

RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

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

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October 2, 2026



The Rev. Carlos Zapata (center) is the new pastor of St. John Fisher Roman Catholic Church in Marlborough. Pictured at his August installation ceremony are, from left, Deacon Bill Gilles, Zapata, and the Very Rev. John Melnick, vicar for the clergy of the Archdiocese of Hartford. Photo by Aaron Joseph, photographer and media consultant for the Archdiocese of Hartford.

New Pastor, New Chapter For Marlborough Church

By Toriana Williams

More than 60 years ago, a priest looked at 4-year-old Carlos Zapata and made a prediction.

“Carlos will be a priest,” he told the boy’s grandmother.

Not only did that prediction come true, but the Rev. Carlos Zapata is now the pastor of St. John Fisher Church in Marlborough. Zapata – who started with the church on June 30 – lives only a short walk away from the Jones Hollow Road church.

Though his commute now may be short, his path to St. John Fisher began much farther away, in Colombia.

Zapata was born in Colombia in 1962 where he grew up in a family of seven children; he was the third child. Faith was a big part of his family and life.

“My family has a background of faith in the Catholic Church and the teachings of the Catholic Church,” said Zapata.

His grandparents were also deeply religious. His grandmother cooked for missionaries in the mountains where Zapata grew up, and as a young boy, he saw their Masses and learned about their work.

One of these missionaries was the priest who told Zapata’s grandmother that the young boy would follow similar footsteps. That same priest later became a pilot, who Zapata even flew with while he was doing missionary work as well.

Just as had been foretold, that young boy’s life eventually led him into priesthood.

Zapata came to Connecticut in 2004 after receiving permission to serve in the Archdiocese of Hartford. He began his work in December of 2004 at the Church of St. Mary in New Britain. Since then, he has served in several churches and communities around Connecticut, such as

East Hartford, Waterbury, Hartford, Torrington and New Haven, before beginning at St. John Fisher.

Now, he’s ready for another chapter.

Building a Parish Family

One of Zapata’s biggest goals is to ensure St. John Fisher feels like a family.

The parish has about 670 registered families – and Zapata said he has already noticed more families with children attending Mass.

“There is a lot of crying and talking,” he said, laughing about the sounds that come with young children at church. But to Zapata, those sounds are truly welcome.

“That’s a good sign for us, because we need those children in our future. We need the parents and the children,” he said.

Zapata said one of his goals is to build a strong family spirit at the church.

“A family in Christ; a spiritual family,” he said. He wants to help young couples and young people become more involved in parish life. He also hopes young couples can help other couples who are getting ready to marry.

Another goal is to find ways to bring young men and women into the life of the church.

“I’m going to look for ways to support whatever initiative is there to foster the engagement of the youth in our family parish life,” Zapata said.

Bringing People Together

Zapata shared with the *Rivereast* that he

See New Pastor, page 28

Portland Fair Returns This Weekend

By Anne Lilburn

The Portland Fair is returning this weekend, from Oct. 2-4, and this year promises the same community-driven family fun as always, with some new additions as well for 2026.

The fair returns to Chris Cote’s Driving Range at 1401 Main St. (Route 17A) for the third straight year, and if you don’t catch it quickly, you’ll miss it, because all the tents, animals, rides, food and fun will be packed up and gone just a day later.

Fair President Kelly Chester called it “a big fair with a small-town feel.”

“It has a nice open country feel and there’s a lot of space,” she said. “We have a ton of food vendors – we have more food vendors this year than we’ve ever had – and more crafters, more rides, so every little piece of the agricultural pie

is getting bigger, and we just keep expanding our footprint, so we continue to have that small town feel, but with a little bit of a bigger fair.”

This year, Chester said, she was looking forward to the fair’s Dirty Ditch Mud Runs, where vehicles attempt to make their way through a muddy course. The event will take place all day Sunday and has been expanded to include dirt bikes, Jeeps, trucks and monster trucks this year. There will also be tractor and truck pulls taking place throughout the weekend.

As usual, there will be fair food, rides and games, and Chester said that this year, the fair has really stepped it up in the food department, with a wider range of cuisines than ever before. She also said there were new offerings for kids, including an egg and spoon race and power

wheels racing.

Chester said she was also excited about some of the exhibits and events taking place at the Crafts and Community Tent, like the return of last year’s Trashion Show, where participants work to design clothing out of items that would normally be discarded. This year’s theme for the Trashion Show is America 250, and Crafts and Community Tent Coordinator Melissa Kelley said she was excited about what that might mean. The poster they made for the content, she said, featured both a “patriotic dress” and an astronaut suit as inspiration.

Kelley said she was also happy that the tent was now hosting a new Quiet Corner, sponsored by the library, which will have puzzles

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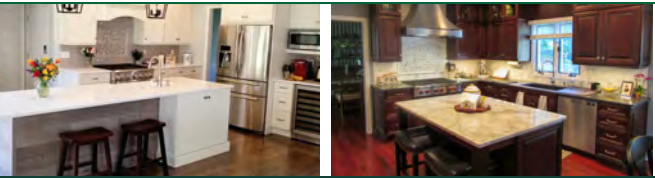
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Congregational Church News

Andover Congregational Church, UCC, located at 359 Route 6, invites all to worship, held Sundays at 10 a.m. All are welcome. The service also streams live on the church's Facebook page (First Congregational Church, Andover, CT). For more information, call the church office at 860-742-7696, email andover-ctchurch@gmail.com or visit www.andover-ctchurch.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 Stamps: Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m.

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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/NortonCommissionTrickOrTrot5K-RunWalk.

Youth Basketball Registration Open

Andover Youth Basketball (AYB) registration is open for the 2026-27 season. **Andover Redhawks Recreation Teams (Grades 3-6):** Teams are open to boys and girls of all skill levels – no prior experience necessary. Practices are held twice a week starting in November, and games are held on weekends December through February. There is a \$125 registration fee per player. Deadline to register: Oct. 9. **Mini & Junior Redhawks Developmental**

Community & Senior Center Happenings

The Andover Community and Senior Center (ACSC), located at 25 School Rd., is open Monday-Thursday from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. and Friday from 9 a.m.-noon. All are welcome. For more information – including full program descriptions – and to register for events, call director Tess Grous at 860-742-7305 ext. 4510 or at 860-798-6862. The center’s monthly newsletter is available online at www.andoverconnecticut.org. Copies are also available at the center, Town Hall, and Andover Public Library. To receive the newsletter by email each month or to reserve space, call 860-742-7305. Also call the center if **interested in volunteering**. Evening hours are available. Call or stop by the center if interested. **Transportation:** Call 860-498-2326 to schedule transportation. Provide a one-week notice

for all appointment requests. Transportation is available for town events and meetings, voting, senior events, group shopping and medical appointments. Transportation available to Andover seniors, veterans, and disabled are welcome. The driver shifts end at 5 p.m. If assistance is required, passengers may bring an aid (age 18 or older). **Regular Weekly and Monthly Programs:** For a list of regular weekly and monthly events, such as Movies, Wednesday Lunches, Stretch & Strength fitness classes, Chair Massage and more, see the monthly newsletter, “Community Connections.” Transportation is available. **Grocery Shopping:** Tuesdays, 8:30 a.m. Willimantic 10/6; Manchester 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. **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.

Pumpkin Patch Open Daily

The Andover Pumpkin Patch, located at 359 Route 6, is open daily through Oct. 31. Visitors can explore a variety of pumpkins perfect for carving or decorating, while also enjoying a selection of Halloween items, as well as baked goods. Additionally, raffle baskets will also be available. All proceeds go directly to the Andover Food Pantry.

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.

Vacancy for PZC Alternate

There is a vacancy for a Planning and Zoning Commission alternate member, and any qualified Andover elector interested in filling the vacancy – the term ends Nov. 10, 2027 – is encouraged to apply. Deadline for submission of letters of interest is Thursday, Oct. 7. Letters should be sent to: Town of Andover Building Department, 17 School Road, Andover, CT 06232 Alternatively, submissions may be emailed to: zoning@andoverct.org.

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From the Editor’s Desk

Observations & Ruminations

By Mike Thompson

Last weekend was definitely a washout. And depending on where you live, there was a lot of wind too. Where I live in Manchester, the wind wasn’t too bad, but I know other parts of the state weren’t as lucky. One of those places hard-hit by the wind was Wolcott – and, unfortunately, the wind felled one of the state’s last remaining Constitution Oak trees, according to *CT Insider*. The tree, a pin oak, was one of 168 trees the U.S. Department of Agriculture gifted to delegates from every Connecticut town following the 1902 Constitutional Convention in Hartford. (There were only 168 municipalities in the state at the time.) According to *CT Insider*, Sen. Joseph R. Hawley arranged for the USDA to supply pin oak seedlings at the conclusion of the convention, which was aimed at revising the state constitution for the first time in over 80 years. Alas, Connecticut voters – in classic “land of steady habits” fashion – rejected the proposed changes, so the convention’s primary legacy was these baby trees. *CT Insider* says delegates planted them by town halls, school yards, church yards and their own private property. They went on to be known as the Constitution Oak trees. Over the years, the trees grew and grew – but not all survived. Two of them, in Had-dam and Prospect, died within a year of being planted, *CT Insider* reports, and, not surprisingly, seven of them were lost in the Great Hurricane of 1938. As decades passed, more trees would fall – some would die, others would fall during storms, still others were sadly sacrificed to development – to the point that, by last weekend, only 56 remained. And now, with the fall of the Wolcott tree, that number is 55. I know what you’re all wondering – and if you’re not, you should be: What’s the status of the Constitution Oaks in the *Rivereast* towns? Well, it’s mixed. According to *CT Insider*, Andover, East Hampton and Marlborough all still have their trees. Portland, however, lost its tree in 2006, and Colchester lost its Constitution Oak in 1938. Hebron’s tree has also died, though, *CT Insider* said the date of its passing is unknown. Now, I’m not sure of the locations of the remaining Constitution Oaks in Andover, East Hampton and Marlborough. Perhaps the his-

Editor’s Desk continued on page 6

Bulletin Board

As you may have noticed, there was quite a little brouhaha recently about “fake news.” Certain networks were banned from the White House and there were a lot of hurt feelings and threats and the courts got involved and the Tooth Fairy broke her leg and the whole thing was just one big mess. Okay, I made up the part about the Tooth Fairy. Seriously, don’t go around telling everybody the Tooth Fairy broke her leg because it’s not true. Just because you saw it here and it came from what you foolishly consider an eminently trustworthy source, doesn’t make it so. The Tooth Fairy fabrication notwithstanding, apparently, we’ve gotten to the point where “fake news” isn’t necessarily “false news.” it’s simply news somebody doesn’t like and would prefer didn’t see the light of day. It’s like the old adage about “one man’s trash is another man’s treasure,” only in this case it’s “one man’s facts are another man’s fiction,” or maybe “one man’s fictions are his own facts.” Or possibly “one man’s First Amendment rights are another man’s frustration.” Your view on this probably depends a lot on your politics. Of course the whole fake news thing that caused such a stir last week isn’t some newfound controversy. A few years ago there was an academic conference at Central Connecticut State University titled “Defining the fake news moment: Fiction, fad, fatal or media literacy opportunity.” Leave it to a bunch of academics to come up with a title guaranteed to ward off anyone who doesn’t talk through their nose and own a tweed jacket with leather elbow patches. Personally, I would have gone with “Lying snakes and the stupid people who believe they pull Santa’s sleigh,” or maybe “Does chicken noodle soup really cure erectile dysfunction? You decide.” Hey, once you get them in there at 50 bucks a head, you can academia them into a coma with your multi-syllable words. That’s not fake news. It’s called marketing. One of the topics of the aforementioned conference, by the way, was “What do we mean by news and what do we mean by fake?” Ooooh! Ooooh! Choose me! Choose me! I’m thinking maybe “news” deals with real facts and events and “fake news” is made up stuff? That’s easy enough. The harder part (though it’s getting a lot easier these days) is determining who’s telling the truth and who’s trying to mislead. And if you don’t like the truth, does that make it fake? (That is a rhetorical question, by the way.) Whatever. Believe what you will. My only suggestion is that it might be wise to explore a variety of sources before believing that rubbing poodle spit in your hair will attract Monarch butterflies. Even if the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services assures you that it’s true. (I mean, aside from the usual skepticism about public officials, we’re talking here about a guy who put a dead bear cub on a bicycle and left it in Central Park, for God’s sake. Like I’m going to take medical advice from that guy.) There are those who believe that the trend toward fake news began with the marketing of things like kids’ over-sugared cereals (the same thing leprechauns eat!), sexy cars (make you irresistible to beautiful women) and scented body washes for men (see “sexy cars”) and was sent spinning out of control by a series of mendacious White House press secretaries and lying politicians (I believe this is what’s called an oxymoron) trying to pour cheap perfume on agendas that smell like rotting fish. Ah, you say. And what do you, a small town newspaper guy with a flair for rewriting garden club news releases, know about this important issue? I’m glad you asked. As it happens, I know a few things about fake news beyond the distortions, exaggerations and outright fabrications that appear in this very space on weekly basis. (Just kidding. Or am I?) My first conscious introduction to fake news came in the 1960s when I was 16 years old and had a summer job working at the local drugstore. My duties primarily consisted of restocking feminine hygiene products on the shelves and filling an expansive media section with a wide assortment of newspapers with headlines like, “Paralyzed by Stroke: Elderly Woman Devoured by Pet Cats,” accompanied by a photograph of what purported to be the elderly victim’s half-eaten elbow, but was more likely the remnants of a drumstick from the author’s fried chicken dinner. I recall that another headline warned of a giant alligator lurking in the New York City sewer system (which might actually have been true). And then, of course, there was the shocking “Baby Born with Two Heads: One Loves Peas, One Hates Veggies” and “100-Year-Old Grandma Gives Birth to Triplets While Roller Skating” (variations of which appeared probably three or four times in the two months I spent on the job.) Talk about fake news. You’d have to be an idiot to believe this stuff. Except for the one about the cats. As a dog person, I find that one entirely plausible. And that’s all I’ve got to say on the subject.

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.



Scouts on Trees... Troop 2 Portland Scouts recently spent a weekend at the Adventure Park at Storrs. They were challenged by tree-top rope trails and thrilled by multiple zip lines. The scouts came home with increased self-confidence after this test of their abilities. Troop 2 is active in the Portland community and welcomes youth seeking outdoor adventure, leadership development, friendship and lifelong memories. For more information, email barbarahelming@att.net.

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School Parking Should Be Free

To the Editor:
Hi, my name is Alex Laspino, and I am a 17-year-old student of Bacon Academy in Colchester. I wanted to address an issue that deeply concerns me as a student and as a new driver. The Bacon Academy parking policy is that it’s \$80 upfront for the year or \$40 for a semester. I disagree with this because its simply unfair and useless. The teachers don’t pay for parking so why should the students? I asked Micheal Mal, one of our principals, and he stated how it was for the protection of the students and to make sure that everyone who is there is supposed to be there. I disagree with this statement because that doesn’t actually do anything; you can do that without the \$80 fee. The parking passes could just be free and it would be as effective. The parking passes are also not a reliable source of income for the school because it is just one payment at approximately 130 driving students that’s a pitiful \$10,400 compared to the millions approved for our brand new football field and roof repairs. it doesn’t offset the cost even remotely. It seems that the fee is simply ment to inconvenience the students of a public school of which they are forced to attend by law. It doesn’t seem right and I hope you also see it my way.
Alex Laspino – Colchester

Fix Bacon Roof

To the Editor:
My name is Miles Viggiani, I am a student at Bacon Academy high school in Colchester, and our ceilings are falling down. Any time it rains, the roof leaks through and the ceiling tiles absorb the water; however, last year, there was a lot of rain which caused the ceiling tiles to absorb way too much water and then collapse under the weight. How are we supposed to learn if we have to worry about the ceiling tiles falling on top of us? In some areas of the school, certain parts of classrooms were blocked off due to a ceiling tile that was caving in and looked like it could fall at any moment. Nearly every hallway had a few ceiling tiles collapse at one point or another. Almost every student has pride in our school, and loves the community, but this is embarrassing. We need to repair the roof to stop the leaks, by just putting out trash cans to collect water and replacing the ceiling tiles, nothing changes. The next time there is heavy rain, the same thing will happen and it will keep affecting school spirit as well as the students safety. The Board of Education, Board of Finance, and especially the town of Colchester’s taxpayers, need to prioritize fixing our roof.
**Miles Viggiani
Bacon Academy Student**

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

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Has Been an Advocate
To the Editor:
While Melissa Ziobron has been pulling in a six-figure salary to create fantasy budgets to provide partisan talking points for Republican legislators, Meghan Rosenfeld has been an advocate for the people of East Hampton. With her work on the Commission of Aging she's been an advocate for affordability and a better quality of life for seniors. Her involvement in the POCD shows her willingness to listen to different viewpoints before forming opinions on important community matters. Lastly, her professional experience as an educator gives her the experience to fix the shortfalls in the state education funding.
I have no doubt that when elected she will represent the entire district with the same tenacity and values as she's shown to East Hampton. Vote Meghan Rosenfeld for the 34th District this November!

Paul Wisniewski – East Hampton

Where Are the Answers?
To the Editor:
In the Sept. 18th edition of the *Rivereast*, Ann Terezakis asked pointed questions of Steve Weir to explain his voting record. We all know Steve is there 100% of the time to vote, but how he votes is concerning to the taxpayers in his district. I was expecting answers to her questions from Steve this week. Instead, one of the support letters for Steve asked people to, “ask Steve himself and he will tell you the answers.” Seriously?
Steve should be able to articulate his answers to these questions in a written response to the *Rivereast*. Everyone says that Steve is a great guy with integrity. If so, why would we as voters have to track him down for the answers? That doesn't seem to be right.
As a man who is purportedly a “good listener,” why is he not answering the question?

**Sincerely,
Janet Fodaski – Amston**

Yard Sign Season
To the Editor:
You can learn a lot about candidates by watching their yard signs. Meghan Rosenfeld has a focused sign with her name and “state representative.” Her opponent has a mish-mash of signs; her brown and white 2012 sign saying elect, her brown and white 2014 sign saying re-elect, her little brown 2018 signs are from the election she lost and the current mustard yellow signs.
We know what Meghan Rosenfeld is running for, but you need a magnifying glass to know with her opponent's signs say, if it even says.
Meghan Rosenfeld's signs are almost exclusively in front of homes where voters live. Her opponent's signs are primarily on vacant lots or in front of businesses whose owners don't even live in the voting district.
Who do you think will focus on the voters and be effective in Hartford? I will be happily voting for Meghan Rosenfeld.

Alan Hurst – Middle Haddam

No Guessing with Paul
To the Editor:
When looking at the choices for our representative in Hartford on Nov. 3, Ellen Paul has already made her case clear. Her website goes issue by issue through the bills that have reached the House, on schools, housing, energy, and reproductive care, and says how she will vote when they come back. As she says, “you won't have to guess.” That is the representative I want.
Contrast this clear platform with the case for Steve Weir as his supporters have made it in these pages: He shows up. He listens. He works hard. He cares. He's honest. He reads every bill. He listens to everyone. He shows up. That is a great deal of praise, but something is missing.
On Sept. 4, Chesney McOmber of Andover counted eight letters praising Mr. Weir since mid-July and found that not one defended a single vote he had cast. That seemed like an invitation his supporters would take up, so I counted what came next. From that issue through last week, 23 letters praised him. One names a vote and defends it: Cheryl Lage's, on this spring's budget adjustment. The other 22 do not mention a vote at all.
Over the same four weeks, 10 letters critical of him named Weir's specific votes: the budget (against), safety fences around pools (against), ending child marriage (against), early childhood funding (against), renewable energy (against). The letters for him named his family, his farm, his church, his business, his scooter, his helicopter. Nothing in the second list is wrong. It's just not what we send a representative to Hartford to do.
It is telling that the only people discussing his voting record are his critics. His supporters certainly aren't shy; they have filled endless pages defending him. Yet, on this issue, they are completely silent. The closest thing to a record in all 23 letters is a supporter writing that Mr. Weir votes with the majority 77 percent of the time to prove he works across the aisle. It sounds reassuring until you realize that over his term, only seven of the 154 people who served in the

House voted with the majority less often.
Ms. McOmber's invitation still stands: pick a vote and make the case for it. But because Ellen Paul has already laid out her positions openly, I will vote for Ellen Paul on Nov. 3.

**Sincerely,
Jan Lawrence – Hebron**
Note: Lawrence is vice chair of the Hebron Town Council, but said he is writing as an individual.

Committed to Families, Future
Dear Neighbors:
I am proud to support Jason Guidone as he runs for State Senate. I have had the opportunity to know Jason through the Hebron Republican Town Committee, and I have seen firsthand his character, integrity, and genuine concern for the people in our community.
Jason understands the challenges families are facing today, particularly the rising cost of living. I appreciate his commitment to responsible spending, government transparency, and keeping taxes under control. I also strongly support his belief that safe communities matter and that our police officers and first responders deserve the resources, respect, and support they need to do their jobs.
As someone who values strong schools and believes families and local communities should have a meaningful voice, I also appreciate Jason's commitment to education and local control.
I believe Jason will bring common sense, accountability, and a genuine desire to serve our community to the state senate. Most importantly, I know the person behind the campaign. I trust that he will listen to the people he represents, stand up for our community, and work hard on our behalf.

**Sincerely,
Toni Livernois – Hebron**
Note: Livernois is a member of the Hebron Board of Education but said she is writing this as an individual.

We Need More Like Weir
To the Editor:
As a longtime Glastonbury resident, I am extremely concerned by dramatic changes in the political landscape in Connecticut over several decades. As a registered Democrat, one might think I would celebrate the control the Democratic party has over Connecticut politics and therefore over Connecticut public policy. The truth is quite the contrary, as any government so heavily weighted as to act as an autocracy is a threat to all citizens due to the loss of honest debate and, most egregiously, the arrogance that comes from a legislative body that feels no obligation to answer to constituents.
In recent years, several bills before the legislature have deeply affected me personally and professionally. I reached out to my representatives repeatedly, as did friends and colleagues in their own communities. The only elected official who consistently responded to us was Rep Steve Weir. Other legislators failed to make even a feeble effort to comprehend the details in these bills, while Steve listened, asking questions until he had a working knowledge of the issues. Despite being just as busy as every other legislator, Steve always responded and made time to understand how proposed legislation impacted real people and businesses.
In the case of legislation affecting my profession, Steve met with our delegation and arranged for his colleagues to meet with us as well. I have no doubt that had the Democrats who ignored us entirely, including my own Senator, made the same effort, the very poor legislation we rallied against would have been defeated. Rather than dialogue, however, we were met with refusal to respond to phone calls, emails or public testimony. Elected officials who simply

See Letters, page 6

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RE9-18-26

The “East of the River” Real Estate Report

2026 Market Update: What We’ve Seen Through the First Three Quarters

With three-quarters of 2026 behind us, the local real estate market has gone through some noticeable changes.
Earlier this year and into the summer, buyer competition was extremely strong. Well-priced homes frequently sold within days, multiple offers were common, and many properties sold significantly above asking price.
As we moved through late summer and September, however, the market began to feel different. Homes started taking longer to sell. We saw fewer bidding wars and multiple-offer situations, and buyers became more selective about condition and price.
Our weekly snapshots captured some of that change. During the summer, we had weeks where the median home sold in just 5–6 days, often above asking price. In September, we saw median marketing times reach 10–15 days in some weeks.
But real estate rarely moves in a straight line. This past week's numbers strengthened again: the seven single-family homes sold for an average of 104% of asking price, with a median of just 4 days on market.
So what does that tell us?
We're still in a strong market, but it's becoming less predictable. Some homes continue to sell almost immediately with multiple offers, while others are sitting longer and requiring price adjustments. For sellers, that means pricing, preparation and marketing matter more than ever. For buyers, there may occasionally be more time and negotiating room—but desirable, properly priced homes can still move very quickly.
As we head into the final quarter of 2026, I'll continue watching whether the late-summer slowdown was seasonal or the beginning of a more balanced market.

Market Snapshot – Past Week

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

Single-Family Homes

• 7 homes sold

Average sale price: \$474,000

Average sale-to-list ratio: 104%

Average days on market: 10 days

Median days on market: 4 days

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

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RE10-2-26

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★ *Letters, cont. from page 5*

vote as directed by party leaders are not acting in good faith, nor are they respecting their oath to protect the Constitution of the State of CT.

Steve Weir is that very rare elected official who behaves like a representative of the people, rather than a politician. Whether guided by his own roots in the community, his experience as a successful businessperson or simply his commitment to his own family, Steve hasn't lost sight of his responsibility to serve both the people of this community and Connecticut. We don't need greater imbalance in the legislature; we need more representatives like Steve who are committed to service and whose obligation is to the people, rather than to a party.

Jennifer Tow – Glastonbury

Support Steve Weir

To the Editor:

I have known Steve and his wife for over 10 years and see him often at our volleyball games. I enthusiastically endorse his re-election to the 55th District where he has served for a number of years.

I support him for a number of reasons. First and foremost, he is one of us. He has lived his life in our district, raised his family here, had a small business here and volunteered for a number of local community service endeavors. He puts our small-town values first and supports local control, which was recently threatened by House Bill 8002, which eroded local "home rule" in favor of shifting zoning to state oversight.

As a seasoned legislator he has consistently worked to increase transparency and account-

ability in our state government. He has been a proponent of eliminating waste, fraud and abuse as evidenced by his support of legislative reforms which included funding of an independent inspector general and stronger audits of agencies funded by the state.

He has worked consistently to reduce our electric rates which are among the highest in the nation. He has supported small business and was awarded the Connecticut Business and Industry Association (CBIA) Award for supporting business-friendly legislation.

In addition to all of the above, Steve is a friendly person, easily approachable and interested in our concerns. If you are on his mailing list, he sends a Capitol News Update which summarizes recent issues and actions and helps to keep us informed of what is occurring at our Capitol.

Please support him in November.

June Danaher – Hebron

Seniors, Be Aware!

To the Editor:

When evaluating Steve Weir's job as our representative for the 55th district I decided to look beyond the "Letters to the Editor" that say what a wonderful person he is and what a great job he has done and ... this is some of what I found out!

In 2023 the legislature's Aging Committee sent a bill to the house that would have required nursing homes to report their costs honestly and to disclose when a private equity firm owns them. Not to ban anything. Just to say who owns the building where our family member is sleeping. It passed 128 to 10. Every Democrat voted 'yes' and 41 Republicans said 'yes!' Steve was one of 10 who said 'no.'

I have to ask...Steve, "why did you vote against legislation that would help to protect senior citizens?"

The more I talk with Ellen as I drive her around knocking on doors the better I have gotten to know her, and I know she would not have voted 'no!'

I hope you will join me by voting for Ellen Paul for the 55th District on Nov. 3rd!

Sincerely,

George O'Brien – Marlborough

Safer with Ellen Paul

To the Editor:

I have seen too many stories lately about young children drowning in a family swimming pool. Drowning is among the leading causes of death for young children, and a fence or barrier is one of the few things that reliably stops it.

In 2024 the Connecticut House voted on exactly that: requiring safety barriers around swimming pools. It passed 102 to 45. Our representative, Steve Weir, voted 'no' (HB-5169, 2024).

I went looking for the principle behind that vote and instead found a pattern. He voted NO on ending child marriage in Connecticut, a bill the Senate passed without a single dissent (HB-6569, 2023). He voted 'no' on letting the public see how nursing homes care for our parents, though his fellow Republicans supported it 4 to 1 (HB-6678, 2023). On numerous bills whose entire purpose was keeping somebody's child or somebody's parent safe, he found his way to vote 'no.'

Ellen Paul, who is running for this seat, has a refreshingly ordinary way of thinking about such bills. Not every vote is a battle of ideologies, she says. Some just ask whether we protect children and keep seniors safe, and those should be the easiest votes a legislator ever casts. Her whole career, in libraries and nonprofits and coalition work, has been the patient business of making shared spaces safer and better for everyone in them.

What I need from my representative is simple: vote "yes" for bills that will keep your constituents safe. This November, the 55th can elect Ellen Paul, check out her website for more info on the difference she will make: ellenforstaterep.com.

Sincerely,

Catherine McSweeney – Amston

Where Does It Stop?

To the Editor:

Vice Chairman Jack Solomon and Rich Kontek have proposed increasing Transfer Station fees until users cover the entire cost of operating the facility.

Before we adopt that philosophy, taxpayers should ask: If this is the new standard, are we prepared to apply it to every town service?

Consider Lake Pocotopaug. Tax dollars are spent on the lake. Should those costs be assessed only to lakefront property owners?

What about education? Should we remove education costs from the general tax burden and bill only parents with children attending our schools?

Or residents living on state highways, should they pay less in town taxes because the State maintains the road in front of their homes?

Of course not. These examples sound extreme, and that is exactly my point.

A community does not operate by calculating which taxpayers personally use each service and then sending them the bill. We all contribute toward services that make East Hampton our community, whether we personally use every one of them or not.

There is also an important process issue. Our Town Code states that East Hampton "shall maintain a transfer station or refuse disposal area." Yet the Town Manager requested that Transfer Station funding be removed, and the Board of Finance removed it, before the Town Council made a policy decision to eliminate or fundamentally change the service.

That sequence matters.

Instead, the funding was removed first, and now we are discussing how to fund a service our Town Code says we shall maintain.

The Town Council is East Hampton's legislative and policy-making body. Any decision to eliminate the Transfer Station, fundamentally change its operation, or make it entirely user-funded should have been discussed before the Town Manager requested the funding be removed and before the Board of Finance acted.

We also just reviewed Transfer Station fees and approved significant increases in July. Barely two months later, Vice Chairman Solomon is proposing another increase, this time until users pay the entire cost.

Where does it stop?

There is a major difference between reasonable user fees and requiring one group of residents to fund 100% of a municipal service.

Vice Chairman Solomon and the Democratic majority should think carefully about the precedent that creates. Once we decide one group of residents must fully fund the municipal service they use, where does it stop?

I encourage residents to attend the upcoming Transfer Station workshop, speak up, and make their voices heard.

Ted Hintz Jr.

Member, East Hampton Town Council

Editor's Desk continued from page 4

torical societies in those towns know, and will reach out. If they do, I'll keep you all posted – as the trees that are left may be living on borrowed time.

CT Insider reports that, according to Yale University's Yale Nature Walk Project, the average lifespan of a pin oak is around 120 years. If the trees were all planted in 1902 well, you can do the math.

It's now October, which means Election Day is coming up fast. This year, it arrives a little earlier than usual. The date is always the Tuesday after the first Monday in November – and this year, that date is Nov. 3.

With elections approaching, there are some important related dates coming up, for readers in all *Rivereast* towns.

Oct. 16: All registrars of voters' offices in Connecticut will hold a statewide voter registration session from 9 a.m.-8 p.m. This is the last regular session for admission of electors who have turned 18, become a U.S. citizen, or moved to Connecticut. Any mail registrations must be postmarked by this day. Registration at DMV offices must be done by the close of business, and online registrations must be completed by 11:59 p.m.

Nov. 2: All registrars of voters' offices in Connecticut will hold a statewide voter registration session from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. This is the last registration session for admission of electors who have turned 18, become a U.S. citizen, or moved to Connecticut since Oct. 16 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.

Early Voting: Oct. 19-Nov. 1: All Connecticut towns will hold Early Voting beginning Oct. 19 and ending Nov. 1. The hours are 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. each day, with the exception of Oct. 27 and Oct. 29, when the locations will be open from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m.

For more information, contact your local registrars of voters office. In Andover, the number is 860-742-7305 ext. 224; in Colchester, it's 860-537-7204 for the Democratic registrar voters and 860-537-7249 for the Republican one; in East Hampton, it's 860-267-6720; in Hebron, it's 860-228-5971 ext. 134; in Marlborough, it's 860-295-6166; and in Portland, the number is 860-342-6747.

See you next week.

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Reader Forum • Reader Forum • Reader

Local Voice for the 19th

Dear Hebron Residents:
One of the things I value most about living in a small town like Hebron is that we have the opportunity to actually know the people who want to represent us.

Jason Guidone is not someone who simply showed up to run for office. He has called Hebron home for more than a decade and has chosen to step forward and become involved in public service.

What I appreciate about Jason is his willingness to listen and have a real conversation. You may not agree with him on every issue — none of us agree with anyone 100% of the time — but Jason will tell you where he stands and, just as importantly, listen to where you stand.

His priorities include Connecticut's cost of living, taxes and government spending, support for police and first responders, local control of schools, and making the state more supportive of families and businesses.

Jason spent 20 years working at ESPN before retiring and is now seeking to represent the 19th District in Hartford. He is a husband, father, grandfather, and longtime member of our community.

Politics has become far too divisive. I believe we are better served when we look beyond party labels and take the time to learn about the people running for office.

Once you take the time to get to know Jason and where he stands, I think you'll have a very clear sense of the kind of person and representative he would be.

Brian O'Reilly – Hebron
Note: O'Reilly is a member of the Hebron Board of Finance, but is speaking as an individual.

Support Steve Weir

To the Editor:
I've known Steve Weir for 32 years and he is an outstanding individual, from starting and developing and succeeding with several businesses. He served as a Glastonbury police officer, living and working with us in our community. He knows and understands how to support people. He has balanced budgets and makes common sense decisions. He has served the community in many ways; just to name a few, I have witnessed him as a volunteer basketball coach, served on the Hebron Zoning Board of Appeals, was former chairman of the CT River Valley Chamber of Commerce.

There is no better hard-working, honest, committed, reliable person than Steve Weir to represent our community. Regardless of your party, vote for Steve Weir for Connecticut House of Representatives.

Jeff Pell – Glastonbury

A Decade of Trust

To the Editor:
I don't normally get involved publicly in politics. My wife and I tend to vote for the person rather than the party, and I have friends and family with a wide range of political views. But I've known Steve Weir and his family for more than 10 years, and I believe character still matters when deciding who we trust to represent us.

We first met the Weirs through our children's swim activities. Over the years, that connection grew into a close friendship between our families. Steve's daughters have babysat, coached and helped care for our son and daughter. His middle daughter has been trusted not only to watch our children, but to drive them to activities. Our beagle came to us through the dog rescue where Steve's oldest daughter, worked, and when we've traveled, we've trusted Steve and his family to care for her.

Those may not sound like political qualifications, but they tell you something important about a person and a family. You don't entrust your children and pets to people unless you trust their judgment, responsibility, and character.

I've seen those same qualities in Steve as our state representative. I have reached out to him for guidance involving a nonprofit I'm associated with, and whenever I've called or texted with a question, Steve has responded. He doesn't suddenly become accessible at election time. That's simply who I've known him to be. I've heard people describe Steve as a "nice guy," sometimes even while disagreeing with his votes. He is a nice guy, but I think that description sells him short. He's thoughtful, prepared, and willing to ask difficult questions. He's not someone who follows the crowd simply because it's easier.

I don't expect my representative to agree with me on every issue. I expect him to listen, use good judgment, and think independently. Steve wasn't elected to be a rubber stamp for anyone. He was elected to represent his neighbors

See Letters, page 8

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★ *Letters, cont. from page 7*

throughout the 55th District, and sometimes that means challenging the status quo. Steve is also very aware if something in Hartford goes south I will call him out on it but that will not change our families’ strong relationship we have forged over the years.

Writing a political letter is outside my comfort zone. I’m doing it because after knowing Steve and his family for more than a decade, I’m comfortable putting my name behind what I know about him personally: his character, integrity, judgment, and commitment to the people he represents.

Shawn M. Flynn – Hebron

Ellen Paul for All

To the Editor:

I’m supporting Ellen Paul, Democratic candidate for state representative from the 55th District. The 55th District is made up of Andover, Bolton, Hebron, Marlborough, and part of Glastonbury and we have not had a Democrat representing us for as long as I can remember.

We have a great candidate in Ellen Paul. She is a librarian and the executive director of the CT Library Consortium. She has worked with the CT General Assembly to advance bipartisan legislation to protect library access to digital books and to safeguard intellectual freedom. She knows how to get things done in Hartford from the outside, and soon she can get things done from the inside as a member of the legislature.

From reading her website (ellenforstaterep.com), I find it easy to agree with her common-sense approach to the issues that face our small towns. She takes each issue and discusses what needs to be done in Hartford to help us right here in the 55th. She supports updating the Education Cost Sharing system to bring more state money to our schools that will bring our property taxes down. She supports investing in energy infrastructure that will bring our energy costs down. She wants to address affordability for young families by providing child care assistance and by making it easier to build smaller more cost-efficient housing. She wants to keep eastern Connecticut green by allowing sensible development without spoiling our beautiful landscape. Ellen has published well thought out stances on many other issues on her website.

With the Democrats being the majority party in the CT State Legislature, it can be easier to

get both power and consensus on issues from a member of the Democratic party. The 55th has not had a representative from the majority party for many years. This is the year we turn the 55th blue!

Please join me in voting for Ellen Paul for state representative. Together we can bring in a strong voice to represent the 55th District in Hartford!

Don Keener – Andover

***Note:** Keener is a member and former chair of the Andover Democratic Town Committee, but said he is writing as an individual.*

HUSKY Problems

To the Editor:

As a Connecticut resident, I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the current state of the HUSKY Health program and the systemic issues affecting medical care for low-income individuals in our state. While Connecticut prides itself on progressive healthcare initiatives, the reality for many residents falls short of the promise of reliable medical care.

First, the low reimbursement rates under HUSKY result in many doctors, particularly specialists, not accepting this insurance, severely limiting patient access to necessary care. Second, the program frequently denies coverage for optimal medical procedures in favor of cheaper alternatives, even when those options lead to prolonged recovery times or poorer health outcomes.

For instance, a constituent recently required shoulder surgery that would have healed in months using a portion of his own hip bone. HUSKY refused to cover this standard procedure, forcing the surgeon to use a donor bone instead, thereby eliminating the cost of the operation on his hip, which will now take his shoulder over a year to heal. In another case, a young patient who split a molar during a seizure has been waiting for over three weeks for assistance are met with full voicemail boxes, leaving patients with no way to communicate or advocate for their care.

Connecticut is one of the wealthiest states in the country, and our residents deserve a healthcare system that provides adequate, timely, and

dignified medical care. I urge everyone to investigate these coverage and administrative shortcomings within the HUSKY program and to advocate for the necessary reforms to protect our state’s most vulnerable populations. Call your representatives from either party and demand reform!

Sincerely,
Alden Thayer – Colchester

Weir Is a Better Choice

To the Edior:

Who we choose to represent us in House District 55, Glastonbury, Marlborough, Andover, Bolton and Hebron, seems to come down to two different philosophies. One recognizes laws, once enacted, have long lives, and unintended consequences. The income tax and the bottle bill are two, but there are others. The other says let’s pass laws that look good for the party in power in return for a vote to get money from the state for projects – even un-needed ones. Our town and others just got substantial grants for transportation projects. You’re thinking light rail, bus-ways, a new road, an added lane – nope, it’s going to fund...culverts.

One could fill every page of this paper with a list of the taxes, mostly hidden, Connecticut residents are forced to pay. Working great for us, aren’t they?

Steve Weir represents a better choice for us, I think.

John A. Murray – Marlborough

Taxes and Education

To the Editor:

After knocking on more than 2,500 doors across our district, one concern comes up again and again: property taxes.

People want excellent schools. They also want to be able to afford to stay in their homes. Those two things should not be in conflict, but the way Connecticut funds public education too often puts them there.

Education is one of the largest expenses in our municipal budgets. In communities like ours, much of that burden ultimately falls on individual homeowners. When education costs rise and state support does not keep pace, towns face difficult choices: raise property taxes, cut school programs, or reduce other municipal services.

Connecticut needs to make funding local education a much higher priority within the state budget.

I am not talking about raising state taxes. I am talking about how we prioritize the money the state already spends. I cannot think of a more impactful investment Connecticut could make than sending more education funding back to our communities. It strengthens our schools while relieving pressure on local property taxpayers.

One place to start is the Education Cost Sharing formula. Its foundation amount, intended to represent the cost of educating a student before other factors are considered, has remained \$11,525 since 2013. The actual cost of educating our children has not.

Making the state’s investment in local education a priority would be my first, second and third priority in Hartford. We should update

our funding system to reflect what education actually costs today and make sure the state is carrying its fair share.

But we should also be willing to ask a bigger question. Connecticut relies heavily on local property taxes to pay for public education. We may be the Land of Steady Habits, but sometimes a longstanding habit deserves another look.

At the doors, I hear both sides of this equation. People deeply value our schools, and they are worried about whether they can continue to afford their property taxes.

We should not have to choose between strong schools and affordable communities. If the state makes education the priority it should be, we can work toward both.

Ellen Paul – Glastonbury
Candidate for State Representative,
55th District

Protecting Your Right to Vote

To the Editor:

Voting is not only a right; it is a privilege and a responsibility! Therefore, why does Steve Weir want to hinder our access to voting?

He voted ‘no’ on early voting implementation (HB-5004, 2023) after Connecticut voters had already approved early voting by a constitutional amendment. Early Voting passed the House 107-35 after voters had approved the constitutional amendment. Weir voted ‘no’ on the no-excuse absentee amendment (HJ-1, 2023), and NO on absentee-voting reforms (HB-5001, 2026).

In essence, Weir voted against what your neighbors already voted for at the ballot box. He is supposed to fight for what his constituents want. That is the job of an elected representative and Ellen Paul has taken a clear position on this.

“When Connecticut voters amended our constitution to allow early voting. They gave the legislature a job: carry it out. That’s the basic promise of self-government. When the people decide, their representatives follow through. I trust the voters of this district. I’ll work to make voting secure, accessible, and convenient for every eligible voter, and I will never vote to make participating harder.”

(Quote by candidate Ellen Paul)

Sincerely,
Aileen Vrooman – Marlborough

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

Ellen’s Credentials Check Out

To the Editor:

I keep seeing one question about Ellen Paul, the Democratic candidate for state representative in the 55th District: what qualifies a librarian to serve in Hartford?

The honest answer is that no job qualifies anyone. Connecticut has a citizen legislature. Its members serve part-time and come from ordinary working lives on purpose, so the people writing our laws also live under them. There is no credential for the job, and there shouldn’t be.

Our current representative runs a restoration company, owns commercial real estate, and flies helicopters. That is honest work, and I don’t doubt he is good at it. But none of it is more training for writing state law than a library degree. The real question is what each person brings.

A good librarian brings a method: find the best information, check it, organize it so others can use it, and listen closely enough to learn what people actually need. She also brings the habit of stretching a thin budget. The Connecticut Library Consortium, which Ellen has led since 2022, gets a state grant of \$124,402 a year, down from \$350,000 a decade earlier, and estimates that its contracts save libraries and taxpayers over \$7 million a year.

And then there is this librarian. Ellen spent four years working with Republican Sen. Tony Hwang, on a library e-book bill, testifying and building a coalition until it passed the Senate 35 to 1 in 2025. Steve Weir voted ‘no’ That same year she helped write the freedom-to-read protections that became law in the state budget.

In fairness, individual members’ bills rarely pass in Hartford, in either party. Laws get made the way Ellen made hers, through years of work across the aisle. Weir has filed 41 bills of his own in four years, and none reached a floor vote. The clearest case I can find of him steering an outcome came on the last night of the 2026 session, when he and a few allies threatened to run out the clock on SB 274, a tenant-safety bill that had already passed the Senate. It died. He sits on the board of the Connecticut Apartment Association, whose president testified against it.

So what qualifies a librarian to serve in Hart-

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Resident Artwork on Exhibit

Hebron artist Shannon MacGrogan-Ellis will exhibit new artwork throughout October in the Community Room at Douglas Library, 22 Main St.

Known for her use of color and imaginative, digitally rendered pastel style, MacGrogan-Ellis will present a selection of new digital pastel prints, along with new acrylic paintings. A member of the Hebron Creative Collective, she studied Illustration at the acclaimed Ringling College of Art and Design in Sarasota, Fla.

A reception will be held on Thursday, Oct. 8, from 5:30–7:30 p.m. in the library’s Community Room. All are welcome to stop by and meet the artist.

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.

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.

Good Shepherd Parish News

The Church of the Holy Family (CHF), located at 185 Church St. (Route 85), Hebron, is yoked with St. Columba Church (STC) in Columbia, and together are members of the Catholic Community of the Good Shepherd, with the Rev. Michael Phillippino serving as pastor. The parish office can be reached at 860-228-3727 ext. 105 Monday, Wednesday and Friday, from 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. (note the new hours)

Mass Schedule: Mass is offered at CHF Saturday at 5 p.m. and Sunday at 10 a.m., and at STC Sunday at 8 a.m. Visit www.goodshepherdct.org for weekday Mass times.

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

Praise Band and Choir Rehearsals: Rehearsals take place at CHF from 7-8:30 p.m., on Tuesdays for the choir and on Thursdays for the Praise Band. New voices and musical instruments are always welcome.

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

Faith Formation Registration: Classes begin Oct. 4. It’s not too late to register your children

Bird Box Volunteers Needed

On Saturday, Oct. 3, volunteers are needed at Burnt Hill Park in Hebron to repair or replace existing bird boxes. Volunteers will meet at the pavilion at Burnt Hill Park on East Street, at 9:30 a.m.

No skills are necessary and all age groups are welcome.

Bird boxes are critical for the survival of cavity nesting birds such as bluebirds and tree swallows.

If you have them, please bring cordless screwdrivers, hammers, loppers or hand pruners, and garden gloves.

For more information, email jamlevasseur29@gmail.com.

Historical Society Open Oct. 4

On Sundays, Oct. 4 and Nov. 1, from 11 a.m.-2 p.m., the Hebron Historical Society, located at 26 Main St., will open its doors and welcome visitors to see its America 250 exhibit, which traces Hebron’s development from 10,000 years ago to modern suburb.

“Defining a Sense of Place in an Age of Cyberspace” is an exhibit organized around the theme that the land in Hebron has been shaped by the people and events that occurred in its past and will continue to be reshaped it in the future.

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

Community Fund Accepting Grant Applications

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

Applications are due Oct. 15 at 11:59 p.m.

Full details of the Request for Proposals (RFP) – including funding priorities, eligibility guidelines, and how to apply – are available at GreaterHartfordGives.org/hebroncf. Also at the website are eligibility guidelines, examples of past funded projects, and more information.

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

The Worship Center News & Notes

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

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

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

Fall Chili Fest Luncheon: Sunday, Oct. 4, following the morning service. The luncheon will feature a variety of specialty chilis with condiments, appetizers, artisan breads and desserts of the season. All are welcome; it’s not necessary to bring a dish to attend.

YA/YG At His Table: Fall Kick-Off! Friday, Oct. 2, 6:30-9:30 p.m. Young Adults invite the Youth Group to join them ‘At His Table’ for a Fall Kick-Off event. Enjoy harvest games, group dancing and a fellowship meal together. Meet at Dickerson’s barn. Contact Pastor Sean Griffith with any questions.

TWC Mini-Golf Tournament!: Saturday, Oct. 3, 10-11:30 a.m. Sign-ups available online and at church.

Fall Hoedown: Saturday, Oct. 10, 6-9 p.m.

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.

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On Sept. 24, the Portland Historical Society awarded the reconstruction contract for the 1821 Gildersleeve Store to Middletown-based Kronenberger & Sons Restoration (KSR). The store, which was disassembled in 2024, will be rebuilt on the grounds of the society’s Ruth Callander House Museum of Portland History at 492 Main St. Shown at the future site are Portland Historical Society President Susan Bransfield; Museum Director Bob McDougall; KSR Vice President Brian Kronenburger Jr.; project architect Mark Aldieri, AIA; and KSR project manager Aaron Landau. Work is expected to begin in early October and be completed by the end of the year.

Gildersleeve Store Contract Awarded

On Sept. 24, the Portland Historical Society awarded Kronenberger & Sons Restoration (KSR) of Middletown the contract to rebuild the historic 1821 Gildersleeve Store.

The award marks a major milestone in the society’s multi-year effort to preserve and share this distinctive part of the town’s history. The store will be reconstructed on the grounds of the society’s Ruth Callander House Museum of Portland History at 492 Main St. Work is expected to begin in early October and be completed by the end of the year.

In 1821, 20 years before Portland was incorporated, the shipbuilding firm S. Gildersleeve & Sons was established in Chatham. Formerly known as East Middletown, Chatham then included the present-day towns of Portland and East Hampton. The company’s shipyard occupied the area now owned by Petzold’s Marine Center on Indian Hill Avenue, in the section of Portland now known as Gildersleeve. Established that same year, the Gildersleeve Store became an important commercial hub when no bridges crossed the Connecticut River in this area, and most goods arrived by boat at Gildersleeve Landing. The store is also architecturally distinctive, the historical society said. Its box-plank construction has no conventional frame; instead, vertical planks form all four walls, with openings cut for windows and doors. Clapboard

siding, interior wainscoting, lath-and-plaster walls, and millwork trim in the ceiling-joint bays conceal the simplicity of the underlying structure.

Since acquiring the building in December 2020, the society has completed several major phases of the preservation project. It retained Stephen C. Marshall, a Coventry-based historic preservationist and restoration specialist, to survey the Gildersleeve Store and prepare a historical narrative based on physical evidence. Marshall concluded that the store was probably built by shipbuilders using wood salvaged from the shipbuilding operation. In 2024, Mark Aldieri, AIA, Architect was retained to oversee the dismantling and reconstruction of the building. In fall 2024, William Gould Architectural Preservation, LLC carefully dismantled the store and repaired and restored all its windows, which are ready for installation. The disassembled building is stored on the grounds of the Ruth Callander House Museum of Portland History. In spring 2026, Bordonaro Masonry of Portland completed the excavation and foundation work; the foundation wall is faced with Portland brownstone.

Visitors can learn more about the Gildersleeve Store project at the Portland Historical Society’s exhibit at the Portland Agricultural Fair this weekend, Oct. 2-4.

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.

Absentee ballots are now available from the town clerk’s office at Town Hall, 33 East Main St. 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.

Note: A recent state law updated the absentee ballot envelope process. Voters using this method are advised to pay close attention to the new instructions to ensure their ballot is received in good order. There is no more inner envelope, and voters must sign, date and print their name on the one return envelope.

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

First Congregational Church News

All are welcome to First Congregational Church, 554 Main St., for worship each Sunday. The Rev. Judith Meyers will provide the sermon this Sunday. This week’s sermon title is “Rules Rules Rules.”

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

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

Spiritual Group: Sacred Pause: Wednesday, Oct. 7, 1 p.m. Join Meyers on the first Wednesday of each month from October through April

for a time of conversation, reflection, support, and spiritual exploration. Each month will feature a different question or theme as people listen to one another and reflect on where God is at work in their lives. Come as you are; no preparation or special knowledge is needed. .

Year-Round Giving: Neighbors in Need collects donations for the Portland Food Bank. Items needed are Spam, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, Bisquick, canned tomato products, baked beans, quick oats, and boil-in-a-bag rice.

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

Spotlight on Oscar Hedstrom at Fair

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

In 1891, at the age of 9, Carl Oscar Hedstrom immigrated from Sweden to New York City with his family. At an early age he became fascinated by the mechanical workings of bicycles. The display will tell the story of how Hedstrom’s early interest in bicycles and how machines work led to his production of high-quality bicycles and eventually to his development of gasoline engines to power bicycles used to pace races. In 1901 he partnered with George Hendee, a Springfield, Mass., bicycle manufacturer, that led to the creation of a world class motorcycle industry, the Indian Motorcycle Company, that still exists to this day.

In addition to the photo display tracing the history of the Indian Motorcycle Company from its early days to today, there will be several Indian motorcycles on display from a local collector. It is also rumored that C. Oscar Hedstrom will be making guest appearances on Saturday and Sunday at 3 p.m., giving short talks highlighting



Pictured is an early example of Indian Motocycles corporate promotional literature, depicting Portland resident C. Oscar Hedstrom.

his connection to Portland and his role in the creation of Indian motorcycles.

The historical society’s exhibit will be in this year’s Craft and Community Tent at the fair.

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Class of '86 Reunion

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

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

Send Venmo payment to @rebecca-graves-91.

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., in the church hall, and the afternoon session meets the fourth Tuesday of the month at 3 p.m. – also in the church hall.

Call Susan Bongiorno to register at 860-685-1966.



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RE3-6-26

Exchange Club Offers Parking for Fair

The Portland Exchange Club will be offering parking for the Portland Fair this weekend at its grounds, located at 1348 Main St.

The cost for parking will be \$7. Cash only. The gates to the parking area will be open throughout the Fair weekend.

On Friday and Saturday nights, lighting on the Exchange Club grounds will remain on for 30 minutes after the close of the fair.

Volunteers Needed for Wellness Expo

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

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

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

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

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Zion Lutheran News & Notes

Zion Lutheran Church is located at 183 William St. All are invited to participate in worship. Sara Stall-Ryan is pastor.

Worship Notes: Zion offers Sunday worship each week at 9 a.m.

Learning: Sunday School for children ages 3 through 8th grade is offered the first and third Sunday of the month, following worship. Contact the church office for more information.

Adult Education is held following worship on the second and fourth Sunday of the month.

Year-Round Giving: Pull tabs are collected

Parks and Rec. News & Notes

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

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

Kids' Blast: This is an afterschool (3-6 p.m.) childcare program available to students enrolled in grades K-6 in the Portland Public School System. Membership registration is open for the

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. 5.

Weekly Programs: Monday, 10/5: Light aerobics, 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Tuesday, 10/6: 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: teriyaki chicken, brown fried rice, stir-fry veggies, string cheese, fruit cup; **Coupons for Troops,** 1-4 p.m.; **Setback,** 1 p.m.; **SyncoCize,** 5-6 p.m., fee is donation to instructor.

Wednesday, 10/7: Light Aerobics, 9:30-10:30 a.m.; **Chair Yoga with Gia,** 10:30-11:15 p.m., fee is a \$5 donation to instructor; fiber arts, noon-2 p.m.

Thursday, 10/8: Seated Stretch & Tone, 9:30 a.m.; **Knit & Stitch,** 10 a.m.; **Congregate Meal,** noon – \$3 suggested donation (must fill out form). Menu: meatloaf and gravy, roasted potatoes with gravy, steamed carrots, peach cup; **Mah Jongg,** 12:30 p.m.; **Scrabble,** 1 p.m.

Friday, 10/9: Light Aerobics, 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Special Events: Unless noted, **registration is required for all programs.** Also, unless noted, all programs are free.

Monday, Oct. 5: Seniors Mental Health 101 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.

Tuesday, Oct. 6: Technology Tips Workshop, 1-2 p.m. Dave Audette will give an overview of the process of applying for Connecticut's Energy Assistance Program. He will talk about the application and how the process works, to provide you with a better understanding of what

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.

year-round and donated to the Ronald McDonald "House that Love Built," supporting families with seriously ill children. Zion recycles computer ink cartridges to support office supplies for Sunny Hill Preschool and Zion. Pull tabs and used ink cartridges may be dropped off at the church on Sunday morning, or by calling the church office.

For more information about any church activities, or if you are in need of pastoral assistance, call 860-342-2860, email zion.lutheran@snet.net, or visit zionlutheranportland.org.

2026-27 school year.

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

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

you will need to do to apply yourself. Applications themselves will not be available.

Wednesday, Oct. 7: Trip to Mohegan Sun Casino, 9:15 a.m. to 2 p.m. Ride fee: \$5.

Thursday, Oct. 8: Community Quilters, 7 p.m. This is a group dedicated to the art of quilting and passing on the knowledge of this art. All skill levels and ages welcome. Meets the second Thursday of each month. Contact the center for more information, or to sign up.

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.

Tuesday, Oct. 13: Senior Resources Nutritional Education, noon. Learn about processed foods, how they are processed, and what it means.

Monday, Oct. 19: Veterans' Benefits Workshop, 10 a.m. to noon. There will be on-site support, information on VA benefits, and community connections.

Monday, Oct. 19: Cooking for One with Chef Marilyn McGrath, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Enhance your cooking skills, enjoy social interaction, learn how to maximize food budget and learn how to reduce food waste. Don't forget to bring a take-home container. Space is limited. Class cost \$10. Call 860-342-6761 to sign up or go to MyActiveCenter.com.

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.

Center Cemetery Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Portland Burying Ground Association will be held Tuesday, Oct. 6, at 7 p.m., at the home of Peggy Tierney, 22 Rogers Rd. All are welcome. For more information, call 860-342-1095.

Trinity Church News

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

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

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

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Portland Library News & Notes

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

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

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

Children's Programs: Teen Board Game Night: Monday, Oct. 5, 6 p.m. Teens in grades 6-12 are invited to the first Teen Board Game Night. Bring your own games to share or try some of the ones the library has. No registration required.

Create a Leaf Creature: Thursday, Oct. 15, 3:30 p.m., for grades K-5. Listen to a fall story and then use your imagination and our nature supplies to craft a leaf person, animal or scene on your own. This program will be run by staff at Everyone Outside and will take place on the Town Green by the gazebo. Registration is required.

Teen Program: The Boo-tique Fashion Show: Monday, Oct. 19, 3:30 p.m., for grades six and up. Get ready to walk the runway in your wildest, funniest, and spookiest creations – whether it's a Halloween costume or just an unhinged assortment of mismatched styles. Prizes will be awarded for favorite outfits. Registration is appreciated, but not required.

Adult Programs: Photo Exhibit – "Portland x Portland": In this special exhibit, 13 Portland photographers – Susanne Anderson, Gabriela Andrew, Michael Beck, Dan Castelli, Beau Doherty, Chris Edie, Terry Grady, Chris Graham, Janet Lopes, Cara Mac, Lucinda Patrick,

Sarah Weeden and Frank Winiski – offer their perspectives of their hometown. The exhibit runs through Oct. 8.

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

Adult Craft Night: Decoupage Pumpkins: Tuesday, Oct. 27, 6 p.m. Learn how to make a pumpkin with this fall craft. Use patterned paper napkins on craft pumpkins to create decouped fall decor that you can use year after year. Registration is required and opens on Monday, Oct. 5, at 10 a.m. Space is limited.

Chatham Health Vaccine Clinic: Thursday, Nov. 5, 3:30-5:30 p.m. Chatham Heath District and its partner, Beacon Prescriptions, will have flu, COVID, RSV, shingles, and pneumococcal vaccines available for ages 3 and older. Bring your insurance card and ID. Most major insurances are accepted; Chatham Health does not accept VA, Tri-Care or Hospice insurance. For more information, visit the Chatham Health District website at www.chathamhealth.org/vaccineclinics.

Weekly Knifty Knitters Group: Every Saturday, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Adults of all experience levels are welcome to drop in, share ideas, get helpful knitting tips and chat with others who enjoy knitting and crocheting.

Book Clubs: Talk About Books: Tuesday, Oct. 6, 1 p.m. "Fresh Water for Flowers" by Valerie Perrin will be discussed. **Mystery Lovers Book Club:** Tuesday, Oct. 20, 1 p.m. "The Other Half" by Charlotte Vassell will be discussed. **1st Thursday Night Book Club:** Thursday, Nov 5, 6:30 p.m. "The Berry Pickers" by Amanda Peters will be discussed.

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

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Breakfast on Block Island... In August, Lisa Loffredo of East Hampton went to Block Island, R.I., for a long weekend. Here she is at a breakfast spot near the ferry and Ballards.



Freedom 250... Larry Jacques of Columbia attended the Freedom 250 Grand Prix on Aug. 23 in Washington, DC and brought the *Rivereast* with him.



Biking for a Cause... Pictured is Sara Tarca of Hebron, after completing the Pan-Mass Challenge bike ride on Aug. 2. This was a 162-mile bike ride, finishing up in Provincetown, Mass., that raised funds for Dana Farber Cancer Institute. Tarca brought her *Rivereast* along for the ride!



Bulletin on the Boardwalk... Doug Chapman and Nancy Griffin vacationed in Ocean City, Md., in August, and enjoyed the boardwalk – especially the Purple Moose – as well as the beach, even with the occasional jelly fish.

Where in the World?

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

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Remembering John Jones: Colchester’s Biggest Heart

By Toriana Williams

John H. Jones was the kind of person people noticed. He was a big man with a big smile, a big personality – and an even bigger heart.

For more than 60 years, he gave his time to the people of Colchester, where he worked for the town, served with the fire department, helped his neighbors and served in town government.

Jones, known by many as “Jonesy” or “Big John,” died suddenly on Sept. 16, 2026. He was 77 years old, and his death left a deep sadness in Colchester, a town he has called home since he was 8 years old.

“He was an institution in this town,” said Heide Perham, an administrative assistant at Colchester’s public works department. That thought helps explain why so many people are having a hard time imagining Colchester without Jones.

Jones was born in Middletown on March 9, 1949. He graduated from Bacon Academy in 1967 and, after high school, he worked as a police officer for the Willimantic Police Department. He later joined Pratt & Whitney, where he worked in the maintenance department. But much of Jones’ life was spent serving Colchester.

He joined the Colchester Hayward Volunteer Fire Department when he was only 14 years old. He stayed with the department for about 60 years and served in many different ranks, until he eventually retired as Fire Police Captain.

Jones also worked for the town of Colchester Department of Public Works for 22 years. Near the end of his working career, he served as the town’s interim public works director. Perham worked alongside Jones during that time and said he already knew people all over town, which helped him step seamlessly into the job.

“He was wonderful to work with,” she said.

She also remembered the small things Jones did for people, like stopping at Herman’s Diner

and bringing muffins back to the women he worked with.

“He’d be like, ‘Got some muffins for you, ladies!’” remembered Perham.

It was a small act, but to Perham, it showed the kind of person Jones was. He thought about other people even when they weren’t with him. He asked about their families, he asked how things were going and he made people feel remembered.

“He just was one of those guys who was always ready to help you, always with a kind word,” said Perham.

Selectwoman Rosemary Coyle also had the pleasure of working alongside Jones during his time on the Board of Selectmen. She remembered Jones as a person who brought real-life experiences and common sense to the board.

“I always considered John such an asset to the Board of Selectmen,” said Coyle.

She described Jones as “always very practical [and] realistic,” and noted that his many years of service gave him knowledge that he could share with others.

Coyle also remembered Jones’ first meeting on the Board of Selectmen. According to her, Jones was a very tall man, and the regular chairs at Town Hall were not exactly accommodating. So the town brought in a special chair.

“They actually brought in a special chair for him to sit in,” Coyle laughed.

That chair became part of every meeting, just like Jones. But what Coyle remembers most is not the chair, but Jones’ way of connecting with people.

“John knew everybody. He talked to everybody,” she said.

Coyle also remembered his smile and his caring nature. “His smile, his personality was always pleasant, happy, caring,” she shared.

Coyle said serving besides Jones was a special

part of her life. “I thought the world of John,” she said. “I truly did.”

Jones’ connections to Colchester weren’t limited to his jobs or official titles by any means. He seemed to know people everywhere he went. He could walk into just about any place in town and find someone he knew.

Perham said, “You would see him at a lot of the local businesses, and restaurants, and he knew everybody. Everybody knew him.”

First Selectman Bernie Dennler also described Jones as an integral part of the town.

“Jonesy, as many of us knew him, was a fixture in Colchester,” said Dennler.

Dennler said Jones stayed involved even late into his life. He remained active with the fire department, the fire company and the fire museum. He also continued to care about what was happening in town.

“He cared a lot about his community,” said Dennler.

If Jones saw something that needed attention, he wouldn’t dare just walk past it. He would make a call, speak to someone or reach out to a neighbor.

“He was always trying to make things a little bit better in this town,” said Dennler.

Jones helped people, he served his town and he gave his time. He welcomed new recruits into the fire department and public service and showed younger people what it meant to truly give back.

Dennler said a great way to honor Jones would be to follow his example.

“No one person can fill the gap that gets left behind by somebody like Jonesy,” he said. “I think that while we can’t replace people like Jonesy, we can honor their legacy by continuing to step up for our own communities.”

Jones’ family was also at the center of his life,



John Jones

with his wife Mary and children Jan Maynard and Joseph Jones. He was also a proud grandfather and great-grandfather. Beyond blood, Jones shaped his community into family, too. Now, Colchester must learn how to move forward without him.

“He leaves a really big gap behind,” said Dennler.

Perham said it another way: Jones was “a big man with a big heart – and he leaves a big hole.”

Coyle summed up what many people in Colchester are likely feeling: “We’re just lucky to have had a John Jones in the town of Colchester.”

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.

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.

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

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

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).

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.

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 infor-

mation 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.

Books & Bricks Dinner

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

The evening will feature dinner, conversation and an opportunity to learn more about the preservation and future of Historic Bacon Academy. Marilyn Ackerman, an expert in historic architecture, will give a talk about why the landmark still matters and what it will take to preserve it for generations to come. The evening also includes a silent auction and a basket raf-

fle. All proceeds support the preservation and maintenance of the historic Bacon Academy building.

Tickets are \$30 per person and include dinner and dessert. A cash bar will be available. Seating is limited and reservations are required. Tickets can be bought at www.baconacademytrustees.org, or by contacting the Trustees at info@baconacademytrustees.org or 860-964-3483.

The event is sponsored by Gano’s, Liverant & Sons Antiques, Aurora-McCarthy, Carefree Small Buildings and Noel’s.

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.

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.actblue.com/donate/10826courtneycolchester, or contact jerica@kieloch.com or 719-250-9159.

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Bacon Academy’s New Field Shines Under Friday Night Lights

By **Toriana Williams**

Clear eyes, full hearts, can’t lose.
The new Bacon Academy stadium field is finally open, and it made a bright, exciting and colorful debut under the Friday night lights on Sept. 25.
During the ribbon-cutting held at halftime, the sky seemed to join in on the celebration. Rain stopped, the sun came out and a double rainbow stretched over the field just as the Bacon Academy Bobcats scored their first home touchdown on the new field.
First Selectman Bernie Dennler said the moment created “such an awesome energy in the stands.”
Dave Emery, chair of the Athletic Complex Building Committee, agreed that the field

looked great.
“The field looked fantastic,” he said. He also described the night as “an incredible night with a beautiful rainbow over the field.” Seems like the night won’t be easy to forget.
For students and athletes, the new field means more chances to play under the bright stadium lights. Dennler said the project is about more than just sports, in that he hopes the field will bring people together and become “a new community tradition.”
Emery said it was “a great feeling” to see student athletes and others finally using the stadium field.
“More good things to come,” he added.
The stadium field is finished, but the larger project is still moving forward. Work continues



Colchester celebrated the opening of Bacon Academy’s field on Sept. 25 as the Bobcats scored a touchdown under a double rainbow as it stretched across the sky. *Photo contributed by First Selectman Bernie Dennler.*

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.

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.

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.

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, Oct. 5: 9 a.m., Making Memories, Exercise w/ Anne; 10 a.m., Sittercize, Haircuts with Deborah; 11 a.m., Learn to Sign, Watt’s Wedding Watch Party; 11 a.m.-noon, Fitness Orientation; 12:30 p.m., Mah Jongg, Setback, Bridge; 1 p.m., Seasonal Crafting.
Tuesday, Oct. 6: 9 a.m., Making Memories; 9:45 a.m., Tai Chi; 12:30 p.m., Pinochle; 1 p.m., Cornhole; no Bingo today; 1 p.m., AARP Meet the Candidates; 5:30 p.m., Chair Pilates & Stretch Video; 6 p.m., Journey with Joni, Cribbage.
Wednesday, Oct. 7: 9 a.m., Making Memories, Walking Group; 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Reflexology; 10 a.m., Adult Coloring, Life Review, Hand and Foot Card Game, Sit & Be Fit Video; 11 a.m., Lunch & Learn: Dental Presenation; 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. 8: 9-11 a.m., Vaccine Clinic; 9 a.m., Exercise w/ Anne; 10 a.m., Sittercize, Wii Bowling, Card-Making; 10:30 a.m., Shopping Trip; 11 a.m., Yoga; noon, Sr. Benefits Counseling; 12:05 p.m., Chair Massage; 12:30 p.m., Dominoes, Needlework Club; 6 p.m., Mahjong, Cribbage.
Friday, Oct. 9: 9 a.m., Social Service Hours, Open Art Studio, Seasonal Crafting; 10 a.m., Sit & Be Fit; 10:30 a.m., Choral Group; 11 a.m., Yoga; 11:15 a.m., Chatham Health Education Series; 12:30 p.m., Tech Time with Harry; 1-3:30 p.m., Open Ping Pong; 1:15 p.m., Bingo.
Bunco: Tuesday, Oct. 13, 6 p.m. Players of all levels are welcome. Twelve players are needed; please register at the front desk. Cost is \$5. Cash prizes.
Trivia Night: Thursday, Oct. 15, 6 p.m. Snacks will be provided, and cash prizes will be given. The cost is \$7. .
Fancy Colors Mixed Media Workshop: Thursday, Oct. 15, 12:30 p.m., with Jeff Poole. Students will use self-made papers, printed papers, and magazine cutouts to create a fanciful artwork, realistic or abstract or in between, celebrating the fall season. All materials will be supplied. The cost of this class is \$8 per person.
Tips to Optimize Sleep: Thursday, Oct. 15, 11 a.m. Learn tips to improve sleep and restorative rest with Dr. Wendy Hurwitz. Hurwitz is

nationally recognized on stress and is a former medical researcher for ABC News. This program is free. Funding for this program provided by Brightstar Care of Central Connecticut.
Pizza & A Movie: Tuesday, Oct. 20, 5:30 p.m. Animals, directed by Ben Affleck and starring Gillian Anderson and Kerry Washington, will be shown. The movie is rated R and run time is one hour and 45 minutes. Cost is \$7, and registration is required.
Flannel & Foliage Fall Luncheon: Wednesday, Oct. 21, 11 a.m. Flannels encouraged. John Paul Maureen, new to CSC, will entertain with his guitar with some fan favorites. Menu is broccoli and cheese stuffed chicken breast, butter-milk mashed potatoes, green bean almondine, rolls and carrot cake. Cost is \$10 per person, and space is limited.
DMV Community Outreach Event: Wednesday, Oct. 28, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. DMV-related services such as REAL ID upgrades, driver’s license renewals, non-driver IDs, parking permits, vehicle registration renewals, payment of fines, and more. This is a walk-in event. Appointments are not needed. All fees are applicable. This is a no-cash event; the DMV accepts all major credit/debit cards. The DMV reserves the right to adjust its schedule on the day of the event due to capacity and resource constraints. More information will be made available closer to the event via Email, Facebook and Monday updates.
Diabetes Self-Management Six-Week Workshop: Wednesdays starting Nov. 3. Chatham Health is offering a free, interactive 6- week workshop series (typically meeting once a week for 2.5 hours). As part of the workshop, you will learn action planning, problem-solving, healthier eating, physical activity, stress management, and blood sugar monitoring tools. Open to adults managing diabetes or pre-diabetes, as well as family members and caregivers.
Medicare Open Enrollment: Friday, Nov. 6, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m., by appointment only. Open Enrollment is your opportunity to make changes to Medicare, especially Medicare C (Medicare Advantage Plans) or Medicare D (Prescription Drug Coverage Plans). Meet with a certified CHOICES counselor who is specially trained in Medicare who will help screen you for the best and most affordable coverage for you. Call the office to make an appointment. Space is limited.

President’s List

Colchester residents Sophia Goodine and Elena Picano made the spring 2026 President’s List at Southern Connecticut State University.

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Fernandez Seeks 48th District Seat

By Toriana Williams

Robert “Bob” Fernandez is running for state representative in Connecticut’s 48th House District, which encompasses the *Rivereast* town of Colchester, and Bozrah, Franklin and Lebanon. He is joining the November race against Republican incumbent Mark DeCaprio.

Fernandez, a Democrat who lives in Franklin, said he entered the race because he didn’t want the seat to go uncontested and that he was surprised when he learned DeCaprio might run without an opponent.

“My understanding was that Mr. DeCaprio was going to run unopposed, and I don’t believe that anyone should ever run unopposed,” said Fernandez.

That was what pushed him to become a candidate initially.

“We deserve much more than what we’re getting right now,” he added.

Fernandez brings a long work history in the military, education and labor. He said he grew up in New York City and joined the U.S. Navy after high school. His last duty station was Groton, and then he later bought a home in Franklin, thinking he might eventually move to California.

Instead, he stayed.

“I just fell in love with the area. And 30 years later, all my kids graduated school here, and I’m pretty settled into the community here,” he said.

After leaving the Navy, Fernandez worked in the community college system. He later spent years working for a faculty union at the state Capitol.

Fernandez said he served as the union’s legislative director for close to 11 years. During that time, he worked on student debt, developmental education and programs for students learning English.

He later became a political director for SEIU

32BJ, a union that represents security officers, janitors and cleaners. Fernandez said his work included legislation, dealing with recall, hazard pay and emergency pay legislation.

“That’s how I ended my legislative career,” he said.

He also serves on the Connecticut Contract Standards Board after being appointed by House Speaker Matt Ritter. Fernandez said he chairs the board’s audit committee and has been a member since April of last year.

“That gives me close to 20 years of legislative experience,” he said.

Education is one of Fernandez’s main campaign priorities. He shared that his parents were immigrants who came to the United States with less than a high school education, and his mother worked as a school cleaner. He added that his parents taught him early on that education could help people build a better life for themselves.

“They instilled in my brother and I the importance of education in order to continue to move yourself forward and to make yourself economically sustainable,” he said.

Fernandez also said his mother’s work in a school showed him that raising and educating children takes an entire community. He shared that he wants the state to provide more money to towns through the Education Cost Sharing program, known as ECS.

The program is important, according to Fernandez, because state funding can help towns control local tax pressure, and he believes the towns in the 48th District are not receiving what he thinks they should receive.

“Nothing has happened to the ECS since 2013,” said Fernandez, referring to the program.

Fernandez also criticized DeCaprio’s voting record on state budgets. DeCaprio voted against HB 7287 and SB 1 (2026) during his time in the

legislature, which Fernandez argued would have included money going to Colchester.

Roads and transportation are another major issue for Fernandez. He said some roads in the district need closer study, especially Route 16. Fernandez said the road carries many types of traffic and needs to be made safer.

He also wants the state Department of Transportation to study the roads in all four towns and look at better routes for trucks, passenger cars and farm equipment. He described this as especially important on rural roads where large trucks and farm vehicles share the same space.

“We’re just asking for it,” he said.

“We need to look at infrastructure” in the four towns, he added. According to Fernandez, Bozrah needs a new dam, Franklin needs help with roads and truck weight has significantly damaged infrastructure in that area.

“There are things that need to be done in bonding that need to happen,” he said.

While Fernandez has sharp policy differences with DeCaprio, he said the race is not personal. Like Fernandez, DeCaprio is also a veteran, in which he respects DeCaprio’s military service.

“Mr. DeCaprio should be thanked for his service,” said Fernandez. Then he added that voters should look at the candidates’ policy differences.

“My differences with Mr. DeCaprio are not personal. My differences with Mr. DeCaprio are policy-related,” said Fernandez.

His campaign has also taken him door to door across the district. He said he was approaching his 2,000th door when he spoke with the *Rivereast* and that he had been walking through the district since July, sometimes in pretty hot weather and sometimes getting soaked.

“The people of the 48th are accepting and welcoming,” described Fernandez.

He has spoken with Democrats, Republicans and people who do not agree with him at all. His military background, according to Fernandez, has helped shape the way he talks with voters.

“I never remember in the military either giving help or asking for help, and then first asking what their political affiliation was,” he said.



Bob Fernandez

“I treat people as people - courteously and respectfully.”

Even if they disagree with him, Fernandez said he enjoys meeting voters. “Even people who don’t agree with me, I like speaking with them and hearing what their views on stuff are.”

For Fernandez, the campaign is now about meeting as many voters as possible before Election Day on Nov. 3. His focus, he said, is on “doors, doors and doors.”

According to him, “the best way to answer voters’ questions or perceptions is the candidate,” because he wants voters to hear directly from him. He wants to listen to their concerns and make the case for his ideas. So that means spending the final weeks of the campaign on the road and at people’s doors.

“It’s been a really, really, really great experience,” he said.

‘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.

Cougars in Action

The Colchester Cougars Juniors JV played East Lyme’s JV Squad at home on Monday, Sept. 21. The match continued to be well-balanced, as another tie resulted with a score of 12-12.

First-year players Jamison Bielecki and Mike O’Kane score thier first ever touch downs. Paxton Krummel also had a strong punt return in the second half leading the way for the team to come back.

Christian Life Chapel News

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

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

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

Men’s Bible Study: Mondays, 7 p.m., studying Romans

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

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

Bible Baptist Church News

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

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

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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Proprietor Vito Fornarelli has created a redesign of The Grotto (sports bar, eatery) located at 112 Halls Hill Rd.

New Look for The Grotto

Proprietor Vito Fornarelli has created a redesign of The Grotto (sports bar, eatery) located at 112 Halls Hill Rd. The restaurant was temporarily closed for remodeling and has included an extended bar, large 150-inch screen TV for game days, as well as a new pub menu. The Grotto has a seating

capacity of 60 and will have live music on the weekends. Fornarelli said, “The new remodeling was a work of passion to create this interactive social and eating experience for the Colchester area.” The Grotto is now open seven days a week.

Garden Club ‘Plants and More’ Sale

The Colchester Garden Club will have its fourth annual “Plants and More” Sale on Sunday, Oct. 4, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., at 35 Hayward Ave. There will be locally grown perennials, houseplants, garden tools, handmade gifts, flower pots, and more. Cash or check accepted. The sale will be canceled in the event of

heavy rain. Your purchases help the Colchester Garden Club with its programs including community beautification, senior center activities, youth gardening, and public educational programs. For more information, contact colchestergardenclub@yahoo.com.

Scouting for Food

This weekend, Colchester’s Boy Scout troops and Cub Scout packs are continuing their “Scouting for Food” drive for the Colchester Food Bank. On Saturday, Sept. 26, Scouts distributed 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 particular need for jelly, pasta sauce, breakfast items, canned pasta, healthy snacks, and 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.

Colchester Cares to Meet

Colchester Cares, a giving group that supports various causes in Colchester, will hold its next quarterly meeting Tuesday, Oct. 20, at 7 p.m., at the Carl Guild Community Room, 392 South Main St. 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 es-

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

St. Andrew Church Cemetery Notice

Members of Guardian Angels Parish are working to clear St. Andrew New 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. 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.

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.

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.

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WPCA Ordinance Considered by Council

By Anne Lilburn

On Sept. 29, the Town Council held a Special Meeting and Workshop to discuss the town's newly crafted and revised draft Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) Ordinance.

The new ordinance, once it is finalized and approved, would establish a new WPCA made up of appointed members, thus ending the Town Council's service as the town's WPCA. The council assumed the role of the authority this past spring, when the town fired its Public Utilities Administrator (a position which also serves as the head of the WPCA) and removed all serving members of the WPCA.

This new draft ordinance, which Town Manager Dave Cox said had been revised with feedback from the town attorney, seeks to set rules for oversight of the town's WPCA by the Town Council, while also removing the council from its direct role as the actual WPCA.

The goal of the amendments to the ordinance, according to the document, was "to maintain the Water and Sewer Commission as the Town's Water Pollution Control Authority while establishing greater Town Council oversight and approval of major capital, financial, contractual, property, and long-term policy decisions."

Much of the discussion revolved around determining the guidelines and guardrails around the council's oversight of the WPCA, while also staying within the rules required by state statute around WPCA's, which are required by the state in each municipality and which have certain regulatory obligations, privileges and protections.

Cox reminded the council that, per his conversation with the attorney, "if you're going to assign a WPCA, they need to have operational control and be able to undertake that, and the oversight is based on a reasonable control of finance [as opposed to outright control of every action]."

The town attorney, said Cox, had counseled them that "financial controls [or] approval of contracts over a certain size [are ok], as long as they don't cross a line, but that line isn't a bright one necessarily." At the end of the day, "as long as they don't cross a line and get into operational issues, and taking away operational control, [it's ok]," he said.

While council members did disagree on some finer points and parse over exact wording and specific scenarios that might prove controversial, for the most part, they found agreement over the intended scope of their oversight of the appointed body. They considered exact dollar amounts of WPCA spending that should trigger

review, comment and, at times, approval of the Town Council. In some cases, they also considered whether state regulations allowed the level of oversight which some members sought, particularly when it came to land purchases.

In the end, the council agreed on setting monetary levels for requiring the WPCA to report spending to the council on matters including land acquisition, capital projects, budgets, major contracts, and professional services. Those levels were chosen with an attempt to allow approval of any unusual or non-routine spending, while also not interfering with day-to-day operations or requiring approvals that would come up "at every council meeting."

The council also sought to ensure that they were involved in any decision to expand agreements with other municipalities to participate in the Joint Facilities plan, which currently serves multiple municipalities, including Colchester, Hebron, and Marlborough.

One issue that generated public comment at the top of the meeting was the intention, as expressed in the draft ordinance, to consider professional experience and knowledge when appointing members to the WPCA. Some community members sought to require expertise in the area, and council members took issue with that.

"As much I understand where it's coming

from, I don't necessarily agree," said council member Ted Hintz, a Republican. "We want as many people there with the knowledge, but excluding someone who is ready to dive in and actually take part just because they don't have the [professional experience]? Everyone on council, everyone on Board of Ed, every other elected official, you don't have to have a master's in public service. I don't see how we can force a volunteer to have that."

Council member Jack Solomon, a Democrat, agreed, adding that he thought "it'd be a miracle" if they found seven people with that level of knowledge. The council agreed to have the language stipulate that they should "consider" candidates' expertise.

One important consideration was the length of the term of WPCA members. Cox said that the town attorney had suggested a shorter term than the original five-year term, noting that a three-year term would, in essence, allow "more frequent review" and therefore greater oversight of the board.

In the end, the council concluded its workshop and sent the draft ordinance back to Cox for revision and review by the town attorney. The council will then have the opportunity to view that revised version and will set a public hearing prior to voting on it.

Diecast Enthusiasts to Unite

On Sunday, Oct. 4, diecast enthusiasts are invited to gather at VFW Post 5095, located at 20 North Maple St., for a day of browsing, collecting, trading and buying.

Vendor set-up begins at 7 a.m., with tables available for \$20. Spectators entry is between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m., for an admission fee of \$2.

The kitchen will be open, selling breakfast sandwiches and lunch items. Proceeds from the show will benefit local veterans and VFW Post 5095

For additional information or vendor reservations, call Tommy Cruz at 203-600-9635.

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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.

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.

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Lake Pocotopaug Prepares for the Fall

By Anne Lilburn

Summer has drawn to a close, and East Hampton's Conservation and Lake Commission is winding down the season with a fall reminder to residents that the health of the lake depends on everyone doing their part.

While Lake Pocotopaug got off to a healthy start this summer, hot weather and heavy rains led to its closure to swimming at the very end of August due to an algae (cyanobacteria) bloom. In recent years, the town has used an aeration system and water treatments to improve water quality and reduce the growth of both algae and

hydrilla, an invasive plant.

"Looking back at the summer, we were encouraged by some of the progress we had been seeing, particularly with the absence of hydrilla and [good] water clarity through July," said Lake Commission Chair Jay Hartling. "Unfortunately, the heavy rainfall events and subsequent cyanobacteria bloom at the tail of August were a reminder that we still have significant work ahead of us. The nutrients entering the lake from the surrounding watershed remain a major challenge. Our treatment efforts are important, but they cannot address the problem on their own."

On its Facebook page, the commission described the challenge of protecting the lake as "a year-round effort," and called upon residents to educate themselves and take action to be the best neighbors they could be to the lake.

"Think twice and stop putting fertilizer on your lawn, especially this fall," the commission posted. "Fertilizer is designed to make plants grow. Those same nutrients also help algae grow. Don't apply it simply because it is part of the normal fall routine. If you do fertilize despite our plea, follow the label exactly, keep it off pavement, and never apply it when significant rain is expected."

In addition to fertilizer, the commission encouraged residents to be mindful of picking up pet waste and keeping leaves and grass clippings out of storm drains.

This year, the commission voted to begin the lake's annual winter drawdown on Oct. 19, setting the level at approximately 28-30 inches below the normal lake level. Hartling said that the commission had chosen that date with consideration for residents who might want to maximize their time on the lake, while also factoring in enough time to have a gradual drawdown,

finishing by mid-to-late November, before the winter freeze.

The intent of the drawdown, he said, "is to expose enough of the shoreline to allow us to monitor lake conditions and achieve some nutrient reduction, while also giving waterfront homeowners an opportunity to remove trash and organic material that finds its way into the lake."

The drawdown, he said, "also gives people [on the lake] some room to address shoreline maintenance needs," but he emphasized that the health of the lake didn't just depend on those living on its shoreline.

"One thing I'd really like to emphasize is that everyone living within the watershed has a role in improving the lake's health, not just waterfront property owners," said Hartling. "Fall is a particularly important time to keep leaves, grass clippings and other organic material out of the lake and storm drains. Residents should also avoid fertilizer applications and take steps to reduce runoff from their properties. Ultimately, the health of Lake Pocotopaug depends as much on what we prevent from entering the lake as it does on the treatments we undertake."

Epoch Arts Stage Fright and Hayride

Epoch Arts has renamed its Haunted House; it's now called Stage Fright, and will take place Oct. 16, 17, 23 and 24, from 7-10 p.m., at 27 Skinner St.

This year's theme will be a surprise and you'll only discover it once you enter in. There will be surprises around every corner, Epoch said, and when you exit, you can continue on with the hayride.

Cost is \$15 for both Stage Fright and Hayride. Tickets are for sale online only, at www.epoch-arts.org.

Senior Bowling League Forming

Monday Morning Senior Bowling League Forming.

Seniors in all of the *Rivereast* towns are welcome to join the 10-week Fall Bowling League which starts Monday, Oct. 5, at 10 a.m.

Email Jack Anderson at jackande52@aol.com for more information.

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School Board Honors Community Members

By Anne Lilburn

At its Sept. 28 meeting, the East Hampton Board of Education honored members of the community with the 2026-27 Friend of Education awards.

“Tonight is a very special night,” said Superintendent of Schools Timothy Van Tassel. “For well over a decade, the East Hampton Public Schools have recognized community members who have offered volunteerism [or] served as important parent leaders in our school district, local government officials, community leaders, as well as legislators. We have bestowed upon them a very important and prestigious award in the EHPS called Friends of Education Award.”

The district presented six Friends of Education Awards that night, with administrators presenting the awards to the East Hampton Elementary School PTO’s executive board, East Hampton High School senior Kailyn Granatowski, AirLine Cycles owner Brian Holt, local musicians Jerry Fanfarelli and Mike Buck, and Lions Club member Mary Krogh.

Memorial School Principal Joey Bauer presented the award to the East Hampton Elementary PTO’s executive board, calling the organization “an asset to our community.”

She cited the many fundraisers they organized, and added that “they support many cultural and entertainment events that enrich our learners’ lives and fill their elementary years with joy.”

They “bring energy, smiles and friends with

them,” she said. “No matter what request comes their way, they work together to make it happen. Their collaboration, commitment, dependability and perseverance are inspiring. They are showing our students and staff every day what it means to work hard and give back to your community.”

East Hampton High School senior Kailyn Granatowski was honored for her work with the district’s Unified Sports Program, which provides opportunities for students both with and without disabilities to participate in sporting activities together.

Granatowski coordinated a district-wide Unified Sports Field Day at Center School and “created an environment where students of diverse abilities could participate side by side, reinforcing the values of inclusion, respect and collaboration,” said Center School Principal Jeremy Moore. He commended her as “someone who actively seeks to build more equitable and engaging experiences for all students.”

AirLine Cycles owner Brian Holt was also honored, with East Hampton Middle School Principal Christina Amaral commending his work with the school’s bike club.

“Through his generous financial donation, last year we were able to hire an assistant coach,” she said, “allowing more students to participate safely, while strengthening and expanding the program. Brian’s commitment to supporting youth, promoting healthy lifestyles and invest-

ing in our school community has made a meaningful difference.”

East Hampton High School Principal Eric Verner honored Buck and Fanfarelli, who both perform in the Jukebox 45 Show Band. The pair organized a concert featuring doo wop and oldies bands last spring that helped raise money for the high school’s Project Graduation event.

“Mike and Jerry have given their time, talent and energy in countless ways to support the EHHS senior class,” said Verner. “Their dedication is a wonderful example of what it means to be a friend of education, not simply through words, but through action, service, and a genuine desire to make a difference.”

“They both understand that supporting education extends far beyond the classroom,” Verner continued. “It means creating opportunities, building community, celebrating our students, and making sure that young people know that they have an entire community standing behind them.”

Van Tassel presented another one of the awards to two Rotarians, Kyle Chmielecki and Anne McKinney, who he said had contributed to EHHS by bringing a suicide prevention program called QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) to students. Van Tassel commended Chmielecki and McKinney for their work to get the program going, and their generosity in funding it.

“Students at EHHS were afforded an opportunity to learn how to respond to a mental health crisis as well as suicidal ideation should they ever encounter a close friend or a classmate who is struggling,” he said, noting that all 11th and 12th graders received the training last year, and that this year, and that this year, 11th and 8th grade students would receive the training.”

Van Tassel also presented one final award, to Lions Club member and longtime East Hampton Public Schools supporter Mary Krogh.

“When we talk about traditions in East Hampton, when we talk about history, there is deep history with Mary,” he said. “It’s been over 34 years since a Krogh was named a Friend of

Education for the East Hampton Public Schools. Ted Krogh, Mary’s husband, received this special honor in 1992.”

Van Tassel noted Krogh’s varied and extensive work to support students and educators, from procuring donated supplies to helping to secure funding.

“She has found creative ways to sponsor school district endeavors and provide funding to support much needed programs and services,” he said. “From supporting the Culinary Arts program at the high school last year, to helping cultivate support from the Lions Club to provide funding in the amount of \$8,000 to help fund the high school Belltown Preschool Program for the 2026-27 school year, Mary’s reach has gone so far for helping our children, faculty, staff, the district, as well as the community of East Hampton.”

“We cannot thank Mary enough,” he said, “for her leadership, for not forgetting our schools”

That \$8,000 donation from the Lions Club was recently announced, both in the district’s newsletter and at the meeting. The donation will cover the stipends and scholarships for students in the program. At the Board of Education meeting, the board voted unanimously to accept the donation.

Board of Education Chair Nancy Kohler congratulated the honorees.

“A theme for this year is EHPS being in the heart of the community, and we couldn’t do it without people like you, so thank you to all of you for all that you do for our students and our staff and the district,” she said.

Also at the meeting, the Board of Education made an announcement that board member Ken Barber, a Democrat, had resigned from his position. Kohler described him as “a valued member of this board” and said that the board was “deeply grateful for his commitment and the many contributions he made to this district.”

Barber’s position will need to be filled within 30 days, she said. The board will interview candidates for the position on Oct. 5.

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.

There will be the chance to win raffle prizes and a 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 Pederesen at 860-716-9629 or Ray D’Andrea at 860-303-7592.

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.

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.

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.

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Athletic Hall of Fame Elects Five

Christ Episcopal Church News

Residents to Participate in Jimmy Fund Walk

Jack Salafia, 17, will participate as a Walk Hero. Walk Heroes are adult and pediatric patients who provide inspiration and motivation to walkers along the course. Heroes are matched with walk teams who walk in their honor. Jack was diagnosed with a bone marrow disorder. He is matched with his family and friends' team Bone Marrow and Beyond.

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

Senior Center News & Notes

East Hampton Library News & Notes

Adult Programs: Cookbook Club: Tuesday, Oct. 6, 6:30 p.m. This month's theme is Soup & Bread. Bring a prepared dish and 12 copies of



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Lunch Bunch Outing: Friday, Oct. 23, to Sweet Jean's Café. Depart on the Xtramile bus together at 11:30 a.m. or carpool to the restaurant located at 13 North Main St.

DIY Days: Saturday, Oct. 10, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Children and families in Grades PreK-5 are invited to create a different toy, craft, or treat together each month. No registration required.

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Congregational Church News

The Congregational Church of East Hampton, 59 Main St., welcomes all to worship Sundays at 10 a.m.

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.

Aluminum Food & Soda Can Tabs: Ongoing collection which will be donated to the Shriners Children’s New England hospital in Springfield, Mass. Proceeds support childhood

surgeries performed there, where no patient is charged a fee.

Church World Service School Supply Kits: The church is collecting school supplies for children throughout the world. A donation box is available.

Women’s Fellowship Dignity Drive: This is an ongoing collection to support women and girls in need, both globally and right here in our community. Collecting feminine hygiene products for our local food bank and schools, as well as Church World Service.

For more information, visit cc-eh.org or call the office at 860-267-4959. Office hours are Monday and Wednesday, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

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.

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 Night: 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.

Save the Date for Health Expo

The East Hampton Commission on Aging will hold the second annual East Hampton Health Expo on Saturday, Nov. 7 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at East Hampton High School. People of all ages are encouraged to attend and the entire event, including on-site vaccinations, is free.

The health expo will include doctors and experts talking about improving longevity, GLP-1s, medical marijuana, wills and estates, bone health, preventing falls, proper nutrition, medications for Alzheimer’s disease, and more.

In addition, dozens of vendors will have tables with information about their health-related services.

Refreshments will be served. Watch the *Rivereast* for more information in the coming weeks.

Project Graduation Purse Bingo

All are invited to the third annual Designer Purse Bingo to help support the East Hampton High School Project Graduation party – a safe all-night graduation party for all EHHS graduates.

Designer Purse Bingo will be held Saturday, Oct. 3, at Rule of 3 Brewing, 201 West High St. Doors open at 6:15 p.m., and games start at 7 p.m.

In addition to your chances to win designer purses from Coach, Michal Kors, Dooney & Bourke and Kate Spade, there will also be additional basket raffles and extra bingo card sales.

This event sells out quickly and tickets will not be available at the door. Tickets can only be purchased online, at ehhsprojectgraduation.ludus.com.

Absentee Ballots Available

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.

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

to donate funds to help support middle school baseball and softball programs that were cut from the school budget this past year.

Pricing: Single Golfer, \$160; Twosome, \$320; Threesome, \$480; and Foursome, \$590. Money isn’t due until the day of the tournament.

Dinner-only tickets and additional raffle/game packages will also be available for \$30.

To register, contact Tom Caselli at tcaselli15@gmail.com.

Patriotic Scholarships Available

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

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

The essay competitions are designed to help encourage a better understanding and appreciation for America and work to foster patriotism among today’s youth.

The Voice of Democracy audio-essay competition is open to high school students in ninth to 12th grade, with the national first place prize scholarship totaling \$35,000. The first-place Department (state) winners receive an all-expenses-paid trip to attend a “Founding Forward’s Spirit of American Youth Leadership”

program at Valley Forge, Pa., where they compete for more than \$170,000 in National scholarship awards.

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

Entry forms and additional information may be found at www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/youth-scholarships, in the town library lobby rack, or the Post Home. Student entries may

be submitted (along with a completed entry form) to VFW Post 5095, 20 North Maple St., East Hampton, CT 06424.

The deadline for both contests is midnight Oct. 31.

Wreaths Across America

Fowler-Dix-Park Post & Auxiliary 5095 will be participating in its 19th Wreaths Across America annual wreath-laying event. Wreaths Across America is a worldwide event honoring veterans with the laying of a wreath on their headstone or marker. This year’s event will be held on Dec. 19.

East Hampton’s Wreath Across America ceremony takes place at the Book of Names Memorial, located across the street from the VFW Post at 20 North Maple Street on Saturday Dec. 19, at noon. Seventeen wreaths are placed during our ceremony, one for each branch of the service, a Prisoner of War/Missing in Action, one in memory and honor of Gov. William O’Neill, and one for each of the auxiliary’s ‘adopted’ eight forgotten soldiers who are buried in the Middletown State Veterans Cemetery.

The VFW Auxiliary is asking the public to sponsor additional wreaths to be placed at various soldiers’ gravesites in all 12 cemeteries in town. Sponsors are asked to donate \$17 per wreath to help provide as many wreaths as possible. As volunteers place a wreath on a soldier’s grave, they repeat the soldier’s name aloud.

One can sponsor a wreath by sending a sponsorship form to VFW Auxiliary 5095, 20 N. Ma-

ple St., East Hampton, CT 06424. Checks should be made out to “VFW Auxiliary 5095” with “WAA” on the memo line. Forms can be found at the post and East Hampton Public Library. In lieu of a form, send name, address, phone, e-mail, the number of sponsored wreaths at \$17 each with a check to the above address.

The Auxiliary asks that all forms be returned by Nov. 11, to ensure your order is processed in a timely manner. To learn more about Wreaths Across America, visit www.wreathsassamerica.org.

Used Book Fair

All are invited to join the Friends of the East Hampton Public Library on Saturday, Oct. 17, from 2-5 p.m., for a small, curated used book fair at Rule of 3 Brewing, 201 West High St.

The Friends will sell books in like-new condition, as well as other swag. Beverages will be available for purchase at Rule of 3. A discount will be available for those that show their library card at the bar.

Check out the Friends’ Facebook page for more details, at www.facebook.com/friendsof-heeasthamptonpubliclibrary.

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Concert on Appleton Organ

“Appleton & America,” an organ and violin celebration, will take place Sunday, Oct. 11, at 4 p.m., at Second Congregational Church, 52 Middle Haddam Rd., Middle Haddam.

This all-ages concert will feature music by Mozart, Balbastre, Chevalier St. George’s, Rameau, Fauré, Caplet and Hewitt, played on the church’s 1827 Appleton organ, which is now approaching its 200th anniversary.

Special guests will be organist Jared Lamenzo, from Old St. Patrick’s Cathedral, and violinist Lavinia Pavlish.

For more information, call Bob Marshall at 203-232-7387.

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‘The Human Library’ Coming Oct. 17

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

The Human Library is like a regular library only instead of checking out paper books, readers check out human Books. The human Books are people who have experienced discrimination or bias because of their lifestyle, beliefs,

physical condition, heritage, religion, or identity. The human Books are all volunteers, most of whom come from the area. At the event, people can have 30-minute conversations with the Books they’d like to talk with. They can ask questions about the Book’s life and their experiences. At Human Library events, Books have shared how it is to be blind, homeless, a gang leader, a tribal leader, having ADHD, surviving sexual abuse, and growing up in foster care.

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

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.

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.

Oct. 4 is World Communion Sunday and Harvest Sunday. The service will be led by Seaver. Her sermon is titled “A People That Produce Fruit” based on Matthew 21:33-46. Holy Communion is open to all, regardless of church affiliation, including children with parental guidance. On the church’s annual Harvest Sunday, parishioners are invited to bring fresh fruits and vegetables to worship that will be delivered to the Marlborough Food Bank.

Weekly Program: Senior Stretch and Strengthen meets Fridays at 9:45 a.m., upstairs in the Thienes Lounge. Cost is \$25 per class. 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.

Town-Wide Tag Sale Coming

Marlborough Parks & Recreation will hold its annual Town-Wide Tag Sale, coming up Saturday, Oct. 3, from 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

For more information, visit www.marlboroughct.gov.

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,

residents 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.

Upcoming Election Info

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

Townwide Tag Sale: Saturday 10/3, 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m., at the center. Come name your price. All proceeds support senior center programs and activities.

Folk Art Pumpkin-Painting: Come get crafty with us as we create Folk art/Scandinavian pumpkin stencil painting. Focus on the simple, symmetrical designs over cider and other classic fall treats. October 13th at 10am. Call (860)295-6209. RSVP by 10/09. Free.

Encore Club: Jackie and Andrew are a local duo that specializes in a soft jazz, 50s-70s, soft rock and modern pop! Come enjoy their music over light refreshments. Oct. 14, 12:30-2 p.m. Free.

Marlborough Senior Center Health Fair and Chatham Health Vaccine Clinic: Join us for an afternoon of helpful information, valuable resources, and community connections focused on healthy aging. Oct. 16, 1-3 p.m. Free.

Nail Care: Britani from Olsen Homecare will be providing a toe nail cutting service. \$35 cash only. Service includes foot soak, nail trim and lotion. Oct. 21, 9 a.m.-noon, by appointment only.

Cooking with Matt: All are invited to this cooking demonstration celebrating America 250. Step back in time and discover the flavors of Colonial New England as you learn to make classic New England succotash, colonial-style johnny cakes, and apple fritters. October 19, 2-4pm. \$10 Marlborough residents, \$12 non-

residents.

Fall Costume Party: Come dressed in your favorite fall or Halloween costume, enjoy a delicious catered lunch, and test your music knowledge with free Music Bingo. \$10 Marlborough residents, \$12 non-residents.

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: Energy Assistance: Heating (oil, electric, heat included in rent, propane, pellets, wood) assistance available through CEAP. season 9/1- 5/31/27. Income based – household 1/\$48,714, household of 2/\$63,703. Application assistance for residents 55+ through senior center.

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

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

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

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

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by George M. Mantikas, DMD

CHOOSING AN ELECTRIC TOOTHBRUSH

Many electric toothbrush models provide a deeper clean than manual ones. Choosing an electric toothbrush is, in some ways, much like choosing a manual toothbrush: the head size should be small enough to reach your back teeth, the bristles should be soft and contoured instead of hard and straight, and the handle should provide a firm grip. But when it comes to head and bristle vibration, an oscillating motion is best. Bristles that simply vibrate provide no benefit over a manual toothbrush. Another feature to look for is a range of settings, such as different cleaning modes, a pressure sensor, and a self-timer. Without these personalized settings, electric toothbrush oscillations may feel uncomfortable or even painful.

There is no magic to achieving optimum dental hygiene success. Almost everyone can do it with a modest amount of time invested daily in brushing and flossing. Keeping up with home dental care as well as scheduling periodic cleanings and wellness exams are two important steps toward accomplishing the goal of a healthy mouth. For full-service dental care for all members of your family, please call us for an appointment.

P.S. If you use a battery-powered toothbrush, be sure to change the batteries often or whenever you notice the oscillations begin to slow.

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Selectmen Eye Veteran Tax Relief, Senior Center Upgrades

By Toriana Williams

The Marlborough Board of Selectmen spent its two September meetings looking at several issues that could affect town spending and services. The board delayed a decision on new property tax breaks for disabled veterans while it gathered more information on the cost. It also asked for more study of plant growth in Lake Terramuggus and heard plans for changes to the Senior Center and other community spaces.

Veteran Tax Relief Draws Support
One of the biggest topics at both meetings was a proposal to give additional property tax relief to certain veterans and their families.

At the Sept. 1 meeting, resident Jim Bernier asked the board to adopt tax exemptions that are allowed under state law. The exemptions would cover certain veterans who are 100% permanently and totally disabled, some surviving spouses, veterans who are considered totally disabled because they cannot work and Gold Star surviving spouses.

Bernier told the board that the proposal would affect a small number of people. “Here in Marlborough, the same VA data identified only six permanent and total disabled veterans in the entire town,” said Bernier.

He also asked the town to make the yearly filing process easier for veterans whose disability status has already been approved.

“The General Assembly of Connecticut has given municipalities this authority to make these choices,” said Bernier. “Other Connecticut communities ... have already chosen to provide some or all of these additional protections.”

The board decided to not make a final decision at the meeting. Instead, selectmen said they needed to understand how much the tax breaks could cost the town. The board voted to table the issue until Sept. 15.

At said Sept. 15 meeting, several residents spoke in favor of the tax relief for disabled veterans. Others said the town must understand the

cost before making a decision.
Board of Selectmen Chair Susan McFarland, a Democrat, said more work was needed. The board asked Town Manager David Porter to gather better information about the number of people who could qualify and the effect on the town budget. The board then voted unanimously to move the issue to the Oct. 20 meeting.

Senior Center Upgrades
The board looked at several ideas for the future of the Marlborough Senior Center and other public spaces. Hughes shared with the board three main options.

One option would be to expand the current Senior Center. However, the building is small and near wetlands. Expanding outward could take away parking and building upward would require an elevator and another way out of the building. The work was estimated to cost between \$2.4 million and \$3 million, and the center would be unusable during construction.

A second option would move the Senior Center to the west end of the elementary school. That space has a gym, bathroom, six classrooms, a kitchen and a workshop. It could become a larger community center with many uses, and the estimated cost is \$6 million to \$7 million, with about 9 months of construction.

A third option would be to renovate the second floor of the library. The space has about 2,800 square feet and could be used for meetings and other town activities. The project could cost \$2.5 million to \$3 million and take six to nine months to complete.

No decision was formally made, and the board asked Hughes to return with draft plans and more details.

Lake Terramuggus Plant Growth
The board also spent time on plant growth in its local lake. At the Sept. 1 meeting, members compared two possible studies of the lake: one option from LandTech was expected to

cost about \$4,000 to \$5,000, and a state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) option was quoted at \$830.
The board asked the Lake Advisory Commission to compare the two scopes of work before the town spends money.

“Let’s ask them to compare the scopes of work for what DEEP says they will do compared to LandTech and compare the difference,” McFarland.

The discussion then became more serious when the board heard about possible invasive milfoil in the lake. Selectman John Rizza, a Democrat, shared a recommendation from Brendan Haggerty, a consultant with the Green Schools National Network, who raised concerns about a patch of plant growth at the south end of the lake.

The board discussed whether the plants should be removed by hand or treated in another way. McFarland said the town should make sure an expert approves the plan before plants are removed.

“I just want to make sure that harvesting is the right thing to do and it doesn’t encourage spread,” she said.

The board also wanted information about nitrogen levels in the lake before and after sewer work because they wanted to understand whether past efforts to reduce pollution had changed the lake’s water quality.

During the Sept. 15 selectmen’s meeting, Peter Hughes, director of planning and development, reported that the lake’s plant growth was

especially strong this year, but that only, native species had been identified and that no invasive species had been found during inspection. Another inspection was planned for late this month, with a report expected in October.

Other Business
The board also reviewed the town’s finances. On Sept. 15, Finance Director Tony Genovese said the town was in a strong financial position. He said the town’s audit was complete and would be discussed at the next meeting.

The board then discussed a possible reorganization of the Finance Department. Porter said staff members have been cross-trained and that the department is fully funded under the current budget. He also explained that the elected town treasurer is separate from the finance department, but the two offices work together as a check on each other.

The board delayed a decision on a marker for the Liberty Tree until the America 250 committee provides a plan and cost estimate. Funding for the marker is expected to come from donations connected to the town’s America 250 celebrations.

Other updates included: a temporary roof patch was applied at Public Works to stop a leak, and a request for quotes will be sent out for bids shortly for a new roof; the Transfer Station has received a new compactor and it will be installed this week, and is planned to be ready for service after print-time; and there is a town-wide tag sale planned for Saturday, Oct. 3.

Lions Complete Score Booth Refurbishment

The Marlborough Lions Club has announced the completion of its latest community service project at the West Road ball field.

Last year, the club undertook the refurbishment of the field’s scoreboard. The original plan included placing a Lions emblem on the steel support beam; however, it was determined that the location was too small and too distant for visitors to clearly see the sign.

Lions members Tom Reiser and Jean-Paul Bolduc then worked with the Town of Marlborough and the Parks and Recreation Department to develop an alternative plan. After receiving approval, the Lions shifted their ef-

forts to refurbishing the score booth door. Bolduc took on the project, which required approximately six hours of volunteer labor over several days, allowing for proper paint curing time between coats. The paint color was chosen to complement the existing brickwork, and additional repairs were made to the lower portion of the door to improve its appearance and durability.

If interested in joining the Marlborough Lions or learning more about the group, email marlboroughclions@gmail.com or call membership chair Brian McDermott at 860-918-0800.

St. John Fisher Church News & Notes

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

Liturgical Celebrations: Weekend Masses: 4 p.m. Saturday and 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday. 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 parish fellowship. For details, see the church calendar available on the church website.

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

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

Country Line Dancing Fundraiser

There will be a Country Line Dancing Fundraiser Friday, Oct. 9, from 6-9 p.m., at the Marlborough American Legion, 128 East Hampton Rd. All are invited.

Aric Lemeux of Sound Train Music will DJ and lead country line dancing. Cost is \$10. Bring your own snacks. Cash bar available.

Spanish Mass Offering at St. John Fisher

Starting this 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.

Local Art at Town Hall

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

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

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

Parks and Rec. Programs

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

Youth Programs: 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.

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

Safe at Home: For grades 4-6. Wednesday, Oct. 14, 5-6:30 p.m., at Marlborough Senior Center. Participants will learn skills to prepare them to be safe when home alone. Fee is \$65/resident, \$70/non-resident.

Kids Sewing: Open Sew: Saturdays, Oct. 17 and Nov. 7, 10-11:30 a.m., at Marlborough Senior Center. Kids can explore sewing beyond the basics in this once monthly meeting. Fee: \$49/resident, \$54/non-resident.

Safe Sitter: For grades 6-8. Saturday, Nov. 7,

9 a.m.-2:30 p.m., at Marlborough Senior Center. Designed to prepare students in grades 6-8 to be safe when they’re home alone, watching younger siblings, or babysitting. Fee: \$140/resident, \$145/non-resident.

Horseback Riding Lessons: Ages 5 and up. Lesson days and times are flexible. Fee is four lessons for \$175/residents, \$180/non-residents.

Adult Programs: Beginner Tai Chi: Tuesdays/Thursdays, noon-12:45 p.m., at Marlborough Senior Center. Fee is \$40/resident, \$45/non-resident.

Beginner and Intermediate Tai Chi: Tuesdays/Thursdays, 12:40-1:45 p.m., at Marlborough Senior Center. Fee is \$40/resident, \$45/non-resident.

Adult Volleyball: Thursdays, 8-10 p.m., at Marlborough Elementary School. Fee is \$5 per week. Session begins Oct. 5.

Zumba Class – Fall Session: Tuesdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m., at Marlborough Senior Center. Fee is \$60/resident, \$65/non-resident, or a \$10 drop-in fee. Register on the Parks and Rec. website.

Pickleball: Mondays, 5:30-7:30 p.m., and Tuesdays/Thursdays, 9-11 a.m., at Blish Park. Open to all levels of play. Registration is free.

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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.

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.

Farmers Market Wrapping Up

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

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

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

Winter Clothes Drive

All are asked to donate any new or gently used coats, jackets, gloves, mittens or blankets to the Knights of Columbus Marlborough Council 15734’s annual winter clothes drive

Clothes will be collected now through Nov. 7 and can be dropped off in drop box at St. John Fisher Church (basement) and Richmond Memorial Library (lobby).

There will also be a collection on the town green on Saturday, Nov. 7, starting at 9 a.m. and ending at 6 p.m.

Setback Tournament

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

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

For more information, contact Sharon at 860-805-6917.

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★ *Portland Fair, cont. from page 1*

and noise-cancelling headphones for those who need a break from the hustle and bustle of the fair.

Both Kelley and Chester also said they were excited about a special exhibit about Indian Motorcycles and its founder Oscar Hedstrom, that will be housed in the Crafts and Community tent this year. The exhibit, which will feature historic motorcycles, was put together by the Portland Historical Society and will focus on the life of Hedstrom, who was a Portland resident.

“Our tent team this year is 250 Years of Progress in Agriculture,” said Kelley, “so for the exhibit piece of that, we’ve asked people to come up with various things highlighting 250 years of agriculture. So, for photography, it’s a photo of a local farm or their favorite farmer; for flowers, it’s native wildflowers.”

For kids, the tent will also host a Sunday Maker Space event with Dr. Nate O’Day, where kids under the age of 11 will be able to make their own wooden whistle and see a 3-D printer in action.

Chester said that one of the most impressive things about the fair is that it all gets planned and put together by a dedicated group of about 15 year-round volunteers. She said she herself got involved roughly ten years ago, and served

as a vice president before eventually stepping into the role of president. She said that the fair is always looking for volunteers, both for year-round positions and for extra help during the event. Kelley said that she had over a dozen additional volunteers who would be helping at the Crafts tent, and other events and tents also will have volunteers helping out.

Chester said that anyone interested in helping out, even last minute, could email volunteer-portlandfair@gmail.com. Many of those who are running tents, like Kelley, have been volunteering for years. She started as a Canning Supervisor before stepping into her current role, and said she loves working on the annual event.

“I love fair weekend,” Kelley said. “I love seeing all the volunteers come together. I love seeing the community come out and support us. I love watching everybody get to have fun. It’s really exciting, and I really enjoy running the Crafts and Community Tent, because we have so many creative people around – and it’s not just our town. People from all over come and submit their items to the fair, and it’s just really amazing to see the talent that some people have, and it just blows my mind every year what people can create or do or make, and the ideas that they have.”

Grief Share Support Group to Start

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

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

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

Grief Share features nationally recognized experts on grief recovery topics. Seminar sessions include “The Challenges of Grief,” “Grief and Your Relationships,” “Why?,” “Guilt and Anger” and more. This is not a consecutive program. If you have started a Grief Share program before and have not finished or come in the middle of

the sessions, you may still participate again.

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

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

Election Day Bake Sale

The Marlborough PTO will hold an Election Day Bake Sale Tuesday, Nov. 3, from 6 a.m. until 10 a.m. or sold out.

The PTO will sell baked goods and coffee in the school cafeteria.

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★ *New Pastor, cont. from page 1*

speaks English, Spanish and Italian, which has already shaped some of his plans for St. John Fisher.

Several Spanish-speaking families have asked for a Spanish Mass. In response, Zapata is starting a Spanish vigil Mass at 6 p.m. on the first Saturday of each month beginning this weekend, Oct. 3. But he doesn’t want the Spanish-speaking community to feel like a separate group.

“I want to clarify that we won’t be like two different groups separated,” he said. Instead, Zapata wants the Mass to bring people together.

He said English-speaking members who know Spanish can take part, too. Some may even help as ushers or lectors. His goal is to make the Spanish Mass part of the larger parish.

“Not to create two different, let’s say, liturgies, but just an opportunity for those who speak Spanish to come together,” he said.

He also hopes children from Spanish-speaking families will eventually become part of the English Masses as they get to know the church.

A Busy and Caring Church

Zapata arrived at a parish that already has many activities ongoing. Members make hundreds of sandwiches for people in need, and the church also has a community garden where vegetables grown there go to the Marlborough food pantry.

There are men’s and women’s prayer groups, too.

Zapata has quickly become part of the parish community. At one men’s prayer group breakfast, members made him arepas, a food he knows well from Colombia.

“Arepas are very, very, very beloved in Colombia,” he said.

For Zapata, the meal felt like a warm welcome to his new home. He also praised the church’s music. He said the entire congregation sings, rather than leaving all the singing to the small choir.

“It’s a beautiful thing to know,” he said.

Zapata described St. John Fisher as a small

but active church.

“It is a very, very alive parish,” he said. “It is very hospitable, very welcoming.”

Faith as a Guiding Light

It should come as no surprise that Zapata’s faith is at the center of his work. When asked how he would explain faith to another person, he called it a guiding light.

“Faith, it is an inspiration. It is a guiding light for your life,” he said.

He said faith shapes how people act, how they treat others and how they respond when someone needs help. For Catholics and Christians, he said, faith is like “our spiritual DNA.”

He believes faith should not only be something people talk about inside a church but something seen in the way they live.

“Being spiritual is only seen by how we live and how we behave,” he said.

That includes listening to others, speaking with kindness and helping people in need.

Keeping Sermons Short and Meaningful

Zapata also has a routine when it comes to preparing his sermons. First, he studies the Bible readings for the week. Then he prays and asks the Holy Spirit for guidance. After that, he looks for the main idea he wants people to take from the sermon.

“Sometimes I just give my homily from the heart spontaneously,” he said.

He’s aware that long sermons can lose people’s attention, so he tries to keep his message short.

“I prefer to give my homilies for eight minutes at the most,” he said.

Sometimes Zapata walks down from the altar and speaks among the people. That style seems to fit his larger goal for the parish: bringing the pastor and the people closer together.

And so far, Zapata said, Marlborough has welcomed him. He has already met local business owners and said they have welcomed him into their restaurants and shops.

“The town is small, but the community is very respectful and kind, and I feel totally welcome here,” he said.

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Rivereast Standouts of the Week (Double Dose)

By Josh Howard
Rian Calhoun – RHAM High School (Volleyball): Calhoun hit the 2,000-career assist mark as Raptors volleyball defeated Simsbury in straight sets on Sept. 25. Calhoun, a senior, finished the historic night with 31 assists – adding 9 digs, 4 kills, 2 blocks, and an ace. In the team’s previous victory, a five-set win over Southington on Sept. 23, she tallied 42 assists, 5 kills, and 2 aces. Calhoun is a two-time All-Central Connecticut Conference (CCC) selection and has been the team’s starting setter the past three years, playing point as the Raptors captured a pair of state championships (2023 and 2025).

Zach Chiarella – Bacon Academy (Soccer): Chiarella, a senior captain, has powered the offense as the Bobcats have posted a record of 4-1-1 through the first half dozen matches, all on the road. During the team’s recent three-game winning streak, Chiarella led the Bobcats with 5 goals and 3 assists as the team beat Eastern Connecticut Conference (ECC) rivals Stonington and Killingly, along with Central Connecticut Conference (CCC) powerhouse East Hartford. In the win over the Hornets of East Hartford, Chiarella scored the game-winner as Bacon won, 1-0, blanking a third straight opponent. After playing the first six games on the road, the team is now in the beginning stages of a seven-game homestand, next hosting Waterford on Monday, Oct. 5 at 6 p.m.

Damian Digioia – Portland High School (Football): Digioia scored a touchdown as the Cromwell/Portland co-op defeated Weaver/Hartford Public/Classical 28-0 at Weaver High School on Sept. 25. Digioia, a junior, scored on a two-yard run in the fourth quarter to wrap up the scoring. He also had a 14-yard run in the game. The Panthers (1-2) return to Pierson Park this Friday, Oct. 2 to host Lyme/Old Lyme (3-0) at 6 p.m.

Brendan Kissane – East Hampton High School (Cross-Country): Kissane placed

fourth at the 14th Annual Winding Trails Cross-Country Invitational in Farmington on Sept. 19. Kissane, a junior, posted a personal-best time of 16:58 to help the Bellringers win the Small School Varsity division as a team. He was one of six Bellringers to place in the top 20 out of the 84 total competitors as teammates Luke Garcia (7th), Jackson Moulthrope (8th), Brett Gustavson (13th), Dolan Krasnitski (18th), and Lee Barron (19th) followed Kissane’s lead across the finish line. East Hampton is preparing for the Shoreline Conference Championship and Class S state championship, slated for later this month.

Morgan McCarthy – RHAM High School (Soccer): McCarthy scored a pair of goals as the Raptors blanked Manchester, 5-0, at RHAM High School on Sept. 25. McCarthy, a senior captain, led an offensive charge that also got a goal and assist from Liana Fox and Giuliana McLaughlin. Julia Fournier added a goal, while Milayna Daley, Becca Koonankeil, and Tessa Wallace dished out helper. The win improved the Raptors to 5-1 overall. The team will next host Glastonbury on Monday, Oct. 5 under the lights at RHAM High School, starting at 6 p.m.

Boden Paul – Bacon Academy (Cross-Country): Paul won the 14th Annual Harry Geraghty Cross-Country Invitational at Nev-ers Park in South Windsor on Sept. 25. Paul, a senior, dominated the field, crossing the finish line 10 seconds faster than the next competitor. He completed the 5,000-meter course with a time 16:51, besting runner-up Deacon Gascon (17:01) of Tolland and the other 111 people in the field. After winning both conference and state running titles as a junior, Paul will now turn his attention to the Eastern Connecticut Conference (ECC) championships and Class S state championships, scheduled for later this month.

Diego Puente – Portland High School (Soc- cer): Puente netted two goals as the Highland-



Rian Calhoun, a senior setter on the RHAM High School volleyball team, reached 2,000 career assists during the Raptors victory over Simsbury last Friday.

ers blanked Westbrook 5-0 on Sept. 18. Puente, a senior, led an offensive charge that also got and goal and three assists from sophomore Tyler Fournier. Senior Aidan Curry also found the back of the net and Shane Guilmette dished out a helper. The team next plays on the road, traveling to Coginchaug Regional High School for a conference clash on Saturday, Oct. 3 at noon before returning to PHS to host Old Saybrook on Monday, Oct. 5 at 4 p.m.

Cassie Owocki – East Hampton High School (Soccer): Owocki has been a brick wall in goal as the Bellringers have started the season

with seven straight wins, blanking five of those opponents. Owocki, a junior, most recently kept a clean sheet during a 6-0 victory over Lyme-Old Lyme on Sept. 28. It marked the team’s fourth shutout in a row. Supporting Owocki on the offensive end was Liv Correia, who scored a pair of goals and dished out an assist in the latest victory. The team next hosts Westbrook at EHHS on Sunday, Oct. 4 at 2 p.m.

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

Benefit Concert for CVC

A benefit concert for the Community Voice Channel – the public access channel for Andover, Hebron and Marlborough – will be held next weekend.

“Rock This Town presents A CVC Benefit Concert” on Sunday, Oct. 11, from 11 a.m.-7 p.m., at Market Park, 72 Maple St., Ellington. Rain date is Oct. 18.

This immersive music event will bring together top artists, emerging talents, engaging activities, food trucks, vendors, and music enthusiasts to celebrate the future of CVC.

Participating bands are: The Connecticut Belles, MC and the All Stars, Jim Blanch and

Boot Hill
Mischief, Barry Searle and The Wolf Hill Band, Cover 2 Cover, Cobblestone Road, Feed-Back, Village Maid Band, 70s FM, and Tie Dye Four Band.

Tickets are \$10 for ages 16 and over, \$5 for ages 5-15, and free for ages 4 and under. Tickets will help bring awareness to CVC’s mission, help with CVC’s funding gap and continue to provide this free platform for community members in Tolland County.

For tickets and more information visit tinyurl.com/cvcbenefit. And to make a separate donation to CVC, visit givebutter.com/HelpCVC

Important Election Info

Election Day is coming up Tuesday, Nov. 3, and there are some important related dates coming up, for readers in all *Rivereast towns*.

Oct. 16: All registrars of voters’ offices in Connecticut will hold a statewide voter registration session from 9 a.m.-8 p.m. This is the last regular session for admission of electors who have turned 18, become a U.S. citizen, or moved to Connecticut. Any mail registrations must be postmarked by this day. Registration at DMV offices must be done by the close of business, and online registrations must be completed by 11:59 p.m.

Nov. 2: All registrars of voters’ offices in Connecticut will hold a statewide voter registration session from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. This is the last registration session for admission of electors who have turned 18, become a U.S. citizen, or moved to Connecticut since Oct. 16 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.

Early Voting: Oct. 19-Nov. 1: All Connecticut towns will hold Early Voting beginning Oct. 19 and ending Nov. 1. The hours are 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. each day, with the exception of Oct. 27 and Oct. 29, when the locations will be open from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m.

For more information, contact your local registrars of voters office. In Andover, the number is 860-742-7305 ext. 224; in Colchester, it’s 860-537-7204 for the Democratic registrar voters and 860-537-7249 for the Republican one; in East Hampton, it’s 860-267-6720; in Hebron, it’s 860-228-5971 ext. 134; in Marlborough, it’s 860-295-6166; and in Portland, the number is 860-342-6747.

Chatham Health Vaccine Clinics

The Chatham Health District has announced its schedule of fall vaccination clinics. Flu, CO-VID-19, RSV, pneumonia and shingles vaccines will be offered. No appointment is necessary. For more information, visit Chathamhealth.org. The schedule is:

10/5: Richmond Memorial Library, 15 School Drive, Marlborough, from 4-6 p.m.; 10/6: Russell Mercier Senior Center, 14 Stonecroft Drive, Hebron, from noon-2 p.m.; 10/6: RHAM High School, 85 Wall St., Hebron, from 3-5 p.m.; 10/7: East Hampton Senior Center, 105 Main St., East Hampton, from 10 a.m.-noon; 10/8: Colchester Senior Center, 10 Louis Lane, Colchester, from 9-11 a.m.;

10/13: Portland Senior Center, 7 Waverly Ave., Portland, from 11 a.m.-1 p.m.; 10/13: Colchester Federated Church, 60 Main St., Colchester, from 3:30-6 p.m.; 10/14: East Hampton

Town Hall, 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, from 4-6 p.m.; 10/15: KOCO Daycare, 12 Long Crossing Rd., East Hampton, from 4-6 p.m.; 10/16: Marlborough Senior Center, 17 School Drive, Marlborough, from 1-3 p.m.;

10/20: Portland Housing Authority, 9 Chatham Court, Portland, 4-6 p.m.; 10/26: AHM Youth and Family Services, 25 Pendleton Drive, Hebron, from 5-7 p.m.; 10/29: Nathan Hale Ray High School, 15 School Rd., Moodus, 3-6 p.m.; 11/5: Portland Public Library, 20 Freestone Ave., 3:30-5:30 p.m.; 11/7: East Hampton High School, 15 N. Maple St., East Hampton, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; 11/12: Colchester Senior Center, 10 Louis Lane, Colchester, from 9-11 a.m.

Call the Chatham Health District at 860-365-0884 for more information. Contact the office for proof of vaccination if needed.

VITA Seeks Volunteers

Since 2009, the Middlesex VITA Coalition has helped thousands of area residents file their taxes at no cost. As part of the IRS-sponsored Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, the coalition is seeking volunteers to help continue the mission.

Middlesex VITA specializes in maximizing tax credits for families and individuals with incomes under \$70,000. No prior tax prepara-

tion experience is required, as training is provided. You will collaboratively prepare client returns, ensuring you’re never working alone.

Middlesex County includes the *Rivereast* towns of Portland and East Hampton.

Training begins in early January. If interested in volunteering, email MiddlesexCT.Vita@gmail.com, or connect on Facebook at “Middlesex CT VITA.”

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Submissions Accepted for ‘Fall Into Art’

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

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

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

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

For more information, visit ahmyouth.org.

www.creators.com

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ART STYLES

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★ *Letters, cont. from page 8*

ford? She’s already done the job’s hardest part from outside the building. Weir is kind and hard-working. Ellen is too, and she has two laws to show for it.

Sincerely,
Scott Sauyet – Andover

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

Running for State Rep

To the Editor:
My name is Bob Fernandez, and I am running to represent Bozrah, Colchester, Franklin, and Lebanon in the Connecticut House of Representatives.

For me, this campaign is about service. I spent more than 20 years in the U.S. Navy, including as a combat veteran and submarine corpsman. My military service taught me the importance of responsibility, teamwork, and looking out for the people beside you. Those are values I have carried with me throughout my life.

My wife, Susan, and I have deep roots in this community. We raised our three sons here, and I have seen firsthand the challenges facing families in our region. After my military career, I continued my commitment to public service and advocacy, including working on issues such as education funding and support for working families.

I am running because I believe the people of the 48th District deserve a strong voice in Hartford—someone who will listen to their concerns and work to bring resources and attention back to our communities.

My priorities are straightforward: bringing more state funding back to our towns, addressing property taxes and the rising cost of education, supporting seniors and working families, lowering energy costs, and protecting our farms and open spaces.

I am proud of the life Susan and I have built here, and I am grateful for the community that has given our family so much. I am asking for the opportunity to serve my neighbors—not as someone looking for a title, but as someone who believes in giving back.

I look forward to meeting more of my neighbors throughout the district, listening to their concerns, and earning their support. I will be attending Bozrah Day on Saturday, Oct. 3, at 1 p.m., and I hope to see you there.

Sincerely,
Bob Fernandez – Franklin
Candidate for State Representative
48th District

Ellen Paul for Families

To the Editor:
I am writing as a parent, voter, and Marlborough resident to express my support for Ellen Paul for state representative of the 55th House District.

As the father of a young daughter, I want to support a candidate who will work for the best interests of our town and state, not just in 2026, but for years to come. Too many families are struggling with rising costs and the challenges of balancing work and parenthood. Ellen believes that government should support families, not make their lives harder. As she puts it, “When we invest in families, we invest in Connecticut’s future.”

Ellen’s endorsement from the Connecticut Working Families Party reflects her commitment to issues that affect families across our district, including affordable housing and utilities, accessible healthcare, workers’ rights, affordable childcare, and paid family leave. These are issues that matter to working parents and anyone striving to build a secure future for their family.

Ellen is also a strong advocate for high-quality public education. As a librarian, she understands the importance of education and the opportunities it creates for future generations. Truly, Knowledge is Power. Her endorsement from the Connecticut Education Association (CEA), which advocates for students, educators, and public schools, further reflects her commitment to public education.

When my wife and I moved to Marlborough, the strength of the local schools was a major factor in our decision. I want a representative who shares our commitment to public education and will continue to make the needs of Marlborough’s students, teachers, and schools a priority.

The contrast between the candidates’ records on education is also worth considering. While Ellen has earned the endorsement of the CEA, our current representative, Steve Weir, received an “F” rating on the organization’s annual Legislator Report Card. As a parent, I want a representative who will prioritize our schools and

support the students and teachers who make them successful.

For me, the choice in the 55th House District comes down to the future we want for our families, our schools, and our community. I hope you will join me in voting for Ellen Paul on Election Day.

You can meet Ellen and other candidates at the Meet the Candidates forum on Oct. 7 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Riverfront Community Center, 300 Welles St., Glastonbury.

Sincerely,
Jack Fidler – Marlborough

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

Supports Fernandez

To the Editor:
I am excited to support Bob Fernandez for state representative because he understands the issues facing families and communities across the 48th District and has the experience to advocate for them in Hartford.

Bob’s priorities are focused on practical issues that directly affect our communities. He wants to bring more state investment back to Bozrah, Colchester, Franklin and Lebanon, including funding to address dangerous, congested roads in Colchester. He also supports protecting our local farms and open spaces.

Education is another central priority. Bob wants to fix Connecticut’s education funding formula and increasing state support for special education. Our local schools need the resources to provide students with the education and services they deserve, without placing an unreasonable burden on local taxpayers.

Bob understands the financial pressures facing working families. He supports property-tax relief for seniors living on fixed incomes, a child tax credit of up to \$1,800, higher childcare reimbursement rates, and efforts to lower utility costs. These are tangible issues that affect household budgets every day.

His background gives him valuable experience to bring to the State Capitol. As a veteran, educator, labor advocate, and community leader, Bob has spent his career working with and advocating for others. He understands that effective representation means listening to constituents and bringing their concerns directly to Hartford.

The 48th District deserves a representative who will work to secure state resources for our towns, strengthen our schools, support working families, and make our communities more affordable. Bob Fernandez has made these issues central to his campaign, and I am happy to support him. You can read more about Bob or reach out to him directly at bobfernandez.com.

Sincerely,
Monica Swyden, Chair
Colchester Democratic Town Committee

Dementia Talks No. 73

To the Editor:
The other morning you looked up at me and said “I have something to tell you.”

I asked “What do you have to tell me?”
There was a pause. And when I say pause, it was for a full 60+ seconds. I waited, perched on the side of your bed, knowing you need to process questions at your own pace.

Then you leaned forward and gave me a hug. That is when my heart melted. Again.
Our journey has taken some wild and crazy twists and turns all starting in 2017 when we first heard the words “Alzheimer’s disease.”

From that moment, we were all engaged and working so very hard to not be in your way and not take away independence that you so desired; and frankly expected at your mature age. Heck, you earned it.

Fast forward to 9/5 when our worlds collided in another cosmic shift and you moved back in to the room you occupied in 2015 when you moved back to Connecticut from Vermont; while waiting for the house next door to be ready to become your new home...even if for a short number of years.

Still in this moment, my only wish is to give you whatever independence can be gleamed in a moment – even if is deciding to keep your socks on or swap them out for new ones or to pick a leaf off the ground on one of our walks.

Everyone has a choice in each moment, even you, Mom. We try hard to give you choices and let you set the pace for an activity no matter what that might be.

Thank you for teaching us patience, kindness and empathy. Thank you, Mom, for teaching us about love. Thank you, Mom, for making sure that we are not alone; and know that you are not alone either.

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

Weir Brings Balance

To the Editor:
I am writing to support Steve Weir’s reelection, as representative of the 55th District, to the Connecticut House of Representatives. I encourage all Independent, unaffiliated and undecided voters to cast their ballots for Steve. Currently, the Connecticut House of Representatives has 102 Democratic representatives, and 49 Republican representatives. That is not balanced government! Without balance, there is no compromise. Without balance, how many Connecticut citizens do not have a voice? Without balance, one party holds too much power.

Steve knows the people of District 55. He is our voice in Hartford. The needs and interests of District 55, are vastly different than the needs and interests of the heavily Democrat controlled cities of our state. Our needs and interests deserve Steve’s representation. Steve is very happy to engage with anyone, to explain issues, and to explain his voting record.

Vote the entire Republican ballot, to bring common sense to Hartford and to all of Connecticut!!

Sue Custance – Hebron

One of Our Own

To the Editor:
How refreshing it has been to have our state representative truly be one of our own.

Melissa Ziobron grew up here, went to school here, works here, shops here and raised her family here. She knows our people and our issues. Melissa understands the struggle to balance our needs with our ability to pay – a huge priority for all taxpayers.

Not in many years have we had a representative so concerned about us. Whether we are the elderly, a student, a veteran, a concerned resident or a small business owner, Melissa continues to work for all of us. And it is us she remains true to – not the trappings of Hartford. That is what we need and deserve in our state legislator.

Join me in voting for Melissa Ziobron in November. She knows us.

Melissa H. Engel – East Hampton
Note: Engel is chair of the East Hampton Republican Town Committee.

A Real Voice for Change

To the Editor:
It wasn’t that long ago that the division in Washington was far removed from our Connecticut towns. It didn’t matter much what party our local politicians were from. We voted for the quality of the person – Republican, Democrat or Independent. Sadly, times have changed. The state’s Republican politicians are now beholden to those controlling Washington.

Steve Weir is by all accounts a nice guy – but is that enough to reward Republicans by sending him back to Hartford? Republicans have represented the 55th since 1981. How has that loyalty been repaid?

Steve’s voting record tells us where his priorities lie:

- Voted ‘no’ to help seniors stay in their homes (SB-1, 2026).
- Voted ‘no’ to increase housing options (HB-5288, 2026).
- Voted ‘no’ to keep medical debt private (SB-395, 2024).
- Voted ‘no’ to improve sick leave (HB-5005, 2024).
- Voted ‘no’ to expand early-childhood education (HB-5003, 2025).
- Voted ‘no’ to diversify energy production (HB-5340, 2026).
- Voted ‘no’ to end childhood marriage (HB-6569, 2023).

Here’s the good news: This November we have a real voice for change on the ballot.

Ellen Paul is an experienced, sensible, independently-minded candidate who actually wants to put working families first.

Paul supports affordable housing without hurting the rural landscapes that make our towns beautiful. She also supports property tax relief for older homeowners and help for renters.

Paul supports oversight, accountability, and a diversified energy portfolio to help combat surging fuel prices.

Paul supports our workers, including paid sick days, family leave and labor rights.

Elections have consequences, and you can see those consequences right now, every time you get your electric bill or pay for groceries. The Republican Party in Connecticut must be sent a clear message that we want them serving us, not Washington. That includes Steve Weir.

Please vote this November, and if you are independently-minded and want to support someone who will represent you – not a political party – vote Ellen Paul.

Jay Kamins – Andover

Fighting for Working Families

To the Editor:
As a resident of the 48th House District, I know I’m not alone in feeling the strain of rising costs. Groceries, housing, childcare, gasoline and utility bills have all become more expensive, and working families are having to stretch their budgets further just to keep up.

That’s one of the reasons I’m supporting Bob Fernandez for State Representative.

Bob understands that affordability is about more than just a number on a budget sheet. It’s about whether parents can afford reliable childcare, whether families can keep up with their utility bills and whether working people have enough left over after paying for basic necessities.

Bob has made affordability for working families one of his priorities. He supports raising childcare reimbursement rates, providing meaningful tax relief—including a child tax credit of up to \$1,800 – and pursuing energy reforms aimed at lowering utility costs.

I appreciate that Bob is focused on practical issues that directly affect the people who live in our communities. We need someone who will bring these concerns to Hartford and continue fighting for working families, not just during an election, but every day.

Bozrah, Colchester, Franklin and Lebanon deserve a representative who will listen to the people who live here and work to make Connecticut more affordable for them.

I’m proud to support Bob Fernandez for state representative, and I hope my fellow residents of the 48th District will join me in giving him their support.

Joanne Rose – Colchester
Resident of District 48

Vote for Melissa Ziobron

To the Editor:
The majority in Hartford continues to push unfunded requirements on East Hampton, and this leads to higher taxes. They’re also looking to control how our town uses land and how it develops. They certainly don’t have East Hampton’s best interests or priorities in mind. Now more than ever we need a strong local voice to stand up for us in the halls of power in Hartford, and that voice is Melissa Ziobron.

Melissa is a true local voice, unlike her opponent, who is an out-of-state transplant looking to jump start a failed political career and push for her own personal objectives and embrace the dictates from Hartford, rather than advocating for East Hampton and the 34th District.

Melissa grew up in East Hampton and attended our public schools. She stayed in the 34th District and raised her own family here. As a proven public servant and legislator, with 25 years of experience and success, she’s eager to roll up her sleeves and stand up for us all.

Join me in November and vote for Melissa Ziobron for state representative.

Bryon Turner – East Hampton

Successful Muster

To the Editor:
On the weekend of Sept. 19, the Marlborough Jr. Ancient Fife & Drum Corps hosted its 48th annual muster on the beautiful shores of Lake Terramuggus. Sixteen fife and drum corps from Connecticut, Massachusetts and New York descended on Marlborough for a weekend of music, friendship and camaraderie.

The young marchers of the Marborough Jr Ancients have executed dozens of performances in numerous states this year in commemoration of America’s 250 anniversary. Performing in your hometown however, while enjoying the spotlight in front of fellow peers and local community members is an experience unto itself. The kids work hard and have a lot of pride in their skills of professional performance so the support and encouragement means a lot to them. It was also great to see more than a dozen young spectators from the parade join in the line of march with the final unit, something new we tried this year in celebration of America 250.

This annual event would not be possible without the hard work of past and present parents and members of the community. We’d like to thank a few members from the town, including Ray Bull, Marlborough Parks and Recreation, Charlie Grossman, Marlborough Public Works, and Chief Kevin Asklar, Marlborough Fire Department. Through the efforts of all involved, the event was safe, smooth, and successful. A great way to wind down one of our busiest marching seasons in years. Thank you!

(We’re accepting new members at www.marlboroughjrancients.com)

Wayne Seidel
Marlborough Jr. Ancient Fife & Drum Corps

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

Support 2026 POCD

To the Editor:

It was about one and a half years ago the planning department went forward with revising East Hampton’s Plan of Conservation and Development, commonly called the POCD. I strongly support this plan as brought forth, as it has had months of public input and consideration as to how East Hampton will see itself in the next 10 years. The previous plans often fell short on implementation but this one sets goals and objectives to be met. I urge all East Hamp-tonians to take a look at the plan.

I feel strongly that this POCD sets our town on a path forward to provide a baseline of ben-eficial development and needed land conserva-tion. Thank you to the steering committee, the residents who gave their time in both person and survey taking, and to our past planning for putting it altogether as envisioned by our neigh-bors.

I ask the Town Council to accept and endorse the 2026 POCD, and I encourage others to do the same.

Rick Wanat – East Hampton

Garden Gratitude

To the Editor:

As gardeners at the Portland Community Garden who were able to grow and donate more than 300 lbs. of produce to the Portland Food Bank this year, we would like to acknowledge the generous support that made it possible. Gotta’s Farm, Portland Ace Hardware, and the Knights of Columbus made donations of plants, supplies, and money that enabled us to produce more food than we could have without their generosity and community spirit.

Our deepest gratitude goes to Nate Strycharz, Grounds Supervisor, and his crew from Port-land Public Schools/Town of Portland. They went above and beyond for us, and without their support, there simply would be no garden. We also thank Andy Dionne and Cara Macdon-ald, from Portland Parks and Recreation for or-ganizing the Community Garden for the town.

We are looking forward to more community support and another successful gardening sea-son next year.

**Jill Benson, Portland
Kathy Leslie, Portland
Nicole Giampapa, Portland
Deb Dee, Hebron
Dawn Garcia, Hebron**

Future of Local Education

To the Editor:

As a Marlborough resident and mother to a young son who will start school in just a couple of years, I care deeply about the future of local education. While I teach in a neighboring dis-trict, my professional experience and my per-sonal stake as a parent remind me daily that strong public schools are the backbone of our town. You do not need a child in the classroom to share that stake, either. Top-notch schools protect local home values, attract young fami-lies, and keep our community economically healthy for every resident.

Keeping our schools strong requires lead-ers in Hartford who will actually vote to sup-port them. In my classroom, if a student brings home a 52%, that is an F on any grading scale. Yet that is the exact score state Rep. Steve Weir earned on the Connecticut Education Associa-tion scorecard after repeatedly voting against key education measures and state budget ad-justments (SB 1) that directed vital aid to our area. While voting against state spending is often framed as fiscal conservatism, for small towns like ours, rejecting state aid does not save taxpayers a dime. When Hartford turns away education funding, local operating costs do not magically disappear; the financial burden is simply passed directly to local property tax-payers, or our schools are forced to make tough cuts. You can review his full documented voting record for yourself at cea.org/legislator-report-card.

Our community deserves representation that reflects our shared investment in local public education, which is why I am supporting Ellen Paul for state representative. Ellen understands that securing our fair share of state funding is a direct investment in our town’s financial health that protects both our schools and local home-owners.

From our children’s education to our home values, every single resident benefits when our public schools succeed. Based on his recorded votes, Steve Weir simply hasn’t earned a passing grade. I urge my neighbors across the 55th Dis-trict to join me in voting for Ellen Paul.

**Respectfully,
Stacy Constantine
Marlborough Resident & Educator**

Better School Funding

To the Editor:

Colchester residents shouldn’t have to choose between fiscal relief and giving our students the resources they deserve; we can – and must – achieve both.

Bob Fernandez will fight to bring more state funding back to the 48th District (that’s us!), reducing the burden on local taxpayers while strengthening the resources available to our schools.

That starts with fixing Connecticut’s edu-cation funding formula, the ECS (Economic Cost Sharing). Too much of the responsibility for funding our schools falls on local property taxpayers. DeCaprio voted to reject an addition \$13M in ECS funding for our schools. Can you imagine if we needed to find another \$13M in our budget?

Investing in our schools and providing tax relief should not be competing priorities. We can support our students while also making our communities more affordable for families and seniors. Bob Fernandez is ready to fight for those priorities and make sure our communities receive their fair share of state resources.

**I am voting for Bob.
Amy Domeika – Colchester**

Weir Is What We Need

To the Editor:

When I think about who I want to represent our community, I want someone who lives in and understands our community. Steve Weir is a strong example of that person. He has lived and worked in our community his entire life. His life experiences run the gamut. From being a police officer to starting two successful small businesses, Steve has the vision and persever-ance to grow an idea into reality. I have never seen Steve back down from a challenge. In fact, when I spoke with Steve after he was first elected as the representative of the 55th, he explained some of the challenges of working in Hartford to me as being the ‘new guy on the block.’ This did not dissuade Steve; in fact, it motivated him to work to figure out a way to bridge the gap and bring both parties together for the benefit of the residents of the state.

This is a testament of his problem-solving skills, a skill that he learned and honed while building and running his small businesses. He is exactly what we need to represent our thoughts, ideas and voices in Hartford.

I hope that you, the reader, strongly consider voting for Steve Weir this November.

Bob Wallace – Andover

**Thank You,
PantherFest Sponsors**

To the Editor:

The East Hampton Middle School PTO would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the local businesses, organizations, and families whose generous support helped make PantherFest 2026 such a wonderful success.

PantherFest is a special East Hampton Middle School tradition that brings together our stu-dents, families, neighboring schools, and com-munity for an afternoon of soccer, cross country, school spirit, food, and fun. An event of this size would not be possible without the generosity and support of our community.

We are incredibly grateful to our 2026 spon-sors:

Ace Marine East LLC, ADL Imaging, All About Blinds, American Eagle Financial Credit Union, Arrow Fence, Carl Guild & Associates, East Hampton Lions Club, E L Contracting LLC, Ken-neth Barber & Associates Law Firm, Lakeside Bar & Grill, Loco Perro, NAPA East Hampton, Now It Works, Paul’s & Sandy’s Too, Piela Enterprise LLC/Home Improvement, 9 Lives Barbershop, Pizzeria Da Vinci, RoKAP Inc., Style, Craft & Soul by Karen, Sweet Jean’s Cafe, and Yoga with Amie.

We would also like to recognize the families and individual sponsors who generously sup-ported PantherFest: The Burgh Family, The Gui-heen Family, The Kaplan Family, The McCarthy-Nowak Family, The Meier Family, The Perera Family, The Smutz Family.

Your support allows the EHMS PTO to con-tinue funding programs, activities, improve-ments, and opportunities that benefit our stu-dents, teachers, and school throughout the year.

We are fortunate to live in a community where local businesses, organizations, and families continually step forward to support our schools. Thank you for investing in our students, supporting PantherFest, and helping make East Hampton a community we are proud to call home.

**With sincere appreciation,
The East Hampton Middle School PTO**

We Need Melissa

To the Editor:

Melissa Ziobron represents the very best of what we should expect from our elected state representative. During her three terms, she pri-oritized fiscal responsibility, fighting tax hikes that make Connecticut an unaffordable place to live. She delivered a bipartisan spending cap to pay down debt, when a nearly evenly divided chamber fostered compromise and common sense.

Now a supermajority controls the legislature and a growing pressure of far-left values has put big-city politics ahead of our small-town con-cerns. According to the Tax Foundation’s 2026 State Tax Competitiveness Index, Connecticut ranks 47th out of 50 overall and 46th out of 50 for individual income taxes.

Melissa’s sees that the legislature is going in the wrong direction. In addition to the increas-ing tax burden, there is a lack of state funding for our schools through the Education Cost Sharing (ECS), which has not changed its fund-ing formula since 2013 to account for inflation. This puts upward pressure on property taxes.

Melissa is a hardworking legislator who un-derstands our concerns with excessive spend-ing that hurts Connecticut’s economy and our personal finances, issues that negatively im-pact small businesses, and keeping bureaucrats out of education and land use decisions which should remain local.

Melissa is the strong voice we need to stand up for our small towns. We do not need a yes person to join the supermajority who has a track record of raising taxes, adding the Public Benefits component to our electric bill, passing unfunded mandates, and ignoring our concerns for keeping education and land use decisions lo-cal.

**Please join me in voting for Melissa.
George Krivda – Middle Haddam**

Had Enough Yet?

To the Editor:

I wish everyone could put down their party labels for five minutes and ask themselves one simple question: Is Connecticut actually be-coming a better place to live?

Forget the campaign slogans. Forget whether there is a D or an R next to someone’s name. Look at the results.

Our taxes are high. Our electric bills are outra-geous. We now have a “Public Benefits” charge on those bills, which is a fascinating name con-sidering how difficult it is to find anyone who thinks they are benefiting from it. Construction on Route 2 has become an unmitigated disaster. Housing costs more. Insurance costs more. Gro-ceries cost more. Nearly everything costs more.

So what are we getting for all that money? What, objectively, is better?

Is your commute better? Is your electric bill better? Are your taxes lower? Is housing more affordable? Is your quality of life improving?

Not long ago, a resident passionately advoc-ated for a larger school budget. She was so pas-sionate about it that she cried at a public meeting. The school budget went up substantially.

The next year, her family moved south. Why? Because their dollar went further.

No kidding.

That may be the most Connecticut story imaginable: demand that government spend more money, then discover that living here costs too much and leave.

Plenty of other states offer a lower cost of liv-ing without sacrificing quality of life. And Con-necticut residents keep moving to them.

How often do you hear the opposite? “We left the South because Connecticut was more af-fordable and offered more opportunity.”

Democrats have controlled both chambers of the General Assembly for nearly 30 years, and have held the governor’s office since 2011. All levers of power for 15 years.

At some point, “give us more time” stops be-ing an explanation.

This is the record.

If Connecticut is too expensive, if families are leaving, if taxes and bills keep climbing, and if residents cannot identify what is getting mate-rially better in return, then voters should ask a very uncomfortable question:

How much time do we give these people? If they were going to fix Connecticut, wouldn’t they have done it already?

It’s time to send fresh leadership and balance to Hartford. Let’s give local Republican candi-dates a chance to fix what’s broken and bring af-fordability back to Connecticut.

Michael Dubreuil – Colchester

**Less Government,
More in Your Pocket**

To the Editor:

Recently I found myself walking along the southern portion of Lake Pocotopaug and en-joyed meeting folks along the road – walking their dogs, running errands, and working in their yards. I am truly grateful for those face-to-face conversations. While general concerns about state government came up, pocketbook issues are clearly top of mind for almost every-one I spoke with. Like many of you, the thought of filling my oil tank or buying groceries in Connecticut brings growing frustration.

Connecticut adds another 1% sales tax to some grocery items we purchase – like the fried chicken or hot prepared side dishes we pick up to go with our meal prep. This tax was first pro-posed to bring more money to towns, but we all know how that story ends. Government took its share and grew accordingly. We’ve seen this before. Gas and diesel follow the same pattern – government gets its cut first. On one side sits a gross receipts tax you never technically see; on the other, an automatic price is locked into by statute once a year.

That’s why I will push to eliminate the extra 1% meal tax and suspend both the gas and die-sel sales tax when prices are spiking. We should also look at capping the 25-cent tax once per gallon prices hit a certain threshold. We can control prices here in Connecticut, even when Washington cannot. I have other ideas too: eliminating the sales tax on children’s clothing and second-hand clothes or merchandise for of all ages, reworking the education funding formula to better address issues for large rural towns like ours, and taking another hard look at some of the egregious fees on car registrations and electric bills and eliminating them.

Regardless of the best intentions of govern-ment bureaucracy, less is more. We need fewer laws, less intrusion in our lives, and fewer regu-lations and mandates. I am running again to put a check on government – not to become a rubber stamp for the super majority. That’s why I was proud to be cross-endorsed by the Inde-pendent Party. They trust my proven leadership, and I hope to earn yours again this election.

**Melissa Ziobron – East Haddam
Candidate for State Representative,
34th District**

Christmas Bird Count

To the Editor:

The 52nd annual Salmon River Christmas Bird Count will be held on Sunday, Dec. 20. There’ll be 11 teams covering the count circle shown below with a goal of identifying as many species of birds as possible and counting the number of birds that are seen from 12:01 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. This important local annual tra-dition has been enthusiastically led by Matta-beseck Audubon Society, a chapter of National Audubon Society.

The bird count started in NYC on Christmas Day 1900. Ornithologist Frank Chapman de-cided to start a new tradition of an annual bird census, rather than the traditional Side Hunt which awarded prizes to the team who shot the most animals on Christmas Day. I have to think nature enthusiasts today would cringe at the thought of dead birds and animals piled up in heaps and counted for the glory of their shoot-ers!

The annual bird census started with 27 in-trepid birders and 25 count circles in North America. Fast-forward to present day when the 125th Christmas Bird Count ballooned to 83,109 participants, 2,693 count circles, from 21 countries or territories.

Aside from the comradery and joy of get-ting out in nature, the 100-plus years of infor-mation gathered from these bird counts has provided important data to scientists about the population trends of over 540 bird species. The environmental impact of climate change on bird populations, the effects of DDT dur-ing the 1940s to 1960s, and the steady loss of over 3 billion North American birds since the 1970s shows how valuable this longest-running citizen science project in the world has become.

Each year our local Salmon River Count faces a variety of roadblocks including the weather, the busy time of year, and the inability to have enough interest from the public to cover our territory in its entirety. Some teams are as small as one or two people which doesn’t give much wiggle room when one considers aging, health, moves out of CT, and other conflicts that tend to arise around the holidays.

I hope you’ll consider joining Mattabeseck Audubon Society this year for our 52nd annual Christmas Bird Count. I was apprehensive when

See Letters, page 33

Obituaries

Colchester

Larry Clyde Jarrell

Larry Clyde Jarrell, current resident of Colchester and a longtime citizen of Troy, Ala., passed away at home Wednesday, Sept. 23. He was 81 years old.



Larry was born in Pontiac, Mich., on June 20, 1945, to the late Clyde and Halla (Glenn) Jarrell. He grew up on a farm in Dexter, Mo., and began his education at Southeast Missouri State before joining the United States Air Force. Larry was a flight instructor for the USAF during the Vietnam War before becoming a private pilot.

On March 7, 1970, Larry married the love of his life, Tennie Davis, at the Chapel of the United Methodist Children's Home in Selma, Ala. They eventually settled in Troy, Ala. When his daughter Amanda was born, he decided to become an attorney. Larry graduated from Jones Law School in Montgomery, and became a member of the Pike County Bar Association. Over the course of his career, he was a private attorney, a city prosecutor, an assistant district attorney, and an adjunct law professor at Troy University.

Larry was forever active in his church, Park Memorial Methodist Church, and sang in the choir for many years. He was also a big brother through the Big Brothers Big Sisters organization. He was known for his friendly, helpful nature, the twinkle in his eye and his contagious grin. He never missed one of Amanda's many events and was her biggest, proudest fan. When he wasn't cheering her on, he would grab his guitar and go "pickin' and grinnin'" with his buddies Kenny, John, and Reynolds to play country and bluegrass music.

Larry was also an outdoorsman who enjoyed riding horses, a round of golf, hunting with his brother Glyn, and fishing with his best buddy, Al. He and Tennie could play cards for hours with their best friends, Gary and Louise (whom they met back in the USAF). He was also an avid reader and master at crossword puzzles. Larry was multi-talented, and would also draw and paint, or doodle in the church bulletin.

Most importantly, he will be remembered as an honest and kind, hardworking family man who devoted his life to God, family, and country. He would literally give you the shirt off his back; he was quick with a compliment and had a joke at the ready. He never looked down on anyone, and even accepted payment in actual peanuts. He had a heck of a handshake – which was as strong as his word. And that's saying something because he could beat you in arm wrestling well into his 70s.

He will be sadly missed but always remembered with love by all who knew him, especially his beloved wife of 56 years, Tennie. He was incredibly proud of his little brother Glyn (Monica) Jarrell and adored his nieces and nephews, especially Carson. He is also survived by his one and only favorite daughter, Amanda Jarrell Billiot. He loved his son-in-law, Jason Billiot; and was the best Papa to his five grandchildren, Saxon, Madison (Madeline), Harrison, Jude, and Eleanor Billiot. He considered himself truly blessed and was grateful for his life and the people around him.

The family would like to thank Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester and Mathis

Funeral Home in Dexter, Mo., for their help. Burial services will be held in Missouri Friday, Oct. 2, at 1 p.m., at the Bloomfield Veterans Cemetery with full military honors. Pallbearers include Glyn Jarrell, John David Grubbs, Trevor Blake, Carson Jarrell, Jason Billiot and Harrison Billiot, with Jude Billiot serving as an honorary pallbearer.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Larry's memory may be made to the Park Memorial United Methodist Church, www.parkmemorialchurchtrac.com or to the Alzheimer's Association, www.alz.org.

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

Colchester

Chelsea J. Zaccaro

Chelsea J. Zaccaro, 36, of Colchester, passed away peacefully Thursday, Sept. 24, while holding hands with her family. She was born May 25, 1990, the youngest child and only daughter of David and Audrey (Burdick) Zaccaro, also of Colchester.



Growing up, Chelsea loved swimming, playing soccer and softball, especially on teams coached by her mother, ceramics, spending time with family and friends, and caring for her beloved cats. She was a happy and outgoing child who loved the beach, concerts, and family vacations – though her maternal grandmother affectionately nicknamed her "Angelica" for her spirited personality and occasional stubborn streak. She had an exceptionally close and loving relationship with her late father, David, who was a constant source of strength and guidance in her life.

Chelsea graduated from Bacon Academy in 2008, attained her C.N.A. designation from the State of Connecticut, and later earned an associate degree in Health & Human Sciences, graduating with honors from Connecticut State Community College. Her greatest joy and proudest accomplishment came with the birth of her daughter, Madelynn (Maddie) Zaccaro in 2013.

She loved being Maddie's mom and cherished every moment they spent together. Chelsea eagerly anticipated her family's annual vacation to Tampa, where she and Maddie enjoyed swimming, strolling along the beach in search of seashells, seeking adventurous experiences, and admiring the most amazing sunsets.

In addition to Madelynn, Chelsea is survived by her mother, Audrey; her brother and sister-in-law, Christopher and Kirsten (Spear) Zaccaro, and her favorite niece, Taylor Zaccaro, all of Glastonbury; her brother, Daniel Zaccaro; her cat, Merlin; several cousins; and many dear friends.

Her family takes comfort that she is at peace and reunited with her dad, David, whom she missed deeply, as well as her grandparents, Dolores (Patsky) and David Burdick, and Beverly (Yost) and Joseph Zaccaro.

The family will receive guests from 1-3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 3, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Road, Colchester. Burial will be private.

Donations may be made to Protectors of Animals, East Hartford.

Hebron

Edward D. Keefe

Edward D. Keefe, 69, of Lebanon, passed away peacefully at home Monday, Sept. 21, after a long, courageous battle with diabetes. Ed was born Jan. 8, 1957, to the late Edward M. and Ann (Kolechitz) Keefe. He grew up on the family dairy farm in Hebron. He attended local schools and graduated from RHAM High School with the class of 1975.



At a young age, he spent weekends and summers living at his grandparents' home, helping his grandfather and father run Keefe's Texaco Service Station, which he eventually became owner and operator for many years. Ed was a lifetime member of the National Rifleman Association and a longtime member of the Hebron Sportsman's Club. In his spare time, he enjoyed hunting, fishing, and trapping, especially at his camp in Maine.

Ed loved the town of Lebanon and the people he met, especially his inner circle of friends whom he considered family. He is survived by his brother, Kenneth Keefe of Hebron; niece, Heather Hellstrom Fitting and her husband Eric Fitting, their children, Ryan, 6, and Emily, 4; and many extended family members and friends. Ed was predeceased by his sister, Anita Keefe.

A graveside funeral service was held Monday, Sept. 28, at the New Lebanon Cemetery, Waterman Road, Lebanon.

The Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester has been entrusted with care of arrangements.

East Haddam

John McCarthy

John "Jack" McCarthy of East Haddam passed away unexpectedly Monday, Sept. 21, at his home. He was 70 years old. Jack was born Feb. 25, 1956, to the late James and Joan "Joanne" (Walker) McCarthy.



Jack grew up in Clinton. In his childhood, Jack was always getting into mischief surrounded by his brothers and cousins (that were as close as siblings). He graduated from Morgan High School in 1974 and furthered his education at American Motorcycle Institute in Daytona Beach, Florida. He went on to become a welder at Pratt & Whitney. Jack retired from Pratt & Whitney in 2022 after 45 years. Jack married the love of his life, Dolores (Sissy) Chrystal, on his birthday, Feb. 25, 1978. Jack and Sissy moved to East Haddam, where they made their home and raised their family.

Jack could always be found tinkering in his garage or fashioning some project Sis dreamed up. He was truly a "Jack" of all trades. There wasn't anything he couldn't fix or create – unless it was "cheaper to buy it." Jack loved motorcycles, cars and anything that had a motor. He loved taking trips to Maine year-round at the family camp.

Jack was known for his iconic mustache and gruff exterior but was the kind of guy who would do anything for anyone. Jack especially loved his

dogs, making memories, spending time with his family and hanging with the boys.

Jack's memory will live on in love by all that knew him. He was a wonderful husband to his wife Sissy of 48 years. He was an amazing father to his son, Michael McCarthy, Daughter Chrystal (McCarthy) Angell and Son-in-Law Brian Angell (who was always like a son to him). He loved his three grandchildren, Cody, who held a place in his heart, and his girls, Ryleigh and Brynn, who he always shared a special bond with, his girls lovingly called him Papo.

Jack was truly one of a kind. He left an impression on all and will be deeply missed.

There will be a private gathering for family and friends to Celebrate Jack in October.

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

Portland

Edward William Salinsky

Edward William Salinsky, 78, of Portland, beloved husband of Concetta "Connie" R. (Prettonaci) Salinsky, passed away Sunday, Sept. 27, at Middlesex Hospital. Born in Middletown, Edward was the son of the late Bernet and Hazel (Lee) Salinsky.



He proudly served his country as a veteran of the Vietnam War with the United States Marine Corps. His patriotism remained an important part of who he was throughout his life, and his pride in his country could always be seen in his love for the red, white, and blue.

Ed established his own contractor business for 30 years and prior to his retirement, he worked with Starr Builders in East Hampton. Ed especially cherished time spent with his grandchildren and enjoyed Thursday night golf with friends, watching UConn basketball, playing darts, scratch tickets, and trips to the casino. He took great pride in his yard and flowers and also enjoyed spending his time doing puzzles and caring for his fish. He will be fondly remembered for his favorite saying, "Bada Bing, Bada Boom," a phrase his family and friends will forever hear in his voice.

Ed passed this Sunday, only a day after celebrating his 56th anniversary with his wife. Ed was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle and friend. Anyone who knew Ed knew that family was at the center of his life, but there was never any question that his daughters, Stephanie and Andrea, were his girls and held an especially dear place in his heart. His sons-in-law, John and Stephen, not only became his family but became his best friends as well. He will be deeply missed by all those who had the privilege of knowing and loving him.

In addition to his beloved wife, Connie, Ed is survived by his two daughters, Stephanie Starr and her husband, John, of East Hampton and Andrea Baldyga and her husband, Stephen, of Colchester; his four grandchildren, Victoria Baldyga of Colchester, Sean Baldyga of Colchester, Madison Starr of East Hampton, and Jessica Starr of East Hampton; his sister, Lyn Wood, predeceased by her husband, Ronnie; his four

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Obituaries

brothers, Brent Salinsky, Gary Salinsky, Jeff Salinsky and his wife Annie, and William Salinsky and his wife Kathy; as well as many nieces, nephews, extended family members, and friends.

He is predeceased by his brother Stanley Salinsky.

A funeral liturgy will be celebrated on Friday, Oct. 2, at 10:30 a.m., at Saint Francis of Assisi Church, 3 Elm St., Middletown. Burial with military honors will follow at the State Veterans Cemetery, 317 Bow Lane, Middletown.

Those who wish may make memorial contributions in Ed’s memory to Wounded Warrior Project, support.woundedwarriorproject.org.

To share memories or express condolences online, please visit the Biega Funeral Home website, www.biegafuneralhome.com.

Portland

John Lawrence Amato

John Lawrence Amato, of Portland, passed away peacefully Thursday, Sept. 24, beginning his next great adventure.

Born on May 25, 1953, to Joseph and Lucy Amato, John was a proud lifelong resident of Portland. He graduated from Portland High School with the Class of 1971 and went on to build a strong reputation through years of hard work and dedication. Throughout his career, he held a variety of positions, including truck driving, but was perhaps best known as the owner and operator of Portland Power Equipment.

John possessed a remarkable talent for mechanics and craftsmanship. He found great joy

in tinkering with engines and spent countless hours building everything from hot rods to experimental aircraft. Among his proudest accomplishments were the construction of his own 1940 Ford Deluxe and a Kitfox aircraft, projects that reflected both his creativity and determination.

Beyond his mechanical pursuits, John was an accomplished stained-glass artist whose creations brought beauty to those around him. He enjoyed attending car shows and sharing his passion for classic automobiles with friends, family, and fellow members of his beloved car club, The Gasket Goons.

Affectionately known as “Grandpa Cookie,” John cherished every opportunity to spend time with his sons and grandchildren. Family was the center of his life, and he leaves behind a legacy of strong Sicilian heritage, an unwavering work ethic, a passion for classic cars, and a deep love for those fortunate enough to know him.

John was predeceased by his parents, Joseph and Lucy Amato, and by his brothers, Joe and Ted Amato.

He is survived by his wife, Brenda Amato; his sons, Anthony Amato and his fiancée, Elissia Dougherty, and Michael Amato and his wife, Danielle Amato; his loving sister, Joanne Hansen and her husband, Roy Hansen; his treasured grandchildren, Michael, Maxen, Isabella, and Charlie Anne; as well as many nieces, nephews, extended family members, and dear friends.

John’s memory will live on in the hearts of all who knew and loved him, and in the many projects, passions, and traditions he shared throughout his life.

A memorial Mass will be held Friday, Oct. 9, at 10 a.m., in St. Mary Church, Portland. Burial will be in St. Mary’s Cemetery, Portland. Friends may call at the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, on Thursday, Oct. 8, from 4-6 p.m.

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

★ Letters, cont. from page 31

I saw that first notice in my local paper back in 1994 and I can promise you I’ve had zero regrets about joining up. I’ve learned so much, seen so many beautiful birds I never knew were around in the winter, and met so many wonderful people I now call friends.

Sharon Dellinger, compiler
Salmon River Count Circle
rsdell@comcast.net

I’m Voting for Ellen

To the Editor:

There have been a lot of letters recently saying what a great guy Steve Weir is. I have met him and yup, he is nice, friendly; I am sure he is a great guy. But a great guy doesn’t necessarily get things done.

Steve turns up and votes, but does he vote in the interest of our small town of Hebron? During this year’s legislative session, Steve voted against substantial aid in the form of \$630,000 to help our budget. Why on earth would he turn down the money we need? Steve voted consistently to protect landlords from being regulated so they couldn’t abuse tenants’ rights. Really? Steve voted ‘no’ to protect the rights of citizens to file lawsuits against abuse by federal agents within our state. He voted against a digital privacy bill aimed at protecting children when using online platforms. Why would he not want to protect children? He voted against a healthcare regulation addressing emergency medical services and specific standards of care for pregnant women. Are you kidding me?

Ellen Paul is advocating for modernizing Connecticut’s Education Cost Sharing formula, aiming to fix the disparities where a child’s quality of education is strongly related to their zip code. She is looking to lower energy and electric bills – we all need that – as well as help senior citizens on fixed incomes lower overall cost-of-living burdens. She supports expanding affordable housing – maybe our young people could actually afford to stay in town if more reasonably priced housing was available. She supports strengthening protections for workers and fair labor practices.

In these turbulent times, where we see our First Amendment rights under threat, Ellen stands for protecting those rights, expanding voting access and having guardrails to protect us from advanced technologies. With all the open space and great trails Hebron is blessed with, she also supports protecting our green spaces and environment.

So though Steve may be a nice guy, I will be voting for Ellen and I urge you to vote for her too.

Mary J. Rose – Hebron

LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF ANDOVER
REVENUE COLLECTOR’S NOTICE

To the property owners of the Town of Andover:
The second installment of the Real Estate and Personal Property taxes listed on the October 1, 2025 Grand List becomes due and payable to the Town of Andover on October 1, 2026. Payments must be US postmarked, paid on line, or brought to Town Hall by November 2, 2026 to avoid an interest charge. Interest will be charged starting November 3, 2026 on all delinquent bills at a rate of 18% per year (1½% per month) from the due date of October 1st, with a minimum charge of \$2 for each bill.
View or pay taxes online at www.andoverct.org. Cash, check or money order payments are accepted at the Town Hall during business hours. Payments by check or money order may be mailed to the Tax Collector’s office or placed in the drop box outside Town Hall. Typical office hours during collection months are Monday 8:15am- 7pm, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 8:15 am-4pm. The Tax Office will have altered hours most Thursdays in October. Please refer to www.andoverct.org for updated office hours.
Failure to receive a tax bill will not invalidate the tax or any interest which may, by State law, accrue.
If you have any questions, please contact the tax office at 860-742-4035 option 4.
Kate Fuller, Tax Collector
Town of Andover
17 School Road
Andover, CT 06232

3TB 9/25, 10/2, 10/23

Connecting Our Community

To the Editor:

As the Senior Services Administrator for the Town of Portland, I continue to see how the needs of older adults are changing. More residents are reaching out because they are overwhelmed by rising costs, worried about housing and utilities, feeling isolated, or simply unsure where to turn for help.

These concerns are often connected. Financial stress can affect mental health, isolation can increase anxiety and depression, and difficulty navigating services can leave people feeling discouraged. Sometimes the biggest barrier is simply knowing where to find reliable information and feeling comfortable asking for help.

That is why I am especially excited about two upcoming programs at the Portland Senior Center.

On Monday, Oct. 5, at noon, we will welcome NAMI Connecticut for “Seniors Mental Health 101: Let’s Normalize the Conversation.” This Lunch & Learn will address mental health and aging, isolation and loneliness, depression and anxiety, coping strategies, self-care, support groups, and available resources.

Mental health should be something we can discuss openly. Anxiety, loneliness, grief, depression, and stress should not simply be accepted as part of getting older. Knowing that support exists can be an important first step.

On Tuesday, Oct. 6, at 1 p.m., we will offer a Technology Workshop focused on locating Connecticut Energy Assistance Program information online. Participants will learn how to find official state resources and locate application information. This is a technology and website-navigation workshop, not an eligibility determination or application-processing session.

I believe education is one of the most important services we can provide. Sometimes support means connecting someone directly to a resource; other times, it means giving them the knowledge and confidence to take the next step themselves, for themselves, their families, and loved ones.

Registration is required. Please call the Portland Senior Center at 860-342-6761 or register through MyActiveCenter.com.

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

MARLBOROUGH CONSERVATION COMMISSION
NOTICE OF ACTION

The Marlborough Conservation Commission, at their site walk on September 28, 2026, took the following action:
APPLICATION APPROVED:
APPLICATION #06-26 – Heather and Justin Murphy (Applicant/Property Owner) 271 So Mian Street, build a 10 x 12 deck on rear of house
YVONNE BOLTON, CONSERVATION COMMISSION CHAIR
1TB 10/2

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

Notice is hereby given that the Portland Planning & Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, October 15th, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. at the Portland Public Library, 20 Freestone Avenue, to consider the following:
PZC Application #26-03: 338 Airline Avenue. Request for a Special Permit for retail cannabis dispensary. Application of PegArch Architecture and property of Ferrara Garbriel Revocable Trust. Map 10, Lot 19. Zone I.
At this hearing interested persons may appear and be heard and written communications will be received. A copy of this application is available for public review in the Portland Land Use Department.
Dated at Portland, CT this 25th day of September 2026
Robert Ellsworth, Chairman
Planning & Zoning Commission

2TB 10/2, 10/9

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ART STYLES

See Answers, page 29

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CREATORS NEWS SERVICE

By Neil Manausa

ACROSS

1 Belgian resort
4 Dupe
8 Senior gala
12 Carrying current
14 Badger
15 Wells-Barnett’s nom de plume
16 Rickman, of “Harry Potter”
17 Ornamental art styles
19 Bought stock, perhaps
21 Cars
22 Course hazards
23 Fish follower
25 Too sweet
27 Emmy winner Thompson, of “Family”
28 Butt end
31 Halfmoon Bay, formerly
32 “Melencolia I” engraver
33 17th letter of the Greek alphabet
34 Whistler was one
38 I’ve ____ it!
39 They’re online

40 Low bills
41 Sault ____ Marie
42 Alpha follower
43 Soft felt hat
45 Arab garments
46 Lost in Paris
47 Oregon or Santa Fe
50 Granted a pardon
53 Dali’s painting style
56 Roman fiddler
57 Soap additive
58 Loren’s spouse
59 Put on weight
60 Tear apart
61 Possesses
62 Armed Forces social org.

DOWN

1 Serb or Croat, e.g.
2 Bundle, as of dough
3 Pioneers, especially in the arts
4 Refreshments
5 Mouthward
6 Globe
7 Leachate
8 Vexation
9 Lopsided win
10 Dairy case item
11 Church service

13 Competitor
14 Nagging woman
18 African expedition
20 Former Arab gp.
23 Bends out of shape
24 You have no ____!
25 Wannabe jrs.
26 WWII menace
27 Discourse of Buddha
28 19th C. decorative style
29 See-through
30 Hengist’s brother
32 Regimens
35 Barney, on “The Flintstones”
36 On the briny
37 Somnolent
43 Nobelist Enrico
44 Work unit
45 Hung out on the line
46 Pillars’ partners
47 Russian despot
48 ____ with an iron hand
49 Graceland name
50 Huckleberry ____
51 Ares’ sister
52 Taboo
54 Sgt.’s address
55 Optimal stock price



Do you have a spooky ghost story or a terrifying tale of fright that happened to you? If so, share your experience by submitting your scary story to the **Rivereast News Bulletin for publication. Submissions can be emailed to **bulletin@glcitizen.com**.**

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RE9-25-26

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LEGALS

Legal Notice
Andover Inland Wetlands
and Watercourses Commission

The Duly Authorized Agent of the Andover Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission APPROVED the following application on September 10, 2026:
• Application #IWWC 26-3W: Town of Andover, 11 School Road – Grading and application of processed stone to parking lot adjacent to Chamberland Pond off Hebron Road. Work is within the upland review area of Chamberland Pond. Asphalt millings are prohibited.
The above decision may be appealed to the Andover Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission pursuant to Section 12.2 of the Town of Andover Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations, available at www.andoverconnecticut.org.
The Duly Authorized Agent of the Andover Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission APPROVED the following application on September 24, 2026:
• Application #IWWC 26-8W: Town of Andover, 64 Long Hill Road– Construction of a deck behind the garage at 64 Long Hill Road. Work is within the upland review area of a Perennial Stream.
The above decision may be appealed to the Andover Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission pursuant to Section 12.2 of the Town of Andover Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations, available at www.andoverconnecticut.org.

1TB 10/2

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TOWN OF PORTLAND
OFFICE OF THE ASSESSOR
LEGAL NOTICE

Portland Business Owners,
Declaration of Personal Property are DUE November 2, 2026
In accordance with Connecticut General Statute, 12-40, all Portland business owners and residents liable to pay taxes on tangible personal property belonging to them on October 1, 2026 are hereby notified, declaration of personal property must be filed on or before December 30, 2026 with the Assessor. Non-filers, omissions and late declarations are subject to estimated assessment and a 25% penalty. Various exemptions are explained within the declaration and available if filed on time. If you have closed, terminated or moved your business out of town as of the October 1, 2026 assessment date, a business-closing affidavit with supporting documents attached must be submitted to the assessor for review and removal from future Portland tax rolls.
Public act PA 490: Applications for farmland and forestland classification must be received by December 30, 2026.
Veterans: Honorably discharged Veterans that have served at least 90 days during a time of war must have their DD214 filed within the land records on or before October 1, 2026. Disabled Veterans and/or low-income Veterans over 65 years of age must bi-annually file to the Assessor on or before December 31, 2026 to receive additional exemptions. Veterans with service-related, permanent & Total 100% disability ratings must annually apply for tax exemption on or before January 1st.
The Assessor's Office is open to receive the above lists and applications Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 8:30AM to 4:30PM, Tuesday 8:30AM to 7:00PM and Friday 8:30AM to noon.
ALL FORMS AND APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE
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TAG SALES

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.

GARAGE SALE SAT 10/10: 10am-4pm. Rain date 10/24. 70 Colchester Ave, East Hampton. Car care equipment, Harley Davidson gear, motorcycle, pipes, Christmas ornaments, home décor, quickjack 5000 (never used). Venmo or Cash Only.

HUGE COMMUNITY TAG SALE: Phillips Farms (off Silver Lane) East Hartford, 10/10, 9am-3pm. Rain Date 10/17. Housewares, tools, home decor, sporting games, books, toys and much more.

HUGE FOUR-FAMILY TAG SALE: Prices lower than Goodwill! Sat, 10/3, 9am-4pm. 202 Indian Hill Trail, Glastonbury. Furniture, books, clothes, office, sports equipment, toys, and more!

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.

MOVING SALE SAT & SUN: 10/3 7am-11 & Sun 10/4, 7am-1pm. 16 Eastham Bridge Road, East Hampton. Everything must go!!!! Bikes, lots of furniture, holiday decorations, golf clubs, skis, and so much more.

MULTI-FAMILY MOVING SALE: October 3rd & 4th. 9am-3pm. 89 Mohegan Drive, West Hartford. Furniture, household items, accessories, & much more!

MULTI-FAMILY TAG SALE: Sat, 10/3, 8am-2pm. Lenox Drive, Glastonbury. Household, toys, bikes, furniture, clothes, holiday items/décor, and lots of everything else. Great prices! CASH ONLY!

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 SAT 10/3: 9am-4pm, Park Ave, Colchester. Furniture, clothing, costume jewelry, housewares, shoes, décor, toys, and much 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.

TAG SALE: Saturday, October 3, 8am-1pm, 11 Bermuda Rd, Wethersfield. Pottery barn Convertible crib, kitchen set, framed art, Christmas items, flexible flyer sled, furniture, hiking backpacks, linens, clothing, kitchen items, oak rocker, jewellery, grandmother clock, singer sewing machine, Disney toy box, humidifier and Job site table saw. Directions, Wells to Sherburne to Bermuda.



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