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RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

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

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Marlborough Senior Center Celebrates 25 Years

By Toriana Williams

The sun was shining, the music was playing and the cars were glistening as the Marlborough Senior Center celebrated a special milestone: 25 years of serving the community.

Friends, families, town leaders and senior center members gathered on a beautiful Saturday, Sept. 19, to celebrate the center's anniversary. The celebration offered good food, free ice cream, a classic car show, joy from togetherness and excellent music from the Silk City Jazz Band.

It was a day to look back on with pride and one to look ahead of with excitement.

"This is a magnificent celebration of the first 25 years of Marlborough Senior Center," said Town Manager David Porter.

The center's story began long ago, before the building ever opened its doors. In 1977, about 20 Marlborough residents formed the Marlborough Senior Citizens Club. The group gave older residents a place to meet, learn, enjoy entertainment and spend time together.

For many years, the club moved from place to place. As meetings were continuously held at various buildings, the need for a permanent home became clear.

After years of planning and hard work, the dream finally became real. The town received a \$500,000 grant to help build a new senior center. Construction moved forward, and the building opened in 2001.

Today, the center is a busy and welcoming place for older adults in Marlborough.

"It's just so important," Porter said of the center. He noted that younger adults often have obligations that end up creating a sense of com-



The Marlborough Senior Center last weekend celebrated its 25th year of serving the community. Shoshana Merced, director of the senior center; state Rep. Steve Weir (R-55); Pam Sawyer, former state representative; Vi Shwarzmann, former director of the senior center; Emma Lou Cranfield, senior center member; Barbara Armfield, member of the Commission on Aging; Deb Bourbeau, selectwoman; and state Sen. Cathy Osten (D-19).

munity – and when they retire and those obligations go away, so can that community.

"We need to replace that with a new sense of community," Porter said. "That's really what the senior center strives to do and often does," he added.

That sense of community was abundant during the anniversary celebration.

Outside, shining class cars gave visitors a chance to step back in time. Inside and around the center, people gathered to talk, laugh and share memories.

State Rep. Steve Weir (R-55) and state Sen. Cathy Osten (D-19) also attended the celebration. Weir praised the people who helped make the center possible.

"I would just like to say thank you to the folks who had the vision to create this wonderful building," said Weir. "This is a place where the community can gather and share common interests."

Osten also spoke on why senior centers matter.

"It's an opportunity to connect with new people, new experiences and keep active," she said.

The celebration also honored people who helped build the center's strong foundation.

Emma Lou Cranfield was recognized for her many years of service to Marlborough. Cranfield became involved with the town's senior club after she retired in 1996 and eventually became president and helped create programs for members.

Cranfield recalled why the club was so important.

"When I retired, there wasn't a senior center. And [the club] was the only way for older people, retired people, to get together and do activities together," she said.

Cranfield also helped start a quilting group after the senior center opened. That group is still going today.

Cranfield said her hope for the future is that even more people will get involved.

"My dream would be that more people would come and take part," said Cranfield. She encouraged people to bring their ideas to the center and "get involved, set up your own interest group."

See Marlborough Senior Center, page 14

Transition Program Moves into New Home

By Anne Lilburn

A group of enthusiastic and career-focused Portland students and their educators have a new home on Main Street.

Portland last weekend celebrated the opening of the new facility for its transition program, which serves students aged 18-22 with significant disabilities. Its new location is in a historic house (once owned by the family of Valley View Pre-K teacher Ellen Kelley) that will enable students to have a home base that allows life skills training in a home-like environment, while also being close to employment training opportunities.

The Pathways to Transition Program (PTTP), which is currently in its fourth year as a separate, standalone program, helps students "move from the structure of high school to the independence of post-school life in the areas of employment, further education/training, and independent living," according to the Portland Public Schools website.

"PTTP is not like traditional high school," the district said. "It shifts the focus from academic

credits to functional, real-world skills, with instruction often delivered in the community rather than solely in the classroom. Services are based on the student's unique strengths, interests, and their goals for life after school."

Currently, five Portland students are in the program. Students start their day at the house, arriving around 8:15 a.m., when they have their morning meeting before heading out to their job sites in the community. Job coaches accompany them to the jobs, where they may spend anywhere from 30 minutes to several hours working, before returning to the house, where they may work on life skills and enjoy leisure time. Because the job times are staggered, the five students may not all overlap in the house at the same time very often, but they all see each other at their morning meeting, and enjoy their lunch together as well.

Until this past year, the program was housed at both Portland High School and at Brownstone Intermediate School. In the past year, though, the school district negotiated a lease

agreement with the owners of the house located at 259 Main Street, and after some renovations, the space was finally ready for the start of this school year.

At the ribbon-cutting and grand opening event last weekend, students and their families mingled with town and school officials and other community members as they toured the house, which has a newly remodeled kitchen so that students can learn kitchen skills, a bedroom with a space nearby to practice laundry skills like ironing and folding, and a sensory lounge/library, with books, beanbag chairs, and a small trampoline.

There are also plenty of spaces for students to work on resumes and job applications, a living room with a TV, and a large dining room table where students meet for their morning meeting and shared lunch time.

"I think we're at the forefront of what this population needs," said PTTP teacher Ted Pinto, who has been with the program since it split

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Police Officers, Realtors Endorse Weir

State Representative Steve Weir (R-55), who is seeking reelection this November, has received the endorsements of the Glastonbury Police Officers Association and the Connecticut Realtors.

Weir is seeking a third term representing the 55th District in the state House of Representatives. The district includes Andover, Hebron, Marlborough and parts of Bolton and Glastonbury.

"I am grateful for the endorsements of the Glastonbury Police Officers Association and the Connecticut Realtors," said Weir. "Both organizations understand the importance of having a community-focused leader in Hartford representing the communities of Andover, Bolton, Glastonbury, Hebron, and Marlborough. I appreciate what these organizations do for the betterment of Connecticut and the people who live and work here."

Weir said the endorsements reflect the importance of having strong connections between Hartford and the communities that make up the 55th District.

"As state representative, my responsibility is to listen to the people and communities I represent and bring their concerns and ideas to Hartford," Weir said. "Our towns and our state are stronger when we work together and focus on practical solutions that make Connecticut a better place to live, work, and raise a family."

Weir has received the endorsement of the Republican Party and the Independent Party of Connecticut in his campaign for reelection, and will appear on both parties' lines in November.



State Rep. Steve Weir



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From the Editor’s Desk

Observations & Ruminations

By Mike Thompson

It’s fall, y’all.

The official first day of autumn was Monday – and it’s certainly felt like autumn this week. It’s not cold, by any means, but there’s definitely a crispness in the air, especially in the evening. It’s time to put the shorts away for another day, and time to bring out the hoodies and sweaters.

That said, it’ll still probably be quite some time until we have our first hard frost of the season. So if you’re out in the evenings – particularly in the Hebron area – it would behoove you to be prepared.

The Chatham Health District – the regional health department that covers Colchester, East Hampton, Hebron, Marlborough and Portland – was notified Tuesday by the state Department of Public Health that mosquitoes trapped in the Raymond Brook Marsh in Hebron tested positive for West Nile Virus.

While most people infected with West Nile Virus don’t develop systems, Chatham Health said, about one in five do. Symptoms include fever, body aches, joint pain, headache, or a rash. About one out of 150 infected people develops a severe illness affecting the central nervous system – and about one of every 10 cases of severe illness is fatal.

People over the age of 60 are at the highest risk of serious illness, Chatham Health said.

Chatham Health said that though the abundance of mosquitoes has been relatively

low, the risk from mosquito-borne illness will continue until there has been a hard frost. The health district said some steps individuals can take to prevent diseases transmitted by mosquito bites are:

- Minimize time spent outdoors between dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active.
- When it is necessary to be outdoors, use mosquito repellents containing an EPA-registered active ingredient, including DEET, Picaridin, IR3535, oil of lemon eucalyptus, para-menthanediol (PMD), or 2-undecanone. EPA registration of skin-applied repellent products indicates that they have been evaluated and approved for human safety and effectiveness when applied according to the instructions on the label.
- Wear shoes, socks, long pants, and a long-sleeved shirt when outdoors for long periods of time, or when mosquitoes are more active. Clothing should be light-colored and loose-fitting and made of tightly woven materials that keep mosquitoes away from the skin.
- Wear clothing and gear treated with permethrin. Permethrin is an insecticide that kills or repels mosquitoes and ticks.
- Be sure door and window screens are tight-fitting and in good repair.
- When sleeping outdoors, use tents or mosquito netting in an unscreened structure.

Editor’s Desk continued on page 6

Bulletin Board

“Everything happens for a reason,” my wife remarked philosophically as we watched the obligatory news coverage of the latest airplane disaster, or near disaster, or flat tire, or whatever, the other night.

“That’s stupid,” I said.

“Excuse me?”

“That’s stupid. Everything does not happen for a reason. Sometimes stuff just happens.”

“There’s always a reason.”

“No there’s not.”

“Sure there is. If a plane crashes because an engine fails, the engine is the reason.”

“That’s not what people mean when they say ‘Everything happens for a reason.’ They mean there’s a higher purpose to what happened. It’s supposed to make you feel better about random things that are actually inexplicable. You’re confusing cause with purpose.”

“Well, there could also be a purpose.”

“Sure. But not necessarily. If an innocent bystander gets shot and killed in a gang shootout on the street, there’s obviously a random cause – a bullet fired by some punk that can’t shoot straight. But there’s no purpose. He didn’t intend to shoot her. There’s no reason for her death and no purpose to it.”

“Uh huh.”

“Of course, if her death inspires somebody to, say, open an orphanage for the children of gunshot victims, then you might be able to argue it happened for a reason. But if she’s just dead, then you can’t.”

“You’re giving me a headache.”

“Look. When God sent a plague of frogs raining down on the Egyptians, he had a purpose – to encourage them to let Moses and his people go free. So the rain of frogs actually happened for a reason. See? It’s not like God got up one morning and decided to pelt the Egyptians with frogs just for the hell of it.”

“Well, it’s also possible that a seemingly random event has a reason or a purpose that’s not clear to us,” she said “That there’s a higher purpose.”

“Ah, yes. The ‘Heaven Only Knows’ argument. God knows why some guy let his dog relieve itself on the sidewalk in front of our house, but He won’t tell us.”

“Have you been smoking pot by any chance? Because this is starting to sound like one of those college dorm discussions.”

“No. I don’t need to light overtaxed, government-sanctioned vegetation on fire to get into the weeds.”

She sniffed. Whether she was checking the air or expressing displeasure wasn’t clear to me.

“I don’t know where you come up with this stuff,” she muttered.

“I brood a lot,” I said. “You think I’m dozing off, but I’m actually pondering the mysteries of the universe.”

“I see,” she said.

“Anyway,” I continued. “The Heaven Only Knows argument is basically cheating.”

“It’s not cheating. It just raises the possibility that there’s a higher purpose by a higher power that’s not clear to us at the moment of the apparently random event.”

“Geez,” I said. “Now who’s been smoking pot?”

“You want to get into the weeds, pal, then we’ll get into the weeds.”

“Okay,” I said. “I can’t deny your argument. That’s the beauty and the frustration of the Heaven Only Knows thesis. On the other hand, who’s to say God wasn’t watching the Saints play the 49ners on Sunday afternoon football and got so engrossed in the game that He forgot about a busload of lepers who then drove over a cliff in Bangladesh and all perished? All to no purpose. Because He took his eye off the ball, so to speak.”

She just looked at me.

“I mean, it’s simple really,” I said, circling back. “Cause is not reason as expressed in the Everything happens for a reason proclamation. It’s all about purpose. Take us, for example. You married me because of my irresistible charm and sensitivity. That was the cause. But your purpose was to fill the terrible hole my absence would cause in your life and thereby live happily ever after.”

“Oh, yeah,” she scoffed. “In your dreams.”

“Then what was your purpose?” I challenged her.

“Heaven only knows,” she said.

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.



A Night to Remember.... AHM Youth and Family Services’ Dancing with the Stars fundraiser last weekend featured local “celebrities” showing off their talents. Wendy Kopp (left), owner of Over AndOver Barntique, took to the stage alongside Rose Dupuis (right) and the talented team from CT Dance Hub, to answer the age-old question: who runs the world? Girls! For more from *Dancing with the Stars*, see the story and additional photos on page X.

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Vote for Melissa Ziobron

To the Editor:

Melissa Ziobron is running for state representative in the 34th District. Melissa is a former state representative, serving the district from November 2013-2019. Along with her experience she brings integrity, honesty and a fierce allegiance to her constituents. She deserves to be elected.

Vote for Melissa Ziobron in November.

Susan McCann – Middle Haddam

Weir is Good for CT

To the Editor:

I have known Steve Weir now for several years and find him to be hardworking, honest and dedicated to his family and his community.

I don’t have much respect for most politicians but I have to say Steve Weir is the exception. Steve is personable, hardworking and listens to everyone. He doesn’t care what your political affiliation is he wants to hear your concerns, your view on the issues that affect your life.

Steve has a strong business background so he understands the pitfalls of doing business in Connecticut. He reads every line of every bill to make sure that in its entirety it is good for the people of his district as well as for all the people/businesses of Connecticut.

Steve Weir is good for Connecticut. Steve Weir has my whole hearted support for reelection, so he can continue to serve the people of this district and the state of Connecticut.

Dwayne Bruender – Amston

Character Matters

To the Editor:

I have known Melissa Ziobron for many years, so I feel I can speak to her character both as a person and a public official. She is honest, compassionate and resilient. One of her best qualities is that she listens to the people and represents us with honor and conviction. These qualities are important in life and in public office. Character matters!

Vote for Melissa on Nov. 3rd.

Melody Philhower – East Hampton

An Epoch Thank You

To the Editor:

Epoch Arts is beyond grateful to our entire community for helping to support this year’s tag sale. To all of you who donated items, it wouldn’t have been a tag sale without you. For those of you who showed up and shopped, sometimes all six days, thank you!

For the entire group of dedicated volunteers who have been working since May to put this tag sale together, thank you. To the people who made delicious meals and oversaw our lunch breaks, you nourished us so we could go on each day, thank you! You all have made it possible to continue the work we do at Epoch Arts and to serve so many youth in our community.

We are forever thankful for all of you who made this year such a success, even with two days of rain! What an amazing community we have, we love you all so much!

**Epoch Arts
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★ *Letters, cont. from page 5*

women and their doctors. Protecting children and keeping seniors safe should be the easiest votes a legislator ever casts. Our teachers, nurses, and young families need homes they can afford, and the state’s school funding formula, untouched since 2013, needs fixing so our property taxes stop covering the gap.

And she is a librarian, for heaven’s sake. Librarians belong in the same company as schoolteachers and nurses: the people who hold a town together, for modest pay, because they believe in the work. Ellen’s values turned the East Hampton library into an award-winner, then took her to the nonprofit whose contracts libraries in every Connecticut town use to purchase together, and through four years of coalition work with a Republican senator to pass the state’s 2025 library e-book law. Of the second law she helped pass that year, on the freedom to read, she said it protects a library’s ability to carry the Bible as much as books about gender identity. That is the temperament I want in Hartford.

I said she shares my values. I don’t think they are only mine. They are not Democratic values or Republican values; in these five towns they are simply ours. Vote for Ellen Paul on Nov. 3. www.ellenforstaterep.com

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

Connecticut Taxes

To the Editor:
Yahoo Finance had an article on the Six highest taxed states where the middle class is struggling. Connecticut is #42 out of 50 for cost of living and the 17th highest in taxes. All of the six are governed by Democrats. We here in Colchester have just approved another tax increase. Other towns still have courageously not passed their budgets; they are fighting the good fight. We still have a chance to vote out the lifelong politicians that put this state in this bind, and get some new people that put us first instead of themselves.

Frank Grande – Colchester

Ziobron the Right Person

To the Editor:
Why re-elect Melissa Ziobron? Because she has the following qualities: she is dynamic, efficient, charismatic, diplomatic, sincere, energetic, thoughtful, unbiased, and hardworking. Our district needs someone in Hartford to look after our best interest. Melissa Ziobron has proven that she is the right person. Who can ask for anything more?

Barbara Angelico – Middle Haddam

Seniors Need a Change

To the Editor:
I am going to keep this short and to the point. We seniors deserve continued attention and a strong voice in our state government. Too often, after candidates “get elected” and “get “settled in” they forget about who elected them and the longer they are in the worse it gets! In my opinion, this is what has happened to Steve Weir. We all agree that he is a nice, very visible guy who appears at all events but we need more than that! Seniors have concerns about many things such as escalating property taxes which is at the top of the list but so too are the rising costs of living, programs that insure older adults can remain in their houses if they so choose, threats to Medicare and drug costs and a host of other issues affecting vulnerable seniors.

I believe the needs of senior citizens were not a concern for Steve Weir when he did not vote for \$630,000 which would have gone to citizens in our district. Why? I guess we need to hear from him on that issue. I wonder why he voted against the majority of the Representatives, Republicans and Democrats, regarding fences around pools and child marriage. Are these issues he really believes he cannot support or was he not paying attention?

Being our representative at the state level requires being more than a “nice guy!” We need someone who takes an active role in knowing what the issues are and voting appropriately even if he has been in office for a long time!

I have a lot of concerns about our future and after meeting with Ellen Paul and hearing what she hopes to accomplish when she gets into office I decided to volunteer as a driver for her as

she campaigns door to door. I can assure you that I have never done this before but I feel, after having talked with her, it was time to “step up to the plate.” Totally committed to representing all the constituents in the 55th, she sincerely seeks dialogue with Republicans, Democrats, and Unaffiliates alike. She has specifics in how to reduce energy costs, and property taxes, and offers practical solutions and strong community values to all.

I am writing to express my support for Ellen Paul’s candidacy for state representative in the 55th District. I sincerely hope that you will give her a chance and join me by voting for her on Nov. 3rd!

**Sincerely,
George O’Brien – Marlborough**

The Leadership Families Deserve!

To the Editor:
I have worked closely with Jason Guidone on the Hebron Republican Town Committee for years, and I am impressed by his dedication to our town of Hebron and the state of Connecticut. He understands economics, the Constitution, voting laws, and the real-world toll that destructive progressive policies take on our community.
After seeing exactly how out-of-touch, top-down regulations crush local growth and hurt families, Jason knew he had to step up. Connecticut communities are feeling the weight of unfunded state mandates that skyrocket costs for consumers. This heavy-handed approach breaks local budgets and forces small business owners to make impossible decisions just to keep their doors open.
Jason will advocate for common-sense policies that defend our constitutional liberties, sustain local agriculture, and restore our economy through free-market capitalism.
Early voting starts Oct. 19th! To view Jason’s action plan and verify your local voting location and early voting dates, times, and locations visit guidoneforsenate.com.

Kim Hills – Hebron

I’m For Weir

To the Editor:
Ive known Steve Weir for more than a dozen years now. I met Steve and his wife Allegra when our children attended the RHAM Middle School together. When I think of who I want representing our community, I honestly feel we are very fortunate to have someone like Steve. Steve has spent nearly his entire life in Glastonbury and Hebron, and understands the makeup of our district. His broad background as a Glastonbury Police officer, a volunteer on numerous community & industry boards and also a self-employed small business owner gives him unique insight into both the public and private sectors. He also has an outstanding work ethic, which is evidenced by his consistently attending community events and listening to his constituents.

I can tell you firsthand that I have seen voters on both sides show appreciation for the work Steve has done. In 2025 I ran for the Board of Selectmen and Steve and I were spending a Sunday afternoon going door to door in Hebron talking to voters. While going door to door, Steve made sure to bring me to doors of all political affiliations. I can attest that Steve enjoys broad support from Republican, Democratic and unaffiliated voters because he is willing to listen to everyone. During our walk around the neighborhood, we passed by one yard that clearly had several Democratic candidate signs. The owner called out to Steve, introduced herself and very seriously said: “We don’t always align politically, but it’s apparent from your work around the district that you listen to all and work across the aisle. We need more of that, and I appreciate your hard work.”

Steve works hard and listens to all sides, and to me that says it all. That’s why I’m voting for Steve Weir, and urging everyone I know to continue to support him in November.

Rob McLaughlin – Hebron

Reelect Steve Weir

To the Editor:
Have you met Steve Weir, incumbent state representative for the 55th District, yet? Most of us have, but if not, let me tell you about my friend, who you may see on his scooter, as he travels the district to meet you.
Over the years, I have knocked on hundreds of doors in Marlborough with Steve as he set out to meet his future and now current constituents. Steve wants to hear from us, learn what our important issues are, and hear your thoughts on how to make state government more efficient. He genuinely looks to connect with us all, without regard to political affiliation, Steve looks to engage and he genuinely wants to hear your concerns. So, when you see him on his scooter, he is working to be efficient and get to more of the community. This is who Steve is.
Steve and his wife have raised their family in Hebron. He was a Glastonbury Police Offi-

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Editor’s Desk continued from page 4

Treat camping gear with permethrin when possible.

- Cover strollers and baby carriers with mosquito nets when outside.

Again, the mosquitoes will continue until the first hard frost – which typically is in mid-October. So for the next few weeks, when outside, particularly at night, pay attention to the above-mentioned precautions. This goes for Andover residents too. I know it’s not part of the Chatham Health District, but it’s right next to Hebron – and it’s not like mosquitoes care about town borders.

Okay, after that bit of doom and gloom, here’s something fun – particularly if you’ve ever wanted to grab your partner and do-si-do.

The Glastonbury Square Dance Club invites the community to experience a fun, friendly and modern take on an American tradition during two free introductory nights on Wednesdays, Sept. 30 and Oct. 14, from 7-8:15 p.m., at the Buttonball Lane School cafeteria in Glastonbury.

No dancing experience is necessary – and you don’t need to bring a partner. Families, couples and individuals are all welcome.

The free introductory evenings will be taught by experienced caller Bill Mager. Regular beginner lessons will begin Wednesday, Oct. 21.

For additional information, visit glastonburysquaredanceclub.com.

See you next week.

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cer until he decided to become a small business owner and navigated the many hurdles required to do so in Connecticut for small businesses to become successful. In 2020, he helped his youngest daughter open a small farm at their home which has grown considerably to even include poultry and operating year-round. What began as a school project with his daughter evolved into helping her learn how to build, grow and diversify a business. He brings this experience and practical know how to Hartford. This is who Steve is.

Steve is ever-present in our community frequenting local businesses who know him by name. You will see him at Eagle Scout ceremonies (he was one himself), MVFD Annual Chicken BBQ, Marlborough Day, and the Hebron Fair, to name just a few. He is always talking to someone. Steve is accessible to you because he knows representing his constituents is his responsibility. This is who Steve is.

Over the past four years, Steve has represented us well in Hartford. He is respected by his colleagues, on both sides of the aisle, as someone who is fair, hardworking and smart. If you have not met Steve, I encourage you to reach out or just look for the guy on the scooter – engage with him. See the experience he brings to this seat as our State Representative for the 55th District and send him back to Hartford for another term to serve us well.

Rob Picone – Marlborough

It’s Not Too Late!

To the Editor:
There’s still time to be part of something special — it’s not too late to enter an item into the Portland Fair, running Oct. 2-4!

Whether you knit, weld, garden, bake, paint, or collect model trains, there’s a category for you. Categories for everyone and everything! And this year comes with an extra incentive: the first 100 themed entries into any category will receive a commemorative 250th anniversary ribbon — a little keepsake to mark this milestone fair.

Speaking of milestones, I’m personally counting down the days to our 250th-themed Trash-ion Show, happening Friday night. If you haven’t seen “trash” transformed into runway-worthy fashion, you’re in for a treat — and if you’ve got a wild upcycled creation of your own, there’s still time to enter that too.

So dig through your workshop, garden, kitchen, or closet, and bring your best to the Crafts & Community tent. We can’t wait to see what this community creates.

See you at the fair!

Melissa Kelley
Crafts & Community Tent Coordinator
Portland Fair

Supporting DeCaprio

To the Editor:
In an age when politics can feel increasingly distant from the people it is supposed to serve, I believe there is something to be said for a representative who remembers exactly whom he works for.

That is why I am supporting Mark DeCaprio for reelection as state representative for the 48th District.

Mark has spent more than 40 years in Lebanon. He is a U.S. Navy submarine veteran, a longtime public servant, and, most importantly, someone who understands the communities he represents because he is part of one.

His priorities reflect the everyday concerns of the people of Bozrah, Colchester, Franklin and Lebanon: families struggling with the rising cost of living, seniors facing increasing property taxes and utility bills, volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel who answer the call at all hours, veterans who continue serving long after leaving the military, parents who want a meaningful voice in their children’s education, and the farmers and small-business owners who help give our towns their character.

Those are not abstract political issues. They affect our neighbors, our families and the future of our communities.

Mark has worked to protect local decision-making, support veterans and first responders, strengthen small businesses and agriculture, and push back against policies that make life more expensive for Connecticut families. He understands that decisions made in Hartford have very real consequences at kitchen tables throughout eastern Connecticut.

Public service should begin and end with remembering whom you were elected to serve.

Mark DeCaprio has not forgotten.

On Nov. 3, I hope my neighbors throughout the 48th District will join me in returning him to Hartford.

Rich Tanner – Colchester

Vote for Steve Weir

To the Editor:
Please join me in voting for Steve Weir. I have known Steve personally for decades. Steve weighs decisions based on what is right for all the people in the district. Steve will listen first, do his ‘homework,’ then clearly articulate his position and reasoning. A solid businessman, father, husband, philanthropist, and good person, Steve is also our state representative -- let’s keep it that way.

Vote for Steve Weir.

Scot Kauffman – Hebron

Heartfelt Thanks

To the Editor:
On behalf of Colchester Parks & Recreation, I would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped make this year’s Celebrate Colchester such a tremendous success.

Thanks to the more than 70 local vendors who shared their talents, products, and services with our community. Your enthusiasm and participation helped create a vibrant and welcoming atmosphere throughout the day.

We are also grateful to all of the participants, performers, volunteers, sponsors, and organizers whose time and dedication made the event possible. Your contributions added so much en-

ergy and enjoyment to the celebration.

Most of all, thank you to the Colchester community. On a spectacular fall day, an estimated 1,500 people came out to enjoy the festivities, support local businesses and organizations, and celebrate all that makes our community special. The wonderful turnout and warm spirit of the day were truly inspiring.

Celebrate Colchester was a memorable event because of the generosity, enthusiasm, and community spirit shared by so many. We look forward to celebrating together again next year.

Sincerely,
Tiffany Quinn, Director
Colchester Parks & Recreation

Support Rosenfeld

To the Editor:
It has been stated that speaking with candidate Megan Rosenfeld is like taking in a wonderful breath of fresh air. This is an accurate representation of what Meghan will bring to the table as the next representative of District 34, East Hampton, East Haddam and Salem.

As an educator, Meghan knows the challenges of our school districts and our students. As a member on the Commission of Aging, Meghan knows the challenges of the seniors in our community. As a human resources director, and background in law, Meghan will be able to work

with the state and federal government to bring grants back to the district that will help ease the local tax burden and facilitate prosperity for the residents. Lastly, as someone who is restoring and living in an historic house, Meghan knows the importance of rural character and preserving our history.

Please support and vote for Megan Rosenfeld Nov. 3rd. Row A, for a better way!

Rick Wanat – East Hampton

Proud to Support Weir

To the Editor:
Do you have that one person who comes to mind when you think about integrity and someone who truly holds themselves accountable? I certainly do, and that person is Steve Weir.

I have known Steve for just over 10 years. We first met at a conference in the multifamily housing industry and, shortly afterward, at a church event where I was a new member. Steve and I quickly became friends, and it was through that friendship that I began to realize what an impactful individual he is.

Over the years, we have both volunteered our time on the Board of Directors of the Connecticut Apartment Association, one of the many ways Steve has served through local and state organizations. What has always impressed me

See Letters, page 32

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Resident Releases ‘Senior Swagger’ Series

By Toriana Williams

Linda Yalen is on a roll, and she’s not slowing down. At 70, this Hebron resident is writing books, volunteering, creating programs, learning new skills, helping her neighbors and finding reasons to laugh. Her message, she said, is that getting older does not mean life has to get smaller.

“Confidence has no expiration date,” said Yalen.

That line is the heart of her “Senior Swagger” book series, which grew from her own family, life experiences and her wish to bring more joy to older adults. She has published three books so far: “The Senior Swagger Way,” “Senior Swagger Everyday Adventures,” and “The Senior Swagger Coloring and Activity Book – Garden Edition.” To no one’s surprise, she is already working on more.

Her books can be purchased at www.amazon.com/s?k=Senior+Swagger+Linda+Yalen.

Yalen’s own story is about a woman who sees something that needs to be done and responds with, “I can help.”

The idea for “Senior Swagger” came from some very hard moments in Yalen’s family. Her sister fell down the stairs in 2022 and later passed away. Yalen named her company, Pat’s Legacy, LLC, after her sister.

Then came another painful loss. Her brother was diagnosed with stage 4 prostate cancer, and he spent years going through cancer treatment. Yet, even while he was incredibly sick, he kept his sense of humor.

Yalen shared that she remembers her family as one that is always laughing.

“I don’t remember us never not laughing,” she said. “We get together, it’s these laughing jags and everybody gets along.”

Her brother carried that joy with him even until the end, Yalen said.

“He was laughing and being joyful till the day he took his last breath,” she said.

That experience changed the way she looked at aging forever. She began thinking about older people who might feel lonely or forgotten.

“You got to have community,” she said.

A large part of living well includes joy, said

Yalen. That joy is a need and not something that’s just nice to have.

The first “Senior Swagger” book is part life story and part guide to getting older with a smile. Yalen calls one part of the book the “eight phases of swagger.” The lessons include taking care of yourself and learning that it’s okay to say no.

“You have to find your no. It’s okay to take care of yourself,” she said.

The rest of the book is filled with funny stories from everyday life, such as losing your glasses, struggling with a zipper or forgetting why you walked into a room. One chapter came from Yalen’s mother’s own trouble with a zipper.

“My mother said, I have a story for you,” laughed Yalen. “I can’t zip,” she recalled her mother saying. The solution? A paper clip.

“I wrote a chapter on it. So it’s like, the zipper’s best friend,” she said.

Ordinary problems becoming reasons to laugh is a large part of the spirit of “Senior Swagger.”

In one story, Yalen wrote about going to the pantry without her glasses. Her boyfriend asked if there was corn. She proudly pulled out a can, only to learn it was garbanzo beans instead. Instead of getting upset or feeling silly, she laughed.

Yalen also believes confidence matters at every age. She has studied personal safety and situational awareness. At 68, she was just two levels away from a black belt in Krav Maga.

For her, “swagger” is about standing proud and being aware of the world around you.

“When you walk with confidence, it’s not about being arrogant. It’s about being in your space,” she said.

Her message is not to hide because you are getting older but be confident and proudly take up space.

“It’s about being confident at the age you are and not hiding in the shadows,” she added.

The second book, “Senior Swagger Everyday Adventures,” gave Yalen even more room to tell stories.

“I couldn’t fit them all into the first book,” she said.



Hebron resident Linda Yalen has already published three books in her “Senior Swagger: series – and she has no plans to stop anytime soon.

The book includes funny things that happen in everyday life, including babysitting grandchildren.

“I’m exhausted,” she joked.

Her humor is important to Yalen because she knows growing older can bring frustration. Her books offer another way to look at those moments. She wants readers to find ways to laugh at themselves and keep moving forward.

The third book, “The Senior Swagger Coloring and Activity Book – Garden Edition,” brings that same playful spirit along with coloring and activities. Yalen even included a sketch of her 92-year-old mother, who she calls the “bloom boss” because of her love of gardening.

Yalen explained that in addition to selling her books, she also just gives them away. She carries copies with her and gives them to older people she meets.

“I go, here’s a book, if you’d like to read it. Pass it on,” she said. “I don’t even need to know your

name.”

Once, when Yalen was getting her oil changed, a woman asked her to sign her copy. Another time, Yalen saw an older man in Staples who looked like he was having a hard day. When she asked if he would like the book, she remembers the man answering sternly, “No.”

Internally, she thought, “He needs this book, he’s not laughing.”

It feels like that moment says a lot about Yalen and what she strives to do. She doesn’t just write to help people, because she actively looks for different ways to do it.

She has become more involved with the Russell Mercier Senior Center in Hebron, where she volunteers with Meals on Wheels and helps with other tasks. She has offered to help create programs, including a program about grief after the loss of a pet.

She also has ideas for a possible “Senior Swagger Club,” with monthly gatherings, trivia, bingo, funny stories, safety classes and more.

“I have a lot – a lot – to offer,” said Yalen. And she definitely isn’t stopping there.

She has created a “Senior Swagger” music playlist on Spotify and even wrote a song called “Still Got It Mug.” She has plans for more books, including one about retirement that would bring in information from professionals for professionals. And in the end, Yalen loves the process. It’s clear how exciting it all is for her.

“I love to write,” she said. “If no one ever bought a book, I don’t care. I’m having so much fun.”

Yalen isn’t waiting for the perfect time to try something new, she said. She’s doing it now.

“I’m not done,” she said. “I’m just starting.”

Presentation on Jordon Freeman

The Hebron Historical Society will present Mr. Kevin Johnson, an employee of the Connecticut State Library, on Thursday, Oct. 8, at 6:30 p.m., in the Russell Mercier Senior Center, 12 Stonecroft Drive.

Johnson will portray Jordon Freeman, a Black man who, during the Revolutionary War, was allowed to enlist in the Army of the United States in New London. At the time, allowing a Black man to enlist was highly controversial and often generated heated conflict. This was also when Captain Benedict Arnold defected to the British and expressed his anger towards his neighbors, destroying both Fort Griswold and the New London community.

All are invited to this free presentation. Donations are welcome.

Dean’s List

Jonathan Busby of Hebron made the summer 2026 Dean’s List at Southern New Hampshire University.

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Christ Lutheran Church News and Notes

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

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

Bible Studies: Sundays at 10:30 a.m., following service and fellowship time. All are welcome.

Early Childhood Center (Daycare): Offers childcare, preschool, and before/after school care, and is open to all children, regardless of faith. For more information, call director Jennifer Johnson at 860-228-5134. Application forms are at www.clecchebron.org.

Caring Shepherds Social Ministry Group: There are open food pantry days held to distribute food staples, household and hygiene items as well as Bibles and prayers. For more information about donating or participating in food pantry days, call 860-228-1152.

Douglas Library News & Notes

Douglas Library, located at 22 Main St., has announced the following. For a full listing of weekly events and more information, call the library at 860-228-9312 or visit douglaslibrary.org.

Adult Programs: Friday Films: Fridays at 1 p.m. 9/25: *Supergirl* (PG-13); 10/2: *Practical Magic* (PG-13).

Medicare Fraud and Other Scams: Tuesday, Sept. 29, 1 p.m. Jill Vasington from Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) will talk about preventing Medicare fraud and the current scams that are targeting older adults.

Bad Art Social Club: Thursdays, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., starting Oct. 1. Some shared materials will be available for all to use, but feel free to bring your own. For ages 18 and up.

Beginner Pilates: Saturday, Oct. 3, 10 a.m. This will be a beginners Pilates class taught by Doug Gomez of Pathways to Peace Yoga. Bring your own mat for floor exercises. Registration required.

Children's Programs: Lego Club: Mondays, 4-5 p.m. All builders are invited to come build some Lego creations. There will also be a Saturday meeting of the club on Saturday, Oct. 3, from noon-1 p.m.

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

United Brethren of Hebron Synagogue News & Notes

United Brethren of Hebron Synagogue, located at 10 Church Street (Route 85) in the center of Hebron, invites all to its first Shabbat service of the new year on Friday, Oct. 2. The service will also be a celebration of Sukkot, a Jewish holiday connected to the fall harvest season.

The service will begin at 6 p.m. with 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 approximately 7:15 p.m. will follow. Dessert will be served after the service. If you would like to come for dinner, email ubofhebron@gmail.com to indicate what dish you will bring and how many people to expect.

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

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

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

The synagogue also thanked the Jewish Federation of Eastern Connecticut for its grant to help cover the costs of security. This grant is made possible by funding from the Jewish Federations of North America's 2026 Emergency Security Fund in partnership with The Tepper Foundation.

#HebronRocksAlz Events

The Walk to End Alzheimer's team #HebronRocksAlz has various events coming up where people can participate, stop by, learn more about resources, purchase a T-shirt, donate, join the walk team, or share your story with those that have lived experiences.

Events Where Registration is Required: Sunday, Sept. 27, 11:30 a.m.: Introduction to Jewelry-Making at Gilead Congregational Church; cost is \$25.

Saturday, Oct. 3, noon: Sound Healing with Amy at Gilead Congregational Church; cost is \$25.

Friday, Oct. 23, 5 p.m.: Military Whist (team-oriented card game) at Gilead Congregational Church; cost is \$10 per person and bring food to share.

Sunday, Nov. 15, 11:30 a.m.: Introduction to Jewelry-Making at St Peter's Church; cost is \$25.

Contact Tonya Maurer at multitasking@comcast.net or 860-539-9287 (call/text) to register for the above events.

Events Where No Registration is Needed – Just Stop By: Friday, Sept. 25, 3:30 p.m.: First Tabling Event at Ted's IGA; stop by, purchase a T-shirt, learn more about resources.

Sunday, Sept. 27, 10 a.m.: Purple Sunday at Gilead Congregational Church, 672 Gilead St.; join in a worship service that leads with joy, happiness, courage and hope.

Friday, Oct. 29, 3:30 p.m.: Second Tabling Event at Ted's IGA.

Sunday, Nov. 15, at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. – Purple Sunday at St Peter's Church, 30 Church St.; join in a worship service that leads with joy, happiness, courage and hope.

Greater Hartford Walk to End Alzheimer's: Saturday, Oct. 31, at Rentschler Field, East Hartford. The opening ceremony begins at 10 a.m. Reach out to Maurer to learn how to register for the event.

Bereavement Support Group to Start Up

The Grief Journey: A Bereavement Support Group will be held Wednesdays from 7- 8:30 p.m., beginning on Sept. 30, at the Church of the Holy Family Parish House, 185 Church St.

The group will be facilitated by grief educators Michael Glazier and Stephanie Haines. All grieving adults are welcome whether your loss is recent or past and you may come to one session or as many as you would like.

This support group is non-denominational and is offered via a collaborative effort of Hebron 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.

Fire Damages Home on Walnut Road

By Toriana Williams

A house fire damaged a single-family home on Walnut Road in Hebron on Saturday night, Sept. 19. No one was home, but firefighters rescued four cats. Unfortunately, one dog was found dead.

The Hebron Fire Department was called at about 10:08 p.m. after a neighbor reported the fire. Crews arrived minutes later and found smoke and flames coming from the home.

Firefighters put out the fire by 11:17 p.m. The home was ruled unsafe to live in, and Eversource was called to shut off the power.

The cause of the fire is still being investigated by the Hebron Fire Marshal's Office. The Hebron Fire Department thanked Windham Hospital Paramedics, Connecticut State Police, Andover Fire Department, Marlborough Fire Department, Bolton Fire Department, Columbia Fire Department, Manchester Fire Department, Glastonbury Fire Department and Eversource for their assistance.

Gilead Congregational Church News

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

Worship: Sundays at 10 a.m., with coffee hour at 11 a.m. Services can also be viewed online at YouTube at www.bit.ly/Gilead-ChurchUCC and on Facebook at tinyurl.com/GileadChurchUCC.

This Week: Saturday, Sept. 26, 9:30 a.m. Wise Warrior Yoga in Garden or Fellowship Hall (weather dependent); Saturday, Sept. 26, 1-6 p.m., Gilead-to-Go Meals Prep and Pickups in Fellowship Hall Kitchen and Parking Lot; Sunday, Sept. 27, 10 a.m., Worship Service with September Youth Birthday Celebration in Sanctuary (in-person and livestreamed); Sunday, Sept. 27, 11:30 a.m., #HebronRocksAlz Jewelry-Making Workshop in Fellowship Hall; Monday, Sept. 28, 9:30 a.m., Online Bible Study via Zoom; Tuesday, Sept. 29, 7:30 p.m., AA meeting in Fellowship Hall; Wednesday, Sept. 30, 9:30 a.m., Wise Warrior Yoga in Garden or Fellowship Hall (weather dependent); Wednesday, Sept. 30, 10:45 a.m., Book Group in the Social Hall; Wednesday, Sept. 30, 7 p.m., Choir Practice in Sanctuary; Thursday, Oct. 1, 7 p.m., Deacons Meeting in Parish House Conference Room; Friday, Oct. 2, 6 p.m., Faith and Film Potluck in Fellowship Hall.

Upcoming Events: Faith & Film Potluck: Friday, Oct. 2, 6 p.m. Watch a film about the work of poet Mary Oliver. No RSVP necessary.

#HebronRocksAlz at Gilead: Gilead Church is hosting two events in support of the #HebronRocksAlz Walk to End Alzheimer's team: a jewelry-making workshop on Sunday, Sept. 27, at 11:30 a.m., and sound healing on Saturday, Oct. 3, at noon. To register for either event, email gcc@gileadchurch.net.

Annual Crop Walk for Hunger: Join the Columbia/Gilead/Andover team at the First Congregational Church of Andover (359 US-6) on Sunday, Oct. 4, to help fight hunger locally and around the world. Sign-in begins at 1:30 p.m., with the walk starting at 2 p.m.; the route is three miles or less.

Card-Making with Gayle: Create one-of-a-kind seasonal cards Tuesday, Nov. 10, at 6 p.m. Cost is \$15, with a portion of proceeds benefiting the Connecticut Food Bank.



THANKS FOR SUPPORTING VETERANS SCHOLARSHIP GOLF TOURNAMENT

Thank you to the 44 golfers who played the course and had a lot of fun making it all happen.

The veterans of the Hebron American Legion sponsored a September Golf Tournament as a fund raiser at Chantclair Golf Course in Colchester. All profits are awarded as scholarships to RHAM graduating seniors, who are descendants of US veterans and are enrolled at a college or technical school.

The veterans thank the following for their monetary support:

Platinum- Performance Physical Therapy, Brian O'Connell's Wealth Management, Hebron Travel, Hebron Center Dentistry, Colebrook Village, Farmington High Lube. **Gold-** Hebron Veterinary Hospital, Gano's Power Equipment, Starbuilder Web LLC, Manchester Highland Park Market and Joe Fetta. **Silver-** Columbia Marine, Troiano Auto Group and Mar-lea Miniature Golf. **Individuals-** Susan Comorada, Jim and Kristine Celio, Ron and Barb Parkyn, Tammy Sousa, Charles Luchini and Barry Pinney.

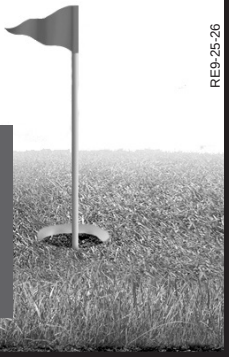
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Thank you cart sponsors:

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Thank you to the volunteers who helped out during the tournament. Thank you everyone who made the Scholarship Golf Tournament a successful event that will help young men and women who are the future of our great country.



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Portland last weekend celebrated the opening of the new facility for its transition program, which serves students aged 18-22 with significant disabilities. Pictured is one of the students, Patrick O’Rourke, age 19, and his parents Mike and Suzanne.

★ *Transition Program, cont. from page 1*
from the high school life skills program several years ago. “These kids deserve something that’s new, that’s on the forefront of this movement [to educate and provide career training to those who need it].”

Patrick O’Rourke, 19, a student in the program, seemed excited about the new site, which he called a “second home.” Patrick has worked at the Portland Senior Center and at Walgreens and Adams Hometown Market. He also serves as the manager of the high school cross country team.

His parents, Suzanne and Mike O’Rourke, said they were happy that the program finally found a new location. They said they especially liked the central location, which was near to job sites. As they toured the house, Suzanne O’Rourke checked the size of the freezer in the kitchen to make sure it would fit the ice packs that Patrick makes for the cross country team, and confirmed with Patrick that it did.

They also said they were happy that the house had room for life skills practice, like laundry and cleaning, and also provided space for socializing among the students.

When asked which part of the house he liked best, Patrick said, “all of it.”

“When he saw the bedroom, he said he was gonna bring his clothes and move in,” joked his mother.

The O’Rourkes also praised the educators in the program, particularly Pinto.

“Ted is fantastic,” said Suzanne O’Rourke. “He genuinely cares about the kids and their wellbeing. Our kids can participate in life and be successful given a chance, and this is a great chance for them.”

Mike O’Rourke said that he hoped that when Patrick graduated from the program, he would be in a good place to find employment.

One of O’Rourke’s classmates, Kate Nedobity, 21, was also at the grand opening, along with her friend, recent graduate Anton Kiwimagi, who said he was disappointed he didn’t get to attend the new program.

“I’m grateful [for this program] because I get more experiences,” said Nedobity, who added that she liked learning how to “be more independent.”

She said she enjoyed her work on the job sites. She’s worked at Le Chic Boutique in East Hampton, the Senior Center, and at SliceWorks in Glastonbury, which she said was her favorite. Her favorite room in the house, she said, was the sensory room/library, but she also said she liked the kitchen, adding that she made several dozen chocolate chip cookies the previous week with job coach Carol Seagrave.

Seagrave said she was grateful to see the new location finally open up. She’s worked in the district for 14 years, she said, having started as a paraeducator in the life skills program before transitioning over to the PTTP.

Seagrave spends time with the students at their job sites, but also helps them practice life skills at the house – hence, the cookies.

She described the house as “her dream.” “I just wanted a place for our students, our post-grads, that they could call home and continue growing and learning what they need to learn to venture out into the world,” she said, “and this place is amazing. I’m just so amazed with emotions that it’s finally come to fruition, it’s been a long time coming.”

Pinto has experience working with populations of students who sometimes are overlooked, having started his career working for the Department of Children and Families (DCF) in their juvenile prison system. He credits his mother, who took care of his intellectually disabled, non-verbal aunt, for showing him that everyone deserves dignity and the opportunity to thrive. He said he had promised his mother, who passed away recently, that he was going to make this program work.

He said he’s proud that recent graduates have gone on to “competitive, entry-level jobs” and is excited about the life skills opportunities that the new location offers. He said that, in the future, he hopes to also partner with the state to provide opportunities for students who may still need training or those who will always require supervised employment. He credited both the community and his fellow educators for making it all come together.

“This is all happening because of my staff,” he said. “I had some good ideas, but my staff are the ones who put it in motion and figured out what works and what doesn’t work.”

Sara McLaughlin, director of student services for Portland Public Schools, said she was delighted to see it all coming together at the ribbon-cutting.

She said she was proud that the space allowed the program to explore many facets of “grown up,” independent life, from work to leisure. The cozy living room, and the sensory room/library, she said, were examples of that, and they were put there by design, because of “how important having fun is and relaxing and leisure is.”

“[The students] deserve a beautiful space,” she said. “They deserve an upgraded space. They deserve the best, and they deserve to be visible and to be supported.”

She said it was not lost on her that the location was on Main Street, right in the downtown area.

“It’s the community saying, ‘We’re going to support young people with disabilities in a very visible way,’” she said.

“This is such a love letter from Portland to these kids and these families,” McLaughlin said. “So much of this was a community effort. There was a lot advocacy on the part of the students and the families and our staff, so it just really goes to show that there is so much community support, right in the heart of our town.”

Hebron • Hebron • Hebron • Hebron • Hebron • Hebron • Hebron • Hebron •

Hebron Celebrates America 250

Hebron CT Celebrates America 250, a project of The Town Center Project of Hebron, has announced the following events. For more information, visit www.thetowncenterproject.org/hebron-250

A Night at Blackledge Tavern: Friday, Sept. 25, 6-9 p.m., at Blackledge Country Club. Head back in time to the 1700s to learn all about this “Declaration of Independence” – what does it mean for Hebron, a town split with Loyalists and Patriots. The event features a dinner show by the Hebron Community Theater, a full meal from the Blackledge kitchen, and a free drink. Historic Hebron (and surrounding towns) interpreters from the 18th century will greet you and keep you informed on town gossip, goings-on and historic news of the young nation. Costumes welcome. Tickets are \$55 and are available at givebutter.com/1776-declaration-ball-6nqono.

Spirits of Hebron: Founders and Revolutionaries at the Old Cemetery: Saturday, Oct. 3 (rain date Oct. 4), at 3 p.m., at Old Cemetery on Wall Street. Enjoy an educational and entertaining event learning about and celebrating Hebron’s most notorious historic com-

munity members. The Marlborough Jr. Fife and Drum Corps will perform. Dress appropriately and wear sturdy footwear for uneven ground.

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.

The Worship Center News & Notes

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

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

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

TWC Mini-Golf Tournament: Saturday, Sept. 26, 10-11:30 a.m. Sign-ups available online and at the church.

Kingdom Women: Women’s Bible Study: Meets in-person every first and third Thursday from 6:45-7:45 p.m., at the church. The study will continue on the book of Psalms. Zoom access is available. Upcoming: Oct. 1.

Youth Ministry: Grades 6-12 are invited every first and third Friday of the month from 6:30–9:30 p.m. for activities, games, Bible les-

sons, dinner, dessert, and community. Upcoming: Oct. 2 and 16.

Fall Chili Fest Luncheon: Come after the morning service on Sunday, Oct. 4, for a luncheon featuring a variety of specialty chilis with condiments, appetizers, artisan breads and desserts of the season. All are welcome; it is not necessary to bring a dish to attend.

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

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

TWC Upward Running Club: Upward Running at The Worship Center. This class is designed to improve faith, fitness and fellowship within our community through a walking and/or running program custom made for your fitness level. Download the app, or contact the church office for more details. A new 12-week class is happening now. Training sessions meet at the church on Saturdays from 8–9 a.m., culminating with a 5k in late November/early December.

St. Peter’s News & Notes

St. Peter’s Episcopal Church, located at 30 Church St., welcomes all to worship. Priest is the Rev. Ron Kolanowski. For more information, visit stpetershebron.com, search for St. Peter’s Hebron on Facebook, or call the parish office at 860-228-3244. The church’s mailing address is P.O. Box 513, Hebron, CT 06248.

Sunday Worship: There are two services: 8 a.m. is Rite 1 and 10 a.m. is Rite 2. A coffee fellowship gathering follows each service. The 10 a.m. service is streamed live on Facebook; visit www.stpetershebron.com to join.

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

Fall Book Club: Mondays from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The club is reading and discussing *Proof of Heaven – A Neurosurgeon’s Journey into the Afterlife* by Eben Alexander, M.D.

Pumpkin Fest: Saturday, Oct. 3, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., and Sunday, Oct. 4, from noon-4 p.m. St. Peter’s annual fall festival offers free activities for children including tractor hayrides, face-painting, and s’mores. Children can visit with one of the donkeys from Donifer Farms. There will be pumpkins, gourds, squashes, baked goods and cider for sale. A luncheon will be served Saturday. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Hebron Historical Society.

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.

Annual Founders’ Potluck Supper: Saturday, Oct. 10, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Contact the office for more information.

An 1800s Living History Encampment: Sunday, Oct. 11, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. St. Peter’s will host Revolutionary War re-enactors in the field adjacent to the parish hall.

Presentation of St. Peter’s History: Monday, Oct. 13, 5:30-7:30 p.m. John Baron, a local historian and member of the Hebron Historical

Society, will discuss the historical role of St. Peter’s in the community.

VOCE Concert: Saturday, Oct. 17, 7:30 p.m. The Connecticut choral group VOCE will perform “The Old Church,” highlighting a blending of ancient and contemporary choral classics. Tickets for this concert can be purchased at VOCEinc.org. A reception hosted by the Sanctuary Performing Arts will follow.

Outreach: Food donations support the local food pantries. A collection basket is in the church and outside the parish hall. St. Peter’s maintains a nature preserve in the center of Hebron for use by local nonprofits. The church is also a supporter of Project Hope (homeless shelter) in Willimantic.

Weekly Meetings: Contact the church for more information on the following: Balance Class: Mondays from 10:30-11 a.m., \$5; Connect: Mondays at 2 p.m.; Weekly Weeders/Garden Group: Mondays at 4 p.m.; Choir, Wednesdays at 6 p.m. in the sanctuary – new voices welcome.

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.

Pizza & Politics 2026

The Hebron Republican Town Committee will host “Pizza & Politics 2026” on Tuesday, Oct. 6, from 6-8 p.m., at Gina Marie’s in Hebron. All are invited.

November’s Republican candidates will be in attendance to share their thoughts, experience, and mission.

Pizza, fountain beverages and salad will be served and a cash bar is available. Advance individual tickets are \$15 and couples are \$30. Or purchase at the door for individuals at \$20 and couples for \$40.

To make a donation for tickets, visit www.hebronrepublicans.org.

First Congregational Church News

Parks and Rec. News & Notes

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

Portland Sports Hall of Fame Returns

Also being inducted is Coach K's 2007 Portland High School Cross Country Team which enjoyed the most successful season in the

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

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

Donations are also gratefully accepted and may be sent to the same address.

Zion Lutheran News & Notes

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

Spotlight on Oscar Hedstrom at Fair

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 worked led to his production of high-quality bicycles and eventually to his development of gasoline

Portland Library News & Notes

Noble Quests: Thursdays, Oct. 22-Nov. 5, 3:30 p.m., for grades K-2. Over the course of three weeks, you'll rescue jewels from a drag-

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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.

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

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During the 25th anniversary of the Marlborough Senior Center, former director Vi Schwarzman cut the celebratory cake after being recognized for her 24 years of dedication.



Stacey, vocalist for the Silk City Jazz Band, serenaded an attendee during the Marlborough Senior Center's 25th anniversary celebration.

★ Marlborough Senior Center,, cont. from page 1

The center's growth has been quite remarkable. When the building was planned, Marlborough had just over 400 residents age 65 and older. Today, the town has about 1,100 older adults, making up around 16.3% of the population. With that, of course, the center's membership continues to grow too. During opening remarks, selectwoman Deb Bourbeau said, "The membership at the senior center expands each and every day." She added that the center looks forward to "many new and exciting opportunities" for its members. Just as bright as the day was, the center's future was similar. As the big band played upbeat tunes outdoors, couples danced with one another, reminiscing about the past as they made memories in the present. Tables were filled to capacity, and several attendees were standing as opening remarks were underway. Also taking part during the anniversary celebration was the recognition of a woman whose heart and hard work truly shaped the senior center into what it is today, and that woman is none other than Vi Schwarzmann. For more than 50 years, Schwarzman has served the Marlborough community in several ways. She worked as a first selectman's assistant,

served two terms as a selectwoman and held roles as town sexton, town historian, ADA coordinator and the town's first director of human and social services. Her service expanded further than job titles, though. She knew the people of Marlborough. She knew their families, their stories and the things they needed. Her care for the community helped inspire the dream of a senior center, where she served as the center's director from 2001 to 2025. Schwarzman was also presented with a commemorative plaque and special certificates recognizing her dedication. As the afternoon came to a close, it was emphasized that the center has become a place where people meet old friends, make new ones, learn new things and share their time and talents. The center's history is something to celebrate, and its future is something to look forward to. Senior Center Director Shoshana Merced said the community came out in a big way for the anniversary. "The turnout of the community is outstanding. I'm so happy to welcome everyone to the senior center," said Merced.

St. Mary Church News & Notes

St. Mary Roman Catholic Church, located at 45 Freestone Ave., invites all to attend its services and events. For more information, visit www.stmaryportlandct.org. **Worship:** Weekday Masses are Monday and Tuesday at 8 a.m., and Friday at 12:10 p.m. Weekend Masses are Saturday at 5 p.m. and Sunday at 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. **Reconciliation:** Saturdays between 4 and 4:45 p.m. Call 860-342-2308 to make arrangements. **Baptism:** Call Sue Ferraiolo at 860-342-2308 to make arrangements.

Marriages: Contact the office at 860-342-2328 to make an appointment with the Rev. John Antonelle. **Holy Hour Benediction:** First Friday of every month following the 12:10 p.m. Mass. **Blessed Mother Mass:** First Saturday of every month at 9 a.m. **Hours of Operation:** Church hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. Office hours are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Senior Center News & Notes

The Waverly Senior Center, 7 Waverly Avenue, announces the following. **Registration is required for all programs** unless noted; for more information or to register, call 860-342-6761. Senior center hours are Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Friday, 9 a.m. to noon. Visit www.portlandct.org/senior-services for more information, including a calendar of events. **Food Bank:** Open at the senior center on Mondays and Thursdays from 9 a.m.-noon. Donations welcome, but please only leave donations during Food Bank hours. **Mobile Food Pantry:** The Food Share Mobile Pantry comes to the Food Bank every other Monday. The next Mobile Pantry date is Oct. 8. **Weekly Programs: Monday, 9/28:** Light aerobics, 9:30 a.m. **Tuesday, 9/29: Bears on a Journey,** 9:30-11 a.m. – help make fleece teddy bears for cancer patients. Also, donations of light fleece (one yard or more) are sought for making teddy bears for cancer patients throughout Connecticut. To donate, call 860-342-0809; **Watercolor Painting Class with Bivenne Staiger,** 9:30 a.m. to noon. Payment to instructor. Contact bivenne@yahoo.com for more information; **Congregate Meal, noon.** Menu: baked potato with chili and sour cream, broccoli, cheddar biscuit, yogurt parfait with berries and granola; **Coupons for Troops,** 1-4 p.m.; **Setback,** 1 p.m.; **SyncoCize II,** 5-6 p.m., fee is donation to instructor. **Wednesday, 9/30: Light Aerobics,** 9:30-10:30 a.m.; **Chair Yoga with Gia,** 10:30-11:15 p.m., fee is a \$5 donation to instructor; Bridge, 12:30 p.m. **Thursday, 10/1: Seated Stretch & Tone,** 9:30 a.m.; **Knit & Stitch,** 10 a.m.; **Congregate Meal,** noon – \$3 suggested donation (must fill out form). Menu: sweet & sour chicken, steamed white rice, steamed carrots and peas, string cheese, pear cup; **Mah Jongg,** 12:30 p.m.; **Scrabble,** 1 p.m. **Friday, 10/2: Light Aerobics,** 9:30-10:30 a.m.; **Chair Yoga with Gia,** 10:30 – 11:15 a.m., fee is a \$5 donation to instructor. **Special Events:** Unless noted, **registration is required for all programs.** Also, unless noted, all programs are free. **Monday, Oct. 5:** Seniors Mental Health 101

Bereavement Support Group

St. Mary Church, located at 45 Freestone Ave., invites all to attend the Bereavement Support Group. The evening session meets the second Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. and the afternoon session meets the fourth Tuesday at 3 p.m. – both in the church hall. Call Susan Bongiorno to register at 860-685-1966.

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.

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.

Lunch & Learn with the National Alliance on Mental Illness, noon-1 p.m. Learn about mental health conditions and what you can do to make your life better. **Monday, Oct. 5:** Health Education with Chatham Health, 10:45-11:15 a.m. Learn about lung and breast cancer, presented by Stephanie Reyes, MPH, CHES. Diabetic-friendly recipes will also be given out. **Monday, Oct. 5:** Blood Pressure Clinic, 10-11 a.m. **Thursday, Oct. 8:** Sweet Treats and Conversation with Community Leaders, 1 p.m. Speaker to be determined. This is a free event. **Friday, Oct. 9:** Ken Doney Family History Research, 10:30 a.m.-noon. Learn how to research your own family history. **Tuesday, Oct. 13:** Vaccination Clinic (for ages 3 and older), 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Chatham Health District will have flu, COVID, RSV, shingles and pneumococcal vaccines available. Please bring your insurance card and ID. Most major insurances are accepted. For more information, call (860) 365-0884 or e-mail info@chathamhealth.org. **Wednesday, Oct. 21:** Portland Senior Center Healthy Aging Expo, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Spend the day discovering local health and wellness resources, connecting with community organizations, and learning about services available to support healthy living and aging well. Over 20 vendors will be participating, along with prizes and free samples. This is a free event. **Medical Rides:** The center offers ADA-accessible transportation for seniors to medical rides, on a first-come, first-served basis. The fee is \$5/person, round trip. Please give at least a two-week notice. **Foot Care:** The center is taking appointments for a Foot Clinic with Stacey Cormier, RN; services starting at \$35. Call to register and for more information. **Massage by Joan:** Thursdays and Fridays, by appointment only. Call Joan at 860-301-6507. **Hair by Jessica:** By appointment only. Call Jessica at 860-751-9215.

Police News

9/17: Dean Anthony Fontano, 24, was arrested and charged with sixth-degree larceny, Portland Police said.

Volunteers Needed for Event

The Portland Senior Center is looking for volunteers to help out at the Ralph Paley Spirt 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.

Crafters, Vendors Wanted

Crafters and vendors are wanted for are sought for the Holiday Craft & Vendor Show coming up Saturday, Nov. 21, at Trinity Church, 345 Main St. Space is available for \$20. Space is limited. For more information and a registration form, email carol.hill@comcast.net.

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.



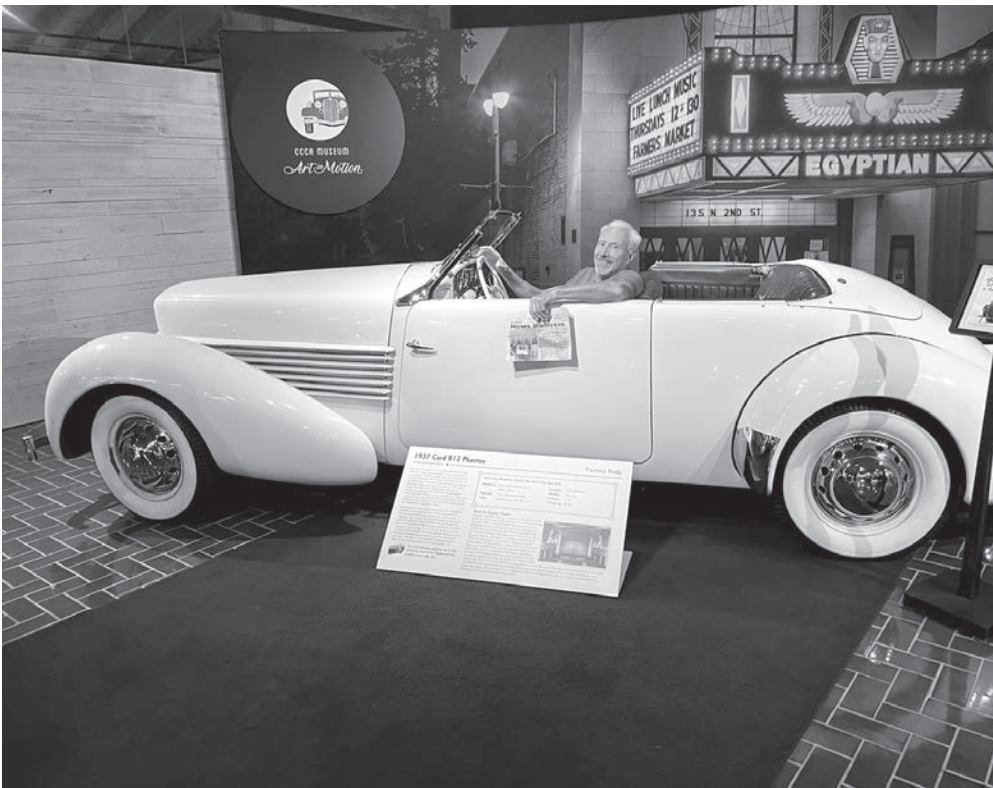
Rivereast Summits Half Dome... Alex Di Stefano of East Hampton, with the *Rivereast* in tow, recently summited Half Dome at Yosemite National Park in California. Half Dome is considered in the top five most iconic, challenging and unforgettable single-day hikes on Earth, Alex said.



Catching Fish in Ketchikan... Randy and Denise Skoly of Hebron recently stopped in Ketchikan for some salmon fishing during an Alaska Inside Passage cruise.

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!



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 Cord 812 Phaeton. Frank was visiting his in-laws and celebrating his mother-in-law's 104th birthday in Grand Rapids, Mich.



Purple Heart Museum... Valerie LaVake and Lori Vadnais recently enjoyed an informative tour of the National Purple Heart Museum and West Point.

? Where in the World? ?

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

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

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CCT to Hold Auditions for *Frozen*

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

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

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

For more information, email info@colchestercommunitytheatre.com.

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

Colchester Cares Donates to Community

Colchester Cares, a giving group that supports various causes in Colchester, recently made its third quarter donations totaling \$5,400.

The group voted to give \$1,800 each to the Montville Animal Welfare Initiative, serving Colchester, for spaying and neutering animals in the shelter to prepare them for adoption; the Honor Rotary Foundation to help fund supplies for approximately 150 Thanksgiving baskets to be donated to Colchester residents in need; and the Colchester Senior Center Sewing Program to purchase matching sewing machines that will make it easier to offer sewing classes and craft items to sell at the holiday craft fair to raise money for programming at the senior center.

Colchester Cares members, who commit to donating \$100 a quarter, present current needs in town and then vote on where to send the group's collective donations. The group was established in 2020 and since its inception has donated over \$80,000 to Colchester causes.

Colchester Cares always welcomes new members. You can be a member without having to attend meetings. Suggesting worthy causes, voting, and donating can all be done online. The next quarterly meeting will be held Tuesday, Oct. 20, at 7 p.m., at the Carl Guild Community Room, 392 South Main St.

For more information, visit www.colchester-cares.org or follow the group on Facebook.

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 trucks on display the fire museum, 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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- Rivereast News Bulletin**, mailed Fridays to 27,500 homes in Portland, East Hampton/Cobalt/Middle Haddam, Marlborough, Hebron/Amston, Andover and Colchester.

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

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

CCO Looking for Members

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

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

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

Rehearsals are held on Thursdays – choir from 6-7:30 p.m. and orchestra from 7:30-9 p.m. – at the William J. Johnston Middle School band room.

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

Register online at colchesterctrec.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 Memorial 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 admission charge from Saturday through Wednesday.

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

From Monday through Wednesday, there will be a special: fill a box or bag for \$5.

The sale will feature various books – including large-print books and audiobooks – as well as music, movies, puzzles, and games. Individually-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 Cragin Memorial Library.

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.

Books & Bricks Dinner

The Trustees of Historic Bacon Academy will host “Books & Bricks: History, Heritage & the Future of Historic Bacon Academy,” a fundraising dinner Friday, Oct. 23, at 6:30 p.m., at St. Joseph's Polish Club, 395 South Main St.

Proceeds support the preservation and maintenance of the historic Bacon Academy building at 84 Main St.

The evening's featured speaker is Marilyn Ackerman, a leading voice in historic architecture, who will discuss the importance of this landmark and what it will take to carry it into its third century. Guests will also be joined by “wandering historians,” who will circulate through the room sharing stories from Colchester's past, and the night will close with ghost stories drawn from the academy's long and storied history.

Tickets are \$30 per person and include dinner; a cash bar will be available. The event will include a silent auction and raffles of many gifts from around Colchester. Tickets may be purchased at the Trustees' table during Celebrate Colchester on Saturday, Sept. 19, from 1 to 5 p.m. on the Town Green, or by contacting the Trustees at info@baconacademytrustees.org or 860-964-3483. Seating is limited and reservations are required.

Fish Fry Fundraiser

Bikers Against Child Abuse, a nonprofit organization of bikers, is hosting its Fish Fry Fundraiser 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.

Ukrainian Catholic Church News

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

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



Pumpkins & Pooches to Return

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

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

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

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

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Franklin Resident Seeks State Seat

Bob Fernandez is the endorsed Democratic candidate for state representative in Connecticut's 48th District, which represents Bozrah, Colchester, Franklin, and Lebanon.



Bob Fernandez
colchesterhistory.org

A longtime Franklin resident, Fernandez served more than 20 years in the U.S. Navy as a combat veteran and submarine corpsman. He and his wife, Susan, raised their three sons in the

community. Fernandez said he is running for state representative because he believes the communities of the 48th District deserve a strong voice in Hartford and a representative who understands the needs of the people who live and work here. His priorities include bringing state funding back to local communities, addressing property taxes and education costs, supporting seniors and working families, lowering energy costs, and protecting the region's farms and open spaces. To learn more or ask Bob a question, visit bobfernandez.com.

Salmon River Run Celebrates 20th Anniversary

The Salmon River Run, organized by the Colchester Land Trust (which is now part of the Avalonia Land Conservancy), will celebrate its 20th anniversary on Saturday, Oct. 3, at 10 a.m., at the Comstock Covered Bridge in Colchester. The 5.5-mile race takes runners through the Salmon River State Forest on a scenic course featuring a mix of pavement, dirt roads, and the old railroad bed, with a fast downhill finish back

toward the Salmon River. Handcrafted pottery race mugs will be awarded to the top three finishers in each age division. Following the race, runners and volunteers can enjoy the traditional post-race barbecue and awards celebration along the riverbank. Runners of all ages and abilities are welcome. Learn more and register at www.salmonriver-run.org.

Upcoming Programs at Cragin Library

Cragin Memorial Library, located at 8 Linwood Ave., has announced the following pieces of news. For more information, call 860-537-5752 (for adult and teen programs) or 860-537-7201 (for children's programs).
Adult Programs: A Court of Fantasy Readers: Monday, Oct. 5, 5:30 p.m. For this month, read *Bury Our Bones in the Midnight Soil* by V. E. Schwab.
Medicare Educational Event: Thursday, Oct. 8, 2 p.m., with local resident and insurance agent Mark Macrina of Senior Health & Retirement Services. This is an informational seminar, and no individual health will be discussed. For accommodations of persons with special needs please call 860-338-1466 TTY 711.
Friends of Cragin Memorial Library Annual Meeting: Thursday, Oct. 8, 5:30 p.m.
Adult Craft Night: Halloween Candle Painting: Tuesday, Oct. 13, 6 p.m. Registration required; call 860-537-5752.
Holistic Perimenopause: Midlife Empowerment Through Herbal Medicine & Holistic Wellness: Saturday, Oct. 17, 1 pm: Clinical herbalist Genessa Zickefoose will cover midlife hormonal changes and the impacts perimenopause can have on various body systems. Zickefoose will also discuss herbs and teas that can support you. Registration required; call 860-537-5752.
Colchester Continentals Fife and Drum Corps Presentation: Members from the fife and drum corps will perform a series of Revolutionary War-era tunes and give a short discussion on the historical significance of the flags, instruments and artifacts carried in parades and performances across the country. Registration required; call 860-537-5752.
Adult Craft Night: Paint and Sip (Tiny Wooden Ghost Portrait): Tuesday, Oct. 20, 6 p.m. All are invited to a paint and sip (of apple cider). No instruction provided. Registration required; call 860-537-5752.
Cragin Book Club: Monday, Oct. 26, 6 p.m. For this month, read *Dark Matter* by Blake Crouch.
Family Craft Night: Eyeball Art: Wednesday, Oct. 21, 6-6:30 p.m., for children and their caregivers. This is a drop-in program. Create eyeball art with paper towel rings.
Family Movie Night: Thursday, Oct. 22, 5:30

p.m. All ages welcome to this drop-in program. Bring snacks and watch *Hocus Pocus* (1993, rated PG, runs one hour and 36 minutes).
Children's Programs: Children's Sensory Table: Every Friday from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Drop in.
Draw with Me: Pokémon!: Tuesday, Oct. 6, 6 p.m., for grades K-5. This is a drop-in guided drawing session.
Story and a Craft: Halloween: Thursday, Oct. 8, 6-6:20 p.m., for children and their caregivers.
America 250 Book Club: I Survived the American Revolution Graphic Novel: Saturday, Oct. 10, 10:30 a.m. Pick up the book at the library, read it, and then come chat.
Stories with Skipper: Wednesday, Oct. 14, 6 p.m. Hang with Colchester Police Corporal Craig Scheel and K9 Skipper to read some stories.
Nature Detectives: Sensory Writing Workshop: Saturday, Oct. 17, 10:30-11:30 a.m., for grades 3-5. Children will receive their own journals to use as they explore a hands-on "indoor laboratory" of curated autumn items from nature (acorns, bark, pumpkin guts etc.) and create a sensory poem. Registration required; call 860-537-7201.
Halloween Storytime: Thursday, Oct. 29, 10:30 a.m. In this all-ages, drop-in program, there will be a festive storytime and trick-or-treating around the library. Costumes encouraged.
Children & Teen Foodie Fun: Saturdays, Oct. 10 and 31. Grab a bag to pick up.
Teen Programs: Half-Day Gaming Tourney: Mario Kart Tournament: Tuesday, Oct. 27, 1-2:30 p.m., for grades 6-12. Post University e-sports coordinator Jonathan Martin will have prizes, snacks and can answer any questions you might have about going into e-sports. Registration required; call 860-537-5752.
Eat If You Dare...: Wednesday, Oct. 28, 2:45 p.m., for grades 6-12. Try mystery snacks and try to guess what they are. Registration required; call 860-537-5752.
Sports Swap Collection: Starts Friday, Oct. 30. The library is collecting clean sports equipment that has been outgrown or is no longer wanted. Drop it off and then come visit the Sports Swap on Saturday, Nov. 17, at 10:30 a.m.

Tea Time with Col. Champion

The Colchester Historical Society will hold Tea Time with Colonel and Mrs. Henry Champion on Sunday, Sept. 27, at 3 p.m., at the Colchester 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 enjoying teas and sweets.

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.

Scouting for Food

Colchester's Boy Scout troops and Cub Scout packs are holding their "Scouting for Food" drive for the Colchester Food Bank. On Saturday, Sept. 26, Scouts will distribute fliers to many homes in town as possible. Residents are asked to put their donations to the food bank into bags, cardboard boxes or paper shopping bags. Then, on Saturday, Oct. 3, leave your donations at the end of your driveway or by your mailbox by 9 a.m. The Scouts will begin bag pickup at that time. All items are appreciated but there is a partic-

ular need for jelly, pasta sauce, breakfast items, canned pasta, healthy snacks, & canned vegetables. Other helpful items include macaroni and cheese, beverages, instant potatoes, rice and pasta side dishes. Personal care items and baby wipes & diapers are always needed (laundry detergent, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, & feminine hygiene products). Please, no glass containers, opened packages, or expired food.

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. 28: 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. 29: 9 a.m., Making Memories; 9:45 a.m., Tai Chi; 10:30 a.m., Healthy Food Series; noon, In the Know; 12:30 p.m., Pinochle; 1 p.m., Cornhole; 1:15 p.m., Bingo, 4-8 p.m., Wellness Nights.
Wednesday, Sept. 30: 9 a.m., Making Memo-

ries, Walking Group; 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Reflexology; 10 a.m., Adult Coloring, Hand and Foot Card Game, Sit & Be Fit Video; 11 a.m., Staying Alive birthday party; 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; 2 p.m., Birthday Cake Project.
Thursday, Oct. 1: 9 a.m., Exercise w/ Anne; 10 a.m., Monthly Program Registration Begins; 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, Oct. 2: 9 a.m., Social Service Hours, Open Art Studio; 10 a.m., Sit & Be Fit; 10:30 a.m., Choral Group; 11 a.m., Yoga; 12:30 p.m., Tech Time with Harry; 1-3:30 p.m., Open Ping Pong; 1:15 p.m., Bingo.

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He Goes Back So No One Will Forget



When the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, took place, Anthony Skut was one of the Colchester firefighters deployed to Ground Zero to help in the recovery efforts; accompanying was the late Rob Brown, who can be seen looking towards the camera in the photo at right.

By Toriana Williams

Every September, Anthony Skut goes back to New York City. He visits the 9/11 Memorial with other Colchester firefighters. He hears the names. He sees the memorial pools. He remembers the people who died. And he remembers what it was like to stand on the pile of broken steel, concrete and dust after the Twin Towers fell.

Since the beginning, Skut made a promise that remembering isn't something he does only once a year.

"I vowed to never forget. I go back every year," he said.

Skut is a longtime volunteer firefighter. He joined the Colchester Hayward Volunteer Fire Company when he was just 14 years old. Now 67, he has spent 55 years as a firefighter and still volunteers and answers the call whenever he can.

But his connection to Sept. 11, 2001, is different from most people's. He was there.

A Trip to Ground Zero

When the World Trade Center towers fell, Skut was about 42 years old. The fire company sent a group of firefighters to New York City, and Skut was one of them. Four firefighters from the group were chosen to work on what was known as "the pile."

"The pile" was a huge mountain of wreckage left behind after the towers fell. Skut said it was about 150 feet tall in places and spread across several blocks. There were also deep holes in the wreckage.

"That was the wreckage of the towers," he said. "After it happened, that was referred to as

'the pile.'"

Skut worked there with other firefighters, searching through the wreckage. He later returned to New York for the funeral of firefighter Peter Nelson, a member of Rescue 4 who was killed in the attacks. Then, about two weeks after Sept. 11, Skut went back to Ground Zero and worked on the pile again.

During that trip, Skut helped recover another firefighter, Carl Molinaro of Ladder 2. That is why Ground Zero is more than a pile of wreckage to Skut.

"I have a personal connection with that ground," he said.

Going Back

Though years have passed, Skut has kept returning. He goes back every year to remember those who were not just lost but taken. Even during the COVID-19 pandemic, when there wasn't a regular 9/11 ceremony, he went alone. He took the train into NYC and spent 12 hours there.

"I paid my respects," he said.

This year, however, Skut didn't go alone. He went with firefighters from Connecticut and England, too. The group included Colchester firefighters Lieutenant Matt Ziegler, Steve Shorts and Gary Smith.

"I bring people with me from town," Skut said. "Anybody that wants to go down, that wants to experience the 9/11 Memorial, they're welcome to come."

The trip gives them a chance to see the memorial and experience from a different perspective what took place that devastating day.

Skut said he wants people, especially younger



people who were too young to remember 9/11, to hear about it from someone who was there.

"I can talk to people down there, and give them a heartfelt conversation, a small piece of the way it felt like to be there," he said.

A Ceremony of Names

The annual Sept. 11 ceremony, as Skut described it, is quiet and serious. Family members and firefighters who worked on the pile are allowed into the memorial area. A flag that was flown at Ground Zero is carried in, and there are readings and music.

Then the names of every person who died are read aloud. Family members take turns reading them, and the list goes on for hours.

"It goes on. It goes on for hours and hours," said Skut.

The ceremony is hard to experience, shared Skut. "It's very emotional. It brings me to tears," he added.

The names, the memorial and the museum all bring back memories of what he saw 25 years ago. The memorial, he said, does an important job.

"They did a beautiful job at the memorial," Skut said. "It definitely memorializes all those people lost."

The Firefighter Bond

The trip also brings together firefighters from different places. Skut has built a friendship with firefighters all the way across the pond from England. The connection formed years ago when the fire company celebrated its anniversary.

Firefighters from Colchester, England, came to Connecticut and stayed with local firefighter families. They also trained with them and rode on fire trucks.

Skut later traveled to England and visited their firehouses and shared that the experience helped him realize something important.

"It's a brotherhood," he described. "No matter how far you are apart, firefighters got a bond."

Their bond strengthens every year and continues today.

Firefighters from England returned to Connecticut and traveled with Skut to the 9/11 Memorial. One firefighter, Ian Parks, has made the trip many times. This year, another firefighter, Doc Holiday, joined them from England. His official retirement date was Sept. 11, 2026.

Skut explained that for these firefighters, Sept. 11 isn't just a mere date on a calendar; it's a day they share.

Remembering Friends

Memories of 9/11 also encompass those who stood beside Skut, he said. One of them was Rob Brown.

Skut and Brown grew up together in the fire service. They started as teenagers and spent about 55 years together as firefighters. Brown was also one of the firefighters who went with Skut to New York after the attack.

Unfortunately, Brown passed away within the past year. Talking about his close friend was clearly difficult for Skut.

"Talking about it, it gets hard," he said.

He remembered Brown as a man who gave his life to the fire service. "He was a true firefighter," he said. Working beside Brown as Ground Zero is something Skut said he will never forget either.

Carrying The Memory

Skut knows that the people who remember Sept. 11 firsthand will not always be here. That's precisely why he keeps going back. He wants younger people to understand what happened. He wants families to talk about it. He wants the memory to move from one generation to the next.

"It needs to stay with me forever," he said.

He also knows that remembering can be heavy.

"I carry a big weight on my shoulders, and it's with me all the time," he said.

Still, he plans to keep returning to New York for as long as he can, year after year.

"I'll continue as long as I can, even if they have to push me in a wheelchair," he said.

That's Skut's unending promise. Every year, he goes back. He hears the names. He remembers the firefighters. He remembers his friends. And he makes sure someone else remembers, too.

"It's just a tragic loss," he said.

Going back every year is Skut's way of carrying that memory forward and keeping his promise to never forget.

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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.

St. Andrew Church Cemetery Notice

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

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

Please note the following:

- Decorations are limited to one display per lot in a portable plastic or metal rectangular box placed no more than 10 inches from the monument.
- As stated in the cemetery Rules and Regulations, trees, shrubs, flowers, bric-a-brac, lighting, and other plantings placed in the ground are not permitted and may be removed without notice.
- Any non-permitted items remaining in the cemetery may be removed as part of this clean-up effort to ensure the cemetery can be maintained safely and respectfully.
- If you have any questions, please refer to the Rules and Regulations that accompany your cemetery deed, or call the Guardian Angels Parish Office at 860-537-2355.

Westchester Church News

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

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

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

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

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



Heart of a Giant... Zyyear Farrell, a football player at Bacon Academy, is a finalist for the New York Giants "Heart of a Giant" contest. Farrell, a sophomore, was diagnosed with leukemia in the spring and is undergoing chemotherapy to treat the disease. Visit usafootball.com/heart-of-a-giant/vote to vote or learn more about Farrell and the USA Football Heart of a Giant award, presented by Hospital for Special Surgery and the New York Giants. The award recognizes high school students from New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut who demonstrate an unparalleled work ethic and passion for the game of football.

Abundant Life Church News & Notes

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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- OPPOSED** policies that burden those on fixed incomes.
- CHAMPIONED** legislation recognizing military funeral honor guards and those who continue serving our veterans.
- DEFENDED** parental involvement in education and local decision-making—not Hartford mandates.
- SUPPORTED** tax relief and recognition for volunteers who protect our communities.
- SUPPORTED** local businesses, agriculture, and the character of our rural communities.

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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.

'Meet the Candidates' Forum Oct. 6

The Colchester-area chapter 4019 of AARP will hold its annual "Meet the Candidates" forum on Tuesday, Oct. 6, at the Colchester Senior Center, 15 Louis Lane. The forum will begin at 1 p.m. Candidates from all parties who are officially on the ballot and are running for either state or federal offices have been invited to attend. Board members will meet at noon, with the general membership gathering at 12:30 p.m. All members are encouraged to bring food for the refreshments table. All Colchester-area seniors are encouraged to attend this free gathering and also learn more about the local AARP chapter.

DTC Fundraiser for Courtney

All are welcome to join former State Representative Brain Smith, his family, and the Colchester Democratic Town Committee for a fundraising reception to benefit the re-election campaign of Congressman Joe Courtney. The event will take place Thursday, Oct. 8, from 5:30-7 p.m., at the The O'Connell House, 12 Broadway, Colchester. RSVP at secure.act-blue.com/donate/10826courtneycolchester, or contact jerica@kieloch.com or 719-250-9159.

Cougars Juniors Recaps

The Colchester Cougars Juniors JV squad played East Lyme's JV squad on Monday, Sept. 14, at East Lyme. The matchup was a defensive battle and the final score was 7-7. Greyson Smith had a very strong performance defensively as did Paxton Krummel, who recorded a pair of interceptions. The Colchester Cougars Juniors Varsity squad played Ledyard on Saturday, Sept. 19, and lost, 12-0. The squad said it will work on avoiding senseless penalties, blocking and moving the ball offensively, and finishing tackles on defense.

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Bible Baptist Church News

Colchester Bible Baptist Church holds Sunday School at 9:30 a.m., followed by the Sunday morning worship service is at 10:30 a.m. There is also a Sunday evening service at 6 p.m. There is a Wednesday Evening Prayer Service at 7 p.m.

The church is located at 38 Chestnut Hill Rd., and can be reached at 860-537-1050. Pastor Scott Rosen can be emailed at pastor@colchesterbible.org, and the church website is www.colchesterbible.org.

Christian Life Chapel News

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

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

Children’s Worship: Sundays at 10:35 a.m. Kids learn about Jesus in ageappropriate ways.

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

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

Ahavath Achim Schedule

Congregation Ahavath Achim, 84 Lebanon Ave., has announced the following schedule:

Services: Fridays at 6:30 p.m., live and on Zoom; Saturdays at 10 a.m., live and on Zoom.

Classes on Tuesdays: Folklore of the Talmud at 6 p.m., followed by Talmud at 6:30 p.m., and Kabbalah at 8 p.m.

For more information, or Zoom links, call 860-537-2809. Office hours are Wednesday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Colchester Federated Church News

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

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

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

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.

History Museum Open Sundays

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

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

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

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

Senior Center Upcoming Trips

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

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

Majestic Cities of Central & Eastern Europe: Oct. 4-17, departure time TBD. Enjoy multi-night stays, local tours, food and more in Berlin, Prague, Vienna, Budapest, and Krakow.

Vendors Sought for Fall Fair

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

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

The 14-day, 13-night trip includes airfare, hotels, and meals (12 breakfasts, one lunch, and six dinners). Contact senior center staff for availability and pricing.

Ocean City, Maryland: Oct. 13-16, departure time TBD. Spend three nights directly on the beach. Cost is \$949/person (double or triple occupancy).

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

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

Presentation on 2027 Trip: On Oct. 19, at 10:30 a.m., there will be a presentation on the **Cultural Treasures of Japan** trip running Oct. 7-20, 2027. This trip is 14 days, 13 nights, and cost is \$9,999 per person (double occupancy).

President’s List

Colchester residents Brittney Ballard, Courtney Davis, Alyssa Zwahr and Stephanie Castro made the summer 2026 President’s List at Southern New Hampshire University.

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Stuffed Pork Chop Stuffed with broccoli, gorgonzola cheese and ritz crackers in a brown cognac sauce

Chicken Marsala Sauteed with mushrooms, shallots in a marsala wine sauce

Stuffed Sole Crab meat stuffing served over spinach

Balkan Meatballs Beef meatballs sauteed with scallions, roasted red peppers, grape tomatoes in a marsala cream sauce

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Sewer Usage Bills Due

Property owners in the sewer district are reminded that the last day to pay their sewer usage bill without interest is Monday, Nov. 2. Failure to pay on time will result in interest charged at 1.5% per month reverting to the due date of Oct. 1.

Tax payments can be mailed to Tax Collector, Town of Marlborough, P.O. Box 29, Marlborough, CT 06447, placed in the drop box outside of Town Hall, or paid in person at 26 North Main St. Make checks payable to MWPCA. Tax collector hours are Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Tuesday, 8:30 a.m.-7 p.m.; and Friday, 8:30 a.m.-noon.

For more information, call the tax office at 860-295-6205 or email taxcollector@marlboroughct.gov Failure to receive a bill does not invalidate the usage fee or interest.

side of Town Hall, or paid in person at 26 North Main St. Make checks payable to MWPCA. Tax collector hours are Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Tuesday, 8:30 a.m.-7 p.m.; and Friday, 8:30 a.m.-noon.

For more information, call the tax office at 860-295-6205 or email taxcollector@marlboroughct.gov Failure to receive a bill does not invalidate the usage fee or interest.

Spanish Mass Offering at St. John Fisher

Starting Saturday, Oct. 3, the Rev. Carlos Zapata will celebrate Mass in Spanish at 6 p.m. at St. John Fisher Roman Catholic Church, located at 30 Jones Hollow Rd.

This Vigil Mass will be in addition to the 4 p.m. Vigil Mass and will be offered the first Saturday of each month going forward.

For more information, call the church office at 860-295-0001.

September Concert at Arts Center

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

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

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

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 Committee is a group of volunteer residents who help identify local needs, shape grant priorities, and review proposals for projects designed to enhance quality of life in Marlborough. The committee makes grant recommendations to the Greater Hartford Gives Foundation.

Congregational Church News & Notes

Sunday Worship at Marlborough Congregational Church, located at 35 South Main St., is held at 10 a.m. The service is also broadcast live every Sunday at mcc.marlconchurch.org and recorded for later viewing. Church pastor is the Rev. Valerie Seaver. Sunday school is held Sundays at 10 a.m. All children in the community are welcome and invited to attend. Childcare for infants and toddlers is provided downstairs in the nursery; however, children are always welcome at the worship service.

Sept. 27 will feature the bell choir. The sermon will be given by worship assistant Gwen Lawson, while Seaver visits downstairs with the Sunday school children. Oct. 4 is the church's annual Harvest Sunday when parishioners are invited to bring fresh fruits and vegetables to worship to be delivered to the Marlborough Food Bank.

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.

Community Sing, led by Seat of Our Pants

member Carolyn Brodgerski, is Saturday, Oct. 3, at 7 p.m., in the Thienes Lounge. All who enjoy singing, including musicians, are welcome. Music is provided.

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

Second Blessings Thrift Shop is 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@marlconchurch.org, or contact the church office at office@marlconchurch.org.

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Fire Department Chicken Barbecue

The Marlborough Fire Department will host its 70th annual Chicken Barbecue on Sunday, Oct. 4, from noon-2 p.m., at Station No. 1 on Route 66 in Marlborough Center.

Tickets are \$20/person and include a meal of half a chicken, freshly made coleslaw, a baked potato, a dinner roll, and a dessert. The fire station will be open for those who wish to dine in. Additionally, the Women’s Auxiliary will host a bake sale.

This annual event has a history of selling out quickly, the fire department said. Due to high demand and a limited number of tickets, resi-

dents are encouraged to secure theirs as soon as possible. Tickets are being sold door-to-door by Marlborough firefighters.

If a firefighter has not visited your home, you can purchase tickets by calling the firehouse at 860-295-6219 or Captain Todd Cohen at 860-573-0428. Leave a message with your name, address, and the number of tickets you need. Tickets will also be able for pick-up at Marlborough Plastics, 350 North Main St.

Tickets are sold on a first-come, first-served basis.

Senior Center News and Notes

Marlborough Senior Center, 17 School Drive, is open for activities. For more information about any senior center program, or to register, call 860-295-6209 or email socialservices@marlboroughct.gov. Also contact the senior center for a list of regularly occurring weekly and monthly programs, such as billiards, Mah-jongg, chair massage, the Cookbook Club, Parkinson’s Disease Exercise Class, blood pressure screenings, and more.

Senior Center Hours: Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Friday, 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

Open Discussion on Open AI: Wednesday, Sept. 30, 1-2 p.m. Paul A. Kriksciun hasdedicated his career to helping organizations navigate complex technology and now focuses on making artificial intelligence accessible and understandable for everyone. All are invited to come learn and ask questions.

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

Social Services: Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program: Electronic benefit card, preloaded with \$40. For use at participating farmers markets to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables, eggs, honey, and fresh cut herbs. Use at the Marlborough Farmers Market every Wednesday. For Marlborough residents only.

Parks and Rec. Programs

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

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

Lego – Dino Designs: For grades K-2. Wednesdays, Oct. 7-Nov. 26, 3:15-4:45 p.m., at MES. Guided by Play-Well instructors, young builders will return to the age of dinosaurs, using Lego to bring the time of the dinosaurs to life. Design and engineer secure habitats for gentle herbivores, embark on daring expeditions to track down elusive species, and uncover the secrets of powerful predator dinosaurs. Registration fee is \$140/resident, \$145/non-resident.

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 Cen-

ter. 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.

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.marlbroughct.gov.

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

Lumos Candlelight Concert

Marlborough Congregational Church at 35 South Main St. is hosting a Lumos Candlelight Concert on Friday, Oct. 9, with performances at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Lumos, headquartered in the UK, performs world-wide, providing a magical musical audience experience. The Oct. 9 theme is a classical Vivaldi and Mozart Tribute.

Lumos’ mission goes beyond music supporting various causes such as Worldwide Cancer Research, World Food Program, Alzheimer’s Society, UNICEF, and more.

Shows sell out quickly, the church said, and seating is limited. Tickets can be purchased at www.lumos-experiences.com.

Two Charged with Animal Cruelty

By Toriana Williams

Two people have been arrested on animal cruelty charges after police found several dead dogs and unsafe living conditions at a Marlborough property, according to state police.

Troy McDermott, 49, of Hartford, was arrested on Sept. 17. He faces 11 counts of animal cruelty and one count of tampering with physical evidence. Crystal Bianco, 44, of Deep River, was also arrested and faces one count of animal cruelty. Both are due in Manchester Superior Court on Oct. 2.

The investigation began on Aug. 31 when state troopers joined local health and building officials at a property on Saner Road. The affidavits said the property had a history of drug activity and violence, and dogs that were known to bite.

While officers were there, they arrested another man, Michael Fiondella, 44, of Colchester, on an unrelated charge of failure to appear. Fiondella later told police that several dogs had died at the property, according to the affidavit. He said he had been paid to feed the dogs and told investigators that at least 12 dogs had died there during the past year.

Fiondella then showed police several ca-



Troy McDermott



Crystal Bianco

nine corpses. According to police, one dog found dead was in a plastic container in the basement. Other corpses were found under a carpet in a blue building. Fiondella also showed officers a place where he said another dog had been buried.

Police returned with a search warrant on Sept. 2, where they seized seven living dogs, including six connected to McDermott and one that Bianco said belonged to her. According to police, the dead dogs found during the first visit had been removed before police returned.

St. John Fisher Church News & Notes

St. John Fisher Roman Catholic Church is located at 30 Jones Hollow Rd. Pastor is the Rev. Carlos Zapata, Bill Gilles is deacon John McKaig is senior deacon retired. Heather Mancini is church secretary and can be reached at 860-295-0001; hours are Monday-Wednesday and Friday, 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. People are asked to call before heading over or connect at stjoh-fisher30@yahoo.com. The church website is www.stjfisherchurch.org.

Liturgical Celebrations: Weekend Masses: 4 p.m. Saturday and 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday. **The first Saturday of the month at 6 p.m. is a Spanish Mass. Weekday Masses:** Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 8:30 a.m. **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:** Mondays at 9 a.m. **Weekly Sacrament of Reconciliation:** Saturdays, 3-3:30 p.m., or by appointment.

Faith Formation Programs: Faith Formation leaders Cindy Bryan and Helena Thomas have begun their new classes for this academic year, with new registrations still accepted. Access the church website or register directly at stjfffaithformation@gmail.com.

Ministry, Social and Parish Community Events: An adult choir practices weekly; men’s and women’s prayer groups, Knights of Columbus, Christian Outreach and Prayer Shawl ministry meet monthly; and an active book club meets quarterly. Social activities are planned throughout the year to provide additional par-

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

Community Outreach and Service: The Community Giving Garden is actively producing fresh produce and meets Mondays at 5 p.m. The garden yields fresh produce delivered weekly to the Marlborough Food Bank. Monetary donations are accepted supporting the students and families at Marlborough Elementary School. Food drives are held weekly for the Marlborough Food Bank. Sandwich-making and collection continues the last Thursday of the month for St. Vincent de Paul in Middletown. Other scheduled service opportunities can be found in the weekly bulletin.

Additional Programs and Offerings: For information on other programs, seasonal offerings, adult faith formation, youth group, OCIA, Knights of Columbus or other ministries, call the office, visit www.stjfisherchurch.org, or look for the church on Facebook (Saint John Fisher Roman Catholic Church).

Police News

8/31: Michael Fiondella, 44, of Colchester, was arrested and charged with second-degree failure to appear, state police said.

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.

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Bellringers Take Down Nemesis, Twice



Garrett Chretien, a sophomore defender, controls the ball during East Hampton boys soccer win over Cromwell last Tuesday.

By Josh Howard

A year ago, East Hampton High School boys soccer was ousted by Cromwell in the first game of the Shoreline Conference (SLC) tournament. Playing at the same venue 328 days later, the Bellringers avenged the defeat by beating the Panthers, 2-1, at Cromwell High School last Tuesday, Sept. 15.

“We stressed all week that we need to play together and play hard,” East Hampton head coach Bill Blakey said following the road win. “When we played here last year in the Shoreline tournament we didn’t really play together, and I thought today we really did.”

After 74 minutes of back-and-forth action, East Hampton’s Sebby Woodson scored the decisive goal late in regulation.

Woodson received a free kick from Noah Miro, which he snuck past Cromwell goalie Aiden Petrucci for what turned out to be the game-winning goal.

“He always whips those crosses to the back post, and it was nice to know I was there for him

and be able to finish,” Woodson said of Miro’s assist. “[Cromwell] kicked us out of the tournament last year right on this field, so it felt great to come here and get that revenge.”

East Hampton struck first in the conference clash as Sean Hargreaves broke a scoreless tie in the 24th minute with an assist from Wade Aresco.

Seventeen minutes into the second half, Cromwell’s Ben Burdick netted the equalizer before Woodson and Miro hooked up for the go-ahead score at the 5:14 mark of regulation.

Cromwell entered the contest with a 2-0 record, beating their first two opponents by a combined score of 14-0. Following a state semifinal appearance in 2025, the Panthers have championship aspirations this season and always a conference contender.

“You are going to have to face adversity during the season,” said Cromwell head coach Angelo Morello. “We just couldn’t finish today, and East Hampton took advantage of that. We’ll have to rebound quickly”



East Hampton’s Noah Miro and Cromwell’s Luke Trimani chase down the ball at Cromwell High School. Miro assisted on the game-winning goal as the Bellringers avenged a conference tourney loss to the Panthers from a year ago.

A year ago, the Bellringers finished the regular season with nine wins before losing to Cromwell 4-3 during the SLC play-in match.

In their return to the scene of last year’s conference exit, the Bellringers had three games under their belts in 2026, beating North Branford and coming to a draw with Old Saybrook and E.O. Smith.

Despite being down three starters, Blakey said his squad entered Cromwell focused and determined.

“It’s a good matchup every time we play these guys,” Blakey said of the rivalry with Cromwell. “They have good kids and good coaching, but our guys did an excellent job. Everyone contributed, even off the bench, so as a coach, I’m really proud.”

Blakey, in his second year as the head coach of the program, is leading an experienced group that is hoping to build off the progress of last season, which ended in the second round of the Class S tourney after they defeated Immaculate in the opening round.

Woodson and Michael Farrell are Blakey’s

team captains. Woodson was a second-team All-SLC selection as a junior and has now expanded his responsibilities in his final season.

“I’ve enjoyed having a bigger role,” explained Woodson. “I have found my voice and have connected with the younger teammates more.”

The victory over Cromwell was the start of a three-game winning streak for the Bellringers.

Two days following the win in Cromwell, East Hampton traveled to Cogenchaug Regional High School and blanked the Blue Devils 3-0. Woodson scored twice and Luke Davidson had a goal and an assist. Miro again dished out a helper.

On Monday, the Bellringers welcomed Cromwell to EHHS for a rematch. The result was the same as East Hampton again came away with a 2-1 victory. Miro scored and had an assist, while Davidson added a goal.

Next up is another home date with Haddam Killingworth tonight (Friday, Sept. 25) at 4 p.m.

“They have been playing together and for each other,” noted Blakey. “We’ve really been focused on staying mentally and physically strong.”

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.

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.

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

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

Special Session for Registrars

The registrars of voters will be in session on Tuesday, Sept. 29, between 11 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at the registrars’ office at Town Hall, 1 Community Drive. The date is for completion of the preliminary registry list.

For more information, call the registrars’ office that day at 860-267-6720.

Lions Club Scholarship Raffle

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

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

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

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

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

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.

Basic Car Care & Vehicle Safety Maintenance Workshop: Saturday, Oct. 3, 8-9:30 a.m., at East Hampton High School, with Tracey Gardiner, owner of Tag Rally Sport. Cost: \$30.

Scarecrows in the Park: All residents, businesses and organizations are invited to make a scarecrow for the event. Cost is \$25 to participate. Bring your own materials and help turn Sears Park into a showcase of scarecrows. Scarecrows in the Park runs Oct. 19-31.

Trunk or Treat: Tuesday, Oct. 27, 5:30-7 p.m., at East Hampton Center School.

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REB-30-25

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.

VFW Lobster Fest

Fowler-Dix-Park VFW 5095 will hold its 20th annual Lobster Fest Saturday, Sept. 26, at the Post Home, located at 20 North Maple St.

Tickets cost \$60 per person and offer the holder a choice of 1 1/4 to 1 1/2 pound lobster or 3/4” prime ribeye steak, a baked potato, an ear of local corn and a cup of Chowder. A pound of steamers is available for an additional \$20.

Tickets can be purchased by contacting VFW Post 5095 at 860-267-8837.

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Council Considers Transfer Station Future

By Anne Lilburn

East Hampton’s Town Council meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 22 involved discussion around the future of the town transfer station – along with some contentious moments involving meeting minutes from a prior meeting that took place in August.

Council members also heard public comment about the town’s POCD, but declined to endorse it at this point, with some saying they preferred to wait until there had been more time for public comment.

Also at this meeting, the council voted unanimously to approve the town’s collective bargaining agreement (with minor corrections to be made) with the Municipal Employees Union Independent/Town Supervisors’ union, and voted unanimously to approve a resolution authorizing the Town Manager and Finance Director to take steps to finance six items, made up of vehicles and large equipment, that were approved in the Capital Improvement Plan for this fiscal year. Those items included a building department vehicle, a fire command vehicle, a public works truck, a public works Bobcat, a new boiler at Memorial School and an HVAC replacement at the middle school.

Council members also considered some proposed changes to the town’s Agriculture Commission membership guidelines. In particular, the commission wants to eliminate the requirement that three of its members be non-voting members under the age of 18, while also including a directive that the Commission will “encourage and solicit active participation” by local interested youth. It also wants to clarify that the animal control officer would sit on the commission as a non-voting member, said Cox. The council agreed to set a public hearing on this revised ordinance for Oct. 13.

Options Considered for Transfer Station

The council considered several options regarding the town’s transfer station, whose funding was cut during budget revisions and whose closure had been discussed. Public Works Director Matt Walsh appeared at the meeting to walk the council through several possible scenarios involving the transfer station.

In one scenario, the station would close at the beginning of next year, leaving residents to rely on other, mostly private waste disposal options. In another, the town would explore partnering

with other municipalities to find a regional solution. In the last two options, the town would continue to operate the station, but either eliminate or reduce the station’s acceptance of bulky waste.

“Bulky waste is the biggest driver of costs,” said Walsh, who also noted that “the bulky waste is really something that there are options out there that people can utilize.”

He noted that the private waste haulers who pick up people’s daily trash will often pickup “couches, chairs, even a small amount of demolition debris,” for fees that are not significantly different from those charged by the transfer station. In addition, he noted that many waste disposal companies will deliver dumpsters to a house for a fee.

Walsh noted the challenges posed by bulky waste disposal, including the damage caused by dump trucks that damage the dumpsters when they dump their load.

“There’s so much coming in that someone has to be there at all times to pack the dumpsters down,” said Walsh, adding to personnel costs.

Many council members seemed most drawn to the idea of either eliminating or reducing the bulky waste acceptance, but Ted Hintz Jr., a Republican, took issue with the potential elimination of bulky waste at the site. He asked Walsh what the biggest utilization at the station was, and Walsh replied that it was bulky waste.

“You’re going to take what everyone uses, the one service that everyone uses, and all you’re saying is just, ‘Throw it out and go somewhere else,’” Hintz said. “I’m not going to support that in any way shape or form.”

Hintz did say that he understood the challenges posed by non-resident commercial entities using the site to dump construction waste.

Walsh suggested one solution might be that dump trucks might be permitted, but not allowed to dump at the transfer station, meaning they would have to hand unload their trash.

The council decided to schedule a public workshop, which Town Manager Dave Cox said would be held in November, to get public input on the transfer station’s future with enough time to implement changes by January or February of next year.

Record-Keeping, FOIA Rules Considered

One of the more contentious issues at Tues-

day’s meeting concerned the revision of Town Council meeting minutes from its Aug. 11 meeting. The minutes had first been considered at the council’s Sept. 8 meeting, where council member Hintz had suggested the original minutes be amended to include more detail about the public comment of a resident who spoke over her allotted time and made negative comments concerning a council member’s behavior without noting by name which council member she was referring to.

Hintz sought to add in language about that interaction, and after the meeting, Town Manager David Cox worked to craft language as directed that specified that she had gone over time at both comment sessions, and also to note that she had been reprimanded by the Council Chair for “making disparaging remarks about a Council member.” Those revised minutes, with the additional language, were then scheduled to be voted on for approval at this most recent Sept. 22 meeting.

“I don’t think I’ve ever seen revised meeting minutes,” said Hintz, seemingly wanting the revision to replace the original minutes.

“Usually, when meetings are done, they become the official record and they’re not a revision, they’re actually posted as the minutes,” he said. “If we are approving these, I do have concerns with them saying revised.”

“The FOIA [Freedom of Information Act] commission requires that minutes for bodies be filed within seven days of the meeting,” explained Cox. “In most cases, that’s before they are seen by and finalized by the bodies, so there is a set of minutes that goes into the clerk’s office within seven days of your last meeting or thereabouts, and the direction that [the commission has] provided regarding revisions to minutes, is that they simply show up in the next set of minutes.”

He added that he personally found that “preposterous, because in order to know that a set of minutes is final, one would always need to know to look to the next set of minutes.”

Accordingly, Cox said he had talked with As-

sistant Cathy Sirois and made the decision to show both sets of minutes on the record.

“The clerk’s office will have the original set, and [also] this version that shows as revised, based on the council’s conversation [at the last meeting.]

Rich Knotek, a Democrat, expressed his own concern about the revised minutes, noting that comments like that seemed targeted at the public commenter.

“After careful consideration, I don’t think this language should be added to minutes at all, in my view,” he said. “It seems to only be directed to one speaker at that time when it doesn’t apply to anybody else. To be honest with you, this is intimidating. I think this is a form of intimidation, quite frankly, to be able to call out and specifically say [the talking] time and make a public record for a person making public comments.

“People, for the last six months, as we all know, have been making disparaging comments, yelling, screaming, interrupting our business, have been insulting staff, us, etc.,” Knotek continued, “and to be quite honest with you, probably in a much greater, harder, worse and more rude way, than this particular speaker right here.”

Hintz asked why everything that went to the town clerk in that initial seven-day period wasn’t treated as “unofficial” and said he believed any instance where people went over time, or were disconnected for improper conduct, should be noted. At the same time, he also noted that he had been counseled in the past that meeting minutes should be as brief as possible, noting very little detail.

In the end, the council voted to approve the meeting minutes from the Aug. 11 and Sept. 8 meetings, but to strike the language that had been added regarding the public comment at the Aug. 11 meeting. The item passed six to one, with only Hintz voting against it.

Given the discussion around minutes and FOIA rules, the council and Cox agreed to move forward with scheduling a FOIA workshop where they could learn more about the formal rules and what the best practices were.

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.

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How To Prepare Your Car For Fall

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

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

1. Check The Belts & Hoses

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

2. Check The Fluid Levels

We’ll check windshield washer fluids, transmission fluids, coolant, brake fluids, and power steering fluids. All are very important for ensuring that your car runs smoothly.

3. Check/Replace Tires

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

4. Check Your Heat

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

5. Check The Brakes

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



REG-13-24

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Police Chief to Retire at End of November

By Anne Lilburn

East Hampton Police Chief Dennis Woessner has resigned from his position and is retiring from police work after a long career in law enforcement.

Woessner’s resignation will be effective at the end of business on Nov. 25, according to Town Manager David Cox. Woessner spent more than eight years serving the town, and his career in public safety spans more than 40 years. Prior to joining the East Hampton Police Department, Woessner served as a captain in the Glastonbury Police Department.

Cox reported that Woessner would be fully retiring from active duty, and said that the town was embarking on a selection process with the hope of getting a new chief on duty as soon as possible.

“It is usually hard to lose an employee, but the departure of Chief Woessner is especially difficult,” Cox told the *Rivereast*. “While his full retirement is certainly well deserved after such a long and distinguished career, I will miss him. He has been a key member of the town’s management team and has provided high-quality insight and support to me, and with his leadership and support of the team in the Police Department, East Hampton is safer because of his involvement. I wish him all the best in his upcoming retirement.”

In a statement Wednesday to the *Rivereast*, Woessner said, “I have truly enjoyed the past 8 1/2 years with the East Hampton Police Department, and during that time I have had the opportunity to build relationships with the community for which I serve. The East Hampton Police Department has some of the finest officers and civilian staff that I have ever had the pleasure of working with.”

Woessner said traveling is in his future. “After 40 years of combined law enforcement, covering three different agencies, it is now time for my wife and I to do some traveling that we have always wanted to do,” Woessner said.

Town Council Chair Dean Markham said Wednesday he was sad to see Woessner go.

“We’re all disappointed,” he said, “because the Chief has been an outstanding member of our town. He’s been a wonderful Chief of Police, very easy to work with. He works diligently for his officers, but also diligently for the town, and he’s just got a very good demeanor about him.”

Markham said he expected it would be challenging to find a replacement, mostly because “Chief Wessner has been so good, [so] we have expectations now.”

“We’re all going to be sorry that he’s decided to retire,” said Markham, “but I guess after 40 years, he’s earned it.”

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

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 – and an induction ceremony is coming up next month.

The five elected are: Eric Peck, a member of the East Hampton High School Class of 2008 and captain of the 2008 conference championship baseball team; Patrick Rubega, is an assistant track and field assistant coach at EHHS; Scott Wosleger, the EHHS baseball coach from 2007-14; Gyanna Russell, a 2017 graduate and a basketball three-time All-Conference, two-time

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.epoch-arts.org/classes-registration. Classes are held at Epoch, 27 Skinner St.

All-State player; and Parker Strong, the EHHS boys basketball coach from 2012-21 and the current boys tennis coach.

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.

to eat; plates and utensils provided. Register or drop in.

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 lifelong learning. Sponsored by Friends of the East Hampton Public Library.

Tech Help: Thursday, Oct. 8, 2-4 p.m. Basic technology help for phones, laptops, tablets, and e-readers. No registration required, just bring your device with you.

Teen Programs: 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 Programs: 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.

Lego at the Library: Grades K-6: Tuesday, Oct. 6, 4:30-5:30 p.m. Each month features a new challenge or theme for you to work on, solo or with friends. All Lego bricks provided.

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 more than 50 years of experience.

Absentee Ballots Available Oct. 2

Absentee ballots for the upcoming state election will be available starting Friday, Oct. 2.

Applications may be obtained at the town clerk’s office or online at www.sots.ct.gov. Students attending college out of state are encouraged to submit their applications early, so ample time is available for the mailing and returning of ballots. All absentee ballots must be returned by closing of the polls on Nov. 3.

Also, early voting will be available from

Monday, Oct. 19, to Sunday, Nov. 1, between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m., with extended hours on Tuesday, Oct. 27, and Thursday, Oct. 29, between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. Early voting will be held at Town Hall, 1 Community Drive.

Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 3, and in-person voting will be held at East Hampton High School, 15 North Maple St., from 6 a.m.-8 p.m.

Planning Underway for House Tour

The Chatham Historical Society of East Hampton has announced its bi-annual House Tour of 2027. Plans are underway for this Middle Haddam extravaganza.

The history of Middle Haddam is the most inspiring of all the sections of East Hampton. Known as Chatham since 1767, ship builders came up the river and began a most prosperous industry in the late 1700s, early 1800s. Only

homes in Middle Haddam will be showcased, along with a display of artifacts and memorabilia in the Post Office Building. Many of the homes will be within walking distance of the library where tickets will be sold.

For more information and a chance to join in the celebration, contact Debbie Day at 860-705-0959.

Little League Golf Tournament

The East Hampton Little League Golf Tournament is coming up Monday, Oct. 12, at 10 a.m., at Blackledge Country Club in Hebron.

This will be a day of golf, contests, raffles, food and prizes, while raising money to support East Hampton Little League.

The funds raised will go toward new bleachers at Comstock and Belltown and fixed GameChanger cameras on the majors softball and baseball fields. The league is also looking

Senior Center Upcoming Trips

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

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

at 10:30 a.m.

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

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

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.

Ladies Fellowship: Will meet at Mary’s house Thursday, Oct. 13, from 1-3 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.

KICY Salmon Dinner: Saturday, Oct. 17, 4:30 p.m., with a free will offering to benefit the KICY Radio Ministry in Nome, Alaska.

Children’s Ministry: Children’s Ministry, for children in kindergarten through fifth grade, is held in Fellowship Hall during worship. The theme is “Friends with God” and is taught through Bible stories where the characters are friends with God. A toddler nursery is also available. All are welcome.

Vocal Choir: Rehearsals are Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. New members welcome.

Adult Bible Study: Sundays at 10:15 a.m. in the chapel. The study looks at each of the 12 disciples.

Office Info: The office can be reached at 860-267-2336; hours are Tuesday and Thursday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The church website is www.hn-covenantchurch.org.

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;

Bethlehem Lutheran Church News

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

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

For more information, call 860-267-1248 or visit www.facebook.com/BethlehemEH or www.bethlehemeh.org.

stop by the senior center to complete and submit the form.

Tap Dance for Fitness: Thursday, Oct. 1, 11 a.m., with instructor Alicia Currier. Come show off your dance moves or earn some fresh steps.

Wednesday Film and Fun: Wednesday, Sept. 30, 1 p.m., featuring the film *Remarkably Bright Creatures* with actress Sally Field. Please register in advance.

The Art of Haiga: Wednesday, Sept. 30, 2:30 p.m. Discover this Japanese tradition of combining a simple drawing and haiku poetry. Create a small nature-inspired pastel artwork paired with thoughtful words in a relaxed, welcoming setting. No experience needed; supplies provided.

Design & Create: Thursday, Oct. 1, 1:30 p.m. Create Spooky Lanterns together each session with guidance by staff member Cindy Houle.

Trips: Anam Cara Sanctuary Farm: Thursday, Oct. 8, leaving the senior center at 11 a.m. Visit the farm for a guided tour and meet the rescued residents including pigs, peacocks and other animal friends. Cost is \$10 and includes donations to the farm and bus ride. Snack provided. In-person registration is now open for this trip.

President’s List

Brooke Adams of East Hampton made the summer 2026 made the summer 2026 President’s List at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, Ala.

East Hampton • East Hampton • East Hampton • East Hampton • East Hampton • East Hampton • East Hampton • East Hampton • East Hampton • East Hampton

Spaghetti and Meatball Dinner

The Knights of Columbus Saint John Paul II Council 6190 will hold the first of its biannual spaghetti and meatball dinners on Friday, Oct. 2, at St. Patrick Parish Center, located at 47 West High St. Dinner will be served from 4:30-7:15 p.m., and is dine-in or takeout. The meal includes salad, bread, dessert, coffee and punch drink. Canned soft drinks and water available for \$1. Prices are \$15 for adults, and \$14

for seniors. Children 5 and under eat free. Chance to win raffle prizes and 50/50. The Knights of Columbus will also collect non-perishable food items for the East Hampton Food Bank. Entertainment will be provided by rock and roller Bobby C. For more information, contact Jim Pedersen at 860-716-9629 or Ray D'Andrea at 860-303-7592.

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. **October Featured Artist:** Wangunk artist Kyle “Bright Star” O’Neil is the featured artist in October, with an artist reception and traditional Wangunk Ceremony on the library lawn on Sunday, Oct. 4, from 2-4 p.m. **Holiday Closing:** The library is closed on Columbus Day, Monday, Oct. 12. **Open Mic:** Friday, Oct. 16, 6-8 p.m. **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 Marshall:** Fridays from 9:30-10:30 a.m. 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 chair for standing support. Email zenlotus860@yahoo.com for information. **Chatham Chess Club:** Wednesdays, Oct. 7 and 21, from 6-9 p.m. All ages and skill levels are welcome; lessons available. For more information, contact pjhoffman1@juno.com. **Program on James Joyce:** The library will have a free program led by James Joyce scholar John O’Connor on Saturday, Oct. 17, at 11 a.m., featuring a dive into Chapter 3 of Joyce’s *Finnegan’s Wake*. Call 860-267-9093 to register. **Concert:** Double Play, featuring Cathy Kreger and Jon Swift, will perform a variety of blues, jazz and bluegrass tunes on Sunday, Oct. 25, at 2 p.m. A free will offering will be collected. Call 860-267-9093 to register. **Mahjong:** Mondays, 10:30 a.m. All levels of experience welcome. Contact the library for more information. **Fiber Arts Group:** Thursdays from 10 a.m.-noon. Bring your spinning wheel, knitting, weaving, embroidery, etc. All are welcome. **Yoga with Erin Day of Ten Summit Yoga:** Mondays and Saturdays at 9 a.m., and Tuesdays at 7 p.m. Cost is a \$17 drop-in fee. To register, email tensummitst@gmail.com or call 860-262-0246.

Wangunk Artist to be Featured at Library

Wangunk artist Kyle “Bright Star” O’Neil is the featured artist for October at the Historic Middle Public Library, 2 Knowles Rd., Middle Haddam. An artist reception, featuring a traditional Wangunk ceremony on the library lawn, will be held Sunday, Oct. 4, from 2 to 4 p.m. All are invited to come and meet O’Neil and view her mixed media monoprints, collage and clay pieces, created in the traditional “pit-firing” Native American style. Refreshments will be served. The exhibit will be on display at the library through October. Bright Star has exhibited internationally in a show titled “Angels Fly Together” in Mar del Plata, Argentina, which also brought her to participate in the United National “First World Down Syndrome Day at the United Nations in March 2012. Her art consultant Gordon Hinz has been helping her and other Wangunks with event set ups, framing and layout. Her work has been featured locally in Marlborough, Middletown, Portland, Meriden and New Haven. A member of the Wangunk Tribe from the Jonathan Palmer Line, O’Neil has support from her parents Gary “Red Oak” O’Neil and Cheryl Canino along with her church community at First Congregational in Middletown, where a display of her art is also featured. The Wangunks have been in the Connecticut Valley for more than 10,000 years.



Wangunk artist Kyle “Bright Star” O’Neil is the featured artist for October at Middle Haddam Public Library. An artist reception will be held Sunday, Oct. 4, from 2-4 p.m.

Police News

9/8: Jennifer Steffman, 41, of East Hampton was issued a summons for operating a motor vehicle under suspension, East Hampton Police said. 9/11: Kevin Carroll, 38, of East Hampton was arrested and charged with violation of a protective order, police said. 9/12: After an investigation into a car vs tree motor vehicle accident wherein the driver fled from the scene, Timothy Anderegg, 62, of East Hampton was issued a summons for evading responsibility,

police said. 9/17: Trevor Green, 22, of East Hampton, was issued a summons for third-degree assault and disorderly conduct, police said. 9/17: Dexter Devoe, 52, of East Hampton was arrested and charged with driving under the influence and failure to drive in the proper lane, police said. From Sept. 7-20, officers responded to 35 medical calls, 10 motor vehicle crashes and 14 alarms, and made 19 traffic stops, police said.



Jerry Gerkey built a lighthouse for the Congregational Church of East Hampton, and it will be displayed in the church sanctuary throughout the coming year as a beacon of hope. The church said it continues to look to Psalm 46:1: “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.”

Congregational Church News

The Congregational Church of East Hampton, 59 Main St., welcomes all to worship Sundays at 10 a.m. The scripture reading for this Sunday’s service is Philippians 2:1-13. Alan Hurst will be talking about mission trips he has participated in and the Rev. Dr. Robin Blundon will be delivering a short message. 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. **Aluminum Food & Soda Can Tabs:** On-

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

Christ Episcopal Church News

Christ Episcopal Church, 66 Middle Haddam Rd., Middle Haddam, holds in-person and Zoom services at 10 a.m. on Sundays. All are welcome. To connect electronically, go to www.christchurchmiddlehaddam.com for directions. The Holy Eucharist will be celebrated with the Rev. Diana Rogers, priest-in-charge. **Food Bank Donations:** Food items for the East Hampton Food Bank may be placed in the black totes at the rear of the church. **Returnable Cans and Bottles:** All are asked to place donations in the cans by the shed. Note: Glass bottles and aluminum cans should be sep-

arated prior to drop-off. **Sunday School:** Class takes place each Sunday at 9:55 a.m. Newcomers are always welcome. Contact 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. **Information/Assistance:** Contact Senior Warden Donna Hryb at 860-633-0472 or donnadubehryb@gmail.com for more information.

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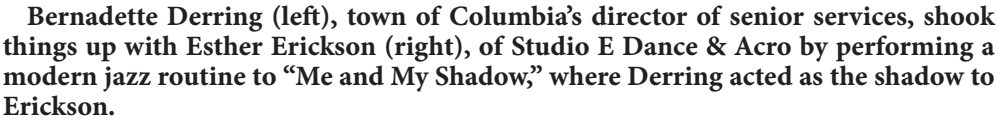
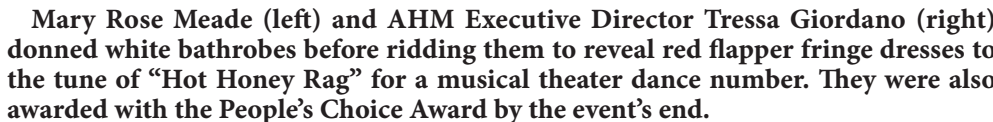
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Obituaries

Colchester

Ronald S. Rall

Ronald S. Rall, 79, of East Hartford, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by his family on Friday, Sept. 18. He was the beloved husband of the late Gail (Findley) Rall.

Born in Yonkers, N.Y., Ronald was the son of the late Thomas and Evelyn (Philips) Rall. He was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force. Ronald worked as a machinist for many years before his retirement.

Surviving are his daughter, Tracy Chasse and her husband Paul of Colchester; his son, Michael Rall and his wife Susan of Lebanon; his grandchildren, Paul and Kaitlyn Chasse, Catherine and Michael Rall, and Kristina Mira, and his great-granddaughter Marceline Rall; his siblings, David Rall of Norwich, Linda Forgue of Westerly, R.I., Timothy Rall and wife Diana of East Hampton, Patricia Silva of New London, Debra Philopena of Lebanon and many nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his brother, Richard Rall, and sister, Diana Rall Murphy.

Funeral services will be held Thursday, Oct. 1, at 1 p.m., at Mulryan Funeral Home, 725 Hebron Ave., Glastonbury. Burial will be at the convenience of the family. Visitation will be Thursday, Oct. 1, from noon-1 p.m., at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 6704, Hagerstown, MD 21741.

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



East Hampton

Aaron Cost

On Sunday, Aug. 23, Aaron Cost, 50, longtime resident of East Hampton and most recently of Guilford, passed away at his home.

Aaron was born in New Haven on March 19, 1976, beloved son of Henry A. Cost Jr. and Ruth (Chello) Cost. He was father of Jayden Cobb of Colchester, and brother of Andrea Cost of Kasilof, Ark., and Alden Cost of East Hampton. He is also survived by two nieces, Ashley Cost and Alicia Christensen of East Hampton, and two nephews, Gabe and Austin Gometz of East Haddam.

He was predeceased by his paternal grandparents, the Rev. Henry A. Cost Sr. and Betty Cost, and his maternal grandparents, Norman L. and Margaret J. Chello.

Services will be held privately.



Colchester

John H. Jones

John H. Jones, fondly known as Big John or Jonsey, of Colchester, passed away suddenly on Wednesday, Sept. 16. He was 77 years old.

John was born in Middletown on March 9, 1949, to the late Clair and Mary (Faber) Jones. From the age of 8, he grew up in Colchester, and was a 1967 graduate of Bacon Academy. He married Rita DeScisciolo on March 25, 1972; together they raised their two children in Colchester before she predeceased him in November 2002. He later married Mary Miraglia on Aug. 10, 2003.

After high school, John worked as a police officer for the Willimantic Police Department before joining Pratt & Whitney in the maintenance department. John retired from the Town of Colchester Department of Public Works after 22 years. John dedicated much of his life to the town of Colchester, serving in many capacities throughout the years including numerous boards and committees. Most notably was his service in the Colchester Hayward Volunteer Fire Department, which he began at the age of 14. Over the next 60 years, John served the department in many ranks before retiring as Fire Police Captain. He was a familiar and reassuring presence to many generations of members and throughout the community.

To John, everyone was a friend. He was always there to lend a hand, take care of those around him and give back to the place he called "home," which reached beyond those four walls and into his community that he loved so deeply. Serving his friends, his family and his community wasn't simply something John did; it was part of who he was.

John had a dynamic personality, and he was friend to all. John will be sadly missed but always remembered with love by all who knew



him, especially his wife Mary; children and their spouses, Jan (Chuck) Maynard of Colchester, Joseph (Marilyn) Jones of Warren, R.I.; five grandchildren of whom he was incredibly proud of, Rebecca Jones, Collin (fiancée Kaitlyn Standish) and Luke Maynard, Jonathan and Andrew Jones; one great-grandchild, Addison Scutnik; and many extended family members and friends.

In addition to his parents and first wife Rita, he was predeceased by two sisters, Kathleen Kuklinski and Mary Ann Kofahl.

John gave a lifetime to the people and community he loved. His legacy is not measured only by the years he lived, but by the lives he touched, the friendships he made, and the countless ways he showed up for others. He will be missed more than words can say but never forgotten.

A Celebration of Life will be held Sunday, Oct. 4, from 2-5 p.m., at the Colchester Hayward Fire House, 52 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the Colchester Hayward Volunteer Fire Company or The American Heart Association at www.heart.org.

The Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home has been entrusted with care of arrangements. For online condolences or to share a story of John, please visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Colchester

Mildred Louise Rawolle

Mildred Louise Rawolle, formerly of Colchester, passed away early Saturday morning, Sept. 19. She was 92 years old. Mildred was the youngest daughter, born July 31, 1934, to the late Raymond and Eva (Larson) Dewald.

She raised her children in Hartford and Manchester and later married Stephen Rawolle. The couple resided in Colchester for many years. He predeceased her Jan. 11, 2026.

Mildred retired several years ago after a long career in clerical services. She was an active and devoted member of the Christian Life Chapel in Colchester. Mildred enjoyed camping with her family, doing jigsaw puzzles, and creating beautifully handmade crocheted items which she gifted to family and friends. She was also a member of the Senior Serenaders of the Colchester Senior Center.

She will be sadly missed but always remembered with love by all who knew her, especially her children and their spouses, Louise (Raymond) Vivier of Bristol, Laura Poitras of Hopewell, Va., Lucille (Donald) Goncalves of Brewster, Mass., Mildred Haesler of Brewster, N.Y.; a son-in-law, David Anthony of Manchester; a stepdaughter, Michele Rawolle-Gagne of North Windham; 12 grandchildren; and many extended family members and friends.

In addition to her husband and parents, she was predeceased in death by a daughter, Linda Anthony, and by her sisters, Bertha Botticello and Dorothy Wilkins.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to



Hartford HealthCare at Home Hospice, 227 Dunham St., Norwich, CT 06360. A memorial service and celebration of life will be held at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester, on Friday, Oct. 16, beginning with visitation from 10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. The memorial service will follow immediately at 11:30 a.m. at the funeral home.

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

Glastonbury

Joan Danskin Kemble

Joan Danskin Kemble of Madison, Wis., formerly of Glastonbury, took her last, gentle breath early on Tuesday morning, Sept. 8, after a fall in her garden. She was surrounded by her daughters and granddaughters, with her grandsons and sons-in-law keeping the fire outside.

Joan was a daughter, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and friend to many, and lived her life as an activist, educator, artist, craftswoman, gardener, homesteader, student, historian, community connector, social justice warrior, and closeted junk food lover. The animating theme of Joan's time on Earth was her desire to nurture and protect life in all its forms: the people, plants and animals of the world whom she considered kin, as well as the soil and water that sustains us all.

She was born the only child of Kenneth Alexander Danskin and Katharine Franke Danskin in Vincennes, Indiana and spent her early childhood in Port Arthur, Texas, moving to Queens, N.Y., when she was 12. Joan was a member of the Tri Delta sorority at William & Mary College and went on to pursue a master's degree at University of Iowa where she met Tom. They married in 1957 and built a legacy that lives on today in the soil they cultivated, their many progeny, and diverse communities of friends.

Joan and Tom settled in Glastonbury in 1958. They planned their dream of a homestead as they raised sheep and ducks in their suburban backyard. Realizing the dream, they established their organic farm and bed & breakfast, Udderly Wooly Acres, in 1981. For 30 years they built the soil and cultivated vegetables, fruits, and alfalfa, raising chickens, geese, goats, pigs, cows, and horses, alongside many farm cats and dogs.

Joan and Tom were members of the Unitarian Society of Hartford, and helped found the society's new home in the early '60s. They participated in many General Assemblies, joined other UUs every summer at Ferry Beach, and led multiple social justice efforts. The Tom and Joan Kemble Peace Pole stands on the UU Meetinghouse grounds. Their commitment to the UU community was a cornerstone of their life in Connecticut and also in Madison.

In 2011, Joan and Tom moved to Madison, Wis. Intentionally crafting a multi-generational homestead with a large garden, they custom-built a home next door to their fourth daughter, Rebecca, and her husband Adam, where they lived with their second daughter, Martha.

In Glastonbury, Joan worked as the Registrar of Voters for decades and fought constantly to defend voting rights. She co-founded Glastonbury's annual MLK Jr. celebration. She was a member of the Connecticut League of Women Voters, the Caucus of Connecticut Democrats and the Hartford Environmental Justice Network. She advocated for immigrant rights, the abolition of the death penalty and mass incar-

See Obituaries, page 33



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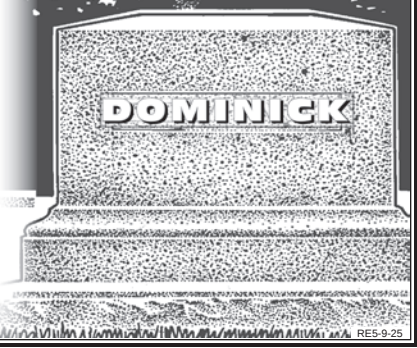
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Trick or Trot 5K

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/NortonCommissionTrickOrTrot5KRunWalk.

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: Oct. 30.

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.

Craft Supplies Sale: Saturday, Sept. 26, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Community & Senior Center Happenings

The Andover Community and Senior Center (ACSC), located at 25 School Rd., is open Monday-Thursday from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. and Friday from 9 a.m.-noon. All are welcome. For more information – 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. Wilimantic 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 Goodwill in Manchester.

New Program -- Seated Beach Ball Volleyball: Mondays from 2-3 p.m.

Quilting Workshop: Monday, Sept. 28, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Cost is \$10.

Kids’ Art Class with Kim: Wednesdays, 9/30, 3 p.m. Theme: Jelly Fish. This class is geared toward kids grade 4-8 and is for all skill levels. To register, call the center.

Monthly Veterans Coffee House: Monday, Oct. 5, 9:30 a.m. Connect with fellow veterans. All veterans are welcome.

Flu Clinic: Monday, Oct. 19, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. The high-dose flu vaccine, the regular flu vaccine and the COVID-19 vaccine will be available. This is a walk-in clinic. Bring all of your insurance cards with you.

Playtime with Munchkins: Tuesday, Oct. 20, 10-11 a.m. Bring your littles and connect with other young parents in the area. Coffee will be provided for parents.

Cake-Decorating Workshop

The Andover Public Library is holding a fall cake-decorating workshop with Cindy Miller of Triple C Cakes in Canterbury. This workshop will be held Tuesday, Oct. 6, at 6 p.m., at the library, 355 Route 6.

Cake decorating is limited to 12 participants, and there is no charge. Cake decorators should be ages 16 or over.

If you would like to sign up, call the library as soon as possible, at 860-742-7428.

Annual Steak Dinner

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

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

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

Tickets can be purchased from any fire department member, 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.

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 Committee is a group of volunteer residents who help identify local needs, shape grant priorities, and review proposals for projects designed to enhance quality of life in Andover. The committee makes grant recommendations to the Greater Hartford Gives Foundation.

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 are in search of new supplies, this may be the event for you. Call the church at 860-742-7696, for more information.

Golden Anniversary

Samuel J. and Kathryn T. Prentice of Andover are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary on Friday, Sept. 25.

They were married in St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church in Johnstown, Pa., on Sept. 25, 1976.

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See Answers, page 29

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CREATORS NEWS SERVICE

By Neil Manausa

ACROSS

1 Glass-bottom ____
5 Veep, 1969–73
10 Kazakhstan river
14 Seaweed
15 Swap
16 Pocket bread
17 Lewd look
18 Namely
19 Coin taker
20 Hopeless battle
22 Graceful girl
23 Tibia location
24 Flower spot
25 “Waste Land” monogram
28 Last places?
30 Sermonizes
34 Part of USMA
36 Impetuously
38 Prompt
39 ____ about that!
40 Position
41 Cereal bowl
43 Senior or junior
44 Channel crosser of 1926
45 Calcutta wrap
48 Dr. of rap
49 ____-de-France

50 Minor thing
52 Starts bidding
55 Elaborate procedure
60 “____ Me”: Roger Miller hit
61 Reddish-orange dyestuff
62 Disturb the peace
63 “Amores” poet
64 Devoured
65 ____ Nicole Smith
66 Change
67 Goads
68 Slaloms

DOWN

1 Masked affair
2 Oil: prefix
3 Seemingly forever
4 Petite pies
5 Reach
6 February predictor
7 Slangy refusals
8 Actress Falco
9 Dripping
10 Tot-tosser’s phrase
11 Small brook
12 Spin like ____
13 Plaster backing
21 Ernesto Guevara

22 Person in servitude
24 ____ language: nonverbal communication
25 Brownish-gray
26 Young haddock
27 Flood tide estuarial wave
29 Ecological successions
31 Tested
32 To be: Sp.
33 Cordwood measure
35 Reckless action
37 Hauled before the court
39 A knife resembling a sword
42 Problems
46 Mark Antony’s audience
47 Give ____ whirl
51 Tapestry
52 Bouquet
53 Do roadwork
54 Geraint’s lady
55 Back
56 Enjoying immensely
57 Porcine outburst
58 Burt’s ex
59 Greek h’s
61 With it

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★ *Letters, cont. from page 7*

most about Steve is his dedication to his fellow neighbors and his commitment to giving back to the community. Somehow, he always finds the time to make it happen because I believe service is simply part of who he is. He devotes himself to making life better for the people around him.

When Steve reached out to me in 2022 and told me he would be running for state representative in the 55th District, I immediately thought, “Who could be better for this job?” To me, the answer was simple: Steve.

That is why I was proud to join him in knocking on our neighbors’ doors and talking with residents about his campaign. Four years later, Steve remains just as committed to representing the people of the 55th District. I still see him pounding the pavement, knocking on doors and speaking directly with his constituents.

What stands out to me is that Steve genuinely listens. It doesn’t matter what your political affiliation is – he takes the time to hear people’s concerns and values their opinions on the important issues facing our community. That willingness to listen, combined with his years of service to others, is something I believe is essential in a public servant.

I am writing to the *Rivereast News Bulletin* to express my full support for Steve Weir. He is someone I respect and look up to in many ways, and I have had the privilege of seeing firsthand the kind of person he is when no one is asking him to be.

I began this letter by talking about integrity, and I want to close by returning to that word. Steve’s integrity and character are not just qualities he talks about – they are qualities he demonstrates through his actions and his commitment to the people around him.

For these reasons, I am proud to support Steve Weir and believe he would continue to serve the people of the 55th District with the honesty, accountability and dedication they deserve.

Sincerely,
Brian Lemire – Hebron

Answering Call to Duty

To the Editor:

To truly understand the multiple layers of state government, you must see it from the outside and the inside. That is what I have done for 25 years in public service — as a local leader, a state representative, and most recently as a top staff member helping craft proposed state budgets and researching issues to help stop some of the most reckless legislation coming out of Hartford.

Let me clarify a point on my current job as well. If I win in November, I will give up my current state job and full-time salary, before being sworn into the role in January 2027. Yes, I will take a pay cut to go back to elected public office. It has been frustrating to watch the slide away from the good policies I helped pass in 2017. After a long stretch on the sidelines — and with an open seat — I decided to listen to my heart and answer the call of duty, again.

As the legislature has moved from majority to supermajority, details are now often glossed over and accountability is lacking. Moderate voices are constrained in the super majority. Look no further than Rep. Jill Barry, elected four times as a moderate Democrat ---now running as an Independent in Glastonbury. Beyond the growing pressure of far-left values, the supermajority has misplaced priorities, putting big-city politics ahead of our small-town values.

Those priorities show up in household budgets. Property taxes keep climbing. Energy, groceries, and housing take a larger share of every paycheck. Unfunded mandates from Hartford do not stay in Hartford; they land on local taxpayers. When state elected leaders treat “state money” as if it grows on trees and not taxpayer money, our town residents pay the price. We must demand a government that lives within its means so families can live within theirs.

We need a strong voice standing up for our small towns. That does not always mean the loudest voice, but I pledge to use every tool in my toolbox to advocate for you — for local control, for scrutiny of every dollar, and for keeping more of what you earn at home, in your own pocket to begin with. I have a unique perspective, and I intend to use that knowledge for all our benefit.

Melissa Ziobron – East Haddam
Candidate for State Representative
Note: Ziobron is running for the 34th House District, which includes East Hampton, East Haddam and part of Salem.

Haines Endorses Ziobron

To the Editor:

I am pleased to endorse Melissa Ziobron as our next state representative for the 34th District. During my eight years as state rep, Melissa served both the Senate and the House as budget director, crafting budget proposals as well as serving as a keen financial eye on proposed budget bills. Her expertise in financial matters served the General Assembly well. As the 34th District state representative herself, prior to my tenure, she served our small rural district well, advocating for local control, fought tax hikes and helped protect our environment. Currently serving on the East Haddam Board of Education, she understands the huge burden put on our small towns education of our children. I know she will work on reducing unfunded mandates yet keeping the quality of our children’s education high.

Melissa is a proven and experienced legislator, she understands the process and will literally hit the ground running in making sure small rural towns, of which she is a native, will have a strong voice in front of policy makers.

Melissa has my full support and I encourage you all to support her as well this November!

State Rep. Irene Haines
R-34th District
Note: The 34th District includes East Haddam, East Hampton and part of Salem.

Rosenfeld for Kids and Seniors

To the Editor:

Meghan Rosenfeld has wasted no time in proving herself as a champion for East Hampton’s seniors and children. As state representative for the 34th District, I have no doubt she would bring the same level of care and compassion to the people of East Haddam and Salem.

Connecticut’s seniors deserve a legislator who will work to preserve their independence and quality of life, and that’s what they will get in Meghan. She understands that affordability is not just a buzzword but a right, and she is ready to work with the state legislature to expand tax exemptions on Social Security, pensions, and retirement distributions. In a state that lacks affordable senior housing, Meghan will fight for more state funding toward new housing and independent living communities.

She is equally devoted to the needs of the 34th District’s children. Meghan will push the state to fix the education funding shortfalls that small towns like ours have experienced for too long. Meghan understands that every child has the potential to succeed, and investment must start in early childhood. She also knows that great teachers are key to Connecticut’s educational growth and she will work to address teacher shortages and lower student-to-educator ratios.

As Election Day approaches, we are seeing more endorsements for Meghan from labor and education unions, and it’s clear as to why. She supports Connecticut’s working class, just as she advocates for seniors. I look forward to voting for Meghan Rosenfeld on Tuesday, Nov. 3. I hope East Hampton, East Haddam and Salem will join me in sending her to Hartford as our newest state representative.

Sincerely,
Terry Latimer – East Hampton

DPWAC Update

To the Editor:

Last week in the *Rivereast*, I reported that contaminated soils were in fact located at the Old Colchester Road (OCR) site. Further testing is needed per the new DEEP standards for contaminated soils. As soon as we (the town of Hebron) report our findings we have 120 days to do additional testing to understand and identify the extent of the contamination. We reported on or about Aug. 3rd 2026. The compliance date is Dec. 1st 2026.

The DPWAC has presented this to the Town Council at the 8/17/26 TC meeting. The TC has proposed funding the additional contaminated soil testing by the Town of Hebron as a separate project. The monies required for the additional testing are approximately \$60,000. The Town Council is looking to set aside \$100,000 to be able to cover the costs and some potential for additional testing to be done. The additional testing, per DEEP, will be done in an expanded area (geologically speaking) “downstream” of the places where the contaminated soils were located.

In last week’s letter, I had stated that DPWAC (when creating the RFP to secure an architect) had the foresight to allocate enough monies in the budget for the potential of unstable soils (to be able to build structures on) and contaminated soils. While the soils at the site have proven to be very suitable to build on, saving some

future monies, the allotment for contaminated soils came up a little short. I apologize for saying that we had allotted appropriate funds to cover these additional costs. We had enough based on the cost of the initial testing. I thought there was enough left, as it turns out we only have ½ of the needed funds left. Some of the new tests are done differently and some will require monitoring wells per DEEP.

We are running a very tight schedule for having all of our ducks in a row for use of the Colchester transfer station, back up plans for our animal shelter/pound, proper time of year to start construction and still be within the confines of the pricing put together by Silver, Petrucci and Associates. Lastly a is referendum for this project. Hopefully the stars will align, and our town can finally move forward on this long overdue project.

As always, come to a meeting, be informed, email questions and comments to: dpwac@hebronct.gov.

Sincerely,
Todd Habicht, Vice Chairman
Hebron DPWAC

Please Support Weir

To the Editor:

I have known Steve Weir for over 15 years, first as a customer of his restoration business, then as my constituent and now as my representative.

During the eight years that I served as a state representative from Glastonbury, I was impressed with Steve’s passion to help small businesses.

Having served in elected office myself, I know that representing a community requires much more than holding a title. It requires listening, working hard, understanding the people who you serve and being willing to support them.

All of this, Steve has demonstrated in his four years of service and now as he is seeking his third term, I request you to support him.

As an elected official, Steve is hard working and deeply committed to the community that he represents. He understands the challenges facing families and small businesses through his own personal experiences. Steve is not someone who views public service through the lens of politics. He understands what it means to run a business, employ people, raise a family and be an active member of the community.

What has always impressed me most about Steve, however, is the person behind the public role. He is family-oriented, approachable and genuinely cares about the people around him. Over more than 15 years, I have seen that commitment remain constant.

I am proud to call Steve Weir my friend and I have utmost confidence in him that he is a strong candidate to serve our community. Please support Steve this November in his election.

Respectfully,
Prasad Srinivasan, MD
State Representative of
Glastonbury - 2010-2018
Candidate for Governor of
the State of Connecticut – 2018

Dementia Talks No. 72

To the Editor:

Hear that? It’s the jingle of my alarm – it is 3 a.m.

This wake-up is now part of our daily routine; and likely will not change as personal care is needed overnight.

I hit snooze, and finally rise, find my slippers, my glasses and my phone (just in case) and find my way down the stairs, one of the dogs in tow; walk through the living room and to your room.

You sleep so soundly, at times talking with your eyes closed; the occasional snoring interrupts your slumber. But in the wee hours of the morning, you are typically awake and waiting for my arrival. Or so I tell myself.

Looking up at me as I say “Good Morning”, your eyes innocent and seeking. There is a silent pause, and you smile and say “Good Morning”; at least on this day you did.

There is a misconception that if you have paid caregivers coming into the home that things are easy; that is not necessarily the case. And in our case, paying for third-shift care doesn’t make financial sense, and there is a routine that needs to be followed for the best outcome for Mom. The 3 a.m. wake-up call is part of the routine; I am OK being the one that fills this role...for now.

Once personal care is completed and you are snuggled back under the warm covers, I sit beside you and am reminded of a question that was recently posed to me – Where do you find joy?

I find joy in knowing that a daughter’s face and love is what puts you to bed at night, and is what you see when you open your eyes to a new day. Joy is when I ask if you would like a kiss, and you pucker your lips like a baby bird; and smile with true happiness at the prospect of coffee in the morning. Joy is when your wit grounds us with such laughter that the dogs take notice.

Is this journey easy? Yes, and no. There are times that are truly hard, and times that flow like magic. You need to live it to know. And to those that are living it, I hope that you know that you are not alone.

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

Why I’m Running

To the Editor:

I never expected to run for office. I love the work I do, and I’ve been fortunate to build a career around public service. I’m a librarian, a nonprofit executive, and a former staff member for Congressman Joe Courtney. Today, as executive director of the Connecticut Library Consortium, I work with more than 1,000 libraries across our state to strengthen public services, reduce costs for taxpayers, and expand access to information.

That work has also brought me to the State Capitol, where I’ve worked with Republicans and Democrats on legislation addressing issues facing Connecticut libraries. I’ve learned firsthand that good government is still possible when people listen to one another, build consensus, and stay focused on solving problems rather than scoring political points.

But to me public service has never been only about a job.

I grew up in Mansfield and have spent my life in eastern Connecticut. Today, my husband, Steve, and I are raising our two daughters in public school. I was raised to believe that citizenship means more than voting. It means contributing to your community and that when you are in a position to make a difference, you have a responsibility to step forward.

That is why I decided to run for state representative.

I believe deeply in the values that have guided both my life and my career: respect for one another, opportunity, strong public schools, responsible government, trust in facts and expertise, and equal rights under the law.

I didn’t enter this race because I always wanted to be an elected official. I entered it because I believe public service matters, that government can still accomplish good things, and that each of us has an obligation to contribute when we can.

For me, this is my moment to step forward. I invite you to learn more about me on my website: EllenForStateRep.com

Ellen Paul – Glastonbury
Candidate for State Representative
Note: Paul is running for the 55th House District, which covers Andover, Hebron, Marlborough and parts of Bolton and Glastonbury.

Route 2 Construction

To the Editor:

Is the Route 2 construction zone safe? Absolutely not! Thanks to the resident who wrote to officials about the “urgent safety concerns.” I wrote in early August to Norm Needleman; his office responded that they would get back to me, but I am still waiting. Was Norm not included in the meeting? The big question is whether the CTDOT will act and attempt to make passage through the zone safer for everyone? Seems like they are blaming drivers going too fast, and that there is nothing wrong with the traveling lanes. Really?

I drive through the zone regularly, and it is especially difficult and dangerous at night. I imagine that there are some idiots going fast, but the vast number of drivers are not, and many are clearly confused! Lanes are difficult to maneuver, signage borders on ridiculous, and sometimes you have to dodge knocked over barrels. Often, barrels are placed partially within an already narrow lane. Old lines are somewhat darkened, but still visible, criss-cross other lines, and on rainy nights remain visible and cause confusion.

Here are some issues I have encountered. One night, I caught up to a driver in front of me who was on the wrong side of the barrels, and the line of traffic slowed until this driver was able to get back into the “correct” lane. A sign alerted “Bump,” but there was no bump, then an unexpected big bump, but there was no sign. Are signs left up or not updated? One sign had an arrow attached that was supposed to be point-

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ing to the right, but had twisted and was pointing straight up.

One night, after driving through most of the mess to my Norwich Avenue exit, I followed the driver in front of me who was also exiting. We both came to a stop because the exit was blocked by construction trucks, and a sign said the exit was closed. Where was prior notification that the exit was closed? Dangerous because both of us had to move back into traffic and drive to Lebanon to turn around.

Large banks of blinding lights, needed for the workers, are often pointed towards passing drivers. Maybe not dangerous, but I am sure many of us would like to know why the new asphalt is being cut into numerous nice rectangles, filled with concrete, and resulting in a rhythmic bumpy ride? CTDOT needs to clean up their act, now.

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Siver – Colchester

We Need a Strong Advocate

To the Editor:
As a resident of the 34th District, one concern I hear again and again from neighbors, friends, and fellow residents is affordability. For many families, the rising cost of living has become a real challenge. For seniors living on fixed incomes, rising property taxes can make it increasingly difficult to remain in the communities they have called home for decades.

That is why I believe we need a strong advocate for our communities in Hartford, someone who understands what residents and local leaders are actually facing. I believe Meghan Rosenfeld is that kind of candidate.

Her experience serving as a volunteer on the East Hampton Commission on Aging has given her a firsthand understanding of the importance of local engagement. A state representative cannot effectively advocate for a town without understanding its needs. That means attending local meetings, listening to residents, talking with municipal leaders, and taking the time to understand the challenges facing the community. Meghan understands that being present and engaged locally is essential to representing our district effectively in Hartford.

Affordability should be a priority. Meghan has proposed working to fix Connecticut’s Education Cost Sharing formula so municipalities have the resources they need without placing such a heavy burden on local property taxpayers. She has also emphasized exploring regional cooperation on certain services, including special education, where neighboring communities work together to reduce costs while maintaining the quality services residents deserve.

Connecticut also needs to address the high cost of electricity by diversifying how we generate and obtain our energy. At the same time, we should work to make Connecticut more business-friendly. Expanding our grand lists and addressing problems within the corporate tax code can help strengthen local economies and broaden the tax base.

We need to invest in Connecticut’s future by building a stronger talent pipeline. Supporting higher education and vocational programs can give residents the skills they need to find good jobs here while helping businesses find the workforce they need.

Most importantly, I believe every resident of the 34th District deserves a representative who listens and shows up, regardless of background or political affiliation. Meghan Rosenfeld has demonstrated a commitment to being present in our communities and understanding the concerns of the people she hopes to represent.

I believe she would bring that same commitment to Hartford.

Joelyn Leon – East Hampton

Note: Leon is a member of the East Hampton Town Council, but she is writing as an individual.

ADVERTISERS

The Glastonbury Citizen and Rivereast News Bulletin will make every effort to see that all advertising copy is correctly printed. The publisher assumes no liability or financial responsibility for typographical errors in advertising, but will reprint, without charge, that part of an advertisement in which an error may occur, provided that a claim is made within 5 days of publication. The liability of the publisher on account of errors in or omissions from any advertisement will in no way exceed the amount of the charge for the space occupied by the item in error, and then only for the first incorrect insertion. Also, the publisher takes no responsibility for statements or claims made in any advertisement, and will upon request, reveal the name and address of the person or persons responsible for placing any display advertisement, political or otherwise, except for “blind” box ads. The Glastonbury Citizen Inc. reserves the right to reject advertisements which it deems unsuitable for its publications. Every effort will be made to verify the legitimacy and propriety of all ads for the protection of our readers. The Citizen will take requests for specific placement of ads and will try to accommodate everyone’s requests. The Citizen cannot guarantee specific placement.

Reelect Steve Weir

Dear Readers:

We have been incredibly fortunate to have Steve Weir representing the 55th District. For four years now, he has been fully dedicated to this district. From long nights in Hartford to early mornings at local events, and from supporting local fundraisers to simply being present when neighbors need a hand, Steve is constantly giving back to the towns he represents.

We need leaders who can relate to the people they serve. Leaders who understand what it is like to raise a family, pay a mortgage, buy groceries. Steve isn’t a career politician. He’s a husband and father. He’s a small business owner who built something of his own from the ground up, right here in our community. He knows what it takes to meet a payroll, and he understands the strain that rising costs and inflation have put on families and businesses. It’s part of why he’s so focused on making sure Connecticut stays affordable for all of us.

On policy, Steve keeps his priorities straight. He pushes for fiscal responsibility and transparency, has our first responders’ backs, fights for our schools and kids, and stands up for local businesses. He’s easy to find and easy to talk to — showing up around our towns and listening when people, regardless of political affiliation, bring him their concerns. With so many politicians these days stoking partisan divides, it is refreshing that we have someone who cares about all of us. That’s not biased rhetoric. He’s voted with the majority 77% of the time, which is hardly the record of someone who only shows up for his own side. It’s the record of someone reading each bill and doing what’s right for all of us, not just those who voted for him.

I have known Steve and his family for 15 years — our children grew up together — and I can tell you firsthand that his commitment to this community isn’t a campaign talking point, it’s just who he is. Connecticut needs more people like Steve fighting for our jobs, our families, and our future. Let’s send him back to Hartford and keep him working for us. Reelect Steve Weir as our state representative for the 55th District.

Sincerely,
James DeDonato – Hebron

Note: DeDonato is a member of the Hebron Board of Finance, but said he is writing as an individual.

Weir the Best Choice

To the Editor:

I’m writing this letter in support of Steve Weir for his reelection to the Connecticut House of Representatives for the 55th District. I’ve known Steve for almost 30 years, and I have witnessed his genuine care and concern for people throughout our community.

Steve has a wonderful ability to really listen to people and care about their concerns. While he was at GPD, we regularly saw Steve at the Apple Fest in Glastonbury each year, and he would always know my name and my daughter’s names and was interested to know what we were doing and how he could help. Steve listens to all sides of a matter, whether you are a Democrat or Republican, and he will support the common-sense approach, regardless of party affiliation. We need this kind of thinking in our representatives!

I’ve witnessed Steve grow from a small business owner to a police officer, a realtor, owner/president of American Integrity Restoration, and now to running his own farm with his daughter, Gilead Hill Farm, LLC. As a small business owner myself, I’m happy to have Steve on my side. Small businesses are generally treated poorly in the State of Connecticut, but Steve advocates for policies that will support business owners – not punish them!

Steve’s family has many roots in the education of children. He supports our local schools and school choice, believing that a school system should work for the family and the child. He’s also brought his helicopter to local schools, wanting to share his love and passion for flying with the next generation.

Steve is also a great family man. He participates in projects with his children and he is always there for them. He’s involved in his local church and is a volunteer and servant for local charities.

I normally don’t get involved in politics but knowing Steve for so long I feel confident that he is the best choice for the job. And I’ve never heard of a state representative that has a 100% voting record for all four of his years in the legislature! Steve shows up and he is well informed. I urge everyone to get out to the polls and vote for Steve Weir.

Amy Kennedy – Glastonbury

LEGALS

LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF HEBRON
BOARD OF EDUCATION

Notice is hereby given that the Agreement between the Hebron Board of Education and the Hebron Education Association covering the period July 1, 2027 to June 30, 2030, is on file for public inspection in the office of the Town Clerk, 15 Gilead St, Hebron, CT.
Dated at Hebron, CT this 18th day of September, 2026.
Francesca Villani,
Hebron Town Clerk

1TB 9/25

TOWN OF PORTLAND
PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION
LEGAL NOTICE OF DECISION

At the September 17, 2026 meeting, the following actions were taken:
Approved with conditions Application #25-23: 252 Main Street. Request for a Special Permit to modify existing office space on second floor into a new residential unit. Application of Peter Filanda and property of 250-252 Main Street, LLC. Map 28, Lot 45. Zone B-3/TCVD.
Dated at Portland, CT this 18th day of September 2026
Robert Ellsworth, Chairman
Planning & Zoning Commission

1TB 9/25

LEGAL NOTICE

State of Connecticut, September 20, 2026
Connecticut-Statewide Voter registration deadline and Limited Session.

September 29, 2026
CONNECTICUT - All Registrars of Voters' Offices in Connecticut will conduct the required session to prepare the "preliminary voter list" for the November 3, 2026 election. Following this date, these lists will be available for inspection at each office. Voters may still register to vote by mail and online until October 18th, and in person from October 21st through election day by utilizing same day voter registration during Early Voting or on November 3rd. Voters wishing to learn more should contact their town's Registrars of Voters for more information.

October 16, 2026
CONNECTICUT -- All Registrars of Voters' offices in Connecticut will hold a statewide voter registration session from 9:00 AM to 8:00 PM. This is the last regular session for admission of electors who have turned 18, become a US citizen, or moved to Connecticut. This deadline includes by mail which must be post marked by this day, registration at DMV by close of business, Online registrations must be completed by 11:59 pm or in person by 8:00 pm.

November 2, 2026
CONNECTICUT -- All Registrars of Voters' offices in Connecticut will hold a statewide voter registration session from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. This is the last registration session for admission of electors who have turned 18, become a US citizen, or moved to Connecticut since October 16th of this year. This registration session is also open to members of the Armed Forces, and former Armed Forces members who have been discharged within the calendar year.

October 19, 2026 - November 1, 2026
CONNECTICUT -- All Connecticut towns will hold Early Voting beginning October 19, 2026 and ending November 1, 2026. The hours are 10:00 am until 6 pm each day with the exception of October 27th and October 29th that the locations will be open 8:00 am until 8:00 pm.

Please contact your local Registrars' of Voters office for details.
These voter registration sessions will be held in accordance with CGS (Sec 9-16 & 9-17)
Julianne Shilosky
Sara Mussen
Registrar of Voters
Colchester, CT.
860-537-7204

1TB 9/25

TOWN OF COLCHESTER
PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION
LEGAL NOTICE OF DECISION

At its Regular Meeting of September 16, 2026, the Colchester Planning & Zoning Commission made the following decision (s):
PZC2026-007 Center Village Development Request for 60-day extension to file mylars. **APPROVED.**
Planning & Zoning Commission
Joseph Mathieu, Chair

1TB 9/25

TOWN OF HEBRON
REGISTRARS OF VOTERS
NOTICE OF SESSION TO COMPLETE
THE PRELIMINARY REGISTRY LIST FOR
THE NOVEMBER 3, 2026 STATE ELECTION

Pursuant to Section 9-35 of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Registrars of Voters of the Town of Hebron will be in session on Tuesday, September 29, 2026, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., as necessary to complete the town voter list, at the Office of the Registrars of Voters, Hebron Town Office Building, 15 Gilead Street, Hebron, Connecticut 06248. The purpose is to complete a correct preliminary registry list of all electors entitled to vote at the November 3, 2026 State Election.

Immediately after the close of the session, a list of names will be available at the Hebron Town Office Building, 15 Gilead Street, in the town clerk's office, pursuant to Section 9-35a of the Connecticut General Statutes.

For information, call the Registrars of Voters at (860) 228-5971, extension 134.
Michele R. May,
Republican Registrar of Voters
Elizabeth Fitzgerald, Democratic Registrar of Voters

1TB 9/25

LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON-WATER
POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY
ATTENTION SEWER USERS

Notice is hereby given to all property owners connected to the sewers in the Town of East Hampton that the sewer use payment is due and payable on October 1, 2026. East Hampton Sewer Use bills may be paid in two equal installments: October 1 and April 1. The last day to pay the Sewer Use fee for the October 1, 2026 installment without a penalty is November 2, 2026. **Property owners will not receive a second sewer use bill for the installment due on April 1, 2027. The October bill is a three-part form which includes the April installment.** Payments received November 3, 2026 and later, including payments postmarked November 3, 2026 and later, are considered past due and will be subject to an interest penalty of 1.50% per month, or a fraction thereof, 18% per annum, from the due date of the tax, as required by Connecticut General State Statutes 12-130 and 146. The minimum interest charge is \$2 on each tax bill. A returned check fee is \$20. Payments legibly postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service on or before November 2, 2026 are considered on time regardless of when they are received by the Collector of Revenue.

As owners of property, taxpayers are responsible to see that taxes are paid when due. Failure to have sent or received a bill does not exempt the taxpayer from payment of all taxes, interest charges and collection costs, as per Conn. Gen. Stat. 12-130 and 12-146. Interest is charged on all late payments. There are no exceptions.

Please make checks payable to Town of East Hampton. Payments may be mailed to Collector of Revenue, 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, CT 06424. Pay online by visiting our website at www.easthamptonct.gov **Note: Your sewer account number is required when making a payment online.** Hours of collection are: Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 8:00 am – 4:00 pm, Tuesday 8:00 am – 6:30 pm and Friday 8:00 am – 12:30 pm.
Respectively Submitted,
Water Pollution Control Authority

3TB 9/25, 10/9, 10/23

Obituaries cont.

ceration, and universal healthcare.

In Madison, Joan and Tom joined the James Reeb UU congregation and several activist groups, including Veterans for Peace, MOSES, Progressive Dane, and was in community with Water Protectors defending the Bad River watershed from mining and pipelines. She and Tom were stalwart, daily participants in the Solidarity Singalong at the Wisconsin State Capitol. The viral photo of her arrest by the Capitol Police for singing without a permit in 2013 inspired untold numbers of people to flood the capitol and join the protest. She was an original Social Justice Warrior – a fighter for peace, justice, and enfranchisement for ALL.

Joan was an avid, lifelong learner. She loved the simplicity and grace of Shaker philosophy and design, and she attended many Shaker seminars, filling her home with furniture and baskets she learned to make there. Joan kept abreast of current affairs consuming a diversity of news in print, radio and television every day. She shared and expanded her knowledge and passion for organic farming through membership in the Northeast Organic Farming Association, learning about horticulture, animal husbandry and traditional crafts.

Joan had a keen eye, skilled hands, and a constant flow of creative ideas. She made pottery, wove baskets, built furniture, cleaned and spun wool from her sheep on a spinning wheel that she made and then knit sweaters and Christmas stockings, and she was renowned for her baked bread and pies. She set her hands to silk screening and oil painting, and cut intricate paper ornaments each Valentines Day. Her creative pursuits warmed her home, and the homes of her

family and friends.

Joan Kemble was preceded in death by her husband Tom, children Sarah and Tasha a.k.a. Joshua, and granddaughter, Katie. She is survived by her daughters Martha, Jennifer (Steve), and Rebecca (Adam); grandchildren Emily (Jill), Stephanie (Will), Thomas Ndegwa, Dustin, Carolyn, Kenneth Kibuna, Jeremiah, Cory, and Hannah Wanjiru; great-grandchildren Darien, Cipriano, Saana, Boone, Pearl, and Solveig; brothers-in-law John and Pete Kemble; sister-in-law Barbara Kemble; many loving nieces and nephews; and countless honorary children and grandchildren.

The Kemble family extends their gratitude to the nursing staff on the 11th floor of Meriter Hospital, Agrace Hospice, and Gloria Hays for her companionship and expertise as Joan made her way to her journey’s end peacefully at home. Thanks also to all of the extended family and friends who have been holding Joan’s family in their hearts and hands with such tenderness.

Joan was compassionate, curious and feisty to the end. Deep love and care for the Earth, for animals (especially her geese Sissy and Sam and dog Maisy), and for anyone suffering from pain or oppression, was the animating force of her life on Earth. Her immense spirit is reunited with her beloved Tom and the great Solidarity Sing Along on the other side of the Mystery. May her light shine through all who knew and loved her.

The family will lay Joan to rest next to Tom at Natural Path Sanctuary. A celebration of her life will be held on Sunday, Oct. 11, from 2-5 p.m., at the Madison Public Market.

EMPLOYMENT

FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: A Glastonbury Wealth Management firm is seeking a full-time Financial Administrative Assistant. Experience in the financial services industry is required. Must be detail-oriented and organized to work independently, effectively, and efficiently with minimal supervision. Responsibilities include service to existing clients, processing new business, and assisting in preparing client meetings and reviews. Experience with BD's LPL preferred. Please email resume to mccabe@4yourassets.com.

MECHANIC - MECHANICAL AND AUTO BODY EXPERIENCE: 10+ years, \$50/hour. Part-time. Retired, elderly, veterans may apply for construction company. Richard 860-716-1227.

Graphic Designer

Part-time opening for experienced Graphic Designer, Production Assistant.

Duties include ad design, customer service, and sending completed files to print.

Must be experienced in InDesign.

Newspaper experience preferred.

Please send cover letter and resume to greg@rarereminder.com

Wastewater Superintendent (Full-time)

The Town of East Hampton is seeking an individual to manage the operations and maintenance of the Colchester/East Hampton joint wastewater treatment facility and collection system. On an as needed basis, this individual will also provide support for the operation and maintenance of the East Hampton public water system.

Required qualifications include progressively increasing responsible experience in water/wastewater industry including supervision or management experience. A bachelor's degree in a related field is desired and may be substituted for experience. Considerable knowledge of methods, equipment, materials, and processes of a class 4 wastewater treatment facility and multi town collection system with pump stations. Must possess or be able to obtain a State of Connecticut Class 4 Wastewater license, Class 2 Collection System Certification, Class 1 Water License, and Class 1 Water Distribution license. Must possess and maintain a valid driver's license and live within thirty (30) minutes of the facility. This is a full-time, 40-hour-per-week position with additional hours as necessary. The starting salary is between \$106,000 to \$125,000 annually depending on qualifications and experience with liberal benefit package.

Please submit a cover letter, resume and employment application to the Town of East Hampton, Department of Human Resources, 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, CT 06424, or by email to lseymour@easthamptonct.gov, by October 19, 2026, or until filled. A job description and employment application may be found at www.easthamptonct.gov. EOE/AA/M-F.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator (Full-time)

The Water Pollution Control Authority, under the Joint Facilities Administration in the Town of East Hampton, is seeking an individual to perform all routine, skilled and semi-skilled duties involving the operations and maintenance of a 3.9mgd water pollution treatment plant and pump stations located in a regionalized system. Individual must possess a high school diploma or equivalent, a Connecticut CDL license (Class B with endorsement N – air brakes) within 6-months of hire and must receive State of Connecticut DEEP Class 1 Operators Certification within 2-years of employment. Operator-in-training starting hourly rate: \$29.86; Class I Operator: \$31.58; Class II Operator: \$33.82; Class III Operator: \$36.84; Class IV Operator: \$45.19. 40-hour workweek with required overtime and on-call rotation. Individuals with laboratory, electrical experience and veterans are encouraged to apply. Benefit package includes health, dental, vision, 401, life insurance and PTO. Must reside within a thirty (30) minute drive to the treatment plant.

Interested candidates should submit an employment application to the Town of East Hampton, Department of Human Resources, 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, CT 06424, or email to lseymour@easthamptonct.gov, by October 12, 2026, or until filled. A job description and employment application may be found at www.easthamptonct.gov. EOE/M-F/AA.

Public Works Maintainer II (Full-time)

The Town of East Hampton is seeking a motivated, safety-minded, and dependable individual to fill the position of Public Works Maintainer II.

The Public Works Maintainer II performs semi skilled work in the maintenance, construction, and repair of Town infrastructure—including roads, sidewalks, bridges, catch basins, and parks. Responsibilities also include operating trucks and heavy equipment, and snow, ice and debris removal. Must possess a CDL with class B (air brake endorsement) license or the ability to obtain one within 6 months.

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 necessary. The applicant should have a clean driving record and be in good physical condition.

Interested candidates should submit an employment application to the Town of East Hampton, Department of Human Resources, 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, CT 06424, or by email to lseymour@easthamptonct.gov, by October 12, 2026, or until filled. A job description and employment application may be found at www.easthamptonct.gov. EOE/M-F/AA.

WELDER/PIPE FITTER POSITION AVAILABLE

AISC Certified Steel Fabrication Shop is looking for experienced, motivated individuals to work in a fast paced environment. Prior experience in blueprint reading and all types of metal working equipment is a must. Perform GMAW welding, simple fabrications, welding of components per AWS Code. Certified Welding Inspectors Certificate and or past welding experience to state and local welding codes is a plus. Must pass Certification in processes per AWS D1.5. We will train qualified applicants to our methods of operation given the desired attitude and aptitude qualities are found to be present. There will be pre-employment drug testing, with random testing every quarter.

Benefits include: Health Insurance, 401(K), Vacation, Life and Disability Insurance.

Please send resumes to:

P.O. Box 186, Colchester, CT 06415 or email your resume to beth@eaglemanufacturinginc.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WANTED TO BUY

BUYING COLLECTIONS & ACCUMULATIONS, FREE REVIEW: Comic Books, Vintage Toys, Sports Cards, Adv Signs/Cans (Soda, Beer, Gas Station), Zippos, License Plates, Jewelry, Postcards, Etc. Call/Text 860-817-4350

WANTED TO BUY: 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 GRANITE STONES:

mill stones, tether stones, entry steps, fence posts, feeding troughs, well covers, sinks, posts, curbing, stone boot scrapers, and carriage steps. 860-216-8144.

WANTED TO BUY: All antiques; toys, military, watches, advertising, jewelry, coins, clocks, signs, all musical instruments, guitars, saxophones, keyboards, trumpets, amplifiers, accordions, vintage electronics, hi-fi stereo, amplifiers, pro-audio, radios, ham equipment, tube type equipment, plus more. 1 item or entire estate. Call 860-707-9350.

FREE

FREE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAGAZINES: from 2011-present. Willing to donate. Must come pick up, Glastonbury. 860-657-9205.

PETS

DOG OBEDIENCE CLASSES: starting soon. Offering Puppy Kindergarten, Basic Manners/What Rescue Dogs Need and Want; CGC/Therapy; Agility. Over 25 years experience. Michelle Larson, Paws-N-Heel DTC, 860-267-6040. paws-n-heel-dogtraining.com. Automotive

CASH PAID for any Toyota

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Free pickup. Call any time:

\$ 203-600-4431 \$

REAL ESTATE

RENTALS

CANDLELIGHT APARTMENTS, GLASTONBURY: RENT NOW, one bedroom available, renovated, first floor. Rent is currently \$1,750 per month. Includes heat/hot water, trash, sewer. Onsite storage and assigned parking available. Property is a SMOKE FREE Complex. Please call via text or cell 860-913-6723, Office 860-529-1725.

CROMWELL ONE BEDROOM 3RD FLOOR WALK-UP: \$1,250/month lease. No Pets. No Smoking. 860-685-1487.

GLASTONBURY - LOVELY LARGE FURNISHED HOME: with all utilities included. WiFi to share with mature person. Veterans, elderly people welcome. Background check. \$800/monthly plus security deposit. Call Richard 860-716-1227.

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Debbie Walden
Lic. # RES 0707452
860-559-5176

exp REALTY 93 Broad Street Middletown, CT 06457

Century 21 Allpoints Realty

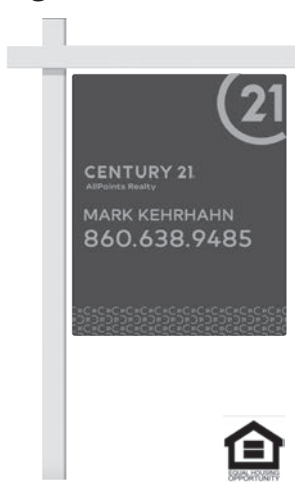
Whether you're considering selling your home, or beginning the quest to find your first/next home, let me partner with you to accomplish your goals! As a team member of Century 21 Allpoints, we have the experience, resources, relationships and proven track record to guide you through this volatile Market.

Mark Kehrhahn,
for all Your real estate needs!

860-638-9485
Markk.realestate@gmail.com

#1 CENTURY 21 Firm in Connecticut Since 2000.
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TOWN OF HEBRON FINANCE DIRECTOR

The Town of Hebron is seeking qualified candidates for the position of Finance Director. This position plans, organizes and supervises the accounting, payroll and purchasing operations of the town; prepares supporting data for the annual operating and capital improvement budget recommendations; and performs Treasurer duties as specified by statute and the Town Charter. This position oversees the Assessment and Revenue Departments. The position is responsible for coordinating the annual audit with the external auditors. Requires skilled use of Microsoft Office 365 and municipal financial software; the currently installed system is iVisions Tyler School ERP Pro. The position reports to the Town Manager.

The successful candidate should have a bachelor's degree and at least seven years of experience and be familiar with the principles and practices of municipal accounting. Salary range is \$130,000 to \$145,000 commensurate with experience and includes a generous benefit package including medical, retirement and paid time off.

Resumes should be sent to Town Manager, Town of Hebron, 15 Gilead Street, Hebron, CT 06248. Applications will be considered as they are received; position remains open until filled. More details and a job description are available at <https://hebronct.com/contact-us/employment/>. The Town of Hebron is an equal opportunity employer.

Town of East Hampton – CHIEF OF POLICE

The Town of East Hampton is seeking an experienced Police Chief to lead its department of 17 sworn officers and 2 civilian employees. Candidates should be familiar with contemporary police practices; have a strong community policing philosophy and command presence; a thorough knowledge of police administration; demonstrated open and honest communication with management and staff; and have proven management skills with a history of leading and developing subordinates. The ideal candidate should have a Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university, a Master's degree in relevant field is preferred; a completion of advanced management training, such as the FBI National Academy, Southern Police Institute Command Officer Development Course, or equivalent executive level training is preferred; CT POST certification or ability to obtain within a reasonable amount of time and 15 years of progressively responsible police experience with at least five years of supervisory experience with a command staff rank or higher.

Salary range: \$147,000 - \$155,000 per year plus benefit package which includes health, dental, vision, 401(a), life insurance, paid holidays, etc.

Applicants should submit a cover letter, resume and five professional references no later than October 20, 2026, to the Office of Human Resources, Attn: Police Chief Search, 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, CT 06424. EOE/MF/AA. A job description may be found at www.easthamptonct.gov

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[RivereastNewsBulletin](#)





EMPLOYMENT

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

REG-15-24

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LAWN MOWING: Local! Professional, competitive rates. 30 years of experience. Call Thomas 860-267-7515.

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CIT3-9-23

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Reasonable Rates
Free Estimates
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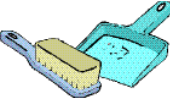
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END ROLLS OF NEWSPRINT: Great for art projects , wrapping and packing, table coverings for public dinners, etc. **THE GLASTONBURY CITIZEN.** 87 Nutmeg Lane (off Oak Street) 860-633-4691.

2009 HONDA CIVIC LX: 153K miles, runs great, looks ok-paint and some damage., maintenance records. \$2,500/BO. Call 860-830-0423.

COUNTRY CRAFTS: Stuffed pumpkins, quilted hand bags, table runners, and potato bags. Crafted wood products, also fabric by the yard. 166 Old Middle Street Middletown, Saturday Sept 26th 10am - 1pm.

MULTI-FAMILY MOVING SALE: October 3rd & 4th. 9am-3pm. 89 Mohegan Drive, West Hartford. Furniture, household items, accessories, & much more!

POSTPONED TAG SALE: 70 Shoddy Mill Rd, Andover. Oct 3rd & 4th 9-4. Tools, housewares, antiques, something for everyone.

TAG SALE 9/26: Rain date 9/27. 8:30am-3:30pm, 36 Karen Lee Road, Glastonbury. Household/kitchen items, tools, jewelry, holiday décor, scarves, clothes & more!

TAG SALE OCT 3RD & 4TH: Sat/Sun, 8am-3pm. 85 Hog Hill Road, East Hampton. Home décor, furnishings, electronics, clothing, jewelry, handbags, glasses, dishware, and more!

TAG SALE: 10/3, 10AM-3PM. 58 Tobler Terrace, Wethersfield. Clothes, foot wear, knick knacks, kitchen wear, baskets, toys, planters, books. Something for everyone.

FIREWOOD SEASONED/SPLIT: hard wood. Full cord \$300. Half cord \$200. Delivery included to local area. Quick delivery. Call 860-633-5766.

FOR SALE: 14x28 Carefree Built Garage/Shed. 2 yrs old, excellent condition. Vinyl siding, oversized garage door, 2 windows, interior loft. New was \$17,500, asking \$12,500 OBO. Buyer pays moving costs via Carefree Buildings (Colchester). Perfect for car storage/workshop 860-462-5361. s

STAINED GLASS: Local artist with years of experience creating beautiful one of a kind glass pieces. Call now to order your holiday gifts. Rose 860-342-0277.

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 SALES
2-FAMILY GARAGE SALE: 50 & 51 Hope Valley Rd, Hebron. Fri/Sat, Sept 25th & 26th. 9am-3pm. Lots to choose from for all ages! Small furniture, floor tiles, interior/exterior décor, wall shelves, linens, home/kitchen accessories, jewelry, clothing, & more new/used collectibles & vintage items. R/S. No EBS.

ESTATE SALE SAT/ SUN 9/26-9/27: 9am-3pm. 122 Collie Brook Road, East Hampton. Appliances, grill, pull-out sofa, patio sets, artwork, décor, TVs, yard equipment, kitchenware, bed-frames, knick-knacks, and so much more!

GARAGE SALE RAIN OR SHINE: Sat 9/26, 9am-2pm, 6 Sunset Drive, East Hampton. Christmas gifts, toys, framed art, & many household items. Something for everyone!

HUGE TAG SALE: Saturday, 10/3, 8am-2pm. 20 Gina Lane, Marlborough. Lots of vintage items, wall décor and art, kitchen, glassware, pottery, lamps, linens, clothing, Manga and misc books, chairs, small tables.


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