

RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

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

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Remembering at Ground Zero... Colchester firefighters (from left) Gary Smith, Lt. Matt Ziegler, Tony Skut and Steve Shorts went to Ground Zero in New York City last Friday, Sept. 11, for the FDNY's ceremony marking 25 years since the deadly terrorist attacks.

Portland Remembers Sept. 11 Attacks

By Anne Lilburn

Portland's First Congregational Church hosted a multi-faith "Service of Prayer, Remembrance, and Hope" to remember Sept. 11 on the 25th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. The service featured contributions from a variety of religious traditions and life experiences.

"We come together tonight with all our prayers. Memories that were made, grief that persists, questions that remain and hope that sustains us," said the **Rev. Judith Meyers, of Portland's First Congregational Church**, in her greeting and prayer of invocation. "God, let healing and wholeness be with us in this holy hour, be present in this place and in the hearts of all who are here.

"As people of different faiths and traditions," she said, "we come alive with different ways of naming and knowing, yet we are united in a common desire: to remember faithfully, to honor those whose lives were changed and to seek a way forward together."

The Rev. Mary Anne Osborn, of Trinity Episcopal Church in Portland, read a Jewish prayer, titled "For 9/11 survivors," by Alden Solovy. The evening of Sept. 11 this year marked the beginning of Rosh Hashanah, and so Rabbi Nelly Altenburger from Middletown's Adath Israel Synagogue chose the poem for Osborn to read.

"Blessed are those who have found peace," Osborn read in part. "Blessed are those without tranquility. Blessed are those who speak. Blessed are those who stay silent. Blessed are those who have healed. Blessed are those who suffer. Blessed are those who forgive. Blessed are those who cannot forgive."

Portland Fire Chief Rob Puida shared his thoughts as a firefighter.

"Tonight, we aren't here simple to remember an event," he said. "We are here to remember people: Firefighters, police officers, EMTs, paramedics, dispatchers, military personnel and civilians. People who woke up that morning and expected it to be an ordinary Tuesday and never came home."

Puida said he thought about that day often, and mentioned that his wife had once asked him whether he would have gone in to the building as it burned. "Yeah," he said he told her. "I would. It's just what we do."

"When the rest of the world was trying to get away from the danger," Puida said, "our brothers and sisters were running toward it."

He asked those listening to also "remember that the people who survived that day were changed forever. They carried the memories of what they saw. They carried the sounds, the smells, the faces, and the names. They carried the loss of friends and brothers and sisters and many carried injuries that couldn't be seen. For some, the effects of that day lasted years; for others, lasted a lifetime."

"Remember their names. Remember their courage. Remember their sacrifice," Puida told the audience.

The Rev. Allen Siebold, of the United Methodist Church, read from "A Prayer for September 11," by Waide Riddle.

"When love is the example," he read. "When mercy is granted, when courage is respected
See Portland Remembers, page 22

Remembering a Family Man and Baseball Fan

By Toriana Williams

Twenty-five years after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, people in Marlborough still remember James "Jim" Hobin for more than the way he died; they remember how he lived.

They remember a father walking off a baseball field with his son. They remember a coach who helped young players grow. They remember a neighbor who was ready to work, whether the job meant mowing grass, fixing a field or helping run a youth sports league.

Hobin was 47 when he died in the World Trade Center attack. He was a vice president of Global Power for Marsh McLennan in Hartford and made regular trips to the company's offices in New York. On 9/11, he was at the World Trade Center when the attack happened.

But in Marlborough, his name is closely tied to family, baseball and the children he coached.

A Coach, Neighbor and Friend

Thomas Reiser lived down the street from Hobin and coached with him. Reiser's last memory of Hobin is one he has never forgotten.

The two men had been at a baseball game the day before the attack. Hobin was coaching third base, and his son Derrick, known as DJ, was playing.

"I was heading off the field, and Jim was right there in front of me with his son walking shoulder to shoulder off the field," recalled Reiser.

That moment Reiser happened to witness became a lasting memory: a father and son leaving the field together.

Reiser said Hobin was passionate about baseball. He also loved helping the Marlborough Youth Athletic League and making sure the fields were reading for the kids.

"He was a go-getter. He was the type of guy that didn't have any trouble putting on his work gloves and clothes and going to work," Reiser said.

If the field needed work, Hobin helped. If the league needed a leader, he stepped up.

Hobin was deeply involved in MYAL. He coached baseball and basketball and served as both president and vice president of the league at one time. He also helped young athletes as a referee and umpire.

In a letter written after Hobin's passing, Reiser said Hobin was part of a group of people who gave their time to help the next generation.

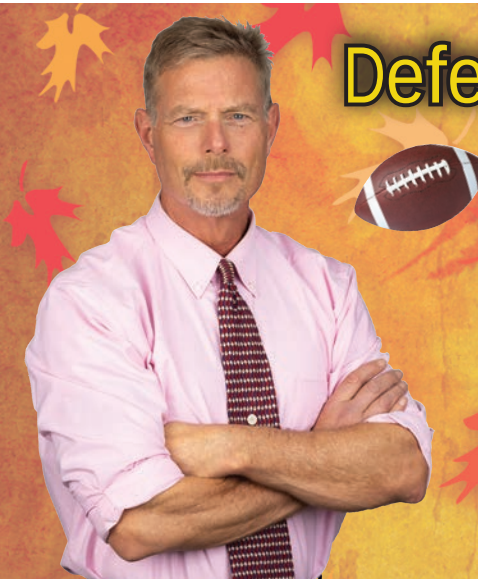
"Today's heroes are all around us," wrote Reiser. He said Hobin was one of those people.

"He became a role model for hundreds of
See Remembering a Family Man, page 28

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Rivereast Standout Athletes of the Week

By Josh Howard

Caiden Rojas – RHAM High School (Soccer): Rojas scored two goals as the Raptors opened the season with a 3-1 home victory over Lewis Mill on Sept. 8. Rojas, a senior captain, was assisted on goals from Braden Devine and Callan Melquist. Cam Fitzgibbons scored the team's third goal, while goalie Will Krajewski made five saves to preserve the victory. Three days later, Rojas struck again - scoring the only goal in a 1-0 win over Rockville as Krajewski was flawless in net to register the shutout. The team next travels to Manchester High School to face the Red Hawks on Saturday, Sept. 19 at 6 p.m.

Ava Ploszay – East Hampton High School (Soccer): Ploszay scored the decisive goal as the Bellringers opened the season with a 1-0 victory over conference rival Old Saybrook at EHHS on Sept. 8. Ploszay, a junior, was assisted on the goal by fellow junior Abby Hambridge. Three

days later, the team improved to 2-0 with a convincing 8-1 at North Branford behind two goals and two assists from Liv Correia. Mia Don-Aroma also netted two goals in the victory. The Bellringers will next host Coginchaug tonight (Friday, Sept. 18) at 4 p.m.

Hayden Burke and Breckin Burke – Portland/Southern Connecticut State University (Cross-Country): Hayden and Breckin Burke, twins brothers and 2026 graduates of Portland High School, made immediate impacts in their collegiate debuts at Southern Connecticut State University. The Burkes helped the Owls placed second overall at the University of Hartford Invitational on Sept. 12. Hayden finished 8th overall with a time of 16:20 to score third for Southern. Breckin closed out the Owls' scoring by placing 11th to finish fifth on the team with a time of 16:30. The brothers were both state and conference champions on the trails and tracks



Caiden Rojas (left) and Will Krajewski have powered RHAM High School boys soccer as the Raptors won their first two game to start the season.

Former Employee Charged with Stealing from AHM

By Toriana Williams

Jennifer Green, a former employee of AHM Youth & Family Services, is facing criminal charges after police investigated missing money at the nonprofit.



Jennifer Green

Green, of Oakdale, faces three charges: first-degree larceny, first-degree computer crime and third-degree identity theft. Court records stated Green worked at AHM for several years and was hired as an accounting assistant in 2019. In 2022, she became an accounts receivable specialist. Her job gave her access to AHM's financial systems and bank accounts.

The case began in July, when AHM employees found a large difference in the amount of preschool tuition the group expected to receive. A review of AHM's QuickBooks records found unusual payments and changes to financial records, according to police.

Investigators then looked at AHM's bank records. The records showed that money from an AHM bank account was sent to a personal Liberty Bank account belonging to Green. A review found 79 similar transactions totaling about \$52,373.

Later, a review found more transactions. The affidavit said the total amount sent to Green's account was about \$55,050.53 between May 2025 and July 2026. Investigators said some of the payments were recorded under the names of

AHM families or clients. The investigation also looked at Green's bank statement. Police said the statements showed money from AHM going into her account, followed by personal spending, cash withdrawals and electronic transfers.

AHM fired Green on July 29, according to records. The organization also shut off her access to its financial and computer systems.

Records state Green told AHM officials that she wanted to make things right. In a text message sent to AHM's executive director, Tressa Giordano, Green allegedly wrote, "I really want to try to make things right because this isn't me and I'm so sorry it came to this. I was desperate when I had the health scare back in September and didn't know what to do."

Giordano told police Green had previously mentioned to her that she had experienced a "medical issue or health scare," according to court records. Giordano said Green "indicated that this was not an excuse but implied it had contributed to her actions," court records state.

In her text to Giordano, Green continued, "I'm really hoping that between you, and the board we can keep this in house and not have to involve any outside authorities because that would be devastating to me. I know this is my fault and I'm not denying that but I want to do whatever I can to make restitution," court documents state.

According to the state judicial website, Green was released on a promise to appear, and was due in court Sept. 17, after press time.

during their time at PHS.

Shane Meyer – Bacon Academy (Soccer): Meyer had a hand in both of the Bobcats points, dishing out a pair of assists during the Bobcats 2-1 victory over Windham in the season opener on Sept. 10. Meyer, a junior, assisted on goals from Manuel Troendle and Zach Chiarella as Bacon opened the season with a conference vic-

tory. The Bobcats now start a four-game road trip, beginning in Waterford this Saturday, Sept. 19 at 10 a.m.

To nominate an athlete as a Standout of the Week, email joshhowardsports@gmail.com. Please include as many details about the athlete or performance as possible.



Saturday, September 26
9:00am - 3:00pm

59th Annual
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RE-24-26

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

Lebanon Historical Society Antique Show

Fall colors, antiques, chowder and pie all enjoyed outside on the Lebanon Green as the Lebanon Historical Society celebrates 59 years of its outdoor antique show on Saturday, Sept. 26, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Up to 60 dealers will offer antiques and collectibles to buyers who come from around the state and throughout southern New England. The event started in 1966 as a money-making effort to fund society programs and, eventually, to help pay for the land needed to build a museum. Today, the Antique Show is still the Lebanon Historical Society's largest and most important fundraising event with proceeds supporting school programs, exhibits and historical presentations.

Some dealers have been participating for many years, but new-to-the-field dealers are

added every year. Visitors can expect to find everything from 19th century furniture to vintage tools and from traditional pottery to textiles, glassware and jewelry.

Admission is \$8. Lunch and snacks are available for purchase all day, including homemade chowders, sandwiches and grilled burgers and dogs, and end it all with a slice of homemade pie.

Parking is free and the event goes on rain or shine.

For more information contact the Lebanon Historical Society 860-642-6579 or museum@historyoflebanon.org or visit on the web at www.historyoflebanon.org.

Dealer spaces still available, at \$90 for a 20' x 24' space. Call 860-423-8876 or 860-642-6579 if interested.

Needleman Endorsed by Realtors, Firefighters

CT Realtors and the Uniformed Professional Firefighters Association of Connecticut are the latest organizations to endorse state Sen. Norm Needleman (D-33) in his bid for a fifth term.



Needleman

The 12-town 33rd Senate District includes the Riverast towns of Colchester, East Hampton and Portland.

Needleman welcomed both endorsements.

"CT Realtors plays a daily role in supporting the people and needs of Connecticut, as new home construction can be life-changing for families and communities alike," said Needleman. "We need to build more homes, protect our real estate industry and continue fighting for our state to remain successful and a place where anyone can thrive. Real estate plays a vital part to deliver for our state."

Needleman, who is Senate Vice Chair of the Planning and Development Committee, has voted for legislation seeking to improve current policies making it easier to build homes

and bills protecting members of the public from predatory insurance policies, as well as providing property tax relief for homeowners.

Needleman was also appreciative of the Uniformed Professional Firefighters Association of Connecticut endorsement.

"Firefighting in Connecticut is a dangerous challenge, and I am continually impressed and inspired by the continued efforts of our hard-working firefighters who charge toward fire while the rest of us flee," said Sen. Needleman. "I will join my colleagues in the Senate and continue providing them the safety and fiscal support they need should I have the opportunity to continue serving in Hartford."

In his time as a senator, Needleman has voted to expand state firefighter cancer relief programs, expand first responder access to treatment for post-traumatic stress injury and support firefighter health plans. He has also spoken about the need for firefighting and EMS support and resources, especially for volunteer fire departments and rural areas.

In addition to Colchester, East Hampton and Portland, the 33rd District also covers Chester, Clinton, Deep River, East Haddam, Essex, Had-dam, Lyme, Old Saybrook and Westbrook.

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RE9-18-26

From the Editor’s Desk Observations & Ruminations

By Mike Thompson

Seen any unusual-looking bugs lately? Okay, so that might not be the best pick-up line – though I’ve heard worse – but these days, it’s a question worth asking yourself. The invasive spotted lanternfly is spreading across the state, and those little things pose serious risks. *CT News Junkie* reported last month that the insect has been detected in 153 of Connecticut’s 169 towns. According to the news site, state agricultural experts say the bugs feed on over 70 different types of plants, have no natural predators, and pose a serious threat to crops and trees.

According to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), the invasive tree-of-heaven is the preferred host plant for the spotted lanternfly, but the insect also feeds on a wide range of crops and plants, including grapes, apples, walnuts, hardwood trees, and – if you’re a beer fan, this is especially alarming – hops.

Again, there are no natural predators, so state officials have taken to encouraging residents to simply squash a spotted lanternfly if they see one.

What do they look like, you ask? According to UConn, adult spotted lanternflies are about one inch long with black abdomens with yellow bands. The forewings are tan or gray with black spots. The hindwings – only visible when the wings are open – are red, black and white

Of course, with the way these suckers seem to be spreading, “just stomp on it!” might not be the most effective strategy, unless you’re able to spend your entire day outdoors, bug-hunting.

So, Sen. Richard Blumenthal was in East Hartford last month to announce he’s proposing the Spotted Lanternfly Research and Development Act, which, according to *CT News Junkie*, would designate \$15 million to \$20

million in federal funds for researching and developing strategies to eliminate spotted lanternflies – primarily targeting the northeastern region of the country where their spread is most prevalent.

Is that a lot of money to devote towards killing insects? Perhaps, but Blumenthal said these little buggers pose a real threat.

“Our vineyards, our hopfields, our wine and brewery industries are very much threatened by the spotted lantern fly,” Blumenthal said, according to *CT News Junkie*. “We need to counter it with research, development, [and] citizen action.”

Who knows what will happen with those proposed federal funds. In the meantime, local folks and organizations are stepping up.

Next week, the Colchester Garden Club will offer a program on the spotted lanternfly. The program will be held Tuesday, Sept. 22, at 6 p.m., in Norton Room A at Cragin Memorial Library, 8 Linwood Ave.

At the program, Dr. Gale Ridge of the Connecticut Agriculture Experiment Station (CAES) will be speaking about the spotted lanternfly and other invasive insects.

There are also steps you can take on your own to help stop the spread. According to CAES, when you travel, check your vehicle and any outdoor items you are moving (grills, outdoor furniture, landscaping supplies, mowers, sporting equipment, etc.). Check for spotted lanternfly egg masses from September through June. Remember that egg masses may be underneath your vehicle or in your wheel wells.

During all other times of the year, check for nymphs and adults, and keep your windows rolled up when you park. Don’t store things or park under infested trees, and don’t move firewood.

Also, when you walk around your property, **Editor’s Desk continued on page 6**

Bulletin Board

From time to time I receive a letter or a phone call urging me to reexamine my cynical (others might say “realistic”) take on modern life and inviting me to re-embark on the sea of our mutual existence with a new attitude reflecting a warmer, fuzzier me. My critics point out that we are all passengers on the same planetary vessel and, in a gently condescending way, suggest that I should open my mind (and my heart) because the cure for all annoyances can be found in mutual love and understanding.

I appreciate this well-meaning advice, mostly because there’s so little to laugh about these days.

What? You were expecting me to break out into a heartfelt rendition of the Kumbaya song? It seems to me that if my critics were as inclusive as they pretend to be, they’d tolerate my recalcitrant ways and leave me alone to spread my bile and venom as I please. If I’m willing to risk being reborn as a cockroach, that’s my business.

Most of us, of course, fall somewhere in between the extremes of virtuous saint and psychotic killer. As the verse from a popular song observes, “I want to do right, but not right now.” We’re not exactly angels, but neither are we necessary well past the last exit on the Highway to Hell.

With this in mind, I have devised a simple true/false test that may help you determine just where you fit in the scheme of things as we muddle are way through this confusing world.

- True or false: I have never kicked my lawnmower or repeatedly struck it with a blunt object when it obstinately refused to start, nor have I ever threatened to set it on fire or accused it of having a malevolent intelligence.
- True or false: I have never tearfully informed young college kids who come to the door collecting donations for the Save the Whales Campaign that whales killed my little niece while she was playing in the sandbox.
- True or false: The statement, “the children are our future” makes me anxious and afraid.
- True or false: I don’t care about the future of Social Security as long as the money lasts as long as I do.
- True or false: Sometimes when I see people talking on their cell phones while driving, I want to force them over a cliff because they are a danger to other motorists.
- True or false: Because I am an imbecile, I believe it when politicians say they have my best interests at heart.
- True or false: People who chirp, “it takes a village to raise a child” just want you to watch their kids while they go out drinking.
- True or false: I like dogs more than I do most people.
- True or false: I have never called my boss from the beach and said I won’t be in to work today because I have polio.
- True or false: The “Do Not Call List” is a shining example of government efficiency.
- True or false: I really, truly care what some self-important Hollywood star who never finished high school thinks about American foreign policy.
- True or false: Sometimes when people say “Have a nice day,” I just want to slap them.
- True or false: When charitable organizations looking for donations say I can save the world for the price of a cup of coffee a day, I say I’d rather have the coffee.
- True or False: When I talk to God, it’s usually because it’s the bottom of the 9th inning and the Red Sox need a couple of runs.

Answers: FTTTTFTFTFTTT. Rating: 0-3 wrong: We may be soulmates. 4-7 wrong: Not stellar, but not hopeless. More than 7 wrong: You are made of sugar. Stay out of the rain (yes, that wet stuff falling out of the sky).

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.



Workin’ at the Car Wash... All are invited to come and support RHAM volleyball at its annual Car Wash Fundraiser on Sunday, Sept. 20, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., at 10 Main St. in Hebron. Donations will be accepted. All proceeds go to Friends of RHAM Volleyball. Rain date is Sunday, Sept. 27.

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

Rosenfeld for Education

To the Editor:

Public education is growing more complex as our understanding of how children learn continues to grow. Special education is critical to meeting the needs of more students than ever, and that carries a greater responsibility from the State and federal government to fund growing costs.

Meghan Rosenfeld represents a wonderful chance for East Hampton, East Haddam, and Salem to elect a candidate who understands the nuances and challenges of public education. She will work with lawmakers to ensure that our towns receive their fair share of funding, in addition to being an important voice on policy.

Meghan’s background makes her the ideal education candidate. Not only is she the mother of six children, but she also has a master’s degree in educational leadership with a specialization in neurodiversity. There is no one more qualified to help the State navigate special education challenges than Meghan.

She understands that the policy decisions made in the legislature impact the teaching and learning in classrooms across Connecticut, including East Hampton, where school funding has become such a hot button issue. She will also work with fellow legislators to improve the Educational Cost Sharing system to provide equitable resources to all public school districts, including small and rural communities.

For our schools to succeed, we need leaders at every level willing to fight for all students, regardless of their background or income levels. Meghan Rosenfeld is that leader for the 34th District. Please join me in voting for her on Tuesday, Nov. 3.

Sincerely,
Carol Williams – East Hampton

Steve Weir:

A Personal Perspective

To the Editor:

As a fellow Hebron resident, I’ve gotten to know Steve Weir as more than just our state representative. He’s someone who has put down roots here, raised his family here, built businesses here, and continues to be involved in our community.

What I appreciate about Steve is that he shows up. He listens, he makes himself available, and he’s willing to have conversations with people – even when they don’t agree with him. That matters to me.

Steve brings a lot of real-world experience to his work in Hartford. He’s been a police officer, a small-business owner, an employer, a farmer, and a community volunteer. He understands what it means to work hard, meet a payroll, raise a family, and deal with the challenges that come with running a business.

I also think it’s important to look at what someone actually does rather than what people say about them. Steve has a record of being present, doing the work, and staying connected to the people he represents. The Connecticut General Assembly currently lists him as the 55th District representative and Ranking Member of the Labor and Public Employees Committee.

For me, that’s what matters most. I don’t expect to agree with anyone on every issue. But I do value someone who works hard, listens, and stands behind his decisions.

I’m proud to support Steve Weir, and I’m glad he’s representing our community.

Angela Corentin – Amston

Note: Corentin is a member of the Hebron Republican Town Committee but said she is writing as an individual.

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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 regarding 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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Signs

To All Residents of All Towns:

The election season is upon us. There will be many political signs out on lawns and roadways. Please do not destroy, damage or remove them from where they are. If you do not agree with the political sign or person who is on the sign then show your support to your person or political beliefs by voting for them. Doing anything to a sign nowadays could be caught on video or ring cameras and police could be knocking at your door. Support your party, political ideas and candidates by voting, not attacking signs. Thank you in advance for your understanding.

Carol Barton – Andover

Vote for Elle Paul

To the Editor:

As I considered voting for the General Assembly’s 55th district Representative, Steve Weir or Ellen Paul, I did my assessment. What does the character of each candidate reveal, the vital component for anyone seeking to be public servants? There are letters praising Weir as a nice guy and dedicated. I have enough life experience to know that “nice” and “dedicated” tell me nothing about character.

I have voted for Republicans and Democrats based on character alone. Do I trust them? Are their values aligning with mine? Trustworthy? Committed to the people, especially the least of them, as Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount. And a record of effective service.

Ellen Paul has a life of service, from serving on US Representative Joe Courtney’s staff to managing a public library to directing a non-profit for libraries, accomplishing non-partisan legislative victories in this latter role for the libraries.

Transparency. Ellen’s organization must be transparent to receive financial support.

Steve can talk about being hard-working and independent. So what. That’s a cliché line. Our district doesn’t need a Lone Ranger. Our towns need bi-partisan and broadly collaborative representation.

I choose Ellen Paul. Effective public service. Working for the least of us. Bipartisan. Transparent.

Vote for Ellen Paul.

Dave Porteous – Marlborough

Ziobron the Smart Choice

To the Editor:

This is an easy choice for all of us. Vote to send Melissa Ziobron to represent us again in Hartford. She did an outstanding job for us last time and we need her again. We need her to fight the tax hikes and unaffordable mandates coming from the tax and spend one party crowd in Hartford. Unless we stand up with Melissa, Connecticut will continue to be one of the highest taxed states in the country.

Our schools rank poorly, our roads are bad and businesses don’t choose our state because of the policies coming from Hartford. We can choose to continue the decline with another Democrat or we can choose the smart choice of Melissa Ziobron for state rep.

Dr. Richard Brown – East Hampton

Note: Brown is a member of the East Hampton Republican Town Committee.

Weir Shows Up

To the Editor:

I have known Steve Weir for more that 25 years, going back to 1999 when Steve and his wife Allegra bought property in Hebron and my company poured the foundation for their new home.

Over the years, I have gotten to know Steve not just through business, but simply by being involved in the same community. I have been a longtime member of the Hebron Lions Club, and if you spend enough time volunteering and attending events around Hebron, you get to know the people who consistently show up. Steve is one of those people.

Our families have crossed paths in many ways over the years. My wife Mary works at RHAM and works at the RHAM girls’ volleyball games where Steve and his family have been staples. Steve also has volunteered at RHAM career days, talking with students about careers and sharing his experiences as a local business man. That may seem like small things, but I think it says alot about a person.

Hebron has been my home for a long time. I care about this town and I believe there is value in having a state representative who genuinely knows the community and has been part of it for decades.

Steve doesn’t just represent our towns in Hartford, he’s part of our community. He shows up, he listens, and hasn’t forgotten the people and organizations he represents.

After knowing Steve for more than two decades, I am pleased to support him for another term as our state representative.

Bob Schadtle – Hebron

The Advocate we Deserve

To the Editor:

While high-profile races like the governor and Congress get the headlines, our General Assembly election will play an important role in advocating for tax relief where it is needed most: the educational cost sharing grant, which has been stagnant for more than a decade.

This approaching legislature represents the best chance in years for meaningful change to the ECS formula – the process by which Connecticut determines educational aid to cities and towns. The State has established a task force to address the issue, heeding the call of communities large and small who have lobbied for fairness. In East Hampton’s case, the public schools lose out on more than \$2 million annually simply because the ECS formula has not been adjusted for inflation. That funding would have made a huge difference in the referendum battle that was waged throughout the summer.

The 34th District of East Hampton, East Haddam and Salem needs an advocate not only willing to provide a strong voice, but to also work with other small-town representatives to ensure that rural Connecticut is not ignored.

Meghan Rosenfeld represents that voice and that collaboration. She is a champion of seniors and education alike, understanding that a healthy school system benefits an entire community. She understands that the education burden needs to stop shifting so heavily on property taxpayers and that the state must be held accountable for its commitment.

To get to know Meghan is to understand that she is dedicated to her principles and believes strongly that government should provide fair opportunities to all, regardless of income. Small towns are not an afterthought, and she will fight hard in Hartford to ensure that the East Hampton, East Haddam, and Salem receive the resources we deserve.

I am proud to support Meghan and look forward to her voice and advocacy as we seek to rectify the ECS formula and improve small town life in Connecticut. Please join me on Tuesday, Nov. 3 by voting for her and the entire Row A slate.

Sincerely,

Matt Engelhardt – East Hampton

Note: Engelhardt is a member of the East Hampton Board of Education and East Hampton Democratic Town Committee, but said he is writing independently.

Endorsing Ziobron

To the Editor:

I am endorsing Melissa Ziobron for state representative. During her previous time as state representative, I reached out to her as a resource on various issues. She always responded quickly and with great information. She constantly amazed me and I’m sure will do so again. Melissa cares deeply for the environment and is herself an avid gardener and birder. She works tirelessly as a fiscal conservative, keeps true to her values, and is a great asset to our state. When she is elected, I am confident she will again become that much more valuable to the state.

Please vote for Melissa Ziobron Nov. 3, 2026.

Lori Wilcox – East Hampton

Dementia Talks No. 71

To the Editor:

Mom almost died the morning of Aug. 31st, just weeks ago. And so much has happened since.

Why? Because of dangerously low blood sugar. Why? It’s complicated and we are still processing the situation in our minds.

On that Monday, Mom was transported to the ER then admitted to ICU. She moved to a regular room on day five of her six-day stay in the hospital. My sister and I were at her bedside 24/7. Taking turns holding her hand, comforting her every hour her finger was pricked for blood, always being a familiar face when she opened her eyes regardless of the time of day or night.

We advocated for her. We collaborated with the clinical staff. We learned from experts in their field. We called hospice. We coordinated care, and I tried to call a funeral home but just couldn’t complete the call.

For six days we didn’t know if she would stabilize, so we accepted that she might not. There were so many ups and downs. Ultimately, on the Saturday, the attending physician gave the green light for Mom’s discharge.

My husband, sister and I already agreed that she would not go back to the memory care community; and instead, she came home to our house in Hebron. Were we ready, no. Will we make it work, yes.

We will not travel this journey alone. We have hospice at the table, have private duty aides assisting and friends pitching in. A routine is forming. And Mom has bounced back with

See Letters, page 6

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The “East of the River” Real Estate Report

How Accurate Is Zillow in Our Area?

I get asked about Zillow’s Zestimate all the time: “Is that really what my house is worth?” My answer is that it’s a useful tool and a good starting point—but it isn’t a substitute for actually evaluating the property.

Over the years, I’ve seen homes sell \$100,000 above their Zestimate. I’ve seen others sell \$100,000 below it. And I’ve seen homes sell almost exactly at the Zestimate.

Why such a difference?

Zillow’s algorithm has access to a tremendous amount of data, including public records and comparable sales. What it can’t fully evaluate is what I see when I walk through a property.

It can’t truly judge the utility and privacy of the lot, the condition of the kitchen, roof or mechanicals, or how buyers will react to the layout and overall condition.

There’s another factor an algorithm can’t account for: how the home is brought to market. Pricing strategy, presentation, marketing exposure, how offers are managed, and ultimately how the sale is negotiated can all influence the final result.

That’s why two seemingly similar homes—even with similar online estimates—can ultimately sell for very different prices.

In my experience, I’ve seen Zestimates differ from actual market value by 20% or more. That doesn’t mean Zillow is bad at what it does. It means automated valuations have limitations.

So check your Zestimate. It’s useful information and a reasonable starting point. But when making a major financial decision about selling your home, don’t make that decision based on an algorithm alone.

Market Snapshot – Past Week

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

Single-Family Homes

6 homes sold

Average sale price: \$532,660

Average sale-to-list ratio: 101%

Average days on market: 20 days

Median days on market: 10 days

Condos

1 home sold

Average sale price: \$250,000

Average sale-to-list ratio: 102%

Average days on market: 10 days

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

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★ *Letters, cont. from page 5*

proper nutrition, full engagement and 1x1 care. We walk daily, laugh, play games, watch birds, pet the pups and enjoy each moment as it comes. Yes, Mom almost died. And again, she taught us valuable lessons. We know this is one step closer to her joining dad high above on a fluffy cloud. For now, we care for her, until she chooses her day.

I am glad we are not alone.

With peace and kindness,
Tonya Maurer – Amston
Alzheimer’s Hotline 1-800-272-3900

We Need Rosenfeld

To the Editor:

For the life of me, I can’t understand how Melissa Ziobron can be running as a change candidate. She has already served in the seat and was succeeded by an even worse candidate, Irene Haines; collectively they have done little to nothing to help the residents of the 34th District, other than toeing a hard party line. It is evident that both of these people have chosen to be party people, with Ziobron even having a job with the state Republican committee in Hartford. Republican or Democratic or unaffiliated, all deserve a representative that thinks of them as people rather than just votes. We need a leader of the 34th District who will work for us, the people of Connecticut and she is Meghan Rosenfeld.

While we cannot change what is happening nationally, we can change who represents us locally and use them as the foundation to build a stronger community, a community that wel-

comes everybody, a community that fights for everybody, a community that strives to be better by being better. We will help our neighbors, locally, nationally and internationally by electing leaders who share these same ideologies. Those leaders you will find on Row A of your ballot on Nov. 3. Please join me in voting for Meghan Rosenfeld for state representative and give her the opportunity to set the foundation of prosperity and progress.

Rick Wanat – East Hampton

Weir is Focused

To the Editor:

During Steve Weir’s time as our state representative, he has remained intently focused on the issues that impact Connecticut’s taxpayers and businesses.

You will likely hear other candidates, including Steve’s challenger, saying that they will go on the offensive to address issues with Washington and even matters that are driven by foreign affairs. However, our state representatives and state senators are limited on what they can do on a national level. So, when you hear a candidate for state office bemoaning what’s going on in Washington, it tells you that those candidates are coming forward with a personal agenda that is simply not focused on us, right here in Connecticut.

So, on Nov. 3rd, I ask you to support the candidates who will be laser focused on issues that affect us right here in Connecticut. Trust me when I say there is plenty to deal with right here at home, without getting distracted by national issues.

I am voting for Steve Weir on Election Day. Please join me and let’s keep Steve on the job in Hartford.

Ken Hjulstrom – Marlborough

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

Memory Connections Group

To the Editor:

The Portland Senior Center is proud to offer The Memory Connections Group, a monthly gathering for individuals living with early-stage dementia or Alzheimer’s disease and the person they choose to bring with them, whether that is a spouse, family member, friend, or care partner.

The Memory Connections Group is about much more than a diagnosis. It is a place to come together, connect with others, share experiences, learn, laugh, and feel supported by people who may be navigating similar changes and challenges.

Each month, we gather for lunch, conversation, and a variety of projects and activities. Just as important is the opportunity to brainstorm together, exchange ideas and practical strategies, ask questions, and learn from the experiences of others. Sometimes simply sitting at a table with people who understand what you are going through can make a tremendous difference.

Memory changes can sometimes feel isolating, not only for the individual experiencing them, but also for the person walking alongside them. Our goal is to provide a comfortable and welcoming space where both can feel included, supported, and connected while continuing to enjoy meaningful experiences together.

The Memory Connections Group is a reminder that while every journey may look different, no one has to navigate it alone.

If you or someone you care about is experiencing early memory changes, dementia, or Alzheimer’s disease, we invite you to learn more about joining us at the Portland Senior Center.

To learn more, please call the Portland Senior Center or email myself, the director, at selliot@portlandct.org.

The Memory Connections Group Connection – conversation, friendship, learning, and support, together.

Sarah Elliott-Caratasios, LMSW
Senior Services Administrator/
Municipal Agent
Portland Waverly Senior Center

Support Ellen Paul

To the Editor:

This letter is in support of Ellen Paul for the 55th House District. Ellen is bright, energetic, and serious in her quest for the 55th District. Ellen is currently the executive director of the Connecticut Library Consortium. The CLC serves a variety of libraries across the state combining library resources that help your local library continue to provide services that the community wants. The agency has saved the taxpayers around \$7 million annually.

When Ellen is knocking on doors, she genuinely listens to what the people are concerned about across the district. She takes her time to interact with them. This has been a huge task for Ellen (she started in March) and she is diligent about it. She has personally knocked on over 2,000 doors. There are common themes when Ellen is speaking with and listening to voters. One of the chief themes is to find common ground between the parties. In her work at the CLC she works with countless people to resolve challenges and find the common ground for the benefit of all. She will bring this talent to the House.

Ellen’s ideas are noteworthy: energy policies that make sense and help beleaguered ratepayers, affordable housing for the middle class – firefighters, and young families, keeping Eastern Connecticut green, modernizing the Education Cost Sharing Formula so it delivers tax relief to the taxpayers, and responsible technology with appropriate guardrails.

Ellen has lived in eastern Connecticut all her life. She is aware of the needs our region has. Ellen lives in our district with her husband and two wonderful daughters. She will fight for you in the House when she wins in November.

Please vote for Ellen on Nov. 3rd.

Maryanne Leichter – Amston

Seven Letters, One Vote

To the Editor:

Last week’s *Rivereast* carried seven letters for Steve Weir, five from Hebron and two from Marlborough. They describe a man who answers his phone, helps a neighbor corral loose cows, and stepped in for a young soldier after his father died. I do not doubt a word of it.

Six of the seven do not name a single vote he has cast.

The seventh does, and I want to thank Cheryl Lage of Amston for it. She is the first Weir supporter I have seen take up an actual vote and make a case for it. Her account is that the budget landed after midnight, hundreds of pages long, carrying items that had never been properly debated, so he voted no. She adds that he was not voting against our towns getting the money, that he was in favor of it.

That last part is where it comes apart. A legislator has one way to be in favor of something, and it is the vote. Take her account as given: 48 Republicans faced the same stack of paper under the same clock, and 27 voted ‘yes.’ The bill passed 127 to 21 and carried \$630,000 in new aid to the five 55th district towns. It came home because they voted ‘yes.’

Reasons explain a vote. They do not stand in for it. Nearly every bill is a package, and every member weighs the parts they dislike against the rest. That weighing is not a technicality that gets a vote out from under him. It is the vote. On this one he decided his objections outweighed \$630,000 for his own towns.

Ms. Lage also suggests that anyone troubled by a vote should call and ask. Fair, and people have. David Olivo of Amston wrote here two weeks ago that he had several pleasant conversations with our representative. The votes came out no, all the same.

A correction of my own: in August I wrote that 28 of 49 Republicans backed that budget. One member sat in the wrong caucus in my data. The right count is 27 of 48. I apologize.

One letter noted that several Weir critics are active in town committees. True, the paper prints that under my name every time; party work is why I have the roll calls at hand.

More letters are welcome. Pick a vote and make the case for it.

Sincerely,
Scott Sauyet – Andover

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

Editor’s Desk continued from page 4

CAES encourages you to check for egg masses on trees, cement blocks, rocks, and any other hard surface. If you find egg masses on your property from September to May, you can scrape them off using a plastic card or putty knife. Scrape them into a bag or container filled with rubbing alcohol or hand sanitizer and keep them in this solution permanently. Egg masses can also be smashed, CAES said.

But this strategy also has its limits, CAES cautioned. The agency said some eggs will be unreachable at the tops of trees and in other

well-hidden areas, and they could also be located throughout your neighborhood and community. After all, walking into a stranger’s yard and staring at their trees might not be the best way to introduce yourself to the neighbors.

For more information on the spotted lanternfly, visit portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Forestry/Forest-Protection/Spotted-Lanternfly.

See you next week.

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Ziobron Understands Our Concerns

Letter to the Editor:

Many readers will recognize the name of Melissa Ziobron for her outstanding work serving as our state representative for six years. Melissa continually attended community meetings to get feedback from her constituents about their concerns. She completely committed herself to her work in the state legislature and is lauded by her peers for her budget acumen and her willingness to fight for lower taxes and responsible government. She was instrumental in instituting a constitutional spending cap in the passage of the 2017 bipartisan budget agreement.

In 2017, she was named Legislator of the Year by the Connecticut Citizens Defense League. In 2018 she was recognized by the Connecticut Land Conservation Council for her leadership in conservation efforts throughout the state. Melissa is now running again for the 34th District State Representative, currently held by Irene Haines who is retiring. We need her sound representation in Harford.

Please vote for Melissa in the forthcoming election. She understands our affordability, social, and quality of life concerns and will continue to work tirelessly on our behalf.

Julie Ciucias – East Hampton

A Vote for Melissa Means Fiscal Responsibility

To the Editor:

When Melissa Ziobron decided to run again to represent the 34th District in our state House, she committed to bringing radical transparency to our state budget process and expressed concern about the callous approach to spending other people’s hard-earned money. A perfect example is the 1 % meal tax.

The next time you go out to eat in Connecticut, check the tax on your bill. A 1% meal tax is added, bringing the sales tax to 7.35%. Over Republican opposition, the Democrats pushed it through, promising that the money would go back to cities and towns to promote tourism and support local communities. That promise was never kept. Since 2019, the over \$500 million collected has gone straight to the general fund. Cities and towns, the tourism budget and small businesses got nothing.

Meanwhile, we have a lack of state funding to our schools through the Education Cost Sharing (ECS), where the funding formula has not changed since 2013 to account for inflation. The result is pressure to increase our property taxes.

Melissa Ziobron brings common sense, transparency and independent thinking and will make a positive difference in Hartford. She cares about our communities, will listen carefully to our concerns, and will be an independent voice for us in Hartford.

Linda Ursin – East Hampton

Only Time Will Tell

To the Editor:

We can develop a plan or plan to develop. Either way, roads and wetland disruptions needn’t happen. Repeatedly the plan has been argued to grow sustainability through ecotourism, in Hebron, on the old Horton Land, aka 17 Kinney Rd. Many people in town fully support this ideology. However, as we hear, even on social media, other folks push back saying development would be better. But what kind of development and are you sure? Roads, drains, salts, impervious surfaces, lawns and destruction of historic property, trees and groundwater, on a high water table, doesn’t sound like lower taxes. Its sounds like higher risks that come at a premium.

The 2003 STEAP Funding report, for JH-Bldv, specifically states warnings about what is dumped into this watershed land. That report referenced the ERT environmental report, circa June 2000, concerning the Raymond Brook Watershed. A property which sits between Ted’s IGA and the Marsh. Should we listen to the reports? Historic reports for JHBlvd were, apparently, lost or ignored and Hebron went ahead tearing down the old house where CVS presently sits. Now road salts and tannins, from chopped trees, are slowly leaching into the soils and storm drains on JHBlvd. I wonder where those drains, drain?

Recently, I was reminded that things can be legal without being just or moral, see Jackson, Mississippi’s water situation. Is ripping up 17 Kinney, and the Pendleton property, long term planning or a power grab? How will altering those landscapes limit taxes? Will the taxes, for these roads and developments, off-set the environmental damages they may cause? Where is the supporting documentation? How will losing our natural resources benefit taxpayers?

On Sept. 9, 2026 an episode of Digging in the

Dirt, WPKN Radio, really hit home. Two well-spoken professionals discussed the downside of ignoring nature and the upside of paying attention. One discussed lawns, the other, oak trees. In both cases doing the right thing is more affordable both now and in the long run. Let Nature work for us and stop working against her. If preserving the RBWatershed supports safe water, wildlife habitats, low impact trails, historic preservation and a chance to continue helping farmers, while costing the town nothing, then actually generates income for businesses, why develop plans that damage the property? Why disrupt vast expanses of vital wetlands? Are the experts wrong? Only time will tell. #save17

Jean Tulimieri – Amston

DPWAC Update

To the Editor:

We are in a holding pattern on a couple of items. They are contaminated soils near the base of our old capped landfill and of course a referendum.

The contaminated soils have been reported to DEEP as required. We have asked and received from the town council approval of the monies to do the necessary site borings. This is to determine the extent of the contaminated area, which will in turn determine what if any remediation will be required by D.E.E.P.. This money was already factored in by the DPWAC as part of the initial package that was put out to bid as a precaution, knowing that the OCR site was previously a “dump” and fearing that there would be contaminated soils.

I have discussed in the past an “a la carte” type vote where we the residents can choose what portion or portions of the OCR site we will ultimately rebuild. These costs were broken out as:

Leave the transfer station as is and remove and replace all of the other buildings. At a 2.4-million-dollar cost reduction.

Remove the existing dog kennel and cold storage building, (rebuilding only the cold storage building as it is incorporated into the new DEEP-approved salt storage building). Not rebuilding the dog kennel at a 2.5-million-dollar cost reduction.

If we do not rebuild the kennel, we as a town would have to subcontract that service out. That

cost could run us somewhere around 50,000 to 60,000 dollars annually. After discussing this with our animal control officer (ACO), I believe we still are required as a town to have ACO even if we do not have a kennel/pound. There are multiple ideas of Hebron retaining the kennel, and sharing with surrounding towns, that currently outsource, as an income source. Andover, Colchester and Glastonbury are possible towns that might be considered and might be beneficial to them as well.

The DPWAC has provided all of this information to the Town Council and ultimately, they will put forth a referendum for the public to vote on. Please reach out to our Town Council and share your thoughts on the matter.

Please as always, come to a meeting, send questions to: dpwac@hebronct.gov and be informed. Our next meeting is this coming Monday, Sept. 21, at the Hebron Town Hall, lower level, 6:30 p.m. I hope to see you there.

Sincerely,
Todd Habicht, Vice Chairman
Hebron DPWAC

Answer Us, Steve

To the Editor:

Recent letters endorsing state Rep. Steve Weir have repeated some comments that concern me greatly. One is his often stated 100% attendance, and the writer says, “...showing up is half the battle.” What about the other half? What about substance! What about studying both the content and the constituents he represents, their needs and preference, regardless of party?

We have seen that Steve Weir has voted no, even in opposition to his own party let alone on bills with strong bipartisan support. The letter writer says there are “other things” in the bills and you can “contact Steve and he will tell you why he voted no.” It does not appear that the writer knows why – only that she likes Steve and trusts he must have a good reason.

So, I am asking Steve Weir for specifics, now, in this public forum, so we can all understand.

Why specifically did Steve fail to allow a vote on SB274, effectively siding with property owners and not tenants? Why specifically was he in the significant minority to vote against SB1 which would and did bring much needed

\$630,000 into our district? Exactly what did he have against early childhood education funding? We know by now how important it is to children’s growth and development. The old and inequitable school funding formula has needed to be upgraded for years and bring relief to homeowners-why did he vote no? Why did he vote no on renewable energy? Why would he vote ‘no’ on enforcing boating laws, or on having safety fences around swimming pools? And one that I find overwhelming – why on earth did Steve Weir vote no on ending child marriage in Connecticut? The list goes on.

But the folks endorsing Steve believe he has good reasons, and somehow none of them have made it into print. So I am asking Steve. I want to see specific responses, and Rivereast is a good place to see them.

Being friendly, shaking hands, platitudes are not enough. Answer the questions, please, we all deserve to know.

Please read Ellen Paul’s platform, as I did. You will see her experience, her values, and her clearly stated positions. Go to ellenforstaterep.com, and see for yourself why the 55th needs a change.

Ann Terezakis – Marlborough

Note: Terezakis is a member of the Marlborough Democratic Town Committee, but said she is writing as an individual.

A Voice That Makes Us Matter

To the Editor:

What is the role of a representative? To be the voice of the people, and to support legislation that meets their needs. Steve Weir, our representative in the 55th District, has done neither. It’s time for a change!

Our voices matter and Ellen Paul cares a lot about that. She strongly believes in defending Connecticut’s values. Ellen will bring problem-solving skills and common sense to Hartford. Ellen is concerned about homeowners bearing the costs of education and local services. She wants the state to support these costs. Her goal is to modernize the outdated formula used by the state to share in education costs, providing relief for property owners. Currently,

See Letters, page 22



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Colchester Receives \$1.72 Million Grant for Norton Park

By Toriana Williams

After more than a decade of planning, clean-up and hard work, the future of Norton Park is finally moving forward.

Town and state leaders gathered at the former Norton Paper Mill site on Thursday, Sept. 10, to announce a \$1.72 million state grant to help turn the old industrial property into a public park. First Selectman Bernie Dennler, a Democrat, and state Sen. Norm Needleman (D-33) shared the exciting news during a press conference attended by town officials, community members and members of the Norton family.

The funding was approved by the Connecticut State Bond Commission, and it will help pay for the next step of the project after a lot of the site was cleaned of pollution.

The former paper mill has a long history in Colchester. The C.H. Norton Company began operating at the site in 1886, and the mill later closed. The property then sat unused for many years, and a fire destroyed the building 2012.

In 2015, the Norton family sold the property to the town for just one dollar. Since then, town leaders and residents have worked to clean up the land and find a new purpose for it.

Dennler described the project as a large team effort.

“This project has been a relay over the course of over a decade,” he said. He also thanked former first selectmen Stan Soby and Art Shilosky, both Republicans, for their early work in buying the property and removing the old mill ruins.

The cleanup was not easy, according to Dennler. Earlier this year, workers found more oil pollution in the soil than expected. More than 1,700 tons of contaminated soil had to be removed from the site.

The extra work cost more money than town officials had planned to spend, which created a financial issue. While the cleanup was important for public safety and the environment in general, it left the town without enough funds to begin actually building the park.

“The reality is, there was more oil in the ground than we thought, and that meant it cost more. But it also shows how important it was for us to get this done,” Dennler said during the meeting.

He explained that the cleanup was especially important because the property sits near the Jeremy River, which is part of the Salmon River watershed.

“We’ve got a critical watershed right here. It is because of your support that we were able to get those contaminants out of the soil and away from the Jeremy River,” he said.

The cleanup was supported by state agencies, including the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and the Department of Economic and Community Development.

Now, the new grant will allow the town to finally focus on park development.

Dennler shared that the project has faced many delays and uncertain moments. Still, he believes the new funding will help the town complete the vision that it saw years ago.

Town officials hope that the park will be a place for local residents to visit, as well as bring more visitors to the area and help nearby farms and businesses.

Norton Park will be located close to the Air

Deadline Soon for Golf Classic

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

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

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



State Sen. Norm Needleman (D-33), at the podium, First Selectman Bernie Dennler, right, town officials and community members came together on Thursday, Sept. 10, to announce a \$1.72 million grant to aid in the development of Norton Park.

Line Trail, a popular spot for people who walk, run and ride bikes. Dennler also pointed to nearby businesses and farms, including Priam Vineyards, Cato Corner Farm, Savitsky’s Farm and Hop Culture Farms.

The goal is to make the park a place that supports the local economy while giving people a new place in town to just enjoy nature.

“I think the park is going to be a hub of that activity in the future,” said Dennler.

Needleman also praised the project and the people who worked so hard to keep it alive.

“This project represents a significant step for Colchester, taking an unused property and turning it into a beautiful park that will draw residents locally and from afar,” said Needleman.

He said the project showed what can happen when local leaders, state officials and residents work together.

Needleman also spoke about his role in helping the town receive the additional funding. He said helping communities solve problems is an important part of his job.

“One of the best things a legislator can be is constituent services, which involves helping people one on one or helping the towns that he represents,” he said. “Helping the community is my job.”

Members of the Norton family also attended the event. Nan Norton Wasniewski, who sold the land to the town in 2015 and serves on the Norton Park Committee, said she was “excited and happy” to see the project moving forward.

Selectwoman Rosemary Coyle, a Democrat, also shared a few words about the excitement that surrounds future plans.

“It’s really exciting for us to finally see that this is happening,” Coyle said. “It’s happening for the family, it’s happening for the town. These are the kinds of things that bring a community together.”

Shilosky, who helped with the early stages of the project, looked back on the one-dollar sale with pride.

“It was the best dollar I ever spent in my life,” he laughed.

He added that the project would give the community a beautiful park and honor the people who helped make it possible.

Local residents also played an important role. Over the years, residents have donated money to the Norton Park Committee to help keep the project moving during difficult times.

Dennler thanked those donors and said their support made a real and lasting difference.

“We would not be here today if it was not for the many residents who gave to this project over the last decade,” he said.

The town plans to honor some donors with bricks and benches in the finished park.

A final construction timeline has not yet been announced, as the Norton Park Committee had paused some of its work while town officials searched for more funding. Now that the grant has been approved, the committee is expected to resume planning.

Norton Park will now soon be more than a long-running construction project. It’s a chance to turn a damaged piece of town history into a clean and welcoming place for people to gather.

“This is a beautiful location,” said Dennler. “People will have a much greater opportunity to be able to gather together, to celebrate our community history as well, when this is no longer a sand pit with crumbling walls but a park where people can come in and spend time.”

Celebrate Colchester Returns Sept. 19

Celebrate Colchester, a family-friendly community festival, returns 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 games and activities for children and families, DJ Montez, a live concert with Sister Funk, food vendors and sweet treats, giveaways and raffle opportunities, Touch A Truck, a bounce house and a dunk tank.

For more information, call the Colchester Recreation department at 860-537-7297.

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Tea Time with Col. Champion

The Colchester Historical Society will hold Tea Time with Colonel and Mrs. Henry Cham- pion on Sunday, Sept. 27, at 3 p.m., at the Col- chester History Museum (next door to Cragin Library).

This special event offers a unique opportunity to step back in time, allowing you to immerse yourself in the history of Colchester while en- joying teas and sweets.

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, mak- ing it a true family activity. There are no audi- tions, but being able to read music is helpful.

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

Rehearsals are held on Thursdays – choir

All are invited. Attendees are encouraged to don their finest historical attire, no matter the time period.

Space is limited, so reservations are advised to ensure we can accommodate you and your party. RSVP to mail@colchesterhistory.org or 860-537-4230 to indicate how many people are will be coming to the museum.

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 Homecom- ing 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.recdesk. com/Community/Home or call the Recreation Office at 860-537-7297.

Fall Book and Bake Sale

The Friends of Cragin Memorial Library will hold its Fall Book and Bake Sale at Cragin Me- morial Library, 8 Linwood Ave., from Oct. 2 through Oct. 7.

The sale will open Friday, Oct. 2, from 4-7 p.m., with a pre-sale admission charge of \$5 to pick the “cream of the crop.” There is no admis- sion charge from Saturday through Wednesday.

The remaining hours are: Sunday, Oct. 4, from 11 a.m. -3 p.m.; Monday, Oct. 5, and Tues- day, Oct. 6, from 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; and Wednes- day, Oct. 7, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

be a special: fill a box or bag for \$5.

The sale will feature various books – includ- ing large-print books and audiobooks – as well as music, movies, puzzles, and games. Individ- ually-wrapped baked goods will also be for sale.

No debit cards or credit cards accepted. There is an ATM close by, the Friends said.

All proceeds support Library programs that benefit the patrons of The Cragin Memorial Li- brary.

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, house- plants, garden tools, handmade gifts, flower pots, and more. Purchases help the Colchester Garden Club with its programs including com- munity beautification, senior center activities, youth gardening, and public educational pro- grams.

From the State Representative’s Desk

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer! I wanted to pass along a few notes from the Capitol to you.

Colchester: Norton Park Bonding

On Sept. 8th, the Bonding Commission met, and I’m pleased to share that the grant-in-aid was approved by the State Bond Commission for Norton Park. The project includes \$1,727,565 in support for the conver- sion of the old Norton Paper Mill into the new Norton Park. This project has the support of so many people in the area, and I am thankful for the Bond Commission’s action last week. It’s been great watching this park take shape over the last few years, and I’ll be excited to see it continue to come together in the months ahead.

House and Senate Republicans Will Push for Significant Relief at the Pump, Income and Property Tax Relief, Elimination of the Public Benefits Charge, and Lower Health Insurance Premiums

I was proud to stand with my House and Senate Republican colleagues last Wednesday to outline a strong plan to make Connecticut more affordable for hardworking families, seniors, and small businesses. For many years, rising costs have made it harder for residents to keep up with everyday expenses, and it is clear that people need real relief.

That is why Republicans are pushing for meaningful changes that will put money back in your pocket, including income tax relief, property tax relief, elimination of the public benefits charge on electric bills, lower health insurance premiums through association health plans, a one-year gas tax holiday, repeal of the highway use tax, and ending the sales tax on meals sold at grocery stores.

We are committed to advancing practical solutions that reduce costs and make Connecticut a more affordable place to live, work, and raise a family.



DeCaprio

State Rep. Mark DeCaprio
R-48th District

Note: The 48th General Assembly District including the towns of Bozrah, Colchester, Franklin, and parts of Lebanon.

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 pro- gram.

Every year, the St. Joseph’s Polish Society hosts a golf tournament with the proceeds going toward scholarships for high school seniors go- ing into college. This year’s event will be on Sat- urday, 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 p.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.

Fish Fry Fundraiser

Bikers Against Child Abuse, a nonprofit orga- nization of bikers, is hosting its Fish Fry Fund- raiser on Saturday, Sept. 26, at St. Joseph’s Polish Club, 395 S. Main St., from 12:30-5 p.m.

The fundraiser includes fish, burgers, hot dogs, sides, soda and desserts. There will also be music and raffles.

Admission fee is \$25. Kids under 10 are free. For more information, call 860-420-7388.



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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.

Police News

9/4: Cameron Joseph Lafour, 27, of Colchester, was arrested and charged with risk of injury to a child and disorderly conduct, state police said.

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.

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. 21: 9 a.m., Making Memories, Exercise w/ Anne; 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. 22: 9 a.m., Making Memories; 9:45 a.m., Tai Chi; 10:30 a.m., Falls Prevention Trivia; 12:30 p.m., Pinochle; 1 p.m., Cornhole; 1:15 p.m., Bingo, 4-8 p.m., Wellness Nights.

Wednesday, Sept. 23: 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; 11:30 a.m., AARP Driver Safety Class; 1 p.m., Sew-cial Time; 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m., Cardio Drumming.

Thursday, Sept. 24: 9 a.m., Exercise w/ Anne; 10 a.m., Sittercize, Wii Bowling, Card-Making; 11 a.m., Yoga; noon, Sr. Benefits Counseling; 12:05 p.m., Chair Massage; 12:30 p.m., Dominoes, Needlework Club; 4-8 p.m., Wellness Nights; 5 p.m., Disco Dinner Dance.

Friday, Sept. 25: Senior center closed to the public for town-wide staff training.

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

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

Fire & EMS Open House

There will be a Colchester Fire & EMS Open House Sunday, Oct. 4, from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m., at the headquarters station, 52 Old Hartford Rd.

All are invited to come on down and meet your local firefighters and EMS providers, and check out equipment and fire prevention and safety information.

The open house will feature: a vehicle extrication demonstration, fire extinguisher training & demonstration, fire safety and prevention information available, firefighter gear try on, antique fire truck rides, blood pressure screenings, an ambulance tour, Touch-a-Truck, Smokey Bear visit, Gator UTV & Marine units on display, CPR/Lucas Device demonstration, and more.

Also, there will be hot dogs for lunch (while supplies last) and the fire museum (100 South Main St.) will be open for tours.



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Psalm 147:4-5

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God Really Is After All

He is OVER ALL, He is FOR ALL. God is not absent. God is only a step away. Believe and receive Christ Jesus with all your heart today, without delay. “But as many as RECEIVED HIM, to them gave HE power to become the children of God, even to them that BELIEVE ON HIS NAME” (John 1: 12). “HE THAT HATH THE SON HATH LIFE; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the Name of the Son of God; that ye may KNOW that ye have ETERNAL LIFE” (1 John 5:12-13). “And this is LIFE ETERNAL, that they might KNOW THEE the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent” (John 17:3).

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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.

Youth Football Recap

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

Peewee: Both teams battled through pouring rain and played a tremendous game. Despite several Cougars being sidelined due to illness, the team continued to show effort on every play. On defense, Everett Sheehan and Everett Opito delivered standout performances with textbook open-field tackles. Offensively, Mason Marcantonio provided several incredible blocks that helped spring Maxwell Chasse for a touchdown run, followed by a successful point-after by Ze'Kye Merritt. The Cougars now enter their bye week focused on sharpening the details and preparing for a strong second half of the season.

Micros: Battled with a 14-player roster against Tolland. Up front, Bryce Besse, Malachi Scott, and Leonardo Battaglinio anchored the effort. Although the Mighty Micros fell short of victory, the squad took key steps forward in their overall football acumen. Colchester enters its bye week with valuable momentum to build on as they prepare for the second half of the season.

Juniors: Played another JV Blue vs. White intersquad match on Sept. 10, ahead of the Sunday, Sept. 13, game vs. Tolland. The Cougars jumped out to an early lead in the first half

Medium at Polish Club

The St. Joseph's Polish Club at 395 South Main St. will host medium Rebecca Anne LoCicero on Saturday, Oct. 3. Tickets are limited, are \$30 per person and on sale at the club.

Doors open at 6 p.m.; please be seated by 6:45 p.m. so the show can start on time. LoCicero will be at the club from 7-9 p.m.

For more information, call 860-537-2550.

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.

Boy Scout Troop 72 Seeks Members

Boy Scout Troop 72 is actively recruiting new scouts right now. Potential members should be between ages 11-17. Both boys and girls are welcome, as Troop 72 is now a family troop.

The troop features monthly campouts that are selected by the membership. They can include camping, hiking, canoeing, bicycling, archery, tomahawk throwing and outdoor rock climbing.

This Saturday, Sept. 19, from noon-4 p.m., there will be a special activity day from at Lions Pond on Halls Hill Road in Colchester. Events that participants can try include archery, tomahawk throwing, canoeing, stretcher making, tent setup demonstration. A group tug of war will also be featured.

Troop meetings are held on most Mondays at 6:30 p.m. at Colchester Federated Church, 60 Main St. Meetings take place in the meeting room on the ground floor at the back of the church. The driveway entrance is off Linwood Avenue.

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 Stewardship 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.

Celebrate Colchester Returns Sept. 19

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

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

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

Celebrate Colchester emphasizes community involvement by featuring local businesses, nonprofits, schools, clubs, and civic organizations. Vendors are encouraged to create engaging, family-friendly experiences by offering an activity at their booth, helping to make the event interactive for attendees of all ages.

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

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

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

"PET OF THE WEEK"



Willow is an 18 month old Great Pyrenees mix and weighs around 70 pounds. Willow is a puppy at heart. Fetch is her favorite game and anything that involves running around the play yard She walks pretty well on leash and really enjoys her daily walks around the neighborhood. She has lived with cats in the past and is extremely dog friendly and likely would enjoy a canine sibling to show her how to dog. She may even be a candidate for doggy day care in the future. Willow's perfect home will have children in their teens and up, a family committed to giving her the mental and physical stimulation that she needs, and buckets of love to give.



Five-year-old Cotton is lovely and elegant if not a little bit fussy. Cotton likes the spotlight and wants all attention and affection for herself. She prefers to be a one-and-only so strongly that she physically manifests her own light as if to say "me, and no one else." Cotton has tried cohabitation with another feline and it's decidedly not for her. Cotton is quite loving and enthusiastic about people. She's happy to be petted, is a good listener, and will be a lovely sidekick

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Police ID Body Found in River

By Anne Lilburn

The body of a missing Norwich man was recovered from the Connecticut River in Portland on Wednesday, Sept. 9, according to police.

Police said that first responders were dispatched to the river at approximately 7 p.m. “for a report of a body floating in the river in the area of Riverside Street near the marinas.” Police later identified the person as Bennett Nocera, 40. He had been listed as a missing person in Norwich since the prior Monday, Sept. 7.

An obituary for Nocera said that he was from Taftville, a village in Norwich, and was a Middletown native. It described him as “an

exemplary school social worker, educator and caregiver” with “a boundless capacity for compassion and love, and a profound ability to connect with and understand people.” He had most recently worked at the Barnard Environmental Science and Technology School in New Haven, according to the obituary, and was fluent in American Sign Language. He coached youth soccer and played softball with the New England Deaf Softball Organization.

Nocera’s obituary said that a public celebration of life will be held Saturday, Sept. 19, at 1 p.m. at First Congregational Church in Old Lyme. Police said they were investigating the circumstances relating to his death.

Source-to-Sea Clean-Up

Volunteers will gather for a Source-to-Sea Clean-Up Saturday, Sept. 19, at 10 a.m., at the new River Bend Landing, 241 Airline Ave.

Volunteers will pick up trash along the riverside and along the proposed riverwalk to the Brownstone Riverfront Park, including some landscaping of the picnic groves, trimming branches and installing picnic tables.

This initiative is sponsored by the Connecti-

cut River Conservancy with the support of the Portland Board of Selectmen, the Portland Riverfront Access Committee, the Brownstone Quorum, the Jonah Center and the Portland Lions Club.

It is recommended to wear hiking boots, jeans and gloves, bring loppers, pruning saws or rakes if available.

First Congregational Church News

All are welcome to First Congregational Church, 554 Main St., for worship each Sunday. Pastor is the Rev. Judith Meyers. This week’s sermon title is “The Lord Will Provide.”

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

Sunday School: For children ages K-8th grade. This fall, kids will follow the story of Moses – from his rescue as a baby to the journey toward freedom. Children will explore Bible stories through hands-on activities.

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. Smaller-sized dish detergent, smaller-sized laundry detergent and personal care items are also in demand.

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

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.

Paley Award Winners Announced

The Portland Senior Center has announced the recipients of the 16th annual Ralph Paley Spirit Awards are Tom and Susan Bransfield, and John Sterry.

Each year, the senior center receives nominations recognizing individuals whose kindness, generosity and commitment make a meaningful difference in the Portland community.

If your nominee was not selected this year, the senior center encourages you to nominate them again in the future.



As a young man, Portland resident Carl Oscar Hedstrom developed gas engine-powered pacer bicycles. This led to the founding of the Indian Motorcycle Company. A display by the Portland Historical Society will be featured at the Portland Agricultural Fair next month, explaining Hedstrom’s importance in the world of motorcycles.

Spotlight on Oscar Hedstrom at Fair

Volunteers from the Portland Historical Society will have a special display at this year’s Portland Agricultural Fair on the weekend of Oct. 2-4. This year’s display will highlight a Portland inventor’s contributions to the world of motorcycles.

In 1891, at the age of 9, Carl Oscar Hedstrom immigrated from Sweden to New York City with his family. At an early age he became fascinated by the mechanical workings of bicycles. The display will tell the story of how Hedstrom’s early interest in bicycles and how machines work led to his production of high-quality bicycles

and eventually to his development of gasoline engines to power bicycles used to pace races. In 1901 he partnered with George Hendee, a Springfield, Mass., bicycle manufacturer, that led to the creation of a world class motorcycle industry, the Indian Motorcycle Company, that still exists to this day.

The photo display will trace the history of the Indian motorcycle from its early days to today. There will be several motorcycles on display from a local collector and short talks will be offered throughout the weekend highlighting Hedstrom’s connection to Portland.

The Great Portland Scarecrow Contest

The Portland River Valley Garden Club is sponsoring a Scarecrow Contest at this year’s Portland Fair.

Whether your scarecrow is funny, spooky, whimsical, patriotic, harvest-themed, or completely one-of-a-kind, visitors to the fair will vote for their favorite scarecrow. The top entries will win cash prizes: first prize is \$100, second prize is \$50, and third prize is \$25.

Gather your straw, flannel, overalls, and cre-

ativity, then bring your best scarecrow to the fair. Drop-off is Thursday, Oct. 1, between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Pickup is Sunday, Oct. 4, at 5 p.m. Scarecrows must be able to stand or be secured to the ground.

Visit either the Portland River Valley Garden Club or the Portland CT Community pages on Facebook for more information and to fill out a registration form.

Volunteers Needed for Wellness Expo

The Portland Waverly Senior Center is looking for volunteers to help at its upcoming Wellness Expo, which will be held Wednesday, Oct. 21, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at the center.

Volunteers will serve as greeters at entrances, welcome attendees, and help make sure everyone signs in as they arrive.

You will not need to volunteer for the entire event. Organizers plan to break the day into shorter shifts so that volunteers will also have plenty of time to walk around, visit the vendors, and enjoy everything the Wellness Expo has to

offer.

If you would like to volunteer for a shift, call the senior center at 860-342-6761 to sign up or stop in the office, at 7 Waverly Ave.

Little League Golf Tournament

Portland Little League will hold its annual Golf Tournament Friday, Sept. 25, at Portland Golf Course.

Sponsorships are available and raffle prize donations are welcome.

For more details, visit tinyurl.com/pllgolf.

Land Record Fraud Alert System

The Portland town clerk’s office reminds property owners that they can sign up for a free land record fraud alert.

With Fraud Alert, you can receive an email alert whenever a document, such as a deed, mortgage or lien is recorded under your name. Documents can be viewed online or at the Portland town clerk’s office.

Residents and property owners are encouraged to participate in this free service. Sign up at www.portlandct.org/town-clerk, or for questions related to the service, call the Portland town clerk’s office at 860-342-6743.

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Highlanders Soccer Hitting Stride

By Josh Howard

Following a loss in the season opener, Portland High School boys soccer has since reeled off three straight victories.

Head coach John Discenza said his squad is being led by a robust and dedicated Class of 2027, which includes 13 total seniors that have made a profound impact on the program.

“We have great leadership,” noted Discenza, who had headed the program since 2022. “Since I’ve been here, this is probably the best group of seniors from a leadership standpoint, and they all play really well together.”

After starting the season with a home loss (5-0) to the defending conference champs from Haddam-Killingworth, the Highlanders hit the road and defeated a trio of opponents by a combined score of 6-2.

Team captains Aidan Currie, Remy Wilson, Aiden Maselek, Nate Dietrichsen, and Evan Piascik are the voices on the field for a team that is also getting support from a strong underclassmen group, including 11 freshmen that came out to the program this season.

On Sept. 10, the winning streak started with a road victory at Lyme-Old Lyme. In the 2-1 win, sophomore Tyler Fournier scored the game-winner and assisted on the other to Jacob Anderson.

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.

Spooky Story Writing Challenge: The library is holding its first Spooky Story Writing Contest. Portland residents age 6 and up are invited to submit an original spooky tale using the guidelines on our website. Prizes will be awarded to one winner from each age group (6-11, 12-18, and 19+). Winning stories will also be featured in a “Best of Spooky CT” volume. Stories must be submitted by Oct. 16; one entry per person. Winners will be notified in November.

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, Sept. 24 and Oct. 1, at 3:30 p.m., for grades 3-5. Dive into a world of dragons in this program.

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

The following day, the team traveled to Stonington where they blanked the Lions of Wheeler High School 2-0 behind a pair of goals from Curry and a standout performance from freshman goalie Derek Mazzullo, who registered his first career shutout.

Discenza said that Mazzullo has been a pleasant surprise, saying his first-year goalie has shown extensive “knowledge of the game” and impressive “foot skills.”

Prior to joining the Highlanders, Mazzullo learned the ropes of the position while playing club at Oakwood.

The new netminder is part of the large Class of 2030 that will play pivotal roles on the team over the next four years.

All told, the program turned out 41 players this season. When Discenza first arrived, the program was yielding numbers in the low 20s.

Discenza credited assistant coach Alex McGrew for the increase in numbers, now having enough players to easily fill out both full varsity and junior varsity rosters.

“We’ve had a nice influx of kids [and] Alex has done a phenomenal job at getting kids to come out,” noted Discenza, who added that most of his players are two and three sport athletes, “We get a lot of multi-sport kids. For our program to flourish [at Portland], these kids have to play

required. Snacks will be provided.

Adult Programs: Photo Exhibit – “Portland x Portland”: 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.

“So You Want to Be An American?” Civics Workshop with Game Developer Cody Pietro: Thursday, Oct. 22, 6 p.m. Registration will open Monday, Oct. 5, at 10 a.m. Figure out what you know and what you don’t about becoming a U.S. citizen, and then play the “So You Want to Be An American?” board game to fill in the gaps. Designed for players who have not personally experienced the U.S. Immigration system, this game is rated 12+, so adults of all ages and students fifth grade and up are welcome. Space is limited. Co-sponsored by the Town Committee on Solidarity.

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.

Book Clubs: 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. **Mystery Lovers Book Club:** Tuesday, Oct. 20, 1 p.m. *The Other Half* by Charlotte Vassell will be discussed.

Movie: Wednesday, Oct. 28, 1 p.m. *Practical Magic* (1998; rated PG-13) will be shown. Run time is 108 minutes.



Portland High School boys soccer is pictured after defeating Lyme-Old Lyme on Sept. 10.

three sports.”

On Tuesday, Portland made it three straight with a 2-1 victory over Hale Ray High School in Moodus. Piascik netted a goal and sophomore Val Vardon scored a dramatic game-winner with less than a minute left in regulation as the team improved to 3-1 overall.

The Highlanders will wrap up a four-game road trip with a visit to Westbrook High School to take on the Knights in another Shoreline Conference (SLC) rivalry match tonight (Friday, Sept. 18) at 4 p.m.

The following day, Discenza’s team will return home to welcome Ansonia for an out-of-conference bout at PHS (Saturday, Sept. 19) at 12:30 p.m.

Discenza said he is pleased with the early results, noting a meshing of experience and enthusiasm for the hot start.

The hope is to continue the momentum and keep stacking wins before the conference and state tournaments start in early November.

“We have a great group of kids – we just have to keep improving,” explained the fifth-year head coach, who said the revamped defense will continue to play a major role down the stretch. “My favorite stat is the clean sheet. If you don’t give up a goal, you can’t lose a game. It’s easier said than done in this conference, because there are some really talented teams and players, but that’s always the goal.”

Parks and Rec. News & Notes

Portland Parks and Recreation offers various programs for adults and children. For a complete list, full course descriptions and costs, or to register, visit portland.recdesk.com or call 860-342-6757. Advanced registration is required for all programs.

Come on Over 5K: Saturday, Sept. 26, 10 a.m., at Riverfront Park.

Dance & Fitness Classes with Miss Alicia: Various programs are available for adults and children of all ages.

First Aid, CPR & AED Certification Course: Monday, Sept. 28, 5:30-8:30 p.m., at Buck-Foreman Community Center.

Kids’ Blast: This is an afterschool (3-6 p.m.)

childcare program available to students enrolled in grades K-6 in the Portland Public School System. Membership registration is open for the 2026-27 school year.

Kids’ Blast Jr.: Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays at 9 a.m. at the Buck-Foreman Community Center. Kids’ Blast Jr. is a school readiness program open to children ages 3 to 5 1/2 (or entering kindergarten). Led by Summer Quest Kiddie Camp Director Darcy Parmelee, kids will enjoy mornings of themed games, crafts, and age-appropriate activities.

Tai Chi for Long Life: Wednesdays, 9:30-10:15 a.m., or Saturdays, 10:30-11:15 a.m., at Riverfront Park.

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From the Desk of the First Selectman

Good morning, Portland!
There is a LOT happening in Portland right now. From new businesses and major infrastructure projects to our schools, trails, riverfront and community events, this is an especially busy and exciting time for our town.

Some of these changes are easy to see. Others are happening quietly behind the scenes but may have an even greater impact on Portland’s future.

Economic Development Is Taking Shape: Progress continues throughout Brainerd Place, and residents should begin seeing some significant milestones over the next several weeks.

Building A, which includes the assisted-living component of the development, continues to move forward, with the foundation expected to begin being poured by the end of October. An Early Learning Center is planned for the beautifully restored historic Sage House, while Chipotle and Birdone are also slated for one of the new buildings. More details on those businesses will be coming soon.

And for everyone who keeps asking me about Jersey Mike’s — the best estimate right now is a mid-October opening!

Nearby, the Nordic Spa continues toward its anticipated November opening and has begun hiring. This represents roughly \$50 million in private investment in Portland and, together with Brainerd Place, will bring jobs, visitors and new economic activity to our community.

On Main Street, Melilli’s has officially closed, and Red Fox is very interested in taking over the space. We’d love to have them!

We’re also moving forward with a \$2 million brownfield cleanup grant application for 150 Brownstone Avenue. Cleaning up this property would build upon the town’s previous brownfield work and support our long-term goal of revitalizing the Brownstone Avenue and riverfront corridor.

Investing in Portland’s Water Future: Two major initiatives are underway that will help secure Portland’s long-term water supply.

Design work on our new well project is underway with Portland’s own Snyder Civil Engineering. Our next major step will be finalizing the pump house design by early next year. Then it’s time to build it! Our goal is to have the new well project completed by the end of 2027.

At the same time, the town has begun negotiations with the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) regarding a long-term water contract. MDC has been Portland’s primary water supplier for more than 30 years and will continue to serve as an important backup supplier once our own well comes online.

Having our own water source, combined with a dependable backup supply, is an important investment in Portland’s future.

Schools and Town Government: Chairman Jim Tripp and the members of our School Building Committee have been hard at work developing the RFQ and RFP – requests for qualifications and proposals – needed to select an architect and other essential professionals for our school renovation project.

This is the less visible part of a major project, but it’s incredibly important. The decisions being made now will establish the team and foundation for the work ahead, and we’ll continue keeping residents informed as the project moves forward.

We also received more than a dozen applications from residents interested in serving on Portland’s new Charter Commission. The Board of Selectmen will be interviewing applicants and selecting five to seven residents to serve.

I am encouraged by the level of interest. Our charter hasn’t received a comprehensive review in many years, and having residents willing to volunteer their time and expertise is a great way to begin that process.

High Street and Other Infrastructure: The High Street water main project is scheduled to begin the week of Sept. 28. DeRita & Sons of Middletown will complete the work, which is expected to take approximately four to six weeks.

The contractor will return in the spring to complete final paving and sidewalk work. There will be some delays and inconvenience during construction, and I greatly appreciate everyone’s patience.

Our planned chip-sealing program has also been delayed until spring, with that work now anticipated around May.

Meanwhile, Main Street and the sidewalks on both sides of the road will be swept and cleaned by mid-October – just in time for Halloween on Main Street!

Connecting Portland by Trail: We’re also getting closer to another long-term goal: extending the Air Line Trail through Portland and eventually across the Arrigoni Bridge into Middletown.

Lou Pear and Riz Rizzo are preparing an application for the next round of funding for the next segment of the trail. This portion would pick up near the beginning of the YMCA property, continue through Eversource property, pass in front of Butler Construction and then work its way behind Dairy Queen near the intersection of routes 66 and 17.

This has been a long process, but we’re making progress. Creating a continuous trail connection through Portland and ultimately into Middletown would be a tremendous recreational asset and another connection between our two communities.

Remembering Sept. 11: Thank you to everyone who joined our community this past Friday as we commemorated the 25th anniversary of Sept. 11, 2001. Ceremonies and services were held at Town Hall, First Congregational Church and Zion Lutheran/True Vine Church. We remembered those we lost, honored the heroes of that day and reflected on something I believe is particularly important today – the way Americans came together on Sept. 12.

Twenty-five years later, Portland remembers. **Celebrating Our Community:** What a year it has been for our Portland 250 Committee! A huge thank-you to the committee members and volunteers who have devoted so much time and

energy to making our America 250 celebrations memorable.

Our celebration also crossed the river on Labor Day when Middletown finally held its Independence Day parade after extreme heat forced its postponement from July 4. It was wonderful seeing Portland represented and celebrating alongside our neighbors across the river.

Next up is the Portland Fair, Oct. 2-4. Last year’s fair drew approximately 12,500 people, and this year’s goal is 16,000. I love the new location and am looking forward to another great Portland Fair!

Another event worth marking on your calendar is the Ralph Paley Award ceremony on Sept. 30 at 6 p.m. at the Senior Center. This award is presented each year to someone who gives back to Portland in ways both big and small that, taken together, make a huge difference in our community. Please join us!

A Few Portland Gems One of Portland’s hidden gems is Wangunk Meadows. Beau Doherty has documented an incredible 32 butterfly species and 189 bird species there. It’s an amazing bird and butterfly sanctuary right here in our own community and a wonderful reminder of the natural resources we sometimes take for granted.

We’ll also be getting our hands dirty at River Bend Landing on Saturday, Sept. 19, at 10 a.m., for the Source to Sea Cleanup. We’ll meet at 241 Airline Ave., and volunteers are welcome. Come down and help us take care of our riverfront!

Another exciting addition is the Transition Academy’s new Main Street location. A ribbon cutting is scheduled for Sunday, September 20 at 10 a.m. I invite anyone who is interested or simply curious about the program to come down, meet the parents, teachers and students, and learn more about this wonderful project.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors: We’re also working on a new initiative based on one of the simplest ideas imaginable: Neighbors Helping Neighbors.

The idea is to identify people in our community who could use a little help and then connect those needs with residents, businesses, churches and organizations willing to lend a hand.

More details will follow, but you don’t have to wait for a formal program to begin. Look around your own neighborhood. Is there a senior who could use some help? A family going

through a difficult time? Someone who needs a hand with a small project?

Sometimes making Portland better starts right next door.

Traffic Safety and Route 66: We continue to explore speed-enforcement and red-light cameras as another possible tool for improving traffic safety. I welcome residents’ feedback as we consider whether and where this technology makes sense for Portland.

The proposed new gas station on Route 66 across from The Winchester has also been approved. I know there were strong feelings on both sides regarding this project. It is worth noting, however, that this will be Portland’s ninth – and last – gas station under our current land-use regulations. The regulations have since been changed, and new gas stations are no longer an approved use.

Save the Dates: There is plenty more coming this fall. Halloween on Main Street will be Friday, Oct. 30, from 4:30–6:30 p.m. Our Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting will take place Saturday, Dec. 5. The parade will begin around 4:30 p.m. with a short loop beginning on Main Street, followed by the tree-lighting at 5 p.m. And there will undoubtedly be more to add between now and then!

Moving Portland Forward: There is an incredible amount happening in Portland. Some of it is highly visible – buildings going up, roads being worked on and businesses preparing to open. Some of the most important work happens quietly behind the scenes – planning for our schools, securing our water future, applying for grants, improving our infrastructure and preparing for opportunities that may still be years away.

Growth brings opportunities, but it also brings responsibility. Our job is to manage that growth carefully, protect taxpayers, invest in our infrastructure and schools, preserve our natural resources and support economic development without losing the small-town character that makes Portland special.

And perhaps most importantly, we need to continue looking out for one another.

That’s how we’ll keep moving Portland forward while making sure it remains the community we’re proud to call home.

Michael Pelton
Portland First Selectman

Voter Registration and Absentee Ballots

The November election will be held Tuesday, Nov. 3, at Portland Middle School. Early voting will occur Oct. 19 through Nov. 1 at Portland Town Hall.

Applications for an absentee ballot are now available from the town clerk’s office at Town Hall, 33 East Main St. The first day to issue absentee ballots is Friday, Oct. 2. Call 860-

342-6743 or stop in the town clerk’s office for details.

Residents can also apply for an absentee ballot on the secretary of the state’s website, portal.ct.gov/sots.

Residents can also complete a voter registration form in the town clerk’s office, or online at the secretary of the state’s website.

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.

Dean’s List

The following Portland residents made the spring 2026 Dean’s List at Eastern Connecticut State University:

Ava Beeler, Sophie Binezewski, Hailey Carlson, Brooke Roath, Ella Royea and Anna Stone.

Blessing of the Animals

In remembrance of Patron Saint of the Animals, St. Francis of Assisi, the Blessing of the Animals will take place Saturday, Oct. 3, at 11 a.m. (weather permitting) on the rectory lawn of St. Mary Church, 45 Freestone Ave.

All pets, furry, scaly, feathery, as well as stuffed animals are welcome to receive a blessing from the Rev. John Antonelle. This gathering is open to all members of the community.

Police News

9/4: Dale Richard Carlson, 67, of Middletown, was arrested and charged with use of drug paraphernalia, first-degree violating conditions of release, and violation of a protective order, Portland Police said.

9/4: Shaylyn Jean Defilio, 30, of Middletown, was arrested and charged with disobeying signal of officer, operating motor vehicle without a license, interfering with officer, first-degree possession of a controlled substance, and use of drug paraphernalia, police said.



Mah Jong Fun... The Riverfront Community/Senior center held its third annual Mah Jong Tournament on Sept. 10. Pictured from left are this year’s winners: Susan Pawloski-Burke, first place; Kathy Adinolfi, honorable mention; Brenda Fayed, third place; Linda Hayes, honorable mention; and Kathy Parsley, second place. The Riverfront Community Center offers open Mah Jong play Wednesdays from 1-3 p.m. and Thursdays from 6-8 p.m. To inquire about Mah Jong classes, call the community center at 860-652-7638.

Volunteers Needed for Event

The Portland Senior Center is looking for volunteers to help out at the Ralph Paley Spirit of Portland Awards Dinner on Wednesday, Sept. 30, from 6-7:30 p.m.

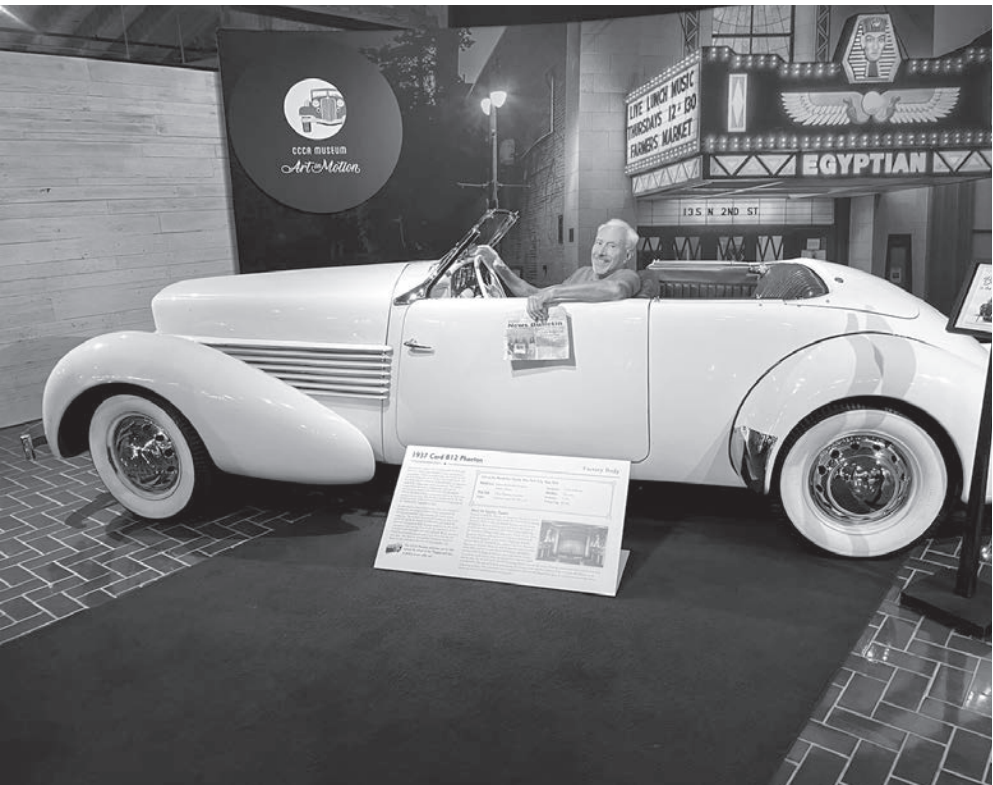
If interested in volunteering, call Heather or Peg at the Senior Center at 860-342-6761.

Trinity Church News

Trinity Episcopal Church, 345 Main St., invites the community to worship each week. Services are on Sundays at 9:30 a.m., and Bible Study starts at 8:30 a.m. each Sunday. The schedule can always be located at www.trinity-churchportlandct.org.

Trinity is open for prayer and meditation and the church office is open from 2-4 p.m. each Friday. All are invited to join the Anglican Prayer leading sessions at this time as well.

Check out www.trinitychurchportlandct.org for more information. If you have any prayer requests to lift up, email the church office at trinitychurchportlandct@gmail.com.



Rivereast Goes to the Car Museum... Frank J. Valvo of Marlborough brought the *Rivereast* to the Gilmore Car Museum in Hickory Corners, Mich. He's sitting in a 1937 Ford 812 Phaeton. Frank was visiting his in-laws and celebrating his mother-in-law's 104th birthday in Grand Rapids, Mich.



Rivereast Goes to Japan... The *Rivereast* recently traveled to Nara, Japan with the Clements family of Portland. Pictured are Marcus and Mir Clements in front of the Shoro bell tower in Nara, Japan. The bell tower which holds the grand bell was reconstructed in 1210. Todai-ji Temple's bell (National Treasure) is from the time when Todai-ji Temple was established. It stands at a total height of 3.86 meters, with a diameter of 2.71 meters, and weighs 26.3 tons. It is counted as one of the three legendary bells of Japan. The kids are feeding the Nara deer, which are sacred deer that live in the park. They bow to visitors in exchange for deer biscuits. The *Rivereast* also traveled to Kyoto, Osaka, Tokyo, and Tokyo Disneyland and Disney Sea, but unfortunately got soaking wet during a typhoon and was not in good enough shape to be photographed.

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!



Super Spud... Doris Berner and Steve Payne of Moodus recently visited the Idaho Potato Museum – and brought along the *Rivereast*, of course!



Great Germany... Wendy Shaffer of East Hampton and her mom, Ursel Shaffer of Middletown, brought the *Rivereast* when they visited friends and family in Lubeck, Germany.

? 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

\$25 GIFT CARD

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A Harvest Fair to Remember



Joshua agreed that the family outing had

Over the years, she has had the chance to

A black and white photograph showing several piglets in a metal-fenced enclosure. In the foreground, a piglet is looking directly at the camera. Behind it, another piglet is visible, and further back, a third piglet is partially obscured by a fence. A fourth piglet is visible in the background, partially obscured by a fence. The piglets are in a sandy or dirt-covered pen.

"I came from watching my parents and think-

Until then, save a little room for fair food, a little time for old friends and a little excitement for what comes next. And as always, Hebron, we'll see you at the fair.

9/8: Alex Michael Pratt, 24, of Colchester, was arrested and charged with violation of a protective order, state police said.

This support group is non-denominational and is offered via a collaborative effort of Hebrew Faith Communities. There is no registration or commitment. You are invited to attend and see if the group is a helpful, supportive place for you.

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Unclear Speech

Not Combining words

Not Cooperative Socially

Struggling For Words

Struggling to talk

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- **East Hampton & Wethersfield facilities**
Dogs: walking; clean & feed; socialization
- **East Hartford facility** — Cats: clean & feed; socialization; medical & placement teams



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Kirk Smallidge, a member of the library's Board of Trustees, said one major incident involved students bringing critters into the library.

Why the Board Made the Change

Carter explained that the Board of Trustees were responsible for the policy change. She said

The policy could be changed in the future.

"We do want the kids to continue to feel welcome at the library, but they just have to be with an adult," he said.

Also on Sept. 20, the church will kick off its fall worship schedule, with worship at 10 a.m. and coffee hour at 11 a.m. Sunday School vol-

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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WAIM Fall Flea Market

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Historical Society to Open Monthly

“Defining a Sense of Place in an Age of Cyberspace” is an exhibit organized around the theme that the land in Hebron has been shaped

For more information, call 860-456-7270 ext. 104 or Kathy Callahan at 860-228-0873.

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

United Brethren of Hebron Synagogue News & Notes

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 first Shabbat service of the new year will also be a celebration of Sukkot, a Jewish holiday connected to the fall harvest season. It will be Friday, Oct. 2, at 6 p.m., for blessings in the synagogue's sukkah, a temporary outdoor structure decorated with a harvest theme. A potluck dinner at 6:30 p.m. and then a Shabbat service at

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.

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The Omaha Steaks logo is a maroon-colored emblem. At the top, a white banner contains the text "AMERICA'S ORIGINAL BUTCHER" in maroon. Below this, the words "OMAHA STEAKS" are written in a large, white, serif font. At the bottom, the text "SINCE 1917" is written in a smaller, white, serif font.

Butcher's Classic Beef

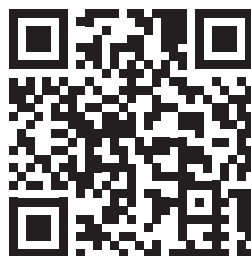
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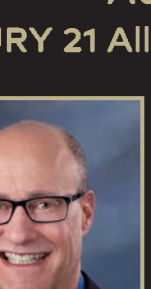
Savings shown over aggregated single item base price. Photos exemplary of product advertised. 8 free 4 oz. burgers will be sent to each shipping address that includes 81081. Limit 2. Standard S&H added per address. While supplies last. Items may be substituted due to inventory limitations. Some products may not be available for sale in your area. Sales are subject to OmahaSteaks.com/terms-of-use. Expires 12/31/26. 25M8931 | Omaha Steaks, LLC

RE9-18-26

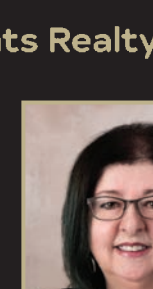
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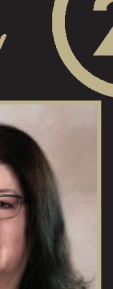


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Jewish Immigrant Farmers in Eastern Connecticut: Saturday, Nov. 7, from 1-3 p.m., presented by Hebron CT Celebrates America 250, Douglas Library and the United Brethren of Hebron Synagogue. The event will begin at the library with the showing of *Harvesting Stones*. The documentary film tells the story of how Jewish families, escaping persecution in eastern Europe, traveled to eastern Connecticut where they established farms and synagogues and became valued members of the communities where they settled. The documentary features interviews with the children and grandchildren of the original settlers and includes historical footage. After watching the 75-minute film, participants will walk or drive over to the synagogue for a tour and a Q and A opportunity with a member of one of the farming families featured in the film. There is no charge to attend, and registration is not required.

A photograph of the exterior of the Carl Guild & Associates building. The building is a two-story structure with blue horizontal siding on the upper level and a grey stone veneer on the lower level. The company name "CARL GUILD & ASSOCIATES" is mounted on the blue siding. The ground floor features several windows and doors, including a prominent white door on the right. The upper floor has three windows with dark shutters. The building is set against a backdrop of green trees under a clear blue sky.

RESTAURANT HOURS
Tues 10AM-5PM; Wed-Fri 10AM-6PM;
Sat 10AM-5PM; Closed Sun & Mon

Blessing of the Animals: Sunday, Oct. 4, 3 p.m., in the Memorial Garden at St. Peter's. The public is invited to bring their pets for a special blessing. Children may also bring their favorite stuffed animal for blessing too. Interment of pet ashes in the Pet Memorial Garden will follow. A free will donation of pet food is encouraged.

Monthly Meetings: Building and Grounds, Community Events planning, Finance, Liturgy, Pastoral Care and Vestry. Also, the Women's Club typically meets the third or fourth Sunday each month for crafting and fellowship. This month's Meditation Class will not be held.

D&D Club: Will start again Friday, Sept. 25,

This Week: Saturday, Sept. 19, 9:30 a.m., Wise Warrior Yoga in Garden (weather dependent); Sunday, Sept. 20, 10 a.m., Worship Service in sanctuary with Sunday School Kickoff and Blessing of the Backpacks; Sunday, Sept. 20, 11 a.m., Gilead-to-Go Meals Planning Meeting in Fellowship Hall Classroom; Sunday, Sept. 20, 6 p.m. Youth Group Kickoff Meeting in Fellowship Hall; Monday, Sept. 21, 9:30 a.m., Online Bible Study via Zoom; Tuesday, Sept. 22, 7:30 p.m., AA Meet-

Storytime is Back!: Tuesdays at 10:15 a.m., for Toddler Storytime and Thursdays at 10:15 a.m., for PreK storytime.

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★ *Portland Remembers, cont. from page 1*

and honored, when loyalty is appreciated, when kindness and friendship is used and acknowledged, when heroism is rewarded, when patriotism is a way of life, when faith and prayer is observed, when dying is mourned ... when cultures stand beside cultures, when communities hold hands, when truth prevails in justice ... when humankind listens to and ponders all of humanity, then and only then will there be true peace.”

Minister David Smith of True Vine Church said that, in his tradition, “we speak of comfort for those who mourn, mercy for the merciful and blessings for those who make peace.” He read from the Bible’s Matthew 5:3-9.

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy, and blessed are the pure of heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called children of God,” he read.

The Rev. Dr. Christine Stopka, the Director of Spiritual Care at Middlesex Hospital, spoke as both a religious leader and as a New Yorker. It was the first place she called home after immigrating to this country, she said, and a place that holds strong memories. She spoke of New Yorkers coming together after the attacks, and finding new connections.

“Remembering Sept. 11 matters,” she said, “because when we remember the grief of our nation, we are also reminded of our own grief, and when we remember how people cared for one another in that terrible time, we are reminded of what we can still do today. We can choose to care. We can choose to forgive. We can choose gratitude. We can choose love.”

The Rev. John Antonelle, of Portland’s Church of St. Mary Catholic Parish, said he was happy to be there to “share in the time of remembrance.” He offered a Litany of Hope, encouraging the audience to silently add their own prayers in the moments of silence after each line.

“We give thanks for the lives, the love and courage we remembered today, and we surround those who grieve with love and care,” he spoke. “We choose to tend what is broken and we choose to nurture what brings us together. We honor those who ran towards danger to save others, and we hold in prayer those who still carry the wounds of that day.”

Antonelle continued, “We choose courage when fear takes hold and we choose compassion when others seem different from us. We choose kindness when hearts are hurting and we choose patience when understanding takes time. We choose connection when the world pulls us apart and we choose to carry hope into the future.”

Those gathered also heard from faith leaders from several other traditions, including **Caro-**

line Murray, of the Bahá’i faith, who read a Bahá’i prayer; **Sara Stall-Ryan, of Zion Lutheran Church in Portland,** who offered a prayer of remembrance and hope; and **Rev. Todd Yonkman, a Christian minister and Zen teacher,** who asked those gathered to sit in stillness for several minutes, saying he believed that “when we become still, we meet God,” and “with God, all things are possible, so if all things are possible, there is hope.”

The Rev. Leslie Jackson, the Area Conference Minister for the United Church of Christ, offered a unique perspective as both a pastor and a United States Navy veteran. He said he was 23 years old, serving on the USS Carl Vinson, headed towards the Persian Gulf, when he watched the events of 9/11 unfold on television. Things quickly became very real for him after that, he said.

“We were not watching history anymore,” he said. “We were in it.”

“Twenty-five years gives you time to think,” Jackson said. “Augustine wrote that peace should be the object of your desire, and that war should be waged only as a necessity. Sixteen centuries later, Dwight Eisenhower, a general who knew war intimately, and a president who carried the responsibility of protecting a nation, said, ‘I hate war as only a soldier who has lived it can.’ There are things worth defending. There is evil in the world that must sometimes be confronted. There are innocent people who absolutely must be protected. And [yet], we should never become comfortable with war.

“The hardest thing I’ve learned in 25 years,” Jackson said, “is this: Believing your cause is just does not make everything done in its name just. This is not a comfortable thing for a veteran to say out loud, but 25 years has given us a responsibility say our feelings, to honor those who serve without glorifying war, to remember what was done to us without losing sight of what war does to human beings.”

Jackson also asked the crowd to “imagine something” with him.

“What if the lesson of September 11 is not that we should be less willing to defend human life, but that we should be more imaginative about how we preserve it?” he said. “Can we imagine a world where our greatest achievement is not how effectively we destroy our enemies, but how successfully we keep people from becoming enemies in the first place?”

Jackson concluded, “Let us never forget that nearly 3,000 people whose lives were taken. Let us never forget the firefighters who climbed the stairs while everyone else was running down. Let us never forget the police officers, the first responders, and the ordinary citizens who held strangers. Let us never forget the service members who answered the call, and especially those who gave everything. Let us never forget what the last 25 years have taught us about how precious a single human life is.”

Paul is that voice. She cares about the future for children. It’s what got her into this race in the first place. Her compassion, common sense, and drive will be a refreshing change. Her desire to collaborate lends itself well to bipartisanship.

Ellen Paul is a dynamic candidate that will finally give the 55th District a voice in Hartford. I haven’t been actively involved in politics during my lifetime. When I met Ellen and learned about her reasons for running, ability to collaborate, and desire for a better future, it motivated me to get involved in a campaign for the first time in 50 years! We need Ellen Paul.

Learn more about Ellen at www.ellen-forstaterep.com and you’ll be inspired to Vote Ellen Paul in November!

Sincerely,

Russell Salvador – Marlborough

***Note:** Salvador is a member of the Marlborough Democratic Town Committee, but said he is writing as an individual.*

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

★ *Letters cont. from page 7*

Connecticut ranks 46th in state support for education. As a retired teacher, I’ve seen the drastic cuts in programming, increased class sizes, and lack of materials because local residents cannot shoulder the load of providing quality education to our children. Ellen Paul wants Connecticut to provide greater assistance. Weir voted against giving over \$600,000 to our district. We sure can’t count on Weir’s help.

Ellen’s concern for our shrinking wallets goes beyond our property taxes. Connecticut’s utility costs are outrageous. Our rates are soaring, and the utility companies post record profits. Ellen Paul wants an energy policy that puts us first. She wants stronger oversight holding the utility companies accountable. Ellen knows energy is a necessity for people, not a luxury. What do utility costs mean to someone like Weir, who flies his own helicopter?

Reduced tax burdens and lower utility costs for homeowners would be a tremendous relief. We need a voice that will fight for this. Ellen

LEGAL NOTICE OF ACTIONS
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
TOWN OF HEBRON, CONNECTICUT

The Hebron Zoning Board of Appeals took the following action at a meeting held on Tuesday, September 15, 2026, at the Hebron Town Office Building, 15 Gilead Street, Hebron, CT, concerning the following:

Petition 2026-01, Request of Frank & Elizabeth F. Cianci for a variance of Section 2.E.5 of the Hebron Zoning Regulations, to allow a 24' x 24' foot 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. **Denied.**

Dated at Hebron, Connecticut, on this 16th day of September 2026.

Amy E. DeCesare, Chairperson

1TB 9/18

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

Notice is hereby given that the Portland Planning & Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, October 1st, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. at the Portland Public Library, 20 Freestone Avenue, to consider the following:

PZC Application #26-02: 674 Glastonbury Turnpike. Request for a Special Permit for Home Office. Application and property of Mygiabentley LLC. Map 91, Lot 10, Zone R-25.

At this hearing interested persons may appear and be heard and written communications will be received. A copy of this application is available for public review in the Portland Land Use Department. Dated at Portland, CT this 16th day of September 2026

Robert Ellsworth, Chairman
Planning & Zoning Commission

2TB 9/18, 9/25

Marlborough • Marlborough • Marlborough • Marlborough • Marlborough • Mar

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.marlcongchurch.org and recorded for later viewing. Church pastor is the Rev. Valerie Seaver. Childcare for infants and toddlers is provided downstairs in the nursery; however, children are always welcome at the worship service.

Sept. 20 is Rally Day: The service will be led by Seaver and will include a Living Tree leaf dedication. The service will feature hand-clapping music by Joyful Blue Bluegrass Band, followed by a picnic. Rally Day marks the start of the Sunday school year for children ages 3 through grade 8. All children in the community are welcome and invited to attend Sunday School and youth groups. Please contact Elizabeth Kukich at ekukich@marlcongchurch.org for more information.

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.

Fife & Drum Parade and Muster Saturday!

The Marlborough Jr. Ancient Fife & Drum Corps will host its 48th annual Fife & Drum Muster at Blish Park on Saturday, Sept. 19. The main event kicks off at 11 a.m. with a parade on North Main Street, starting at Pettengill Road and ending at the park. Following the parade, there will be opening ceremonies, then the muster performances at the park.

The last unit in the parade is called F-Troop and it will consist of various fifers and drummers including alumni of the Marlborough Jr. Ancients. This year, in honor of America 250, children (and parents) of any age watching the parade are invited to join F-troop march as part of the parade. Children joining in the on the fun will get a tri-cornered hat to keep!

This year the Marlborough Jr. Ancients expect about 14 Corps to join them for the Parade and muster. Groups such as the William Dia-

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, which provides comprehensive reentry services from basic needs to medical care for women reentering society from York Correctional.

Second Blessings Thrift Shop is located on the lower level with access from the parking lot. The shop is open for shopping and donations Fridays from noon to 3 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Follow the shop through Facebook at Second Blessings Thrift Shop, Marlborough for weekly updates. The eBay shop is open year-round at bit.ly/MCCebay.

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

mond Juniors from Lexington, Mass., the Adamsville Ancients from Delmar, N.Y., and the Ancient Mariners of Guilford have registered to attend. Some local favorites such as the Connecticut Valley Field Music and the Colchester Continental Fife & Drum Corps will also perform. For a preview, there will be a few twilight performances on Friday evening beginning at 6:30 p.m.

A “Muster” is a gathering of Fife & Drum Corps who perform for each other for perpetuation of traditional/historical field music. The public is encouraged to attend.

The young marchers of the Marlborough Jr. Ancients have been working hard to prepare for this hometown event. More information about the Marlborough Jr. Ancients and the muster can be found at www.MarlboroughJrAncients.com.

Upcoming Election Info

Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 3, and the town has issued some related news.

The pre-election voter registration cutoff deadline is Oct. 16. The Marlborough registrars of voters office will be open additional hours for voter registration on Oct. 16 from 9 a.m. until 8 p.m.

Connecticut also has Same Day Registration on Election Day for voters who need it. If you miss the deadline for registering for an election, you can register and vote in-person on Election Day at your town’s Same Day Registration location. For Marlborough residents, that location is Town Hall, 26 N. Main St.

The conference room at Town Hall will be the location for early voting, which this year will run Oct. 19 through Nov. 1. Hours most days

will be 10 a.m.-6 p.m., with special extended hours of 8 a.m.-8 p.m. on Tuesdays, Oct. 20 and 27, and Thursdays, Oct. 22 and 29.

On Tuesday, Nov. 3, voting will be in the Community Room at Marlborough Elementary School on School Street. The polls will be open from 6 a.m. until 8 p.m.

Curbside voting is available during early voting and on Election Day at MES. There is signage indicating where curbside assistance is available; call the number on the sign.

Connecticut now offers no-excuse absentee ballots. Call or visit the town clerk’s office to obtain one.

For more information, call the registrars’ office at 860-295-6166.

Parks and Rec. Programs

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

Youth Programs: 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: 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. Register on the Parks and Rec. website.

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.

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Commemorating 9/11.... Marlborough’s Town Green is displaying 436 American flags to commemorate the 436 first responders who lost their lives in the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. Volunteers Deb, Ross, Jane, Gail, David, John, Hal, Deidre, Louise and Michael all donated their time to the cause.



Community Fund Accepting Grant Applications

The Marlborough Community Fund at the Greater Hartford Gives Foundation is accepting grant applications for projects designed to strengthen the wellbeing, vibrancy, and resilience of the Marlborough community.

Applications are due Oct. 12 at 5 p.m. Full details of the request for proposals (RFP) – including funding priorities, eligibility guidelines, and how to apply – are available at tinyurl.com/marlboroughfund.

Eligibility guidelines, examples of past funded projects, and more information about the application process are also available at the website.

The Marlborough Community Fund Com-

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

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.

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 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.

‘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.

For more information about CoDE, visit www.code-diversity.org.

RTC Bingo

The Republican Town Committee will host an evening of Bingo, Crafts and Goodies Friday, Sept. 25, at American Legion, 128 East Hampton Rd. (Route 66), Marlborough. Doors open at 6 p.m., and bingo starts at 6:30 p.m.

Vendors include One of a Kind Jewelry by Denise Hills, Wholly Goat, L&L Farm, Ranger’s Run. Brenda Lee’s Treasures! Pizza from Village Green and Snacks provided. Tickets are \$20 in advance, and \$25 at the door.

To reserve your ticket, or for more information, call or text Zina 860-798-6038.

Community Garden to Wrap Up Season

The St. John Fisher Community Garden will soon wrap up its 11th season of growing and donating fresh produce to the Marlborough food bank.

The garden has a dedicated team of volunteers who meet weekly to care for the garden, maintain and harvest the vegetables and then donate all of the produce to the food bank to help those in the community.

The small garden is located behind the church and has donated over 400 pounds of a variety of produce so far this season.

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.

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Wisdom teeth extraction used to be routine, but current practices suggest that removal is not always necessary. If wisdom teeth are healthy, grown in completely, correctly positioned, biting properly, and easy to clean at home, removal may not be necessary. However, sometimes wisdom teeth don't fully emerge or come in at an angle and crowd other teeth. They may be difficult to properly brush and floss. Impacted wisdom teeth (trapped under the gumline) can become infected and may damage other teeth and roots. Many dentists will remove wisdom teeth that don't fully emerge by early adulthood. It is easier to remove them before the roots and bone are completely formed, and the recovery time is faster in younger patients.

Whether you come to us for examination of your wisdom teeth, cosmetic work, simple fillings, or complex restorations, any program we suggest for your dental health will be thoroughly discussed with you before we begin. When you are looking for state-of-the-art, personalized dentistry from people who really care, welcome to our office. Our dental team works smoothly and efficiently together, devoted to making your dental experience comfortable as well as enhancing.

P.S. As we age, the bones in our mouth become harder, making wisdom teeth more difficult to remove.

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RE9-18-26

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Local Firefighter Hit by Car

By Anne Lilburn

An East Hampton firefighter was injured when he was hit by an erratic driver while assisting at the scene of a motor vehicle accident on Sunday evening, according to both the police and fire departments.

The incident occurred on Route 66/West High Street, where the Fire Department had closed the road between Barton Hill Road and Maple Street, according to police.

The East Hampton Police Department said that around 5:45 p.m. on Sept. 13, they had been notified about an “an erratic driver entering the Town of East Hampton from the Town of Portland,” at the same time as the fire department was responding to a two-car motor vehicle accident.

According to Fire Chief Robb Rainville, the vehicle sped past the crash scene where firefighters were working while fleeing from police, then returned five minutes later, traveling in the opposite direction.

“The vehicle drove around a fire truck, struck traffic cones and struck one of our firefighters who was working at the scene,” Rainville said.

“Several firefighters had to jump over a guardrail to avoid being hit,” according to a police statement. The firefighter who was hit

suffered minor injuries, involving bruising on his shoulder and upper arm, according to police.

The vehicle eventually fled westbound on Route 66, according to Rainville, where police officers attempted to stop it.

“The vehicle refused to stop, and due to his speed and reckless driving, [officers] stopped pursuing the vehicle,” said East Hampton Police.

“We are extremely fortunate that this incident did not result in more serious injuries,” said Rainville. “Firefighters, police officers, and members of the towing service were all working within the scene when this occurred. “Emergency vehicles, cones, and traffic control measures are there to protect first responders, accident victims, and the public,” he added. “[This] incident is a serious reminder of just how quickly an already dangerous roadside scene can become even more dangerous. We appreciate everyone who assisted at the scene and wish our firefighter a quick recovery.”

Police said that the investigation was still ongoing and urged anyone who witnessed the incident to contact the police department at 860-267-9544.

Salmon Fundraising Dinner to Benefit KICY

Fresh Alaska Salmon caught off-shore in Nome, Alaska is the featured entrée for a fundraising dinner at Haddam Neck Covenant Church on Saturday, Oct. 17, at 4:30 p.m.

One hundred percent of the free-will offering proceeds will be given to KICY’s Radio Ministry to offset escalating fuel costs. Providing the salmon and the after-dinner presentation will be Patty Burchell, general manager of KICY AM and FM of Nome, Alaska.

KICY AM-850 broadcasts a Southern Gospel/Praise & Worship format, with evenings devoted to native singing in all three Eskimo

languages. From 11 p.m. to 4 a.m., the station broadcasts into the Russian Far East in the Russian language. KICY FM serves the community of Nome

The fresh salmon is shipped in and will be featured along with chicken as an alternative meal choice. RSVP with the number of people in your party and meal choice by Oct. 9 to Joal in the church office (860-267-2336).

Haddam Neck Covenant Church is located at 17 Haddam Neck Road in East Hampton. Information is available on its website www.hncovenantchurch.org.

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 contest, 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/rotary-golftourney.

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



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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-

Patriotic Scholarships Available

Fowler-Dix-Park VFW Post 5095 & Auxiliary are now accepting entries for their annual Voice of Democracy and Patriot’s Pen youth scholarship competitions.

This year’s theme gives both America’s high school students and middle school students the opportunity to contemplate, “What a Veteran Taught Me About America.”

Established in 1947, the VFW’s Voice of Democracy and Patriot’s Pen essay competitions are designed to help encourage a better understanding and appreciation for America and work to foster patriotism among today’s youth. The programs also reward success in the form of individual scholarships and awards totaling nearly \$2.6 million at the national, state, and local levels.

The Voice of Democracy audio-essay competition is open to high school students in ninth to 12th grade, with the national first place prize scholarship totaling \$35,000. The first-place Department (state) winners receive an

Athletic Hall of Fame Elects Five

The East Hampton Athletic Hall of Fame has elected two star athletes and three coaches to 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 an 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 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

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.

all-expenses-paid trip to attend a “Founding Forward’s Spirit of American Youth Leadership” program at Valley Forge, Pa., where they compete for more than \$170,000 in National scholarship awards. Nearly 28,000 high school students compete in the competition each year.

Open to middle school students in the sixth through eighth grade, more than 800,600 students participate annually in the Patriot’s Pen essay competition. The national first place winner receives a \$5,000 award. Each Department (state) winners receives a minimum of \$500 at the national level.

Entry forms and additional information may be found at www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/youth-scholarships, in the town library lobby rack, or the Post Home. Student entries may be submitted (along with a completed entry form) to VFW Post 5095, 20 North Maple St., East Hampton, CT 06424.

The deadline for both contests is midnight Oct. 31.

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 Vasquenza at mjvasquenza@gmail.com or 860-308-6621.

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

Epoch Arts Tag Sale Continues

Epoch Arts will continue its annual indoor, rain or shine, tag sale this weekend.

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.

Hours are Friday, Sept. 18, from noon-5 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 19 and 20, from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Epoch Arts is located at 27 Skinner St.

For more information, visit www.epocharts.org.

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.)

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

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School Board Honors Educators

By Anne Lilburn

On Sept. 14, East Hampton’s Board of Education met for a regular meeting for the first time since the start of the school year and the passing of the town’s education budget. They honored staff who went above and beyond, met their student representatives, heard updates from each school, and received budgetary updates.

The board also voted to adopt and approve the revised and voter-approved \$39,500,937 budget, set this coming year’s graduation date for June 11, 2027, and award a bid for technology services.

Much of the meeting focused on honoring educators who were being recognized for their work in the district. This year, the district presented awards for Paraeducator of the Year, Interventionist of the Year, Rookie of the Year and Teacher of the Year.

Debra Field, a high school paraeducator, was honored as Paraeducator of the Year. East Hampton High School Principal Eric Verner spoke on her behalf.

“Deb has consistently and quietly for over a quarter of a century served our students and teachers year after year with compassion, equity and empathy,” he said. “She has quietly dedicated herself to advocating for the needs of our students, interceding on their behalf, ever observant, and always looking out for their best interests.”

Verner said Field “meets our students where they are, saying that she was “firm yet kind, allowing students to be their true selves during the difficult and tumultuous time of adolescence. She has been an anchor for everyone in our community and the epitome of selflessness, capability and advocacy in the classroom.

“She never seeks the limelight for herself, yet she is always quick to celebrate positive moments with others,” he added, making her particularly deserving of recognition.

Memorial School interventionist Nicole Brooks was named the district’s 2026-27 Interventionist of the Year. Memorial School. Memorial School Principal Joey Bauer said that Brooks had only been with school district for a little over a year, having joined the interventionist team at Memorial School in the summer 2025. Brooks described her as a lifelong learner.

Art Association Meets Next Week

The East Hampton Art Association has announced Lori Neumann will be guest artist at its meeting next Wednesday, Sept. 23, at 7 p.m., at the East Hampton Public Library Function Room, 105 Main St.

Neumann was the first-place winner at the association’s annual Art Show, and she also was an Honorable Mention winner at the Marlborough Art Show this past spring.

Neumann studied at the Lyme Academy of Fine Arts and continues her artistic education through ongoing workshops and art retreats. Her work focuses on the expressive use of color and texture, drawing inspiration from animals, local farms, and the surrounding landscapes.

Neumann’s workshops encourage exploration, confidence-building and personal expres-

sion, welcoming students of all experience levels. In addition to fine arts, she is a fiber artist and teacher through Menagerie by Lori, working with fiber from her own farm in Salem and other local farms.

Her work is represented in shows and galleries throughout Connecticut and Kentucky, including the Lyme Art Association, Madison Art Society, Connecticut Academy of Fine Arts, Connecticut Pastel Society, Spectrum Art Gallery, the Marlborough Arts Center, and the East Hampton Art Association.

The public is welcome at all East Hampton Art Association meetings. There is a suggested donation of \$5 for nonmembers. Students are always free. Coffee, tea and refreshments will be provided.

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.

Blood Pressure Reading: Monday, Sept. 21, 12:30 p.m., with the Chatham Health District.
Chatham Health Chat: Monday, Sept. 21, 11:30 a.m., featuring a discussion on vaccines with a representative from Chatham Health Chat.
Kayak Club Paddle to Goose Island: Monday, Sept. 21, 4 p.m. Launch from Old Lyme Kayak Launch at Pilgrim Landing Road for a paddle on Goose Island on the Lower Connect-

icut River. Watch the annual migration of the tree swallows just before sunset. Call the senior center for more information.
Tech Help with Warren: Tuesday, Sept. 22, 10 a.m.-noon. Get technical help with your devices from the senior center’s new volunteer Warren Cross. Register for a spot.
Café Conversations with the Coordinator: Tuesday, Sept. 22, 12:15 p.m. Chat with Senior Center Director Holly Marrero. Share ideas, provide feedback and ask questions.
East Hampton Senior Picnic: Wednesday, Sept. 23, at Sears Park, from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. This annual event features food, music, games, nature presentations and more. Cost is \$3. Sign up in person. The senior center is closed for the day.
Fall Mahjongg League: Thursdays, Sept. 24 through Nov. 12, at 9:30 a.m. National Mahjongg League 2026 card and rules. Two levels of play. Register in person at the senior center with \$10 payment. Email bjtkr_963@hotmail.com for information.

The Script Society: Thursday, Sept. 24, 2 p.m. Join actor, director and singer Val Bozzi for an afternoon of group script reading.
EHSC Creative Collaborative: Friday, Sept. 25, 2 p.m. The Senior Center Store features members’ creativity and supports our programs. Volunteers with fresh ideas for new products, events, and displays are needed. No crafting experience needed.

for what you do for our children every day,” Board of Education Chair Nancy Kohler told the honorees.

Start-of-School Updates

Later in the meeting, administrators and principals from all of the East Hampton public schools provided updates on the start of the school year, discussing family open house nights, fall assessment periods that allowed schools to inform their planning and goals for the year, and school- and district-wide initiatives and priorities.

At Memorial School, students have been learning the big three school rules: “Taking care of themselves, taking care of others and taking care of things,” said Principal Bauer. Students also crafted a class contract in each classroom, and are looking forward to visits from MacGyver, a Golden Retriever who visits the school every other Wednesday afternoon.

At Center School, Principal Jeremy Moore said that students were diving into their “Wit and Wisdom” program with fourth graders focusing on their first module, titled “A Great Heart,” learning “what it means to have a great heart both literally and figuratively.” Fifth-graders, he said, are studying U.S. History in a unit titled “cultures and conflict,” focused on the “collision of cultures” during the country’s westward expansion.

Moore also said that the school had discussed 9/11 with “grade-appropriate information” and a moment of silence to “honor and recognize the lives lost.” He also said that the school’s fifth graders had all joined the “Red Bandana Club,” which honors 9/11 victim Welles Crowther, who is credited with saving 18 lives that day before losing his own. The club encourages members to “engage in acts of kindness,” said Moore.

At East Hampton Middle School, the school was centering its goals around embedding its core values of “empathy, honesty, mindfulness and safety” into all aspects of the school day, said Principal Christina Amaral. The school was focusing on rewarding students with positive office referrals, while also reinforcing behavioral expectations, she said, and had started “Start With Hello’ Week,” which was organized by the school’s Safe Promise Club to encourage students to connect with each other. Amaral said the school was also celebrating the start of its cross country and soccer seasons.

“We truly appreciate everyone who helps our middle school students grow, compete and build confidence both on and off the field,” she said.

At the high school, Principal Verner said the Class of 2027 had started off strong with a Sunrise Breakfast event and plans for the senior class’ annual trip to Washington, DC coming up soon. He said they had welcomed the Class of 2030 and noted that “It’s amazing to think we’re already in the ‘30s with our students.”

Superintendent of Schools Timothy Van Tassel provided some updates, including some budgetary ones. He said that the district had recently received word about the Title 1 grants (which help the district support financially disadvantaged students) and Title 2 grants (which

support teacher training) that it receives. Planning for these grants was challenging, he said, as the town must make an educated guess as to what the state will provide each year, without knowing exactly. While some of the distributions were slightly less than than expected, he said that they were able to carry over excess from the prior year, so the budget was still in line with expectations.

Van Tassel also provided an update on the new, centralized bus stops for the Vo-Ag and vocational school programs. He said that the district was working to accommodate families as best as they possibly could, and said they may add additional centralized stops if needed.

Van Tassel thanked his central office and administrative teams, noting that “It was a very difficult summer for them as we were really struggling to figure out what was going to be happening financially with the schools, and they really stepped up throughout the entire summer, as they always do, to make sure that our schools are ready to start for the first day of school.”

On a budgetary note, Van Tassel said he hoped that residents realized the degree to which the district and the town were already sharing services when possible, via the finance department, public works department, technology services and the school district’s Director of Facilities. He said he hoped for future collaboration to reduce costs.

Because they were moving towards a “shared services model,” he said, his hope was that “our elected officials could potentially discuss whether or not, if we are truly about shared services, [if] we are truly about one entity, maybe it’s time to have one budget for the Board of Education and the town.”

He also said that he hoped to keep lines of communication open on budgetary matters, to keep both the board and community informed. Van Tassel noted that a tri-board meeting, involving the Board of Education, Town Council and Board of Finance, would be upcoming this fall. He also said there would be a series of community forums that would allow schools to share information on their academic priorities, school-based programming, staffing, enrollment, and facilities needs, and to receive community feedback.

Those events will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Oct. 20 at the high school, Oct. 27 at the middle school, Nov. 17 at Memorial School and Dec. 15 at Center School, he said.

Board Member Resigns

After the meeting, the Board of Education also announced that board member Ken Barber, a Democrat, would be resigning from the board. As a result, the board said it was seeking citizens interested in serving on the Board of Education to complete his term, which ends in November 2027.

Letters of interest and a resume, they said, should be submitted to Dr. Timothy Van Tassel, Superintendent of Schools, at tvantasel@easthamptonct.org by Oct. 2 at noon, with candidates being interviewed by the board on Oct. 5.

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A time of hot chocolatey
mornings, and toasty
marshmallow evenings,
and, best of all, leaping into
leaves!”— Winnie the Pooh*

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POCD is Finally Ready for Review

By Anne Lilburn

East Hampton’s Plan of Conservation (POCD) is finally close to completion, and is available in draft form for the public to review on the town’s website. At the next Town Council meeting, on Sept. 22, the public will be invited to make public comments on the document, which will officially begin the public review and comment period that will run through the end of October, according to Town Manager David Cox.

The POCD is a planning document that is required by state statute for every municipality in Connecticut.

“The POCD is intended to guide the most desirable use of land, the location and character of development, conservation of important resources, public investment, and the policies and recommendations needed to advance the community’s long-term vision,” according to the town’s draft POCD.

“The Plan is intended to advance compatible principles, including conservation of natural and cultural resources, development in appropriate locations, housing opportunity, efficient use of infrastructure, economic vitality, resilience, and coordinated regional planning.”

Each town is required to revise and update its POCD every ten years, and East Hampton has been undertaking that process for the past year. Former Town Planner Juliet Hodge, working along with the POCD Steering Committee, the Planning and Zoning Commission, and outside consultants, collected public input in a variety of ways, including an online or paper survey, neighborhood meetings, focused discussion sessions, and visioning events.

At the most recent Town Council meeting on

Sept. 8, Hodge, who left her position with the town in July but returned to present the document, emphasized what the POCD was and was not. It does not override any existing zoning regulation, she said. It was merely a guiding document for the town’s next ten years. Hodge encouraged residents to read “at least the first 40 pages” of the 111-page document.

Drawing on public input, the POCD lays out ten “community priorities”: Protecting small-town character, focusing growth where it belongs, expanding housing choices, reusing and revitalizing, using infrastructure strategically, preserving open space and natural resources, supporting local agriculture, strengthening the village center, improving communication and transparency, and balancing growth and preservation.

The plan lays out five “vision statements” for the community: 1) Revitalize the village center, 2) Protect natural resources and rural character, 3) Provide housing opportunities for all stages of life, 4) Strengthen economic vitality and fiscal sustainability, and 5) Promote transparent, predictable and inclusive decision-making.

“The five overarching visions capture the primary themes from the public input sessions: protect what makes East Hampton special, address structural challenges honestly, and rebuild trust by making deliberate choices through transparent processes,” the POCD states.

The plan notes priorities, among them protecting water quality, establishing an open space acquisition fund, adopting farm-supportive zoning regulations, amending zoning regulations to permit ADUs and smaller housing products, reconciling multiple conflicting sew-

er-service maps, removing barriers to reuse of vacant and blighted former factory and industrial sites, and adopting a multi-year road improvement program.

The plan also sets goals in the area of establishing a required Municipal Housing and Growth Plan, extended public water service, establishing both a Teen Advisory Group and exploring a multi-generational community facility to cover expanded Senior Center needs, among other things.

The draft document includes maps highlighting priority infrastructure areas and areas where development could be focused to enhance the commercial tax base. It includes an analysis of East Hampton’s demographics, including its shift, along with many communities in the state, towards an older population.

It sets out the community’s fears, including

overdevelopment, rising property taxes, blighted factory buildings in the village center, and a lack of government transparency, but also focuses on what residents value in their community. According to the document, residents love the small-town feel, its safe and quiet neighborhoods, the small local businesses, access to abundant outdoor recreation, the strong school system, and of course, the “jewel” that is Lake Pocotopaug.

Residents can find the full version of this draft document online at tinyurl.com/ehpocd, and Hodge and Cox sought to remind residents that they could provide public comments on the POCD to the Town Council at its next meeting on Sept. 22. Comments may also be sent to the POCD Steering Committee in care of the Land Use Department at Town Hall or may be sent to jhodge@easthamptonct.gov.

Congregational Church News

The Congregational Church of East Hampton, 59 Main St., welcomes all to worship Sundays at 10 a.m. This Sunday, Sept. 20, will feature Communion. The scripture reading for this Sunday’s service is Exodus 16:2-15. Guest the Rev. Kathy Peters will deliver a sermon entitled “Keeping the Faith.” Peters is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ. Coffee hour will follow the service.

AA Weekly Meeting: Sundays at 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Choir Practice: Thursdays, Bells, 6-7 p.m.; Vocal Choir, 7-8:30 p.m., in the upstairs lounge.

Yarners: A community knitting/crocheting group meets at 10 a.m.

East Hampton Food Bank: A weekly collection is held for the Food Bank. This year the church has donated over 800 pounds.

Middle Haddam Public Library News

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

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

Featured Art for September: Historic photographs of Middle Haddam.

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.

New Meditation Program: Tuesdays through Oct. 20, 6-6:45 p.m., at the library. The sessions feature topics for meditation, contemplation and inquiry. There is also a Zoom option, on Tuesdays from 8-8:45 a.m. Cost is \$50 for the series. Call Omar Milton at 860-776-4162 to register.

Chair Yoga Classes with Kathleen Robak: Fridays from 9:30-10:30 a.m., starting Sept. 25. Cost is \$15 per class. This modified, gentle form of yoga that allows you to perform traditional yoga poses while seated in a chair or using a

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.

Preserve Your Summer Garden

All are invited to the next meeting of the Belltown Garden Club on Monday, Sept. 28, at 6:30 p.m., at the East Hampton Public Library community room.

Learn about types of canning, the tools, steps, resources, and trusted recipes of how you can use your homegrown vegetables to eat all year round. The talk will deal with pickles, sauces, jams and more, and will be led by a local canner with 50+ years of experience.

The East Hampton Belltown Garden Club is a member of The Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut and National Garden Clubs.

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.

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: 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: Author Event! Janis Robinson Daly: Exploring Historical Fiction: Inspiration & Education: Wednesday, Oct. 7, 6:30 p.m. Meet award-winning and best-selling author Janis Robinson Daly as she shares how genealogy research inspired her to write historical fiction, along with a discussion of how the genre educates readers seeking ways to embrace life-long learning. Sponsored by Friends of the

East Hampton Public Library.

Teen Programs: 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.

Crochet (and more!) with Keri: Grades 6-12: Tuesday, Sept. 29, 6 p.m. Meet up in the Teen Space for a casual evening of crochet and other crafts with Teen Librarian Keri Lancelot.

Children’s Program: DIY Days: Grades K-8: Saturday, Sept. 19, 11 a.m.-4 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.

Ready to Read Book Club: Grades K-2: Monday, Sept. 28, 4:30 p.m. The book club combines skill building with games to promote a love of reading. New readers welcome; registered participants can take home a free book.

Sunday School: Classes will begin Sept. 20 at 10 a.m. Backpacks will be blessed for the new school year, and ice cream sundaes will be provided as part of the celebration. Newcomers are always welcome. Contact the Rev. Joanne Neel-Richard, the director of children’s ministry, at jneelrichard16@gmail.com for information.

Bible Study: Wednesdays at 6 p.m., via Zoom. Contact Bobette Reed Kahn to join, at bobette@kahn.com.

Choir: Choir practice begins at 8:30 on Sunday, Sept. 20. Contact Linda Napoletano at lindanapoletano@me.com to be a part of this ministry.

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

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School Board Takes Funding Fight to State

By Toriana Williams

A fight over school money in Andover has moved from town offices to the state.

The Andover Board of Education has filed a complaint with the Connecticut State Board of Education over how school funds are handled. The school board said a proposed change in the town's funding process could interfere in the board's legal power to manage its approved budget.

Superintendent of Schools Valerie Bruneau said the school board tried to settle the disagreements in town first, but those efforts did not work.

“After efforts to resolve the disagreement locally were unsuccessful, the board was forced to file a complaint under Connecticut General Statutes section 10-4b asking the State Board of Education to investigate,” said Bruneau.

The dispute concerns the money that is currently being held in school accounts and how those funds are distributed. Under the proposed change, instead of providing one-tenth of the annual amount roughly each month, the school would receive 1/52 of the annual appropriations each week.

If the school needs more funds beyond that weekly amount, it would come before the Board of Selectmen and explain why the additional funding is needed.

According to First Selectman Jeff Maguire, a Democrat, the town is not trying to tell the school board how to spend its approved budget. Instead, he said, the town wants to change where the money is kept so it can earn interest.

“The issue is how the money is funded to the account they're currently using to spend those funds,” said Maguire.

Maguire said town officials want to make the most of public money and earn interest that could help taxpayers.

“We're trying to take and have as good of control over the funds that the town has, and to make as much money as possible,” he said.

Maguire said information from the town treasurer showed that the BOE's bank account had more than \$1 million at the end of each

month during a six-month period.

“And that's a lot of interest income that could be earned for the taxpayers of the town of Andover,” he said.

But school officials say the money in their accounts is not just extra cash sitting around.

Bruneau said the accounts include money that has specific uses, including operating funds, tuition, grants and other funds that must remain available for their intended purposes.

“The money maintained in school accounts is not simply extra or unused cash,” said Bruneau. She said adding new rules for using their funds could create problems for the school system. The school board also said the town's proposed policy conflicts with state law and the town charter. Bruneau said the BOE and its lawyers believe the board has authority over spending its approved budget.

Bruneau shared that the issue could create “an unnecessary risk of delays in meeting payroll, paying vendors and supporting students.”

Maguire sees the issue differently.

He said the town is not trying to control how the school board spends its approved budget, but instead, he said, the town wants to make sure money is handled in a way that can bring in more interest for taxpayers.

“I don't sit there and see any reason that the town should forego any interest that it could earn to offset the taxes of the residents of the community,” said Maguire.

The dispute has also raised questions about transparency.

“The superintendent and the Board of Education lack any sense of transparency with their financial records,” claimed Maguire.

Maguire explained that he has had trouble getting financial information from the school system and he has had to file Freedom of Information requests to obtain basic records.

“When I ask for information, as a board member and as the first selectman, and I'm told ‘no,’ and I have to file Freedom of Information requests to get just basic information, checking account information, check registers - there's

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. 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.

The Andover Community Fund Commit-

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.

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 Cremé to register, at cat.creme2023@gmail.com.

something wrong with that,” he said.

Maguire called transparency a major part of the dispute. He said he believes the school board should provide more financial information to town officials.

Bruneau strongly refuted claims that the school is not transparent.

“The school does not lack transparency and we have lots of oversight already in place,” she said.

Bruneau said some information requested by Maguire cannot be released because it involves private information about students and families.

“I've gone on record publicly at town meeting multiple times saying that there's some information that Mr. Maguire has requested that is protected information for students and financials for families,” she said.

“I will continue to provide our monthly financials at our Board of Education meetings,” said Bruneau. “But there is other financial information that is not released, not for a lack of transparency, but because it is private student and family information.”

The most major point of disagreement appears to be whether the town can require “receipts” before the school system uses money that has already been approved for its budget.

Bruneau said Maguire expects the school to provide receipts before using its budgeted funds.

“That is not legal either by charter or state statute,” she said.

Bruneau said the town and school system had previously used a funding policy that worked for both sides. Under that policy, the school received one-tenth of its annual budget between July 1 and April of the following year.

“The Board of Finance and Board of Education had successfully worked together for a number of years under this policy,” she said.

“There was no reason to change the policy,” added Bruneau.

The school board said the state complaint was necessary because it believes Maguire has gone beyond his proper role.

“The school, through the Board of Education chairperson Dr. [Caitlin] Greenhouse, did have to file a complaint with the state because Mr. Maguire has overstepped his role in responsibility,” said Bruneau.

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.

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 – including full program descriptions – and to register for events, 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.

Grocery Shopping: Tuesdays, 8:30 a.m. Willimantic 9/22 and 10/6; Manchester 9/29 and 10/13. Also, on Thursday, 10/15, shop Trader Joe's and Michael's. Transportation is available.

Thrift Shopping: Thursday, 10/8, 9 a.m., to

Maguire said the state complaint itself is part of a larger problem between town and school officials.

“The fact we have attorneys involved at all is the issue,” he said.

He said town boards should be able to work together even when they disagree.

“We should be able to work together to solve problems that arise,” Maguire said. “Not everybody needs to agree about every issue, but we have to be able to work together or we'll get nothing accomplished.”

The sides also disagree about the cost of legal help.

When asked how much the town had spent on lawyers for the matter, Maguire said the answer was “zero,” as the town attorney works under a retainer that does not change.

“I would love to know how much the superintendent has wasted town dollars on an attorney for this issue,” said Maguire.

Bruneau did not provide a dollar amount for the school board's legal costs. She did explain why the school has its own lawyer.

Bruneau said the town attorney is involved in town meetings and regularly gives legal opinions to town officials. Because of that, she said, the school needs its own lawyer to represent its side.

“It isn't fair for Mr. Maguire to say the school does not deserve legal representation when the town's attorney is speaking on behalf of the town pretty much daily,” said Bruneau.

“We do deserve to have our side represented,” she added.

For now, the complaint is pending with the state.

Bruneau said the school board will provide more information after the state reviews the matter.

“The board remains committed to transparency and hopes this matter can be resolved promptly,” she said.

Maguire said he also wants a meeting between the two sides. He said he asked the state Department of Education to schedule one so town and school officials can sit down together.

“To be really honest, it should never have gotten to this point,” said Maguire.

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Andover Elementary Celebrates Increase in Test Scores

By Toriana Williams

Andover Elementary School is celebrating a big jump in student test scores after the school shared its latest state assessment results.

The Andover Board of Education announced the spring SBAC results during its Sept. 9 meeting. School Principal Taylor Parker told the board that there was plenty of good news to celebrate.

“I’m so excited,” began Parker. “Thank you for letting me share in celebrations, because we definitely have a lot to celebrate.”

The Smarter Balanced Assessment, or SBAC, is given to students in grades 3 through 6. Students take tests in English language arts, or ELA, and math. Fifth grade students also take a science test.

At AES, about 110 students took the reading and math tests this year. The results showed significant and strong growth in both subjects.

In ELA, 73% of Andover students reached proficiency. That was up from 64.8% the year

before. Math scores showed an even larger jump. This year, 69.4% of students reached proficiency, compared to 53.2% last year.

For comparison, the Connecticut average was 51% in ELA and 46.7% in math.

Parker called the results “tremendous growth.”

“We are very, very excited about this,” she told the board.

The school also saw a large increase in the number of students who met their individual growth goals as well. In ELA, 68.7% of students reached their state growth target. In math, 67.5% reached their target.

Those numbers were much higher than the previous year. In 2024-2025, 44.4% of students reached their ELA growth target, while 41.1% reached their math target.

Parker said growth is important because students are not all starting from the same place.

“Every student gets a target, whether you

score a one or a four,” explained Parker. “So even students performing above grade level have a target score.”

School leaders said the results show that students at different levels are making progress.

One important finding was that the gap between high-needs students and other students became smaller in both subjects. The gap dropped from 20.7% to 14.5%.

Parker said this was especially important. “We want all students growing,” she said.

Science was another area discussed at the meeting. Fifth grade science scores were not publicly released because the group was small, but Parker said the school’s science achievement was about 56% to 57%, while its science district performance index was 73.2%.

Andover’s district performance index was 79.2% in ELA and 75.5% in math. The state goal for the index is 75%.

The school credited several years of work by teachers and staff for the outstanding results. Parker said teachers have focused on teaching methods that research shows can help students learn.

“We really focused on those high-quality instruction strategies,” she said.

In reading, teachers have worked on direct reading instruction and skills such as understanding how letters and sounds work together. In math, teachers have worked to give students more chances to solve problems and explain their thinking.

Parker said the goal isn’t just to get students ready for one test.

“We don’t want a student who can hold it all in for a test, right? And then maybe the next day it’s done,” she said. “That we don’t want.”

Teachers also meet in teams to look at student data. Fourth and fifth grade teachers meet together, as do second and third grade teachers. These meetings help teachers make sure students are building skills from one grade to the

next.

Parker said the school’s teachers are a major part of the success. She explained that teachers look at student work, find areas that need attention and then ask what research says could help.

“We look at data, we look at the student work and we can identify an area of weakness or a challenge,” said Parker. “And then we say, okay, what does the research say to address this challenge? And let’s go do it and see if it works.”

Teachers also track individual students. Parker said school teams meet about every eight to 10 weeks to talk about each student.

The school is now looking ahead. In a later interview with the *Rivereast*, Parker said Andover does not plan to make a major change just because the scores went up. Instead, the school plans to continue the work that helped students make progress.

“We’re going to press the gas,” she said.

She said the strong scores give teachers more room to help students explore new subjects and go deeper into what they are learning.

“When you’re starting now closer to where we are in those 70th percentiles, now there’s an opportunity to dive even deeper into student interests,” said Parker.

The school is also looking at STEAM, which includes science, technology, engineering, arts and math. Parker said the goal is to prepare students for what comes next, not just test scores.

“We want them to be critical thinkers, we want them to be able to communicate,” she said.

For AES, the latest results mark an important moment. But Parker said one strong year is not enough.

“It is not a one-shot deal. We can’t just say we had one good year,” she said.

Instead, the school hopes to keep the progress going year after year.

“We’re just excited to celebrate and keep on keeping on,” said Parker.

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

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.

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.

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.

Pumpkin Patch to Open

The Andover Pumpkin Patch, located at 359 Route 6, is a fall destination open daily from Sept. 20 to Oct. 31.

Visitors can explore a variety of pumpkins perfect for carving or decorating, while also enjoying a selection of Halloween items, as well as baked goods. Additionally, raffle baskets will also be available.

All proceeds go directly to the Andover Food Pantry.

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PLENTIFUL

★ Answers on page 30

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CREATORS NEWS SERVICE

By Neil Manausa

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- 10 Lucille Ball film, 1974
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- 15 “Silent Night,” e.g.
- 16 Late host Trebek
- 17 Like fine port
- 19 Bicycled
- 20 Domino
- 21 Low-board dive
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- 24 Rocker booster?
- 25 Defeat an incumbent
- 26 Leaf remover
- 28 Castle’s surrounding
- 30 Queen of ____
- 32 Queried after a mission
- 37 Nylons
- 38 Sat for Seurat
- 39 Pueblo resident
- 40 Beatles’ hit
- 42 “Over the Rainbow” composer
- 43 “Vaya con ____!”
- 44 Fervor
- 45 Treated badly
- 49 Bad mouth; slang
- 50 Coal container
- 53 Wrestling hold
- 56 Ruin

- 57 Killer of a whale
- 58 Finish where it all began
- 60 Sign of things to come
- 61 College credit
- 62 Wired for sound
- 63 Sour
- 64 “____ Make a Deal”
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DOWN

- 1 Elevates
- 2 Alaskan native
- 3 Ceremonial attire
- 4 Agatha’s contemporary
- 5 Johnny ____
- 6 This ____: shipping advice
- 7 Spiral
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- 9 Conservatives
- 10 Yankee #9 in 1961
- 11 Like a hermit
- 12 Greek sorceress
- 13 Bring to bear
- 18 “All ____”: Martin-Tomlin film
- 22 Debater, half the time

- 24 Al Capone, ____ Scarface
- 27 Work for Capone, e.g.
- 28 Southwestern flattops
- 29 Follow orders
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- 31 Tiller’s tool
- 32 Lamebrain
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- 34 Pigskin toters
- 35 Chicago to Grand Rapids dir.
- 36 Cacophony
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- 42 Loser to DDE
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- 45 In progress
- 46 Myanmar in 1988
- 47 Tummy trouble
- 48 Point of view
- 49 Oafs
- 51 Narrow cove
- 52 Food, clothing, shelter
- 54 Debussy’s “Clair de ____”
- 55 Skirt feature
- 56 Soft cheese
- 59 Rascal

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

Trick or Trot 5K

This Halloween season, the Andover Norton Commission Trick or Trot 5K Run/Walk and Kids Fun Run will take place Saturday, Oct. 24.

The community event, being held at Andover Elementary School, 35 School Rd., invites runners, walkers, families and children to lace up – and dress up – for a Halloween-themed morning.

The Kids 1K Fun Run begins at 9:15 a.m., followed by the 5K Run/Walk at 10 a.m. Bib pickup, and the costume contest begin at 8 a.m.

Participants can expect giveaways, awards for overall and age-group winners, costume prizes for adults and children, and surprise treats along the route. Costumes are encouraged, making the event as much a community celebration as a race.

The event also supports local families through the Norton Commission's work and the collection of non-perishable food items for the Andover Food Pantry.

Register online at [runsignup.com/Race/CT/Andover/NortonCommissionTrickOrTrot5K-RunWalk](https://www.runsignup.com/Race/CT/Andover/NortonCommissionTrickOrTrot5K-RunWalk).

Youth Basketball Registration Open

Andover Youth Basketball (AYB) registration is open for the 2026-27 season.

Andover Redhawks Recreation Teams (Grades 3-6): Teams are open to boys and girls of all skill levels – no prior experience necessary. Practices are held twice a week starting in November, and games are held on weekends December through February. There is a \$125 registration fee per player. Deadline to register: Oct. 9.

Mini & Junior Redhawks Developmental

Program (PreK-2nd Grade): This is a weekend developmental program to introduce children (and their parent/guardian) to the sport of basketball. Clinics are held Saturday mornings December through February. Non-Andover area families and friends are welcome to join. There is a \$45 registration fee per player. Deadline to register: October 30th.

To register, go to www.andoverconnecticut.org/about/pages/sports-recreation or email AndoverRec@andoverct.org.

Congregational Church News

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

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

a.m. Sundays in the sanctuary.

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

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

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

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.

History Museum Open Saturday

The Andover Historical Society will open its Museum of Andover History Saturday, Sept. 19, from 4-6 p.m. New items are continuously being added to the display.

The museum is located in the Old Town Hall on Monument Lane.

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

RHAM Music Mattress Showroom Fundraiser

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

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

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

Dancing with the Stars

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

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

Tickets are \$12/person when purchased in advance online, and \$15 at the door on Sept. 19. For more information, visit ahmyouth.org.

Submissions Accepted for ‘Fall Into Art’

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

Local artists and community members of all ages are invited to participate in this autumn-themed day of fun. To submit your artwork for display, use the form at ahmyouth.org/fall-into-art-registration.

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

For more information, visit ahmyouth.org.

Adjustable power bases, CordaRoy's Convertible Bean Bag/Nest chairs, luxury sheets & pillows, body massagers, and mattress protectors will also be sold below retail the day of the event. Delivery, old mattress removal, and 0% financing options are available, with orders ready for delivery or pick-up 12 to 14 days after the sale.

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

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

AHM Fall Brochure Released

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

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

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

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Obituaries

Marlborough

Vivian A. Meyers

Vivian A. Meyers, of Marlborough, passed away peacefully Monday, Sept. 7. She was born in West Hartford on April 1, 1935, the daughter of Charles Meyers and Mary Kidney. She graduated from Lyman Memorial High School and St. Agnes Home Training School. She worked in the delivery room at Mt. Sinai Hospital until her retirement.

Vivian loved to read and do jigsaw puzzles. She was a Miami Dolphins fan and loved Snoopy.

Vivian is survived by nieces and nephews and many friends and their families.

In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by her brothers, Albert Meyers and Robert Meyers, and her sister, Barbara Crossen.

Funeral services and burial will be private. There are no calling hours.

Memorial donations may be made to St Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

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



Colchester

Patricia Gallucci

Patricia “Patty” Gallucci, of Colchester, passed away peacefully Sunday, Sept. 13, following a short and courageous battle with cancer. She was 71 years old. Patty was born in Hartford on April 3, 1955, to the late Everett and Shirley Wade. Following high school, Patty enjoyed many years of service as a supervisor in the information technology field.

Patty married Gary Gallucci, and together they built a beautiful life, raising their children in Colchester. After retiring, Patty and Gary moved to Florida, where she enjoyed spending time with family and friends, traveling the world, and vacationing in Maine. She also enjoyed golfing, bocce, as well as hosting and cooking delicious homemade meals for family and friends.

Patty is survived by her beloved husband of 44 years, Gary, who was her constant companion and partner in life. Together, Gary and Patty shared many wonderful years as a team, creating countless cherished memories. She is also survived by her children, Jeff, Michael, and Kristan Gallucci.



In addition to her parents, Patty was predeceased by her son, John Gallucci; and her beloved in-laws, Gladys and Alfred Gallucci.

Among Patty's greatest loves were her grandchildren, Joseph and Maddison Travaglino, and Angelina Gallucci, as well as her many extended family members and dear friends.

Patty will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved her. Her love, laughter, friendship, kindness, and the memories she created with those around her will remain in our hearts forever.

Visitation and service will be held at Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester, on Sept. 25. Family will be accepting guests from 4-6 p.m., and a memorial service will take place following visitation hours at 6 p.m.

Care of arrangements has been entrusted to Aurora McCarthy Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the American Cancer Society.

Middletown

Victoria Lashette

Victoria “Vickie” Lashette, 70, passed away peacefully at her home on Thursday, Sept. 10. Vickie was born in Middletown to Helen and Martin Lashette. She resided in Middletown for most of her life.

Vickie was a loving, generous and unforgettable woman who touched the lives of so many people. If you were lucky enough to call Vickie your friend, you knew you had a friend for life.

Vickie had many passions. She was an avid gardener with a love of music, shopping, long walks at the beach, cooking and working with clients as an aesthetician.

Vickie leaves behind her partner of many years, Guy, who cared for her until her passing. She also leaves behind two sisters, Julie (Paul) Norton and Nancy Bugaj, both of Portland and three nephews. Vickie was pre-deceased by her parents.

Vickie will be greatly missed and forever remembered.

There will be no calling hours or services. Arrangements are being handled by The Ahern Funeral Homes Inc., www.ahernfuneralhome.com.



Hebron

Shirley Tinney

Shirley Tinney, of Hebron, beloved wife, mother, grandmother, aunt, sister and friend, passed away peacefully Monday, Sept. 14, at the age of 79. Born March 29, 1947, in Middletown, she was the daughter of the late Elwood and Gertrude (Jones) McKinney Sr.

Shirley lived a life marked by kindness, humor and generosity. She will be remembered most for her heart of gold, sincerity and kindness.

Shirley is survived by her loving and devoted husband, Leland Tinney Jr.; her children, Jeffrey Tinney and his wife Shonagh of East Hampton, daughter Robin Manning and her husband Christopher of Hebron; four grandchildren, Robert, Abigail, Julie and Emily; and four great-grandchildren.

She was predeceased in death by her daughter Christina Lataille, and her two brothers and her sister.

Throughout her life, Shirley found joy in reading, having family get togethers for the holidays and traveling to Tennessee with her beloved family, Tim and Kathy.

A memorial service will be held Wednesday, Sept. 23, at 11 a.m., in the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton. Friends may call at the funeral home from 10 a.m. until the time of the service. Burial will follow in Lake View Cemetery in the family plot.

To leave online condolences, please visit www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

She will be deeply missed and forever loved.



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REG-11-26

CLASSIFIED

LEGALS

MARLBOROUGH ZONING COMMISSION
NOTICE OF ACTION

The Marlborough Zoning Commission at their special meeting on September 10, 2026, took the following action:
APPLICATIONS APPROVED:
#Z-06-26-Connecticut Water Company (Applicant) 2 Glenwood Dr, replacing an existing water treatment and pump station, with a new treatment and pump station
ERIC COLANTONIO, ZONING COMMISSION CHAIR

1TB 9/18

LEGAL NOTICE
MARLBOROUGH PLANNING COMMISSION
NOTICE OF ACTION

The Marlborough Planning Commission at their meeting on August 25, 2026, at 7pm in the Town Hall, 26 No Main Street
APPLICATION APPROVED:
#P-03-26 Jones Hollow Associates, LLC (Applicant/Property Owner) 382 Jones Hollow Road, 1 lot Resubdivision
MARK PAUL, PLANNING COMMISSION CHAIR

1TB 9/18

TOWN OF COLCHESTER
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
OCTOBER 1, 2026
6:45 p.m.
Town Hall, 127 Norwich Avenue,
Colchester, CT

1. The Board of Selectmen will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, October 1, 2026 at 6:45 pm at the Colchester Town Hall, 127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, CT for the following purpose:
To hear public comments regarding the proposed fee schedule revision to Town Ordinance Chapter 56 Fees, Article II, §56-6 Inland Wetlands and Watercourse Fee Schedule as recommended by the Conservation Commission.
A copy of the proposed revisions is available in the Town Clerk's Office.
Dated at Colchester, CT this 15th day of September 2026.
Bernie Dennler, First Selectman

1TB 9/18

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RENTALS

GLASTONBURY OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT: Individual offices or space up to 1,000-1,400 square feet suites. Use of conference room included. Call 860-633-3545.

CROMWELL ONE BEDROOM 3RD FLOOR WALK-UP: \$1,250/month lease. No Pets. No Smoking. 860-685-1487.

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ROOM FOR RENT, HARRINGTON COURT, COLCHESTER: Available Nov 1st. Call Joey for more information. 860-576-0098.







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your sterling silverware, tea set, or any item made of sterling. Top cash price paid on the spot. I can come to your home or meet you at a place of your choosing. Call/text Dominic at 860-836-5013 or email dmbappraisal@sbcglobal.net.

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

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EMPLOYMENT

D O N D E R O ORCHARDS IS SEEKING: enthusiastic individuals to join their kitchen team! Stop by 529 Woodland Street, South Glastonbury for an application!

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Town of Colchester is currently accepting applications for the following positions:

- **Part-Time Clerk, Tax Collector's Office**
- **Part-Time Youth Center Supervisor**

Interested candidates are encouraged to visit the Human Resources page on the Town website for complete job descriptions.
See job postings at: <https://www.colchesterct.gov/human-resources/pages/employment-opportunities>

1TB 9/18



Dondero Orchards
South Glastonbury, CT

Dondero Orchards is looking for enthusiastic individuals to join their kitchen team!!

Job Requirements:

- Willingness to learn
- Strong work ethic
- Comfort in a fast paced environment
- 18 years or older

Duties include but are not limited to:

- Preparing sandwiches for lunch service
- Prepping fruits & vegetables
- Assembling pies
- Making pickles
- Cleaning • & more!

Please stop in to 529 Woodland Street for more information and to fill out an application or Call (860) 659-0294 and ask to speak to Sandy.

RE7-24-26

New Beginnings for Life is a smaller company with a big heart that cares for individuals with intellectual disabilities. We are seeking kind, patient, and passionate candidates to join our team. We have individuals who need care and companionship in Colchester and surrounding towns. We have great benefits, and the rate of pay is \$17.25 per hour.

For our day support program, which is from 8am-4pm and 2pm-5pm, the towns are in Salem, Groton, Hebron, Lebanon, Higganum, East Haddam, New London, Norwich, East Hampton, Colchester.

For our group home positions we have Monday-Sunday open second and third shift which is 3pm-11pm and 11pm-7am. These positions are in Colchester.

If you are interested in becoming a part of our team, please feel free to call us and ask for more information at 860-531-9426

RE3-15-24

Parks Maintainer II (Full-time)

The Town of East Hampton is seeking a skilled, motivated, reliable individual for the position of Parks Maintainer II in the Public Works Department. This position carries out coordinated work assignments and performs manual labor in the construction, installation, repair, and maintenance of municipal parks, grounds, various sports field surfaces, recreational areas, and facilities. Certifications and/or some education in landscape planning, turf managements, and/or park maintenance or a closely related field, or an equivalent combination of experience and training which provides the required knowledge, skills, and abilities is required. One year of experience in parks or grounds maintenance work, including some lead-worker experience. Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI) certification preferred, otherwise, must be obtained within one year. Must possess or be willing to obtain a Certificate of Personal Watercraft Operation License issued by the State of Connecticut. This is a full-time, bargaining unit position with benefits that include health, dental, vision, 401, life insurance, and PTO. \$24.83 per hour. 40 hours per week, plus OT as required. Interested candidates should submit a resume and employment application by October 6, 2026 to the Town of East Hampton, Department of Human Resources, 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, CT 06424, or by email to: lseymour@easthamptonct.gov EOE/M-F/AA. A job description and employment application may be found at www.easthamptonct.gov

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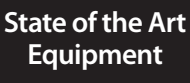
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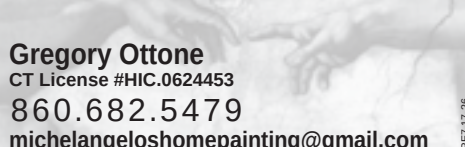
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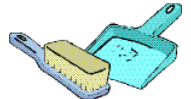
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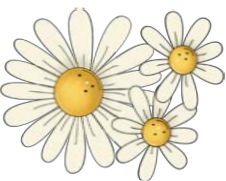
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ANNUAL FIRST CHURCH GIANT TAG SALE: Friday, 10/2, noon-6pm, Saturday, 10/3 9am-noon. Featuring Books, Quality Clothes, Craft Supplies, Kids Stuff, Jewelry, Collectibles, Home Goods, Holiday Décor, Furniture, Electronics, and Much More! First Church of Christ, 2183 Main Street, Glastonbury.

TAG SALE FRI 9/18 & SAT 9/19: Rain or Shine. 9am-2pm. 74 Indian Hill Ave, Portland. Vintage items, etc. Reduced prices.

TAG SALE: 70 Shoddy Mill Rd, Andover. Sept 26 & 27th 9-4. Tools, housewares, antiques, something for everyone.

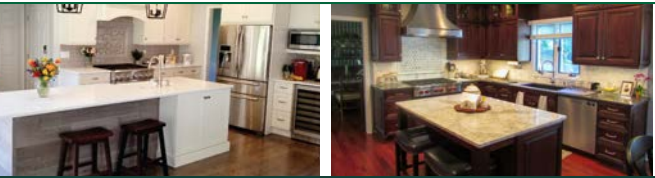
TAG SALE: Saturday 9/19, 8am-2pm, 563 New Britian Ave, Newington. Living room, bedroom and dining furniture, kitchen ware, never used items, HVAC tools and misc items.

TAG/ART/SALE: 9-4 Friday & Saturday Sept 25th & 26th rain or shine in garage. 81 Dudley Rd, Wethersfield. Clearance of frame, and unframed art, art books, art supplies, including small mono print press with carving sheets and tools. Household items, bakers cake pans, vintage uranium glass picture with four matching tumblers, books on how to write, clothes, shoes, fabrics, craft supplies.

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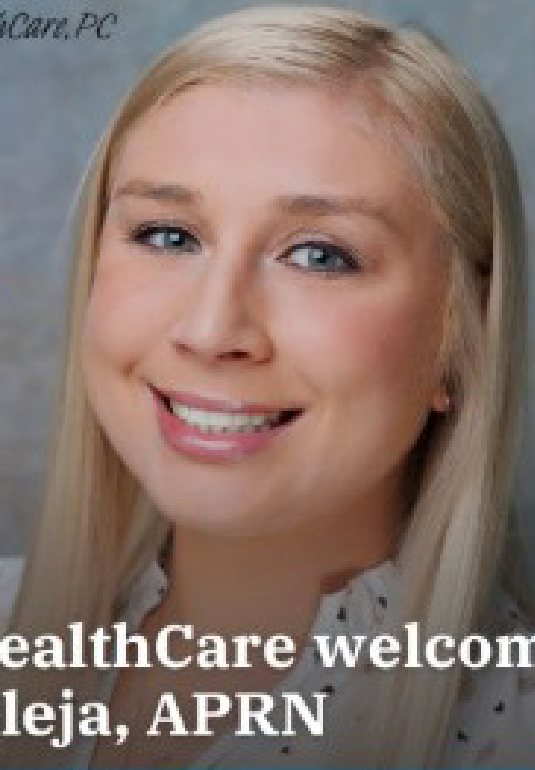
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