

RIVEREAST News Bulletin

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

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October 9, 2026



The Scarecrows are Back!... The “Scarecrows on Main,” sponsored by The Town Center Project (TTCP) in Hebron have started to arrive. They will remain on display for the month of October, allowing visitors to vote for their favorite at TTCP’s Harvest Moon Festival on Oct. 24. The tradition began five years ago with only six entries, but the contest quickly gained momentum and this year there are nearly 40 scarecrows registered to appear. St. Peter’s Church has an entry again this year, sharing a good message from The Twins-affectionately named Pete and Repeat. Their slogan is “Double the Kindness, Double the Love.”

Colchester Holds ‘Meet the Candidates’ Forum

By Anne Lilburn

Colchester’s branch of the AARP hosted its annual “Meet the Candidates” forum on Oct. 7 at the Colchester Senior Center, and 10 state and national-level candidates from both parties showed up to make their cases for why they deserved to be in office.

In attendance were State Senate candidates for the 33rd District Norm Needleman (a Democrat and the incumbent) and Charlie Ferraro (Republican); State House of Representatives candidates for the 48th District Mark DeCaprio (the Republican incumbent) and Bob Fernandez (Democrat); United States House of Representatives candidates for Connecticut’s 2nd District Joe Courtney (the Democratic incumbent) and George Austin (a Republican); Republican Lt. Gov. candidate Matt Corey; Secretary of State candidates Stephanie Thomas (the Democratic

incumbent) and Peter Lumiaj (Republican); and Democratic candidate for State Treasurer Erick Russell.

More than 50 people showed up to submit questions for the candidates, with similar questions being merged into common topics. Along the way, audience members heard plenty of discussion on Connecticut’s complicated energy cost challenges, and got to see how some candidates felt about data centers, Social Security, climate change and civics.

The candidates even at times found unusual common ground, with State House opponents DeCaprio and Fernandez both having served in the U.S. Navy on submarines, and indicating respect for each other on those grounds.

On the topic of utility costs, Needleman and Ferraro, who previously served in the state

House of Representatives representing the 117th District, found consensus on the idea that Connecticut residents’ utility bills were too high and that deregulation had been a mistake, but differed in their approaches to the problem, with Ferraro arguing that the “public benefit” charge should be eliminated from customer’s bills. Costs for things like research and development should be borne by the utility companies, he said.

Speaking of energy, Needleman said that “there is no more complicated policy in the General Assembly” and argued that the introduction of the public benefit line on customers’ bills was a move towards transparency on existing charges that customers had been paying for decades, not a new, additional charge.

See ‘Meet the Candidates’, page 18

Portland Celebrates Fair Weekend

By Anne Lilburn

The Portland Fair came and went for another year last weekend, and visitors had the opportunity to take part in a wide range of fair attractions. Offerings ranged from traditional agricultural and animal exhibits to rides and food, and even trucks getting some air as they drove over jumps in a mud-filled pit.

While all the usual fair fare was going on, over at the Crafts and Community tent, fairgoers kept busy looking at artwork, food entries, and exhibits about the Arrigoni Bridge and Indian Motorcycles founder (and Portland resident) Oscar Hedstrom.

The Oscar Hedstrom exhibit, which included two vintage motorcycles and featured photos and information about Hedstrom’s life, was presented by the Portland Historical Society, and was the brainchild of former Portland Historical Society president George Gilbert, who also appeared dressed as Hedstrom to give a presentation. Both of the motorcycles on display were also Gilbert’s. One was from 1951 and the other from 1948, he said, and they still ran.

“I rode them down here,” he said.

Crafts and Community Tent Coordinator Melissa Kelley said she was pleased with the turnout for the different events in her tent. She said that, in addition to the Hedstrom/Indian Motorcycles exhibit, people had been drawn to the Arrigoni Bridge history exhibit, which she said was curated by Portland Fair President Kelly Chester and her sister Amy. The exhibit featured archival photos showing the history of the bridge, from before it was built, on through its construction process to its completion.

Another big win for her were two events: one a Makerspace featuring Dr. Nate O’Day, who helped 70-80 people build wooden whistles and see a 3-D printer up close and in action,

and the other the return of the tent’s Trashion Show, which is now in its second year. This year’s theme was America 250, and Gretta Chenier, 11, won the Under 25 category, after taking second place last year, in a creatively-decorated dress featuring netting and cardboard tubes. Her grandmother, Anne Steinhauer, won the Over 25 category, dressed in a metallic Statue of Liberty costume. The Hoebel Family won in the group category.

At the animal tent, visitors had the opportunity to meet and greet a wide range of animals, from a content chicken who enjoyed getting pets, to rabbits, cows, goats, sheep and more. Outside the tent on Sunday, 19-year-old Mary Sloan and her mother Kristen, both of Wallingford, were walking one of Mary’s four cows, Gunnagetcha, a 1-year-old Brown Swiss yearling, and introducing her to curious kids.

Sloan said she didn’t grow up farming and only got into raising cows after becoming involved with 4-H, something she was inspired to do after seeing cows at a fair when she herself was a young kid. She said she loved all of her cows, including her milking cow, who, along with Gunnagetcha, won a prize. However, her favorite was a young heifer named Serendipity.

Sloan and her cows had already made the fair circuit, including Durham, Berlin and North Stonington. She said she looks forward to it, and so do the animals.

“They honestly love fair season,” she said of her cows. “They get lots of attention and pets.”

See Portland Fair, page 17

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27-29 EAST HIGH STREET
EAST HAMPTON



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11:00AM – 1:00PM

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Pumpkin Patch Open Daily

The Andover Pumpkin Patch, located at 359 Route 6, is open daily through Oct. 31. Hours are 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

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.

Concert Next Weekend: On Saturday, Oct. 17, The Brandt Taylor Band will play at the Pumpkin Patch, from 2-5 p.m.

Congregational Church News

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

Children's Church: Is provided. **Choir:** At 9 a.m. Sundays in the sanctuary.

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

AA Meetings: Saturdays and Mondays, 7 p.m. **Sonshine Stampers:** Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m.

Lowering of the Lake

This week, on Saturday, Oct. 10, Andover Lake will begin lowering to its winter level.

Visit www.andoverlakect.com for information about membership and happenings at Andover Lake.

Tag Sale at Church

Andover Congregational Church, located at 359 Route 6, will hold a Tag Sale on Saturday, Oct. 24, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Donations may be left on the ramp at the back of the church.

Call the church at 860-742-7696 and leave a message with any questions.

Kids Art Class

The Andover Community and Senior Center (ACSC), located at 25 School Rd., is holding a Kids Art Class with Kim on Wednesdays, Oct. 14 and 21, at 3 p.m.

The class is geared towards kids in grades 4-8, who will dye silk scarves. The class is for all skill levels, and supplies are provided. A discount is available for siblings.

Supplies provided. To register, call the center at 860-742-7305 ext. 4510.

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Youth Basketball Registration Open

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

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

Mini & Junior Redhawks Developmental

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

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

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. Manchester 10/13 and 10/27, and Willimantic 10/20. Also, on Thursday, 10/15, shop Trader Joe's and Michael's. Transportation is available.

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.

Fall Passport Adventures: On 10/16, at 1 p.m., head off to Johnny Appleseed's Orchard in Ellington.

Wreaths Across America Meeting

The second Wreaths Across America 2026 committee meeting will be Wednesday, Oct. 14, at 6 p.m., in the Andover Community and Senior Center. The 2026 Wreaths Across America theme is "Remember Me."

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

Warning

November 3, 2026, State Election

TOWN OF ANDOVER

The electors of the Town of Andover are hereby warned to meet at their respective polling places in said town on Tuesday, November 3, 2026, for the following purposes:

To cast their votes for Governor and Lieutenant Governor, Representative in Congress, State Senator, State Representative, Secretary of the State, Treasurer, Comptroller, Attorney General, Judge of Probate.

Notice is hereby given that the location of the polling places on Election Day is as follows:

Election Day Polling Place:
Andover Town Hall Community Room
17 School Rd Andover CT 06232

On Election Day, the Same Day Registration location is as follows:
Andover Town Office Building
Hallway Outside Community Room
17 School Rd, Andover CT 06232

Voting tabulators will be used. The polls will be opened at six o'clock in the morning (6:00 a.m.) and will remain open until eight o'clock in the evening (8:00 p.m.).

EARLY VOTING: will take place from Monday, October 19, 2026, to Sunday, November 1, 2026. Early voting hours are 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. each day, except that the hours are extended to 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on the last Tuesday and Thursday, October 27 and 29, 2026. During Early Voting, Same Day Registration will be conducted at the same location as Early Voting.

The Early Voting/ SDR location is:
Andover Town Hall Community Room
17 School Rd Andover CT 06232

Absentee ballots will be counted at the following central location:
Andover Town Hall Community Room
17 School Rd Andover CT 06232

Dated at Andover, CT, Connecticut, this 9th day of October, 2026
Roberta Dougherty
Town Clerk
Town of Andover

1TB 10/9

Trick or Trot 5K

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

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

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

Participants can expect giveaways, awards

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

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

Register online at runsignup.com/Race/CT/Andover/NortonCommissionTrickOrTrot5KRunWalk.

Library in Laptop Program

Andover Public Library is participating in the Laptop ConneCT Program – a program administered by the state Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP) in partnership with the CT State Library, and which has been funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

For this program, Andover Public Library has been given eight new laptop computers to loan to Andover patrons on a long-term basis. The program is designed to help users bridge the digital gap, and will allow them to work, learn, and/or connect from home. To be eligible, the patron must be at least 18 years old

and have a valid Andover Public Library card in good standing. They must also participate in a qualifying state or federal assistance program (including SNAP, CEAP, LIHEAP, Medicare, or HUSKY Health). Computers will be distributed beginning Nov. 2.

Applications to participate are available at the Andover Public Library during its open hours: Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m., and Saturday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

If you have more questions, call Amy at the library at 860-742-7428, or email to andoverctpubliclibrary@gmail.com.

Caregiver Support Group to Meet

The Andover Caregivers Support Group will meet Thursday, Oct. 22, at 7 p.m. at the Andover Public Library on Route 6. The meeting will run for one hour.

The public is invited to join us for an informative presentation by Dana Maranos, engagement coordinator with Home Instead.

Maranos will share information about personalized in-home care and the many ways professional caregivers can help seniors remain safe, comfortable, and independent in their own homes.

Since 1997, Home Instead has been dedicated to helping seniors age safely and comfortably at home by providing care that is personalized, compassionate, and focused on each individual's needs.

Whether you are currently caring for a loved one, considering care for the future, or simply want to learn more about the options available, this is an opportunity to get information, ask questions, and learn about resources that may be helpful to you or someone you care about.

The meeting will conclude with its usual "Show and Tell" segment, where participants are encouraged to share handy tips, tools, or gadgets that assist in caregiving.

The meeting provides a safe and welcoming space for individuals who are navigating the challenges, stresses, and rewards of caring for loved ones.

Caregiving can be a demanding journey, often accompanied by exhaustion, isolation, fear, and stress. This support group is designed to bring together individuals who are traveling the same road, offering a space to share experiences, learn about resources, and connect with others who understand firsthand the challenges of caregiving.

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

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

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From the Editor’s Desk

Observations & Ruminations

By Mike Thompson

In less than a month, we’ll know who the winners and the losers are. Yes, in the World Series (go ChiSox!), but also in the world of elections.

So, as the weeks wind down to Nov. 3, there are some *Rivereast* deadlines to keep in mind.

The last week we’ll run any negative letters about candidates will be Oct. 23. This is so that the candidates have a chance to respond in the Oct. 30 issue before voters head out to the polls on Nov. 3.

Any letters for the Oct. 30 issue must be endorsements only, or otherwise positive in nature. Any negative letters about local candidates (we figure Lamont and Fazio can take care of themselves) will *not* be published. There will be no haggling; there will be no negotiating. They just won’t be published. You’ve heard the expression “err on the side of caution”? Well, for Oct. 30, err on the side of positivity.

It is possible to praise your candidate without trashing the opposing candidate. I see that every year in the week before election. So I’m fully confident you’ll all be able to cooperate.

As for that Oct. 30 issue, we’ll have a special Monday deadline that week for letters to the editor. All letters for that week’s issue – whether they’re political or not – **must** be submitted by noon **Monday, Oct. 26**.

So, to recap: the next two weeks will be business as usual. Deadlines will remain the same, and you can be negative about the local candidates. But for Oct. 30, it’s positive letters only, and the deadline will be Monday.

Speaking of *Rivereast* deadlines, next Mon-

day, Oct. 12, is a holiday. Whether you call it Columbus Day or Indigenous Peoples’ Day, it’s still a holiday, and many places will be closed. The *Rivereast* offices won’t, however. Therefore, the deadline for next week’s issue will still be Tuesday noon. There will be no exceptions.

October is more about baseball playoffs and newspaper deadlines, though. It’s also leaf-peeping season. While a lot of people take road trips this time of year to take in fall color across New England, plenty of other folks stay home to view the foliage here. If you fall into the latter category, *CT Insider* this week offered some tips on the timeline.

CT Insider reported Tuesday that, from Oct. 10-20, color that moved into the state earlier this week should continue building across Litchfield County and other parts of the northwest – with high color spreading into more central and northern areas. The hills of the eastern part of the state also may begin to show a stronger mix of reds, oranges and yellows, the news outlet reported.

Then, in the late part of the month (Oct. 20-31), peak color is likely to work into central and southern Connecticut, including lower elevations and areas closer to the shoreline.

Of course, as *CT Insider* noted, all this is subject to change. Mother Nature has to play ball too. If there are any major windstorms this month, all bets are off. But if the weather holds, it could be, as *CT Insider* said, “the best foliage season in years.”

See you next week.



Bounty for Food Bank... The annual Harvest Sunday was recently celebrated at the Marlborough Congregational Church. The Rev. Valerie Seaver, church pastor, commented on the abundance of fruits and vegetables parishioners generously brought that was later delivered to the Marlborough Food Bank.

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

Vote for Melissa Ziobron

To the Editor:

While not everyone will agree on issues, we should all agree that two-way communication is essential for our communities. Melissa’s communication skills should be a blueprint for all politicians. Using various multimedia sources such as social media and newsletters, she keeps her constituents well informed on legislation, community projects and upcoming agendas.

Not only is it important that we receive information from our elected officials, but it is also important that our viewpoints are considered. Melissa genuinely values our views. She is always available to discuss our concerns and answer our questions, whether in person, phone or email. This requires incredible organization skills, energy and a sincere commitment to her constituents.

Melissa is a strong, efficient and effective leader who understands our concerns, particularly with bringing affordability back to Connecticut. At a time when pocketbook issues are a top concern for most of us, she has offered concrete ideas in her letters to the editor. Melissa wants us to be able to keep more of our hard-earned dollars and make certain that the tax dollars we do pay are spent wisely.

Please join me in my strong support for Melissa Ziobron and let’s send her to Hartford!

Jim Radavich – East Hampton

Standing Up for the 48th

To the Editor:

When it comes to representing the people of the 48th District, Mark DeCaprio has demonstrated that he understands the issues that matter to our communities.

Mark has fought against rising energy costs and the financial burdens they place on families and those living on fixed incomes. He has defended parental involvement in education and challenged unnecessary mandates coming from Hartford. He has also been a strong supporter of local businesses and agriculture – two important parts of our local economy.

Mark has supported tax relief and recognition for the men and women who volunteer to protect our communities. He is also involved in legislation recognizing and honoring those who serve our veterans.

These are just some of the reasons Mark has earned a reputation as a dedicated advocate for the people he represents. He listens, he works, and he stands up for the interests of the 48th District.

The people of the 48th District deserve a representative who will continue to fight for them, and Mark DeCaprio has demonstrated that commitment. He’ll stand up for you in the 48th District; your voice will be Mark DeCaprio.

Rich Tanner – Colchester

Bulletin Board

I see that SpaceX launched a rocket last week in some kind of test that got a lot of media chatter. Frankly, I’ve never been much interested in science and I don’t follow space news very closely, but I presume this latest expenditure of time, effort and money has something to do with establishing a colony on the moon someday. The way things are going around here, it will probably end up being some crudely looking condo project forced on the poor moon creatures by an out of state development mogul using the 8-30g mandate to bludgeon them into acquiescence (thanks a bunch, CT Legislature).

I’ll be honest with you. I really don’t get this fascination with the freaking moon. Oh, there are plenty of people I’d gladly put on a space ship to the moon, but if they actually wanted to go there it would really take all the fun out of it.

A lot of people remember exactly where they were in 1969 when we first put some guy on the moon. Me, I can barely remember my wedding anniversary, never mind what I was doing during the moon landing. Maybe I saw it on TV. I don’t know. If I did, I was probably worrying more about an emerging pimple on the end of my nose or how to impress some girl who was deeply into existentialist literature (more useless effort on my part, but what does it really matter). Or maybe I had to go down and register for the draft. It’s pretty hard to get excited about a bag full of moon rocks when you might be spending your immediate future slapping mosquitoes in some Vietnamese swamp.

Whatever, I just don’t remember a thing about the moon landing.

This is not to say I’m not proud that an American was the first human being to set foot on the moon. On the contrary. We did it. It’s our flag that’s up there and that’s great. (They did leave a flag up there, didn’t they? I hope it was made in the good old USA and not Pakistan or someplace.) But now there’s all this talk about going back. And not just going back, but establishing a colony up there.

Why?

You want to walk around in a godforsaken lifeless landscape with no place to get a cold beer? Book a trip to Afghanistan. Women may not be able to go to school there (or even out of the house without a male escort) but at least the place has air. (I guess this is one of those “the glass is half full things.”)

Since we have now established that the moon is not made of green cheese (possibly the most significant discovery to come out of the moon landing mission in my opinion), I do not see the point of going back to walk around and maybe hit a golf ball or two or leap around like a drunken kangaroo.

I suppose it would be fun to stand up there and taunt the Chinese – maybe moon them or something. Of course, while we’re puttering around up there in a lifeless landscape, they’ll be down here taking over the world.

One thing about the Chinese, they know their priorities.

I will admit to being moved by Neil Armstrong’s (I looked up “first man on the moon” on Google and it’s some guy named Neil Armstrong) words as the first human being to ever set foot on the lunar landscape. “That’s one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind,” he grandly announced. Nowadays, this historic moment would probably include an advertisement for cell phones, or maybe for sneakers or something. I envision Armstrong declaring, “That’s one small step for man in my new and incredibly comfortable Nike high-tops, one giant leap if you want to be a star on a basketball court where there’s gravity. Nike...they’re out of this world.”

Thankfully, we hadn’t quite reached that level in 1969.

I can’t help but wonder what I would have said in Armstrong’s place – not that you would ever get me to cram myself into a tin can and let somebody shoot me up into endless, airless space. No, sir. Not this fella. I don’t even like to go out of state.

I imagine I would have stepped out of the landing module, as the whole world waited breathlessly for my next words, and blurted something like, “Holy @#\$\$%! I sure hope we’ve got enough gas to get the #@(& out of here!”

Like I said. I’m not much on science, but I am a firm believer in self-preservation.

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.

RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

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

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Letter Writers: Letters must be 400 words or less, and must be submitted by **Tuesday** at noon. Email is preferred; send to bulletin@glcitizen.com. All letters must include the writer’s town of residence and daytime contact phone number. Letters 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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Reader Forum • Reader Forum • Reader Forum • Reader Forum • Reader Forum • Reader Forum • Reader Forum • Reader Forum • Reader Forum • Reader Forum

East Hampton Transfer Station

To the Editor:

In reducing a budget you need to reduce what you do in order to spend less. When East Hampton voted for the reduced budget this year, it was clearly indicated that the Transfer Station services would be reduced. I use the Transfer Station and value the Transfer station and do not want the services reduced. My goal is to keep as many services at the Transfer Station as we can, while meeting the budget that East Hampton passed.

Jack Solomon
Vice Chair, East Hampton Town Council

The Librarian vs. The Naysayer

To the Editor:

Thinking about my experiences with libraries I realize I could write an essay. From toddler to senior, I doubt a week has gone by without library time. I love and respect libraries, and I love and respect my local Richmond Memorial Library.

As we enter Banned Books Week (I cannot believe I have had to write that phrase in my America!), I am reflecting on librarians and what they do. From my own experience, the short version: old and new books, movies, digital books; help with my iPhone, iPad, and computer; library of games indoor and outdoor, to borrow; arts and crafts for all ages; space to study, read, write, research; educational lectures; cookbook club in conjunction with senior center; book clubs offering both friendship and close reading; grants for programs such as Books for Babies; pajama time to nurture little ones love of reading; lessons in on-line safety and recognizing scams; partnering with local businesses-currently Zina's Cucina; community outreach; creating a place of acceptance and safety for everyone. Librarians do it all and more, often with limited funds and little public awareness.

Ellen Paul is a librarian and more. She is the executive director of the Connecticut Library Consortium. Consider what a consortium is, an alliance that pools resources, to achieve common goals too large for a single member to handle alone. Ellen leads that alliance of more than 1,000 (yes that is thousand) libraries of different kinds, helping them to pool buying power, share ideas, provide better services, by working together. Recently we have faced serious threats to our freedom to read. Her work with the General Assembly helped pass two laws, one protecting the freedom to read and a bipartisan one protecting library access to e-books. She is a defender of intellectual freedom, a consensus builder, a voice for all five towns in the 55th.

Steve Weir voted 'no' on both: the e-book bill, which passed the House 106 to 38, and the state budget that carried the freedom to read protections. He also voted against the 2025 bill increasing resources for students, schools, and special education; he was one of only 10 House members to oppose early childhood care and education.

Go to her website, Ellenforstaterep.com, and see the differences between Weir the naysayer and Ellen Paul, the problem-solver.

Sincerely,
Ann Terezakis – Marlborough

He Is Always Willing

To the Editor:

I met Mark DeCaprio eight years ago while I was at an event supporting his opponent. Mark and I were the first to arrive. We struck up a conversation for a few minutes and went our separate ways. Since then we have become friends. Spent lots of time campaigning together. Mark organized a food drive to benefit the local food bank which I was happy to help with. Recently when some residents reached out to me for help with their housing situation, I called Mark and he came out and met with residents and walked through the facility with myself and the first selectman. He is always willing to help, no matter your party affiliation.

For those reasons and many more I urge you to Re Elect Mark DeCaprio your state rep.

Tim Vaillancourt – Colchester

Note: Vaillancourt is a member of the Colchester Board of Selectmen.

Vote Jenn Jennings

To the Editor:

From childhood, Jenn Jennings knew the importance of hard work. She understood she had to work to achieve. Her parents were her role models. Her dad was a Teamster. Jenn started as a young girl delivering papers and babysitting as she grew up Jenn worked in the restaurant industry as well as merchandising. She has never stopped working. From each of these work experiences, she was listening to the public and listening to their needs and their dreams. As a real estate agent and member of the Board of Education, she continues to listen to you and to me.

As a state senator, her strong work ethic, her willingness to listen to all voices, and her ability to ask the important questions will help our state become more affordable for all. Vote for Jenn Jennings!!!

Dean Fanelli - Glastonbury

Sign of the Times

To the Editor:

Melissa Ziobron's s campaign has been criticized for reusing signs. Should she have spent other people's donations, or state election-support money, on shiny new signs when she already had many which would serve as well? Shiny new is not her style and it is a telling sign that when Melissa Ziobron has a budget funded by other people's money she seeks to be careful and economical.

Melissa has long approached her work in the legislature both as a member and on its staff with a zeal to get a worth-while job done at the least cost to taxpayers. No frills. No waste. No failure.

Now consider a most telling sign arranged by Democrats, which is the flight of families, young adults and retired folks to red states. What we really must have is more of Melissa's zeal to stop the worst sign: the flight of from Connecticut.

Thus, we need Ziobron in the legislature whether or not her signs meet your approval. I will happily vote for Melissa to represent us in the 34th legislative district.

George Coshow – Middle Haddam

Reelect Steve Weir:

To the Editor:

I ask you to join me by voting for Steve Weir on Nov. 3rd to reelect Steve to his third term as our state representative, 55th District. Steve represents the towns of Marlborough, Hebron, Andover, Bolton and Glastonbury.

I consider Steve a friend and he is always willing to listen, he has an enormous amount of energy and work ethic, and he is just a phone call away. For the last four years he has devoted his time as a Leader who listens, does his homework and does the right thing. Steve lives in the district for over 25 years, with his wife and three daughters and will protect and defend the rights of all families.

Please support Steve Weir and reelect him to another two year term so he can continue to work for us.

Sincerely,
Louise Concodello – Marlborough

Note: Concodello is a member of the Marlborough Board of Selectmen, Board of Education, and the Parks & Recreation, Lake Advisory and Nature Trails & Sidewalks commissions, but said she is speaking as an individual.

Weir Reads the Bills

To the Editor:

The 55th Representative District had two very good representatives before Steve Weir. Pam Sawyer and Robin Green. Both of these ladies learned that you had to read the whole bill to see and understand what was being voted on. They both voted 'no' at times because what was farther down in the bill was not good for the 55th or even the state. Steve Weir also believes in reading the whole bill, learning what is really in the bill.

Too many items are put so far down in bills that most senators and representative only see what they hope to get for their districts. Some of the items put into bills might not even belong there, but some representative or senator wants something and sticks it in a bill. Remember what the Democrats said about Obamacare: "Just vote for it – we can read it later"? If you did not read a bill fully how would you feel if so far down in the bill it said: "you can't vote until you reach the age of 50?" When you find out about that "clause" you would have to fight to get rid of it – until then no one under 50 could vote. So reading the full bill and deciding what is really good and right for your district or the state is very important.

So please vote for Steve Weir who is willing to take the time to read bills and vote the best way to help his District and our State. Vote for Steve Weir as 55th Representative on Tuesday, Nov. 3 – you'll be glad you did.

Carol Barton – Andover

Note: Barton is chair of the Andover Republican Town Committee.

Weir's Enduring Commitment

To the Editor:

I am writing to enthusiastically endorse Steve Weir for re-election as state representative in the 55th House District. Steve exemplifies an enduring commitment to his community through his work as an elected official and by demonstrating the personal character that all elected officials should aspire to.

Steve takes his role seriously and has proven dedication to his district. His 100% voting record in the House during his tenure in the Connecticut legislature – being present for every vote – reflects his commitment. He knows the communities of his district deeply, having lived

See Letters, page 6

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The “East of the River” Real Estate Report

Mortgage Rates Are Rising Again – What Does It Mean for the Housing Market?

Mortgage rates have moved sharply higher, and that matters for both buyers and sellers. According to Freddie Mac, the average 30-year fixed mortgage reached 7.28% on October 1, up from 7.03% just one week earlier. Rates were below 6% earlier this year. Why does that matter? Because rates directly affect purchasing power. On a \$400,000 mortgage, principal and interest at 6% is approximately \$2,398 per month. At 7.28%, it's approximately \$2,739—about \$340 more per month for the exact same loan amount. When rates rise, some buyers lower their price range. Others decide to wait. That can mean fewer showings, fewer multiple-offer situations and homes taking longer to sell. At the same time, buyers have more choices. Connecticut reached 2.9 months of housing supply in September, up 11.5% and the highest level in the last 5 years. We're still well below what would traditionally be considered an oversupplied market, but the direction matters. Higher rates combined with increasing inventory can give buyers more leverage and make pricing more important for sellers. I'm seeing some of that locally as well. Buyers have become more selective, and some homes are taking longer to sell than they did earlier this year. This past week provides a good example. The nine single-family homes that closed sold for an average of 100% of their original asking price, with a median of 17 days on market. Does that mean home prices are about to fall? Not necessarily. Rates are only one part of the equation. Inventory, demand, location, condition and pricing all influence values. For sellers, however, the message is becoming clearer: today's market is less forgiving, and pricing and presentation matter

Market Snapshot – Past Week

Hebron, Andover, Marlborough, Colchester, East Hampton & Portland	
Single-Family Homes	Condos
• 9 homes sold	• 2 homes sold
• Average sale price: \$446,556	• Average sale price: \$230,000
• Average sale-to-list ratio: 100%	• Average sale-to-list ratio: 103%
• Average days on market: 19 days	• Average days on market: 6 days
• Median days on market: 17 days	

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



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★ Letters, cont. from page 5

in Hebron for more than 25 years and living in Glastonbury for many years previously, and he makes a concerted effort to listen to his constituents, regularly holding community events and informational sessions. Importantly, Steve is open and honest when communicating with all residents, regardless of political party.

Steve’s continued advocacy to improve the business climate in eastern Connecticut is particularly noteworthy. A successful business owner himself, he understands the needs and concerns of small business owners. Before politics, Steve managed a landscaping business while still in college, founded American Integrity Restoration, growing the business to have more than 50 employees, and is currently Vice President of Metal Industries, Inc.

Steve’s broad community involvement over the years has given him the necessary experience to build on his political success. From his years as a Glastonbury police officer, involvement as former chairman of the Connecticut River Valley Chamber of Commerce, and many hours volunteering in schools and for charities, Steve’s service is laudable.

Voting is among our most vital processes in a democracy, and sometimes, it’s difficult to know what differentiates candidates. I feel confident that Steve Weir is the most capable, qualified candidate to represent Connecticut’s 55th District, and that’s why he deserves your vote.

Respectfully,
David Polochanin – Marlborough

A Data Center in Colchester?

To the Editor:

Here are three issues that must be dealt with before any data center is permitted in Colchester:

1. Electricity must be provided by the data center itself, not the grid. I suggest they look into “enhanced geothermal” and become one of the first installations of this technology which can produce enormous amounts of power with no pollution, provided that the water injected into the ground is captured and injected back into the ground as it condenses from steam to a liquid.
2. The town or better the state should pass laws forbidding any data center software development to be done in an “air gap” environ-

ment where all such research and development is done totally cut off from the internet until it is deemed safe by third parties.

3. All superintelligent software must be liable for malware prosecution if it proves harmful to any one or anything. AI developers have been hiding behind the excuse that their software is developing a mind of its own, when they are themselves developing that very software. If a bridge collapses does one blame the bridge for a lack of conscience or human morality? Hell no! One prosecutes the engineers who built it. AI is no different.

Unless these conditions are met I will actively oppose a datacenter in Colchester.

Sincerely,
Alden Thayer – Colchester

Reelect Weir

To the Editor:

We need to return Steve Weir to Hartford as our State Representative for the 55th District. Steve has served us for the last four years as a dedicated advocate for the towns of Marlborough, Andover, Hebron and parts of Bolton and Glastonbury. Our small towns need Steve’s strong voice speaking out for our interests. Steve is that person.

As a former police officer and as a current small business owner, Steve understands how important it is to create an environment that promotes a Connecticut where people can thrive and feel safe.

Steve and his family have lived in Hebron for 26 years. As such, Steve knows our communities and he knows the people he will represent.

So when you hear his opponent claiming that she will fix things in Hartford if elected, just remember which political party has held the majority in the state House and Senate for the last four decades. Those promises of “fixing things” ring hollow. We need Steve and others like him to stand up to those who have created the debt and burdensome laws that others have imposed upon us.

Join me in voting for Steve Weir on Nov. 3rd.

Ken Hjulstrom – Marlborough

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

Dementia Talks No. 74

To the Editor:

Yesterday marked one month since you came home to live with us.

In one month, you have received compassionate care from your family and from most others coming into our home to help. Each interaction isn’t always perfect; whatever perfect might be. But it is better now than it was before your medical crisis. Not to mention perfect is not something to strive for, instead choose safety, comfort, slowness and kindness.

The really cool thing is that your weight has gone up, your blood sugar is stable, the finger pricks have stopped (unless there are symptoms), your intimate care is more routine and you could get up off a chair on your own – but I know you are conditioned to have someone with you. One day, you will be standing walking around as soon as I turn my back; it’s just a matter of time.

To those reading this snip-it in time; please know that I am a believer in assisted living and memory care communities – depending on the situation.

I am also a believer that we need to be in-tune to where our loved one is in their personal journey to know if communities outside of the home are more beneficial to our loved one. This is not a cookie-cutter decision by any stretch of the imagination.

If you are reading my essays in the Rivereast, or following our journey on Facebook, you know that are family was teetering on bringing Mom home. The medical crisis at the end of August brought that decision to our feet; and we, as a family, agreed that mom was better suited to be home; not to mention it would be more economical. Especially knowing she needed more 1x1 time.

If you aren’t sure what to do, there are resources available to help. Please know that you are not alone in your journey; even though at 3 a.m. or in the instant your loved one just doesn’t want to stand up to go to bed, you may feel that you are the only one in the universe ... you are seen, you are heard and you are validated.

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

An Unbelievable Sendoff

To the Editor:

I wish I was able to thank every person in attendance at my father John Jones’ celebration of life. It was simply not possible.

So from the bottom of my heart, thank you.

Thank you to everyone who came from near and far. Thank you for every gift, flower, donation and most of all your time. Thank you to the Fire Department he loved.

It was an unbelievable send off for a man that I knew served his family and community every waking hour. I never imagined the magnitude of his efforts.

It’s obvious that sometimes a smile, a simple gesture, conversation or helping hand, while seeking nothing in return, can touch the lives of so many.

I’m proud to say: Please be like John.

Thank you is an understatement.

Joe Jones,
on behalf of The Jones Family
Colchester

Voting for Paul

To the Editor:

I had the honor of first meeting Ellen Paul at a local town meeting earlier this year. Quite honestly, as she spoke, what surged up inside me were feelings which had become so diminished over these past two years. Feelings like hope and authenticity. Remembering what it was like to listen to some with genuine morals, integrity and empathy. Someone who embodied what a true representative is: having the ability and desire to put themselves into each of their constituents’ shoes and listen to understand.

Ellen spoke of the current environment and shared the impact certain of which certain events such as ICE activity had on her. How the very immorality of those events helped her to rise up and fight for us... her friends and neighbors, and, for the future. Ellen understands how to prioritize and that protecting the basic civil rights of constituents was every bit as critical as helping to mitigate and reduce the day to day cost of living which the current party and incumbent has endorsed. Most importantly, Ellen understood that all these issues are not mutually exclusive in that each and every one of them which she fights for embrace the “comprehensive constituent”: that each issue impacts each person living within the 55th differently with varying intensity.

Since that first time, I have had the honor to hear Ellen continue to share her experiences as she campaigns to bring integrity back as a focus. She inspires as a person as well as a potential Representative for our 55th District in Connecticut. She has motivated me to continue to take action in defending diversity and decency.

A true leader is one that builds upon a solid foundation of ethics, strong morals and convictions, and can communicate with transparency. Ellen’s current role as a public servant has proven her track record of such a foundation. From this point, it is part of life that any detailed matter which may come along can be learned, but it will be dealt with in a trustworthy and ethical manner and for the greater good. The key is that foundation is there. For us. Intuitive in Ellen.

That is why I am voting for Ellen Paul for state representative on Nov. 3, and why I hope you will take a look at her yourself.

Sincerely,
Suzanne M. Barber – Hebron

Why Not Steve Weir?!

To the Editor:

I continue to ask myself “Why Not Steve Weir?” He has been our representative for the 55th district for the last eight years. Lots of “letters to the editor” say that he is a really nice person and he has done a great job for us. I would agree that he is a nice guy but I cannot agree that he has done a great job for our town after researching his voting record!

On the last night of the 2026 session, Rep. Weir helped to run out the clock on a tenant-safety bill that had already passed the Senate and cleared the committee unanimously! Steve sits on the board of the Connecticut Apartment Association, whose president testified against it. I would like to know why Steve participated in “running the clock” out so the bill could not be voted on.

I see in the *Rivereast* that Steve has been asked on many occasions to answer questions about his voting record, but he has chosen not to respond at all!

This concerns me and for this reason I will be voting for Ellen Paul on Nov. 3. I hope you will join me!

Sincerely,
George O’Brien – Marlborough

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Rosenfeld Cares

To the Editor:

I can't believe I am writing this, but I agree somewhat with the East Hampton RTC chairperson, Melissa Engel, when she stated last week that the 34th District needs a change, to someone who is concerned about us. You are right; we have been stuck with Irene Haines and Melissa Ziobron the last eight years and they have not been concerned! And apparently the most important aspect to think of about a person running for election is where they were born; please spare me. Heaven forbid anyone think of moving or having parents in the military and you get no choice as to where you live.

So again, Ms Engel, you are right. We do need someone who is concerned and has more qualifications than just being someone who “grew up here.” To that I say Meghan Rosenfeld is that person. Someone who listens, who is concerned, who cares about the residents and non residents alike because let’s face it, they may just be your neighbor one day. I will vote for the person who not only looks for cost savings and inefficiencies but also goes after the dollars that we have already paid into the state and brings them back to the 34th District to help ease the local tax burden. Bring in money to fund projects for our towns, work within the capital to secure more funding for our education systems. Bring in money for our small towns to help infrastructure, like the STEAP grants, that help with projects like culvert and bridge replacements and sidewalks.

Enough with the second and third chances; it hasn't worked for us. Join me in voting for Meghan Rosenfeld and get the job done right the first time.

Rick Wanat – East Hampton

Paper Shred Coming

To the Editor:

It's that time of year and the Hebron Green Committee is announcing that our annual paper shred event will be held from 9 a.m. until noon on Saturday, Nov. 14, at RHAM High School in Hebron in the upper parking lot off the gym entrance. Please note: If you have done searches online for the paper shred, you may have seen other dates, but please be assured that this year's event is on Saturday, Nov. 14.

The rules for this year are the same as in the past: to ensure that everyone has a chance to have their papers shredded, this event is for residents of Hebron, Andover, or Marlborough only, no businesses, and there will be a limit of five boxes or ten grocery bags of papers per vehicle. To keep us all as safe as possible, we ask that everyone stay in your vehicle, with papers

placed in your trunk so we can remove them without reaching into the passenger area, and so you can stay in your vehicle. If you have any pets in your vehicle, please keep them under control. One of our Committee members was bitten by a dog a few years ago.

To make the process go as quickly as possible, if you want to just drop your papers off and not wait for them to be shredded, you should bring them in paper bags only. Cardboard boxes or any other bins cannot be put into the shredding process, so you must take them back.

Finally, please remember to bring nonperishable food items for donation. Our community has stepped up in a big way in past years with food donations, so let's do the same this year.

We hope to see you Nov. 14 at RHAM High School!

Mike Harder
Hebron Green Committee

Hebron's Mother Trees

To the Editor:

The public is invited to join in an exploration of the remarkable world of Mother Trees in Hebron. On Sunday, Oct. 18th, at 2:30 p.m., beginning at the Raymond Brook Preserve at 52 Kinney Road, a guided tour will visit four spectacular Mother Trees that are also listed on the Connecticut Notable Tree database hosted by Connecticut College Arboretum. The walk will include a visit to the town owned property at 17 Kinney Road and explore the connection between the Mother Trees, ancient geology, modern ecology and the historic stone wall laneways.

After decades of rigorous research, forest ecologist and professor, Dr. Suzanne Simard, established the fundamental importance of The Mother Tree in the landscape. In 2021, Dr. Si-

See Letters, page 8



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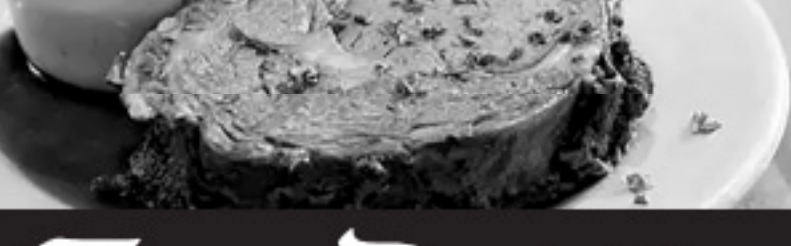
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★ *Letters, cont. from page 7*

ard’s groundbreaking discoveries were published in “Finding The Mother Tree,” establishing many surprising new facts about the life of trees, “I conducted hundreds of experiments, with one discovery leading to the next, and through this quest I uncovered the lessons of tree-to-tree communication, of the relationships that create a forest society. The evidence was at first highly controversial, but the science is now known to be rigorous, peer-reviewed, and widely published.” The research documents the interconnected relationships of the oldest trees in the forest, the Mother Trees, with the surrounding trees and the underground world of mycelial fungus, offering deep insights into forest society and our own.

One of the Mother Trees on Sunday’s Walk is a spectacular example of a Shagbark Hickory, nicknamed “Mother Hickory,” CT Notable Tree ID #226971. Estimated to be between 150 and

175 years old, with the circumference of the truck measuring 125 inches, a height of at least 80 feet, and an average spread of 31 feet. Mother Hickory can be found proudly standing in the middle of a historic stonewall at 17 Kinney Road. Together with two other Notable Trees identified in 2020, the ancient White Oak trees Moonracer and Mr. Gnarly, Mother Hickory raises the count of significant trees on this one property to a significant three. The fact that they all have survived together for nearly 200 years, and possibly over 200 years in the case of the White Oaks, is a testament to the environmental and historical importance of this unique property.

For more information on the Hebron Mother Tree Walk please visit Save Hebron Center on Facebook. There some areas of mud on the walk so boots are recommended.

Sincerely,
Kevin J. Tulimieri – Amston

Ellen Protects the Shelves

To the Editor:

This is Banned Books Week, a good time to ask a simple question about the 55th District: whose freedoms does our representative protect?

Ellen Paul’s answer is on the public record. In 2025 she helped write and pass Connecticut’s freedom-to-read law, which bars libraries from removing a book because of the origin or views of its author, gives anyone who objects to a title a fair and consistent process, and protects librarians who act in good faith. In her words, it “protects a library’s ability to carry books like the Bible as much as it protects books about gender identity.” That same year she helped pass the library e-book law, with a Republican senator, Tony Hwang, among its lead champions. It cleared the Senate 35 to 1.

State Rep. Steve Weir voted against the e-book bill. He also voted against the 2025 budget

act that carried the freedom-to-read provisions. In fairness, that was a vote on the whole budget, and he would say it was about spending. So look at his votes where spending was not the question.

This spring he voted against oversight of private-equity ownership of hospitals, though most of his own caucus voted ‘yes.’ He voted against stronger wage-theft enforcement, and against limits on warehouse productivity quotas. He voted against nursing-home transparency that his fellow Republicans favored 41 to 10. And when a bill to hold out-of-state apartment owners accountable after the Rocky Hill apartment disaster came up on the session’s last night, having passed the Senate and cleared committee without a single ‘no’ vote, he and a few allies threatened to run out the clock until leadership pulled it. He sits on the board of the Connecticut Apartment Association, the landlord trade group whose president testified against it.

Hospital investors, employers who short-change paychecks, absentee landlords. Weir is a
See Letters, page 28



I changed from religion

BECAUSE my religious membership, my religious practice, my good deeds, etc. gave me NO PERSONAL ASSURANCE of a safe and sure relationship to God. When I have trusted Christ I can know...

...that my sins are forgiven because of the saving work of the Lord Jesus Christ, and that I am positively bound for heaven.

...that I have God’s Love Letter, the Bible, to read and to understand, that I can know God rightly which is to have ETERNAL LIFE, having received the Living Saviour.
...that I can have continuous fellowship with such a HOLY GOD since I have come to know Him even as my HEAVENLY FATHER, and so much more.

“And this is **life eternal**, THAT THEY MIGHT KNOW THEE the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent” (John 17:3).

TODAY, whoever you are, will you search your heart and religious beliefs and see if you **KNOW MOST ASSUREDLY** that your sins have been dealt with by the loving and righteous God, that you are **Heaven-bound**, and that one day for you, it will positively be **Heaven-gained!** “These things **have I written** unto you that **BELIEVE** on the name of the Son of God; that ye may **KNOW** that ye have **eternal life**” (1 John 5:13).

God wants you to **KNOW** and to **BE CERTAIN**. Therefore, in His Word **God tells us** 1) that HE is the ONLY SAVIOUR: “I, even I, am the LORD; and **beside me there is no Saviour**” (Isaiah 43:11). “Jesus saith unto him, I am THE WAY, THE TRUTH, and THE LIFE: no man cometh unto the Father, **but by ME**” (John 14:6).

2) **God tells us** that HE is ABLE TO SAVE: “All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on HIM [Christ] the iniquity of us all” (Isaiah 53:6). “Wherefore HE IS ABLE also **TO SAVE** them to the uttermost that come unto God by HIM [Christ]” (Hebrews 7:25).

3) **God tells us** that each one must rely upon God’s authoritative WORD and His SAVING WORK on Calvary’s cross: “For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures; And that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures” (1 Cor. 15:3-4). “I have not spoken in secret, in a dark place of the earth: I said not unto the seed of Jacob, Seek ye Me in vain: I the LORD speak righteousness, I declare things that are right....and *there is* no God else beside Me; a just God and a Saviour; *there is* none beside Me. Look unto Me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I *am* God, and *there is* none else. I have sworn by Myself, the word is gone out of My mouth *in* righteousness, and shall not return, That unto Me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear” (Isaiah 45:19, 21-23). “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth MY WORD, and believeth on Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life”(John 5:24).

Religious activity does not answer the required RIGHTEOUSNESS of God. God has provided His rightness in the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ. “For He (God) hath made Him (Christ) *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him” (2 Cor. 5:21). Why not **RECEIVE HIM** now? “But as many as received Him (Christ), to them gave He power to become the sons (children) of God, even to them that believe on His Name” (John 1:12). “Behold, I (Jesus Christ) stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with ME” (Rev. 3:20).

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6:30 pm Evening Worship

WEDNESDAY:

7:30 pm
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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.

#HebronRocksAlz Events

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

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

Sunday, Nov. 15, 11:30 a.m.: Introduction to Jewelry-Making at St Peter’s Church; cost is \$25. Contact Tonya Maurer at [multitasking@com-](mailto:multitasking@com-cast.net)

cast.net or 860-539-9287 (call/text) to register for the above events.

Events Where No Registration is Needed – Just Stop By: Friday, Oct. 29, 3:30 p.m.: Second Tabling Event at Ted’s IGA.

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

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

Douglas Library News & Notes

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

Holiday Closing: The library will be closed Monday, Oct. 12, for Columbus Day.

Adult Programs: Friday Films: Fridays at 1 p.m. 10/9: “Corpse Bride” (PG); 10/16: “The Mask” (PG-13).

Right-to-Readathon: Saturday, Oct. 10, 3-4 p.m. Celebrate Banned Books Week by exercising your right to read. Bring a book and spend an hour reading in the library.

Medicare Information Sessions: Wednesday, Oct. 14, 2 or 6 p.m., with Mark Macrina a local insurance agent with an office in Colchester.

Puzzle Palooza: Saturday, Oct. 17, 11 a.m. Register your team to compete (maximum five people per team) to see who can complete their jigsaw puzzle the fastest. Please register the name of the team, not individual team members.

WAIM Flea Market

Windham Area Interfaith Ministry (WAIM) will hold its 5th Floor Treasures flea market on Saturday, Nov. 14, from 8 a.m.-noon, at 866 Main St.

Items offered include framed art, glassware, rockers, toys, collectibles, household finds, and more. Payment options: cash, charge and check.

WAIM is a social-service nonprofit that serves Andover and Hebron, as well as Ashford, Bolton, Chaplin, Columbia, Coventry, Hampton, Lebanon, Mansfield, Storrs, Scotland, Willington, Windham, and Willimantic.

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

Whist Card Tournament

Gilead Congregational Church will hold an evening of Whist gameplay, food and fellowship on Friday, Oct. 23, at 5 p.m., at the church Fellowship Hall, 672 Gilead St. The tournament will benefit the #HebronRocksAlz Walk to End Alzheimer’s team.

Whist is a classic card game dating back to the 1500s similar to Setback. No experience is necessary - though some familiarity with card games is helpful. Bring a dish to share and enjoy a potluck of homemade dishes before the tournament.

Space is limited, and cost is \$10 per player. Reserve a spot by calling the church office at 860-228-3077 or emailing gcc@gileadchurch.net.

Parks and Rec News & Notes

Hebron Parks and Recreation is offering the following. For full program descriptions – including costs – and to register, please visit hebronct.recdesk.com/community or call 860-530-1281.

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

Karate: Mondays and Wednesdays, 5-6 p.m., at Gilead Hill School. The six-week ongoing sessions started Oct. 5. Cost is \$90 per session. Enroll anytime.

Take Great Photos with Your Smartphone (for both iPhones and Androids): Monday, Nov. 9, 6-9 p.m., at Gilead Hill School.

Mother Tree Walk in Hebron

On Sunday, Oct. 18, at 2:30 p.m., a guided Mother Tree Walk will visit four historic trees that are also listed on the Connecticut Notable Tree database.

The Mother Tree Walk will begin at the Raymond Brook Preserve parking lot at 52 Kinney Road and include a visit to the town-owned property at 17 Kinney Road. All are invited to come explore the world of Mother Trees and the connection between Hebron’s Mother Trees, ancient geology, modern ecology, and historic stone wall laneways.

The study of Mother Trees began in the 1990s under the direction of forest ecologist and professor Dr. Suzanne Simard. In 2021, Simard’s discoveries were published in “Finding The Mother Tree,” establishing new facts about the life of trees. Simard writes, “Mother trees are the biggest, oldest trees in the forest. They are the glue that holds the forest together. They have the genes from previous climates, they are homes to so many creatures, so much biodiversity. Through their huge photosynthetic capacity, they provide food for the whole soil web of life. They keep carbon in the soil and aboveground, and they keep the water flowing. These ancient trees help the forest recover from disturbances. We can’t afford to lose them.”

For more information on the Mother Tree Walk, visit SaveHebronCenter on Facebook.



Hebron’s Mother Trees – one of which is shown here – will be the focus of a special guided walk on Sunday, Oct. 18.

Gilead Congregational Church News

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

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

This Week’s Events: Saturday, Oct. 10, 9:30 a.m., Wise Warrior Yoga in Fellowship Hall; Sunday, Oct. 11, 10 a.m., Worship Service with Neighbors in Need Special UCC Offering; Sunday, Oct. 11, 11:30 a.m., Board of Missions Meeting in Parish House Conference Room; Sunday, Oct. 11, noon, Fellowship Hall Rental for Private Event; Monday, Oct. 12, Church Office Closed for Indigenous Peoples’ Day; Monday, Oct. 12, 9:30 a.m., Online Bible Study via Zoom; Tuesday, Oct. 13, 7:30 p.m., AA Meeting

in Fellowship Hall; Wednesday, Oct. 14, 9:30 a.m., Wise Warrior Yoga in Fellowship Hall; Wednesday, Oct. 14, 10:45 a.m., Book Group in Fellowship Hall; Wednesday, Oct. 14, 7 p.m., Choir Practice in Sanctuary; Thursday, Oct. 15, 7 p.m., Church Council Meeting in Parish House Conference Room.

Upcoming Events: Great Gilead Bake-Off: Sunday, Oct. 18, 11 a.m. Volunteer bakers will be asked to create a dessert from one of three categories (cakes/cupcakes, cookies, or dessert bars). Samples will be offered at \$5 for 5 or \$10 for 10, in support of Gilead’s spring mission trip.

Blessing of the Animals: Sunday, Oct. 18, at 2 p.m. Bring your pet, a photo of a beloved animal who has passed, a favorite stuffed animal, or simply yourself. All creatures – and all people – are welcome.

Faith & Film Potluck: Friday, Nov. 6, 6 p.m. All are welcome; no RSVP necessary.

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

Classifieds Pay

The Glastonbury Citizen & Riverast News Bulletin

Call 860-633-4691 or email your classified line ad to admin@glcitizen.com

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.

Warning November 3, 2026, State Election HEBRON

The electors of the Town of Hebron are hereby warned to meet at their respective polling place on Tuesday, November 3, 2026, for the following purposes:

To cast their votes for Governor and Lieutenant Governor, Representative in Congress, State Senator, State Representative, Secretary of the State, Treasurer, Comptroller, Attorney General and Judge of Probate.

Notice is hereby given that the location of the polling place is as follows:

Election Day Polling Place
Hebron Elementary School
92 Church Street, Hebron, CT 06248

On Election Day, Same Day Registration and Central Counting will be conducted at the following location:

Hebron Town Office Building
Main Floor, Marion Celio Room
15 Gilead St.
Hebron CT 06248

Voting tabulators will be used. The polls will open at six o'clock in the morning (6:00 a.m.) and remain open until eight o'clock in the evening (8:00 p.m.).

EARLY VOTING will take place between Monday, October 19, 2026, and Sunday, November 1, 2026. Early voting hours are 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. every day, except that hours are extended to 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on the last Tuesday and Thursday, October 27 and 29, 2026. During Early Voting, Same Day Registration will be conducted at the same location as Early Voting.

The Early Voting/ SDR location is:

Hebron Town Office Building
Lower Meeting Room
15 Gilead St.
Hebron CT 06248

Absentee ballots will be counted at the following central location:

Hebron Town Office Building
Main Floor, Marion Celio Room
15 Gilead St.
Hebron CT 06248

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Town of Hebron

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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 Hoedown: Saturday, Oct. 10, 6-9 p.m. Registration requested. The hoedown features fall food, fellowship & group dancing. A chili dog bar w/condiments, special Fall finger foods, desserts and drinks will be available, but feel free to bring a finger food if you like.

Kingdom Women: Women's Bible Study: Meets in-person every first and third Thursday from 6:45-7:45 p.m., at the church. The study

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 Communion Worship: Communion services where all are welcome are held at 8am (Rite 1) and 10am (Rite 2). Sunday School is at 10 a.m. 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.

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

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): Held 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.

Cereal & Meatloaves for CSK: The Community Outreach Committee collects breakfast cereal each month for Covenant Soup Kitchen (CSK) in Willimantic; the next date is Oct. 11. Cereal donations are also welcome any time; place bagged donations in the oak collection box near the CHF Robing Room. The parish also provides meatloaves to CSK each month. Parishioners can deliver a cooked meatloaf to the freezer in the garage (use side entrance) closest to the CHF Parish House or the freezer in the STC church hall by the 4th Tuesday of the

will continue on the book of Psalms. Zoom access is available. Upcoming: Oct. 15.

Youth Ministry: Grades 6-12 are invited every first and third Friday of the month from 6:30-9:30 p.m. for activities, games, Bible lessons, dinner, dessert, and community. Upcoming: Oct. 16.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Monthly Meetings: Building and Grounds, Community Events planning, Finance, Liturgy, Pastoral Care and Vestry. Also, the Women's Club typically meets the third or fourth Sunday each month for crafting and fellowship. There is also a meditation class the fourth Wednesday of each month, at 4:30 p.m.

month. Meatloaves are delivered the next day. The next due date is Oct. 27. Contact Diane (860-508-9959) for more information.

Project Hope (Adult Homeless Shelter): Current needs: medical masks, 2- and 3-person tents; size XL cold to frigid weather sleeping bags; 8x10 and 10x12 tarps (green or brown, no blue); new and gently used (clean & in good condition, please) fall & winter men's and women's outerwear (coats, gloves, & hats); durable heavy crew socks, sweatshirts, sweatpants & hoodies; and hand and foot warmers. In addition, the shelter manager requested medical masks. Contact Monica (860-228-4211) for more information.

Holy Family Home & Shelter (Family Homeless Shelter): Current needs: New or gently used sweatshirts and hoodies (adult sizes small through 3XL; children sizes toddler through 14); women's socks; and baby hygiene products (shampoo, soap, lotion, diaper wipes, rash cream, powder & grooming sets). Place donations in the designated collection boxes in each church. Contact Monica for more information.

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

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

Program on Jewish Immigrant Farmers

Hebron CT Celebrates America 250, a project of The Town Center Project of Hebron, will host a program entitled Jewish Immigrant Farmers in Eastern Connecticut on Saturday, Nov. 7, from 1-3 p.m., presented by Hebron CT Celebrates America 250, Douglas Library and the United Brethren of Hebron Synagogue.

The event will begin at the library with the showing of *Harvesting Stones*. The documentary film tells the story of how Jewish families, escaping persecution in eastern Europe, traveled to eastern Connecticut where they estab-

lished farms and synagogues and became valued members of the communities where they settled. The documentary features interviews with the children and grandchildren of the original settlers and includes historical footage.

After watching the 75-minute film, participants will walk or drive over to the synagogue for a tour and a Q and A opportunity with a member of one of the farming families featured in the film. There is no charge to attend, and registration is not required.

Harvest Moon Festival to Return

The Town Center Project will hold its annual Harvest Moon Festival Saturday, Oct. 24, from 1:30-6:30 p.m., in the center of town, and there are some related pieces of news.

Scarecrows Along Main: TTCP invites festival attendees to vote for their favorite scarecrow during the festival. Voting will take place from 1:30-6:30 p.m. at the TTCP booth located near the American Legion. Two first-place awards will be given this year, to recognize both the children's and the adult's top choice.

Pumpkin-Carving Competition: TTCP invites community members, local artists, and Halloween enthusiasts of all skill levels and ages to showcase their creativity in its ninth annual competition, which will be held as during the festival. There will be an exhibition on the Pumpkin Tower and top prizes awarded for the

Senior Center News & Notes

Russell Mercier Senior Center has announced the following programs. For more information, see the online senior newsletter at hebronct.com/town-departments/senior-center, or call the center at 860-228-1700. **Registration is required for all programs, unless noted, by calling the center or stopping in.** If the program has a fee you must pay at the time of registration with cash or check. Register at the programs/transportation office window.

Special Events: Cooking Demo: Pierogi-Making with Diane: Wednesday, Oct. 14, 1 p.m. In this free program, senior center member Diane Blomquist will show how to make pierogis. Samples will be available.

AHM Children Halloween Visit: Monday, Oct. 19, 10:30 a.m. All are invited to join local Hebron families and toddlers for a free inter-generational celebration. Enjoy a festive snack (including coffee and tea), crafts, and interactive sensory play.

Aromatherapy Workshop: Monday, Oct. 26, 1 p.m., led by Susette Christensen, certified reflexologist and Reiki master. The workshop will cover the basics of aromatherapy and how aromatherapy can be used to promote physical, mental, and emotional wellness. All participants will receive handouts and make their own essential oil spray to take home. Cost: \$15 per person.

Ceramic Christmas Tree Workshop: Tuesdays, Oct. 27, Nov. 3, and Nov. 10, from noon-3 p.m. No experience needed for this seasonal clay workshop. All materials provided. Sign up early. Space is limited. Open Studio time is Fridays from 9 a.m.-noon. Cost is \$30 per person.

Cardio Drumming: Wednesday, Oct. 28, 1:30 p.m., with Jeremy Tucker from The Residence at Glastonbury. This upbeat, free class is great for beginners.

Halloween Party with the Sunshine Sing-

Bereavement Support Group Meets Weekly

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

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

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

most creative designs. Cash awards of \$150 will be given to the 1st place winner in the adult, teen, and child categories. Participants can drop their completed pumpkins from 1:30-5:30 p.m. that day at the Pumpkin Registration booth near the American Legion.

Road Closure: Main Street (Route 66) in Hebron, from the Route 85/66 intersection to Route 316/Wall Street, will be closed Saturday, Oct. 24, from 1:30-6:30 p.m. Rain date is Sunday, Oct. 25. Detours will be available by utilizing Kinney Road to Millstream Road on the south side and Loveland Road to Route 316 (Wall Street) to Burnt Hill Road on the north side.

For more information on the festival, visit www.thetowncenterproject.org/harvest-moon.

ers: Thursday, Oct. 29, 11:30 a.m. Dust off your favorite Halloween costume and come for a festive celebration filled with food, fun and music with The Sunshine Singers. Afterward, stay for a delicious lunch of spaghetti with meat sauce, vampire-repelling garlic bread, and a fresh side salad. Dessert will be devil's food cake. This event is free.

Trips: Lunch Outing: The Student Prince: Thursday, Oct. 15, 11 a.m. Cost: \$5 per person, plus money for lunch. Located in Springfield, Mass., the Student Prince offers a German dining experience with a "wonderful antique ambience" and large beer selection.

Leaf-Peeping Kayak Trip with Wanderlust EcoTours: Friday, Oct. 16, 8:15 a.m. Cost is \$65 per person. Enjoy a relaxed, guided kayaking trip designed for beginners and nature lovers alike. Paddle the Mattabeset River in Cromwell at an easy pace, taking in the brilliant colors of fall reflected in the water. All equipment included. The event is beginner-friendly; minimum physical requirements required to be able to paddle and enter and exit a sit-inside kayak.

Recurring Daily/Weekly Happenings: More information in the monthly newsletter or at the senior center. **Monday through Friday:** Exercise Equipment Room, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., or 9 a.m.-noon on Fridays.

Mondays: Enhance Fitness via Zoom with Paul Smith, 9-10 a.m.

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

Wednesdays: Massage, 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; Enhance Fitness via Zoom with Paul Smith, 9-10 a.m.; Free Zumba Gold Video, 10:15-11:15 a.m.; New – Beginner's Bridge, 1 p.m.

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

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

Historical Society Open Nov. 1

On Sunday, 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.

LEGAL NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that the Andover Zoning Enforcement Officer took the following action on October 1, 2026: Approved a request for Zoning Permit (Permit Number 26-28Z) for Steven Rockefeller for property at 47 Lakeside Drive (MLB 44/47/55.5) in connection with the construction of an addition to an existing single family dwelling. The details of this action are available for inspection by the public in the Zoning Office at the Andover Town Hall, 17 School Road. Any person aggrieved by this decision may appeal to the Andover Zoning Board of Appeals in accordance with Section 8-7 of the Connecticut General Statutes. Dorian L. Reiser, Attorney for the Applicant
1TB 10/9

HEBRON SELF STORAGE Auction Legal Notice		
Facility operator's sale for non-payment of storage charges pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes 42-159 through 42-169. For the satisfaction of the facility operator's lien, the following property will be sold at public auction on Friday, October 23, 2026 @ 10 AM, on the premises of Hebron Self Storage, 555 Church Street, Hebron, CT 06248. Hebron Self Storage reserves the right to cancel a sale at any time for any reason.		
UNIT#	OCCUPANT	CONTENTS
0	Eric Schiffer	Household Goods

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A Tribute to Dolly... Ellowyne Loudembach and her Grandma Jo, both of Hebron, have created another meaningful scarecrow this year as part of the “Scarecrows on Main” display. The display runs through Oct. 24. The scarecrows will be on display all month, and visitors can vote for their favorite on Oct. 24 at the Harvest Moon Festival. The duo has depicted Dolly Parton wearing her famous “coat of many colors” and surrounded by her books from her charity Imagination Library, in which she donated over \$3 million books for children who may not have ever had an opportunity to read one.

Absentee Ballots Now Available

Absentee ballots for the state election on Nov. 3 are available for all electors at the town clerk’s office located at 15 Gilead St. Office hours are Monday through Wednesday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.; Thursday, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.; and Friday, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. For information, call 860-228-5971.

A new law allows anyone who wishes to vote by absentee ballot to do so. No excuse needed.

The state election for governor and lieutenant governor, representative in congress, state senator, state representative, secretary of the

state, treasurer, comptroller, attorney general and judge of probate will be held at Hebron Elementary School, 92 Church St., between 6 a.m. and 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 3.

Also, early voting will take place between Monday, Oct. 19, and Sunday, Nov. 1. Early voting hours are 10 a.m.-6 p.m. every day, with extended hours from 8 a.m.-8 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday, Oct. 27 and 29. The early voting location is the Lower Meeting Room at the Hebron Town Office Building, 15 Gilead St.

Christ Lutheran Church News and Notes

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

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

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

Early Childhood Center (Daycare): Offers

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

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

United Brethren Synagogue News & Notes

Next Shabbat Service: United Brethren of Hebron Synagogue, located at 10 Church St. (Route 85) in the center of Hebron, will hold its next Shabbat service Friday, Nov. 6, at 7:15 p.m. All are welcome to attend. Dessert will be served following the service. Prior to the service, there will be a potluck dinner at 6 p.m. If you would like to come for dinner, email ubofhebron@gmail.com to indicate what dish you will bring and how many people to expect.

About The Synagogue: United Brethren of Hebron offers a flexible, inclusive approach to Judaism. The synagogue combines elements

from both the Conservative and Reform traditions, and our membership includes interfaith families and couples. If you are interested in attending services, becoming a member or would like to learn more about the synagogue, email ubofhebron@gmail.com, call 860-337-3618, or visit www.ubofhebron.org.

Also, the synagogue building needs a new roof and other major renovations, United Brethren said. To learn about the synagogue’s capital campaign and to donate, visit www.gofundme.com/f/support-united-brethren-hebrons-vital-work.

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Motorcycle Man... At last weekend’s Portland Agricultural Fair, Portland Historical Society trustee and Portland resident George Gilbert provided a display and entertained the crowd with his portrayal of C. Oscar Hedstrom, one of the founders of the early Indian Motorcycle Company.

Library Friends Book Sale

The Friends of the Portland Library’s 2026 Fall Book Sale will be held Saturday, Oct. 17, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Sunday, Oct. 18, from 10 a.m. to noon, at the library, 20 Freestone Ave.

Members of the Friends can shop early at the Members-Only sale Friday, Oct. 16 from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Sale patrons may become members or renew their memberships on-the-spot during the Friday sale time.

Thousands of hardcover, trade and paperback books will be available including fiction,

romance, mystery and thrillers, cookbooks, and art books. Patrons will also find CDs, DVDs, and puzzles for adults and children. “Books by the Bag” is back with books available at \$10 a bag on Friday and Saturday, and \$3 a bag on Sunday (\$2 per bag for Friends members). Cash, check or Venmo accepted.

All proceeds from the book sale are used to support the library, including the many engaging programs for all ages offered year-round and the popular passes for free or reduced admission at local museums.

Voter Enrollment Session

The Portland registrar of voters will hold a voter enrollment session at Town Hall, 33 East Main St., on Friday, Oct. 16, from 9 a.m.-8 p.m., in advance of the upcoming election.

Residents may register to vote, and the registrar of voters will also hear requests for adding names to the registry list by persons removed.

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.

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.

Crafters, Vendors Wanted

Crafters and vendors are wanted for are sought for the Holiday Craft & Vendor Show coming up Saturday, Nov. 21, at Trinity Church, 345 Main St. Space is available for \$20.

Space is limited. For more information and a registration form, email carol.hill@comcast.net.



Tony Tears It Up... Tony Rome (left) took the stage last Sunday at the Portland Fair. “They wanted more, so we gave them more,” Rome said. Rome’s next show in the area will be a Halloween show at Concentric Brewing Company in Portland. The show, which will benefit Portland Food Bank, will be Saturday, Oct. 31, at 2 p.m. Rome said costumes are optional but he prefers to see the craziness.

Stuart L. Jablon, D.P.M.

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The Great Portland Scarecrow Contest... The votes have been counted from The Great Portland Scarecrow Contest at the Portland Fair. The Portland River Valley Garden Club thanks all of the creative participants for their creations as well as the fairgoers who took the time to vote. First prize goes to Sue Savage and her Dolly Parton scarecrow (top left). Amy Estabrook earns second place with her Bud’s Cafe skeleton scarecrow (top center) and third prize is awarded to M&P Creations for its scarecrow surrounded by autumn décor (top right). Participation certificates go to Joyce Murphy, KC Lawncare, The Portland Senior Center, and Darcy Parmalee of Kids Blast.

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Food Drive Returns
Next Month

The annual Bag Food Drive benefiting the Portland Food Bank will take place starting Sunday, Nov. 8, with a bag drop-off; bags will be picked up will be the following Sunday, Nov. 15. Organizer Kelly Mainetti’s goal again this year is to collect more than 1,000 bags. If anyone would like to help pass out or pick up bags on either Sunday, call Mainetti at 860-685-1985.

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 alumni are also welcome. Cost is \$36/person and includes apps/buffet. There will be a cash bar. Send Venmo payment to @rebecca-graves-91.

Police News

9/22: Shanice Spivey, 27, of Portland, was arrested and charged with criminal violation of a protective order, Portland Police said.
9/17: Dean Fontano, 24, of Wallingford, was arrested and charged with sixth-degree larceny, police said.
9/16: Christopher Kanti, 33, of Providence, R.I., was arrested and charged with violating of a restraining order, police said.
9/15: Lawrence Young, 33, of Meriden, was arrested and charged with second-degree failure to appear, police said.

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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TOWN OF PORTLAND
PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION
LEGAL NOTICE OF DECISION

At the October 1, 2026 meeting, the following actions were taken:
Approved with conditions Application #26-02: 674 Glastonbury Turnpike. Request for a Special Permit for Home Office. Application and property of Mygiabentley LLC. Map 91, Lot 10. Zone R-25.
Dated at Portland, CT this 6th day of October 2026
Robert Ellsworth, Chairman
Planning & Zoning Commission

1TB 10/9

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Youth Soccer Challenge

The Portland (Saint Mary) Freestone Council 7 Knights of Columbus will hold its annual Youth Soccer Challenge on Wednesday, Oct. 14, at 4 p.m., at the Portland Recreational Sports Complex on Route 17.

Portland girls and boys, ages 9 through 14, are eligible to participate. Each participant will get 15 penalty line kicks on goal with roped targets

High School Hosts Accreditation Visit

Portland High School this week welcomed a visiting committee from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) as part of the school's decennial accreditation process.

The NEASC decennial visit, which took place Oct. 5-7, represented an opportunity for Portland High School to reflect on its work, celebrate its accomplishments, and identify areas for continued growth. The visiting committee spent three days at PHS meeting with students, faculty, staff, administrators, and community members to learn more about the school and its educational program.

The accreditation process is designed to provide schools with an opportunity for meaningful self-reflection and continuous improvement.

for scoring points. John Bruni is the coordinator of the event and brother Knights will assist.

The top finishers by gender and age group will be recognized and will advance to state championship competition.

Registration forms will be provided for parents on the day of the event.

As part of the process, Portland High School has spent the past year examining its programs, practices, resources, and student outcomes through a comprehensive self-study.

Students are a part of the process. Members of the visiting committee visited classrooms, spoke with students, and learned directly from them about their experiences at Portland High School.

The New England Association of Schools and Colleges is a nonprofit organization that provides accreditation to educational institutions throughout New England and internationally. Accreditation is a voluntary process through which schools demonstrate their commitment to meeting established standards and engaging in ongoing school improvement.

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

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.

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 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.

Free, Reduced-Price School Lunch Info

The Portland Public Schools has announced its policy for determining eligibility of children who may receive free or reduced-price meals served under the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP), or free milk served under the Special Milk Program (SMP).

Local school officials have adopted the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Income Eligibility Guidelines (IEGs) for family size and income criteria for determining eligibility. The following income guidelines will be used in Connecticut from July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2027, for determining participant's eligibility for free and reduced-price school meals and free milk in the Child Nutrition Programs (CNP).

Income Guidelines for Child Nutrition Programs: July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2027

Free Meals					
Household Size	Annual gross income	Monthly gross income	Twice per month	Every two weeks gross income	Weekly gross income
1	20,748	1,729	865	798	399
2	28,132	2,345	1,173	1,082	541
3	35,516	2,960	1,480	1,366	683
4	42,900	3,575	1,788	1,650	825
5	50,284	4,191	2,096	1,934	967
6	57,668	4,806	2,403	2,218	1,109
7	65,052	5,421	2,711	2,502	1,251
8	72,436	6,037	3,019	2,786	1,393
Each additional family member	7,384	616	308	284	142

Reduced-Price Meals					
Household Size	Annual gross income	Monthly gross income	Twice per month	Every two weeks gross income	Weekly gross income
1	29,526	2,461	1,231	1,136	568
2	40,034	3,337	1,669	1,540	770
3	50,542	4,212	2,106	1,944	972
4	61,050	5,088	2,544	2,349	1,175
5	71,558	5,964	2,982	2,753	1,377
6	82,066	6,839	3,420	3,157	1,579
7	92,574	7,715	3,858	3,561	1,781
8	103,082	8,591	4,296	3,965	1,983
Each additional family member	10,508	876	438	405	203

The income calculations above are based on the following: monthly income is calculated by dividing the annual income by 12; twice-monthly income is computed by dividing annual income by 24; income received every two weeks is calculated by dividing annual income by 26; and weekly income is computed by dividing annual income by 52. All numbers are rounded upward to the next whole dollar.

Students residing in households with income at or below the levels shown in the chart above are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals or free milk through the SMP. To apply for free or reduced-price school meals or free milk through the SMP, households should fill out the application and return it to the school. Applications can be found on the district website, www.portlandctschoools.org. Only one application is required per household and an application for free or reduced-price school meals cannot be approved unless it contains complete eligibility information as indicated on the application and instructions.

The information provided on the application is confidential and will be used only for the purposes of determining eligibility and for administration and enforcement of the lunch, breakfast, and milk programs through the SMP. Additionally, all school-aged students in income-eligible households can receive school meal benefits regardless of a student's immigration status and the district/school does not release information for immigration-related purposes in the usual course of operating the CNPs. Note that the district may share your eligibility information with education, health, social service, and nutrition programs to help them evaluate, fund, or determine benefits for their programs, auditors for program reviews, and law enforcement officials to help them look into violations of program rules. This information may also be verified at any time during the school year by school or other program officials. Applications may be submitted at any time during the year.

No application is required if the district directly certifies a student based on a household member receiving assistance from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or the Temporary Family Assistance (TFA) program. All students in these households are eligible for free school meals or free milk through the SMP. The school district will notify households receiving assistance under the SNAP/TFA programs of their eligibility and all enrolled students residing in the household will be offered free school meals or free milk through the SMP unless the household notifies the determining official that it chooses to decline benefits. If any students were not listed on the eligibility notice, the household should contact the district or school to have free meal or milk benefits extended to those students. Households receiving SNAP or TFA benefits for their children should only submit an application if they are not notified of their eligibility by **Oct. 9**.

Some students may be directly certified for free or reduced-price meals or milk through the SMP based on

HUSKY A (Medicaid). No application is required if the district directly certifies a student based on participation in HUSKY A (Medicaid). Students in these households are likely eligible for free or reduced-priced meal or milk benefits and will be notified of their eligibility and their children will be offered free or reduced-price school meals or milk through the SMP, unless the household notifies the determining official that it chooses to decline benefits. If any students were not listed on the eligibility notice, the household should contact the district or school to have free or reduced-price school meals or milk benefits extended to those students.

Additionally, some students may be eligible for free or reduced-price meals or free milk through the SMP if the students were determined to be eligible for Summer Electronic Benefits (S-EBT). No application is required if the district determines that a student is eligible for free or reduced-price meals or free milk due to participation in S-EBT. Students in these households are likely eligible for free or reduced-priced meal benefits and will be notified of their eligibility and their children will be offered free or reduced-price school meals or free milk accordingly, unless the household notifies the determining official that it chooses to decline benefits. If any students were not listed on the eligibility notice, the household should contact the district or school to have free or reduced-price school meals or milk benefits extended to those students.

If a student is not directly certified, the household should complete and submit a free and reduced-price meal application form. The application for households receiving SNAP or TFA benefits require the SNAP or TFA client ID number and the households may be asked to provide proof of the SNAP or TFA client ID number. The signature of an adult household member is also required.

Students in households participating in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) may be eligible for free or reduced-price school meals. Please complete and submit a free and reduced-price meal application or contact the determining official for more information. For a tutorial on how to complete the application, visit vimeo.com/777367788.

When known to the district/school, households will be notified of any student's eligibility for free school meals if the individual student is "Other Source Categorically Eligible" because the student is categorized as either: homeless; runaway as defined by law and determined by the district's or school's homeless liaison; or enrolled in an eligible Head Start or pre-kindergarten class as defined by law. Households with students who are categorically eligible under Other Source Categorically Eligible Programs should complete and submit a free and reduced-price meal application and check off the relevant box. Questions should be directed to the determining official. For any student not listed on the eligibility notice, the households should contact the school or determining official about any student also eligible under one of these programs or should submit an income application for the other students.

Households notified of their children's eligibility must contact the determining official or school if it chooses to decline the free school meal benefits. If households/students are not notified by the district/school of their free meal benefits and they receive benefits under qualifying public assistance programs or under Other Source Categorically Eligible Programs, the parent/guardian should contact the determining official for their school.

Foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court, are categorically eligible for free school meals. A foster parent does not have to complete a free/reduced-price school meal application if they can submit a copy of the legal document or legal court order showing that the student is a foster child. Additionally, a foster child may be included as a member of the foster family if the foster family chooses to also apply for benefits. If the foster family is not eligible for free or reduced-price school meal benefits, it does not prevent a foster child from receiving free school meals. A foster child's eligibility for free school meals does not automatically extend to all students in the household.

Free and reduced-price school meals application forms for all other households require a statement of total household income, household size, and names of all household members. The last four digits of the social security number of an adult household member must be included or a statement that the household member does not have one. The adult household member must also sign the application certifying that the information provided is correct.

Under the provisions of the policy for determining eligibility for free and reduced-price school meals, Marit-sa Ellam (860-342-1880 or by email at mellam@portlandct.us) will review applications and determine students' eligibility for free or reduced-price school meals. If a parent/guardian is dissatisfied with the ruling of the determining official, they may wish to discuss the decision with the determining official on an informal basis. If they wish to make a formal appeal, a request either orally or in writing, may be made to Charles Britton, 33 E. Main St, Portland CT 06480 or by email cbritton@portlandct.us for a hearing to appeal the decision.

The policy contains an outline of the hearing procedure. Each school and the central office of the school district has a copy of the policy, which may be reviewed by an interested party.

If a household member becomes unemployed or if household size changes at any time, the household should contact the school to file a new free and reduced-price school meals application. Such changes may make the students of the household eligible for reduced-price school meals, free school meals, or free milk, if the household income falls at or below the levels shown in the Income Eligibility Guidelines.

Questions regarding the free and reduced-price school meals application process may be directed to the determining official at 860-342-1880. A video tutorial on how to complete a free and reduced-price school meals application can be viewed at vimeo.com/777367788.

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audio-tape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf, from any USDA office, by calling 866-632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation.

The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by mail to: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; fax to 833-256-1665 or 202-690-7442; or be email to program.intake@usda.gov.

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Meet Belltown’s Newest School Board Member

By Anne Lilburn

East Hampton has a new Board of Education member. Cristal Chan, a Democrat, has been appointed to replace Democrat Ken Barber, who resigned last month. Chan will serve the remainder of Barber’s term, which ends in November 2027.

Chan is a relatively new face to East Hampton’s local political scene, and education has been a big part of her recent involvement. Her voice has been a familiar one during public comment at recent Town Council and Board of Education meetings, particularly during the recent budget votes.

Chan is the mother of two sons, one who is in first grade, and the other who is four years old and will be old enough to attend East Hampton Public Schools next year, she said. She said she wanted to be involved in the Board of Education after seeing her son’s experiences at Memorial School.

“I just realized how amazing our schools are and how much we can do as a community to support them, and through the last few years of the budget cycle, that’s been pretty challenging” she said.

Chan said that when she learned Barber was stepping down and there would be an opening

on the board, she saw it as an opportunity to step up.

An engineer by profession, who works at Pratt & Whitney, Chan says she’s “fairly introverted” and a quiet person who speaks carefully and says what she means.

“In my professional career,” she said, “I’ve always been told that, when I do speak, people listen, because I don’t just speak all the time. I speak with purpose.”

She said she hopes to bring that sense of purpose to her new role, along with her engineer’s sense of clarity. Chan said she works in documentation and specifications, and she said she knows the importance of making sure processes and intentions are clear and understood by all.

Chan said she also has a background as a coach, both in snowboarding and cycling, and that’s made her passionate about education. She said she understands that “children learn differently and there’s lots of different ways to learn.”

“Not every child is the same,” she said, “but they should [all] be given opportunities.”

She said she thought “sports, mental health [programs], early childhood education, extra-curriculars, and AP classes” were all important

to East Hampton students’ educations.

“All those things that I think prepare our children to be successful and also be good people,” she said, “are things that I think are important that we try to maintain. But, thinking as a community as a whole, we do also need to understand where our constraints are and where you need to draw the line. You can’t just spend endlessly.”

During budget-related Town Council meetings, Chan had been a regular advocate for the town’s Smart Start Preschool, a program that her oldest son had attended, and she said she believed in the importance of early childhood education. She noted that, among other benefits, programs like Smart Start enable early iden-

tification of students with challenges, thereby offering the potential for the district to provide early interventions to families that may result in cost savings down the road.

Chan said she’s looking forward to starting her work on the board and said she respected all of her new colleagues.

“I really respect all the people on the Board of Ed, including Mr. Barber” she said, “and I think they very respectfully conduct themselves and are very respectful of each other, and I think that’s great. I think that is a testament to what they represent and [to] what we want to do for our community, to try to promote kindness, collaboration and continued support of our community.”

Senior Center Upcoming Trips

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

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

at 10:30 a.m.

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

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

Senior Center News & Notes

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

Writing Our Lives to Open Our Hearts: Will meet Tuesdays, 10-11 a.m., through October, and every other Thursday from 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Led by Elizabeth Thomas, if you would like to sharpen your pencil and your brain with creative writing.

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

Tai Chi: Thursdays at 1:30 p.m. through Nov. 12 (started Oct. 8), featuring a new instructor – Cindy Sullivan. Cost is \$30 for the series or \$5 to drop in.

Tech Help with Scott (A.K.A. Warren): Tuesday, Oct. 13 10 a.m.to noon. Make an appointment to get help with your technical challenges! Bring your I-pad, laptop or cell phone to your appointment.

Restorative Sound Healing: Wednesday, Oct. 14, 2:30 p.m. Discover the benefits of sound healing with Amy Ordonez of Studio 13. Cost is \$3.

Short Story Discussion: Wednesday, Oct. 14, 2:30 p.m., with staff member Melissa Pionzio featuring *The Snow Goose* by Paul Gallico.

The Script Society: Thursday, Oct. 15, 2 p.m. Join actor and director Val Bozzi for an afternoon of script reading, featuring a different storyline each month. No experience needed!

Family Tree: Friday, Oct. 16, 10:30 a.m. Led by Kenneth Doney, this hands-on class enables participants to research their family tree. Bring a laptop, iPad or cell phone to the class.

Drum Circle: Friday, Oct. 16, 2 p.m., with Mark Zarillo for an afternoon of beats! Get your energy flowing with this hands-on session of rhythm on the drums. Cost is \$5.

Trips: Book Barn and Lunch at Lenny & Joe’s: Wednesday, Oct. 14, departing at 10:30 a.m. Take a drive to Niantic to browse the large collection of used books at the Book Barn, then have lunch on your own at Lenny & Joe’s in Westbrook. Cost is a \$4 donation for transportation.

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.

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.

Salmon Fundraising Dinner

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

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

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

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

The fresh salmon is shipped in and will be featured along with chicken as an alternative meal choice. RSVP with the number of people in your party and meal choice by Oct. 13 to officehnc@gmail.com or 860-267-2336, or Sandy Fries at 860-655-2198.

Haddam Neck Covenant Church is located at 17 Haddam Neck Rd. Information is available at www.hncovenantchurch.org.



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Community Vaccination Clinic

The Town of East Hampton, in partnership with Chatham Health and Beacon Pharmaceuticals, will host a community vaccination clinic on Wednesday, Oct. 14, from 4-6 p.m., at Town Hall, 1 Community Drive, East Hampton.

The clinic is open to individuals ages 3 and older. Walk-ins are welcome, and no advance registration is necessary.

Chatham Health District will provide flu vaccinations, and Beacon Pharmaceuticals will provide the following vaccines: COVID-19,

RSV, shingles and pneumococcal.

Residents attending the clinic should bring a current insurance card and photo identification. Most major insurance plans are accepted. Note: VA, TRICARE, and Hospice insurance plans are not accepted.

Residents with questions or who would like additional information may contact Chatham Health at info@chathamhealth.org or 860-365-0884.

Absentee Ballots Now Available

Absentee ballots for the upcoming state election are now available.

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.

Christ Episcopal Church News

Christ Episcopal Church, 66 Middle Haddam Rd., Middle Haddam, holds in-person and Zoom services at 10 a.m. on Sundays. All are welcome. To connect electronically, go to www.christchurchmiddlehaddam.com for directions. The Holy Eucharist will be celebrated with the Rev. Diana Rogers, priest-in-charge.

Food Bank Donations: Food items for the East Hampton Food Bank may be placed in the black totes at the rear of the church.

Returnable Cans and Bottles: All are asked to place donations in the cans by the shed. Note: Glass bottles and aluminum cans should be separated prior to drop-off.

Sunday School: Class takes place each Sunday at 9:55 a.m. Newcomers are always welcome. Contact Rev. Joanne Neel-Richard, the Director

of Children's Ministry, at jneelrichard16@gmail.com for information.

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

Cobalt Lodge Service: The monthly worship service at Cobalt Lodge will be held directly after church on Oct. 18.

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

Helping Hands Reopens Oct. 17

Helping Hands, a ministry of Cornerstone Bible Church, is open the first and third Saturdays of each month. Helping Hands offers free clothing, household items, toys, books etc. to anyone in need.

Anyone wishing to shop can do so from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. on the first and third Saturdays of every month. Donations to Helping Hands are accepted on Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., and on Saturdays that Helping Hands is open from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Helping Hands is located at 27 Skinner St. For more information, call Beth Cunningham at 860-365-1054.

Vaccine Clinic

Walgreens is hosting a vaccine clinic on Saturday, Oct. 31, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 1 East High St.

Flu, COVID-19, RSV and shingles vaccines will be offered. Call Cromwell Walgreens with any questions at 860-613-2324.

Please bring insurance cards.

Tennis Program for Adults

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

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

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

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

Dean's List

East Hampton residents Gabriela Negron, Shane Proxee, Bella Searles and Kim Dumond made the spring 2026 Dean's List at Southern Connecticut State University.

Classifieds Pay

The Glastonbury Citizen & Rivereast News Bulletin

Call 860-633-4691 or email your ad to admin@glcitizen.com

Police Make Arrest in Erratic Driving Incident

By Anne Lilburn

East Hampton police announced Wednesday that they had arrested someone related to an erratic driving incident in September that resulted in the injury of an East Hampton firefighter.

Kendal Shelton, 32, was charged with nine offenses, including engaging in police pursuit, reckless driving, interfering with an officer, assault on public safety with injury, evading responsibility with injury, failure to move over for emergency vehicles and failure to comply with fingerprinting.

The incident took place Sept. 13 on Route 66/West High Street, where the Fire Department had closed the road between Barton Hill Road and Maple Street.

Around 5:45 p.m., East Hampton police said they received a report of a vehicle "driving erratically" as it entered the town from Portland. "It was observed passing multiple vehicles in no-passing zones, speeding and creating a hazard for both pedestrians and other vehicles."

As the vehicle fled police, it approached the unrelated crash scene where firefighters were working, "striking one firefighter while narrowly missing several others," according to East Hampton Police.

Upcoming Events at Haddam Neck Church

There are three special events coming up at Haddam Neck Congregational Church, 408 Quarry Hill Rd., Haddam Neck.

Haddam Neck in Pictures will be presented by Haddam Historical Society director Elizabeth Malloy on Sunday, Oct. 18, at 2 p.m., at the church.

Also, the church will hold a blessing of the animals Sunday Oct. 25, during the 10:30 a.m. service. The Rev. Linda Choser will lead the bless-

ing. Bring your dog, cat, bird, fish, goat, sheep, horse, cow or whatever animal you would like to have blessed to church. Larger animals will be blessed outside. Refreshments will follow.

Lastly, the church will have a Take-Out Turkey Dinner Saturday, Nov. 14, at 5 p.m., at the church. Cost is \$15 for a turkey dinner with trimmings and pie.

For more information about any of the above, call 860-993-5311 for information.

Haddam Neck Covenant Church News

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

Men's Group: The Men's Breakfast Bible Study will meet at the church on Wednesday, Oct. 14, from 7-8 a.m., to share scripture around what the Bible says about being a man at home, at work and in life. There will be coffee, pastries and conversation.

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

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

HeatSmart Program Returns

This week, residents of East Hampton will be receiving a letter from Town Manager David Cox encouraging participation in the town's HeatSmart 2026-27 program. This is a repeat of last year's promotion, but comes at a more challenging time.

"This winter will be much more costly, particularly for heating oil. We cannot change that, but we can each take steps to lessen our energy bills," said Cox.

A HeatSmart energy assessment is the starting point for those who have not yet taken advantage, the town said. HeatSmart promotes weatherization and other energy-saving upgrades, benefiting small businesses and residential homeowners and renters in cities and towns across the state, including over 20 environmental justice communities.

"Signing up for the assessment opens the

door," said Russ Kaplan, Chairman of the East Hampton Clean Energy Task Force. "Many residents have already used this program and are saving significant money year after year. Now is the time for those who have not yet done so to join their ranks."

Kaplan noted another benefit: "Our partner contractors, Lantern Energy and New England Smart Energy Group, will contribute \$25 for each assessment they complete here in our Town to the East Hampton Food Bank."

East Hampton, in partnership with the Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments (RiverCOG), the towns of Chester, Deep River and Portland, have been awarded a Community Partnership Initiative grant by the Sponsors of Energize Connecticut SM, Eversource and Avangrid, Inc. subsidiaries Connecticut Natural Gas and Southern Connecticut Gas.

For more information, visit HeatSmartCT.org/EastHampton, or call 877-878-3006 (be sure to mention HeatSmart).

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Lions Fall & Winter Coat Drive

The East Hampton Lions Club invites the community to help keep neighbors warm this winter by donating gently used coats and winter clothing for its fourth annual drive.

Donations will be accepted now through Oct. 25 at Ace Hardware in East Hampton and St. John Paul II Parish Hall (a.k.a. St. Patrick Church). Students may also drop off donations at their school.

Free shopping will take place at St. John Paul II Parish Hall on Thursday, Oct. 29, from 10-11 a.m. and 5-7 p.m.; and on Friday, Oct. 30, from 10-11 a.m. and 5-7 p.m.

Community members who need warm clothing are invited to stop by during these hours and select items at no cost.

For more information, contact Lion Mary at 860-977-5760 or Lion Joe at 860-930-5388.

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.

Holiday Closing: The library is closed on Columbus Day, Monday, Oct. 12.

Open Mic Night: Friday, Oct. 16, 6-8 p.m.

Chatham Chess Club: Wednesday, Oct. 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.

RTC Meets Next Week

The East Hampton Republican Town Committee will meet Tuesday, Oct. 20, at 6:30 p.m., at The Dublin, 42 East High St.

All are invited to come learn more about the committee and what it is working on for the residents of East Hampton.

RTC Raffle Basket Fundraiser

The East Hampton Republican Town Committee will hold its annual Raffle Basket Fundraiser Thursday, Oct. 22, from 5-8 p.m., at The Dublin, 42 East High St.

Prizes will include many raffle baskets as well as a gift card tree. Tickets will be available for purchase starting at 5 p.m., with the drawing taking place at 8 p.m. All are invited.

CDHR Oktoberfest

All are invited to join CT Draft Horse Rescue for the 15th annual Oktoberfest Saturday, Oct. 17, at Autumn Ridge, the farm of the CDHR, 113 Chestnut Hill Rd. Admission is free. Come meet the horses from 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

There will be vendors, raffles, food, kid activities, and more. For more information, please visit www.ctdraftrescue.org or www.facebook.com/ctdraftrescue. Rain date is Sunday, Oct. 18.

CDHR is a nonprofit organization dedicated to saving the lives of neglected or abused draft horses as well as draft horses headed to slaughter. Its mission is to vet, quarantine, rehabilitate, train and re-home rescued horses with a strict contract for their lifelong protection. Since its inception, CDHR has rescued more than 110 horses with the majority placed in forever homes. The CDHR is run strictly on public donations.

Athletic Hall of Fame Elects Five

The East Hampton Athletic Hall of Fame has elected two athletes and three coaches to its 2026 class – and an induction ceremony is coming up later this month.

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

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

The five will be inducted into the Hall of Fame on Friday, Oct. 23, at 6 p.m., at Blackledge Country Club in Hebron. The evening includes a buffet-style dinner. Tickets for the event are \$55 each. For tickets, contact Mike Vasquenza at mjvasquenza@gmail.com or 860-308-6621.

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

Congregational Church News

The Congregational Church of East Hampton, 59 Main St., welcomes all to worship Sundays at 10 a.m. The Scripture reading for this Sunday’s service is Matthew 22: 1-14. The Rev. Robin Blundon will deliver the sermon. Coffee hour will follow the service.

Members of CCEH continue reflection through the year on the theme, Psalm 46:1: “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.” A handcrafted lighthouse will be on display in the sanctuary throughout the year as a symbol of a beacon of hope and a reminder of God’s light.

Weekly Schedule: Sunday evenings: AA meeting, 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall; Monday: Cub Scouts meeting, 5:30-7:30 p.m.; Tuesday: Boy Scouts meeting, 6:30-8:30 p.m.; Wednesdays: Art Class with Elizabeth Sennett, 9:30-11:30 a.m.; Thursday morning: Yarners, a community knitting/crocheting group, meets 10 a.m.-noon – all are welcome; Thursday evening: Choir Practice in the upstairs lounge – Bells from 6-7 p.m. and Vocal Choir from 7-8:30 p.m.

East Hampton Food Bank: A weekly collection is held for the Food Bank. This year, more than 810 pounds have been donated.

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.

Women’s Fellowship Dignity Drive: This is an ongoing collection to support women and girls in need, both globally and in the community. The church is also collecting feminine hygiene products for the 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.

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Mary Sloan, 19, of Wallingford, poses with her cow, Serendipity, at this year’s Portland Fair.

★ *Portland Fair, cont. from page 17*

They honestly are big puppy dogs.”

Sloan said she looked forward to fair season every year, as did Kelley at the Crafts and Community Tent. Kelley said she was already looking towards next year, even as this year was finishing up.

On that note, she said she was continuing a tradition from last year, with an annual wall hanging to commemorate each year’s theme. Last year, she used feed bags to create a sign celebrating the theme of “Recycle, Reuse, Create,” and it hung inside the tent this year as well. This year, fairgoers had a chance to be a part

of a new wall hanging’s creation, with a loom set up inside the tent with red, white and blue fabric scraps that could be woven through to honor the “250 Years of Progress in Agriculture” theme. The plan, Kelley said, was to hang these projects on the walls of the tent every year, and add to the collection in coming years.

“We’ll figure out a way to display it in here next year, and then going forward we’ll have some sort of thing every year that’ll mark that year’s theme to be able to start decorating the walls,” she said.

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How To Prepare Your Car For Fall

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



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

- 1. Check The Belts & Hoses**
Belltown will look for cracks, leaks, and wears in the belts and hoses to ensure that there are no signs of splitting, fraying, or glazing.
- 2. Check The Fluid Levels**
We’ll check windshield washer fluids, transmission fluids, coolant, brake fluids, and power steering fluids. All are very important for ensuring that your car runs smoothly.
- 3. Check/Replace Tires**
Belltown will check the tread, inflation, and overall condition of your tires and we may recommend rotating your tires, so they wear evenly.
- 4. Check Your Heat**
You want to be sure your heat/defroster works when the colder weather hits - driving with fogged-up windshield is unsafe.
- 5. Check The Brakes**
With every season, brakes are crucial for safe driving. Cold weather heightens brake problems, since the roads have the potential of becoming slippery from snow and ice.

Monday-Friday 8am-5pm

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East Hampton Library News & Notes

East Hampton Public Library, 105 Main St, has announced the following. For full program descriptions or to register for a program, call 860-267-6621 or visit easthamptonpubliclibrary.org.

Hours: Monday - Wednesday, 10 a.m.- 8 p.m.; Thursday - Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. **Note: The library will be closed Monday, Oct. 12, due to the holiday.**

All-Ages Programs: Halloween Costume Swap Shop: Saturday, Oct. 10, 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. Come “shop” for a costume. All are welcome; you do not have to donate to take items from the swap. Leftover costumes will be available in the Children’s Room until Oct. 31.

Spooky East Hampton: Through Oct. 16, East Hampton residents of all ages are invited to submit an original spooky story for a chance to be published in this year’s edition of Spooky East Hampton. Check the library website for submission guidelines and more information.

Family Pumpkin Decorating: Saturday, Oct. 17, 10:30 a.m.-noon. Decorate a pumpkin together to take home. All materials provided; one pumpkin per family. Registration required; only complete one registration per family.

Bingo at VFW Post

All are invited to bingo every Thursday at VFW Cobra Post 5095, located at 20 North Maple St. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Early Bird Bonanza will be at 6:20 p.m., with regular game play starting at 6:30 p.m. There will be a progressive jackpot and cash prizes.

The café will be open before games and during intermission, offering hot snacks.

Adult Programs: Library Yoga with Amie Meacham: Tuesday, Oct. 13, 6:30 p.m. Join Yoga 200 Certified instructor Amie Meacham for an hour of gentle all-levels yoga. Bring a mat and wear comfy clothes.

Book Club: Wednesday, Oct. 14, 6:30 p.m. Grab a copy of this month’s selection and come for a casual discussion.

Belltown Book Brunch: Friday, Oct. 16, 11 a.m. Meet to talk about you’re currently reading while enjoying coffee, tea, and a breakfast treat.

Book Alchemy: Tuesday, Oct. 20, 6 p.m. Learn how to transform unwanted books into expressive and meaningful art journals.

Warren Society For Paranormal Research & Education: Wednesday, Oct. 21, 6 p.m. Meet veteran paranormal investigator Joe Franke for an intriguing look at four decades of paranormal investigation, real-life cases, and the mysteries of the supernatural.

Teen Programs: Chapter Chat with Keri & Friends: Grades 7-10: Tuesday, Oct. 13, 6 p.m. Read and discuss a new book every month.

Teen Advisory Board: Tuesday, Oct. 20, 6 p.m. Help plan programs, improve the Teen Space, and take a leadership role in shaping how the library serves teens.

HallowTween! (Grades 4-7): Saturday, Oct. 24, 1-2:30 p.m. Check the website for updates.

Children’s Program: 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.

Read to a Therapy Dog: Tuesday, Oct. 13, 4:30-5:30 p.m. Readers will be assigned a 15-minute time slot to read to Jovie, a certified therapy dog. Registration required.

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

Wangunk Artist 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.

O’Neil’s art exhibit includes mixed media monoprints, collage and clay pieces, created in the traditional “pit-firing” Native American style. 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. Her work has also 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.

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.

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★ ‘Meet the Candidates’, cont. from page 1

“Transparency is important, and people should know what they’re spending their money on,” said Needleman, who argued that the current public benefit charges are negative.

“Go check your bill,” he said. “You have a negative public benefit number. It’s a very substantial credit.”

Utility deregulation, said Needleman, was “the original sin.” It was sold to the state by “our good friends who all ended up in jail at Enron,” he said to applause, and it was a “bad deal.”

Some topics crossed party lines, such as the issue of data centers. A recent proposal for a data center in Colchester has ignited the issue at the local level, and candidates on both sides found some common ground on the topic, though not across the board.

Fernandez took a hard line.

“Zero. Yeah, I said it. No data centers in the 48th [District]. If I represent you, no data centers,” he said to applause.

“This is the Last Green Valley,” he said, referencing the National Historic Corridor consisting of towns in Connecticut and Massachusetts prized for its lack of development. While Colchester is not formally included in the corridor, nearby communities such as Lebanon, Norwich and Windham are.

Fernandez’ opponent, DeCaprio, noted that, when it came to data centers, he was “not an expert, but what I do know is that they’re not very welcome in a lot of the communities where they’re planned to go.”

Lieutenant Governor candidate Corey said he believed data centers should have to “bring their own power,” while congressional candidate Austin said he believed in “keeping data centers out of places where they don’t belong.”

Congressional candidates Courtney and Austin were asked about climate change, and Austin described himself as “an outdoorsman” who likes to enjoy nature. He said he had concerns about data centers and conservation, and expressed concerns that green energy projects could disrupt that.

“If we’re deforesting for solar farms, or using farmland that we need for food to eat for solar farms,” he said, “that doesn’t seem very green to me, so I am in favor of having a very diverse energy portfolio, one that makes sure that we acknowledge our stewardship of the earth and nature, but if something’s gonna be green let’s make sure it’s actually gonna be free.”

Courtney took a blunter approach to the question.

“Climate change is real,” he said. “You don’t

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Colchester resident Andrew Norton (far left) was the moderator of Tuesday’s “Meet the Candidates” forum at the Colchester Senior Center. The event featured various candidates running for state and federal office.

have to go very far. Talk to the fishermen down in Stonington who’ve basically seen sea temperature rise wipe out the species that they had been fishing for many, many years.”

“Just look at FEMA’s budget in terms of natural disaster assistance,” he added.

“The science is real in terms of those events and those trends that are out there right now,” he said. Courtney said he supported tax credits for homeowners investing in conservation technology as well.

Social Security was also a hot topic at the senior center event, and Courtney described Social Security as “the question of the day.”

He said he supported fellow Connecticut Democratic lawmakers John Larson (representing the state’s First Congressional District) and Sen. Richard Blumenthal’s Social Security 2100 Act, which would eliminate the current cap on Social Security tax, whereby earnings past \$184,000 are not subject to the tax.

Under the current cap, “Elon Musk, all of those guys, stop paying into the system probably on day one of the calendar year,” Courtney said. “It’s made the system regressive. Lower-income Americans are paying a higher share of their income into the system than the billionaires and the super wealthy. If we scrapped that cap — which does not exist, by the way, in the Medicare program or the payroll tax — you would push out the solvency of this program by decades.”

“It’s going to take people who have the guts to stand up to some of the most powerful, wealthy people in this country to say, ‘It is time for you to start paying your fair share,’” he said to one of the louder rounds of applause during the event.

His opponent, Austin, took a very different approach.

“I’d like to make sure we can identify cost savings as a first stopgap measure,” he said. “I would like to, for lack of a better term, “DOGE-

ify’ this process.”

“I want to make sure that we can identify and persecute any bad actors who are committing fraud or scamming our seniors,” he explained. “Kind of like when they cross state lines [and] the FBI gets involved? When it involves any sort of Social Security income, then that would bring in the DOGE-ified kind of process, that wing in terms of a law enforcement action desk.”

He said he would then want any of the funds that were recovered to be “funneled directly into the Social Security fund.”

The two Secretary of the State candidates, incumbent Democrat Thomas and Republican challenger Lumiaj, took very different approaches as well. Lumiaj focused much of his concerns on voter fraud.

“No one should cancel your vote. No one should cancel my vote. I believe that we should have proof of citizenship when you register to vote,” he said. “We should have voter ID, and that should be issued for free.”

Thomas, the Democrat, focused her priorities on outreach and education, saying she wanted citizens to know how to become more involved in government. Civic engagement and voter turnout, she said, were priorities for her.

“Right here in Colchester,” she said, “She pointed out that voter turnout in Colchester, which was approximately 80% in presidential election years, dropped to about 68% for mid-terms and down to around 30% for municipal elections, and said she wanted voters to understand where to go to get answers and to make their voices heard in between elections, and to understand the power that they had influence their communities with their votes and their voices. She said turnout was essential.

“I am always preaching civics,” she said. “Every single candidate here has a role to play, but we can’t forget that we have a role to play as well.”

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DTC Sending Postcards to Swing States

The Colchester Democratic Town Committee is organizing efforts to influence midterm elections at a national level by sending Postcards to Swing States.

The DTC said it aims to send 1,000 postcards to probable, but not always active, Democratic voters out the door before Oct. 20.

Two postcard-writing/stamping evenings are planned, for Wednesday, Oct. 14, and Monday, Oct. 19, from 6:30-8 p.m., both at the Colchester Senior Center, 15 Louis Lane. All are welcome to attend and cookies will be served.

Call Monica at 860-465-7909 for more information.

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 – in conjunction with the Connecticut Food Truck & Wine Festival.

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.

Contact tagnobark@gmail.com for more information.

Absentee Ballots Now Available

The Colchester town clerk's office announces applications for absentee ballots for the Nov. 3 election will be available through Monday, Nov. 2.

Absentee ballot instructions:

1. Fill out an application for an absentee ballot. You may obtain an application in the Town Clerk's Office, or online at tinyurl.com/3ddtstev, where you can fill out an application. You must be a current Colchester voter at the time of the application.
- After the completed application, you will be given an absentee ballot to fill out. If you apply online, the ballot will be mailed to you and if you apply in person, you can fill out the ballot at that time or take it with you to return within the specified period.

The fully-filled out ballot and enclosed envelopes must be submitted by:

- a) If delivered in person, it must be delivered to the town clerk no later than the Monday before the election at 4:30 p.m.
- b) If delivered in person by a family member or qualified designee, it must reach the Town Clerk's office by the end of polls on Election Day.
- c) If delivered in the absentee ballot box located in front of Town Hall, it must be delivered by 8 p.m. on Election Day.
- d) If delivered by mail it must be received no later than 4:30 p.m. on Election Day.

If you have any questions, call the town clerk's office at 860-537-7215.



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SOUP OR SALAD Cup of soup of the day or garden salad

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Chicken Parmigiana

Eggplant Rollatini Rolled eggplant stuffed with ricotta, prosciutto and roasted peppers
Stuffed Pork Chop Stuffed with broccoli, gorgonzola cheese and ritz crackers in a brown cognac sauce
Chicken Marsala Sautéed with mushrooms, shallots in a marsala wine sauce
Stuffed Sole Crab meat stuffing served over spinach

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

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3 pm
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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 established in 2020 and since its inception has donated over \$80,000 to Colchester causes.

Colchester Cares always welcomes new members. You can be a member without having to attend meetings. Suggesting worthy causes, voting, and donating can all be done online.

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

250 Community Concert

Colchester Recreation invites all to the America 250 Community Concert. The concert will be held at the Bacon Academy auditorium on Sunday, Oct. 11, at 2 p.m.

Local musicians and singers will perform classic American songs. The St. Andrew Handbell Choir and the Colchester Continentals will perform with the choir and orchestra.

The concert is free, but donations are gratefully accepted.

For more details, contact Colchester Recreation at 860-537-7297 or visit www.colchesterct.gov/recreation-department.

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.

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).

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 raffle. 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.

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Auditions for ‘Echoes of Winter Past’

Colchester Recreation is holding auditions next week for “Echoes of Winters Past,” an original, ensemble-built immersive theatrical experience coming to Colchester this December.

Colchester Recreation isn’t just looking for actors; it’s building a collaborative team of local creatives to help devise, write, and shape a heartwarming journey of music and seasonal nostalgia.

Performers ages 14 and up are welcome; children under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian at auditions.

Colchester Recreation is looking for actors (expressive storytellers comfortable interacting closely with a mobile audience); musicians (acoustic instrumentalists – guitar, violin, fiddle, cello, flute, percussion – who can play classic winter folk tunes live); and actor/musicians (multi-talented performers who can blend text and tune).

Preparation Requirements: Actors should prepare a one-minute contemporary, heartwarming, or nostalgic monologue. Be prepared for a brief, collaborative group improv or space-management exercise.

Musicians should prepare a short solo piece (1–2 minutes) of a classic, secular winter or seasonal song on your instrument of choice.

Actor/musicians should prepare the one-minute monologue and a short seasonal song showcasing both your vocal/instrumental ability and your storytelling personality.

All performers should bring a current headshot (or recent photo) and a performance resume, if available.

Auditions will be held Oct. 14 and 15 at 6:30 p.m., at the Old Senior Center, 95 Norwich Ave. Callbacks will be Oct. 16 at 6:30 p.m.

There will be part-time rehearsals beginning Oct. 21, primarily on evenings. Note for students: Rehearsal schedules will be designed to accommodate school hours.

Performance dates are Dec. 11 and 12.

Secure your audition time slot by emailing lwarrfield@colchesterct.gov with the subject line “Echoes Audition - [Your Name].”

Westchester Church News

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

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

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

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

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

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Men's Bible Study: Mondays, 7 p.m., study-

If you would like a table to sell your goods, there are a few spots left. Reach out to Renee Misbach at rouillette01@snet.net for more information.

Donuts with Don: Starts again Friday, Oct. 23, at 10 a.m. This relaxed gathering is an open discussion on the theme: How does God fit in this thing called life?

Registration is required. To register, visit colchesterC3.org.

Thursday, Oct. 15: 9-11 a.m., Vaccine Clinic; 9 a.m., Exercise w/ Anne; 10 a.m., Sittercing, Wii Bowling; 11 a.m., Yoga, Benefits of Sleep Presentation; noon, Sr. Benefits Counseling; 12:05 p.m., Chair Massage; 12:30 p.m., Dominoes, Needlework Club, Mixed Media: Fancy Colors Workshop; 5:30 p.m., Disco Funk Exercise Video; 6 p.m., Trivia Night.

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.

Peter Wrinn, David Dieujuste, Matt Gilman,
Dani Benoit.

Bowling; 11 a.m., Yoga, Benefits of Sleep Presentation; noon, Sr. Benefits Counseling; 12:05 p.m., Chair Massage; 12:30 p.m., Dominoes, Needlework Club, Mixed Media: Fancy Colors Workshop; 5:30 p.m., Disco Funk Exercise Video; 6 p.m., Trivia Night.

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Cuts Unlimited held a ribbon-cutting in August, to mark its grand re-opening after a fire destroyed its original location. Here, First Selectman Bernie Dennler cut the ceremonial ribbon, as manager Amy Rianhard, left, and owner Keri Vincent, right, offer support. Photo by Cristian Darvas.

Ribbon-Cutting at Cuts Unlimited

Cuts Unlimited LLC celebrated its official Grand Re-Opening Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony on Saturday, Aug. 22, marking a new chapter after a devastating fire destroyed its original location.

The celebratory event brought together the salon's dedicated styling team, families, long-time clients, and supportive local community members who rallied behind the business following the tragic fire that occurred over the Fourth of July weekend last year. The newly rebuilt and re-designed full-service hair salon is located at 203 Lebanon Ave., Suite D.

The event featured giveaways, tours of the gorgeous new space, and local fare from Colchester Donut & Café. The centerpiece of the celebration was the formal ribbon-cutting ceremony by First Selectman Bernie Dennler. He commended owner Keri Vincent and her staff for their unwavering perseverance and successful contribution to growing economic development in the town.

Vincent noted, "To be standing here today in our beautiful new salon with builder, Dave Lenkiewicz of Lenkiewicz Construction LLC and surrounded by my amazing team, our families, friends and loyal clients who kept us going through our temporary operations, is nothing short of incredible. Colchester truly defines what it means to be a supportive community. For all of that, I am grateful."

Cuts Unlimited LLC is fully staffed and is welcoming both familiar faces and new ones. Appointments can be scheduled online at cutsunlimited.salontarget.com or by calling the salon at 860-537-0666.

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.

Dot's Pasta Dinner

The Colchester Democratic Town Committee will host Dot's Pasta Dinner from 5-7 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 25, at the St. Joseph's Polish Society, 395 South Main St.

This annual event brings everyone together one more time before the election to raise funds for the Dorothy Mrowka Scholarship. Several special guests from the state and federal level will be in attendance. Many varieties of pasta and dessert will be served.

To purchase tickets in advance, visit secure.anedot.com/colchesterdemocrats/donate. Tickets are \$20 for adults and kids 10 and under are free. Tickets will also be available at the door.

For more information, check out the DTC's Facebook page, call Monica at 860-465-7909.

Explore the Colchester Burial Ground

The Colchester Historical Society invites the public to stop by the Colchester Burying Ground (behind Old Bacon Academy) on Saturday, Oct. 17, at 3:30 p.m., for an exploration of the cemetery.

There will be self-guided "scavenger hunt" maps with text and photos appropriate for both children and adults. Discover ancient gravestones with interesting designs and inscriptions.

Refreshments of cider and pumpkin flavored treats will be available at no charge. Rain date is Sunday, Oct. 18.

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.

Town Clerk to Retire in December

By Anne Lilburn

Town Clerk Gayle Furman is retiring. Furman announced her retirement at a recent Board of Selectman meeting, and said she would leave office on Dec. 31, prior to the end of her term, which expires in November 2027.

In her resignation letter, Furman wrote that "serving as Town Clerk has been one of the greatest privileges and most rewarding experiences of my professional life. During the past twelve years, I have had the honor of working alongside exceptional colleagues and dedicated public servants while serving the residents of Colchester. I have genuinely enjoyed my role and value the relationships that have made my time with the town so meaningful."

"My time as Town Clerk will always hold some of my most treasured memories," she continued, adding, "I would also like to extend my sincere gratitude to the citizens of Colchester for electing me and for their continued faith and support over the years. The opportunity to serve this community through life milestones and everyday moments has been humbling and I am deeply grateful for the trust and confidence that have been placed in me throughout my tenure."

First Selectman Bernie Dennler said that he would be sad to see Furman go. He said that,

after serving in Town Hall for over a decade, she was "a fixture of the building"

"It's a bittersweet moment for us all," he said, adding that, "she certainly has earned it, but I'm going to miss her and I think everyone at Town Hall and in our boards and commissions feels the same way."

"Gayle isn't just a colleague; she is a dear friend," Dennler said. "As first selectman, I am sad to see her leave her role, but as her friend, I am very happy for her. Life is about a lot more than politics and Gayle has given back so much to her community throughout her life, not just in this role."

In his most recent newsletter, Dennler wrote that the town would be seeking candidates to replace Furman in her role.

"Per the Town Charter, the Board of Selectmen must fill the vacancy with a registered voter from the same political party as when the vacating individual was elected," he wrote. "This means we will be seeking a registered Democrat who is interested in serving as town clerk until at least Nov. 15, 2027."

Those who are interested in being considered for the position can fill out an employment application on the town's website, www.colchesterct.gov, or can reach out to Furman herself to learn more about the role at 860-537-7215 or at townclerk@colchesterct.gov

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: **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.

America 250 Book Club: "I Survived the American Revolution" Graphic Novel: Saturday, Oct. 10, 10:30 a.m. Pick up the book at the library, read it, and then come chat.

Stories with Skipper: Wednesday, Oct. 14, 6 p.m. Hang with Colchester Police Corporal Craig Scheel and K9 Skipper to read some stories.

Nature Detectives: Sensory Writing Workshop: Saturday, Oct. 17, 10:30-11:30 a.m., for grades 3-5. Children will receive their own journals to use as they explore a hands-on "indoor laboratory" of curated autumn items from nature (acorns, bark, pumpkin guts etc.) and create a sensory poem. Registration required; call 860-537-7201.

Halloween Storytime: Thursday, Oct. 29, 10:30 a.m. In this all-ages, drop-in program, there will be a festive storytime and trick-or-treating around the library. Costumes encouraged.

Children & Teen Foodie Fun: Saturdays, Oct. 10 and 31. Grab a bag to pick up.

Teen Programs: Half-Day Gaming Tourney; Mario Kart Tournament: Tuesday, Oct. 27, 1-2:30 p.m., for grades 6-12. Post University e-sports coordinator Jonathan Martin will have prizes, snacks and can answer any questions you might have about going into e-sports. Registration required; call 860-537-5752.

Eat If You Dare...: Wednesday, Oct. 28, 2:45 p.m., for grades 6-12. Try mystery snacks and try to guess what they are. Registration required; call 860-537-5752.

Sports Swap Collection: Starts Friday, Oct. 30. The library is collecting clean sports equipment that has been outgrown or is no longer wanted. Drop it off and then come visit the Sports Swap on Saturday, Nov. 17, at 10:30 a.m.



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Reward Increased in Fatal Hit-and-Run

By Anne Lilburn

Gov. Ned Lamont has authorized a new reward of up to \$25,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person responsible for a 2024 Colchester hit-and-run pedestrian accident that killed Noel McGregor, the town and city clerk of Hartford. The governor had previously approved an initial \$10,000 reward in 2024. McGregor was a former Hartford police officer and City Council member. On Oct. 22, 2024, he was parked on the shoulder of Route 2, just before the exit 16 off-ramp, and was standing beside the driver's side door of his vehicle when another vehicle crossed into the shoulder and hit him. The vehicle, which police described as a dark blue Jeep Cherokee with damage to the mirror and door handle, was reported to have been driving erratically, and fled the scene. McGregor was found with multiple injuries and was transported to Hartford Hospital, where he died. Paul Narducci, state's attorney for the Judicial District of New London, announced

the increased reward on Sept. 21, and said he hopes the \$25,000 reward "will bring about new information from people who may know something but have not yet come forward." "The public can play a critical role in advancing the investigation into Mr. McGregor's death," Narducci said. "No piece of information should ever be dismissed as insignificant, nor should members of the community assume investigators are already aware of it. Even a detail that appears minor can prove essential to resolving a case and securing a just outcome. We urge anyone with information to come forward to help ensure accountability in his memory." The reward will be paid by order of the court upon conviction of the individual or individuals responsible. Anyone with information related to the death of McGregor should contact Trooper Gregory DeCarli of Connecticut State Police Troop K at 860-465-5455, ext. 4062.

History Museum Open Sundays

The Colchester History Museum is open Sundays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. through the end of December. This spring you can view the museum's newest exhibit: "Every Possible Means: Colchester's Role in the Revolutionary War." You can also experience histories of people and places in the "ABCs of Colchester History" exhibit. The Colchester History Museum, located at 24 Linwood Ave., is free and offers both permanent and special exhibits all highlighting the people and events in Colchester's history. Guided and self-guided tours are available. For more information, contact the Colchester Historical Society at mail@colchesterhistory.org or 860-537-3240.

Christmas Fair to Return

St. Andrew Ladies Guild will hold its annual Christmas Fair Saturday, Nov. 14, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave. All are invited to attend. The fair will feature: homemade baked goods, handcrafted items, "gently-loved" Christmas treasures, a variety of raffle prizes, local vendors and more. Lunch will be available for purchase from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Ukrainian Catholic News

All are invited to worship each week at St. Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church, 178 Linwood Ave. The church offers Eastern Rite Divine services. Church doors are open for Divine Liturgy on Saturdays at 4 p.m. and Sundays at 9 a.m.; the Sunday service is bilingual. For more information, call the church at 860-537-2069.

From the First Selectman's Desk

Dear Colchester Neighbors:

Over the last couple weeks, I have received many questions from residents about data centers, town zoning regulations, and a possible private development that was recently discussed by the Planning and Zoning Commission in a preliminary review at the request of the potential applicant.

CMMD, LLC recently requested a preliminary review with the Town of Colchester Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) for a potential zone change application that would allow a data center project on Old Amston Road. The preliminary review was held at the 9/16/26 PZC meeting and has since generated a significant amount of public attention, discussion, and media coverage.

As first selectman, I want to ensure that Colchester residents have timely and accurate information about matters of public interest and that residents know how to participate in the civic process related to these matters. Please also be aware that there are rules regarding due process for applicants.

The decision-making process for the proposed data center project falls under the jurisdiction of the Planning and Zoning Commission except for associated fuel cells, which fall under the jurisdiction of the Connecticut Siting Council. Information related to the state Siting Council's decision regarding possible fuel cells can be found at the Connecticut Siting Council website under Petition No. 1533 and No. 1533A.

Information Regarding: 9/16/26 Preliminary Meeting: At the preliminary review, the members of the Planning and Zoning Commission raised questions about environmental impacts, water, and noise.

The minutes of the 9/16 PZC meeting, including the preliminary review, are available on ColchesterCT.Gov under the Planning and Zoning Commission page. A recording of the meeting is also available here.

Based on the preliminary review on 9/16, CMMD, LLC intends to submit a zone change application under Colchester Land Development (Zoning) Regulations Section 8.9.A Large-Scale Indoor Agricultural and Technology. Section 8.9.A was approved 3/17/21, effective 4/15/21 and updates to Section 8.9.A were approved 12/7/22, effective 2/1/23. Section 8.9.A can be found starting on page 73 of the Regulations via the Planning and Zoning Commission page by clicking the "Land Use Regulations" tab.

Correspondence: If you would like to submit correspondence to the Planning and Zoning Commission, there are two options:

1. Mail hardcopy correspondence to the Planning and Zoning Commission, 127 Norwich Ave, Colchester, CT 06415
2. Email written correspondence to the Planning and Zoning Commission by emailing Nicole.Haggerty@colchesterct.gov

Items submitted as correspondence will be forwarded to Planning and Zoning Commission members.

Additionally, if you would like to speak directly to PZC, there is a "Five Minute Session for the Public" section of the agenda. Please note that this section is for comments that are not related to any items scheduled for discussion or action on the agenda.

Once a formal application is received and a public hearing date has been scheduled, property owners and residents can submit written or verbal testimony either for or against the application as part of the public hearing process.

Planning and Zoning Commission Meetings: The Planning and Zoning Commission typically meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month at Colchester Town Hall and via Zoom at 7 p.m. Agendas are always posted at ColchesterCT.Gov.

All applications for zone change require that the Planning and Zoning Commission hold a public hearing, and the applicant will be required to notify property owners within the area of the proposed zone change and within 500 feet of the area of the proposed zone change.

Please note that since a preliminary meeting has been held, and the developer intends on submitting a formal application, PZC members are not able to speak about the application outside of the formal public hearing process.

To those who have already reached out, thank you for taking the time to engage in the civic process and for taking an interest in the future of our community. Your voices are important and I encourage all residents to continue sharing their perspectives, concerns, hopes, or ideas about this and other matters.

Sincerely,
Bernie Dennler
Colchester First Selectman



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Youth Soccer Challenge

The Portland (Saint Mary) Freestone Council 7 Knights of Columbus will hold its annual youth Soccer Challenge on Wednesday, Oct. 14, at 4 p.m., at the Portland Recreational Sports Complex on Route 17. Portland girls and boys, ages 9 through 14, are eligible to participate. Each participant will get 15 penalty line kicks on goal with roped targets for scoring points. John Bruni is the coordinator of the event and brother Knights will assist. The top finishers by gender and age group will be recognized and will advance to state championship competition. Registration forms will be provided for parents on the day of the event.

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The Marlborough Lions recently completed a refurbishment of the score booth at the West Road ball field. Pictured in front of the booth is Lion Jean-Paul Bolduc, who took on the project.

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 efforts 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 marlbroughctlions@gmail.com or call membership chair Brian McDermott at 860-918-0800.

Farmers Market Wrapping Up

Zina's Cucina is hosting the last Marlborough Farmers Market of the season Wednesday, 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.

Absentee Ballots Available

Absentee ballots for the Nov. 3 state election are now available in the town clerk's office, 26 North Main St., during regular business hours. You must be an elector registered in Marlborough, and an application needs to be completed to receive a ballot. Call Lauren or Martha at 295-6206 if you need any help obtaining an application.

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 worldwide. 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.

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.

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.

Lumos Candlelight Concert, hosted by the church, will be held in the meetinghouse 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. Seating is

limited. Purchase tickets at www.lumos-experiences.com.

Outreach: The church collects non-perishable food items year-round for Marlborough Food Bank with a basket located in the narthex for Sunday worshippers to bring donations. The next church-sponsored Drive Thru Café, for Marlborough Food Bank clients and their families with tickets, will be held Oct. 25.

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

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

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.

Folk Art Pumpkin-Painting: Tuesday, Oct. 13, 10 a.m. Create folk art/Scandinavian pumpkin stencil painting. RSVP by Oct. 9. Free.

Encore Club: Wednesday, Oct. 14, 12:30-2 p.m. Jackie and Andrew are a local duo that specializes in a soft jazz, '50s-'70s, soft rock and modern pop. Light refreshments will be served at this free event.

Marlborough Senior Center Health Fair and Chatham Health Vaccine Clinic: Friday, Oct. 16, 1-32 p.m.

Nail Care: Wednesday, Oct. 21, 9 a.m.-noon, by appointment only. Cost is \$35, cash only. Service includes foot soak, nail trim and lotion.

Cooking with Matt: Monday, Oct. 19, 2-4 p.m. 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. Cost is \$10 for Marlborough residents, \$12 for non-residents.

Fall Costume Party: Friday, Oct. 30, noon-2 p.m. Come dressed in your favorite fall or Hal-

loween costume, enjoy a catered lunch, and test your music knowledge with free Music Bingo. Cost is \$10 for Marlborough residents, \$12 for non-residents.

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.marlbroughct.gov for the complete transportation policy.

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.

Holiday Closing

Town offices will be closed Monday, Oct. 12, in observance of Indigenous Peoples' Day/Columbus Day.

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.

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

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@marlbroughct.gov Failure to receive a bill does not invalidate the usage fee or interest.

Town of East Hampton - Notice of November 3, 2026 State Election

The Electors of the Town of East Hampton are hereby warned to meet at their respective polling places in said town on Tuesday, November 3, 2026, for the following purpose:

To cast their votes for Governor and Lieutenant Governor, Representative in Congress, State Senator, State Representative, Secretary of the State, Treasurer, Comptroller, Attorney General, Judge of Probate, and Registrar of Voters.

Notice is hereby given that the location of the polling places on Election Day is as follows:

East Hampton High School, 15 North Maple Street, East Hampton, CT 06424

Absentee Ballots will be counted at the polls.

Voting tabulators will be used. The polls will be opened at six o'clock in the morning (6:00 a.m.) and will remain open until eight o'clock in the evening (8:00 p.m.).

During the 14-day early voting period before said election, the hours and location of early voting will be as indicated below. Each early voting location will also offer Same-Day Registration (SDR).

Early Voting Day: Hours	Early Voting / SDR Location
October 19-26 & 28, 2026: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.	East Hampton Town Hall
October 27 & 29, 2026: 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.	1 Community Drive
October 30-November 1, 2026: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.	East Hampton, CT 06424

On Election Day, the hours and location of SDR will be as follows:

Election Day: Hours	SDR Location
November 3, 2026: 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.	East Hampton High School 15 North Maple Street East Hampton, CT 06424

Dated at East Hampton, Connecticut, this 5th day of October 2026

Patricia Burnham, Town Clerk
Town of East Hampton

1TB 10/9



Chasing the Eclipse... A group of local travelers took the *Rivereast* to Iceland in August to see the solar eclipse. Although clouds hid the eclipse, the group enjoyed Iceland's spectacular sights, including glaciers, waterfalls, lagoons, puffins, the Golden Circle and black-sand beaches. This photo was taken at Brúarfoss, known for its incredible blue water. Pictured from left are, back row, Bill and Yvonne Burley, Sandra Queen of Hebron, Rich Pethybridge of East Hampton and Jon Morrison of Hebron. Front row, Cheryl Pethybridge of East Hampton, Jay Queen of Hebron, their incredible tour guide Hang holding the *Rivereast*, and Annette Morrison of Hebron.



Iceland Fun... The Terza family (Vinnie, Amanda, Noah and Aria) of Marlborough went to Iceland this August for two and half weeks. They were able to take a three-hour ferry ride to Grimsey Island and walk across the Arctic Circle. They made sure to bring a copy of the *Rivereast* to celebrate the family visiting the Arctic Circle for the first time. This was Noah and Aria's first international trip!

Where in the World is the *Rivereast*?

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



Down in DC... Richard and Lynn Brown of East Hampton are joined by their daughters, Lauren and Tricia at the Freedom 250 Indycar race in Washington, DC.



Fun at the Fair... Richard and Ann Burgess of Portland recently visited the Delaware State Agricultural Fair in Harrington, Del. – and brought along the *Rivereast*!

Where in the World?

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

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

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

\$25 GIFT CARD

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★ *Letters, cont. from page 8*

hard-working man, but that is where his votes land. Ellen has spent her career protecting the right of our children to walk into a library and find the book they need.

On Nov. 3, I know which kind of protector I want in Hartford.

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.*

Small Towns, Real Representation

To the Editor:

Meghan Rosenfeld, candidate for the 34th District for the state House of Representatives representing the towns of East Haddam, East Hampton and Salem, fully understands the challenges we face today. Just like you she shops at the local grocery store, purchases gas to get to and from work and observes on a daily basis the challenges facing the residents of East Haddam, East Hampton and Salem.

Meghan believes the state should fully fund the public schools and stop relying on local property taxes to make up for the state short-falls. Every town in the 34th District deserves the resources to give every child a strong start. Meghan will work hard to stop forcing the towns in the 34th District to absorb costs the state hands down without the funding to match. Meghan believes local budgets and local taxpayers should not carry what Hartford won't pay for. Meghan will also work to expand property tax relief and circuit breaker programs so seniors aren't taxed out of the homes and towns they've spent a lifetime in.

To Meghan, East Haddam, East Hampton and Salem aren't an afterthought. She will fight in Hartford for the same attention and resources the cities are getting. On Tuesday, Nov. 3rd, I hope you will join me in supporting Meghan Rosenfeld to represent us in the 34th District.

**Kevin M. Reich, Chair
East Hampton Democratic Town Committee**

Help Shape Future of Aging

To the Editor:

Save the date! The Portland Senior Center will host a Connecticut State Plan on Aging Community Listening Session on Monday, Dec. 7, at noon. Light refreshments will be provided.

The Connecticut Bureau of Aging is developing the state's next State Plan on Aging and is coming directly into communities to listen to older adults, caregivers, families, service providers, and community members about what is working, what is not, and what needs to change.

To me, this is incredibly important.

Aging affects all of us. Whether you are an older adult yourself, caring for a parent or spouse, supporting someone with changing health needs, or simply thinking about your own future, the decisions Connecticut makes about aging services will eventually touch nearly every family.

I think of opportunities like this almost the same way I think about voting. If we want change, better services, stronger supports, and communities that truly meet the needs of people as they age, we have to use our voices when we are given the opportunity.

The State of Connecticut is asking to hear your concerns and experiences. They want to know about challenges with transportation, housing, caregiving, healthcare, behavioral health, affordability, access to services, aging in place, and the gaps people encounter every day. They also want to hear your ideas about what Connecticut can do better.

This is not simply a presentation where you come and listen. This is an opportunity for the State to listen to you.

As Senior Services Administrator and Municipal Agent, I see every day how complicated aging can become for individuals and families. I also see how much better the experience can be when the right resources and supports are available. We cannot improve those systems without hearing directly from the people who use them.

I strongly encourage older adults, caregivers, families, providers, and community members to attend. You do not need to be an expert. You only need to be willing to share your experience, concerns, and ideas.

Please come and be part of the conversation. Your voice matters, and this is an opportunity to help make Connecticut a better place to age.

**Sarah Elliott-Caratasios, LMSW
Senior Services Administrator/Municipal Agent on Aging
Portland Senior Center**

Many Thanks

To the Editor:

Due to all of the wonderful customers, we had a successful "Plants and More" sale on Oct. 4th. So many individuals stopped by to say hello and talked about their plants on a beautiful day. We are thankful for the customers who bought perennials, shrubs, houseplants, a birdbath, pots, books, and more. We also want to thank our members who donated items and their time for the "Plants and More" Sale.

Our customer purchases at the sale will help us to continue our community beautification programs, speaker programs, youth activities, senior center programs, Colchester Farmers Market booth, and so much more. To learn more about our club, please contact colchester-gardenclub@yahoo.com.

Finally, we are thankful to the Colchester community for its continuing support of our organization.

**Joan Aubin and Mary Spalter
Co-Presidents, Colchester Garden Club**

48th House District

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

I'm running for reelection to the 48th District, and it has been an honor and privilege to serve as your State Representative over the past few years. I believe my life experience has helped me in this role by helping our community and residents, and I believe in serving and respecting others.

When I graduated high school, my father encouraged me to consider military service, and I enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served on a nuclear submarine. Other life opportunities included volunteering at the Willimantic Covenant Soup Kitchen, serving as Lebanon's Emergency Management Director, being elected to Lebanon ZBA and the Board of Education, and, last November, finishing a four-year term on the Lebanon Board of Selectmen.

In recent months, while door-knocking in Colchester, numerous residents explained they are having a very hard time in today's economy, and many wanted to know if any relief is in sight as everything costs more. Many are very concerned about high property taxes and high electricity rates. On property taxes, I will continue working to remove any out-of-date state mandates that burden our local communities. To help with Eversource electric costs, I support removing the Public Benefits charges and setting reasonable caps on more expensive green energy contracts.

There is much more to say, but please know I am committed to serving as your voice in Hartford and will continue to work to the best of my ability to develop good public policy so we all might have a brighter future!

**Very Respectfully Submitted,
State Rep. Mark DeCaprio
R-48th District**

Safeguard the 48th

To the Editor:

White Bread City. A friend of mine labeled our town with this semi-pejorative moniker some years ago. Colchester seemingly aligns with this implication of ordinariness, even mundanity. And of course, Colchester is predominantly white. I only mention this to allude to the fact that many of us live in a bubble of comfort and relative affluence. Aside from sounding a bit of an insult, this is quite a nice impression to have of a town: calm, civil, organized.

However, as we all know, below the surface there are many stories and enough trouble from house to house as anywhere else. Not everyone is comfortable. But Colchester has earned its status by the work of generations and the leadership of good citizens across that time. Those citizens worked collectively under the banner of democracy and the ideals of New England local government.

In the upcoming election, vote for democracy and local government. Vote Democrat. Vote Bob Fernandez for 48th District State Representative, for Bozrah, Colchester, Franklin, and Lebanon. Bob will work every day to bring state bonding dollars back home – fixing Bozrah's failing dam, decongesting dangerous roads in Colchester, and securing special education funding for Lebanon and Franklin. These are local issues affecting local towns and local people. Do not vote Republican, with its ominous threat of extending ultra-conservative trends into our town, our district. Vote Democrat.

Ordinary and mundane are much nicer than cynical, reactionary, or autocratic. I prefer white bread to red meat.

John Barnowski – Colchester

***Note:** Barnowski is a member of the Colchester Democratic Town Committee but said he is writing as a private citizen.*

Thanks from Salafia Family

To the Editor:

The Salafia family would like to thank the East Hampton and Marlborough communities for their support toward the 2026 Jimmy Fund Walk for Dana Farber and Team Bone Marrow and Beyond, inspired by our son and 2026 Walk Hero Jack. In addition to dear friends and neighbors, we'd like to recognize the East Hampton High School teachers and staff who contributed to our team fundraising efforts. Twelve Bone Marrow and Beyond team members walked the half and full marathon routes alongside 10,000 others on Sunday, October 4. Our team has now raised over \$15,000 and counting toward cancer research and treatment. Each of you played a role in helping Jack beat his cancer diagnosis in 2023, and now are instrumental in helping others do the same.

The credit for our team goes not to us but actually to Mimi LaPoint, who initiated the idea and kept us motivated throughout. Mimi served as Jack's EHHS tutor when he was homebound and continues to be a force for good.

When a parent is told that their child has cancer, the parent wishes above all else to change places and take on the diagnosis themselves instead of having it placed on the child. Every effort, and every research step, brings forth better outcomes for those to come.

Donations to Team Bone Marrow and Beyond for the Jimmy Fund Walk can be made through the end of the month at www.JimmyFund.org/Walk – search for Team Bone Marrow and Beyond.

**Thankfully,
Lesley and Brett Salafia – East Hampton**

I Support Mark DeCaprio

To the Editor:

Mark DeCaprio deserves to be reelected as our state representative for the 48th District. Why? Because Mark continually impresses me with the way he connects with the people he represents.

As chair of the Colchester Republican Town Committee, I see and hear firsthand his genuine support and concern for the people of Colchester. Mark doesn't just go to Hartford – he goes there to fight for us and for the rights guaranteed by our Constitution.

He stands up for our Second Amendment rights, for an individual's right to make personal medical decisions for themselves and their families, and, most importantly, for the freedom to choose.

Mark leads with common sense. He thinks independently and keeps the concerns and voices of the people he represents at the forefront. He is not simply driven by a party label or told how to think or vote. He listens, he asks questions, and he makes decisions based on what he believes is best for the people of the 48th District.

Hartford needs balance. We need representatives who can think for themselves, listen to their constituents, and represent the entire district – not just a political party.

Mark DeCaprio does exactly that, and I am proud to support his reelection.

Please re-elect Mark DeCaprio as state representative for the 48th District.

**Olivia Duksa
Chairwoman, Colchester
Republican Town Committee**

Local Water Woes

To the Editor:

Columbia, CT. "On April 30, 2026, laboratory results for five Town-owned water supply wells were received. All five locations exceeded applicable PFAS standards, with particularly elevated concentrations identified at the Town/School Maintenance Facility (Old Fire Station) and Fire Station ". On May 18, 2026 further tests showed a far greater area of contamination. (columbiact.gov, June 2, 2026.)

Stories like this are becoming all too common. Had we known, had the original manufactures, of these forever chemicals, disclosed them properly, or halted production altogether, things would be different. But I guess the money was just too good. If you say nothing, nobody will know. But they knew. Miscarriages, deformed babies, multiple cancers, they knew but the manufacturer buried the evidence. (movie, *Dark Waters*) At times it feels like the USA was shot in the back. Bruce Springsteen sings of losing love. Watching it die after being shot at point blank range. The big guys knew, but pulled the trigger anyhow. Pease Air Force Base in New Hampshire, and surrounding acres, have reported alarming cancers rates. (See Agency for Toxic Substances. Nov 14, 2024.) And according to Environmental Working Group (ewg.org), March 6, 2022, "[f]or decades, the department of defense knew firefighting foams with 'forever

chemicals' were dangerous but continued their use..." This remarkable article posts a time line of documents, from the military, regarding forever chemicals. These documents date from the early 1960s.

I learned about Columbia from a resident whose private well is also contaminated. Furious, they said they're not keeping quiet. The state is helping, but can filters really remove the chemicals? Is reverse osmosis a better choice?

Similarly, humans have known for centuries that we cannot survive on salted water. We have known for decades how salt kills ecosystems and freshwater life. How it corrodes vehicles, pipes and asphalt and yet we spread it on our roads and sidewalks as if it's healthy.

The question still remains. Given the knowledge we have about industrial salts and solvents, call it prior knowledge if you will. And given all we know about high water tables, prime farm soils, fractured bedrock aquifers, water pollution and the Raymond Brook Watershed in Hebron Center, why? Why has Hebron's Town Council introduced a road through this watershed? Can the means truly justify the ends? And shouldn't Hebron be focused primarily on rebuilding the Public Works? #save17

Jean Tulimieri – Amston

Ziobron: The Outstanding Candidate

To the Editor:

If you know Melissa Ziobron, you know she is the outstanding candidate in the race for the Connecticut State House of Representatives, 34th District, and I am pleased to give her my full support. I have known Melissa for several years and can say Melissa is the real deal: By this I mean she is a strong woman of integrity, is transparent and genuinely cares about the people of our district and our unique needs. She now oversees fiscal policy for the House Minority in the Connecticut General Assembly.

"Frustrated" in seeing our tax dollars wasted, she wants to serve where she believes she can make a real difference. So she is willing to give up her high paying position as a staffer in the CT General Assembly to take a pay reduction of about \$84, 000 if she wins (See CT Mirror, Dec. 25, 2025).

More reasons to vote for Melissa:

She is smart, politically savvy, discerning, sagacious, fearless, but has high emotional intelligence. Specifically, she is fiscally conservative while non- partisan in her analysis and presentation of complex budget matters. I've seen her fight for and win deserved state funding for our high school building renovation when a complicated budget issue needed clarification with the state. She also helped secure our beautiful state park in East Haddam before it was sold to developers. She cares about the environment, small business, senior citizen and youth needs. She is an active representative who listens to, advocates for, and keeps in steady touch with the people of our district.

This election might be tight so please get out and vote for Melissa Ziobron, the best candidate to represent everyone in our district.

Pat Gauthier – East Hampton

Good Ideas, Mr. Hintz

To the Editor:

Mr. Hintz recently wrote in Letters asking the question "where does it stop?" While many of you may disagree with Mr. Hintz, his attempt at sarcasm concerning suggestions as to a new standard regarding town services bears closer examination.

Consider his comment about tax dollars spent on the lake being assessed to lakefront owners. Mr. Hintz, lakefront owners have long paid a premium property tax of about 25-30% as demonstrated 6-plus years ago when funding the lake was almost non-existent. The recent budget for the CLC was reduced, so where exactly has the 25-30% gone?

Consider his comment about billing education costs to those with children in the schools. While this would be ideal for the 66% of EH taxpayers without children in the system, social reality dictates we all contribute. So why not balance accordingly with the parents of children in the system taking more of the burden? Why not make those who use the service pay a fairer share?

Consider his comment about those living on state highways should pay less town taxes. Mr. Hintz, those of us who live on what EH calls "private roads" pay the same taxes (or more) as those who live on town roads. True, the town does provide plowing and the occasional patching, but whatever other benefits are gained from having a town road are not there. So, yes paying less tax for services not rendered makes sense.

Consider his comment about calculating

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personally using each service. Are the yearly bills for sewers distributed to all EH residents (septic and sewers) or just those who actually use the service? How about the water service (wells vs. town water)?

Consider his comments about the transfer station. Before any changes are made, how about a study that shows exactly who is using the service, and what they are dumping. Should contractors be charged a rate commensurate with volume? Should repeat homeowners be billed per visit? More importantly, should those who never use the service contribute? Our home trash collection is a per service (private) fee, so why shouldn't the same apply to the transfer station.

Mr. Hintz claims these “examples sound extreme,” but are they? Reality says otherwise.

Regards,
Bob Yenknor – East Hampton

Vote Ziobron

To the Editor:

In Melissa Ziobron's three terms as state representative in the 34th District, she actively engaged in addressing concerns of all the people in our district whether they are Democrats, Republicans or the unaffiliated. She was and is deeply connected and involved in the communities in our district and continues being active, serving on the Economic Development Commission, Board of Education, Elderly Tax Relief Commission, and East Haddam/Moodus Little League where she umpired softball games, worked the concession stand and even raked the field when needed.

Whether sponsoring, co-sponsoring or simply voting on a bill, she takes careful consideration for the intended and especially the unintended consequences of every bill.

Melissa already demonstrated consummate integrity and a can-do attitude. As a legislator, she worked tirelessly and passionately in protecting our state parks, advocating for small businesses and, as a member if the Appropriations Committee, fighting for fiscal responsibility and accountability.

Vote for character, honesty, hard work and knowledge of the issues, vote for Melissa in November for state representative. She will fight to make Connecticut an affordable place to live.

Ray Zatorski – East Hampton

Supports DeCaprio

To the Editor:

When politicians ask for another term, voters should ask a simple question: What have they actually done for the communities they represent?

That is why I support state Rep. Mark DeCaprio.

Mark has not simply talked about helping the 48th District. He has introduced legislation aimed at the towns he represents.

When Colchester faced uncertainty over state education funding, Mark introduced legislation specifically intended to protect Colchester's Education Cost Sharing grant. He has also supported efforts to address special education costs, a significant pressure on local school budgets and property taxpayers.

In Lebanon, Mark has supported legislation seeking state funding for local needs, including a new public works garage, affordable elderly housing and the preservation of Camp Laurel as open space.

Representing a district is about more than introducing bills in Hartford. It also means showing up and listening when people back home need help.

Recently, residents of Ponemah Village, an affordable housing community for seniors and people with disabilities overseen by the Colchester Housing Authority, raised concerns that reached the Board of Selectmen. Mark joined First Selectman Bernie Dennler and Selectman Tim Vaillancourt in touring the property so they could see firsthand what residents were reporting.

Rather than hearing the concerns second-hand, Mark went there, listened and saw the situation for himself. He is taking what he learned back to the state level to determine where the state may be able to help.

I have seen that approach firsthand. Mark reaches out. His office is accessible. He is willing to listen to people, regardless of whether the issue is large or small. Beyond politics, Mark is a genuinely nice person who cares about the people he represents.

That matters to me. We spend plenty of time arguing about politics, but representation comes down to people. A good representative should be willing to answer the phone, listen to a resident, show up when there is a problem and then do the work necessary to try to solve it.

We hear plenty every election season about what candidates say they will do. Voters should also look closely at what someone has already done and how they have treated the people they represent.

Mark DeCaprio has demonstrated that he is willing to advocate for Colchester, Lebanon and the rest of the 48th District both at the Capitol and here at home.

That is why I support Mark DeCaprio for reelection.

Michael Dubreuil – Colchester

Ellen Paul is for Seniors

To the Editor:

I am writing this letter in support of Ellen Paul for the State Representative for the 55th District. Ellen is heartfelt about the people of her district. She began knocking on doors in March and she was rapidly endorsed by her party in all five towns. She is, first and foremost, a diligent worker for what she believes in.

Ellen supports seniors and is keenly aware of how many of us are being forced out of our communities. Our everyday expenses are out of control. Property taxes, healthcare and utilities make many of us who live on a fixed income play a juggling act with our expenses each month. Ellen sees our struggle and wants to make property taxes lower for qualifying seniors. She has been open about wanting our utility companies to lower their rates. We all need access to healthcare, prescriptions and services that make our lives reasonable.

Please read more about Ellen Paul on her webpage ellenforstaterep.com. Ellen is reaching out and listening to the people of our district. She is the best candidate for this position.

You can go to your town clerk's office and get an absentee ballot and vote now. You can go to your Town Hall and vote in advance of the election starting on Oct. 19th. Check your Town Hall website for hours- which are plentiful. If you are more traditional you can always vote on Election Day.

Please join with me in voting for Ellen Paul on November 3,2026.

Sincerely,
Maryanne Leichter – Amston

Keep It Positive With Weir

To the Editor:

I've known Steve Weir since we attended Glastonbury High School together. We weren't close friends then, but years later our families reconnected through our daughters. From the beginning, Steve, his wife, and their family welcomed us as family. Our daughters became best friends and are now attending college together, and over the years I've had the opportunity to know Steve not as a politician, but as a husband, father, friend, and member of our community.

That is why I was disappointed to receive a recent political mailer portraying Steve as an extremist and attempting to connect virtually every vote he has taken in Hartford to national politics.

Steve's opponent moved into our district only about a year ago. I would much rather learn about her ideas, experience, and what she hopes to accomplish for our five towns than see a campaign focused on attacking the character of someone who has spent most of his life living, working, volunteering, and serving here.

The Steve Weir I know grew up here, served as a Glastonbury police officer, built businesses that employed people and supported families, raised his family here, and has spent decades giving back to his community. Through our friendship with the Weir family, I have also become more involved in community service myself. I now volunteer with the Lions and hope to become a member, another connection that has reminded me how much strong communities depend on people willing to show up and contribute.

I've also learned that Steve asks questions, lots of them. He reads legislation, looks beyond the title of a bill, considers the cost, and asks about unintended consequences. We should want our representatives to do that.

A bill can have a wonderful-sounding title and still contain provisions that deserve scrutiny. Reducing a complicated legislative vote to an inflammatory sentence on a political mailer may be effective campaigning, but it doesn't give voters the whole story.

Steve and I won't agree on everything, and I don't expect to agree with any elected official on every issue. But I know Steve Weir. I know his family, his character, and his commitment to the communities he represents.

Our five towns deserve a thoughtful conversation about Connecticut's future, not another campaign built around national political division. I hope you'll join me in supporting Steve Weir.

Jessica Stewart – Hebron

Proven Service to Our Community

Dear Hebron Residents:

I have known Steve Weir for many years, and I believe his background and character speak volumes about the way he approaches public service.

Steve is an outstanding individual who has worked hard his entire life. He has started, developed and successfully operated several businesses in Connecticut, and earlier in his career served as a Glastonbury police officer. He has lived in Hebron since 2000, raised his family here and has spent years living, working and volunteering in our community.

Steve understands what it means to run a business, meet a payroll, manage expenses and make practical decisions when resources are limited. Those are qualities I believe are important in government.

His commitment to Hebron began long before he became a state representative. I have personally seen Steve give his time as a volunteer basketball coach. He has also served on the Hebron Zoning Board of Appeals and as chairman of the Connecticut River Valley Chamber of Commerce.

In Hartford, Steve has focused on issues affecting working families, seniors and businesses, including taxes, government spending and the cost of living.

What stands out most to me is Steve as a person. In my experience, he is hard-working, honest, committed and reliable. He understands our community because this is his community too. He listens to people and brings a common-sense approach to the decisions he makes.

Regardless of political party, I encourage residents of the 55th District to look closely at Steve Weir's background, community service and record representing us in Hartford when making their decision this November.

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

Thanks for Attending Reception

To the Editor

The Historic Middle Haddam Public Library would like to thank everyone who attended the recent reception with Wangunk artist Kyle “Bright Star” O’Neil on Sunday, Oct. 4.

It was a great day, with so many of Kyle’s family and friends in attendance including members from eight different native tribes – Wangunk, Nipmuc, Apache, Nehantic, Taino, Paugussett, Ponkapoag and Inca. Kyle has been making art since age 14 with a focus on monoprints, clay reliefs and collage and is the only known Wangunk artist to fire pottery in the same traditional style of “Pit Firing” as her ancestors did thousands of years ago. She has shown her work locally in Middletown, Meriden, Marlborough, East Hampton, Portland and New Haven; and was part of an international exhibit titled “Angels Fly Together” in Mar del Plata Argentina and participated in the United Nations first World Down Syndrome Day in March, 2012.

Her work, which reflects the possibilities that come from being nurtured and truly loved by a village of family and friends, can be viewed at the Historic Middle Haddam Public Library during Library hours through October. The library’s Oct. 4 reception included a traditional Wangunk ceremony to welcome the ancestors, along with a short talk by Kyle’s father Gary Red Oak O’Neil. Gary will give an informal talk at the library on Kyle’s artistic journey and Wangunk history on Sunday, Oct. 18, at 1 p.m.

Janet McDonald, MHPL Librarian
Melissa Pionzio, Events Coordinator

Melissa’s Experience Matters

To the Editor:

Melissa Ziobron has always been a strong voice for small towns in the 34th District, advocating for responsible government, education funding and lower state taxes.

Melissa was instrumental in passing spending controls known as the bipartisan “fiscal guardrails” in the 2017 state budget, which were designed to control spending and help develop a balanced budget. The fiscal guardrails direct certain revenues in a good year to help build up the surplus and help pay down the state’s pension debt. The guardrails also provide tighter spending and bonding caps. Melissa was the lead House Republican on the Appropriations Committee and led the efforts in the House Chamber. As ranking member of the Appropriations Committee, Melissa deliberated elements of the state budget with members of all caucuses. Melissa will bring her financial expertise and accountability to the state budget process.

Melissa will continue to be a champion for funding for our schools. She currently serves on the East Haddam Board of Education and understands that the Education Cost Sharing (ECS) state funding formula needs to be modified. The formula’s foundation amount was set by statute at \$11,525 per student in 2013 and has not been adjusted to reflect annual increases in expenses. Towns are forced to pick up the slack by raising property taxes or capping school budgets.

Melissa understands that affordability is a big issue in Connecticut. She will push to repeal the extra 1% meal tax on your restaurant bill, secure more state education funding so towns can cut property taxes, reject costly energy policies that drive up your electric bill, when prices spike, suspend state gas and diesel taxes, and end the sales tax on children’s clothes.

Melissa works in a bipartisan manner, is lauded by her peers for her state budget acumen, and is a proven and experienced legislator. Fiscal responsibility is a priority and she is committed to being a fierce voice for us and not a rubber stamp for the super majority. Please join me in voting for Melissa Ziobron.

Linda Ursin – East Hampton

Rosenfeld for the 34th

To the Editor:

Meghan Rosenfeld represents something that the 34th District badly needs - new energy and perspective. You see in the way she connects with people on a human level and not as a politician. Meghan is not giving lip service and rolling out cliché campaign promises. She is genuinely listening and offering solutions to improve the lives of Connecticut's residents.

There are some in the community that dismiss her for not being “homegrown.” Well, many residents of East Hampton, East Haddam and Salem are themselves transplants. We’ve come from all over because we have found communities that share our values. Whether they’ve been here for 10 minutes or 10 decades, families deserve good schools for their children, strong economic development, and support for seniors. Meghan is representative of many of us as someone who has found a town she loves in East Hampton and wants to work to make it, as well as the rest of the district and the whole of the state, a better place to live and work.

Meghan is the person with the fresh perspective to come to the General Assembly with ideas to collaborate and creativity to explore, not merely serve as a no vote in the face of progress. We need a candidate who will work to strengthen the electric grid and diversify energy sources, a stronger strategy than merely telling us the public benefit charge is too high. People love Connecticut for its rural character. Meghan is focused on open space preservation and smart growth that grows commercial tax bases while maintaining small-town charm.

On Nov. 3, I will proudly vote for Meghan Rosenfeld. She will do great things for the 34th District, and I look forward to the energy, care, and compassion she will bring as a Representative.

Sincerely,
David Caterisano – East Hampton

Due Diligence Every Time

To the Editor:

I was elected to the East Haddam Board of Education last November. This is the second time I have served our community and our kids – the first was in 2002. The landscape has changed. Back then enrollments were rising. Today our districts face declining enrollment and a state that has failed to keep their promise on special-education funding or education cost sharing. Layer on Connecticut’s complicated funding formulas and unfunded mandates from Hartford – it’s a tangled mess that hits every local budget. Education is the largest piece of your tax bill, so this uncertainty matters.

Declining enrollment forces hard conversations about the future of our schools. Like you, I want the best for our children. I want every dollar possible to reach the classroom—not the central office. Asking tough questions does not make anyone “anti-education.” In today’s climate it sometimes feels that way, but due diligence has always been the hallmark of my public service, even today as I also serve on East Haddam Open Space Committee or Connecticut’s Paid Leave Board.

That standard showed up this week. First, parents raised concerns about agriculture-school options available to their child. I was the only board member who went and toured two agriculture schools outside the district so I could base decisions on facts, not assumptions. Local agriculture matters to East Haddam, and I will keep pressing until we get this right. Sec-

See Letters, page 31

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

Champion Raptors Reload, Seek 12th Title



RHAM High School volleyball head coach Tim Guernsey addresses his team during the Raptors victory over Windsor on Monday.

By Josh Howard

After losing several starters from last year’s championship squad, RHAM High School volleyball has started the 2026 season by winning seven their first ten matches.

Head coach Tim Guernsey, who has guided the program to 11 state championships, has become accustomed to defending titles – expressing that the approach to the 2026 season was “business as usual.”

On Monday (Oct. 5), the young team took another step in the right direction by sweeping Windsor in straight sets (25-14, 25-15, 25-21) at RHAM High School.

“I liked our energy,” Guernsey said following the conference win. “We keep talking about keeping the energy up and celebrating every point.”

In the first two sets, the Raptors fell behind early in each frame before rallying and then needed to hold off a late run by the visiting Warriors in the third set to close out the match.

Senior captain Rian Calhoun said the team talked about “playing to our level” coming into the contest against the divisional foes from Windsor, who entered RHAM with a record of 6-2.

“We just had to make sure we were competing to keep every ball alive,” said Calhoun, who noted the importance of closing out the match in three sets. “After those first two sets, I thought our energy was down in the third set, so we just had to stay calm and finish.”

Calhoun is one of two returning starters from last season’s state title team, which defeated Joel Barlow in five sets to capture the 2025 Class M state championship. The other everyday returning starter is senior libero Samatha Gray, who is approaching 1,000 career digs.

In Monday’s win over Windsor, Calhoun

helped end the first frame when she set up Violet Curran for the set winner.

Charlotte Egan polished off set two with a spike and Addison Garner closed the match with a kill.

Garner, who was thrust into a spotlight during the team’s tourney run a season ago because of an injury, is again playing a key role near the net as senior.

Following last year’s championship, the team graduated five influential seniors, four of which were all-conference players during their time with the program. Class of 2026 graduates Meredith Weir (the MVP of the 2025 championship match) and Abby Simao were named all-state a year ago.

Helping replace the departing players is a strong sophomore class that includes Curran and Allie Petro. Curran leads the team in kills and Petro leads the team in blocks this fall.

With several new players on the court, Calhoun said the team’s chemistry is strengthening with each passing match, adding, “It’s not about where we started, it’s about where we want to finish.”

“Our team is really young, but my job as a setter is to believe in every hitter, no matter how young they are,” noted Calhoun, a two-time all-conference selection. “This team is full of potential and there’s been huge growth since the start of the season until now, and that’s exciting to see.”

In a recent road victory over Simsbury on Sept. 25, Calhoun reached 2,000 career assists as the Raptors beat the Trojans in three sets.

Calhoun, a three-year starter, stated that it was “awesome” to eclipse the milestone, adding “It was great to celebrate with all my teammates. I couldn’t have gotten there without my team.”

During the state championship match last November, Calhoun dished out 42 assists as the



Julia Ciesla and Samantha DeGray await a serve at RHAM High School. DeGray, the team’s libero the past two seasons is approaching 1,000 career digs.



Senior captain Rian Calhoun recently surpassed 2,000 career assists. Calhoun is pictured with head coach Tim Guernsey after hitting the mark last month at Simsbury High School.

program captured its 11th title since 2007 and the fourth championship in the past five seasons.

Guernsey called Calhoun “the glue to our group,” adding that she has done a great job at adjusting her style to the fresh faces on the court.

The following night after defeating Windsor, the Raptors traveled to Storrs and swept E.O. Smith in three sets, improving to 7-3 overall this year.

Submissions Accepted for ‘Fall Into Art’

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

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

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

For more information, visit ahmyouth.org.

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

Seeking the program’s 12th state title, Guernsey said his current group is still a work in progress.

“The kids are getting better every day, but we still need to be able to make that big play when the game is tight,” expressed the veteran coach. “We’re not crisp enough yet, so we have to work on everything moving forward and stay grounded and humble.”

Guernsey’s Raptors next host East Hartford on Monday, Oct. 12 at 11:30 a.m.

With the conference and state tournament starting next month, the game against the Hornets of East Hartford will be one of nine more tune-up tests before the win-or-go-home matches start.

“We just have to believe in ourselves,” expressed Calhoun. “No matter who is out on the court, we just have to keep playing with that same energy.”

TOWN OF HEBRON SEWER USE LEGAL NOTICE

Sewer Use Bills are due and payable October 1, 2026. The billing rate is \$698.00 which may be paid in two equal installments, the first installment being due October 1, 2026, and the second installment being due April 1, 2027.
First Installment payments must be postmarked or received no later than November 2, 2026, to be considered on time with no additional charges. Second Installments must be postmarked or received no later than May 3, 2027. Payments that are unpaid as of November 3, 2026, and May 4, 2027, will be charged with 1.5% interest per month retroactive to the installment due date per State Statute 12-146.
To make payments by check, please make check payable to: Town of Hebron. Payments may be mailed to: Town of Hebron, 15 Gilead Street, Hebron, CT 06248. If desired, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope for a receipt. There is a drop-off box attached to the Town Office Building located next to the entrance on the lower level, south side. In addition, there is a box inside the building located in the hallway between the Tax and Assessor’s Office. Payments left in the box after the closure of business will be retrieved the following morning. The Collector’s office is located in the lower level of the Town Hall at 15 Gilead Street. Hours are Monday through Wednesday 8:00am to 4:00pm, Thursday 8:00am to 6:00pm, and Friday 8:00am to 1:00pm.
Please note Monday – Thursday the office is closed for lunch from 12:30pm – 1:15pm.
Respectfully, Revenue Collector

3TB 9/25, 10/9, 10/30

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

AHM News & Notes

AHM Youth and Family Services has made the following announcements. For more information, call AHM at 860-228-9488 or visit www.ahmyouth.org.

Fall Into Art: AHM 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. To submit artwork for display, use the form at ahmyouth.org/fall-into-art-registration. Submissions will be accepted through Friday, Oct. 16. This free event is held during Hebron Harvest Moon Festival, in collaboration with the

Hebron Creative Collective.

Here 4 You Podcast: Three new episodes of AHM’s podcast have been released. This is a show that provides viewers with information and support on a variety of health and wellness topics. The newest episodes include Transitioning Your Child Back to School, What Do Vape Devices Look Like, and Mobile Crisis Support for Youth in CT. Tune in on Spotify and YouTube.

Free QPR Training: All are invited for an in-person QPR & Narcan Training on Tuesday, Oct. 20, from 5:30-7 p.m. Participants will receive a two-dose supply of Narcan. This training is free and pizza will be served. Register at ahmyouth.recdesk.com/Community/Program.

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Rivereast Standout Athletes of the Week

By Josh Howard

Ava Galante - Bacon Academy (Soccer): Galante scored three goals last week as the Bobcats won a pair of games, improving to 4-1-2 overall. Galante, a sophomore, found the back of the net twice in 2-0 victory at Waterford High School on Oct. 1. Two days later, she added a goal as the team returned to Bacon Academy and blanked Killingly 3-0. Sarah Wisniewski and Quinn Guntulis added goals in the home victory. The team next travels to Norwich to face NFA on Saturday, Oct. 10 at 10 a.m. before returning to Bacon Academy to host East Lyme on Tuesday, Oct. 13 at 6 p.m.

Patrick Reilly - Portland High School (Cross-Country): Reilly placed eighth overall at

the Shoreline Small Schools League Meet at Hale Ray High School on Sept. 29. Reilly, a freshman, finished the 5,000 meter race in a time of 20:16, placing ahead of 33 other conference competitors. William Coleman (14th), Abel Wells (16th), Lucas Kirsche (19th), and Sam Klotz (22nd) also scored for the Highlanders. The team is now preparing for the Shoreline Conference championships, which are slated for Thursday, Oct. 22 at Hammonasset Park in Madison.

Caiden Rojas - RHAM High School (Soccer): Rojas scored a pair of goals as the Raptors defeated Enfield 3-0 on Oct. 2. Rojas, a senior, was assisted on his two goals by Alexander Elomaa and Braeden Devine. Elomaa also tallied a goal with an assist from Chase McLaughlin.



Bacon Academy girls soccer won a pair of games last week behind three goals from sophomore Ava Galante. The Bobcats are pictured after a home victory over Killingly last Saturday.

William Krajewski earned the shutout in goal as the Raptors blanked a fourth opponent this fall. The team next hosts Manchester today (Friday, Oct. 9) at RHAM High School, starting at 3:45 p.m.

Jasmine Martin - East Hampton High School (Volleyball): Martin combined for 44 kills, 36 digs, and seven aces as the Bellringers ousted three opponents last week. Martin, a junior, first had a career-high 23 digs, adding 17 kills and a pair of aces in a four-set win over Lyme-Old Lyme last Monday at EHHS. Two days later in a straight sets win over the High-

landers at Portland High School, Martin had a dozen kills and three aces and then posted 15 kills and 10 digs in a three set home victory over Coginchaug last Friday. The wins improved East Hampton to 6-5 overall with away games at Morgan (Friday, Oct. 9) and North Branford (Wednesday, Oct 14) on the schedule before returning to EHHS for a date with Haddam Killingworth on Friday, Oct. 16 at 5:30 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.

Chatham Health Vaccine Clinics

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

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.

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

★ *Letters, cont. from page 29*

ond, I attended a legislative forum for nonprofits last week. The note I received the next day reminded me why I stepped back into the role of candidate:

“Hello. I just wanted to let Ms. Ziobron know that if I could vote for her/was in her district, I certainly would. I had the pleasure of seeing her at a recent CT Alliance Non-Profit forum. She was by far the most prepared candidate and was balanced and objective. I really appreciated that you actually brought the state budget book! And specifically referenced it in several of her responses. She was objective and respectful, but also not afraid to state a true position...I wish her the best of luck in this campaign and certainly hope that she can bring more balance to our current state legislature!”

Caring about kids means refusing to accept mediocrity, wasted dollars, or empty promises. Our students and teachers deserve better, and I will keep asking the tough questions that get us there.

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

Note: The 34th House District covers East Hampton, East Haddam and part of Salem.

Enough Said Ned!!!

To the Editor:

Eight years of our tax-and-spend Democratic governor Ned Lamont is enough!!!

There shouldn't be a single senior or working person over 50 voting for him. Connecticut is one of 11 states that continue to tax Social Security benefits monies that have already been taxes at least once if not more. The Lamont Administration also taxes the hospitality industry – restaurants, nightclubs, food trucks – at 7.35% instead of the 6.35% for every other business. Connecticut also has a list of unfunded mandates dumped on the small business community – mandatory sick leave, family medical leave, up to two months of maternity leave for both the birth mother and the spouse. These employee perks used to be for high-performing and long-time tenured key employees. These mandates put a huge strain on all businesses and most get passed onto the consumer. Connecticut also has one of the highest minimum wages in the country and is forcing small business owners to reduce their staffing.

There's more: public benefits brought to us taxpayers by Ned Lamont. This unfunded mandate forces working people, a.k.a. taxpayers, to “chip in” to Connecticut Natural Gas and Eversource bill and pay those who don't pay their bills. The state is acting as the collection agency for these conglomerates who are making billions and billions in profits. Add to this the HUSKY health insurance, which is provided free to all or most of the people who are on the SNAP card program. The list goes on and on with the giveaways.

People who work and seniors have been tortured for the last eight years under Ned Lamont's collection of “free” social programs. Connecti-

cut is the third-highest-taxed state in the country. Now that's something to be proud of.

Ryan Fazio has promised to eliminate “public benefits” and cap property taxes for seniors and cut utility costs. What a concept! Connecticut has been under Democratic rule for decades and look what they've done. Our cost of living forces many of fixed incomes to make terrible choices of paying their mortgage, buying food and/or paying their utility bills – never mind having some “peaceful down time.”

Do you want to continue with this high cost of living in this very blue state? I hope not. It's time for a change; we need new leadership at the capitol! Ryan Fazio and his team will make our state a better place to live; so will Steve Weir!!

Don Denley – Andover

Holding Elected Officials Accountable

To the Editor:

Since March, I have knocked on more than 2,500 doors across our district.

I have walked down country roads, through neighborhoods and cul-de-sacs, past farms, fields and woods, and up more long driveways than I can count. I have talked with Democrats, Republicans, independents and people who would rather not talk about politics at all.

I do it because this race matters deeply to me. But I also do it because I believe this is what representative government is supposed to look like.

If you are going to represent a community in Hartford, you should know the people who live there. You should understand what they are worried about, what they value and what they expect from their government. And you cannot learn that only by talking to people who already agree with you.

I love eastern Connecticut. I love its farms, fields and woods, but I also love something less tangible about this place: a basic expectation of decency, civility and respect for our neighbors, even when we disagree.

Those values shape the kind of representative I want to be.

I believe elected officials should be accessible and accountable to the people they serve. That means holding regular public town halls and listening throughout a term in office, not just during campaign season. I also support reasonable term limits and prohibiting elected officials from trading individual stocks while in office. Public office should be public service, not a lifetime job or an opportunity for personal profit.

After 2,500 doors, I certainly have not met everyone. But every conversation has reinforced my belief that good government begins with listening.

I will keep knocking. And if I have the privilege of representing this district, I will keep showing up, listening and making sure the voices of eastern Connecticut are heard in our State Capitol.

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

Note: The 55th House District covers Andover, Hebron and Marlborough, and parts of Glastonbury and Bolton.

Paul Receives Working Families Endorsement

Democrat Ellen Paul, candidate for state representative in Connecticut's 55th House District, has earned the endorsement of the Connecticut Working Families Party and will appear on both the Democratic and Working Families Party lines on the November ballot.



Ellen Paul

“I'm proud to have the support of an organization that stands up for working people,” Paul said. “Whether I'm talking with families in Glastonbury, Andover, or Hebron, I hear the same concern again and again: Connecticut is becoming too expensive. Property taxes, electric bills, housing, child care, and everyday expenses are putting enormous pressure on household budgets. We need a state government that is focused on making it possible for working families to build a life here.”

The Connecticut Working Families Party is an independent political organization that works to reduce economic inequality and advocates for policies intended to raise standards for working families. Its priorities include af-

AFSCME Endorses Nedleman

The AFSCME recently endorsed state Sen. Norm Needleman (D-33) as he continues to campaign to earn a fifth term representing the 33rd Senate District, a 12-town district whose communities include Colchester, East Hampton and Portland.

AFSCME is the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, a labor union of public employees founded in 1932.

“Every worker in Connecticut is supporting our communities, doing important jobs that keep our state moving and operating,” said Sen. Needleman. “I'm honored to receive this endorsement and will continue working to support the hardworking people of Connecticut.

Needleman has voted to create workforce pipelines and training opportunities, developed new educational connections and supported



programs like paid family medical leave.

Needleman was unanimously renominated this spring by the Democratic Party to represent the towns of Colchester, Chester, Clinton, Deep River, East Haddam, East Hampton, Essex, Haddam, Lyme, Old Saybrook, Portland and Westbrook.

He serves as Senate Chair of the Energy and Technology Committee, Vice Chair of the Planning and Development Committee and a member of the Commerce, Finance, Revenue and Bonding and Transportation committees.

So far this year, Sen. Needleman has also received the endorsements of the Uniformed Firefighters, the Independent Party, CT Realtors, the Connecticut League of Conservation Voters, the Association of Retired Teachers, the 314 Action Fund and AFT.

Needleman founded and runs a manufacturing company, Tower Laboratories in Centerbrook, and is currently serving his sixth term as the first selectman of Essex.

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Supports DeCaprio

To the Editor:

I am writing today to offer my support for Mark DeCaprio for state representative in the 48th District.

As a conservative, I could use these 325 words to talk about Mark's record in Hartford or the conservative positions he has taken while serving there. Those things matter to me, of course, and I'm sure plenty will be written about them between now and Election Day.

But they aren't really why I wanted to write this letter.

Over the years, I've reached out to a lot of elected officials. Some local, some at the state level. Republicans and Democrats. Sometimes it's about something important, sometimes it's a question, and sometimes I just want to share my thoughts on an issue.

Mark always answers me. Every single time.

That probably sounds like a pretty low bar for an elected official, and frankly, it should be. But anyone who has spent much time trying to

communicate with the people who represent them knows that it isn't always the case. There are elected officials right here in town I have trouble getting a response from. There are state representatives I've written to and never heard a word back.

With Mark, I know that if I take the time to write to him, he'll take the time to respond back.

I don't expect to agree with every vote he casts or every position he takes. I don't think we should expect that from any elected official. What I do expect is for the people we send to Hartford to remember who sent them there and to remain accessible to the people they represent.

In my experience, Mark has done exactly that. Politics gives us plenty to argue about. But sometimes supporting someone is much simpler than that. I support Mark DeCaprio because, in every interaction I've had with him, he has made me feel like my voice as one of his constituents actually matters.

For me, that means everything.

Jason LaChapelle – Colchester

Obituaries

thanks to hospice nurse Marnee and her caregivers, especially Marcie.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Gert’s memory may be made to the Friends of Portland Library, 20 Freestone Ave., Portland, CT 06480.

Words of remembrance will begin at 11:15 a.m. in the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, on Saturday, Oct. 10. Friends may call at the funeral home on Saturday, Oct. 10, from 10 a.m., until time of service. Burial will be in the family plot in St. Mary’s Cemetery, Portland.

East Hampton

Janice S. Littlefield

Janice (Jan) Littlefield was born in Middletown on June 5, 1943, the daughter of Kenneth and Grace (Maxwell) Sartre.

Jan grew up in Cobalt on Route 66 and also lived in Hebron and Marlborough before moving with her husband and children to Canon City, Colorado in 1977.



She loved playing bingo, scratch tickets and trips to Cripple Creek. A voracious reader, she always had a book in progress, reading more books over her lifetime than could ever be counted. Along with her husband, George, they traveled all over 47 of the lower 48. Quick to make friends, she also loved her many dogs and cats and was an excellent cook.

Jan leaves behind her husband, George R. Littlefield; her children, Kimberly Nelsen of Canon City, Colorado; Vaughn Littlefield (LouAnn) of Penrose, Colo.; Lonna Walker (Todd) of Canon City, Colorado; sister, Beverly Walton (Matthew) of East Hampton, Connecticut; five grandchildren and nine great grandchildren and her very good friend and bingo buddy, Lillian Elston.

In addition to her parents, Jan was predeceased by her two sisters, Sally Miner and Nancy Sartre; brother, Norman Sartre; and brother-in-law, Robert Miner.

The family extends a special thank you to the nurses and CNAs with Sangre de Cristo Hospice for their loving care to Jan and the guidance given to help her and her family through her final journey.

At her request, there will be no services. She will be cremated and buried with her family at Lakeview Cemetery in East Hampton, Connecticut, at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Sangre de Cristo Hospice at 601 Greenwood Ave., Canon City, CO 81212 or online at sangre.org, or Orchard of Hope at 111 N. Orchard Avenue, Canon City, CO 81212 or online at orchardofhope.org.

Portland

Stanley M. Duszak

Stanley M. Duszak, 79, of Southview Street, Cromwell, passed away peacefully Wednesday, Sept. 30. Born in Portland on Nov. 1, 1946, he was the son of the late Stanley and Dorothy (Gatz) Duszak.

Stanley served honorably in the U.S. Air Force with the 907th Radar Squadron from 1968 to 1972, during which time he was stationed at Bucks Harbor Air Force Station in Bucks Harbor, Maine. Following his military service, he worked dedicatedly as an electrician for Kelsey Manufacturing of East Berlin, until his well-earned retirement.

Stanley was predeceased by his beloved wife, Gloria (Kelley) Duszak, who passed away on Aug. 12, 2022, as well as by his son, Marty Duszak, and his brother, Robert.

An avid gardener with a wonderful green

thumb, Stanley took great pride in tending to his yard. He was a talented do-it-yourself who always had a home improvement project in motion, especially during his retirement years. He could frequently be found at the Lowe’s Home Improvement store in Cromwell, always on the lookout for a great deal. In earlier years, he enjoyed bowling and cherished the memorable trips he took to Mohegan Sun casino with his late wife, Gloria.

Stanley is survived by his two daughters, Cariann Caron of Bristol and Heather Estelle of Virginia Beach, Va. He also leaves behind five cherished grandchildren: Nicholas Duszak of Connecticut, Samantha and Emilee Caron of Bristol, and Breanna and Katelynn Estelle of Virginia Beach, Va. He was the proud great-grandfather of Lyla Raney of Virginia Beach, Va., daughter of Breanna.

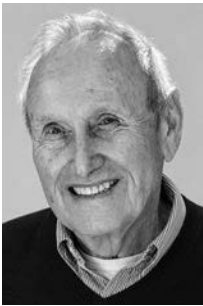
Graveside services were held Thursday, Oct. 8, in Swedish Cemetery, Portland.

The Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, is in charge of arrangements.

East Hampton

Richard Earnest Burnham

Richard Earnest “Dick” Burnham, 94, a lifelong East Hampton resident, devoted husband and father, builder, public servant, and man of remarkable practical ability, died Monday, Oct. 5, at Middlesex Hospital Hospice Care.



Born March 15, 1932, he graduated from East Hampton High School in 1950, where he served as president and valedictorian of his class and helped establish the school’s work-study program.

Dick served in the United States Army from 1953 to 1955. He was a corporal with the 710th Ordnance Company at Fort Riley, Kansas, where he worked in tracked vehicle repair.

As a young man, Dick showed the initiative and practical ability that would define his life. While still in high school, he built his first house for his parents on Champion Hill Road. In the early 1950s, he and Paul Melinchuck purchased a 38-acre property that became a home for his family of several generations and many cherished neighbors. He developed roads, subdivided land, and built homes there, beginning a construction career that would span more than four decades.

Dick continued to design and build homes and foundations throughout East Hampton and the surrounding area with his own company. He was known not only for his skill as a builder, but for his ability to look at a difficult problem and find a practical way through it. His familiar philosophy was simple: “No problems, only solutions.”

Dick later applied his talents in an entirely different setting at at Electric Boat as a nuclear ship fitter supervisor and later was involved in the construction of full-scale submarine mock-ups out of wood.

Dick believed strongly in public service and was deeply involved in the civic life of East Hampton. He served on Board of Education, the Board of Finance and as first selectman from 1965 to 1971. He also served as assistant building inspector and zoning enforcement officer.

Faith and service were also an important part of Dick’s life. He was a loyal member of the Bethlehem Lutheran Church community and was active on the church property committee. His involvement went well beyond meetings and maintenance. He took a personal interest in fellow members of the congregation, par-

ticularly those who could no longer drive, and regularly made sure they had transportation to church. His willingness to help quietly and consistently was characteristic of the way he lived.

Dick’s enthusiasm for life brought joy to many. With great strength, ingenuity, patience, and a positive attitude, he had a way of making the impossible seem possible. He was happiest when working with his hands, solving a problem, helping someone in need, or spending time with his family and was always ready to lend a hand, share a project, offer advice, or tell a joke. His home was a gathering place, and the porch he built was a favorite spot during the summer months.

Dick is survived by his loving wife of 68 years, Leonida “Lee” Burnham; his sons, Richard “Rick” and his wife Vickie, Kevin and his wife Patty, and Glenn and his wife Evelyn; his grandchildren, Nicholas, Kyle, and Logan; and many extended family members and friends.

He was predeceased by his parents, Lawrence and Frances (Pranowitz) Burnham, and his sis-

ter, Shirley (Burnham) Grimes.

Dick will be remembered as a builder in every sense of the word. He built homes, roads, businesses, and public works, but more importantly, he built a family and a life grounded in hard work, faith, ingenuity, generosity, humor, and love. He leaves behind not only the things he constructed, but the people he helped, the community he served, and generations of family who benefited from his example.

Visitation will be held Friday, Oct. 23, from 4-7 p.m., at Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton. The funeral will be held Saturday, Oct. 24, at 11 a.m., at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 1 East High St., East Hampton. Burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Dick’s memory to the East Hampton Ambulance Association or Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

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

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CLASSICS

See Answers, page 18

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CREATORS NEWS SERVICE

By Neil Manausa

ACROSS

1 She building

5 John or Sebastian

10 ___ out: dress up

13 Jeans man Strauss

14 Type of football

15 Lose it

16 “Salome” solo

17 Series opener, perhaps

18 Cynosure

19 Fast and confusing

21 Audience plea

23 Up-to-date

24 ___ Huckabee Sanders

26 Light beam

29 Terhune topic

30 Tyre king

34 Yule greeting

35 Like an aviary

37 Baited beast

38 Antique maker

39 Overloaded?

40 Take ___ from me!

41 Yes follower

42 Sweetener: var.

43 Diet, maybe

44 Finish

46 Ballroom dance move

47 Had a calf

48 Apply

50 Distant, distantly

51 Jittery

54 Love, to Federer

59 Learning system

60 Roker forecast

62 Dope toter

63 Headliner

64 Totaled

65 In ___

66 Pan or can fluid

67 Greek city-state

68 ___ chance!

DOWN

1 Smack

2 Homeroom comeback

3 Sinister

4 Hitchcock classic

5 Like Robin

6 Seed coat

7 Comden-Green-Styne hit

8 Lennon’s spouse

9 ___ Tots

10 Chihuahua bite?

11 About intro

12 DNA portion

15 Glen Campbell chart-topper

20 Witticism

22 Fuhgeddabout it!

25 Makes sense

26 Guilty reaction

27 Hulk, for one

28 On top

29 Primitive drive

31 Whirlybird whirler

32 Originate

33 Low-powered transport

35 Diddley and Derek

36 Sure ’nuff!

45 Chinese canine breed

47 “Titanic” line

49 Yankee #8

50 Fluctuates

51 Nearly

52 Response to Little Red Hen

53 Last on the list?

55 Not fooled

56 Continental currency

57 Overmuch

58 ___ life!

61 Rhine feeder

TOWN OF PORTLAND
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Portland Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, May 28, 2026 at a meeting to start at 7:00 p.m. in the Buck Foreman Room (2nd Floor), 265 Main Street, Portland, CT.
Application #26-01: 674 Glastonbury Turnpike. Request for variances from Zoning Regulation Table 4.2.1 for setbacks to allow construction of a garage and rear deck. Proposing a rear yard setback of 38.68 ft where 40 ft is required for the garage. Proposing a side yard setback of 13.57 ft where 15 ft is required for the garage. Proposing a rear yard setback of 26.59 ft where 40 ft is required for a rear second story deck and staircase. Application and property of Mygiabentley LLC. Assessor’s Map 91, Lot 10. Zone R-25.
At this hearing interested persons may appear and be heard and written communications will be received. A copy of this application is available for public review in the Portland Land Use Department.
Dated at Portland, CT this 6th day of October 2026.
Kurt Peterson, Chairman

2TB 10/9, 10/16

LEGAL NOTICE
MARLBOROUGH WATER POLLUTION
CONTROL AUTHORITY

Notice is hereby given to all property owners connected to the sewers in the Town of Marlborough that a sewer usage charge is due in one installment on October 1, 2026.
The last day to pay without interest is November 2, 2026.
Interest for a late payment is 1.5% per month reverting to the due date. The usage charge set for the Fiscal year 2026-2027 is \$654.00 per EDU. Failure to receive a bill does not invalidate the fee or interest. Contact the tax office immediately if you do not receive a bill.
Please make checks payable to MWPCA (Marlborough Water Pollution Control Authority).
Payments may be mailed to Tax Collector, P.O. Box 29, Marlborough, CT 06447. There is a lock box to the left of the Town Hall door for check payments only (do not leave cash), or at the Tax Office in the Town Hall, 26 North Main Street, Marlborough, CT. The Tax Office is open Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Tuesdays 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Fridays 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Respectfully submitted
Barbara Lazzari, Tax Collector

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

TOWN OF COLCHESTER

Adoption of Ordinance

Inland Wetland and Watercourse Applications

The Board of Selectmen at its October 1, 2026 meeting adopted an Inland Wetland and Watercourse Application Ordinance for the Town of Colchester for the following purpose: Fee structure for applications to the Conservation Commission for the Town of Colchester. This ordinance becomes effective 31 days following publication. A copy of the entire ordinance is on file in the Town Clerk's Office at 127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, CT.

Respectfully Submitted,
Gayle Furman, CCTC, CMC, MMC
Colchester Town Clerk

1TB 10/9

TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

NOTICE OF HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing at their Meeting on Monday, October 19, 2026 at 6:30pm at the East Hampton Town Hall - 1 Community Drive, Room 117 and via Zoom to consider the following application:

ZBA-26-009: Peter Kuhn, Requesting the following variance to Section 4.4.E Area & Dimensional Standards to allow reduction of front setback from 50' to 30' to allow for the expansion of accessory structure, on 28 Old Chestnut Hill Road Map 13 / Block 33 / Lot 16.

ZBA-26-010: Adam Fortier, Requesting the following variance to section 4.4.E Area & Dimensional Standards to allow reduction of side setback from 25' to 7.6' to allow for the construction of a 1,200 square foot residential garage, on 9 Daniel Street Map 13 / Block 52 / Lot 20-4

Applications are on file in the Land Use Office 860 267-7450

2TB 10/9, 10/16

TOWN OF HEBRON

ASSESSOR'S LEGAL NOTICE OF

PERSONAL PROPERTY

Pursuant to CGS§ 12-40, all owners of tangible personal property are required to file a declaration of such property with the assessor of the town where the property is located for the October 1, 2026, assessment date. Failure to declare by November 2, 2026, as required by law, will result in a 25% penalty assessment.

Taxable personal property includes but is not limited to: unregistered motor vehicles, motor vehicles located in Hebron but registered in another state, mobile manufactured homes not assessed as real estate, construction equipment, manufacturing machinery and equipment, business furniture and fixtures, farm machinery, farming tools, mechanics tools, computers, telecommunication equipment, cables, conduits, pipes, poles, leased equipment for business purposes, business expensed supplies and other property, video games, vending machines, and leasehold improvements.

The Assessor's Office has mailed declarations to anyone the office is aware of conducting business in Hebron. Failure to receive a declaration in the mail does not negate the filing requirement. Failure to file in the form and manner prescribed by law shall result in a presumption that such personal property is owned by the person possessing it and will be assessed with any subsequent penalties as required by State law.

Blank declarations are available online (hebronct.gov), and in the Assessor's Office. Declarations must be received or postmarked by November 2, 2026, to be considered timely. Contact the Assessor's Office with questions about exemptions, filing requirements, or extensions of time to file. Any request for extension must be received by close of business November 2, 2026, and must demonstrate just cause for an extension to be granted.

Email: assessor@hebronct.gov
Phone: 860-228-5971 x147
Address: 15 Gilead St., Hebron, CT 06248

1TB 10/9

Town of Portland

Legal notice is hereby given to the water and/or sewer usage customers of the Town of Portland that quarterly bills are due and payable October 20, 2026. Payments not made in full on or before November 20, 2026 will be subject to interest of 1.5% per month from the due date.

Failure to receive a bill does not invalidate the charge or the statutorily required interest when a payment is late. Please contact the Water/Sewer department if you do not receive your bill at (860) 342-6735 or by email darce@portlandct.org

Payments are accepted in person at the Town Hall, 33 East Main Street, Portland. Payments can also be placed in the dropbox or mailed to the address listed below.

Town of Portland
Water/Sewer Dept.
P.O. Box 71
Portland, CT 06480-0071
Michele Nuhn, CCMC, CCMO
Town of Portland
Collector of Revenue

1TB 10/9, 10/23, 11/13

Andover Planning and Zoning Commission

Notice of Action

The Andover Planning and Zoning Commission at a Special Meeting held September 29, 2026 APPROVED Application 26-22C: Proposal to amend various sections of the Andover Zoning Regulations concerning the Mixed-Use Floating Zone.

Applicant: Design Professionals.

The approved changes to the regulations include:

- Definitional changes;
- Modification of the Master Plan requirements;
- Modification of the Site Plan and Special permit requirements;
- Modification of the permitted ratio between commercial and residential in the Mixed Use Floating Zone;
- Modification of sidewalk requirements; and
- The addition of roadway construction requirements.

The full text of the approved changes to the regulations is available on the Town of Andover website, in the Town Clerks office and in the Andover Building and Land Use office.

1TB 10/9

TOWN OF COLCHESTER

LEGAL NOTICE

The Electors of the Town of Colchester are hereby warned to meet at their respective polling places in said town on Tuesday, November 3, 2026, for the following purposes:

I. To cast their votes for Governor and Lieutenant Governor, Representative in Congress, State Senator, State Representative, Secretary of the State, Treasurer, Comptroller, Attorney General, Judge of Probate, and Registrar of Voters.

Notice is hereby given that the location of the polling places on Election Day is as follows:

Election Day Voting District	Election Day Voting District
District 1	Town Hall, 127 Norwich Ave. Colchester, CT
District 2	Abundant Life of the Assemblies of God, Skinner Road, Colchester, CT
District 3	Bacon Academy, 611 Norwich Ave., Colchester, CT

Absentee Ballots will be counted at the following central location: Town Hall, 127 Norwich Ave. Colchester, CT. Voting tabulators will be used. The polls will be opened at six o'clock in the morning (6:00 a.m.) and will remain open until eight o'clock in the evening (8:00 p.m.).

During the 14-day early voting period before said election, the hours and location of early voting will be as indicated below. Each early voting location will also offer Same-Day Registration (SDR).

Early Voting Day: Hours	Early Voting / SDR Location
October 19-26 & 28, 2026: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.	Town Hall, 127 Norwich Ave. Colchester, CT
October 27 & 29, 2026: 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.	
November 1, 2026: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.	

On Election Day, the hours and location of SDR will be as follows:

Election Day: Hours	Same Day Registration (SDR) Location
November 3, 2026: 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.	Town Hall, 127 Norwich Ave. Colchester, CT

Dated at Colchester, Connecticut this 5th day of October, 2026.

Gayle Furman, CCTC, CMC, MCTC
Colchester Town Clerk

1TB 10/9

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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REID-9-26



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AllPoints Realty

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MARLBOROUGH OFFICE SPACE, WEST ROAD: East access to Route 2. 1,030 sqft, with reception area, 3 offices, kitchenette, bathroom, storage & plenty of parking. \$1,400 per month; utilities separate. Call 860-748-0909.

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GLASTONBURY CONDO RENTAL:

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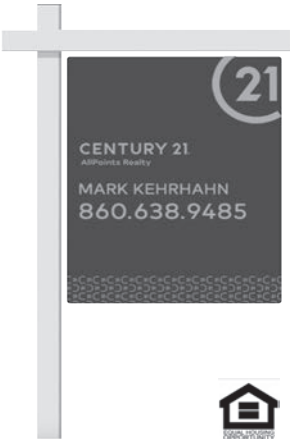
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REB-25-26

Classifieds Pay

The Glastonbury Citizen & Rivereast News Bulletin

Call 860-633-4691 or email your classified line ad to admin@glcitizen.com

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Seeking a dedicated, compassionate and skilled **DENTAL HYGIENIST** to join Dr. Zase and our **COLCHESTER DENTAL GROUP** family.

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Hours and salary negotiable.

Please EMAIL resume to Thecdg@sbcglobal.net or MAIL to 79A Norwich Rd, Colchester CT 06415

RE10-2-26

LEGALS

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

The Colchester Planning & Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on October 21, 2026, beginning at 7:00 PM in the Colchester Senior Center at 15 Louis Lane, Colchester, CT to hear and consider the following application(s):

PZC2026-016 Anthony Skut (Applicant/Owner) Application for a 2-lot re-subdivision on Cabin Road (MBL 03-11-012-000). Zoning District: Suburban Use (SU).

At this hearing, interested persons may be heard and written communications received. A copy of these applications is located in the Land Use Department and Town Clerk's Office, Town Hall, 127 Norwich Avenue, and may be inspected during regular business hours (8:30 AM - 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday). Application materials are also available on the Colchester Planning & Zoning Commission webpage at <https://www.colchesterct.gov/planning-zoning-commission>.

Planning & Zoning Commission
Joseph Mathieu, Chair

2TB 10/9, 10/16

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

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

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

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

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

TOWN OF PORTLAND LEGAL NOTICE STATE ELECTION TUESDAY NOVEMBER 3, 2026

The electors of the Town of Portland are hereby warned to meet at their respective polling places in said town on Tuesday, November 3, 2026, for the following purposes: To cast their votes for Governor and Lieutenant Governor, Representative in Congress, State Senator, State Representative, Secretary of the State, Treasurer, Comptroller, Attorney General, Judge of Probate, and Registrar of Voters. Notice is hereby given that the location of the polling place on November 3, 2026 is as follows:

**PORTLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL
93 HIGH STREET**

Voting tabulators will be used. The polls on Tuesday, November 3, 2026 will be opened at six o'clock in the morning (6:00 a.m.) and will remain open until eight o'clock in the evening (8:00 p.m.). The polling location will also offer Same-Day Registration (SDR). Absentee ballots will be counted at the polls.

EARLY VOTING

Early voting will take place between Monday, October 19, 2026, and Sunday, November 1, 2026. Early voting hours are 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. every day, except that hours are extended to 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on the last Tuesday and Thursday, October 27 and 29, 2026. The early voting location is as follows:

**PORTLAND TOWN HALL
33 EAST MAIN STREET**

Voting tabulators will be used during early voting. The early voting location will also offer Same-Day Registration (SDR).
ATTEST: Michael V. Tierney
Portland Town Clerk
Dated at Portland, Connecticut this 5th day of October, 2026

1TB 10/9

Graphic Designer

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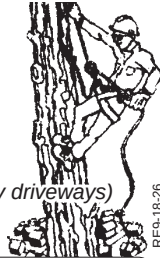
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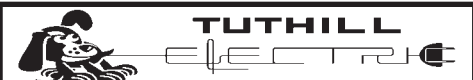
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