunday School, will follow worship on Sept. 13. Sunday School for children ages 3 through 8th grade will be begin the following Sunday, Sept. 20.

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: Collected pull tabs are 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.



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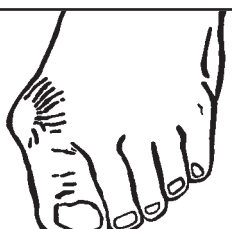
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RE5-30-20

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

First Congregation

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 "On Dry Ground."

Sunday Worship: Worship starts at 10 a.m. Fellowship Hour to follow.

Sunday School: On Sunday, Sept. 13, Church School will begin again. All are invited to Celebration Sunday and enjoy a Super Sundae Fellowship Hour. This fall, students will follow the story of Moses – from his rescue as a baby to the journey toward freedom. Children will ex-

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.

Local Church News

explore Bible stories through hands-on activities. Sunday School is for children ages K-8th grade.

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 proteins, individual snacks, fruit cups and juice boxes.

For more information about church services or activities, go to firstchurchportlandct.org or call 860-342-3244.

First Congregational Church News

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For more information about church services or activities, go to firstchurchportlandct.org or call 860-342-3244.

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.

Portland Library News & Notes

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

Hours: Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m., - Friday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., - Saturday 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. **Holiday Closing:** The library will be closed Monday, Oct. 12, for Columbus 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.

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 photographers – Susanne 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 through Oct. 8.

Weekly Knifty Knitters Group: Every Saturday, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Adults of all experience levels are welcome to drop in, share ideas, get helpful knitting tips and chat with others who enjoy knitting and crocheting. Note: There is no

Children's Programs: Fall Storytimes: Space is limited. **Preschool Storytimes (ages 3-5):** Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. through Oct. 27. **Toddlers and Tots Storytime – Mother Goose on the Loose (ages 0-2):** Wednesdays at 10:15 and 11:15 a.m. through 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.

Teen Advisory Board: Monday, Sept. 21: 3:30

meeting on Sept. 5, because the library will be closed.

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.

Movie: Wednesday, Oct. 28, 1 p.m. *Practical*

NEW LOCATION!

Magic (1998; rated PG-13) will be shown. Run time is 108 minutes.

Kindergarten Registration

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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.

Crafters, Vendors Wanted

Crafters and vendors are wanted for are wanted for two events coming up this fall at Trinity Church, 345 Main St. Space is available for \$20 for each event.

The first event is a Fall Craft and Vendor show on Sept. 19, with spaces located on the field next to the church. The second event is a Holiday Craft and Vendor Show on Nov. 21, which will be held inside the church.

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



Rivereast in Maine... On Maine's Mt. Desert Island, (where you'll find Acadia National Park and Bar Harbor), in Southwest Harbor you will find a food establishment named Charlotte's Legendary Lobster Pound. Charlotte Gill is the owner, and she sedates her lobsters before their popped in the pot for consumption. Debbie and John Walden – with their fur girl Grace – celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on July 17.



Rivereast in Paris... This summer, Sebastien Waltz from Amston visited France with his family, staying in several cities including Rouen, Caen, Vannes, and Paris. Highlights include visiting the Alabaster Coast, D-Day beaches, Mont Saint Michel, Côte Sauvage, as well as important sites in Paris such as the Eiffel Tower, Arc de Triomphe, Louvre Museum, and the Catacombs. Pictured here is Sebastien with the *Rivereast News Bulletin* in front of Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris.

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!



The Raleighs and the Rivereast... Mark and Amy Raleigh from Marlborough, and their three kids, recently went to Cape Cod – and they definitely brought along the *Rivereast*!



The Paper at Pikes Peak... Beth Cunningham, from East Hampton, brought the *Rivereast* to the top of Pikes Peak in Colorado.

Where in the World?

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

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

To enter, email your photo and address to: bulletin@glcitizen.com

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New Town Manager Selected

Just before press time Wednesday, the Town of Hebron announced that Marc Strange, formerly the town administrator of Ludlow, Mass., has been selected as Hebron's new town manager.

Strange's first day will be Sept. 21. According to a town press release, Strange has signed a four-year contract, with a renewal option of two years, and an annual salary of \$170,000. The formal appointment will take place at the Town Council's regular meeting on Sept. 17.

"Marc set himself apart during the interview process with his focus on empathetic leadership, organizational management, and expertise in economic development," Town Council Chair Tiffany Thiele, a Democrat, said in the press release. "His broad municipal experience, coupled with his legal background and public service, will serve the town well as we move toward a positive and exciting future together."

Strange stated, "I am truly honored to have the opportunity to serve as Hebron's next town manager. From my conversations with the Town Council and throughout the selection process, I was struck by the genuine pride people have in this community and by the commitment of those who serve it."

Strange added, "Hebron is a special place, and I am grateful for the trust the Council has placed in me. I look forward to getting to know the residents, employees, businesses, and community organizations that make Hebron what it is. I am very excited to become part of the Hebron community and begin serving the town."

As Ludlow's town administrator since 2022, Strange served as the town's chief administrative officer, with oversight over personnel policies and procedures, contract negotiations, yearly overseeing municipal facilities and assets, and acting as the town's chief procurement officer. He was involved in the planning, development, and presentation of the town's budget proposals.

Prior to this role, he was the Director of Planning & Community Development for the Town of Agawam, Mass., serving as the point of contact for the planning, conservation, sustainability, and development community.

Strange is licensed to practice law in Massachusetts and New York and served as a senior attorney for the New York State Department of Taxation & Finance, authoring various tax opinions and litigating cases. In Massachusetts, his legal practice focused on employment litigation, including minimum wage, overtime, discrimination, and workers' compensation. His volunteer experience includes the Massachusetts Attorney General Office's Open Meeting Law Advisory Committee; serving as a member of the Longmeadow, Mass. Select Board for three years; and sitting on the Western New England University School of Law Alumni Association Board of Directors for three years.

Strange holds a bachelor's degree in marketing management from Syracuse University and a Juris Doctor from the Western New England College School of Law. He resides in Longmeadow, Mass., with his wife and two children.

The Hebron Town Council used the services of Strategic Government Resources (SGR) to oversee the search, with assistance from Interim Town Manager Donna Lanza.

"We are grateful for SGR's steady hand through this entire process, which was run professionally and without a hitch," Thiele said in the press release. "We are also deeply grateful for the service of Donna Lanza. When I asked her to become interim town manager, she never hesitated to step forward and serve the town, once again. Her tireless efforts to keep the town moving forward through a busy and challenging time did not go unnoticed by the council, town staff, and residents. We cannot thank her enough for all she has done for the Town of Hebron."

Sept. 16, 9:30 a.m., Wise Warrior Yoga in Garden (weather dependent); Wednesday, Sept. 16, 10:45 a.m., Book Group in Social Hall; Wednesday, Sept. 16, noon, Women's Fellowship Meeting in Social Hall; Thursday, Sept. 17, 7 p.m., Church Council Meeting in Parish House Conference Room.

Upcoming Events: Sept. 11th Silent Reflection: All are invited Friday, Sept. 11, from 8:45-9:05 a.m., in the Garden of Remembrance, for a quiet moment of reflection in remembrance of the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. There will be no stories or speeches, but simply 20 minutes of silent presence and togetherness.

Sunday School Kickoff: Celebrate the fall kickoff of Gilead's Sunday School and Youth Group programs during worship on Sunday, Sept. 20, at 10 a.m. Registration is now open; contact the church office to have your kid included.

Card-Making with Gayle: Create one-of-a-kind seasonal cards Thursday, Sept. 24, at 6 p.m. Cost is \$15 per class with a portion of proceeds benefitting the Connecticut Food Bank.

The Worship Center News & Notes

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

Worship: Services are Sundays at 10 a.m. and are also broadcast on social media. Connect with the library at www.facebook.com/WorshipCenterCT, youtube.com/@worshipcenterct and instagram.com/theworshipcenterct.

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

Kingdom Women: Women's Bible Study: Meets in-person every first and third Thursday from 6:45-7:45 p.m., at the church. The study will continue on the book of Psalms. Zoom access is available. Upcoming: Thursday, Sept. 17.

Youth Ministry: Grades 6-12 are invited every first and third Friday of the month from 6:30-9:30 p.m. for activities, games, Bible lessons, dinner, dessert, and community. Upcoming: Sept. 18.

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

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.

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. 15 and 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.

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.

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 Monday-Friday, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

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 musical 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 and flyers in the church entryways for more information and to sign up.

Project Hope (Homeless Shelter): The number of homeless people without any type of daily shelter has increased, as well as the percentage of those people ages 45-60 years old. To meet this need and to prepare for colder weather, the outreach manager requested the following: 2- and 3-person tents; size XL cold to frigid weather sleeping bags; 8x10 and 10x12 tarps (green or brown, no blue); new and gently used (clean & in good condition, please) fall & winter men's and women's outerwear (coats, gloves, & hats); durable heavy crew socks, sweatshirts, sweatpants & hoodies; and hand and foot warmers. Contact Monica (860-228-4211) 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.

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Christ Lutheran Church News and Notes

Christ Lutheran Church and Early Childhood Center (daycare) is located at 330 Church St.
Worship Service with Pastor Matthew Hardaway: 9-10 a.m. Sundays. All are welcome. People unable to attend services in person can participate online at www.facebook.com/clch-hebron/live.
Bible Studies: Sundays at 10:30 a.m., following service and fellowship time. All are welcome.
Early Childhood Center (Daycare): Offers childcare, preschool, and before/after school care, and is open to all children, regardless of faith. For more information, call director Jennifer Johnson at 860-228-5134. Application forms are at www.clecchebron.org.
Caring Shepherds Social Ministry Group: There are open food pantry days held to distribute food staples, household and hygiene items as well as Bibles and prayers. For more information about donating or participating in food pantry days, call 860-228-1152.

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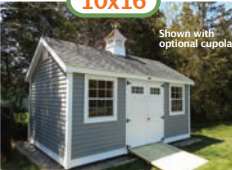
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St. Peter's Turkey Dinner

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.

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

Paper registration forms are available in the church entryway, or register online through the form linked in the church newsletter, which is accessible at gileadchurchucc.updates.church.



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Senior Center Plans to Party for 25th Anniversary

By Toriana Williams

The Marlborough Senior Center is turning 25, and what better way is there to celebrate than with a party?

On Saturday, Sept. 19, the senior center, located at 17 School Drive, will open its doors for a free anniversary party that promises an afternoon full of fun. From 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., there will be food, live music, a car show, caricature drawings, games and more.

The senior center is using this chance to look back at the past 25 years and to look ahead to what comes next.

“The 25th anniversary is a community celebration,” said Shoshana Merced, director of human and social services for the town of Marlborough. “It’s a celebration of years past and a new chapter for the senior center.”

The fun will begin with an opening ceremony where Town Manager David Porter and Merced will give special remarks. Two people who helped make the senior center a reality will also be honored: the center’s first and former director Vi Schwartzmann, as well as Emma Lou Cranfield, the first president of the Marlborough Senior Citizens Club and longtime member of the senior center.

State Sen. Cathy Osten (D-19) and state Rep. Steve Weir (R-55) will also present a special recognition to the senior center for its 25th anniversary. Then, it’s time to party.

The Silk City Jazz Band from Manchester will

be performing. The group plays music from the Big Band era, said Merced, including swing songs, ballads and other lively tunes. Merced said the band will be just one part of all the fun to be offered.

“In addition to the fantastic live music, we will also have a photo booth, free caricatures, oversized yard games, ice cream trucks, hors d’oeuvres, vintage and classic cars and a celebration goodie bag,” she said.

The best part? Everything is free.

“We’re looking forward to celebrating with our longstanding members of the community and meeting new ones,” said Merced.

A Dream That Took Years

When describing the history of the senior center, Merced shared that its story began long before the building opened. In 1977, about 20 residents came together to start the Marlborough Senior Citizens Club. The group wanted to help older residents learn, socialize and build friendships.

The club grew quickly. Within two years, it had become an important part of the community, said Merced. Its membership reached about 70 people. The only problem was that the group did not have a permanent home.

Meetings were held in many places, including the American Legion, a church, a bank community room and schools.

“It was obvious that a senior center was des-

perately needed,” said Merced.

In 1998, the town received a \$500,000 community development grant to help build the senior center. Three years later, the dream became reality.

On Sept. 21, 2001, town officials, staff, members of the Senior Citizens Club and community members gathered for the grand opening.

Now, about 1,100 older adults live in Marlborough. Senior center membership has also doubled in the past year and continues to grow.

More Than a Place to Visit

The senior center isn’t just a place to play games or grab a cup of coffee. It helps older adults stay active, connected and healthy. Senior centers can offer exercise, healthy living programs, learning opportunities, food programs and help with social services.

For Merced, one of the best parts of the job is watching people connect.

“Some of my favorite moments at the senior center are when I see the members connecting between themselves,” she said.

Sometimes those connections are between people whose children went to school together many years ago. Other times, they’re neighbors who see each other often but finally get a chance to sit down and catch up.

“I love seeing that moment of connection and community,” said Merced. She also enjoys helping members try something new.

There can be some anxiety when people step

outside of their comfort zones. But after they try a new activity, Merced likes hearing what they thought about it.

“I find it a tremendous honor to share these moments with them,” she said.

Merced said her work has taught her something important about people.

“It’s a daily reminder to me that no matter your age or background or income status, there’s such a unity in our shared human emotions,” said Merced.

The Party Is Only the Beginning

Don’t be fooled. The senior center doesn’t plan to slow down after the anniversary party. Merced and the Commission on Aging plan to conduct a townwide survey of older adults. The goal is to learn what people in Marlborough want and need.

That could help the senior center create new programs, activities and trips. And there will certainly be plenty of fun this fall.

“There is no slow season at the senior center. It’s busy and busier,” laughed Merced.

Currently on the schedule is a costume party in October, a Thanksgiving event in November and an ugly sweater party in December.

But first comes the anniversary party, which has received significant support from the town.

“We are extremely grateful to the community, our sponsors and all of the elected officials for their participation,” shared Merced.

Thrift Shop Reopens Friday

Second Blessings Thrift Shop, located on the lower level at the Marlborough Congregational Church, 35 South Main St., will open for the fall season for sales and donations on Friday, Sept. 11, from noon to 3 p.m., and Saturday, Sept. 12, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The shop will be open Fridays and Saturdays through December 19. The shop currently features Halloween, Thanksgiving, and fall home décor, vintage items of all kinds, new and

nearly new kitchen and housewares, cookbooks, puzzles, adult and children’s books, jewelry and much more. The Christmas shop is open for early holiday shopping.

The shop accepts cash, checks, and charge. Second Blessings sells specialty items year-round through eBay at bit.ly/MCCebay.

For more information, visit the church website at mcc.marlconchurch.org.

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.

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

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.

Local Art at Town Hall

Marlborough Arts Center has announced a new solo art exhibit of local artist Arlene S. Cavalieri. Her paintings will be displayed at Town Hall from August through October.

Cavalieri’s work includes oils and acrylic. Her compositions often feature ocean and pond scenes as well as landscape, animal and floral subjects.

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

Correction & Clarification

In last week’s issue, it was stated that Marlborough’s Board of Education Chair Raymond Morris was a Democrat. This is incorrect. He is unaffiliated.

Also, a misplaced quote may have led to some misinterpretation about who will vote on bids submitted for an upcoming building project. To clarify, only the Marlborough Elementary School Building Committee will vote on the bids – not the Board of Education as a whole.

The *Rivereast* regrets the errors.



Lara Herscovitch

September Concert at Arts Center

For this month’s 4th Friday @ The Arts Café, Marlborough Arts Center, 231 N. Main St., will present Lara Herscovitch in concert on Friday, Sept. 25, at 7:30 p.m.

Herscovitch is a singer/songwriter, poet-performer, author, and Connecticut’s 14th state troubadour.

Tickets are \$15 and available at the door. Doors open at 7 p.m.

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.

Marlborough Farmers Market

Zina’s Cucina is hosting the Marlborough Farmers Market every Wednesday until Oct. 14, from 4-7 p.m., on the Town Green.

Attendees can expect live music and artisanal goods such as goat milk soaps, fresh fruits and vegetables, baked goods, a variety of crafts and more.

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

‘The Human Library’ Coming Oct. 17

The public is invited to a special event called The Human Library on Saturday, Oct. 17, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at Marlborough Congregational Church. The event is sponsored by the Coalition on Diversity & Equity (CoDE), a nonpartisan, educational nonprofit organization serving Andover, Columbia, East Hampton, Hebron, and Marlborough.

The Human Library is like a regular library only instead of checking out paper books, readers check out human Books. The human Books are people who have experienced discrimination or bias because of their lifestyle, beliefs, physical condition, heritage, religion, or identity. The human Books are all volunteers, most of whom come from the area. At the event, people can have 30-minute conversations with the Books they’d like to talk with. They can ask questions about the Book’s life and their experiences.

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.

Thin Blue Line: Thursday, 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. 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 at senior center.

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

Food Bank: Located at 3 Wilhenger Drive, and can be reached at 860-295-6008. There is an open house Tuesdays from 10 a.m.-noon and 4-6 p.m. The food bank is open to qualified residents in need.

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

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

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

Transportation: Rides to medical appointments, employment, essential services, the Senior Center and recreation activities are available to seniors and people with disabilities. Transportation is available Mondays and Tuesdays only. Rides must be reserved two business days in advance. Call 860-295-6209 for more information. Visit www.marlboroughct.gov for the complete transportation policy.

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Marlborough’s Lee Enters Professional Ranks



Marisa Lee, a graduate of RHAM High School, will play professional basketball in Europe. Lee is pictured shooting a baseline shot against the University of Connecticut.

By Josh Howard

Since graduating RHAM High School in 2020, Marisa Lee’s basketball journey has featured multiple stops on the East Coast, and she will now play professionally overseas. Lee, a Marlborough native, signed her first pro contract with Kriva Palanka – a women’s professional basketball club competing in the Prva A Liga of North Macedonia. “Honestly, it’s pretty crazy,” Lee said of her next roundball adventure in Europe. “I always had a dream of playing professionally, but for it to actually come true doesn’t feel real.” Her path to the professional basketball has featured several ups and downs, followed by multiple twists and turns. In high school, she helped RHAM win the program’s first and only state championship

with a 58-35 victory over Farmington in 2018, capping a 24-1 season with a Class L state title. As a junior, she led the team in both points and rebounds and then was a team captain her senior season. Lee graduated from RHAM in the heart of the COVID-19 pandemic before choosing to stay local and play Division I basketball at the University of Hartford where she began with a COVID-condensed season as a freshman before the Hawks’ athletic programs transitioned from a Division I program to a Division III one when she was a sophomore. Following her second collegiate season, Lee decided to enter the transfer portal – which permits student athletes to place their name in an on-line database declaring their desire to transfer and to seek other opportunities – and



Lee was a standout player at RHAM, helping the program to their first and only state title in 2018. Following graduation, she played at three different universities and will now join the professional ranks overseas.

looked at a few different schools around the country before ultimately choosing American University in Washington D.C. She spent the next two seasons playing Division I hoops for the Eagles in the nation’s capital before moving back to her home state for her final two collegiate seasons, transferring to Southern Connecticut State University. At Southern, Lee helped the Owls reach the NCAA Division II tournament in both seasons and was part of the 2026 team that captured the Northeast-10 Conference championship. It was the program’s first conference championship in nearly two decades. Throughout her time at the trio of colleges, she obtained a pair of degrees, most recently earning her master’s degree in exercise physiology from SCSU. Now, following seven years at three different universities, her next basketball pivot is to the professional ranks. In heading to the pros, she is overcoming a series of setbacks that have defined her as a person and a player. The end of her high school experience was marred by a pandemic and her college hoops

experience was hindered with injuries, so Lee noted that playing at the next level was something she could only dream about. “Basketball is my life and I can’t imagine a life without it,” explained Lee, who left this week to join her new team. “I’m feeling all the emotions – excited to meet my coach and teammates, experience the culture, and hopefully win a championship,” she added. “I’m nervous too. New situations can always be scary, but I’m just so grateful for this one.” In North Macedonia, a country in southern Europe, Lee will join a title team after showing what she can do against elite competition. At the Eurobasket.com combine held in Atlanta this summer, she was the second-best ranked player, prompting her opportunity abroad. When Lee transferred from UHart to American in 2022, Lee noted that she was “itching” to see more of the world and now at her next destination, she will get the opportunity to play professionally in a place roughly 5,000 miles from Marlborough. “Reflecting back on where I was then and where I am now – it feels surreal,” she said.

Fire Department Chicken Barbecue

The Marlborough Fire Department will host its 70th annual Chicken Barbecue on Sunday, Oct. 4, from noon-2 p.m., at Station No. 1 on Route 66 in Marlborough Center. Tickets are \$20/person and include a meal of half a chicken, freshly made coleslaw, a baked potato, a dinner roll, and a dessert. The fire station will be open for those who wish to dine in. Additionally, the Women’s Auxiliary will host a bake sale. This annual event has a history of selling out quickly, the fire department said. Due to high demand and a limited number of tickets, resi-

dents are encouraged to secure theirs as soon as possible. Tickets are being sold door-to-door by Marlborough firefighters. If a firefighter has not visited your home, you can purchase tickets by calling the firehouse at 860-295-6219 or Captain Todd Cohen at 860-573-0428. Leave a message with your name, address, and the number of tickets you need. Tickets will also be able for pick-up at Marlborough Plastics, 350 North Main St. Tickets are sold on a first-come, first-served basis.

Parks and Rec. Programs

Marlborough Parks & Recreation has announced the following. For full program descriptions or to register, visit www.marlbroughct.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. **Safe at Home:** For grades 4-6. Wednesday, Oct. 14, 5-6:30 p.m., at Marlborough Senior

Center. Participants will learn skills to prepare them to be safe when home alone. Fee is \$65/resident, \$70/non-resident. **Kids Sewing: Open Sew:** Saturdays, Oct. 17 and Nov. 7, 10-11:30 a.m., at Marlborough Senior Center. Kids can explore sewing beyond the basics in this once monthly meeting. Fee: \$49/resident, \$54/non-resident. **Safe Sitter:** For grades 6-8. Saturday, Nov. 7, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m., at Marlborough Senior Center. Designed to prepare students in grades 6-8 to be safe when they’re home alone, watching younger siblings, or babysitting. Fee: \$140/resident, \$145/non-resident. **Horseback Riding Lessons:** Ages 5 and up. Lesson days and times are flexible. Fee is four lessons for \$175/residents, \$180/non-residents. **Adult Programs: Adult Tap:** For ages 18 and over. Thursdays, Sept. 16-Nov. 18, 8-8:45 p.m., at Dance Dynamics in Hebron. Fee: \$200/resident. **Beginner Tai Chi:** Tuesdays/Thursdays, noon-12:45 p.m., at Marlborough Senior Center. Fee is \$40/resident, \$45/non-resident. **Beginner and Intermediate Tai Chi:** Tuesdays/Thursdays, 12:40-1:45 p.m., at Marlborough Senior Center. Fee is \$40/resident, \$45/non-resident. **Adult Volleyball:** Thursdays, 8-10 p.m., at Marlborough Elementary School. Fee is \$5 per week. Session begins Oct. 5, **Zumba Class – Fall Session:** Tuesdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m., at Marlborough Senior Center. Fee is \$60/resident, \$65/non-resident, or a \$10 drop-in fee. **Pickleball:** Mondays, 5:30-7:30 p.m., and Tuesdays/Thursdays, 9-11 a.m., at Blish Park. Open to all levels of play. Registration is free.

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?”

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. Sunday school resumes next Sunday, Sept. 20, on Rally Day. Children are always welcome at the worship service. The deacons have provided quiet activity bags, found in the narthex, for younger children to borrow and enjoy at services, and bulletins with word games, mazes, and picture finds for Sunday school-age children. **Sept. 13:** The service will be led by Seaver. Her sermon title is “The Mathematics of Mercy,” based on Matthew 18:21-35 and Romans 14:10-12. After worship, all are invited to Coffee Hour in the Thienes Lounge for snacks and refreshments. **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 in the Youth Room and at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Fellowship Hall, and Thursdays at 6 p.m. in the Youth

Room. **ACA** meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m. in the Youth Room. **Outreach:** The church collects non-perishable food items year-round for Marlborough Food Bank with a basket located in the narthex for Sunday worshippers to bring donations. The next church-sponsored Drive Thru Café, for Marlborough Food Bank clients and their families with tickets, will be Sept. 27. Mission-giving through September will go to Community Partners in Action Resettlement Program that provides comprehensive reentry services from basic needs to medical care, for women reentering society from York Correctional. **General Information:** Marlborough Congregational Church is an Open and Affirming faith community and all are welcome. The church does not pass a collection plate, but free-will giving boxes are found by the doors in the sanctuary. Donations can also be made through the church website, or mailed to the church at P.O. Box 57, Marlborough, CT 06447. For more information on the church or its programs, call Seaver’s direct line at 860-295-0432, email her at pastorval@marlconchurch.org, or contact the church office at office@marlconchurch.org.

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Council Gets an Update on the Draft POCD

By Anne Lilburn

At its Tuesday meeting, the Town Council received a briefing on the draft of the town's 2026 Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD), voted on allocating a portion of the town's funding from the state's Opioid Settlement Fund and heard a presentation from the DiStefano family about a proposed lease.

Proposed Land Deal

Dan DiStefano presented his family's proposal to the town, which involved the town leasing the family's land, located at the intersection of Route 66 and Main Street, for use as a public space that would be known as the "DiStefano Memorial Town Green." The property is currently owned by his 94-year-old father, Thomas, and was once the site of "Mr. Di's," his family's restaurant that burned down in 1997.

The site is currently used by many in the community to place signs, but DiStefano said he takes down many of them, including yard sale signs and advertisements. He said he leaves things that "promote East Hampton," such as VFW and Lions Club event signs.

The DiStefano family is proposing a no-cost, 40-year, renewable lease. In return, the family is asking for final approval on any proposed use, a tax abatement on the property at 1 West High St. and 7 West High St., and for the town to take on liability while the property is being used as a public space, DiStefano said. He mentioned that his father has received offers to both lease or buy the land.

"Honestly," he said, "either they make it into a town green or he's going to sell it."

DiStefano said that he wanted to find a way to put a town green there in order to avoid "a metal building on the corner."

Council member Karen Wanat, a Democrat, asked if the town would have the option to buy the property if it were put up for sale, and DiStefano said that currently, the lessee of a small building on the property, whom he said wanted to remain anonymous, would have the first option to buy the property.

Council member Ted Hintz Jr. took issue with the lost tax revenue, which he estimated at somewhere between \$5,700 and \$7,000 annually for the two parcels.

That, he said, "is a pretty big amount to come out of the taxpayers for 40 years. That's a pretty hefty amount to pull off the tax rolls for a site with all kinds of restrictions."

DiStefano countered that the town would be getting "a historic monument to the town of East Hampton at no cost to use." He said his father,

and his father's father, were both born and raised in East Hampton, with the family's roots in town tracing back to 1893.

The council decided to "take it under advisement," and put it on the agenda for a future meeting.

Council Hears POCD Draft Presentation

The now-former town planner, Juliet Hodge, returned to present the draft version of the Plan of Conservation & Development (POCD), a document that is intended to guide town planning and which is required by the state to be revised every 10 years.

Gathering the community input required to write the town's POCD, Hodge reminded the council, was a lengthy and comprehensive process, involving neighborhood meetings, community-focused discussion sessions, a data presentation by outside consultants, a written and online survey (with write-in options), a village center walk and a public visioning session. She also said they had met with both seniors at the senior center and high school students for generational diversity.

The nearly-completed document, which lays out the town's goals for both conservation and development in the next 10 years, addresses hot-button topics, such as affordable housing, new housing construction, commercial development, and sewer and infrastructure expansion and development.

Hodge made clear that the POCD was a unique document that did not in itself set regulations. Hodge described the POCD as "a guiding document," and one which town was also welcome to amend it at any time.

"The POCD does not rezone property, approve development, or override existing regulations; it establishes the policy framework against which subsequent decisions are evaluated," a slide from her presentation read.

"The most important thing to remember," said Hodge, "is that the POCD is just a statement of policies. It's what you base all of your decisions against. It doesn't replace zoning. It can't approve anything all on its own. It doesn't replace ordinances."

"If a proposal comes in and it happens to be consistent with your POCD, you still have to go to Planning and Zoning and get it approved," she reminded those listening.

The big takeaways, Hodge told the council, were that the residents "strongly expressed a desire to preserve rural character, and open space and natural resources and water quality."

Epoch Arts Six-Day Tag Sale

Epoch Arts is holding its annual six-day, two-weekend, indoor, rain or shine, tag sale starting next Friday, Sept. 11.

Shop the Christmas and Holiday Room, or check out areas like books, arts and crafts, linens, clothing, kitchen, toys, bath and beauty, and music. There will be furniture, electronics, sports, tools and more. All proceeds directly fund Epoch's youth programs for the year.

The tag sale runs Friday, Sept. 11, from 2-5

p.m., and Friday, Sept. 18, from noon-5 p.m. On Saturdays and Sundays, Sept. 12, 13, 19 and 20, hours will be from 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

The first day of the sale on Sept. 11 will also feature an early bird special from noon-2 p.m. with an entrance fee of \$25, pay at the door, for those who wish to have a sneak preview of available items.

The tag sale will be held at Epoch, 27 Skinner St. For more information, visit www.epocharts.org.

SOOP Plays Tonight

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 club, located at 24 Spellman Point Rd. in East Hampton. There will be a suggested donation at the door.

Advanced tickets are not available.

Organ Concert Sept. 20

Save the date for a concert for organ and strings coming up Sunday, Sept. 20, at 4 p.m., on the historic Appleton Organ at Second Congregational Church of Middle Haddam, 52 Middle Haddam Road, Middle Haddam.

The show will be performed by Jan Ulanowitz and June Ingram. Goodwill donations will be gratefully accepted. Refreshments will follow in the church community room.

Call 203-232-7387 for information.

St. Patrick Church News

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.sjpil.org.

Hodge said residents also expressed concerns about the cost of living and wanted to expand the tax base without compromising on those natural resource and rural living priorities. While some wanted additional housing choices, she said, over a quarter of survey respondents wanted no new housing at all, and while residents wanted some additional economic development, they were worried about its appearance, she said. "No metal buildings" came through loud and clear," she said.

Hodge said residents also expressed that they wanted the town to rigorously enforce current land use regulations and review development proposals thoroughly. She also said they said people had expressed concern over road quality and infrastructure.

Hodge said the document addressed all these concerns, and encouraged people to read "at least the first 40 pages," if not all, of the document, which is posted on the town website, www.easthamptonct.gov.

At its next meeting on Sept. 22, the council will receive public comments on the draft document, which will officially start the public review and comment period that will run through the end of October. The formal public hearing, where the POCD would be adopted, will take place in November or December, said Hodge.

Town Manager Dave Cox said that comments could sent to the POCD Steering Committee in care of the Land Use Department at Town Hall, or also could be emailed to jhodge@easthamptonct.gov.

Opioid Settlement Funds to EHAA

The council also voted on spending related to the East Hampton Ambulance Association's request to use town Opioid Settlement Funds to purchase a new CPR assistance device known as a LUCAS device. East Hampton Ambulance

Athletic Hall of Fame Elects Five

The East Hampton Athletic Hall of Fame has elected two star athletes and three coaches to for its 2026 class. This is the Hall of Fame's 20th year of existence.

Eric Peck graduated East Hampton High School as a member of the Class of 2008, and was a three-time all-conference pitcher/first baseman/outfielder. Peck was All-State in 2006 and All-Area *Middletown Press* in 2007. Peck had a career .380 batting average with 64 hits, 46 RBI, 28 steals. He played all nine positions during his career. He had a 15-6 career pitching mark and was 2008 baseball captain and winning pitcher of the 2008 conference championship, a 1-0 complete game shutout. Peck went on to play college baseball at the University of New Haven.

Patrick Rubega is a assistant track and field assistant coach at EHHS and filled the role primarily as a volunteer. Rubega coached 20 EHHS state pole vault champions. The banners in the gym are decorated with pole vaulters all coached by Rubega. He coached the top 20 pole vaulters in school history for boys and girls.

Scott Wosleger was the EHHS baseball coach from 2007 to 2014. Under his leadership, the program won three Shoreline championships, in 2008, 2011 and 2013. The 2011 team also won the state championship over East Catholic High School. The teams had a 117-69 overall record, which included 20-7 in the postseason. Wosleger coached 20 All-Conference players, was Shoreline Coach of the Year in 2008, and helped develop 15

Vaccine Clinic at Church

On Saturday, Sept. 26, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, located at 1 East High St., Walgreens will offer a vaccine clinic open to the public.

The clinic will include flu vaccines, RSV, and possibly others.

For more information, call Walgreens in Cromwell at 860-613-2324.

RTC Meets Next Week

The next meeting of the East Hampton Republican Town Committee at The Dublin, 42 E. High St., on Tuesday, Sept. 15.

All are invited to come learn about volunteer opportunities in the community. For more information, email ehctgop@gmail.com or visit easthamptonrtc.com.

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.

Association (EHAA) Chief Chris Wherry appeared to make the request, and was joined in his request by Fire Chief Robb Rainville, who also said he supported the purchase.

"The LUCAS (Lund University Cardiopulmonary Assist System), manufactured by Stryker, is an automated mechanical chest compression device designed to deliver continuous, high-quality cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) during cardiac arrest," the ambulance association wrote in its memo to the council.

The EHAA previously had two of these devices, but one eventually failed after exceeding its projected lifespan. The association was proposing to spend \$15,444 to purchase the device, and noted that the purchase would be consistent with the ways in which other communities have used their Opioid Settlement Fund money, with numerous other towns purchasing LUCAS devices.

There was some discussion among council members regarding whether this was the best use of those funds, particularly from Hintz, who said he would prefer to see the money spent on training. However, the council eventually voted unanimously to approve the \$15,444 allocation, and also allocated an additional \$15,000 to be used for training, with the stipulation that Wherry report back with an explanation of "exact toy what that training will be used for, so we are sure it is being used in the spirit for which the opioid funds are being given to us for."

The council also decided to delay its discussion and vote on a proposed WPCA ordinance, voted to approve an electrical utility easement at the Lakewood Estates subdivision, and entertained a brief discussion around the idea of term limits for those serving in appointed roles.

The Town Council will hold its next regularly scheduled meeting on Sept. 22, where it will hear public comments related to the POCD.

college players coming out of East Hampton.

Gyanna Russell was a 2017 graduate and a basketball three-time All-Conference, two-time All-State player. Russell set the girls' school record for points with 1,478 at East Hampton. Russell scored 46 points in a game versus Westbrook and made 24 of 25 free throws in the game. Russell on Lori Riley (*Hartford Courant*) Feb 15 list, and went on to play at Southern New Hampshire University and average 13.1 points per game in 2021-22. Russell was academic all-conference NE-10 2021-22.

Parker Strong was the EHHS boys basketball coach from 2012-2021 and is the current boys tennis coach, a role he has held for the past five years. Strong compiled a 139-84 record in basketball and led the program to nine state tournament wins. His 139 wins are second in program history. His team captured the Shoreline championship in 2018, and was runner-up in 2014 and 2017. He led the program to Quarter final appearances in states 2014 and 2017, and state semifinal in 2018. Strong was selected as the CHSCA All-Star Coach in 2017. His 2018 team had a perfect 20-0 regular season and won 25 games in a row.

The five will be inducted into the Hall of Fame on Friday, Oct. 23, at 6 p.m., at Blackledge Country Club in Hebron. The evening includes a buffet-style dinner. Tickets for the event are \$55 each.

For tickets, contact Mike Vasquezna at mjvasquezna@gmail.com or 860-308-6621.

For more information on the East Hampton Athletic Hall of Fame, visit ehahof.wixsite.com/bellringer.

‘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.

Tennis Program for Adults

The East Hampton Recreation tennis program for adults is held every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8-10:30 a.m. Now that school is session, the program will meet at the Sears Park courts.

Play time is flexible; come and go as you please.

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

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



Epoch Arts is offering a variety of classes this fall. Pictured is student Sara Maalouf in a previous Teen Ceramics class.

Fall Classes and Events at Epoch

Epoch Arts is offering a variety of classes this fall, including two adult classes.

Students in pre-K through 12th grade can register online to take classes like art, ceramics, theater, improv, preschool classes and more. Epoch is also offering an adult ceramics and painting class this semester.

Also, don't forget to register for Epoch's teen original Theater Production and its annual Stage Fright (which is Haunted House with a new name.)

For full class descriptions and registration, visit www.epocharts.org/classes-registration. Classes are held at Epoch, 27 Skinner St.

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Car Cruise to Benefit Warriors

All are invited to bring their antique auto, hotrod, souped-up truck, or tractor to Markham Meadows Campground at 9 Markham Rd., for the 13th annual Car Cruise Saturday, Sept. 19, from 2-5 p.m.

The afternoon includes music, food, raffles, trophies and the Driver's Choice Award. Proceeds benefit local Wounded Warrior projects

as administered through VFW Post 5095. Proceeds will also support Flags Across East Hampton and East Hampton's K-9 police dog.

A \$10 donation per car would be appreciated. No pre-registration is required. There is no rain date for the event.

Call Melissa at 860-267-9738 for more information.

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.

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.

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.

All-Ages Program: Spooky East Hampton: From Sept. 14 through Oct. 16, East Hampton residents of all ages are invited to submit an original spooky story for a chance to be published in this year's edition of Spooky East Hampton. Check the library website for submission guidelines and more information.

Adult Programs: 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. Register or drop in.

Teen Programs: 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.

STEMtastic: Cardboard Construction for Grades 1-5: Monday, Sept. 21, 4:30-5:30 p.m. Use special cardboard construction tools to transform ordinary cardboard into extraordinary creations. Register or drop in.

HOF Association Accepting Nominations

The East Hampton Athletic Hall of Fame Association is accepting nominations through Aug. 26.

If you know of who you feel is a worthy candidate – which could be an athlete, coach, team, or contributor – email seidlt@sbcglobal.net for a nomination packet or go to the Hall of Fame website at ehahof.wixsite.com/bellringer for information.

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, Oct. 14, 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.

Chicken Drive-Thru BBQ: The next Drive-Thru BBQ at the church will be Saturday, Oct. 3, from noon to 5 p.m.

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.

Meditation Series at Library

An in-person meditation series with Omar Milton, a spiritual guide and recovery specialist, will take place at Middle Haddam Public Library, 2 Knowles Rd.

"Luminous Light of Liberation" will take place Tuesdays, Sept. 15 to Oct. 20, from 6-6:45 p.m., at the library, or virtually by Zoom on Tuesdays from 8-8:45 a.m.

All are invited to embark on a practice of compassionate self study and mindfulness. The sessions feature topics for meditation, contemplation and inquiry.

Cost is \$50 for the series. Call Omar Milton at 860-776-4162 to register.

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.

Class of '59 Reunion

The East Hampton High School Class of 1967 will celebrate its 59th reunion on Saturday, Sept. 12, at The Dublin, 42 East High St., from 2-5 p.m.

Order off the menu, and pay as you go. Text 860-682-2067 to reserve a spot.

Belltown Motors

Tire & Service Center

How To Prepare Your Car For Fall

As Fall begins to creep in, it reminds us that colder weather is on its way. This means that it is time to prepare your car for the upcoming seasons. Colder weather makes it more difficult for your tires to maintain grip and makes the windshield more defenseless against cracks.

Here are some things Belltown can help you with to prepare for the months ahead:

1. Check The Belts & Hoses

Belltown will look for cracks, leaks, and wears in the belts and hoses to ensure that there are no signs of splitting, fraying, or glazing.
2. Check The Fluid Levels

We'll check windshield washer fluids, transmission fluids, coolant, brake fluids, and power steering fluids. All are very important for ensuring that your car runs smoothly.
3. Check/Replace Tires

Belltown will check the tread, inflation, and overall condition of your tires and we may recommend rotating your tires, so they wear evenly.
4. Check Your Heat

You want to be sure your heat/defroster works when the colder weather hits - driving with fogged-up windshield is unsafe.
5. Check The Brakes

With every season, brakes are crucial for safe driving. Cold weather heightens brake problems, since the roads have the potential of becoming slippery from snow and ice.



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Memorial Museum

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‘Biz & Fizz’ Networking Series to Meet

Area business people are invited to connect Thursday, Sept. 17, at the new Biz & Fizz, a monthly networking social. This month’s event is at The Tavern on 66, 227 West High St., at 5:30 p.m.

The Biz & Fizz event is on the third Thursday of every month, offering a relaxed environment for entrepreneurs and community members to have casual conversations, exchange

ideas and build business connections over food and drinks. Economic Development Commission members attend to network with the local business community.

There are no requirements or fees to attend. All are welcome. Bring your business cards for drawings and prizes.

The event is open to anyone 21 and older. No RSVP is required.

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-

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 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 860-633-0472 or donnaadubehryb@gmail.com for more information.

Congregational Church News

The Congregational Church of East Hampton, 59 Main St., welcomes all to worship Sundays at 10 a.m. This Sunday, Sept. 13, is Welcome Sunday.

Welcome Sunday, Sept. 13: The scripture reading for this Sunday’s service is Matthew 16:21-28. Andrea Barton Reeves will be guest preacher. Barton Reeves is a member in discernment in the United Church of Christ and currently serves as Commissioner of the Department of Social Services, overseeing the state’s Medicaid and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance

Also this Sunday, 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 collection 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.

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.

Police News

8/13: Brian Hendry, 55, of Portland, was issued a summons for operating a motor vehicle under suspension and evading responsibility, operating a motor vehicle without insurance, and resident operating a motor vehicle with out-of-state marker plates, East Hampton Police said.

8/28: Sky Winwood, 38, of West Haven, was issued a summons for operating a motor vehicle under suspension, misuse of marker plate, and

interfering with a police officer, police said.

9/5: Blake Kapernaros, 18, of East Hampton, was arrested and charged with failure to drive right and driving under the influence, police said.

From Aug. 31-Sept. 6, officers responded to 13 medical calls, five motor vehicle crashes and nine alarms, and made eight traffic stops, police said.

Lions Club Scholarship Raffle

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

The raffle offers a \$2,026 grand prize this year. First prize is \$226, with two winners, second prize is \$156 with two winners, and third prize is \$56 with two winners. Winners of the

first, second and third prizes are reentered for the grand prize drawing. Seven hundred total tickets will be sold.

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

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

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.

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 answer 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.

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.

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.

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

Simply Social Women’s Group: Meets every first and third Monday at 10 a.m. Meet new people and help plan activities.

Mighty Magnificent Men’s Group: Meets every second and fourth Monday at 10 a.m. for a social hour of fun facts and sharing activities – and snacks!

Community Care Connection Program: Tuesdays, 2-6 p.m. Ria Irons, a certified community health worker, will provide services on help with medication, communicating with healthcare providers, understanding care instructions and

connecting with local resources. Health insurance will be billed for this service when possible. Call for an appointment at 860-267-4426.

East Hampton Kayak Club Outing: Monday, Sept. 14, 10 a.m., at Hitchcock Lake in Wolcott. Call the senior center for information.

A Fly Fisherman’s Guide to Nature: Tuesday, Sept. 15, at 10 a.m. Fly fisherman and naturalist Rowan Lytle will give a talk on how one naturalist has used fly fishing as an avenue to learn and observe as many facets of the natural world as possible.

Design & Create: Thursday, Sept. 17, 1:30 p.m. This is part two of a free program on Creating Vintage Inspired Paper Mache Pumpkins.

Family Tree: Friday, Sept. 18, 10:30 a.m. Ken Doney returns for another hands-on genealogy session. Bring your cell phone, iPad or laptop and get going on learning about your family history.

Drumming with Mark Zarillo: Friday, Sept. 18, 12:45 p.m. All are invited to this interactive drum circle session. No experience needed; just come ready to have fun and make some music. Cost is \$5; register in person.

Senior Picnic: Wednesday, Sept. 23, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. This annual event features food, live music, games, nature presentations and more. Cost is \$3. Sign up in person.

Trips: Hebron Mini Golf and Lunch: Sept. 14 leaving the senior center at 10 a.m. Enjoy a round of mini golf at the Hebron Miniature Golf, followed by lunch on your own at Wicked Slice. Cost is \$16 and includes golf and bus transportation. Sign up in advance.

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Obituaries

Colchester

Robert John O'Brien

Robert John O'Brien (Bob), 93, of Colchester and East Windsor, passed away peacefully Sunday, Aug. 30. He was born in Valley Falls, R.I., to the late Edward and Felicia (Strach) O'Brien.

Bob attended Central Falls High School before proudly enlisting in the United States Air Force in March 1951. He served his country as a veteran of the Korean War and rose to the rank of sergeant. Following his military service, he graduated from New England Technical Institute with a degree in electronics. He went on to build a 36-year career with United Technologies, where he was employed until his retirement in 1992. He took great pride in his work on the Apollo and Space Shuttle programs while he was employed in the fuel cell division of UTC.

He lived in Colchester with his first wife, Suzanne, for 17 years before moving to East Windsor with his second wife, Margaret, in 1979. He enjoyed many hobbies throughout his life, including video photography, playing guitar, or cheering on the UConn basketball team.

You would always see him with a cat by his side or on his lap.

He will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered by his children, Robert O'Brien of Wilimantic, James O'Brien of Lansford, Pa., John O'Brien of Colchester, and Maureen Moore of Hebron; as well as numerous extended family members and friends.

In addition to his parents, Robert was predeceased by his beloved wife, Margaret (Porter) O'Brien; his brother, Edward O'Brien; and his sister, Pat Moller.

Care of arrangements has been entrusted to Aurora McCarthy Funeral Home. A graveside service will be held Saturday, Oct. 3, at noon, at Linwood Cemetery in Colchester.

For condolences or to share a memory or story with Robert's family, please visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Colchester

Linda Marie Grzeika

Linda Marie (Marshall) Grzeika, 70, of New Bern, N.C., wife of Thomas H. Grzeika, passed away Wednesday, Sept. 2.

Born to the late Joseph L. Marshall and Gloria B. (Oppelt) in Hartford, Linda attended Hartford schools and graduated from South Catholic High School, Class of 1974. She later went on to fulfill a lifelong dream of graduating from Trinty College in Hartford in 2009, with a BA in English. She retired from the State of Connecticut Judicial Branch, Court Support Services Division, in 2016.

Linda lived in New Britain for several years after her marriage, before moving to Colchester, where she and Tom raised their sons and lived their lives. Colchester was home. In 2019, she made the move with Tom to New Bern, N.C., and built a different kind of life.

Besides her husband of 52 years, she leaves her two sons, Jonathan (Karen) Grzeika of Baltimore, Md., and Jeffrey (Norimar) Grzeika of New Bern, N.C.; a brother, Paul L. (Jessica) Marshall of Cape Coral, Fla.; sisters, Susan (Dan) Yeadon, of Groton, Mass., and Lenore (Francis) Beebe of Glastonbury; a granddaughter, Alitza Grzeika Nieves of New Bern, N.C.; several in-laws, cousins, nieces, nephews and dear friends both in New England and in New Bern.

She was predeceased by her beloved niece, Emily Yeadon.

There are no calling hours. Funeral arrangements are private and are handled by Cotten Funeral Home and Crematory in New Bern, N.C.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to The New Bern Historical Society, 511 Broad St., New Bern, NC, 28560; Craven County Hospice, PO Box 12610, New Bern, NC 28561 or St. Joseph's Polish Society Scholarship Fund, 395 South Main Street, Colchester, CT 06415.

Colchester

Robert J. Stula

Robert J. Stula, born on the family farm, Stula Acres, West Road, Colchester, on Nov. 5, 1934 passed peacefully at home on Monday, Aug. 3. He was 91 years old.

The Requiem Mass will be held for both Robert and Loretta on Saturday, Sept. 26, at 11 a.m., at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester, followed by a graveside burial service at the St. Andrew Catholic Cemetery on Gillette's Lane, Colchester.

The youngest of five children of immigrant parents who came to America in the late 1800s from Galicia, Austria, now Ukraine/Poland, Robert exemplified the hardworking dedication of first generation Americans, with his determination to succeed at all costs.

He started farming at age 12 when his two older brothers John and Joe Stula went into the military. While being a dairy farmer, he manager 11 properties of farmland around Colchester, which encompassed over 1,000 acres, for many years, then opened Stula Acres House of Beef of Meat Cutting and Delicatessan on West Rd. with his wife Loretta Savitski Stula.

In the early days they supplied the hamburger for the original owners of the Famous Harry's Hotdog Stand.

He worked as a cattle dealer, butcher and meat cutter for many years. He worked as the town's dog warden in Colchester for a period of years, bringing to the farm any harmless, healthy stray dogs on a regular basis.

He left that job when he was told if he didn't put the animals down he would be fired. He refused to euthanize a harmless animal.

In addition to farming, Robert worked in construction and was proud to have worked on the original construction of the Gold Building in Hartford.

He worked helping with deliveries at the famous Colchester Bakery, then helped Loretta at the flower shop next to the bakery where she was a florist in later years, where he would deliver the flower arrangements. He and Loretta lovingly worked as a team, until they both retired to upstate Vermont approximately 20 years ago.

They loved living in the solitude of the mountains, with their various dogs, and were then cared for in their later years by their daughter Cynthia and son-in-law Jason Winarski. Cynthia and Jason were there for both Loretta, who

passed in February of 2022, and also Robert.

Robert had the great pleasure to recently visit the family farm which has been bought and lovingly restored to its original glory from when his parents built it in 1924. He and our family are forever grateful to Mr. Jim and Lisa Appio.

Robert is predeceased by his mother, Anna Hyntasyn Stula; his father, John Stula of Florida; his siblings, Joe Stula, John Stula, Stella Johnston, Margaret Machowski; and his beloved daughter, Melanie.

Robert leaves his children Robert Stula Jr., Faith and Timothy McCann, James Stula and Phyllis LeClaire, Cynthia and Jason Winarski; his grandchildren Robert Stula III, Suzanne Stula, Loretta Stula; and great-grandchild Hunter Stula.

He also leaves cousins, and family members he always spoke of fondly and with great love.

He leaves his longtime best friend Sammy Burton since 1954 and they remained close friends, speaking weekly on the phone until the end.

And he leaves his beloved dog Skippy, who stayed by his side every day, loving, protecting and caring for him until the very end.

If anyone desires to send flowers, please send them to the church for the funeral Mass.

The family welcomes all who remember and wishes to honor Robert and Loretta to attend their Mass as we bring them home to Colchester, the town they were both born in, raised in and have always loved.

Moodus

Raymond Churchill Jr.

Raymond Charles Churchill, Jr., of Surprise, Ariz., formerly of Moodus, passed away peacefully at home Monday, Aug. 31, with his family by his side. He was 89 years old.

Ray was born in Chicopee, Mass., on July 23, 1937, to the late Raymond Charles Churchill Sr. and Rita K. (Cavanaugh) Churchill. After high school, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy, serving honorably during the Korean War. On Jan. 8, 1958, he married the love of his life, Marilyn Maksym. The couple settled in Moodus, where they made their home, raised their family, and became actively involved in the community through the East Haddam Lions Club. Marilyn predeceased him on Nov. 2, 2011.

Ray was a graduate of the Hartt College of Music in Connecticut and had a long and successful career as a music teacher for students at Haddam-Killingworth High School. In his free time, Ray gave private piano lessons, performed at the Griswold Inn with fellow musicians, enjoyed powerboating with his family, and played the organ for the United Methodist Church in Higganum. Above all, Ray will be remembered as a hardworking and devoted man who gave so much of himself to his family, country, community, and students. He loved to laugh, had a gift for spreading joy, and left those around him with countless happy memories and a lasting sense of warmth.

Ray will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him, especially his children, Tracy L. Churchill, with whom he made his home in his

final years; Pamela A. Churchill (Paul Rosow); and Raymond C. Churchill III (Lauren); his granddaughter, Sydney E. Churchill; his sister, Joanne Churchill Sherman (Lawson); and many extended family members and friends.

In addition to his wife and parents, he was predeceased by his brother, Robert T. Churchill, and half-sister, Beverly Daigle.

Funeral services were held at Aurora McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester, beginning with calling hours on Wednesday, Sept. 9. The funeral service was held the following morning at the funeral home, beginning at 11 a.m. Burial followed in St. Bridget of Kildare Cemetery in Moodus with full military honors.

Donations in Raymond's memory may be made to the Eastern Connecticut Performing Arts Association at ecpaa.org.

For online condolences, please visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Middle Haddam

Richard Edward DeForest

Richard Edward DeForest, 86, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by his family on Sunday, Sept. 6. Born in Middletown on Oct. 2, 1939, Richard was the son of the late William and Louise (Clark) DeForest.

Richard proudly served his country as a career serviceman in the U.S. Marine Corps, including time in the Vietnam War. Following his 20 years of service, Richard eventually settled in Middle Haddam, working as an aircraft mechanic and inspector. Richard was an avid motorcyclist and an active member at Valley Bible.

Richard is survived by his beloved wife of 63 years, Sandra. Besides Sandra, he is survived by his daughter, Carol Lyn Shinde; grandson, Luke Shinde; Luke's father, Uday Shinde; brother, Charles DeForest and his wife Alicia of Florida;

See Obituaries, page 30

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Obituaries cont.

and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his sisters, Barbara L. Olis and Sharon Montgomery.

A funeral service will be held Monday, Sept. 14, at 10 a.m., at the Valley Bible Evangelical Free Church, 220 Turkey Hill Rd., Haddam. The service will be followed by the burial with Military Honors at Union Hill Cemetery in Middle Haddam.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Valley Bible in his name. To leave online condolences, please visit www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Town of Portland

Board of Assessment Appeals

Legal Notice and Agenda

The Board of Assessment Appeals will meet on **September 22, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.** at the Town Hall, 33 East Main St., room G3, for the sole purpose of hearing and acting on appeals for motor vehicles on the Grand List of October 1, 2025. Applicants are encouraged to submit an Appeal Application (1 per vehicle) to the Assessor's Office by 4:30 p.m. of the posted date of the scheduled hearing. Appeal applications and information is accessible at; <https://www.portlandct.org/assessment-appeals>

William Donahue, Chairman

1TB 9/11

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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2TB 9/4, 9/11

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RE3-11-26



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RE9-4-26

REAL ESTATE

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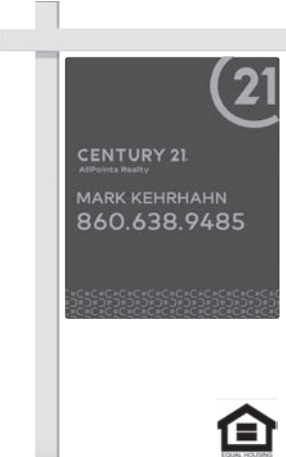
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RE7-24-26

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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

TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON
PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION
NOTICE OF ACTION

At the regular meeting on Wednesday, September 2, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. at the Town Hall and via ZOOM, the East Hampton Planning and Zoning Commission took the following actions:
PZC-26-009: Skinner Street Properties LLC. Special Permit modification to provide for additional mixed use/commercial and industrial uses, 46 Skinner Street Map 20/ Block 48C/ Lot 17A - Approved
Ray Zatorski, Chairman

1TB 9/11

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

TOWN OF PORTLAND
PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION
LEGAL NOTICE OF DECISION

At the September 3, 2026 meeting, the following actions were taken:
Approved with conditions Application #25-18: 1361 and 1373 Portland Cobalt Road. Request for a Site Plan review for a proposed 3,750 SF gas station and convenience store with drive through and a 4,000 SF retail building. Application and property of Global Portland, LLC. Map 15, Lot 50-2. Zone B-2.
Approved with conditions Application #26-01: 920 Glastonbury Turnpike across from Isinglass Hill Road. Request for a Special Permit Renewal of a Sand and Gravel Excavation Permit to Excavate and Remove 470,624 Cubic Yards of Earth Material. Application of the Portland Aggregates LLC and property of Portland S& G LLC. Map 119, Lot 2 and 3. Zone R-25.
Dated at Portland, CT this 4th day of September 2026
Robert Ellsworth, Chairman
Planning & Zoning Commission

1TB 9/11



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Tag Sale: SAT. SEPT 12TH & SUN. SEPT 13TH, 8:30-4:00. ANTIQUES, NAUTICAL, HOUSEHOLD ITEMS, CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS AND MUCH MORE. 5 CEDAR DRIVE CROMWELL, CT.

TAG SALE: 9/12/26, 14 Diane Dr. Cromwell, 8:30am-3pm. Exercise equip, furniture, toys, vintage, jewellery, clothing, household, bikes, rod iron patio, hand bags and shoes, etc.

TAG SALE: Sat Sept 12th & Sun Sept 13th at 58 Bigelow Rd, Colchester. Household and garden items, tools, art supplies, home decor, kids toys.

TAG SALE: Sept 12th & 13th 8am-4pm. 9 Eli Chapman Rd, Moodus. Power tools, table saw, band saw, etc. Fishing items, kitchen items, clothes, Harley, landscape trailer and more.

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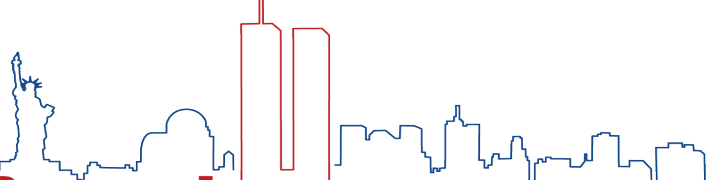
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