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RIVEREAST
News Bulletin

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

Volume 47, Number 35 | Published by The Glastonbury Citizen | October 16, 2026



Toys for Tots… **The Town of Portland Garage is assisting the U.S. Marines in its annual Toys for Tots campaign, which runs through Dec. 15. Organizers are calling on all surrounding towns to donate new, unwrapped toys to children in need. The donation location is Portland Town Garage, 505 Glastonbury Turnpike, Portland. This year's kickoff photo features Santa Claus, Mike Fuller, Brian Steffman, Timmy Aresco and Mr. Peanut. Clayton Puida is photographer.**

Portland Awards Honor Three Residents

By Anne Lilburn

Portland honored three long-valued residents on Sept. 30, when the 16th annual Ralph Paley Spirit Awards were held at the town's senior center. The event was well attended, with First Selectman Mike Pelton and state Rep. Christie Carpino (R-32) both speaking.

Former First Selectman Susan Bransfield, Brownstone Quorum President Tom Bransfield, and Jack Sterry were all awarded the honor this year for their decades' worth of contributions to the community.

The awards are named after Ralph "Mickey" Paley, who founded Paley Brothers Hay and Shavings and died in 2011.

"When you read about Ralph, what stands out most is not what he owned or what he accomplished professionally," said Waverly Senior Center Director Sarah Caratasios-Elliot in a speech delivered at Sept. 30 ceremony. "It is how he treated people. Ralph was remembered for his generosity and for helping individuals and organizations, often anonymously."

"There is something very powerful about doing something good and not needing anyone to know you did it," she added. That spirit, of service for its own sake, was at the heart of the three people honored that night, she said.

At the ceremony, Caratasios-Elliot shared a personal story when honoring Susan Bransfield, who served as first selectman for 18 years. Bransfield's nomination for the award described her as "calm, thoughtful, respectful, and deeply committed to this town," and Caratasios-Elliot remembered Bransfield going above and beyond for a particular local family in mourning — her own.

"One of my earliest experiences with Susan was after we lost my mom," said Caratasios-Elliot. "My late father needed support, and at that time, Portland did not have a town social worker. Susan stepped in and did what she could to help him — and my dad could be a little rough around the edges. We lovingly called him 'Grumpy Grampy,' so helping him was not always the easiest assignment, but Susan was kind, patient, and compassionate. She treated him with dignity, and she tried to help simply because he needed it. I never forgot that."

Susan's husband, Tom Bransfield, was also honored.

"Tom has devoted countless hours of his own time to the Portland Brownstone Quorum and to Riverfront Park," Caratasios-Elliot said at the ceremony. "His nominations spoke about his leadership, his dedication, and also something I think says so much about who he is – [that] there really isn't a job too big or too small for Tom.

"He may be leading an organization, helping plan an event or updating a website one day," she continued, "and the next day he may be planting trees, tending the pollinator garden, working in the flower beds or literally pulling weeds."

The last honoree, John Brewster Sterry, who sometimes goes by Jack, is 92 years old, and was noted for his years of service to the town of Portland. He has been an advocate for veterans in town, including being involved in the creation of the town's veterans' memorial, and has been a Freemason for nearly 70 years, but Caratasios-Elliot also noted the quiet, unsung ways that Sterry improved his hometown.

"John and his wife, Jane, opened their home

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House Candidates Clash on Priorities for Future

By Toriana Williams

Voters in Connecticut's 55th House District will choose between Incumbent Republican Steve Weir and Democrat Ellen Paul in the Nov. 3 election. The 55th District includes the *Rivereast* towns of Hebron, Marlborough and Andover, as well as parts of Bolton and Glastonbury.



Weir



Paul

Early voting begins Oct. 19 and runs through Nov. 1. For Andover, early voting will take place at the Andover Town Hall Community Room, 17 School Road; for Marlborough, early voting will take place at the Marlborough Town Hall Conference Room, 26 N. Main Street; and for Hebron, early voting will take place at the Hebron Town Hall lower-level meeting room, 15 Gilead Street. Early voting hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day, except on Oct. 27 and 29, when the hours are extended to 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

In interviews with the *Rivereast*, both candidates said the cost of living is a major concern, but they differed on how Connecticut should spend its money, support schools and help local families.

Weir Says State Must Watch Spending

Weir, a Hebron resident who is seeking his third term in the state House of Representatives, said high costs are making life harder for families and businesses in Connecticut. He pointed to property taxes, housing costs and high electric bills as the main problems that need the most attention.

"We simply cannot continue to burden our residents with more taxes," said Weir.

He explained that he wants the state to spend money more carefully and to check where tax dollars go. He also raised concerns about money given to local projects through special legislative funding. According to Weir, some projects have faced questions about fraud and need closer review.

Weir said he believes Connecticut must con-

See House Candidates Clash, page 11



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Trick or Trot 5K

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

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

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

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

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

Register online at runsignup.com/Race/CT/Andover/NortonCommissionTrickOrTrot5K-RunWalk.

Important Election Information for Voters

Election Day is coming up Tuesday, Nov. 3, and Andover voters should take note of important dates and locations for the upcoming state election.

Early voting will take place Monday, Oct. 19, through Sunday, Nov. 1, at the Town Hall Community Room, 17 School Road. The hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day, with extended hours from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 27, and Thursday, Oct. 29. Same-day registration will also be available at the early voting location during early voting hours.

On Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 3, the polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Town Hall Community Room. Voters will cast ballots for governor and lieutenant governor, representative in Congress, state senator, state representative, secretary of the state, treasurer, comptroller, attorney general and judge of probate. Voting tabulators will be used.

Same-day registration on Election Day will take place at Town Hall, in the hallway outside the Community Room. Absentee ballots will be counted at the Andover Town Hall Community Room.

Absentee ballots for the Nov. 3 state election are available to all electors at the town clerk's office at Town Hall. Office hours are Monday, 8:15 a.m. to 7 p.m.; and Tuesday through Thursday, 8:15 a.m. to 4 p.m. The office is closed on Friday, closed. For more information, call 860-742-0188, ext. 4218.

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.

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.

See More Andover News, page 33





From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

By Mike Thompson

Before I dive into the rest of my column, some letters-related news and reminders.

First off, a reminder that next week's *Rivereast*, the Oct. 23 issue, is the last issue in which any negative letters about candidates will be allowed. So get those final jabs in while you can, because the following week – Oct. 30 – any political letters must be endorsements only, or otherwise positive in nature.

And by that I mean *fully* positive; not 90% endorsing your candidate and 10% attacking the other guy. Also, like I said last week, there will be no negotiating, no back-and-forth; your letter will either be edited to meet this standard or, if it's particularly egregious, it simply won't be published.

The Oct. 30 issue will also feature an early deadline for letters. All letters for that week *must* be submitted by noon Monday, Oct. 26. No exceptions will be made.

So again: next week will be business as usual. But for Oct. 30, letters must be endorsements only – and they must be submitted early.

* * *

Oct. 1 was not just the start of a new month, but it was also "New Law Day!" in Connecticut. Several new laws, passed earlier this year by the state legislature, are now in effect – laws that tackle license plate readers, AI transparency, distracted driving, and more.

Automated license plate readers have been in the news a lot lately; they're often referred to as Flock cameras, the company Flock Safety is one of the top sellers of the products. The cameras record data like a vehicle's license plate number, make and model – which has (understandably) prompted privacy concerns from many folks in the state.

So, state lawmakers have passed a law which limits the use of the cameras, and that law took effect Oct. 1.

According to *CT Mirror*, the bill limits the amount of time that data is retained to 21 days, and it bans the use of data for immigration enforcement, investigating people who have sought or received abortions or transgender care, or finding the identity of someone "engaged in an activity protected under the First Amendment to the United States Constitution."

The law also prohibits sharing the data with out-of-state agencies outside of New York, Massachusetts or Rhode Island – unless the law enforcement agency or task force "provides a written declaration affirming that any data received will be used in compliance with the prohibitions set forth" in the new law, according to *CT Mirror*.

Another high-profile issue addressed in the new laws is artificial intelligence, or AI. The new Connecticut Artificial Intelligence Responsibility and Transparency Act, or CART, has new requirements for companies that offer AI chatbots to children, according to *CT Mirror*. Specifically, the law requires companies to implement a protocol to detect and address chats indicating a risk of self-harm.

The new law also requires employers to provide a written notice when using AI to make decisions that impact employment statuses, *CT Mirror* reports.

Distracted driving is also addressed by a new law. "But wait," you might be saying to yourself, "aren't there already laws that deal with distracted driving?" Well, yes, but lawmakers apparently felt they could go father – and, as someone who drives pretty much every day, I agree with them.

Up until now, drivers who were on the phone or texting without using the hands-free feature were considered distracted. But. according to *CT Mirror*, under the new law now anyone holding a phone *at all* while driving is considered distracted. So that means no scrolling, no checking your email, no checking directions. Don't pick up your phone – period. There still remains an exception for emergency calls, the news outlet reported.

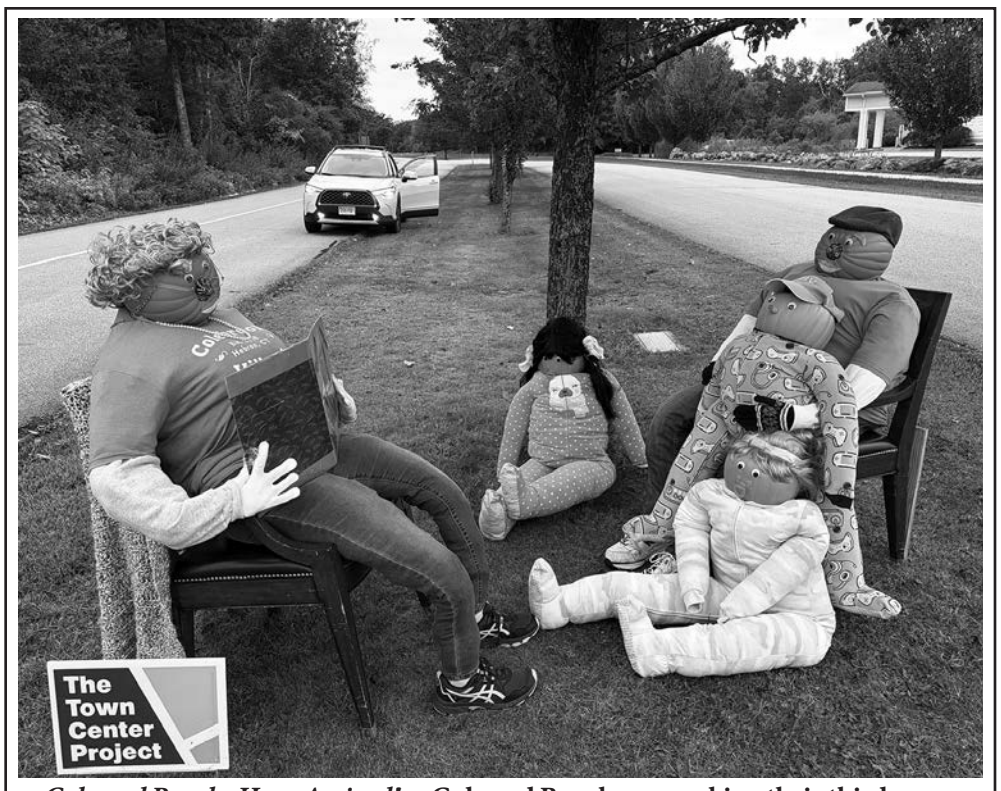
Also, anyone caught driving distracted while in a highway work zone will now be charged with reckless driving. So before, it may have just netted you a ticket. But a reckless driving conviction can result in prison time.

So yeah, put that phone away while you drive. As a society, we existed for decades without having phones available while we drove; we managed to get by just fine. Trust me, it can be done.

Now, those are just a few of the nearly 100 new laws in effect; for full listing of them, go to tinyurl.com/newctlaws.

* * *

See you next week.



Cole and Brooke Have Arrived!… **Cole and Brooke are making their third appearance again this fall as an entry to the Hebron Town Center Project's Scarecrows on Main. The sweet couple are resident scarecrows at Colebrook Village, a senior living facility, in Hebron. This year, they are joined by their three scarecrow great-grandchildren, clad in pajamas, while Grandma and Grandpa read them a Halloween story. The human residents of Colebrook look forward to the creative and fun time putting them together for the community to share and enjoy.**

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

Let's Raise Our Expectations

To the Editor:

The old saying goes that the trick to happiness is setting your expectations low. If that is true, Connecticut voters may be very happy. Year after year, Democrats ask us to applaud the same routine: higher taxes, more government giveaways, unfunded mandates.

And what do we get for all this investment? We are told every new dollar is essential, every new program is compassionate, and every new mandate is progress. At some point, though, even the most generous taxpayer should ask whether throwing more money at every problem is really a plan.

This is why voting Republican is worth considering. Not because Republicans own a magic wand, but because someone should occasionally check the price tag.

If happiness comes from low expectations, Democrats have certainly done their part. I would rather vote for higher expectations: better schools, affordable government, and a little more respect for the people paying the bills.

I'm voting for Ryan Fazio and his team.

Alannah Coshow – East Hampton

Why Not Steve Weir?!

To the Editor:

I continue to ask myself "Why won't Steve reply" to any of the requests for more information from people who have taken the time to write letters to the editor of the *Rivereast*? Could it be that he has no defense? Maybe he just doesn't care enough about the job anymore of being our representative in the 55th!

He cared enough to vote no on the following issues:

to require nursing homes to report their costs honestly and to disclose when a private equity firm owns them;

to expand early childhood education;

to help seniors stay in their homes;

to keep medical debt private.

I know why I will not be voting for Steve Weir! It's because he has shown he does not care about seniors, childhood education, renters or working families.

If you belong to one of these groups I hope you will join me in voting for Ellen Paul on Nov. 3rd.

Sincerely,

George O'Brien – Marlborough

Bulletin Board

I recently became aware of an organization called "Brilliant.org" that was founded in 2013 to find the most intelligent teens in the world, but now (possibly finding that to be a limited talent pool) apparently offers services to really smart people in general.

If my own experiences as an aspiring juvenile delinquent are any indication, the term "intelligent teen" is an oxymoron of the first order – a conviction that remained unshaken through the teenaged years of my own two sons. Apparently, however, there are certain teens out there who are so smart they are (at least in the view of limited individuals such as myself) practically freaks of nature.

Brilliant originally sought to identify these creatures with a website that encouraged them to solve a bunch of really hard questions and problems. As I understand it, the site was sort of an entrance portal. Anybody was welcome to log on to prove how smart or (considering that the questions appeared to be couched in a mixture of Greek, Aramaic and Sanskrit, sprinkled with a generous assortment of apparently random numbers and symbols) how incredibly stupid they were to even try.

Among the geniuses they discovered was 15-year-old Raghav Sood who taught himself HTML, SS and JavaScript at the age of 9 and published a book titled Pro Android Augmented Reality. Not being a teenaged genius (or even a particularly intelligent adult), I have no idea what Pro Android Augmented Reality may be, but I'm tempted to order a copy in the hope that it might be a pornographic novel about robots.

Among the sorts of problems Raghav had to negotiate (one of the few I could actually make any sense of) was: "A grid with 3 rows and 52 columns is tiled with 78 identical 2x1 dominoes. How many ways can this be done such that exactly two of the dominoes are vertical?"

After contemplating this problem for all of about 20 seconds, my answer was: "Who cares?"

Here's another one: "While solving problems at Brilliant, Calvin absent-mindedly eats through 7 bags of gummy worms. He looks up the nutritional information on the bag, and notices that each bag of gummy worms contains 6 servings, and each serving has a whole number of calories. Given this, Calvin calculated that he consumed under 1,000 calories. What is the maximum number of calories that Calvin could have consumed from these 7 bags of gummy worms?"

Once again, I have no idea, but I'm thinking a better question might be: "How many teeth will Calvin have left in ten years if he keeps chowing down on gummy worms?"

One more: "How many 4-digit numbers are there such that the thousands digit is equal to the sum of the other 3 digits?"

Uh, do you want fries with that?

Having established that I am far from a genius, I have created a question of my own for those of us who are, shall we say, "more average."

"Having forgotten to tie his shoes, Johnny is admiring the gold medal award he won for his entry in the International Symposium on Robotics and Intelligent Sensors, when he trips on a shoe lace and falls head-first down two flights of stairs. If there are 22 stairs in each flight and given there are 206 bones in the human body and that Johnny is not made out of rubber, what are the chances he will be on time for his interview at MIT in the morning?"

I don't know about you, but I'm feeling smarter already.

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.

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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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Calling All Democrats

To the Editor:

If you are tired of yelling at your TV set, then get out and vote Line A all the way!

Use your voice – vote!

Sincerely,
Aileen Vrooman – Marlborough

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

Steve Has Earned My Trust

To the Editor:

You shouldn't judge a book by its cover, and you can't judge a bill by the catchy name it has been given, or by the one thing that some groups highlight in order to make their opponent look bad. What needs to be judged, is the bill as a whole, and what is actually written in the legislation. That is what Steve Weir does; he looks at the whole bill, not just the title, not just one part, not just at what seems obvious.

If you judge a bill by the catchy title or by one part that is being highlighted, you are judging a book by its cover. When you read beyond the title and carefully crafted highlights that are put out in mailers and by some people, and dig deeper into what is written, many times there are lines buried that can have unintended consequences for our local communities and families. Steve understands that, and his diligence is important to the people in our district and Connecticut. The campaign rhetoric comes and goes, but Steve's thoughtful approach and commitment to the people in our district and CT are unwavering.

Steve has earned my trust, and I am proud to support him and his bid for continued service in the Connecticut House of Representatives!

Cheryl Lage – Amston

Paul for Property Tax Relief

To the Editor:

I will be voting for Ellen Paul in the 55th District this November. I respect that there are many reasons to vote for or against someone, but I'm going to focus on one reason in particular: how we pay for education.

Connecticut's state and local taxes are regressive when considered together – meaning that the highest-earning people pay the smallest share of their income, and low- and middle-income people pay a higher effective tax rate. It's not the state income tax that causes this problem – it's our reliance on town property taxes. This is laid out in the state's 2025 "Connecticut Tax Incidence Study" (you can Google for that report!).

For most towns in our part of Connecticut, education is the largest expense, and we saw substantial increases in costs this year. So it's no wonder that this year's budget referendums were so contentious. Especially when this burden is unfairly placed on middle-income families and retirees.

The state already provides aid to towns for education. But the formula hasn't been updated for inflation since 2013, as the Connecticut Council of Municipalities recommends. This has resulted in the increasing burden being felt directly in the property tax. The solution is clear: we need to fix the formula and increase the state's commitment.

Ellen Paul understands that funding our schools shouldn't place a disproportionate burden on homeowners and renters. She'll work to modernize state aid, ease the pressure on property taxes, and keep us from having to choose between adequate school funding and affordability. Our country deserves well-funded schools that will prepare our children for the challenges of the future.

Please come out to vote, either early or on Nov 3.

Have a great weekend!

Adam Ockman – Hebron

Note: *Ockman is a member of the Hebron Board of Finance, but said he is speaking as an individual.*

Vote for Steve Weir

Dear Residents of Andover, Bolton, Glastonbury, Hebron, and Marlborough:

Elections are our opportunity to choose who represents us in Hartford, and State Representative Steve Weir is the clear choice for the 55th District. Steve consistently opposes tax increases, overspending, and government mandates while advocating for greater transparency and the needs of our small towns.

As the former state representative for the 55th District, I know firsthand the dedication required to deliver results in Hartford. While you may not agree with Steve on every issue, he will always show up, listen, and clearly explain where he stands.

Over the past four years, Steve has represented our district exceptionally well, maintaining a perfect voting record and excelling in his committee assignments. With his business background, experience as a former police officer, and strong history of community leadership, he brings a practical approach to moving Connecticut forward.

If you want a representative who listens, cares, and fights for our interests, please join me and vote for Steve Weir on Nov. 3rd.

Best regards,
Robin Green – Marlborough
Former State Representative, 55th District

Ziobron Best Choice

To the Editor:

I've known Melissa Ziobron and her family for over 50 years. She is a focused and dedicated person as well as a hometown girl who has decided to leave a high-paying state job for a stipend. When she held this position previously, she loved her job enough to put in full-time hours in what was a part-time position.

She was true to her word in reaching out to the other side for solving issues pertaining to voters no matter the party. She has a proven track record, unlike her opponent who has no political experience.

Meghan Rosenfeld is basically a transplant from Pennsylvania, trained in academic and human resources, which translates into more DEI. With at least half of East Hampton's voters without children in our public school system only rating about B, we don't need another advocate of tampons in the boys bathrooms and undermining our gifted kids, not to mention the consistent higher taxes related.

She claims to be a listener, but what are her plans for doing anything? With a full-time job, a large family, her volunteering on several committees and her plan for bettering her education, what's left for our district? She is overcommitted as it is.

We need dedication, experience, name recognition, and a true performer that Melissa Ziobrion represents. I remember how she organized a tour of our state capital that I attended. She was a gracious hostess who educated us in not only the construction but of what people do and how our government runs. This was not part of her job but shows the initiative of someone who loves her job.

Please vote for Melissa once again.

Maria Peplau – East Hampton

High Tax State

To the Editor:

Democrats have controlled Connecticut for 54 years. Fifty-four years of their liberal policies have put this state in the top six for taxes. They have destroyed the once-great cities of Hartford, New Haven, New London and many of the smaller towns by giving away the store, and they did this with our money.

Vote with year brain, not your party affiliation. Enough is enough.

Frank Grande – Colchester

Beyond Party Lines

To the Editor:

As voters consider who should represent us in the state house, I think it is worth looking beyond party labels and examining the actual voting record of the person who holds the seat.

State Rep. Mark DeCaprio's fiscal record provides an example of why individual votes matter. DeCaprio voted for the FY24-FY25 state budget in 2023, but voted against the FY26-FY27 state budget in 2025. He also voted against the 2026 budget adjustment and the 2026 budget implementer.

Those budget measures affect the communities DeCaprio represents. The FY26-FY27 budget included state aid to Bozrah, Colchester, Franklin, and Lebanon, with the district receiving more than $22 million in state aid for FY27 according to the district funding figures compiled from state budget data.

His record also shows that voting patterns are not always strictly divided by party. In 2026, DeCaprio voted against HB 5003, a workforce development and working-conditions bill that ultimately became Public Act 26-12. The legislation addressed workforce development and working conditions and included provisions concerning workers who are assaulted on the job, among other issues.

That vote is particularly worth examining because HB 5003 was not simply a matter of every Republican voting one way and every Democrat voting another. The Senate roll call, for example, included Republicans who voted for the legislation.

None of this requires voters to agree with every vote DeCaprio has taken. It simply illustrates why a party label does not tell the entire story.

A representative's voting record gives constituents something more concrete to evaluate: the individual decisions made while serving in office. Voters can look at those decisions, consider the legislation involved, and decide for themselves whether the record reflects the representation they want from their state legislator.

Voting for Bob,
Amy Domeika – Colchester

Supports Weir

To the Editor:

I am writing in support of Steve Weir of Hebron, who is seeking reelection to the state House of Representatives to continue to represent the 55th House District and citizens of Andover, Hebron and Marlborough and parts of Bolton and Glastonbury.

I have worked with Steve on behalf of clients in his role as a lawmaker and ranking member of the General Assembly's Labor Committee. He also serves on the Higher Education and Housing committees. Steve is accessible, thoughtful and listens carefully. He studies policies thoroughly and he advocates vigorously on behalf of his constituents and issues that he supports. Steve is honest and forthright whether he agrees with a policy or not.

Steve supports his local community. He served as chairman of CT River Valley Chamber of Commerce. We volunteered together through the Chamber as judges on a panel evaluating student presentations of business concepts. Steve was thoughtful, fair-minded and offered insightful, constructive criticism to help students refine their ideas.

As a business owner, Steve has brought his knowledge and experience to the legislature to help shape legislation and the state budget. As an employer, he knows what it is like to lead, collaborate, make ends meet and, if necessary, compromise – essential skills in adopting a budget and setting policy. As a devoted husband and father, he understands the challenges of raising a family in Connecticut.

I respectfully ask citizens in the 55th District, when they go to the polls on Nov. 3, or if they vote early or via absentee ballot, to support Steve Weir.

Sincerely,
Matthew Hallisey – Glastonbury

In Support of Ziobron

To the Editor:

My husband and I are voting for Melissa Ziobron to be our representative for the 34th House District.

Melissa has a proven track record. She is experienced and can "hit the ground running." There will be no "learning curve" for her. Melissa has already shown us that she is able to work across the aisle and get things done.

Melissa was always looking for and welcomed input from her constituents. She cared about our needs and concerns and held several Town Hall-type meetings to listen to us.

Melissa did not hesitate to step in. I was a CHOICES counselor at our senior center for several years. This program helps Medicare-eligible

See Letters, page 6



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The "East of the River" Real Estate Report

Understanding Closing Costs for Sellers

When selling a home, most homeowners focus on the sale price. But there's another number that's just as important: **how much money you'll actually walk away with at closing.**
In Connecticut, sellers should plan for several expenses.
Real estate commissions: Commissions are negotiable and vary by brokerage. The services provided can also differ significantly, including home preparation, staging, photography, marketing, communication, and negotiation. Buyer-agent compensation is also negotiable and can be evaluated as part of an offer.
Conveyance taxes: Sellers generally pay state and municipal conveyance taxes. For planning purposes, I typically estimate approximately 1% of the sale price, although actual amounts vary.
Attorney fees: Sellers should budget for legal representation. I generally estimate around $1,000.
Other expenses: Mortgage payoffs, prorated property taxes, outstanding liens, and negotiated buyer credits can also affect the final amount received.
What Does a $500,000 Sale Look Like?
Using an illustrative 5% total commission:
Sale price: **$500,000** — Total commissions (5%): -**$25,000**
Estimated conveyance taxes (1%): -**$5,000** — Estimated attorney fees: -**$1,000**
Estimated proceeds: $469,000 before mortgage payoff and other adjustments.
Actual commissions and closing expenses will vary.
The lowest commission doesn't necessarily mean the highest net proceeds. The services provided, marketing strategy, final sale price, and negotiated terms all influence the outcome.
The goal isn't simply to sell your home for the highest price. It's to walk away with the most money after all expenses.

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

Single-Family Homes
- **3 homes sold**
- Average sale price: **$451,333**
- Average sale-to-original-list price (%OLP): **96%**
- Average days on market: **21 days**
- Median days on market: **20 days**

Condos
- **1 homes sold**
- Average sale price: **$195,000**
- Average sale-to-original-list price (%OLP): **100%**
- Average days on market: **5 days**
- Median days on market: **5 days**

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



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★ *Letters, cont. from page 5*

people choose the Medicare plan that best suits their needs. It also screens and enrolls them in the Medicare Savings Programs through the State of Connecticut, if they are eligible. If there was an issue with the person's enrollment, I would contact Melissa and she would get involved. She would periodically stop in at the senior center to ask the Director if anyone else was having the same or other issues.

At one of her informational meetings, she mentioned that the state was considering reducing the eligibility caps for the Medicare Savings Programs. As a result, many people would no longer qualify. Melissa stated that someone in the legislature said that the Affordable Care Act (ACA) would take care of the seniors. I informed Melissa that once a person went on Medicare, they were no longer eligible for the ACA. She later met with me privately so I could express my concerns for several people who would be impacted by these cuts. She took my concerns back to the legislature and helped block those cuts.

Melissa has our votes because she truly cares and does not hesitate to "go to bat" for us.

Sincerely,
Linda Johnson – East Hampton

Vote Meghan for Senior Services

To the Editor:

There are many important issues for East Hampton voters to consider in November. One important issue for me is to support the candidate who will thoroughly develop programs so Seniors are not taxed out of their homes. Many of our seniors have spent their lives in East Hampton and it is important for them to stay and live without worry. Meghan works directly with the Commission on Aging and understands what is at stake, when funding falls short.

Meghan will work to expand property tax relief and circuit breaker programs to Seniors. She takes the time to meet with Seniors and help them plan so they are not taxed out of their homes.

Healthcare is another burden on our Senior population. Meghan will work hard to lower the cost of prescription drugs and healthcare premiums so families are not choosing between medication and food costs.

Please join me and vote for Meghan in November!

Respectfully,
Ted Turner – East Hampton

Read Between the Signs

To the Editor:

It's that time of the year again. When the lovely landscape of eastern Connecticut gets littered with roadside political signs. The chief offender, of course, is Steve Weir. His sign is everywhere, it seems. You'd think he was running for seven or eight offices. The point is, he's better at putting up signs than at being a legislator. Personally, I'd rather it were the other way around, which is why I'm voting for Ellen Paul. Sure, she's put up some signs here and there, but what she offers goes well beyond signs. It's the promise of hard work, intelligence, empathy, and a talent for paying close attention to constituents.

This November read between the signs. Vote for Ellen Paul.

John Surowiecki – Amston

Leadership Built on Character, Service

Dear Neighbors:

As a Navy veteran, I understand the importance of integrity, accountability, and putting others before yourself. These are qualities I value, and they are qualities I see in Jason Guidone. I had the opportunity to get to know Jason through the Hebron Republican Town Committee, where I have come to appreciate his character and commitment to our community.

I support Jason's focus on making Connecticut more affordable for families, seniors, and veterans through responsible spending and keeping taxes under control. I also believe safe communities, strong support for our police and first responders, and quality schools that serve the needs of local families are essential to our state's future.

To me, leadership is about more than promises. It is about listening, being accountable, standing by your principles, and following through on your commitments. My experience has taught me the importance of these qualities, and I believe Jason brings that same sense of responsibility and dedication to public service.

I am proud to support Jason Guidone for state Senate and believe he will be a thoughtful, hard-working voice for our community.

Sincerely,
Chad Livernois – Hebron

Note: *Livernois is a member of the Hebron Planning & Zoning Commission but said he is writing this as an individual.*

Librarians Vital to Towns

To the Editor:

Librarians are vital to the life of a community. In addition to providing books, CDs, DVDs, magazines, and other means of communication to people of the town, they also serve as computer, printer and fax consultants for individuals who are unfamiliar with modern technologies In some cases they serve as a social service provider for individuals who have need help in navigating modern society. They also prepare budget and advocate for said budget, deal with library employees issues and the maintenance of the library building on behalf of the community. They also plan and implement various programs to provide education and entertainment at the library that benefit the community. And they are the front line of supporting the first amendment so that all members of the town can access diverse views that other people or outside agitators may not want distributed.

I may be biased as I am a brother, a cousin and a grandson of librarians and have worked in a library to help pay for my graduate studies. Some letter-writers who dismiss librarians as individuals who are of little consequence are unaware of the amount of work they do and support they receive from the public. Not only do they need to keep up with the many rules governing libraries and the constantly changing technology that supports library science, they interface with all ages of library clientele.

Ellen Paul is rightly proud of her profession and the work she has done as librarian. In addition to her work as the head of a library, she is also the head of a consortiums of libraries which enable small town libraries to offer a wider variety of books they would otherwise. And as such executive she helped to successfully shepherded two bills through the legislature which is apparently two more than her opponent successfully got passed. Having met Ellen, I'm sure that she would not run away from the votes she makes as Steve Weir does by refusing to defend or even explain the votes he has made.

Furthermore, Sen. Cathy Osten needs a partner in the house of representative to help bring grants and other state resources to the 55th. I plan on voting for Ellen and Cathy for our legislators and urge you to do the same.

Robert J. Larson – Marlborough

Note: *Larson is an alternate member of the Marlborough Zoning Board of Appeals, but said he is writing this as an individual.*

Weir Can Read

To the Editor:

I have read letters complaining about Steve Weir voting no on certain legislation. Are those people saying that they want their Representative to blindly approve everything?

Unfortunately, some good legislation has garbage attached in order to try to sneak by frivolous, wasteful or downright destructive things.

Steve Weir takes the time to read the bills that are placed before him so he can make an informed decision on what he is being asked to support.

Do you really want your legislators to simply vote yes on everything? I didn't think so.

So, if you want a representative who works for you and watches out for your interests, please 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 I am speaking as an individual.*

Vote for Ellen Paul

To the Editor:

Did you know that in the four years Steve Weir has been in office, no bill he ever filed has even received a floor vote in either chamber of the General Assembly? No bill he has ever filed has become law. You should ask yourself why this is.

Of the 24 he filed, 11 were for bills he had filed before in prior sessions of the General Assembly; meaning no new thought or effort was needed to draft them. Subtracting out the 11 filings of previously submitted bills results in an actual number of bills he drafted as only being 13 in his four-year tenure. And even these few failed to advance. The full analysis of his record can be found at andoverct.info/reports/55th/weir-far-right.

Shouldn't we expect more from our representative?

I do and you should too. My vote, therefore, is going to Ellen Paul. She is campaigning precisely because she knows we deserve better. Ellen is in touch with the interests and needs of the district. In her professional career, she has a history of being able to advance bills and to keep parties with divergent interests at the table until a consensus is reached. She has an important talent for creating coalitions and working well with everyone. She knows that while it is important to show up for every vote, it is essential to think for herself, listen, and vote according to what is best for the district. For more information, please go to ellenforstaterep.com.

Vote for Ellen Paul! Thank you.

Denise Rodosevich – Amston

A Champion for Eastern CT

To the Editor:

I attended the candidates' forum in Glastonbury last week. Ellen Paul clearly demonstrated that her focus is on items that benefit the common people in the 55th District.

As a retired school business manager, I know that in the mid-1990s, Connecticut's target for funding public education was that Connecticut would fund an average of 60% of the local cost. Over the years that percentage has decreased to where today Hebron is receiving an Educational Cost Sharing grant of $5,997,693 or 39.36% of our local education budget.

At last week's forum, Ellen stated she supports increasing state dollars for Education. Her opponent, Steve Weir, voted 'no' for a bill that provided an additional $400,000 in school and municipal aid for Hebron. In spite of his negative vote the bill passed. Those funds saved the tax payer who owns a house with an assessed value of $350,000 over $200 in annual property tax.

On July 17, Rep. Weir is quoted as saying on the GOP website (www.cthousegop.com/weir/rep-weir-receives-100-voting-record-for-2026-legislative-session) "Representing you and your family in Hartford is something that I take very seriously. This session, I am proud to have achieved a 100% record for all 316 votes taken on the House floor."

That may be true however many of his votes were against items that either supported or protected the people of the 55th District. For example, he voted 'no' on bills:

That would have helped seniors afford to remain in their homes. All bills that addressed women's health and reproductive healthcare. Housing bills that would convert empty commercial buildings to living spaces keeping homeless people off the streets.

Most interesting to me is why Ellen Paul is running for office.

She wrote a letter to Steve expressing her concern that ICE agents in Connecticut were taking children and adults with no criminal record into custody and sending them to detention facilities without due process.

He chose not to respond to Ellen. Much the same way he has chosen not to respond to many of you on other items the past several weeks.

Is that the type or person you want representing you in Hartford? I don't!!!

I'm voting for Ellen Paul. Ellen has many years of experience as a former legislative aid to Representative Joe Courtney. Ellen is a great listener and open to new ideas and most importantly represents my values!!

Mal Leichter – Amston

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Hartford Needs Ziobron

To the Editor:

Melissa Ziobron is running for state representative in the 34th District of Connecticut. Melissa brings an amazing list of credentials: her honesty, energy, integrity and her experience make her the very best candidate for this job.

Please vote for Melissa Ziobron; Hartford needs her and so does the 34th District of Connecticut!

Sincerely,
Susan McCann – Middle Haddam

$7.4M Reasons to Elect Ziobron

To the Editor:

Campaign season brings plenty of promises. But when choosing our next State Representative, I think the better question is simple: Who has already delivered for East Hampton?

Melissa Ziobron has!

When Melissa previously represented East Hampton in Hartford, our High School renovation faced a major issue – the project did not have the "renovate-as-new" status the town believed it had. The High School Building Committee's own records show that Melissa worked through the legislative process to secure that designation.

The result: an additional $7,466,787 in state reimbursement for East Hampton.

That is more than a campaign promise. That is a record.

Melissa understood the problem, went to Hartford, and helped deliver a solution that saved East Hampton taxpayers millions of dollars.

We hear a lot during election season about who will fight for our town. With Melissa, we don't have to guess. She already has.

Experience matters. Relationships at the capitol matter. And most importantly, results matter.

Melissa Ziobron has a proven record of delivering for East Hampton. That is why I am supporting Melissa Ziobron for state representative this November.

Ted Hintz Jr. – East Hampton

Note: *Hintz is a member of the East Hampton Town Council, but said he is writing as a resident.*

Contrast in Character

To the Editor:

Our local chapter of AARP held a Meet the Candidates Forum at the Colchester Senior Center. Both parties were well represented and the audience of (mostly) senior citizens was appreciative. Questions were submitted covering several issues, with responses from politicians that were time-limited. Those responses were generally candid and uncontroversial. Lacking sharp distinctions (everyone wants lower electricity costs, lower taxes, no data centers; everyone wants to help seniors and veterans), it remained to "read the room." On one particular issue (that was not noted in the *Rivereast* article about the forum) three Democrats affirmed that they support the Death with Dignity bill that was first proposed in 1995, has overwhelming public support, yet has failed to advance for several years running. Their support elicited positive response from the audience. No Republican responded either for or against, implicitly afraid to voice their views. To me this illustrates a contrast in character and courage between candidates.

When you vote on Nov. 3rd, consider if your candidate has the character and courage to represent your entire community, not just preferred segments of the community.

John Barnowski – Colchester

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

No Data Center!

To the Editor:

Colchester is an official "Right to Farm" community, meaning it is a community focused on the protection of agriculture and natural land. Allowing a data center here, or anywhere for that matter, is a disgrace against nature.

Data centers pollute the water, disrupt the wildlife, and damage the ecosystems and communities they are in. Do not ruin Colchester; our beautiful, quaint town that has only pushed for peace, kindness, and equality for years.

Please support our land, farms, wildlife, rivers, parks, and entire community by standing-up against ReNew Developers LLC. No good will come from ruining our land; there will be no advantage to Colchester residents. Your taxes will not decrease. Your electric bills will be higher due to the huge demands of electricity needed. The LLC will not reimburse you when your property values decrease due to no one wanting to live here. Even the birds will leave due to the noise interruptions to their natural habitat.

Please trust the scientific research on the ecological damage from data centers. Do not trust ReNew Developers LLC: "Limited Liability Company" which is a "business structure that protects its owners from personal liability for the company's debts." Don't let them ruin our town.

Please join me in mailing a letter against a data center to: ReNew Developers, LLC, 103 S. Main Street #734, Colchester, CT 06415.

Sincerely,
Noreen Bibee – Colchester

Steve Weir Lacks Independence

To the Editor:

Over four years in Hartford, state Rep. Steve Weir has voted the Republican party line 97 percent of the time on contested bills. In 1,351 roll calls, he cast three genuinely bipartisan crossover votes. Three.

When he does break from his caucus, it is almost always to the right. On 95 occasions he voted to the right of his own caucus, opposing bills most Connecticut Republicans supported. He has voted 'no' on every clean-energy or climate bill of consequence.

Weir casts the most reliably partisan votes in our corner of the state. His record shows a consistent instinct: the party line first, the district after. A full analysis can be found at andoverct.info/reports/55th/weir-far-right.

Ellen Paul has built her career on coalition and consensus, and she has pledged to be a voice for the district's five towns rather than a reliable vote for anyone. On Nov. 3, I urge you to vote for her.

Sincerely,
James Cole – Andover

Strong Advocacy Needed

To the Editor:

The expenses required to support our community are not going away. No one, including myself as a retiree, is looking to be burdened with ever increasing taxes. However, due to a myriad of factors, many of which are out of our control, expenses continue to rise each year. Everyone supports or should be supporting education, public safety, and public works. Reducing funding in any of these areas is not in anyone's best interest.

East Hampton is a really nice community, but our population is dropping. Property values increase in a town where people want to live. With elections only weeks away, we have an opportunity to send a true advocate to fight for our fair share of revenue from Hartford. This has not been the case over the last few election cycles. Meghan Rosenfeld offers a fresh new voice for the 34th.

A strong believer in quality education and protecting the environment. Meghan will advocate for responsible development while expanding the tax base through attracting business. She is a relatively new resident to town. This should not be viewed as a negative factor, as it gives us the fresh new perspective of a well-educated candidate.

Cutting services and complaining about tax increases is not going to solve our fiscal difficulties. Our town sends significant funding to the state every year. We need someone in Hartford to ensure that our share of the funds comes back to us. That person is Meghan Rosenfeld.

David May – East Hampton

Questions for Weir

To the Editor:

I went to the Oct. 7 candidates' forum in Glastonbury expecting a town hall. It wasn't one; eight candidates spoke, including Ellen Paul and Steve Weir, but the audience didn't get to ask questions. It was a good event anyway, and I'm grateful to its organizers. But I came with questions for Rep. Weir, so I'll put them to him here.

1. What is the bill you're proudest of? Not constituent help, which everyone agrees you do well, and not one you cosponsored alongside dozens of colleagues, but a bill you wrote and shepherded through yourself, or one you fought hard to defeat.

2. Your campaign website offers your biography, your community service, and principles like "Protect taxpayers." It doesn't name a single bill, position, or plan. What are two specific things you'll do next term, and how will you get them passed?

3. In 1,351 roll calls over four years, I count 95 times you voted to the right of your own caucus, but only three times you crossed party lines on a vote where the parties actually divided. Did I miss any crossovers?

4. Senate Bill 274 was written after the Concierge Apartments disaster in Rocky Hill, where an out-of-state owner let a complex decay until thousands of tenants had to be relocated. The bill raised penalties for repeat fire and building-code violations and required out-of-state owners to register with the towns where their buildings sit. It passed the Senate and cleared committee without a single no vote. On the session's last night, you and a few allies threatened to run out the clock, and it died without a vote. Why that bill? And if you opposed it, why not simply vote no?

5. In May you voted against a budget adjustment carrying about $630,000 in new aid to our five towns, a bill that 27 of the 48 Republicans voting supported. What would you tell taxpayers about that vote?

There is one more question I would have liked to ask, but this page keeps letters to state and local matters. I sent it to Rep. Weir by email on Sept. 10 and have not had a reply. Any answer he gives will be published in full at andoverct.info/reports/ahm/disavowal.

Ellen Paul answers questions like these on her website. I'd like to hear Rep. Weir's answers too.

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.*

Hebron Mother Tree Tour Sunday

To the Editor:

Have you ever met a Mother Tree? On Sunday, Oct. 18th, at 2:30 p.m., a guided Mother Tree Walk will visit four of Hebron's spectacular Mother Trees and explore their compelling world. The Mother Tree Walk will begin at the Raymond Brook Preserve parking lot at 52 Kinney Rd. and include a visit to the town owned property at 17 Kinney Rd. Come on out and experience the fascinating world of Mother Trees and the connection between Hebron's Mother Trees, ancient geology, modern ecology, and historic stone wall laneways. This special event will also be a tribute to the memory of Andrea Lattanzi of Hebron, a lover of nature and friend of Mother Trees.

The oldest trees in the forest, the Mother Trees are connected to younger trees, some offspring and some of other species, by a network of mycorrhizal fungus living underground. Scientific research on Mother Trees began under Sir David Read in England in the 1970s and was expanded under Dr. Suzanne Simard in the 1990s and early 2000s. Dr. Simard's book, "Finding the Mother Tree," was published in 2021 and became a *New York Times* bestseller. Dr. Simard notes, "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 forest itself is part of much larger cycles, the building of soil and migration of species and circulation of oceans. The source of clean air and pure water and good food. There is a necessary wisdom in the give-and-take of nature – its quiet agreements and search for balance. There is an extraordinary generosity."

She continues on to note, "Recognizing that forest ecosystems, like societies, have these elements of intelligence helps us leave behind old notions that they are inert, simple, linear, and predictable."

The Kinney Road area is fortunate to have four Mother Trees that have been added to the Connecticut Notable Tree Database, hosted by the Connecticut College Arboretum. One of these special trees is located at the Raymond Brook Preserve and the other three notable trees are located at the town owned property of 17 Kinney Road. The Mother Tree Walk will be a fun and illuminating opportunity to visit these remarkable trees and experience the unique beauty of this historic property. For more information, please visit Save Hebron Center on Facebook.

Sincerely,
Kevin J. Tulimieri – Amston

Good to Be Connected

To the Editor:

It's election time and Melissa Ziobron wants her old job back. You might remember she was our state representative from 2013 to 2019. During her time in Hartford, she says she fought to cut spending and fight for transparency and accountability among other things. I could go on but you can look up her record online. Melissa's campaign hasn't changed – her roots are in the district and she works for you. Well, that's half true; yes her roots are firmly planted, but does she work for you? Not really. Melissa is working for Melissa and the Republican Party. You see, after she lost her election in 2018, she was given a job in Hartford by the Republicans. She became a senior staffer in the General Assembly from 2019 to 2026. That's approximately seven years. Add that to the previous six and she is now a vested state employee with all the benefits including a nice pension and health insurance.

Now the best part: the person who fought to keep other state and private sector employees from getting small raises and bragging about wanting to cut spending, was getting a pretty good salary and perks. According to govsalaries.com, she had an annual salary of $127,057 (public record). This salary was 82% higher than the average salary and 112% higher than the median salary in the Office of Legislative Management. This is for someone who was an unemployed losing candidate.

So, if Melissa wins this election, you can rest easy that she'll do whatever the Republicans want

See Letters, page 8

ENTERTAINMENT



★ *Letters, cont. from page 7*

her to do, but if she loses, don't worry, you'll be paying for her health benefits and pension for a long time. Now that's what I call transparency in government or lack thereof!

Being homegrown only goes so far. Her priorities are not yours, and her allegiance is to the Republican Party – after all, she would not want to bite the hand that feeds her.

That brings us to her opponent, Meghan Rosenfeld. Although she is relatively new to the district, as are many residents, she is a determined advocate with fresh ideas who will work across the aisle to deliver results for her constituents.

As a fellow lifelong resident of this district, I'm voting for Meghan Rosenfeld, and I hope you will too.

Tom O'Brien – Moodus

Note: *O'Brien is a member of the East Haddam Democratic Town Committee but said he is writing this as a private citizen.*

Representation That Answers Only to You

To the Editor:

Door after door across East Hampton, East Haddam and Salem, I hear the same thing: people are fed up with career politicians who make it harder to afford a home, raise a family, or retire here.

They're right to be. I am too, and it's why I'm running. Career politicians weigh every vote against their next job, and when that job depends on party leaders and special interests, working people and retirees lose their voice.

My opponent is a career politician. She gave up this seat once to climb to the state Senate. When she lost, she took a high-paying job with the Republican caucus to regroup and try again.

Her career depends on her party, and she votes with it. When Connecticut raised the minimum wage in 2014, she voted no alongside her caucus, against tens of thousands of the state's lowest-paid workers.

To her, this seat is a rung on a ladder. To me, it's the destination: a voice for the people who live here.

I'm not a career politician, and I never will be. Connecticut has a part-time citizen legislature, designed for people who live and work in their communities. I have a job I'm keeping, and my employer is committed to accommodating my legislative work. No party boss controls my paycheck or my future.

That frees me to answer to one group: the people of East Hampton, East Haddam, and Salem. Not party bosses. Not special interests. You.

On or before Nov. 3rd, you have that choice.

Meghan Rosenfeld – East Hampton
Candidate for State Representative,
34th District

Supports Christie Carpino

To the Editor:

Portland and Cromwell are fortunate to be represented at the Legislature by Christie Carpino. During her time as our 32nd District representative, Christie has consistently demonstrated support for initiatives regarding safe schools, meeting the needs of children, seniors, veterans, and families. She knows that supporting families, children and small business growth is at the core of our communities, assuring growth in our tax base and enhancing the quality of life.

As a working Mom, Christie is intimately familiar with the needs of families and our community. Her record shows that she listens to your concerns, is responsive and consistently works collaboratively with the Portland and Cromwell communities on improvement initiatives.

While working in a legislature where the other party has supermajority control, Christie works tirelessly, addressing issues plaguing our state's economy. Having Christie there in the new legislature will ensure that Portland's voices are heard.

Christie is a tested and trusted public official, who acts with integrity and has been both effective and responsive. It's clear from her record that she votes for what's best for our community without partisan considerations. We have re-elected her because we have seen her working hard in our communities, working to fix our state budget, assuring compassionate care and treatment of the most vulnerable among us and improving the state's economy.

Please join me and many others by supporting Christie Carpino with your vote.

Tim Lavoy – Portland

Dementia Talks No. 75

To the Editor:

Let's revisit cost of care. It is top of mind as I work through Mom's nest egg to see how long her money can last.

One area I struggle with is – healthcare. For Mom, healthcare has become something more than doctor visits; especially since going to a doctor's office is not an option. Healthcare is now head-to-toe personal care, activities to support mobility, good nutrition, a consistent schedule from the time Mom wakes up to the time her head touches back down to her pillow.

It means more is needed at this stage of life as she lives with a disease called Alzheimer's. A disease that changes her energy level daily along with her engagement and involvement in her care.

Healthcare includes clinical care and, for us, it includes 1x1 support, going out for groceries, having supplies (wipes, briefs, chucks, lotion), scheduling October Kitchen, utilities for hot water, a full oil tank for a warm environment, an inventory of detergent to wash clothes, sheets, towels and dishes, trips to the landfill; the list goes on. And personal time to get it all done.

We have hospice onboard, not because Mom is transitioning to death in this moment; but so that we can have clinical care at home to check her vitals, manage her medications, talk about health topics from dermatitis to low blood pressure. This is what I call comfort care.

We also have paid caregivers to help out. They are very valuable and help keep to a consistent schedule and a blend of activities along with quiet time based on what mom would like to engage in. This is not cheap, regardless of service provider or if you hire caregivers directly or leverage various on-line screening companies such as Care.com.

The cost of money and time are the hidden stresses of caring for a loved one that is no longer able to manage these aspects of life. Managing all aspects of the 'new' healthcare pieces and parts effectively – and economically – take a good chunk of time. Especially when the cost of disposable briefs goes up $8 a package.

Finding time for yourself is tough, but is a must. Finding time with your family is rough but is a necessity. Finding time to quiet your mind is hard but essential.

You are seen, you are heard and you are not alone.

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

Supports Ziobron's Good Sense

To the Editor:

I support Melissa Ziobron for state representative.

I have a unique perspective: not only did she represent me as a state representative, but I also worked with her as the legislative program manager for the state Department of Agriculture, representing the agricultural community.

One of the department's tasks is to guard against animal abuse. There was an incident with mistreated goats that had contracted a disease that made relocating the animals very difficult. Melissa Ziobron, in her legislative capacity, was not happy with the care administered by the department and was quite stern with us as a result. I feared the worst in terms of our professional relationship.

Not long after, an unfortunate case with over 20 mistreated draft horses occurred in East Hampton. Taking care of so many ill, large, animals, some injured, all requiring extensive medical evaluation and treatment strained the fiscal resources of the department. The veterinary bill for the first day the animals were in department's hands exceeded $25,000.

In no time, the phone rang in my office and it was Rep. Ziobron. After the goat issue, my first thought was that this was not going to be a very nice phone call. Surprisingly to me, she was 100% supportive of the department and how we had conducted ourselves in the controversial action in East Hampton. She was sick at heart about the condition of all the animals on the property and stunned me with an offer to set up a GoFundMe page to help defray the cost to the Connecticut taxpayers for the care that the state provided the suffering animals. To the best of my recollection, she raised over $17,000. She acted when others wrung their hands. No fuss, she was not interested in publicity, she cared about the animals first and foremost. She showed incredible heart and good sense.

Melissa supported and defended a department that she had previously criticized when she learned that her concerns were taken seriously, and that takes integrity that too few politicians possess. Please support Melissa Ziobran for state representative.

George Krivda – Middle Haddam

Paul is the Right Choice

To the Editor:

I was shown Steve Weir's latest mailer. It was amazing to me that he had small-town advocate as his heading. Steve Weirs' voting record brings his small-town advocacy into question. Why?

Steve has voted 'no' in helping to defray energy costs. He voted 'no' for solar projects and community solar (HB-7087, 2025). Has he seen the electricity bills most people are currently paying? How does that help the people of our district?

Ellen Paul believes we need energy policies that put ratepayers first with accountability and investment in alternate forms of energy to bolster Connecticut's ability to produce power.

Steve is a Ranking Member of the Labor Committee. According to the AFL-CIO's scorecard Steve agreed with workers on 2 of 14 bills (7%). He voted 'no' on expanding sick leave (HB -5005, 2024) and voted no to Family and Medical Leave improvements.

Ellen Paul believes in workers and their right to make a living. No one should have to decide between taking care of a sick child or an aging parent. Paid sick leave, family leave, and basic decency for

See Letters, page 28

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RE10-9-26

Atwood Dementia Group Marks 10 Years

By Toriana Williams

Hebron resident Pamela Atwood turned a painful family experience into a mission to help people living with dementia and the loved ones who care for them. In an interview with the *Rivereast,* she explained that the work of helping those who deal with dementia is more personal than it is a job.

As Atwood Dementia Group celebrates its 10th anniversary in business, Atwood looked back on a journey shaped by family, care and a strong desire to help others. Through services such as coaching, counseling and education, she helps people living with dementia and their families face hard change and find ways to live their best life.

Atwood grew up in Hebron, where she has lived for about 50 years. She saw the effects of Alzheimer's disease first hand in her own family where her grandmother, Nell Krist, lived with the disease for nine years at home and then spent three years in long-term care. Her cousin also faced a form of dementia at a young age.

These family experiences helped Atwood understand the many different ways memory loss can affect a person and those around them. In time, though, she found a way to turn that pain into purpose.

Atwood explained that she saw her own grief as a reason to help other families and said that finding meaning after loss can be part of the healing process.

A Mission Beyond Memory Loss

Atwood Dementia Group supports people living with Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia. But the work doesn't stop with the person who gets the diagnosis. The group also helps family members who take on the role of caregiver.

Caregivers often put their own needs last, said Atwood. They may feel tired, scared, angry or unsure of what to do next. They may also feel guilty for having those feelings. Atwood wants them to know they do not have to face these struggles alone.

"I can't cure Alzheimer's, but that is a statistic that I can have an impact on," she said.

When she said that, she was referring to the toll that caregiving can take on a person's health and life. While she cannot offer a cure, she can help families find support, learn new skills and manage the stress that comes with caring for a loved one.

Atwood is a licensed professional counselor. Her work includes counseling for people in the early stages of dementia and for family caregivers. She also offers coaching, which can help families learn how to handle daily tasks and problems. These two services have different goals.

A family may need coaching to help a parent feel more at ease during a shower or to find a better way to handle a daily routine. Counseling may help a caregiver who feels worn down or help someone living with Alzheimer's to face emotions surrounding the diagnosis.

Her goal, individually, is to help people, whatever their situation is, feel more ready for the road ahead.

Living Well One Day at a Time

Atwood explained that a dementia diagnosis can bring fear and sadness. Families may wonder what life will look like in the months and years ahead, and people with the disease may worry they will lose who they are.

Atwood wants them to know that a diagnosis doesn't mean their life is over.

"Alzheimer's is not a time to go home and wait to die," she said.

"Alzheimer's is a time to explore what you've always wanted to, to learn what you've always been curious about."

Those words reflected one of the key ideas behind her work: people still deserve joy, purpose and close ties with others after a diagnosis.

Atwood encouraged families to think about what makes their loved ones happy. For one person, that might mean listening to their favorite songs, and for another, perhaps it could mean spending time outdoors. Small moments like these can make a big difference, she said.

Atwood and her husband, Tom, co-wrote a book called "Total Engagement." In the book, they look at ways to support the body, mind and feelings through daily activities, social ties and time in the world around us.

Music is one tool Atwood values. A favorite song can bring comfort and stir memories. Pets can also offer joy and a sense of connection.

The goal, said Atwood, is not to make every day perfect but to help each person enjoy the life they have now.

"How do you want to spend the next 12 or more years?" Atwood asked.

Helping Families Face Hard Choices

Even with the right support, dementia brings all manner of tough choices. Driving is one of the biggest challenges Atwood sees. A person may have driven safely for many years, but changes in memory, vision and reaction, also known as cognitive changes, can make driving unsafe.

That can be hard for both the person and their family, and giving up the keys may feel like losing freedom.

Atwood believes families should talk about this change before a crisis forces them to act. Planning ahead, such as setting a "driving retirement" age, can help people keep more control over their choices.

Falls and wandering are other challenges Atwood sees that put people at risk. Families may need help making the home safer, finding care or learning what to do when a loved one becomes upset or confused.

There are also plenty of legal and money matters to consider. Atwood urged families to plan early so they can protect their resources and prepare for future care needs. All of these questions, of course, are ones the group can help answer or help find the answers to.

A New Focus on Brain Health

As Atwood Dementia Group turns 10, Atwood continues to look ahead. One of the group's newest areas of work is brain health coaching. This service aims to help people build habits that support brain health and may lower the risk of dementia.

Atwood pointed to four main areas: healthy eating, exercise, brain challenges paired with social time and taking care of health problems such as high blood pressure and diabetes.

She also believes people should keep learning new things. In her own life, she has taken on new skills including learning American Sign Language and the ukulele.

For Atwood, the key is to keep the brain active and stay connected to other people.

She also sees a need for better public awareness. "When it comes to Alzheimer's, there's still a stigma attached," she said.

Too many families still feel ashamed or afraid to talk about memory loss, and that silence can keep people from finding help. Atwood hopes to change that by making it easier for people to speak more openly with doctors, family members and care teams.

"We are just starting to have conversations about the brain economy," she said, explaining the ways brain health can affect workers, families and businesses.

Caregiving can also affect a person's job, too. A worker may miss time, feel stressed or struggle to focus while caring for a loved one at home. Supporting caregivers is not only a family matter; it can also help employers and the wider community.



Atwood Dementia Group team members Maureen McIntyre, Tonya Maurer and Pam Atwood attended a research symposium at Yale in May.

10 Years of Care, With More Work Ahead

The best way to mark 10 years in business is to keep making a difference, said Atwood.

She hopes more doctors will tell patients and families about the help that is available. She also wants people to know that support can begin at many stages, from early changes in memory to the daily needs of a caregiver.

Atwood Dementia Group brings together people with different skills, including brain health coaches, caregiver coaches, nurses, social workers and other care experts. Together, they help people find the right support for their specific needs.

Atwood also shared that she's incredibly proud to serve the town she calls home. She knows many local families and values being part of the Hebron business community.

"I'm so grateful for this community, because it is my home," she said.

When asked what gives her hope, Atwood answered, "this younger generation." She is proud of younger people and their more open-minded views of differences. She believes that each generation can help make life better for the next.

"We've still got a long way to go, but their generation is so much more accepting," she said.

Her hope is tied to her wish to reduce the shame and stigma around dementia. People should be able to ask for help without feeling judged, families should know that they're not alone and people living with memory loss should still have chances to learn, laugh and enjoy time with those they love.

After 10 years, her work remains focused on helping people live with care, support and dignity. In fact, when asked what she hopes the future will bring, Atwood gave a surprising answer.

"I can't wait to be out of a job," she laughed.

Resident Graduates

Clint Nicholas Grano of Amston recently graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree with distinction in software engineering from Clarkson University in Potsdam, N.Y.

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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 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.

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: AHM Children Halloween Visit: Monday, Oct. 19, 10:30 a.m. All are invited to join local Hebron families and toddlers for a free intergenerational 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 Singers: 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.

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)

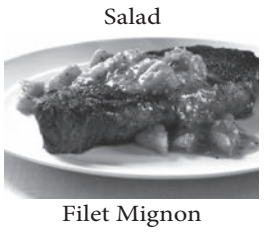
Wednesdays: Massage, 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; Enhance Fitness via Zoom with Paul Smith, 9-10 a.m.; Free Zumba Gold Video, 10:15-11:15 a.m.; Beginner's Bridge, 1 p.m.

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.

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#HebronRocksAlz Events

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

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

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

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

Events Where No Registration is Needed – Just Stop By: Thursday, 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.

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

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 Save Hebron Center on Facebook.

Whist Tournament and Potluck Dinner

Gilead Congregational Church will hold an evening of cards and fellowship at its Whist Tournament and Potluck Dinner on Friday, Oct. 23, at the church, 672 Gilead St.

The potluck begins at 5 p.m., with cards at 6 p.m. Cost is $10 per player, in support of the #HebronRocksAlz Walk to End Alzheimer's team. No experience is necessary, though some card-playing knowledge is helpful.

Register by Tuesday, Oct. 20, with or without a team, by calling the Gilead Church office at 860-228-3077 or emailing gcc@gileadchurch.net.

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.

President's List

Jeremy Leo of Amston made the summer 2026 President's List at Goodwin University.

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.

Mother Tree Walk Sunday

All are invited to walk with the Mother Trees of Hebron on Sunday, Oct. 18, at 2:30 p.m.

Meet at the Raymond Brook Preserve parking lot at 52 Kinney Rd., Hebron, and continue onto the town-owned property at 17 Kinney Rd. The event is free and all are welcome.

Walkers will experience the world of Mother Trees and the connection between the trees, ancient geology, modern ecology, and historic stone wall laneways. This special event will be a tribute to the memory of Andrea Lattanzi of Hebron, a lover of nature and friend of Mother Trees.

There are a few muddy areas, so boots are recommended. For more information, visit Save Hebron Center on Facebook.

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.

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.

Winterize! Let Us Repower/Repair Your Boat Over the Winter!
Engine Winterization Failure Is The #1 Reason For Repower In Spring!
Over 50,000 Sq. Ft. Of Indoor Storage!
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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.

The Worship Center News & Notes

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

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

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

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

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.

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: Saturday, Oct. 17, 9:30 a.m., and Wednesday, Oct. 21, 9:30 a.m.: Wise Warrior Yoga in Fellowship Hall; Sunday, Oct. 18, 11 a.m.: Great Gilead Bake-Off; Sunday, Oct. 18, 2 p.m., Blessing of the Animals in the Garden of Remembrance; Monday, Oct. 19, 9:30 a.m., Online Bible Study via Zoom; Monday, Oct. 19, 5:45 p.m.: Girl Scout Troop 61096 Meeting in Fellowship Hall; Monday, Oct. 19, 7 p.m.: Board of Christian Education Meeting in Parish House; Tuesday, Oct. 20, 7:30 p.m.: AA Meeting in Fellowship Hall; Wednesday, Oct. 21, 10:45 a.m.: Book Group in Fellowship Hall; Wednesday, Oct. 21, 7 p.m.: Choir Practice in Sanctuary

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.

Garden of Remembrance Celebration: Sunday, Oct. 25, 11 a.m. All 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 benefitting the Connecticut Food Bank.

Library Association Seeks New Members

The Douglas Library of Hebron Association is a 501(c)(3) non-profit private organization whose mission is to support the library – and new members are sought.

This volunteer advocacy group provides support to the Douglas Library Board of Trustees. The association exists as a requirement of the Charles J. Douglas Trust which provides a source of funding for library business each year. The Association designates five members to serve on the Library Board of Trustees.

Members must be residents of Hebron as well as be 18 years of age or older. The association meets twice a year and welcomes Hebron residents to join and learn more about ways to support the library. To learn more, join us at our annual meeting scheduled for Monday, Oct. 19, at 6:00 p.m. at the Douglas Library.

To find out more about opportunities to support Douglas Library, call the library director at 860-228-9312 ext. 316.

Douglas Library News & Notes

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

Adult Programs: Friday Films: Fridays at 1 p.m. 10/16: "The Mask" (PG-13); 10/23: "Gremlins" (PG).

Cookbook Club: Tuesday, Oct. 20, 6:30 p.m. For this month, read "Thanksgiving: How to Cook it Well" by Sam Sifton, and each person will choose a recipe to make and share with the group.

Local Author Book Talk: Wednesday, Oct. 21, 6 p.m. Doug Gomez will talk about his new book "Eduardo." The book explores autism, identity and ego through a stranded twin's mystical upbringing. Hear the story behind the book and buy a signed copy to take home.

Book Discussion: Wednesday, Oct. 21, 7 p.m. This month, read and discuss "Eleanore of Avignon" by Elizabeth DeLozier at the American Legion. Must be 21+ to attend.

Artist of the Month: Local artist Shannon MacGrogan-Ellis is October's featured artist. Her art is in the Community Room.

Teens: D&D Club: Oct. 23 and 24. Group 1 meets every other Friday, 3:30-5:30 p.m., and Group 2 meets every other Saturday, 12:30-2:30 p.m. Pre-made character sheets and dice are provided. New players welcome. Please register.

Children: Homeschool Hangout: Wednesday, Oct. 21, 1-2 p.m. Come and meet other homeschool families. Learn about a historical place, person, or STEM activity each month. Geared for ages 5-10; please register.

The Reptile Nook: Saturday, Oct. 24, 1 p.m. See some reptiles and learn about them. All ages welcome.

St. Peter's News & Notes

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

Special 200th Anniversary Worship: Sunday, Oct. 18, at 10 a.m. All are invited to come help rededicate the church and celebrate the 200th year of worship. The celebration will include special music, guest musicians, a festive coffee hour and more. The 10 a.m. service will be streamed live on Facebook. Visit www.stpetershebron.com to join. Regular Sunday services are at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. (with Sunday school) will resume on Oct. 25.

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.

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.

Loving Kindness Meditation: Wednesday, Oct. 28, 4:45 p.m., in the main church building. Everyone is welcome for this free guided meditation led by Carissa Johnson. Donations will be accepted for St. Peter's Memorial and Garden fund.

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.

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.

Youth Ministry: This group for parish teens in grades 8-12 meets once a month from September through June in the STC Youth Center for an evening of games, food, and discussion. The next meeting, "Faith on Fire," is scheduled for Friday, Oct. 23 at 6:30 p.m. Teens are asked to confirm attendance prior to each meeting to ensure there are enough snacks and pizza for everyone. See the parish website for more information about this ministry.

Cereal & Meatloaves for CSK: The Community Outreach Committee collects breakfast cereal each month for Covenant Soup Kitchen (CSK) in Willimantic; the next date is Nov. 8. Cereal donations are also welcome any time; place bagged donations in the oak collection box near the CHF Robing Room. The parish also provides meatloaves to CSK each month. Parishioners can deliver a cooked meatloaf to the freezer in the garage (use side entrance) closest to the CHF Parish House or the freezer in the STC church hall by the 4th Tuesday of the month. Meatloaves are delivered the next day. The next due date is 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. 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.

★ *House Candidates Clash, cont. from page 1*

trol costs to help businesses grow and create jobs. He also said he wants more young people to find work in skilled trades.

As a small business owner, Weir said he knows the pressures of paying workers and keeping a company going and said lawmakers should think carefully about how their choices affect families and employers.

Working with both parties is another key part of his plan, he said. Weir noted that, during his time in office, he has worked with Democrats, Republicans and voters who do not belong to either party. He also pointed to his four years in the state House where he said he has voted on every matter that came before him and voted with the majority 77% of the time.

Weir believes lawmakers need to read the bills closely instead of judging them by their names. When describing the kind of lawmaker he believes the district needs, he said they should be "somebody who reads the bills, somebody who goes through them and understands them."

Weir emphasized that local problems should be the main focus of the race, rather than "national politics." He also said he has enjoyed serving the public.

"It is extremely rewarding to me to be able to be a representative," he said.

Paul Wants More State Money for Schools

After knocking on more than 2,500 doors since March and speaking with people across the five district towns, Paul said property taxes are one of the top concerns she hears while meeting voters.

She said she believes the state should send more money to towns to help pay for public school and explained that if towns do not get enough state support, they may have to raise property taxes or cut services. Paul said the state has not kept up with ever rising cost of education. She pointed to the state's Education Cost Sharing formula, which has not been updated since 2013.

"There should be no greater priority within the state budget than sending more money to municipalities for education," said Paul.

Paul, a Glastonbury resident, is a mother of two children who attend public schools. She said strong schools help students and can also protect home values.

She said she wants Connecticut to study how other states pay for schools. She believes the current system puts too much pressure on homeowners, especially in towns with minimal new development to help spread the cost.

Paul said she disagrees with Weir on several of his previous votes in the legislature – and specifically pointed to past votes on property tax relief, limits on license plate cameras, ending child marriage and protections related to federal immigration agents.

"There's a fundamental difference in our world views," said Paul.

Paul said she brings experience in government and public service to her campaign. She worked as an aide to U.S. Rep. Joe Courtney and once was the director of the East Hampton Public Library. She now leads the Connecticut Library Consortium, which works with more than 1,000 libraries.

Paul said her work has taught her how to build support, work through committees and help pass laws. She said she wants to bring those skills to the state House.

"I do not do anything halfway," said Paul of her campaign.

She added that she plans to work hard for every vote and will leave the final choice to the voters.

Voters to Decide the District's Future

This race gives voters two different plans for tackling their local concerns. Weir stressed careful spending, lower costs and working across party lines. Paul said she wants the state to provide more school funding to ease pressure on town budgets and homeowners.

Both candidates said they have listened to residents and want to help their communities. Discussions with both display that taxes, schools and the inflated cost of living are all important issues in the district.

In a last message to voters, Weir said voters and lawmakers should focus on paying attention.

"A catchy title is not often what is reflected in the bill, so I hope that the voters appreciate my level of scrutiny," he said. "We have an obligation to work on these issues locally at the state level, and I think I'm the guy to continue to do that."

Paul emphasized her previous experience and willingness to work hard.

"I know how to navigate committees and build coalitions and get bills over the finish line. I would be so happy and proud to bring that success to the 55th District if they choose to elect me," she said.

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.

First Congregational Church News

All are welcome to First Congregational Church, 554 Main St., for worship each Sunday. The Rev. Judith Meyers will provide the sermon this Sunday. This week's sermon title is "No Partiality."

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

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

Spiritual Group: All are invited to join the Rev. Judith Meyers on the first Wednesday of each month at 1 p.m. (October – April) for a time of conversation, reflection, support, and spiritual exploration. Each month, you'll consider a different question or theme as you listen to one another and reflect on where God is at work in your lives. No preparation or special knowledge is needed.

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

Nursery School: First Church Nursery School offers school for 4-year-olds on Monday/Wednesday/Friday from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., and for 3-year-olds on Tuesday/Thursday from 9 a.m.-noon. Contact Amy Jahnke at 1stchurchnurseryschool@gmail.com for costs and more information.

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

Veterans Day Activities

Veterans Day arrives next month, and Portland has three activities coming up:

Saturday, 11/7: Portland's American Legion Ormont Post 69 will kick off the 2026 Veterans Day activities with the Veterans Breakfast on Nov. 7, starting at 0730 and serving until 1030 or when the food runs out, whichever occurs first. The menu includes baked omelets (ham, cheese or plain), creamed beef on toast, bacon, sausage, toast, grits, coffee, tea, and orange juice. The breakfast will be held at American Legion Hall, 12 Freestone Ave. There is a suggested donation of $12 per person, and $8 for children under 10.

Wednesday, 11/11: The Portland Veterans Affairs Committee will hold a brief wreath laying ceremony on Nov. 11 at 1100 at the Portland Veterans Memorial, behind the Town Hall, 33 East Main St.

Wednesday, 11/11: The Portland Veterans Affairs Committee and American Legion Ormont Post 69 will host the annual Veterans Day Dinner on Nov. 11 at 1800 at the Portland High School (95 High Street). Once again, Melilli Pizzeria & Catering will be providing the food for the veterans and their guest. A maximum of two tickets per veteran are available on a first-come, first-served basis at the Portland Town Clerk's office and at the Quonset Surplus Store (11 Pickering Street).

Lastly, any Portland veteran interested in joining the local American Legion Post can contact American Legion Post Commander Tim Dickerson at ormontpost69@gmail.com.

Dean's List

Ava Beeler of Portland made the summer 2026 Dean's List at Goodwin University.

Voter Registration and Absentee Ballots

The November election will be held Tuesday, Nov. 3, at Portland Middle School.

Early voting will occur daily, including weekends, from Monday, Oct. 19, through Sunday, Nov. 1, at Town Hall, 33 East Main St. Early voting hours are 10 a.m.-6 p.m. every day, with extended hours of 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on the last Tuesday and Thursday, Oct. 27 and 29. New this year, voting tabulator machines will be used during early voting.

All voters in Portland vote at the same location during early voting. The early voting location will also offer same-day registration. Curbside voting is available during early voting. Details will be posted in the Town Hall parking lot for curbside voting.

Absentee ballots are now available from the town clerk's office at Town Hall. Call 860-342-6743 or stop in the town clerk's office for details. Residents can also apply for an absentee ballot on the secretary of the state's website, portal.ct.gov/sots.

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

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

Senior Center News & Notes

The Waverly Senior Center, 7 Waverly Avenue, announces the following. **Registration is required for all programs** unless noted; for more information or to register, call 860-342-6761. Senior center hours are Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Friday, 9 a.m. to noon. Visit www.portlandct.org/senior-services for more information, including a calendar of events.

Food Bank: Open at the senior center on Mondays and Thursdays from 9 a.m.-noon. Donations welcome, but please only leave donations during Food Bank hours.

Mobile Food Pantry: The Food Share Mobile Pantry comes to the Food Bank every other Monday. The next Mobile Pantry date is Oct. 19.

Weekly Programs: Monday, 10/19: Light Aerobics, 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Tuesday, 10/20: Bears on a Journey, 9:30-11 a.m. – help make fleece teddy bears for cancer patients. Also, donations of light fleece (one yard or more) are sought for making teddy bears for cancer patients throughout Connecticut. To donate, call 860-342-0809; **Watercolor Painting Class with Bivenne Staiger,** 9:30 a.m. to noon. Payment to instructor. Contact bivenne@yahoo.com for more information; **Congregate Meal, noon.** Menu: shepherd's pie, mashed potato, mixed veggies, dinner roll with butter, string cheese, applesauce; **Coupons for Troops,** 1-4 p.m.; **Setback,** 1 p.m.; **SyncoCize,** 5-6 p.m., fee is donation to instructor.

Wednesday, 10/21: Healthy Aging Expo, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Spend the day discovering local health and wellness resources, connecting with community organizations, and learning about services available to support healthy living and aging well. Over 20 vendors will be participating, along with prizes and free samples. This is a free event.

Thursday, 10/22: Seated Stretch & Tone, 9:30 a.m.; **Knit & Stitch,** 10 a.m.; **Congregate Meal,** noon – $3 suggested donation (must fill out form). Menu: herbed pork tenderloin with gravy, roll and butter, southern greens, sweet potatoes, string cheese; **Mah Jongg,** 12:30 p.m.; **Scrabble,** 1 p.m.

Friday, 10/19: Light Aerobics, 9:30-10:30 a.m.

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

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

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

Wednesday, Oct. 21: Walking Club, 9 a.m. Meet at Breezy Corners.

Thursday, Oct. 22: Drumming Circle, 2-3 p.m. This is a way to connect, relieve stress, and try something different in a welcoming group setting. No experience needed and instruments will be provided. A $5 donation goes to the food bank.

Tuesday, Oct. 27: Changes to Medicare: What You Need to Know, 1 p.m. With Mark Lee of Mark Lee Associates. Learn about upcoming changes to Medicare and how they may affect you.

Wednesday, Oct. 28: Lunch at Lenny & Joe's Fish Tale, 11 a.m. There is a $5 ride fee. Pay for own lunch.

Thursday, Oct. 29: Sweet Treats & Conversation with Community Leaders, 1 p.m. Meet with Val Burzynski, the Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus Council 7.

Medical Rides: The center offers ADA-accessible transportation for seniors to medical rides, on a first-come, first-served basis. The fee is $5/person, round trip. Please give at least a two-week notice.

Foot Care: The center is taking appointments for a Foot Clinic with Stacey Cormier, RN; services starting at $35. Call to register and for more information.

Massage by Joan: Thursdays and Fridays, by appointment only. Call Joan at 860-301-6507.

Hair by Jessica: By appointment only. Call Jessica at 860-751-9215.

President's List

Portland residents Maddison Armstrong, Jocelyn Morehouse and Marina Seley made the summer 2026 President's List at Goodwin University.

Exchange Club Final Bingo Night

The Portland Exchange Club will hold its Bingo Night on Thursday, Nov. 12, at Concentric Brewing, located at 91 Main St. Card sales start at 6 p.m., and the games start at 7 p.m.

Admission is $20 for four cards to be used for all 10 games with prizes for the winner of each game. Cash, credit and debit cards will be accepted. Proceeds from the night will go toward the Portland Fuel Bank.

For more information, go to www.portland-exchange.org.

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.

Adriatic Restaurant

Featuring Italian & Balkan/Mediterranean Cuisine

Brought to you by the owners of Portofino's in Berlin

Our Dining Room is Open
Wednesday through Monday
11am to 9pm

Weekly Specials*
For Dine-In Only

Military Mondays
15% Off Food. Active & Veteran.

Well-Done Wednesdays
Free side of mashed potatoes & Caesar Salad with your choice of Steak

Thank You Thursdays
15% Off Food. Police, Fire, Medical & Teachers

Must provide work ID

*Ask server for more info if needed

Adriatic Restaurant | 577 Franklin Ave., Hartford | 860-726-4155

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Selectmen Consider Downtown Development Funding

By Anne Lilburn

At its Oct. 7 meeting, the Board of Selectmen heard a presentation from the state's Municipal Development Authority, commended two teens for their good citizenship, heard from a resident regarding a property tax exemption for disabled veterans, and set a date for a town meeting regarding the proposed charter revision committee.

In his general updates, First Selectman Mike Pelton, a Republican, told the board that the town had received permission to reduce the traffic lanes down to one lane in each direction for the town's Halloween event on Oct. 30. He said he hoped that, given how busy the event had gotten in recent years, this would make things safer for families attending.

He also shared an update from Public Works Director Jason Morrocco that residents were now able to bring tires to the Portland Transfer Station through a new state recycling program at no cost to them or the town, and said that the town was in discussions with various groups to make a plan for addressing lantern flies and their preferred host, tree of heaven plants. He also shared that Riverbend Landing was getting picnic tables, with four already located on site and two more on the way.

The board next heard a presentation from David Koorus, Executive Director of the Connecticut Municipal Development Authority (CMDA). He described his group as a new "quasi-public authority" that was established by the General Assembly, in cooperation with the Lamont administration. He said they were charged with supporting towns and cities "in their efforts to revitalize their downtowns," and said they were able to provide technical assistance and infrastructure funding, assist towns in navigating other state funding opportunities, and provide financing to developers who are partnering towns to build in downtown areas.

The CMDA operates on a membership model, he said, where municipalities have the opportunity to opt in via a vote by their executive body (in this case, the Board of Selectmen). So far, 47 towns have joined, he said, and there is no cost to join.

Once towns join, they can work with the authority, but that does not mean they lose control of their own zoning regulations or approval process. If a town were to join, the authority would look at the eligible areas within its borders. In Portland, he said, downtown was the only eligible region, along with portions of the waterfront.

"Our statutory obligation is to look at your zoning within that area and determine whether or not it's going to support housing production," Koorus said. "If we think there are tweaks that could happen with your zoning, we'll make recommendations, but it remains the exclusive prerogative of your zoning commission whether or not to take on those recommendations. We don't have any authority or control to force anything on you as a member municipality."

Once the town established the boundaries of a development district, which would be limited to a core area that was zoned for housing potential, mixed use development "and the type of growth that will reinforce your walkable core," he said, it would be eligible for funding.

Koorus added that the funding could be used for wastewater treatment, utility extension, streetscape or pedestrian improvements, pedestrian bridges and more. By working with the CMDA, the town could also potentially become eligible for an interest reduction on Clean Water Fund loans, and maybe even possibly an additional percentage of reimbursement on its school construction project, although, given that the project is already underway, Koorus said he was not fully clear as to whether that would apply in Portland's case.

Pelton said he liked the idea of joining, adding that "finding additional dollars that maybe we didn't know we could qualify for" was appealing to him.

Citizen Lifesaving Awards

The board also presented two young teens with "Citizen Lifesaving Awards" for their response to an event that happened on Sept. 26. Amanda Morgan explained to the board that her son, Trent Morgan, was out bike riding with his friend Patrick McCormack, when he called her on his cell phone saying "we're not really sure what to do" about a situation they had encountered.

The boys had seen a car stopped near an ATM at Liberty Bank, blocking another car's access to the machine. The other car had come up behind and beeped, but the first car didn't move. The boys approached the car and saw that a woman was in the drivers' seat, not moving. She appeared to be asleep, they told her, with "money all over her lap."

Amanda Morgan told the boys to call 911, and said she rushed to the scene to help. She said she could see that the woman was breathing, and she knocked on the window hard enough that the woman woke up, told her she was tired "from working a lot of hours" and then said, "I gotta get home," leaving before paramedics arrived.

Pelton said the award was being awarded to the boys for being brave and taking action when they saw someone in trouble. The board awarded them the commendation "for demonstrating exceptional bravery and the ability to remain calm in order to save the life of another."

Possible Tax Exemption

The board also heard a public comment from a resident urging them to adopt the up to two acres of land tax exemption for veterans who are deemed to have a "100% permanent and total" disability. Much of the discussion and conversation concerned how many residents would qualify, and what the financial impact would be on the town. Initial estimates from the state seem to have underestimated how many veterans would qualify.

Doing some quick math, Selectman Vinnie Pitruzzello, a Republican, estimated that the exemption would likely cost the town, depending on how many people qualified, somewhere between $47,000 and $78,000 in lost tax revenue.

"It's valid, it's deserved, it's state law," said Pelton. "I just wish [the state] had offered to fund that."

The board did not take any action on the issue at this time.

Regarding both the potential exemption and other unanticipated or unbudgeted costs, Pitruzzello said he was concerned. He said he knew the town typically ran a surplus each year, and he worried about pulling money out of the town's reserve fund to cover the unbudgeted expenses. He suggested that departments should be reminded not to overspend.

Town Finance Director Tom Robinson reassured him, that departments were told to spend what they needed, not what's allocated to them in the budget, and said that they were keeping a careful eye on spending.

Selectman Jim Tripp, a Democrat, said that the town's typical surplus position each year was "to the credit of Tom [Robinson] and the other administrators," and reassured everyone that he believed that "just because money is allocated, doesn't mean it gets spent."

Charter Revision

Lastly, the town further considered its ongoing planning regarding its Town Charter revision. Pelton described the revision to the charter, which was last done in 2004, as "long past due" and "one of the most important projects" the town would do this year.

The charter revision project, however, was not initially budgeted this year and will likely cost $50,000, for the overall project, including lawyer fees, meaning it will require a town meeting to proceed with setting up the committee, so the board voted to set a town meeting for Oct. 21 to do that.

The board also took further action to seat the committee. The committee, which they determined would be made up of seven people with no alternates, would need to be seated within 30 days of that Oct. 7 meeting. The board currently has 12 applications for the committee that have been vetted to confirm that they are registered to vote and do not have any conflicts of interest.

The board will meet next on Oct. 21 for the Town Meeting regarding the Charter Revision Committee, followed immediately by its regularly scheduled meeting.

Callander Museum Open Sunday

The Portland Historical Society's Ruth Callander House Museum of Portland History, located at 492 Main St., will be open this Sunday, Oct. 18, from 2-4 p.m.

The display boards covering the life of Portland resident C. Oscar Hedstrom and his role in the development of the Indian Motorcycle Company will be on display. If you missed this display at the Portland Fair, you're invited to drop by the Callander House to have a look. A recording of George Gilbert's talk as Hedstrom will be available for viewing.

If you're starting to think about holiday gifts, there is a limited supply of 06480 zip code baseball hats available in the museum's Callander Cupboard. Drop by on Sunday and check out the books on local history available for purchase.

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.







Portland Library News & Notes

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

Hours: Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m., - Friday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., - Saturday 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. **Holiday Closings:** The library will be closed Wednesday, Nov. 11, for Veterans Day. For the Thanksgiving holiday, the library will close Wednesday, Nov. 25, at 5 p.m., and will be closed all day on Thursday, Nov. 26, and Friday, Nov. 27.

Spooky Story Writing Challenge: The library is holding its first Spooky Story Writing Contest. Portland residents age 6 and up are invited to submit an original spooky tale using the guidelines on our website. Prizes will be awarded to one winner from each age group (6-11, 12-18, and 19+). Winning stories will also be featured in a "Best of Spooky CT" volume. One entry per person. Winners will be notified in November. The deadline for entries has been extended to Oct. 31.

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

Teen Board Game Night: Monday, Nov. 2, 6 p.m., for grades 6-12. Bring your own games to share or try some of the library's. No registration is required for this event.

Level Up Your Ramen: Monday, Nov. 9, 3:30 p.m., for grades 6 and up. The library will have a variety of broths and toppings available. Registration starts Monday, Nov. 2, at 10 a.m.

Teen Advisory Group: Monday, Nov. 16, 3:30 p.m. Grades 6 and up are invited to come help plan programs and pick out materials for the library. No registration required. Snacks will be provided.

Children's Programs: Late Fall Storytimes: Begin the week of Nov. 16; registration opens Monday, Nov. 2, at 10 a.m. Preschool Storytimes (Ages 3-5): Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. Nov. 17-Dec. 8. Toddlers and Tots Storytime (Ages 0-2): Wednesdays at 10:15 and 11:15 a.m., Nov. 18-Dec. 9.

Drop-In Playdates: Thursdays at 10:30 a.m., Nov. 5 and 12. Children ages 0-5 are invited to come for an hour of socialization and open play with the library's story room toys. No registration required.

Sing and Sign with Ms. Janine: Tuesday, Nov. 10, 10:30 a.m. Learn how to sign colors, foods, feelings, animals and more. For infants up to age 6. Registration begins Monday, Nov. 2, at 10 a.m.

Drop-In Crafting: Thursdays at 3:30 p.m., Nov. 12 and 19. Kids in grades K-6 are invited to come for some no-rules creative crafting in the Wagner Room. Supplies provided. This is a drop-in program and no registration is required.

Adult Programs: Book Clubs: Mystery Lovers Book Club: Tuesday, Oct. 20, 1 p.m. "The Other Half" by Charlotte Vassell will be discussed. 1st Thursday Night Book Club: Thursday, Nov 5, 6:30 p.m. "The Berry Pickers" by Amanda Peters will be discussed. Talk About Books: Tuesday, Nov. 3, 1 p.m. "Hang the Moon" be Jeanette Wells will be discussed.

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

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

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

TDOR Vigil Kit Creation with the Committee on Solidarity: Saturday, Nov. 7, at 1 p.m. The Portland Committee on Solidarity will put kits together for community members who want to honor this day but who might not be able to attend an in-person event, and is looking for help. Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR) is an annual observance on Nov. 20 that honors the memory of the transgender people whose lives were lost in acts of anti-transgender violence. Kits will be available for pick up at the Solidarity Committee meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 10, at 7 p.m., in the Waverly Senior Center, and at the library on Monday, Nov. 16, after 5:30 p.m. Registration encouraged, but not required

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

Class of '86 Reunion

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

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

Send Venmo payment to @rebecca-graves-91.

St. Mary Church News & Notes

St. Mary Roman Catholic Church, located at 45 Freestone Ave., invites all to attend its services and events. For more information, visit www.stmaryportlandct.org.

Worship: Weekday Masses are Monday and Tuesday at 8 a.m., and Friday at 12:10 p.m. Weekend Masses are Saturday at 5 p.m. and Sunday at 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Reconciliation: Saturdays between 4 and 4:45 p.m. Call 860-342-2308 to make arrangements. **Baptism:** Call Sue Ferraiolo at 860-342-2308 to make arrangements. **Marriages:** Contact the office at 860-342-2328 to make an appointment with the Rev. John Antonelle.

Holy Hour Benediction: First Friday of every month following the 12:10 p.m. Mass.

Blessed Mother Mass: First Saturday of every month at 9 a.m.

Hours of Operation: Church hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. Office hours are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday-Friday.

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.



Garden Club Presents Award... **At their Oct. 7 meeting, members of the Portland Garden Club presented Susan Dwyer with the Silver Bowl Award in recognition of her outstanding dedication and service. In addition to her support of club initiatives, Dwyer has shared her expertise and knowledge on butterflies, inspiring curiosity and learning with the community.**

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.

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.

Crafters, Vendors Wanted

Crafters and vendors are sought for the Holiday Craft & Vendor Show coming up Saturday, Nov. 21, at Trinity Church, 345 Main St. The show will be held in the parish hall.

Space is available for $20, and space is limited. For more information and a registration form, email carol.hill@comcast.net.

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.

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.

Wangunk Presentation

On Sunday, Oct. 25, from 2-4 p.m., at the Portland Waverly Center, there will be a presentation about the Indigenous inhabitants of the Portland riverfront area, The Wangunk People.

The talk is co-sponsored by the Brownstone Quorum and The Portland Historical Society, and will be presented by noted Wangunk elder and historian Gary "Red Oak" O'Neil. A display table will feature artifacts, photos, and other items related to the Wangunk Culture.

Information on the new Wangunk Memorial stone to be installed at Portland Riverfront Park will also be on display. Refreshments will be served.

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Forum Attendance Sparks Candidate Battle

By Anne Lilburn

State House of Representatives candidates Melissa Ziobron and Meghan Rosenfeld recently found themselves debating an unusual issue: their attendance at the Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce's annual "Meet the Candidates" Forum.

Ziobron attended last week's forum, while Rosenfeld did not, and the candidates' ensuing posts on Facebook led to some back and forth about their obligations and identities as candidates.

Ziobron, a Republican, and Rosenfeld, a Democrat, are running against each other for the 34th District seat. The district covers East Haddam, East Hampton and a portion of Salem. It is currently represented by Republican Irene Haines, who is not seeking reelection.

The forum took place at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 7, at the East Hampton Town Hall, forming a portion of the chamber's Portland and East Hampton Division Meeting. An email shared with the *Rivereast* by Ziobron, which matches information also shared by Rosenfeld, describes the events as "not debates, but rather forums designed to connect candidates with members of the business community."

The email said that candidates would be allowed 3-5 minutes to speak, followed by time for a question-and-answer session moderated by Chamber staff. It was not widely advertised to the general public. Ziobron said she believed that other elected state officials had also been invited, not just herself and Rosenfeld. She noted state Sen. Norm Needleman (D-33) and his opponent, Republican Charles Ferraro, were not present, nor was state Rep. Christie Carpino (R-32), who is running unopposed for reelection.

The event took place in the morning last Wednesday, and later that afternoon, Ziobron posted a photo taken of the event, showing East Hampton Town Manager Dave Cox speaking to the group, to her candidate Facebook page.

"What happens when a candidate forum in East Hampton only has one candidate that shows up?" she wrote in her post. "You take the floor and answer all questions. Thank you to the business owners and chamber members for hosting. I enjoyed the updates from the town manager and from chamber members. When elected my door is always open!"

Rosenfeld later responded on her own Facebook page that evening, posting, "Sadly I wasn't able to attend the Chamber's forum because it was held during the workday, and I declined in advance. Like most families in this district, I work full-time, and I don't hand my responsibilities to my colleagues. My opponent chose to turn a working mother's job into a punchline, and to make a forum about local businesses a post about herself."

She also included in the post a screenshot of her email response to the Chamber employee who invited her to the event.

When reached for comment, Ziobron defended her initial post.

"If you look at my post," she said, "I didn't even call her out. I just said, there was a candidate forum, and I was the only one in attendance."

"[Rosenfeld's] post was extremely defensive," Ziobron added, "and then it asserted things that I never said. It gave people the impression somehow that I was against working mothers. I'm also a working mother. It was really way far over and above, her response, because I didn't say any of the things that she intimated at all, and I never even mentioned her name."

For her part, Rosenfeld said her work obligations made it impossible for her to attend the Chamber event, and she contrasted her job, as a regional director at a Montessori organization, with that of Ziobron's, who works as a fiscal staffer for the state's Republican caucus. She challenged criticisms levied in Ziobron's Facebook comment section that she might not be able to fulfill her duties as a legislator if elected, and pointed out that another employee of her company has served in a legislator role without issue.

"My opponent has criticized me for not attending the East Hampton chamber forum," Rosenfeld said. "I declined that invitation in advance because of my job. I'm currently responsible for payroll at my workplace, and if I had taken that day, employees would not have been paid on time. That wasn't a question of whether I wanted to use vacation time. It was a responsibility to people who depend on that work."

"My opponent works full time for the House minority caucus, a job that gives her a flexibility mine doesn't," Rosenfeld continued, adding that, "when I'm elected, Connecticut law requires employers to give legislators time off to do the work of the office. Serving this district will not be a problem."

Rosenfeld said she had not been invited to submit a candidate statement in lieu of her appearance, and said she would have if she had been given the opportunity.

Rosenfeld added that she was choosing to step back from the debate concerning her attendance at the event, saying she didn't want the distraction and would rather take the next four weeks to focus on campaign issues like "property tax relief for seniors, school funding and energy costs."

"Politics can be ugly," she said, "or it can be advocacy."

Ziobron declined to directly comment on or criticize candidates in other races for their lack of attendance at the forum, including those from her own party. She did, however, say that, as someone who had run for office in the past, she thought it was "very sad to see" candidates not appearing at events like these.

Neither candidate chose to say definitively if they thought the Chamber should have canceled a forum where only one candidate in one race was able to attend, and the Chamber did not respond to comment by press time about whether they had considered rescheduling, cancelling or allowing candidates to send in written statements.

Turkey Plunge Returns Nov. 8

The East Hampton High School Interact Club, in conjunction with the East Hampton Rotary Club, invites everyone to participate in the 17th annual Turkey Plunge on Sunday, Nov. 8, at 9 a.m., at Sears Park on Lake Pocotopaug.

This annual event brings together students, families, friends and neighbors who are willing to brave the chilly waters of Lake Pocotopaug, all while raising money for a cause.

Participants are encouraged to challenge friends, family members, coworkers, or neighbors to a friendly fundraising competition. There will also be special awards, which will recognize participants in categories including Top Fundraiser, Most Spirited, Oldest Plunger, Youngest Plunger, and more.

This year's goal is to bring together 100 plungers, and organizers are calling on the community to help make it happen. Not ready to brave the cold water? Spectators are encouraged to come cheer on the plungers, and anyone who wants to support the cause can make a donation.

The East Hampton High School Interact Club, a Rotary-sponsored youth service organization, works alongside the East Hampton Rotary Club to promote community service, leadership, and giving back.

Register at tinyurl.com/turkeyplunge. If you just want to donate, visit tinyurl.com/donateplunge. Donations of any amount are welcome.

For more information, email turkeyplunge@gmail.com.

EHMS Cheerleading Tryouts

East Hampton Middle School student/athletes who are interested in trying out for cheerleading team can register online through Arbiter Sports Registration.

Athletes must have a physical within a 13-month period in order to try out.

The deadline for registration is Sunday, Nov. 8. For further information, contact EHMS athletic director Michael Mercaldi at 860-463-6837.

Republican Fundraiser Event

The East Hampton Republican Town Committee will host its annual Raffle Basket Fundraiser next 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.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church News

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

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

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

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. The CDHR is run strictly on public donations.

Recreation News

East Hampton Recreation has announced the following items of interest. For more information, full event descriptions, and to register, call 860-267-7300 or visit www.easthamptonrec.com.

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

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

Herbal and Salve Making: Thursday, Nov. 19, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Cost is $35. Learn how to use herbs to create nourishing infused oils and healing salves.

Afterschool Programs at Memorial School (Grade K- 3): Build-A-Bird House: Tuesday, Oct. 20, 3:30-4:30 p.m. Kids will build and decorate their very own bird house. Cost: $25.

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.

Police News

10/1: Scott Bingham, 41, of East Hampton, was arrested and charged with interfering with an officer/resisting, East Hampton Police said.

10/4: Scott Goodspeed, 65, of Marlborough, was issued a summons for failure to drive right, evading responsibility/property damage, and driving under the influence, police said.

10/6: Kevin Carroll, 51, of East Hampton, was arrested and charged with two counts of violation of a protective order, police said.

From Sept. 28 through Oct. 4, officers responded to 15 medical calls, three motor vehicle crashes and four alarms, and made 12 traffic stops, police said.

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Council Discusses License Plate Readers

By Anne Lilbrn

The Town Council met Tuesday and discussed controversial topics including sale of town lands, license plate reader technology, and Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests.

The council voted unanimously to revise the town's Agriculture Commission Ordinance to remove the requirement that the commission include three nonvoting youth members, while also including language stipulating that the commission will "encourage and solicit active participation" by local youth. The revised ordinance will also clarify that the animal control officer would serve as a non-voting member.

In other business, the council began a discussion regarding whether the town should consider selling any town-owned properties that were not currently being used. This issue took a surprising turn when council member Ted Hintz Jr., a Republican, objected to the content of Town Manager Dave Cox's presentation on the issue.

Cox shared a map indicating current town-owned properties, with eight parcels highlighted as having "potential" for sale (though two of them, he said, would definitely require some review to understand their history). Most, said Cox, were properties that were acquired through tax sales, where residents either the town seized the property or a resident voluntarily gave the property to the town in exchange for not having to pay tax on it any longer. Most were "buildable lots in residential zones," said Cox, who noted that some had been owned by the town for a long time.

"If the council decides to move forward with sales of any or all of these, my suggestion would be as we move towards the process that involves the Planning and Zoning department, the Board of Finance and eventually a Town Meeting, that we would do the full research and make sure that they are buildable lots so we can represent that accurately, make sure that the quick title search that I did is clean, and that they are all properties that are fully in ownership of the town and that there's no encumbrances on them," he said.

Hintz, who called in remotely to the meeting, said he was upset that Cox's presentation had identified specific parcels for consideration.

"I thought at our last council meeting, our discussion for tonight's meeting was going to be whether the town had any appetite for selling some of the parcels, not to talk about any individual parcels, but to talk about whether the council has an appetite of selling any of the town land," Hintz said.

Hintz maintained that any discussion of specific properties should have been discussed in an executive session and not been determined by the town manager. Cox countered that he only intended to identify properties that were owned by the town and not currently being used by the town, and other council members didn't seem as concerned by the identification of specific properties.

"If there's property that we have that is of no use to the town, and somebody else wants to use it, and wants to develop it or do whatever he wants with it, we should be willing to sell it unless there's some other reason not to," said council member Jack Solomon, a Democrat.

Hintz continued to insist that the purchase and acquisition of land should be handled in executive session, while Cox held that discussions regarding whether properties should be sold should be visible to the public.

"Decisions about negotiating the sale of a property should absolutely be a closed discussion, a closed session where your negotiating position could be held in private," said Cox, "but I believe the public has the ability to see and to witness the conversation around the policy decision of whether a particular parcel should go or not go, and the community should have the opportunity….in a policy perspective, to comment on a particular parcel."

In the end, the council members voted to say that the council "had an appetite" for considering the sale of unused town land, directing town staff to do due diligence on potential properties. Only Hintz voted against the motion.

The council also discussed how to allocate roughly $300,000 in unexpended funds from the last fiscal year. Hintz suggested using the funds to cover operations at the transfer station and sidewalk plowing that were cut in the current year budget. Council member Karen Wanat, a Democrat, mentioned that she thought it was worth considering using the funds to cover roads, and council member Tim Feegel, a Republican, said he would like to help the Senior Center in some way.

In the end, Cox said he and Finance Director Jeff Jyllka would look at the numbers to make recommendations in different areas and return with those suggestions for the council to consider.

* * *

The council also heard from Police Chief Dennis Woessner, who presented two changes to the police department's general orders, which would put the town in compliance with the statewide model policy from the Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POST). One involved domestic violence policy for situations where GPS tracking devices are used to protect victims from perpetrators.

The other change involved the town's potential use of license plate reader (LPR) technology, something which generated some strong discussion. While the proposed policy change merely limits the amount of time departments can store data, the topic led to a broader discussion about the technology in general, with many council members, including Hintz, who cited recent news stories about Flock cameras.

Woessner acknowledged that license plate reader technology had been abused in the past in other jurisdictions, but said he believed it was important for helping police. He said the town had been considering a deal with a company called Axon, and that restrictions and guidelines would make it harder for LPR camera technology to be misused.

Woessner said that while, "we have that option to exercise that technology," they have not, in part because he said he believed in transparency. Council member Joelyn Leon, a Democrat, asked if Woessner or a representative from Axon would be willing to return and give a presentation in the future so that that agenda item could be promoted in order for residents to have the opportunity to hear the presentation and weigh in.

"Absolutely," said Woessner, "that's the right way to do it, is to be transparent, be upfront."

The council voted to table the item to a later date.

* * *

Lastly, the council considered a request for a waiver of FOIA request photocopying fees by a resident, Rebecca Harvey, who spoke at the meeting to make her case. According to the Town Manager's Report, "the records at issue for fee waiver are part of two open records requests that together will consist of approximately 65,000 or more records relating to former Town Planner Juliet Hodge and me [David Cox], which are currently being reviewed by the Town Attorney's office for appropriate redactions."

According to Cox, "the requested records consist of personnel records, which are maintained by the town only in paper form totaling 391 pages. The FOIA Commission allowable charge is 50 cents per page."

Harvey made the case that her records request benefits the general welfare of the public, which is an allowable reason for requesting a waiver. She said that numerous community members had offered to pay the fee, but that she was requesting this waiver as a matter of principal.

Leon looked through an opinion from the town attorney and asked if they could have more time to consider it.

"I think it would be beneficial for us as a council to have some conversation prior to voting," she said, but was overruled.

In the end, Feegel and Hintz voted to approve the waiver, while Wanat, Solomon, Rich Knotek, a Democrat, and Council Chair Dean Markham, also a Democrat, voted to deny it. Leon abstained.

The council is next meeting for a Tri-Board Meeting with the Board of Education and Board of Finance on Oct. 15 to begin early discussion on next year's budget.

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.

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.

Chatham Health Chat: Monday, Oct. 19, 11:30 a.m., featuring a discussion on lung/breast cancer.

Blood Pressure Screenings: Monday, Oct. 19, 12:30 p.m., with Chatham Health. Drop-ins welcome.

Meet the Beekeeper: Tuesday, Oct. 20, 10:30 a.m. Beekeeper Mark Ceneri will open the door to the fascinating world of honey bees.

Nature is Everywhere Ramble: Wednesday, Oct. 21, departing at 9 a.m. Naturalist Lynn Kochiss will lead a 1.5-mile outdoor walk at the Connecticut Forest and Park Association at Highlawn Forest, 16 Meriden Road, Rockfall. Bus provided.

Fire Safety 101: What Everyone Should Know: Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2:45 p.m. As part of Fire Prevention Month, the East Hampton Fire Department will provide an overview of home fire safety, seasonal risks, prevention tips, and local resources. Practical guidance to help stay safe at home and reduce common hazards will be reviewed. Participants will also have the chance to ask questions and learn about services available in our community.

Trip: 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. Upon signing up, let the center know if you plan to take Xtramile.

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.

Felting Workshop

The East Hampton Art Association plans to present a felting workshop on Sunday, Dec. 6, from 1-4 p.m., in the Community Room of the East Hampton Public Library at 105 Main St.

This program will be the art association's December meeting.

Felter Kristen Walsh will provide guidance on creating a 3-D midsized sheep (black or white) complete with a holiday scarf.

Ages 14 years to 90+ are all welcome. Preregistration is needed; call or text co-presidents Geri at 860-682-2067 or Rita at 860-798-1092, ASAP. There is a minimal materials fee of $5.

Used Book Fair

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

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

Check out the Friends' Facebook page for more details, at www.facebook.com/friendsofthheasthamptonpubliclibrary.

Congregational Church News

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

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.

The scripture reading for this Sunday's service is Matthew 22:15-22. The Rev. Robin Blundon will deliver the sermon. The Grateful Gathering Potluck Luncheon will follow the service.

Grateful Gathering Luncheon: Immediately follows service this Sunday. Bring your favorite dish or dessert to share. All are welcome.

Weekly Schedule: Sunday evenings: AA meeting, 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall; Monday: Cub Scouts meeting, 5:30-7:30 p.m.; Wednesday: 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.

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.

St. Patrick Church News & Notes

St. Patrick Church, 47 West High St., is a member of St. John Paul II Parish, along with St. Bridget Church in Moodus.

Masses are celebrated Saturdays at 4 p.m. at St. Patrick and 5:30 p.m. at St. Bridget, and on Sundays at 7 and 11 a.m. at St. Bridget and 9 a.m. at St. Patrick.

During the week, Masses are celebrated at 8 a.m. on Wednesdays and Thursdays at St. Patrick, and at 8 a.m. on Fridays at St. Bridget.

Confessions are Saturdays at 3 p.m. at St. Patrick and 6:30 p.m. at St. Bridget.

The parish website is www.sjpii.org.

Snowflake Bazaar Nov. 7

Westchester Congregational Church in Colchester will hold its annual Snowflake Bazaar Saturday, Nov. 7, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Markham Meadows Campground, located at 9 Markham Rd, off Tartia Road from Route 16.

There will be the famous homemade Cookies by the Pound, a variety of vendors, crafts, raffles, gift cards, and lunch.

Email westcongchurch@gmail.com for more information.

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.

Lions Club Scholarship Raffle

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

The raffle offers a $2,026 grand prize this year. First prize is $226, with two winners, second prize is $156 with two winners, and third prize is $56 with two winners. Winners of the first, second and third prizes are reentered for the grand prize drawing. Seven hundred total tickets will be sold.

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

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

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 donnadubehryb@gmail.com for more information.

Haddam Neck Covenant Church News

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

Men's Group: The Men's Breakfast Bible Study will meet at the church on Wednesday, Nov. 11, 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.

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

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

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

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

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.

All-Ages Programs: 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.

Adult Programs: 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.

Tech Help: Thursday, Oct. 29, 2-4 p.m. Basic technology help for phones, laptops, tablets, and e-readers. No registration required; just bring your device with you.

Cookbook Club: Tuesday, Nov. 3, 6:30 p.m. This month's theme is Mocktails & Hors D'Oeuvres. Bring a favorite alcohol-free mocktail and a small bite to share. Bring 12 copies of the recipe to share; the library will provide the plates and forks. Register or drop in.

Teen Programs: 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.

Middle Grade Dungeons & Dragons: Grades 5-7: Monday, Oct. 26, 6-7:30 p.m. D&D will meet for a special Halloween-themed session. New players welcome.

Children's Programs: Halloween Happening: Thursday, Oct. 29, 10:30 a.m. Ages 5 and under are invited to come for Halloween-themed stories, songs, and crafts. Costumes encouraged. Just drop in.

Lego at the Library: Grades K-6: Tuesday, Nov. 3, 4:30-5:30 p.m. Each month will feature a new challenge or theme for you to work solo or with friends on. All Lego bricks are provided.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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. Enjoy her mixed-media and traditional Wangunk-style clay creations during regular library hours. If you missed the reception with her, stop by the library on Sunday, Oct. 18, at 1 p.m., to hear a talk presented by her father, Gary "Red Oak" O'Neil, on Kyle's artistic journey and enjoy her work.

Open Mic Night: Friday, Oct. 16, 6-8 p.m. Likely indoors. Come and perform or just watch. Performers, call the library to sign up, at 860-267-9093.

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.

Meditation Program: Tuesdays at 6 p.m. Call or text Omar Milton at 860-776-4162 for information and to register.

Chair Yoga Classes with Kathleen Marshall: Fridays from 9:30-10:30 a.m. Cost is $15 per class. This modified, gentle form of yoga that allows you to perform traditional yoga poses while seated in a chair or using a chair for standing support. Email zenlotus860@yahoo.com for information.

Fiber Arts Group: Thursdays from 10 a.m.-noon. Bring your spinning wheel, knitting, weaving, embroidery, etc. All are welcome.

Yoga with Erin Day of Ten Summit Yoga: Mondays and Saturdays at 9 a.m., and Tuesdays at 7 p.m. Cost is a $17 drop-in fee. To register, email tensummitst@gmail.com or call 860-262-0246.

Save the Date!: A Makers' Market at the library is in the works for Saturday, Dec. 12, featuring local artisans. Watch for more information.



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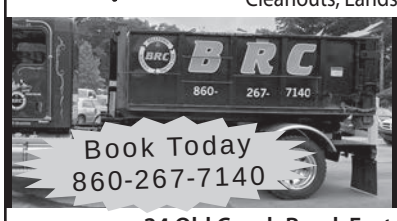
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RE11-6-20

Rotary to Host Veterans Day Dinner

The East Hampton Rotary Club invites local veterans, their spouses, and members of the community to attend a special Veterans Day Dinner on Wednesday, Nov. 11, at 6 p.m. at the VFW in East Hampton.

This annual day of remembrance and gratitude provides an opportunity for the community to come together to recognize the courage, dedication, and sacrifices of the men and women who have served in the United States Armed Forces.

The evening will feature a full Italian dinner, offered free of charge to all veterans and their spouses. Other family members, friends, and community guests are welcome to attend for $25 per person, payable at the door.

"The East Hampton Rotary Club believes that honoring our veterans is one of the most meaningful ways we can give back to our community," said Rotary President Ashley Wolf. "This evening is our opportunity to say thank you to those who have given so much in service to our country."

For more information, call Wolf at 860-301-4517.

Wreaths Across America

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

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

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

One can sponsor a wreath by sending a sponsorship form to VFW Auxiliary 5095, 20 N. Maple St., East Hampton, CT 06424. Checks should be made out to "VFW Auxiliary 5095" with "WAA" on the memo line. Forms can be found at the post and East Hampton Public Library. In lieu of a form, send name, address, phone, e-mail, the number of sponsored wreaths at $17 each with a check to the above address.

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

President's List

Bradley Speir of East Hampton made the summer 2026 President's List at Goodwin University.



Tom Bransfield, Susan Bransfield and Jack Sterry (pictured from left) were honored at a Sept. 30 ceremony with Portland's Ralph Paley Spirit Awards.

★ *Portland Awards, cont. from page 1*

to people," said Caratasios-Elliot. "Exchange students were welcomed. People who were going through difficult times found a place at their table. Holiday dinners included people who otherwise may have been alone. There was simply always room for one more person."

At the Board of Selectmen's Oct. 7 meeting, several selectmen celebrated the honorees, including First Selectman Mike Pelton, a Republican, and Selectman Jim Tripp, a Democrat.

"This year the folks being recognized have collectively have given decades and decades to the town in terms of services, so from all of us on the board of selectmen, our heartfelt congratulations and thank you for everything that they've done to make Portland a better place to live, and to raise a family," said Tripp.

"Tremendous individuals [were] recognized this year, and I don't want to say that it's a century of service to the town, but I think it's probably pretty close to that," he added.

In a statement, Susan and Tom Bransfield said, "We were very surprised and honored to receive the Ralph Paley Spirit of Portland Award, and we would like to thank the Paley Family and the Portland Waverly Senior Center, as well as those who nominated us. It was a wonderful ceremony and we are very thankful."

Ralph Paley's daughter, Lori McDermott, said that the night's speeches had brought tears to her eyes, and said that her sister, Sharon Fleischmann, felt the same way. McDermott described her father as a generous, selfless man who worked hard, but always kept his sense of humor. She said he loved his family and also loved Portland.

McDermott said she and her sister were pleased with this year's awardees and that, in future years, they hoped to keep honoring people who, like their dad, are "selfless and just want to give back to their town because they love their town."

Expo Tackles Weight-Loss Drugs, CBD, Healthy Aging and More

By Kathy Megan

Are GLP-1 weight-loss drugs right for you? Can medical marijuana or CBD help with certain health problems? Are you getting enough protein? And what can you do today to live a longer, healthier life?

Experts will explore these questions and many more at the second annual East Hampton Health Expo on Saturday, Nov. 7, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at East Hampton High School. The event is free and open to people of all ages, with refreshments also provided at no cost.

"This year's Health Expo is bigger and better than ever," said Dr. Eric Rosenberg, chairman of the East Hampton Commission on Aging, which is sponsoring the event. "We have so much exciting and important information to share about people's health."

The program will feature more than a dozen speakers covering a wide range of health concerns, from popular weight-loss medications to nutrition, healthy aging and advances in Alzheimer's treatment. Visitors can also explore 53 vendor tables offering information, services, resources, and vaccines for individuals and families

Among the featured speakers is Dr. Howard Selinger, a professor at Quinnipiac University's Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine, who will discuss GLP-1 medications used for weight loss, such as Ozempic and Wegovy.

Erin Gorman Kirk, the state's cannabis ombudsman, will explore medical marijuana and CBD, including when they may be helpful and when they may not. Christopher Blancarte, a registered dietitian, will explain how nutritional needs change through middle age and beyond. Dr. Patrick Coll, a geriatrician and medical director for Senior Health at UConn Health, will offer advice on healthy aging and steps people can take to live longer.

Other presentations will tackle concerns that affect many families. Dr. Harry Morgan, a geriatric psychiatrist from Glastonbury, will explain the differences between dementia and depression and discuss how families can cope with these challenges. Dr. Marilise A. Hyacinth, a general adult and geriatric psychiatrist at Middlesex Health, will discuss advances in Alzheimer's treatment. Dr. Faryal Mirza, director of the Osteoporosis Clinic at UConn Health, will address osteoporosis and ways to protect bone health.

Staying healthy also means remaining safe and independent. Ashley Sabol, a physical therapist at Middlesex Health, will discuss fall prevention, including exercises and practical ways to make homes safer.

How safely are you charging your phone, laptop or e-bike? Fire Marshal Richard Klotzbier will discuss fire prevention, focusing on the safe use, storage and charging of devices powered by lithium-ion batteries. Police Chief Dennis Woessner will cover home safety, emergency preparedness, scams and medical emergencies. East Hampton's fire chief and ambulance chief of service will also discuss how their departments operate and what to expect when you call them.

The expo will offer information for people planning for the future, as well as those caring for loved ones. Susan Daniels, the hospice and palliative resource nurse coordinator at Middlesex Health, will explain how hospice helps people live as fully and comfortably as possible while supporting their caregivers.

Alison Dvorak, executive director of Senior Resources, the Area Agency on Aging in Eastern Connecticut, and Mairead Painter, the state's long-term care ombudsman, will discuss long-term care options, including care at home and in nursing facilities.

Planning for housing and finances will also be covered. Jack DePierro, vice president of Southern New England Modular Living, will explain what residents need to know about accessory dwelling units, or ADUs. Attorney Steven M. Basche of Glastonbury will discuss estate planning, revocable and irrevocable trusts, probate and leaving a statement of values.

Visitors can also get a vision screening at a table staffed by East Hampton optometrist Dr. Jeffrey Palmer and the Lions Club. Three no-contact screening devices can check for signs of several eye and health conditions, including macular degeneration, glaucoma, diabetes cataracts and more. The screening can also help assess current vision prescriptions and offer new strategies for people with low vision.

Beyond the presentations, visitors can explore 53 vendor tables featuring organizations and businesses offering a broad range of services and information, including home health care, residential services, physical therapy, hospice, clean energy and alternative approaches to wellness such as Reiki. Chatham Health District will offer vaccines and blood pressure checks.

For a different kind of experience, Susan McCaffrey will offer a 15-minute "sound bath," using sound and vibration to promote relaxation and stress relief. (Attendees can register for a session with McCaffrey at the event.)

"There's interesting and valuable information for people of all ages," Rosenberg said.

For a full schedule of speakers and times, go to www.easthamptonct.gov/1377/Commission-on-Aging

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.

***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.

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 blessing. 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.

Local Republicans Endorse Ziobron

The East Hampton Republican Town Committee has endorsed Melissa Ziobron for state representative in Connecticut's 34th House District.

The district covers East Hampton, East Haddam and part of Salem. Ziobron, an East Haddam resident, previously represented the district in the Connecticut General Assembly, from 2013-2019.

Ziobron was raised in East Hampton and educated in public schools. In a press release, the committee said, "Ziobron knows East Hampton and the 34th District. She understands the challenges facing our town and neighboring communities, and she recognizes the real impact decisions made in Hartford have on local taxpayers."

Melissa Engel, chair of the East Hampton Republican Town Committee, said, "East Hampton needs a strong voice in Hartford who understands that taxpayers are already stretched. Melissa has the experience to ask the tough questions, fight for fiscal responsibility, and make sure our community's voice is heard."

The committee added, "Throughout her career, Melissa has consistently championed fiscal responsibility, local decision-making, government transparency, and the protection of the character of the communities she represents."

Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 3. Early voting starts Monday, Oct. 19.

Fabric Donations Welcome!

Haddam Neck Congregational Church is collecting donations of fabric, yarn and notions for the Bits and Pieces sale held during the church's annual Quilt Show in April.

For more information, call Melissa at 860-993-5311 or Darcy at 860-301-4994.

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Dean's List

Amber Simpson of East Hampton and Joseph Law of Cobalt made the summer 2026 Dean's List at Goodwin University.

Police Activity

From Oct. 5-11, East Hampton Police officers responded to 18 medical calls, six motor vehicle crashes and six alarms, and made seven traffic stops, police said.



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Chicken Marsala Sauteed with mushrooms, shallots in a marsala wine sauce
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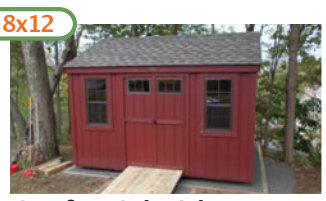
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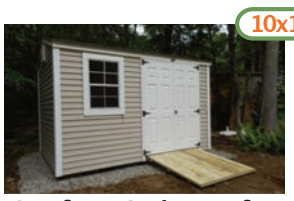
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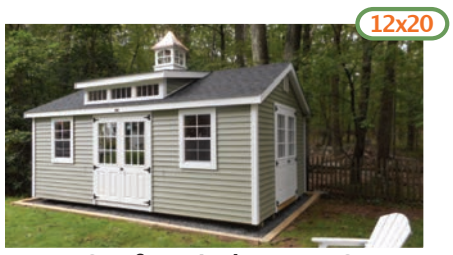
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Absentee Ballots Now Available

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:

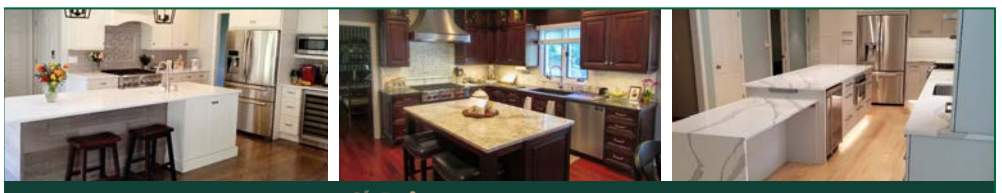
a) If delivered in person, it must be delivered to the town clerk no later than the Monday before the election at 4:30 p.m.

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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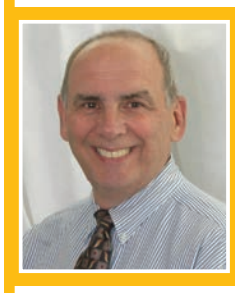
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RE10-9-26

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.

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.

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-Samples
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-Inhalers
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A safe disposal box for unwanted medications is also located at the East Hampton Police Department

RE10-16-25



RE9-18-26



RE9-25-26

Christian Life Chapel News

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

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

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

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

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

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

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?

Senior Center News & Notes

Colchester Senior Center, 15 Louis Lane, has announced the following. **Unless noted, registration is required for all programs.** Credit cards are currently not accepted. For full descriptions of programs and to register, call 860-537-3911, email csc@colchesterct.gov, or for a full list of activities, visit www.colchesterct.gov/colchester-senior-center.

Monday, Oct. 19: 9 a.m., Making Memories, Exercise with Anne; 10 a.m., Sittercize, Haircuts with Deborah; 10:30 a.m., Japan Trip Presentation; 11 a.m., Learn to Sign; 11 a.m.-noon, Fitness Orientation; 12:30 p.m., Mah Jongg, Set Back, Bridge, Holiday Fair Planning.

Tuesday, Oct. 20: 9 a.m., Making Memories; 9:45 a.m., Tai Chi; 10:30 a.m., Garden Clib Pumpkin Craft; 12:30 p.m., Pinochle, In the Know; 1 p.m., Cornhole; 1:15 p.m., Bingo; 5:30 p.m., Hand & Foot Card Game, Bunco, Movie & Pizza Night.

Wednesday, Oct. 21: 9 a.m., Making Memories, Walking Group; 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Reflexology; 10 a.m., Adult Coloring, Hand and Foot Card Game, Sit & Be Fit Video; 11 a.m., Flannel & Foliage Fall Luncheon; 1 p.m., Sew-cial Time; 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m., Cardio Drumming.

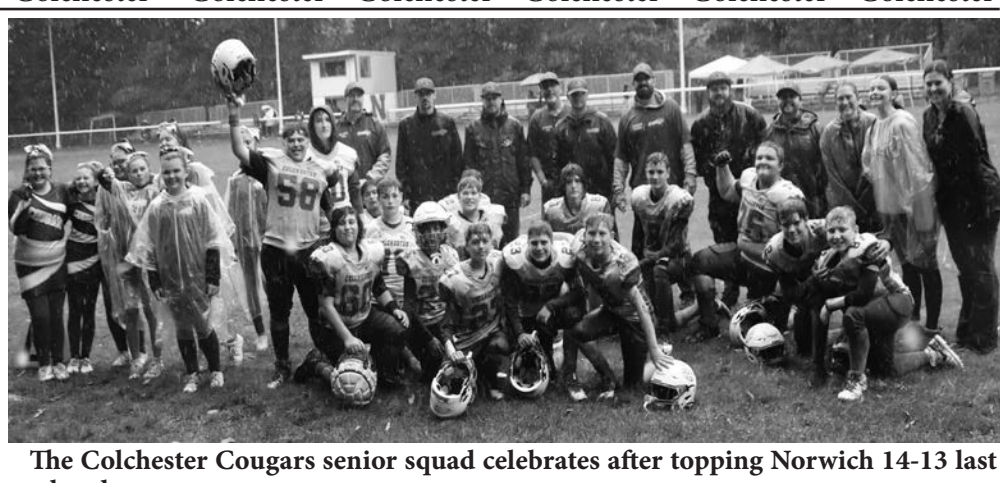
Thursday, Oct. 22: 9 a.m., Exercise w/ Anne; 10 a.m., Sittercize, Wii Bowling, Card-Making; 10:30 p.m., Healthy Foods Demo; 11 a.m., Yoga; noon, Sr. Benefits Counseling; 12:05 p.m., Chair Massage; 12:30 p.m., Dominoes, Needlework Club; 6 p.m., Mahjong, Cribbage.

Friday, Oct. 23: 9 a.m., Social Service Hours, Open Art Studio; 10 a.m., Sit & Be Fit; 10:30 a.m., Choral Group; 11 a.m., Yoga, Lunch & Learn: Understanding Probate; 1-3:30 p.m., Open Ping Pong; 1:15 p.m., Bingo.

DMV Community Outreach Event: Wednesday, Oct. 28, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. DMV-related services such as REAL ID upgrades, driver's license renewals, non-driver IDs, parking permits, vehicle registration renewals, payment of fines, and more. This is a walk-in event. Appointments are not needed. All fees are applicable. This is a no-cash event; the DMV accepts all major credit/debit cards. The DMV reserves the right to adjust its schedule on the day of the event due to capacity and resource constraints. More information will be made available closer to the event via Email, Facebook and Monday updates.

Diabetes Self-Management Six-Week Workshop: Wednesdays starting Nov. 3. Chatham Health is offering a free, interactive 6- week workshop series (typically meeting once a week for 2.5 hours). As part of the workshop, you will learn action planning, problem-solving, healthier eating, physical activity, stress management, and blood sugar monitoring tools. Open to adults managing diabetes or pre-diabetes, as well as family members and caregivers.

Medicare Open Enrollment: Friday, Nov. 6, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m., by appointment only. Open Enrollment is your opportunity to make changes to Medicare, especially Medicare C (Medicare Advantage Plans) or Medicare D (Prescription Drug Coverage Plans). Meet with a certified CHOICES counselor who is specially trained in Medicare who will help screen you for the best and most affordable coverage for you. Call the office to make an appointment. Space is limited.



The Colchester Cougars senior squad celebrates after topping Norwich 14-13 last weekend.

Youth Football Recap

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

Peewee: Went to Ellington to battle the Ellington Road Runners. The Road Runners struck first, but the Cougars defense dug in for a battle all day long by the linemen and defensive backs. The Cougars offense scored twice with strong play from the offensive line, and the offensive backs all started really clicking and moving the ball. But when the clock struck zero the Cougars came up just short.

Micro: After Norwich capitalized on quick opportunities to take an early lead, the Cougars regrouped at halftime and returned to the field with renewed fight and intensity. The spark of the game came from Adam McLean, whose kick return powered downfield and injected energy back into the entire squad. Colchester's strong second-half performance proved their resilience, and the team heads back to practice this week focused on sharpening their game as they prepare for the second half of the season.

Junior – JV: Finally broke through on Monday, securing a 12-0 victory over East Lyme after battling to stalemate in their previous two meetings. The Cougars showed improvement across the board, executing more efficiently on offense with strong blocking, while the defense flowed to the ball with confidence and tackled effectively throughout the game. Next up, they will host the New London Whalers on Friday night, Oct. 16, in Colchester.

Junior – Varsity: Defeated Groton, 25-7. The contest started off a little rocky for the Cougars as Groton returned the opening kickoff for a touchdown. Defense was the saving grace of the Cougars, coupled with a balanced running game by their three primary running backs. The offensive line was also formidable. The dynamic defensive play by Christian Nunez-Melendez was certainly the X-factor followed by Ty Corraro who had a breakout performance running the ball. The icing on the cake was the opportunity get almost every player into the game save a few.

Senior: Played Norwich. The Cougars were losing at halftime 13-7, but the second half would be the best they have played all year. Sam Gorman stepped up into new role running the ball to start a drive capping it off with a touchdown pass from Jakob Sheehan to Bo Thody. It was left up to the defense from here, and they held Norwich from scoring another point. Xavier Long made multiple tackles at the line. Connor Peck and Brandon Hopkins shut down the outside making several tackles each, and Brandon with an interception sealing a victory for the seniors 14-13.

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: 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: Monday, Oct. 19, 6 p.m. 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.

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.

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.

Presentation on Senior Center Trip

On Monday, Oct. 19, at 10:30 a.m., Colchester Senior Center will hold a presentation on a 2027 trip to Japan. The presentation will be at the senior center, 15 Louis Lane.

The Cultural Treasures of Japan trip will run Oct. 7-20, 2027. This trip is 14 days, 13 nights, and cost is $9,999 per person (double occupancy).

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.

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RE10-16-26

‘Leadership and Camaraderie’ Boost Bacon Soccer

By Josh Howard

Bacon Academy boys soccer head coach Skip Starks said his 2026 squad has both championship chemistry and talent.

“My favorite thing about this team is the leadership and camaraderie,” explained Starks. “It’s been an enjoyable season. The team has bought into what we are doing. The leaders buy-in and the other boys follow their lead.”

Through the first ten games, Starks’ squad has posted a record of 6-3-1 as the team looks to close the regular season strong before the conference and state tournaments kickoff in less than a month.

Paving the way on the field are four senior captains in Zachary Chiarella, Zachary Russo, Michael Wisniewski, and Matthew Galante.

Last Saturday (Oct. 10), the team showed the state what they are capable of by taking down previously unbeaten Norwich Free Academy (NFA), 2-1, at Bacon Academy. Chiarella scored a goal and assisted Manuel Troendle on the other as the Bobcats handed the Wildcats their first loss of the fall.

Chiarella is in his first year with the program after focusing primarily on premiere soccer for his first three years in high school.

“I always wanted an opportunity to be a part of something like this. These are the guys I grew up playing with,” noted Chiarella, who also plays for Hartford Athletic II in the UPSL and USL Academy leagues. “We’ve spent some years apart, but I thought it would only be right to try and help out the town and help out the school, and have some fun.”

Through the team’s first 10 matches, Chiarella had powered the team offensively, scoring a dozen goals.

Starks called Chiarella a “difference maker”, adding, “It’s not just his play. He’s a really good kid, great leader, and he enjoys the game.”

Bacon’s three other team captains have steadied the back end for the team that has held seven of ten opponents either scoreless or to a single goal.

Wisniewski is the team’s starting goalie, while Russo and Galante have excelled as defenders.

During the team’s four game winning streak this season, the Bobcats blanked three of those opponents and allowed only one goal in the other contest.

“One of our biggest strengths is our communication and passion on defense,” noted Russo. “We have a lot of technical ability in the back and I think it really shows.”

Wisniewski added that the senior trio on the defensive end have, “become intertwined.”

“I know what they are going to do and they know what I am going to do,” added Wisniewski. “They know my strengths and I know their strengths. We all blend together really well back there.”

Along with their duties on the field, the captains have also helped bring along the next generation of Bobcats as several underclassmen have played pivotal roles on the field this fall.

“It’s awesome being able to help support the guys coming up. We’re just trying to help them improve on and off the field,” noted Galante.

Along with the positives this season, though, there has also been a couple of dips.

Prior to the win over NFA, the team suffered back-to-back losses when they were blanked by Waterford (4-0) and Stonington (3-0) at Bacon Academy. The team had previously defeated Stonington 4-0 at their place, but the Bears flipped the script locally.

Starks said he can use the losses as a teaching tool going forward.

“We have to learn from our mistakes in those losses,” added Starks “Mistakes are going to happen – whether it’s a mistake I’ve made in rotation or a physical mistake on the field, they are coaching moments.”

Galante added, “One of the main things we talked about was sticking together as a team and making sure we lift each other up and not put each other down after losses.”

The ultimate goal this year is a state championship. It would be the first for a program that made the state title game in both 2012 and 2015, finishing as the runner-up both times.

Starks said the sky is the limit for this season and that his senior’s leadership will be the main catalyst once the postseason rolls around.

“They are our coaches on the field,” Starks said about his four team captains. “They know our program’s high expectations and they have skills sets that are high, so they demand of each other and others.”

He added that the team’s young midfield has been the team’s “backbone” on the field this season.

Juniors David Rumph and Owen McLoughlin, along with sophomores Izsak Treat and Cayden Steele, have manned the middle this year.

“They’ve been steady and consistent in every game,” Starks said.



Bacon Academy boys senior captains Zachary Chiarella, Zachary Russo, Michael Wisniewski and Matthew Galante are leading the way as the Bobcats have big goals this season.

Chiarella agreed, calling the midfield unit, “one of the best in the state”, which has allowed him and prolific forward Shane Meyer to do what they do best on the offensive end.

Another welcomed change this year is the team’s playing surface and facilities, which were renovated in the offseason. Prior to this season, the team played on a natural grass surface that had deteriorated beyond repair and the team was unable to play night games due to a lack of lights. Now, the surface is artificial field turf and a new lighting system allows for later starts.

“It’s truly incredible, especially from a goalkeeper’s standpoint,” noted Wisniewski. “It’s so much more predictable. Personally, I feel so much more confident playing on this field.”

The improvements, which include a new track around the field and a better drainage system, have also drawn in a larger student section for games – particularly for games under the lights a night.

Starks credited the community for helping make the improvements a reality, adding, “A lot of people in town came together and made this happen. It’s very exciting, but also very rewarding as a town resident.”

The program celebrated Senior Night on the new field on Wednesday, hosting New London. They next hosts Morgan on Saturday, Oct. 17 at 11 a.m. and East Lyme on Tuesday, Oct. 20 at 6 p.m.

It will be the team’s last tune-up test at Bacon Academy before the Eastern Connecticut Conference tournament start later this month and the Class M state tourney kicks off in early November.

Russo said that hammering the fundamentals will be important for the team going forward, noting, “We still need to communicate more. Sometimes we forget the basics, so it’s just about staying disciplined.”

As they enter the 11th hour of their high school careers, the team captains all agreed that there is a family feel in the locker room and that they hope those good vibes continues into late November.

For Chiarella, the decision to play with his childhood friends has been rewarding in more ways than one.

“Playing for the town is something special and I think there’s a passion for high school soccer that I hadn’t experienced even at a high level of club soccer,” he added.

Coffee House Gathering

The next Colchester Coffee House gathering will be held at Cragin Memorial Library, 8 Linwood Ave., on Saturday, Oct. 17, from 10 a.m.-noon.

All former and current military members are welcome to join. Call Mary Gura at 860-537-2921 with questions or suggestions for presenters.

Community Baby Shower

Collaborative for Colchester’s Children (C3) will host its annual Community Baby Shower on Wednesday, Oct. 21, from 6-7:30 p.m., at Cragin Memorial Library.

The free event is open to Colchester residents expecting a baby or new parents with infants ages 0–6 months. Families can enjoy games, prizes, and gifts while connecting with other local families and community resources.

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

Pumpkins & Pooches to Return

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

Pyrogy for Sale at Ukrainian Church

St. Mary Ukrainian Church in Colchester will make fresh Pyrogy for sale on Saturday, Nov. 7. To place your order, call Brenda at 860-365-0281 no later than Nov. 1.

Only 200 dozen will be available.

Fall Vendor Fair Coming

Colchester Federated Church’s annual Fall Vendor Fair is around the corner, on Nov. 7 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at 60 Main St.

Local crafters, vendors and farmers will be featured. Also, grab a sweet treat or two from the Bake Sale and take your chances at the raffle table. Swing by the Tag Sale and snag a few deals.

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.

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.

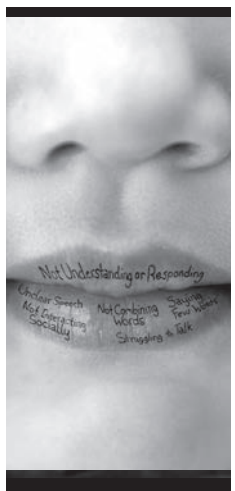
Lunch will be available for purchase from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Oktoberfest at Polish Club

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

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

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Candidates Argue Fiscal Responsibility vs. Funding Local Needs

By Toriana Williams

As early voting begins in Colchester, residents will soon help decide on who will represent Connecticut's 48th House District. Incumbent Republican state Rep. Mark DeCaprio is running against Democrat Robert "Bob" Fernandez in the Nov. 3 election. The 48th District includes the *Rivereast* town of Colchester, and Bozrah, Franklin and part of Lebanon.



DeCaprio



Fernandez

Early voting begins on Oct. 19 and runs through Nov. 1, and will take place at the Colchester Town Hall, 127 Norwich Avenue. Early voting hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day, except on Oct. 27 and 29, when the hours are extended to 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

DeCaprio is seeking another term after winning his second election in 2024. Fernandez hopes to replace him and bring more state funding to the district. Both candidates said the state should do more for local residents, but they have different ideas about taxes, spending and how money should be used.

'More Affordability for Working Families'

Fernandez said his campaign is focused on helping working families afford life in Connecticut. He wants the state to provide more money for local schools and give residents tax relief.

"More affordability for working families in the 48th," said Fernandez when asked by the *Rivereast* to sum up his platform.

He also believes the district needs more state resources for local problems. His campaign pointed to several projects he wants to address, including fixing a dam in Bozrah, making dangerous roads in Colchester safer and getting more special education funding for schools in Lebanon and Franklin.

Fernandez said the amount of state money brought back to the district is one of the main differences between him and DeCaprio.

His background includes more than 20 years in the U.S. Navy as a combat veteran and submarine corpsman. After leaving the Navy, he worked in education and with labor unions where he had focused on school funding, student debt, fair contracts and better wages for workers.

Fernandez said he knows the race will be hard because he is challenging an incumbent, but he is meeting voters one at a time and asking them to support his plan.

"It's going to be an uphill battle, right? He's the incumbent, and I'm the challenger," said Fernandez. He added that he was taking his campaign "one door at a time."

Careful Spending, Lower Costs

DeCaprio said his work in the state House has focused on keeping costs down, protecting personal freedoms and helping local communities. He said he wants the state to spend money wisely and avoid rules that force towns to raise property taxes.

His platform includes support for police officers, firefighters and emergency medical workers. He also wants schools to focus on classroom needs, basic learning skills and parent involvement.

DeCaprio shared that his experience in state government has helped him understand how to solve problems for residents. Before becoming a state representative, he worked for Connecticut's public health and environmental agencies, and he also served on local boards in Lebanon, including the Board of Education and Board of Selectmen.

He said he has helped residents deal with state agencies and find answers to difficult questions.

"One of the most rewarding aspects of serving as state representative is helping constituents navigate challenges, particularly when dealing with Connecticut's state agencies," wrote DeCaprio.

He also emphasized his work when helping Colchester schools receive state funding for an audio system for students with hearing loss.

DeCaprio said Connecticut needs to control its debt and work across party lines. He noted that state debt payments take money away from other needs and added that lawmakers should keep working to reduce those costs.

"I believe Connecticut needs greater balance in Hartford, more bipartisan cooperation and a continued commitment to fiscal responsibility," he wrote.

Two Plans For the 48th District

Fernandez wants the state to send more money back to the district, especially for schools, tax relief and local projects. DeCaprio points to his experience and said the state must be careful with taxpayer money.

Both candidates said local families and towns deserve attention, and their main difference is how they believe state government should use its money and serve the district.

Fernandez's message to voters was that he wants people to choose him if they want more attention and resources for the district.

"If you want more attention brought to the issues that affect the 48th district, then you need to vote for Bob Fernandez on November 3," he said.

DeCaprio shared that he feels good about his chances of winning another term, but he also stressed that voters will make the final choice.

"Ultimately, the voters of the 48th District will decide, and I have tremendous respect for that process," he said.

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.

Need a Donation? Colchester Cares

Colchester Cares is a giving group that supports various causes in town – and the group is looking for causes.

The group was established in 2020 and since its inception has donated over $80,000 to Colchester causes. If you know of a cause you feel is worthy of support, email colchestercares@gmail.com and describe the need. It will be considered at the group's next meeting, on Tuesday, Oct. 20, at 7 p.m., at the Carl Guild Community Room, 392 South Main St.

Colchester Cares members, who commit to donate $100 a quarter, present current needs in town and then vote on where to send the group's collective donations. 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.colchestercares.org or follow the group on Facebook.

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RE9-11-26

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Dr. Rabale Hasan • Dr. Katharine Sweeney
Bridget Forte, CNM • Shannon Morgan, CNM
Stephanie Welsh, CNM • Jessica Nivison, CNM
Anastasia Litke, CNM • Cory Arnold, APRN
Pamela Frappier, PA
— OUR LOCATIONS —
121 Broadway, Suite 2 Colchester
21 Ledgebrook Drive Mansfield
388 West Center Street Manchester
394 West Center Street Manchester
Women's Health Connecticut
ObGyn and Midwifery of Connecticut
RE10-16-26

SOOP to Perform Oct. 23

Marlborough's own Seat Of Our Pants (SOOP) will perform at Marlborough Arts Center Friday, Oct. 23, at 7:30 p.m. Doors open at 7 p.m. The center is located at 231 N. Main St.

The band started in 2011 with a few songs at a coffee house in East Hampton. Originally a trio made up of longtime Marlborough residents Carolyn Brodginski, Jeff Gorman and Mark Hall, the band added "fiddle man" Michael Frantzen from Hebron in 2014.

Best known locally for its annual summer concert, "Lake Fest," on Lake Terramuggus, the band has released three CDs during its 15 years. The Oct. 23 concert marks the band's 15th appearance at the Arts Center. For more info on the group, visit seatofourpantsmusic.com.

Tickets are $15 and available at the door.

'The Human Library' Coming Oct. 17

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

The Human Library is like a regular library only instead of checking out paper books, readers check out human Books. The human Books are people who have experienced discrimination or bias because of their lifestyle, beliefs, physical condition, heritage, religion, or identity. The human Books are all volunteers, most of whom come from the area. At the event, people can have 30-minute conversations with the Books they'd like to talk with. They can ask questions about the Book's life and their experiences. At Human Library events, Books have shared how it is to be blind, homeless, a gang leader, a tribal leader, having ADHD, surviving sexual abuse, and growing up in foster care.

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

Marlborough Masquerade 5K to Return

The eighth annual Marlborough Masquerade 5K will return Sunday, Oct. 25. Runners will step off promptly at 10.30 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 25, from Blish Park in Marlborough, running around Lake Terramuggus.

Sign up online at runsignup.com by Saturday, Oct. 24, for $30 per person, or $60 per family (up to 5 within the same household). Prices increase to $35/$65 for day-of registration. There will be shirts for runners, pending availability.

The race will feature computerized race results available and there will be prizes for best overall costume, best group costume, scariest costume, and funniest costume, along with top male/female runners.

For more information, email marlboroughctlions@gmail.com.

The Lions Club supports local charities such as the Food Bank, youth sports, scholarships, as well as larger organizations such as the Connecticut Lions Eye Research Fund, American School for the Deaf, and Lions Low Vision Center through various fundraisers, including road races.

If you're interested in becoming a Lion, or learning more about what we do, call Lions Membership Chair Brian McDermott at 860-918-0800.

Parks and Rec. Programs

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

Special Event: Pumpkin Decorating Contest: Saturday, Oct. 17, from 2-4 p.m., at Marlborough Senior Center. Bring your pumpkin and decorate it with friends. Prizes awarded for scariest pumpkin, funniest pumpkin and most original pumpkin. All decorating supplies are included.

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

Safe Sitter: For grades 6-8. Saturday, Nov. 7, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m., at Marlborough Senior Center. Designed to prepare students in grades 6-8 to be safe when they're home alone, watching younger siblings, or babysitting. Fee: $140/resident, $145/non-resident.

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

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

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

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

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

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



St. John Fisher Church News & Notes

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

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

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

Ministry, Social and Parish Community Events: An adult choir practices weekly; men's and women's prayer groups, Knights of Columbus, Christian Outreach and Prayer Shawl ministry meet monthly; and an active book club meets quarterly. Social activities are planned throughout the year to provide additional parish fellowship. For details, see the church calendar available on the church website.

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

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

Grief Share Support Group Underway

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

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

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

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

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

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

Arts Center Announces New Oil Painting Class

The non-profit Marlborough Arts Center (MAC) has announced a new four-week adult oil painting class, "Painting the Features," running on Tuesdays from Nov. 10 through Dec. 8 (with no class on Nov. 24). Held from 1-4:30 p.m. in the lower level of the Arts Center, the course will be taught by award-winning figurative and portrait painter Gabrielle Castle.

Students will focus on painting individual facial features – the nose, mouth, eyes, and ears – using photo references. Each session begins with a one-hour live demonstration followed by guided studio time, focusing on simplifying complex shapes, mixing accurate flesh tones, and controlling values and edges. Basic drawing experience is required, as students will draw features directly onto the canvas with a brush.

Castle's contemporary portraiture has earned recognition in international competitions, including the Almenara Art Prize and the 18th International ARC Salon. Her work was featured on the cover of *Fine Art Connoisseur* magazine's December 2025 issue, and she regularly exhibits at the Salmagundi Club in Manhattan.

Tuition for the series is $160. Space is limited, and proceeds support the local non-profit arts center. MAC is located at 231 North Main St., Marlborough. For more information and online registration, visit marlborougharts.org/classes, or send a text to 860-926-7500.

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.

Setback Tournament

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

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

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

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RE4-17-26

Sewer Usage Bills Due

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

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

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

Senior Center News and Notes

Marlborough Senior Center, 17 School Drive, is open for activities. For more information about any senior center program, or to register, call 860-295-6209 or email socialservices@marlboroughct.gov. Also contact the senior center for a list of regularly occurring weekly and monthly programs, such as billiards, Mahjongg, chair massage, the monthly Cookbook Club and Birthday Clubs, a 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.

Marlborough Senior Center Health Fair and Chatham Health Vaccine Clinic: Friday, Oct. 16, 1-3 p.m. All are invited to this free event featuring information, resources, and community connections focused on healthy aging.

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.

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.

Fall Costume Party: Friday, Oct. 30, noon-2 p.m. Come dressed in your favorite fall or Halloween costume, enjoy a catered lunch, and test your music knowledge with free Music Bingo. Cost is $10 for Marlborough residents, $12 for non-residents.

AARP Smart Driver: Tuesday, Nov. 3, 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. You could be eligible for a multi-year discount on your auto insurance. Bring your AARP card/number for a discounted price and the exact amount for payment as no change will be available. Cost is $20 for AARP members, $25 for non-members.

Sound Bath: Wednesday, Nov. 4, 2 p.m. Sound baths are a wellness experience where soothing sounds and vibrations from instruments such as singing bowls, chimes, and gongs help promote calm, relaxation, and a sense of wellbeing. Jeremy Tucker, the resident engagement director at the Residence at Glastonbury, will lead this experience.

Diamond Art Bookmark: Friday, Nov. 6, 12:30-1 p.m. In this free event, create your own sparkling bookmark.

Social Services: Energy Assistance: Heating (oil, electric, heat included in rent, propane, pellets, wood) assistance available through CEAP. Season runs through May 31, 2027. Income-based: household of 1/$48,714, household of 2/$63,703. Application assistance for residents 55+ through senior center.

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

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

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

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

Winter Clothes Drive

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

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

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

RTC Bingo, Crafts and Goodies

The Marlborough Republican Town Committee will hold a night of bingo, crafts and goodies Friday, Oct. 23, at the American Legion, 128 East Hampton Rd. (Route 66), Marlborough.

Doors open at 6 p.m., and bingo starts at 6:30 p.m.

Vendors include One of a Kind Jewelry by Denise Hills, Wholly Goat, L&L Farm, Ranger's Run! Pizza from Village Green and Snacks included.

Advance tickets are $20, and tickets at the door are $25.

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

LEGAL NOTICE
PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION
HEBRON, CONNECTICUT

The Hebron Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing at a meeting scheduled for Wednesday, October 28, 2026 at 7:00 P.M., to be held virtually through the GoToMeeting Platform, on the following:

I. **Petition 2026-11** – Application from Michelle Nicholson for Special Permit for the sale of open alcoholic beverages at the Flour Girl Café at 14 Main Street in accordance with Section 5.O.1 of the Hebron Zoning Regulations, Hebron Green District.

Planning and Zoning Commission
Oct 28, 2026, 7:00 – 10:00 PM (America/New_York)
Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.
https://meet.goto.com/960717229
You can also dial in using your phone.
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Dated at Hebron, Connecticut, this 14th day of October 2026.
Frank Zitkus, Chair

2TB 10/16, 10/23

Fall Cemetery Clean-Up Coming

The fall cemetery clean-up is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 7, at Marlboro Cemetery. Volunteers are invited to participate and are asked to meet at 9 a.m.

People are asked to lease remove seasonal pots and any personal items prior to the clean-up. All items found to be in violation of cemetery rules and regulations or a hinderance to maintenance will be removed. These items include shepherd hooks, glass objects, solar lights, items hanging from trees, pots, or items beyond the front or back of the stone.

If you plan to reuse the item next season, please remove and take home.



Election Day Coming Up

Election Day is coming up Tuesday, Nov. 3, and the town registrars of voters has passed along some related pieces of information.

Voter Registration: All registrars of voters offices in Connecticut will hold a statewide voter registration session from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 16. This is the last regular session for admission of electors who have turned 18, become a US citizen, or moved within or to the state of Connecticut. This deadline includes by mail, which must be post marked by this date, registration at the DMV and online registration.

After this deadline voters much register in person at their local registrars office or Town Hall during regular business hours. Voters may also register during early voting or on election day and will cast a Same Day Registration ballot.

On Monday, Nov. 2, the registrars of voters will hold another voter registration session, with local offices open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. that day.

Early Voting begins on Monday, Oct. 19, and continues through Sunday, Nov. 1. Voters may vote in person at Town Hall between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m., each day with extended hours of 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 27, and Thursday, Oct. 29. Voters who need to utilize absentee voting should touch base with the town clerk at 860-295-6206. In Connecticut, you do not need an excuse to request or receive an absentee ballot.

The registrars of voters office is in Town Hall, 26 North Main St. Election Day voting is held at Marlborough Elementary School from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. Curbside voting is available during early voting and on Election Day. There is signage indicating where curbside assistance is available; call the number on the sign.

Also, you can check your registration by calling the office on 860-295-6166; office hours are limited so please leave a message and your call will be returned as soon as possible. If you have any questions about voting or your registration status, call the registrars' office.

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.marlcongchurch.org and recorded for later viewing. Church pastor is the Rev. Valerie Seaver. Sunday school is held Sundays at 10 a.m. All children in the community are welcome and invited to attend. Childcare for infants and toddlers is provided downstairs in the nursery; however, children are always welcome at the worship service.

Oct. 18 is a Bluegrass Sunday, featuring hand-clapping music by Joyful Blue Bluegrass Band. The service will be led by Seaver. Her sermon title is "Render" based on Psalm 96:1-7 and Matthew 22:15-22.

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.

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.

Trunk or Treat: Saturday, Oct. 24, 2-4 p.m., at Marlborough Elementary School, 25 School Drive. Sponsored by Marlborough Co-Op Nursery School. See trucks, activities, face-painting, raffles, bake sale all for $5 per person.

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

Like us on Facebook
RivereastNewsBulletin

Election Day Bake Sale

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

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



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★ *Letters, cont. from page 8*

our struggling workers are key for our families.

Steve also voted no to early voting after Connecticut voters approved it by constitutional amendment (HB- 5004-2023) and on absentee voting reforms (HB-5001, 2026). Why is he so concerned that the people in our district have access to a variety of ways to vote? Happily, people can vote by absentee ballot, and during the early voting window. (This year it is from Oct. 19 to Nov. 1.)

Ellen believes that voting should be secure, accessible and convenient for every eligible voter. She will never vote to make this process more difficult for the people of the 55th district.

Steve has a caption on the mailer that states, "You can count on me to do the right thing." My question is when is this going to happen?

Ellen Paul has a plan to address issues that residents of the 55th District are looking for. Please join me in voting for Ellen Paul whenever it's most convenient for you before Nov. 3, 2026.

Maryanne C. Leichter – Amston

Paul vs. Weir

To the Editor:

Dan Malloy, Democratic Party Governor 2011-2019 = 8 years.

Ned Lamont, Democratic Party Governor 2019-2027 = 8 years.

Sixteen years of Democratic Party control of the governorship, and the state Senate and the state House of Representatives.

Ellen Paul is complaining about affordability, state support for public education, utility company accountability and housing and childcare costs. Quote from the 10/9/26 *Rivereast*: "Ellen served as a congressional aide to advance legislation and secure resources for communities". The issues Ellen Paul is complaining about, are the issues created by the Democratic Party that Ellen supports, belongs to and actively participates in.

Ellen Paul wants to reduce Republican representation in the Connecticut state House of Representatives from 49 to 48 representatives. How much more power should the Democratic Party hold. It is the Democratic Party that is not accountable, when there is unchallenged power in state government.

There have been extremely negative and false mailings "approved by Ellen Paul," stating Steve Weir is a "yes man" for Trump. This is an insult to the intelligence of District 55 voters. Connecticut state House of Representatives vote on Connecticut state legislation, not on federal legislation.

Why does Ellen Paul now need to "become acquainted with District 55 voters"? Steve Weir has lived, worked, socialized, supported and participated in District 55 life for 20 years.

Ellen Paul is the "yes woman" to the Democratic Party's uncompromising negativity to common sense and balanced government for Connecticut citizens.

Sue Custance – Hebron

The Man I Married

To the Editor:

As Steve's wife, I see the side of him that doesn't make it into the headlines: the long days, late nights, and the countless times he makes room for someone who needs his help. His commitment to serving others extends to his work, countless volunteer endeavors, boards and commissions, his state Representative duties, our children and our family. It is simply part of who he is.

Steve cares deeply about our families, businesses and our communities. He listens, shows up, and puts in the work because he believes people deserve a representative who takes their concerns seriously. I have watched him giving his time and energy to helping others – quietly and without expecting anything in return. That is the man I know and love.

Public service requires sacrifice, and I see firsthand how much Steve gives of himself to this responsibility. He does it because he believes in our towns and the people who call them home. Yes, he reads every bill, sometimes very early in the morning or late at night. Anyone who has reached out to him knows he's accessible. His cell phone number is published on almost all of his state rep material.

When I first met him he was already a young man of great character, hard-working, smart and kind. He and I were a relatively new young love story when both my parents passed away my senior year of high school (my father lost a short battle to ALS and nine weeks later my mom was murdered). Steve as a young man could've run for the hills, but instead he stuck by my side and became my rock, with his quiet, caring and steadfast nature. He is the reason my once nightmare of circumstances turned into the beautiful life we worked hard to build for our three daughters.

I knew when I married an Eagle Scout that I was marrying a man of true integrity, grit, who is committed to helping others. There are many members of our community who can and have attested to Steve's commitment to helping and to serving others. Then, as now, my husband – and your state representative – is a good man and dedicated servant.

So, take it from someone who knows him best: Steve Weir cares deeply about our communities. It is why he serves, and why I want him to continue. He has my vote, and I hope he earns yours.

Allegra Weir – Hebron

Appreciation for Carpino

To the Editor:

As residents of Portland, we would like to take a moment to recognize and thank State Representative Christie Carpino for her many years of service to our community.

For approximately 15 years, Christie has represented Portland and Cromwell in Hartford, and throughout that time, we have appreciated her dedication, accessibility, and genuine concern for the people she represents.

What we especially appreciate about Christie is that her commitment doesn't end at the State Capitol. She is a familiar face throughout Portland, attending community events, meeting with residents, listening to concerns, and taking an active interest in what is happening in our town. She understands that being an effective representative means being present, available, and willing to do the work.

We have personally witnessed the time and energy Christie devotes to Portland. Whether helping residents navigate state government, advocating for the needs of our community, or supporting local initiatives, she has consistently demonstrated how seriously she takes her responsibilities.

We also appreciate that Christie understands the importance of working together. Regardless of political affiliation, having someone who listens, communicates, and maintains strong relationships with the people she represents is something we value.

Public service is not always easy, and much of the work that goes into representing a community happens quietly, without recognition or fanfare. We believe that dedication deserves to be acknowledged.

We are grateful for Christie's years of service, her friendship, and her continued commitment to Portland and Cromwell.

Michael and Mary Pelton – Portland

Steve Weir Gets It

To the Editor:

I am writing to enthusiastically endorse Steve Weir for reelection as our Connecticut State Representative for the 55th District. I know what it takes to be a successful House member. Having watched his dedication to our community, it is clear that he remains the right choice to represent our values and ensure our voices are heard in Hartford.

Steve has consistently demonstrated that he values the input of his constituents above all else. He makes a deliberate effort to share with constituents the details of active bills, and speak up on the issues that affect their daily lives. In an era where politics can feel distant, Steve's open-door approach and emphasis on community feedback are deeply refreshing. Whether advocating for sensible fiscal policies, addressing critical housing issues, or ensuring our towns receive state support, Steve approaches every challenge with practical, common-sense solutions. He recognizes the immense pressure that working families and local businesses are under, and he fights tirelessly to make Connecticut a more affordable and accessible place to live, work, and raise a family.

We need a representative who is accessible, transparent, and focused on results who reaches across the aisle. Steve Weir has proven himself to be exactly that kind of leader. Please join me in voting to send Steve Weir back to Hartford. Steve Weir gets it.

Pam Sawyer – Bolton,
Former State Representative, 55th District

Paul Will Honor Our Vote

To the Editor:

Do you remember voting to amend the Connecticut constitution to allow early voting? It passed statewide in 2022 with a clear majority.

So how did our representative respond when the legislature took up the law to carry out what we had decided? State Rep. Steve Weir voted no. It passed the House 107 to 35 without him.

That was not the only time. When the legislature voted to let you decide whether Connecticut should allow no-excuse absentee voting, he voted no on even asking the question, though 16 of his fellow Republicans said yes. When absentee-voting reforms came up this spring, he voted no again.

When the people of Connecticut speak clearly through a referendum majority, they expect their representative, of whatever party, to honor that voice. Each of these votes tested that expectation: does our representative carry out what we decide, or second-guess it?

Ellen Paul starts from the opposite premise. She trusts the voters of this district. She has pledged to make voting secure, accessible, and convenient for every eligible voter, and never to make participating harder. Carrying out what the people decide is, in her view, the first duty of the job.

The 55th does not need a representative who audits our decisions. It needs one who respects them. On Nov. 3, you get the deciding vote: ellenforstaterep.com.

Sincerely,
Karen Wilkinson – Marlborough

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

Town Manager

To the Editor:

The Portland BOS Oct. 21 meeting agenda includes a resolution to form a seven-member Charter commission. Under Charter rules the commission is allowed 16 members.

The focus of the commission's duties should include installing a town manager to be chief administrative officer of the town. Typically, a town manager is a contract position requiring a degree in Public Administration that focuses on accounting/budgets/bonding, contracts, labor laws and all aspects of running a town. Towns with managers have experienced an increase in retail, development, and businesses over the past 10 years, expanding the tax base to reduce the tax burden on homeowners. Portland has gone in reverse.

Presently, there are 20 empty store fronts along Main Street and Rt 66 as over 35,000 vehicles cross the bridge each day. Due in part to the lack of qualified leadership to address policy and monetary planning under the Plan of Conservation & Development and Route 66 Corridor Study, Portland has fallen behind surrounding towns.

Portland's first selectman is an elected position with a salary of $90K/yr with no requirement of experience or education. In many years won by default. The lack of qualified leadership has cost the town in missed opportunities to compete with other towns for business as citizens work, shop and eat outside of town.

Last spring, First Selectman Pelton skipped a Plan of Conservation and Development public forum to attend Little League opening day in which he posted 42 photos of children attending the event on social media. Posting photos daily on social media of driveways, sidewalks or signs seems to fill the first selectman's day. The first selectman appears to have an unquenchable need for social media recognition to justify his position.

In a *Rivereast* article, the first selectman markets Brainard Place and the Spa as a tax boom. However, the town will only collect property tax estimated at 2.6% of the $43M budget. On record, selectman Pelton consistently voted for tax abatements for Brainard Place while posting construction videos on social media. The Spa has changed its name and is still under construction.

A town manager as chief administrative officer should be added to the charter changes with oversight by a Finance committee and the BOS with compensation equal to qualifications. Anything less would be a disservice to the community and block meaningful change for another 5-10 years.

Rose Aletta – Portland

Fiscal Watchdog

To the Editor:

As someone who has spent years reviewing the state budget line by line, I have watched how your tax dollars are allocated. That is what drove me to run again. When I helped create and pass the fiscal guardrails in 2017, they were a bipartisan step after years of deficits and tax hikes. Since that time, the growing supermajority has found every way to spend without real oversight. Democrats eliminated the "Accountability" Subcommittee from the legislative budget process in 2023.

Now let us address the circulated myth that the fiscal guardrails are stopping government from growing and they need to be eliminated. Connecticut's population has grown only from about 3.58 million to 3.69 million over the last decade. The nonpartisan Office of Fiscal Analysis shows appropriated fund expenditures of $19.4 billion in 2017 compared to approximately $28.6 billion budgeted for fiscal year 2027. Does that sound like folks in Hartford are watching your pocketbook like it is their own?

Now some key legislators and state officials are considering further weakening or eliminating the guardrails altogether. The state has paid billions toward state employee and retired teacher pensions, yet that progress faces pressure, too. This is a state with the highest debt per resident in the entire country. Of course, no one is talking about the estimated $1 billion budget shortfall that awaits the next legislature. Softening the caps does not make the bills disappear. It simply sends it to our kids.

Connecticut families are already stretching every dollar. They deserve a government that lives within its means, just like they do. Limited oversight has already shown its costs: outrageous questionable spending at our state college and universities system, mismanaged energy assistance dollars meant for struggling families, and legislative earmarks under federal investigation.

My approach is straightforward and rooted in care for Connecticut families. Defend the fiscal guardrails – no carve-outs, no workarounds, and no quiet expiration. Reinstate legislative review for results, accountability and transparency. Prioritize education funding that helps towns keep taxes low. Pay down debt. And be willing to say no, even when unpopular. I ask for your support so I can continue watching over our tax dollars with the same care that I have always shown.

In-person early voting starts Oct. 19th. I would be honored to have your vote.

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

Note: *The 34th House District covers East Hampton, East Haddam and part of Salem.*

Paul an Excellent Candidate

To the Editor:

The *Rivereast* does a great service for our community in publishing each week what are often well thought out letters to the editor. It is an important contribution at election time, and as a reader, I especially welcome the letters of support for candidates that come from citizens, rather than friends, family members, or business associates. This is that kind of letter. I am inspired to write in support of the Ellen Paul, the excellent Democratic candidate for the 55th.

In this time of political divisiveness, we need legislative leaders who can do more than follow a party line like sheep – we need politicians with solid common sense, a strong commitment to social responsibility and fairness, and a willingness to collaborate to pass the kind of legislation that will support a safe environment, for us today and for our children tomorrow. It takes courage to choose an independent perspective – but truly it is the way to really see our democracy at work. The incumbent, Steve Weir has voted along his party lines 95+ percent of the time, and often falls to the right of even his own party caucus. I want my representative to be able to work across the aisle to create and pass legislation that we all can benefit from. Ellen Paul is ready for that.

One of the most important reasons I'm motivated to support Ellen Paul is because she recognizes the need to prioritize support of the middle class - the working people who keep this country going. A critical issue is fair housing and the support of opportunities for families to be able to afford to buy reasonable homes. It is part of the American dream that so many of our children find out of reach. While there have been lots of bills that would support this effort to increase availability of lower cost homes, Steve Weir has consistently voted against them. Ellen would not.

Ellen's priorities include work to support the most vulnerable members of our communities, our children and our seniors. She is an advocate for fair taxation and she supports a science-based perspective having to do with energy. She feels a duty to protect our beautiful environment. Steve Weir has voted against virtually all bills that mention green energy, including recent solar bills.

From my perspective, the choice is a clear one. I hope you'll vote for Ellen Paul.

Kathleen Barrett – Andover

Implied Moral Equivalence

To the Editor:

I've endeavored to understand what the Democratic Party actually stands for. John Barnowski and Scott Sauyet have provided glimpses of what is important to them and their party. Barnowski claims voting Democratic will save democracy whereas voting Republican threatens to "extend ultra-conservative trends" into his town.

Barnowski's previous letters typically consist of hit-and-run attacks on Republicans, and issues surrounding both ends of life where he is an ardent supporter of abortion and a proponent of legal euthanasia. Scott Sauyet shows that his and Ellen Paul's most important issue involves utilizing school libraries to circumvent parental authority and guidance regarding matters related to the development of minor children.

The fact that Sauyet and Paul brood over what they call "Banned Books Week" is both telling and bizarre. Reviewing what books are age-appropriate for minor-aged students is very similar to what the Motion Picture Association's rating system does for movies. Sauyet's approvingly repeating Paul's statement about her legislation "protecting a library's ability to carry books like the Bible as much as it protects books about gender identity" is both outrageous and alarming. The ridiculously-implied moral equivalence is shocking.

Why are Democrats so obsessed and focused on the sexual orientations and potential gender dysphoria in minor children who are not their own? I find that very peculiar and warranting greater scrutiny. Their recent proposals to start early education at six months of age shows their objective of controlling our children from the very start of their lives.

I find it revealing that in recent weeks Sauyet and Paul have contradicted themselves by first championing an increase in the age of consent for girls to get married, while at the same time indignantly calling for no age restrictions on minor children to view materials they aren't emotionally stable or mature enough to process safely.

Democrats think people who are struggling should be made more comfortable in their deprivations. Republicans think people need opportunities to change their lives and to substantially improve their situations. Rather than foolishly increasing the minimum wage, which only devalues the currency causing a recalibration and increase in other prices, Republicans encourage people to develop new higher-value skills to obtain higher pay.

Democrats have demoralized generations of children to have fear and dread regarding their futures. Fewer and fewer are marrying and having children. We need more children and fewer Democrats.

Sam Prentice – Andover

See Letters, page 31



A Family Celebration in Spain… **The Bankoski Family of Portland recently traveled to the historic Medieval village of Peralda for a family wedding. Peralada is located in the Alt Emporda region of Catalonia, Spain, famous for its castle, wine, and annual international music festival.**



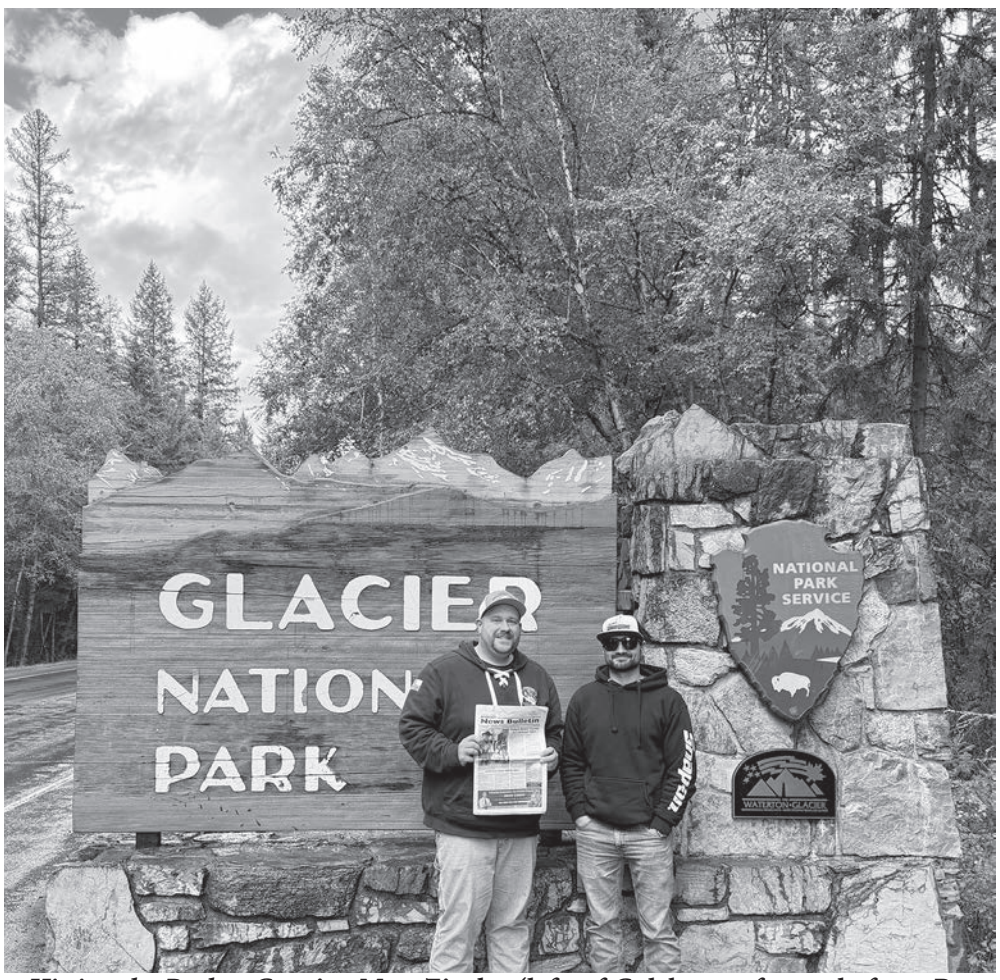
Rivereast in the Rain… **Torrential rain did not deter Jane Muskatallo of Portland from bringing the *Rivereast* to Eastport, Maine, on her cruise heading to Canada on the Volendam.**

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!



Block Island Bliss… **Lisa Loffredo of East Hampton went to Block Island in August – and brought along the *Rivereast*!**



Hitting the Park… **Cousins Matt Ziegler (left, of Colchester, formerly from Portland) and Brian Masselli (right, of Portland) are pictured with the Rivereast at Glacier National Park in Montana on Sept. 3. They vacationed to Yellowstone National Park, Glacier National Park and Grand Tetons recently.**

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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Anderson Jewelers Celebrates One Year

By Olivia Cibula

After decades in East Hartford, Anderson Jewelers moved to Glastonbury last September.

According to shop owner George Agnelli, the past year has been "quite the adventure" since first opening Anderson Jewelers' Glastonbury doors. The new shop is located at 411 Naubuc Ave.

Bringing its jewelry, custom design and repair services into a much smaller space, Anderson Jewelers will officially celebrate its one-year anniversary in town on Sept. 28.

While the location may be smaller, Agnelli said business has grown since the move. The store's former East Hartford location was approximately 4,000 square feet. The new location is closer to 1,000 square feet – a change Agnelli said he made intentionally.

"I tried to make this like a little boutique shop without a boutique price," he explained.

For Agnelli, a smaller space creates a more personal environment where customers can feel comfortable and receive one-on-one attention. "Bigger is not better in the jewelry industry," he explained.

The Glastonbury location has also offered practical advantages, including easy access from the highway and its own parking lot. Agnelli said the former location could become difficult for customers to reach during town events, road races and football games, costing the business several Saturdays each year.

Since opening in Glastonbury, Agnelli said the store has been welcoming approximately seven to 10 new customers a week, and sometimes that many in a single day. He said the store's service business has also grown, creating a need for additional qualified employees to handle repairs.

"The town has welcomed me with open arms, and I'm embracing it back and trying to do the best I can for everybody," Agnelli said.

That relationship with the community is central to how Agnelli approaches the business.

Anderson Jewelers has a history stretching back nearly a century. According to Agnelli, Mr. Anderson purchased the business in 1929, just days before the stock market crash that marked the beginning of the Great Depression.

Agnelli's father began working for Anderson in 1945 and eventually received the store from him in 1968. Agnelli began working alongside his father and Anderson in 1980. His father continued working into his 80s, and Agnelli said he enjoyed being around customers.

For Agnelli, preserving the business means preserving more than its name. It means maintaining the same approach to customer service that his father taught him.

"You've got to give customers value, you have to give them service, and you've got to be honest with them," Agnelli said. "That's the whole key to the game."

Agnelli is on the sales floor every day, working directly with customers and handling the day-to-day decisions of the business. The store does not use commission-based sales, allowing employees to focus on customers rather than competing for sales.

"It's always for the customer. It's always been, always will be," he said.

That philosophy extends beyond purchases. Anderson Jewelers will service jewelry even if it was purchased somewhere else, Agnelli said.

"It doesn't matter if you bought something somewhere else, I'll still service it," he said. "I'll still help you with it because then I'm making the connection with a customer."

Agnelli compares finding a jeweler to finding a doctor. Once customers establish a relationship with someone they trust, he said, they often continue returning even after moving away. Today, some former customers who have moved out of state still call Agnelli to purchase jewelry, which he then ships to them.

"One thing you can't get from online or anywhere else is service," he said.

That personal approach is also why Agnelli has chosen not to sell jewelry online. Instead, the store offers a full range of services, including jewelry repair, appraisals and custom design. A goldsmith, watchmaker and appraiser are available through the business, with a GIA Graduate Gemologist on call.



Anderson Jewelers moved from East Hampton to a new Glastonbury location last September. The year since opening at its new spot has been "quite an adventure," according to Anderson Jewelers owner George Agnelli.

Custom jewelry has become a significant part of the business. Customers can bring in a photograph of a piece they want and Agnelli said the store can use it to create a custom design.

The store also offers wax models, allowing customers to see and handle a physical representation of a piece before it is produced.

"If you have a picture of it, I can make it," Agnelli said.

The store uses 3D technology for custom pieces and to reproduce existing rings or create matching bands. Agnelli said the technology has made the process easier while giving customers a clearer idea of what their finished jewelry will look like.

Anderson Jewelers also buys estate jewelry and offers vintage and antique pieces alongside new jewelry. Agnelli said pieces purchased from customers are not automatically scrapped; jewelry with resale value can instead be restored and sold, potentially giving the original owner more value than simply selling the piece for its metal.

The store also buys gold and coins. Agnelli said he prefers traditional testing methods that allow him to show customers exactly what their gold is worth, emphasizing transparency throughout the transaction.

The same idea applies to natural and lab-grown diamonds, repairs and other purchases: Agnelli emphasized the importance of customers understanding what they are buying and what it is worth.

At the heart of the business, however, remains the relationship between the jeweler and the customer. Agnelli wants customers to feel as though they are working directly with the owner rather than simply entering another large jewelry chain.

"I just want to be a jeweler to the community," he said.

As Anderson Jewelers enters its second year in Glastonbury, Agnelli said he is focused less on dramatically expanding the business and more on maintaining the level of service that has defined it for generations.

Looking ahead, Agnelli hopes to see the store's traditions and values continue well into the future. After decades of building relationships with customers and becoming part of the community, he wants to ensure that the knowledge, craftsmanship and personal service that define Anderson Jewelers remain at the heart of the business for years to come.

"I would like the store to continue with the same service," he said.

For now, Agnelli is continuing to build relationships with customers in the new location while carrying forward a family philosophy that has remained largely unchanged for generations.

"I want my customers to have the best experience," he said. "You just try to do the best you can for everybody.

For more information on Anderson Jewelers, call 860-528-2181 or visit www.andersonjewelrystore.com.

Laugh for Life Returns Oct. 16

The second annual Laugh for Life will be held Friday, Oct. 16, at 7 p.m., at the RHAM High School auditorium in Hebron. Doors open at 6:15 p.m.

This is a fundraiser supporting Caring Families Pregnancy Services, a local nonprofit serving families throughout eastern Connecticut.

The night will feature three touring comedians: Jim McCue, founder of the Boston Comedy Festival and a nationally touring comedian; Seth Knorr, a finalist in three national comedy competitions and a performer in the World Series of Comedy, with a Dry Bar Comedy special to his name; and Gordon Douglas, chaplain to the Christian Comedy Association's 400+ performers and back by popular demand.

Some special local guests will also appear.

Tickets are $30 each, or $50 for a couples package. There is also a "Bring the Crew" package of 20 tickets, for $400.

For tickets, go to givebutter.com/laughforlife.

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.

Youth Soccer to Host Fundraising Soirée

RHAM Youth Soccer is inviting parents, coaches, friends, and community members to come together for an evening of fundraising at the RHAM Youth Soccer Soirée on Friday, Oct. 30, at 6:30 p.m., at Blackledge in Hebron.

As the organization's largest fundraiser of the year, the Soirée promises an evening of food, prizes and community spirit, all in support of the young athletes who participate in the RHAM Youth Soccer program.

Guests can look forward to more than 25 raffle baskets generously donated by RHAM soccer teams, a 50/50 raffle, door prizes, and a silent auction featuring an assortment of exciting items. The evening will also include hors d'oeuvres, drinks, and opportunities to socialize with fellow soccer families and supporters.

This is a casual, adults-only event; there is no need to dress up.

"RHAM Youth Soccer is about so much more than what happens on the field," said fundraising chair Ashley Wolf. "Our coaches, parents, volunteers, and community supporters give countless hours throughout the year to create a positive experience for our young players. This event is an opportunity to celebrate that dedication while raising important funds to keep our soccer program strong and thriving."

Tickets are $40 per person or $75 per couple when prepaid. RHAM Youth Soccer coaches are invited to attend free of charge in appreciation of their commitment to the program. Advance payments can be made through Venmo at @RHAM-youthsoccer.

Organizers ask that all attendees RSVP in advance, including those planning to pay cash at the door and coaches attending free of charge. Accurate attendance numbers are essential for event planning.

RSVP online at tinyurl.com/rhamsoccersoiree.

For more information, call Wolf at 860-301-4517.

College Democrats Endorse Needleman

The organizations College Democrats of Connecticut and Connecticut Against Gun Violence each recently endorsed state Sen. Norm Needleman (D-33) as he seeks a fifth term in the state Senate.

The 12-town 33rd State Senate District includes Colchester, East Hampton and Portland, as well as Chester, Clinton, Deep River, East Haddam, Essex, Haddam, Lyme, Old Saybrook and Westbrook.

"Our current students are tomorrow's workers and leaders, and we need to support and protect them, especially focusing on keeping them in Connecticut after graduation to support our economy," Needleman said of the College Democrats endorsement. "I'm proud to receive this endorsement and plan to continue supporting initiatives helping our students thrive."

Needleman's office said his recent support for youth and students in Connecticut include bolstering student aid programs for college students and graduate students, expanding access to higher education through scholarship and community college program expansions, delivering automatic assistance to Connecticut universities to state students and providing important state funding to counter federal cuts.

Needleman also welcomed the endorsement of Connecticut Against Gun Violence.

"In Connecticut, we unfortunately know the worst possible results gun violence can unleash upon our communities, and that guides our policies," he said Sen. Needleman. "I have long championed common-sense gun safety policies in our state, ones that support safe storage and restricted access from those who should not have them. Should I have the honor of returning to the Senate, I will continue working to support reasonable safety measures.

Needleman voted in support of gun safety measures including Ethan's Law, expanding safe firearm storage measures; restrictions on homemade and untraceable "ghost guns" and restrictions on bulk handgun purchases; increased accountability for gun manufacturers; and prevention of "straw" purchases of firearms where individuals purchase guns and then provide them to third parties.

So far this year, Needleman has additionally received the endorsements of AFSCME, 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.

Osten Points to Experience, While Guidone Pushes for Change

By Toriana Williams



Osten



Guidone

Voters in the 19th State Senate District have a choice between incumbent Democratic state Sen. Cathy Osten and Republican candidate Jason Guidone, and will decide between the two on Nov. 3.

The 19th District includes the *Rivereast* town of Hebron and Marlborough, and Columbia, Franklin, Lebanon, Ledyard, Lisbon, Montville, Norwich and Sprague.

Early voting begins Oct. 19 and runs through Nov. 1. For Marlborough, early voting will take place at the Marlborough Town Hall Conference Room, 26 N. Main Street; for Hebron, early voting will take place at the Hebron Town Hall lower-level meeting room, 15 Gilead Street. Early voting hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day, except on Oct. 27 and 29, when the hours are extended to 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

In interviews with the *Rivereast*, both candidates talked about the cost of living and the needs of local communities, but they offered different views on state spending, public safety and how much power towns should have over local decisions.

Guidone Says 'Reduce the Financial Pressure'

Guidone, of Hebron, said his main goal in Hartford would be to make Connecticut more affordable. He wants the state to look closely at its spending and find ways to lower costs for families, seniors and people on fixed incomes.

His platform also focused on public safety and local control. He pointed to staffing problems in police departments, using Norwich as an example. He said the city had more police openings than people applying for jobs, compared with years when departments had several more applicants.

Guidone connected the problem to the state's 2020 police accountability law. He believes changes are needed to protect officers from personal financial risk while keeping useful parts of the law, such as body cameras.

On local control, Guidone said towns should have more say over schools, zoning and other similar local matters. He said state rules can create extra costs for towns, especially when the state doesn't provide enough funding to cover them.

"I would be far more conservative than that," said Guidone when comparing his approach to state spending with Osten's record. He said he would review the budget to decide what should stay and what could be cut.

He also questioned state rules that, in his view, add work and costs for local government. He said the state should offer guidance instead of making broad rules that affect every town in the same way.

Guidone added that he believes lawmakers need to hear more from the people outside the Capital. He wants to bring the views of residents, businesses and community groups to Hartford.

"The momentum is fantastic," he said, describing the support he has felt during his campaign. He added that this run is different from his first campaign because he and his wife have gained more experience with the process.

Osten Is 'About the People'

Osten, a Sprague resident, described her approach as one focused on residents and the needs of the district. She said her work covers a variety of issues, from roads and schools to help for seniors, business growth, farming and support for veterans.

"My platform can be identified as one that is about the people, for the people and about what they need done," she said in an email.

She described her approach as common-sense and said she works to address concerns raised by people across the district. Her experience in the Senate, she said, helps her understand what needs to be done for local communities.

Osten was first elected to the Senate in 2012 and is now serving her fifth term. Before entering politics, she served in the U.S. Army and worked for more than 20 years in Connecticut's Department of Correction. She has also worked on issues involving public workers, workplace rights and support for older residents.

Osten said she does not take voters' support for granted, even after years in office.

"I never take an election for granted," she said. "I will be working up until 8 p.m. on Nov. 3 in order to be successful."

Different Paths for the District

The candidates showed two different views of how Connecticut should address its problems. Guidone said the state needs tighter control of spending, fewer burdens on towns and stronger support for police. Osten pointed to her record and said she works on a wide range of issues that matter to the district's towns and residents.

Both candidates said affordability matters, but they differ on how state government should respond.

Guidone asked residents to "get to know your candidates and vote."

Osten thanked district residents for their support and asked them to continue backing her.

"I have been honored by your support and would be grateful for your continued support," said Osten.

Important Election Info

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

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

Nov. 2: All registrars of voters' offices in Connecticut will hold a statewide voter registration session from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. This is the last registration session for admission of electors who have turned 18, become a U.S. citizen, or moved to Connecticut since Oct. 16 of this year. This registration session is also open to members of the Armed Forces, and former Armed Forces members who have been discharged within the calendar year.

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

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

Rivereast Standout Athletes of the Week



East Hampton High School girls soccer has started the season with 10 straight wins, beating those opponents by a combined score of 49-2.

By Josh Howard

Giuliana DonAroma – East Hampton High School (Soccer): DonAroma scored a pair of goals and dished out an assist as the Bellringers topped Valley Regional, 8-0, in Deep River on Oct. 9. DonAroma, a junior, powered a potent offense that also got a goal and three assists from Quinn Rurka and a goal and two assists from Liv Correia as East Hampton improved to 10-0 overall this season. Through the undefeated start, the Bellringers have outscored their opponents 49-2 over the ten matches. The team next travels to Northwestern Regional High School on Saturday, Oct. 17 at 11 a.m. before returning to EHHS for the team's regular season home finale when they host RHAM on Wednesday, Oct. 21 at 4 p.m.

Evan Piascik – Portland High School (Soccer): Piascik netted two goals as the Highlanders defeated North Branford, 6-1, at PHS on Oct. 8. Piascik, a senior, headed an offense that also got goals from Nate Dietrichsen, Aidan Currie, and Aidan Maselek, and Jackson Vodola. Diego Puente dished out three assists as the team won their fifth game of the season. Next up, Portland welcomes the neighboring Bellringers of East Hampton High School to PHS tonight (Friday, Oct. 16) for a game at 7 p.m.

Kiersten Page – Bacon Academy (Cross-Country): Page won a multi-school meet in Thompson on Oct. 6. Page, a junior, finished first in the 5,000 meters race with a time of 20:06, placing in front of runner-up Penny Poole (20:35) of Montville and the other 28 competitors in the field. The Bobcats also won the events as a team, downing Waterford, St. Bernard, and Tourtellotte. Bacon placed seven runners in the top ten with Olivia Carrington (4th), Ryleigh Angell (5th), Lila Wilson (6th), Samantha Nadeau (8th), Ashtyn King (9th), Keegan McKenzie (10th) following Page's lead across the finish line.

Liana Fox – RHAM High School (Soccer): Fox scored a pair of goals and dished out an assist as the Raptors defeated East Hartford, 4-0, on Oct. 7. Fox, a senior captain, led a unit that also got a goal and two assists from senior captain Morgan McCarthy and a goal from sophomore Giuliana McLaughlin. The Raptors have posted a record of 7-4 this fall with a match against Windsor slated for tonight (Friday, Oct. 16) at Trinity Health Stadium in Hartford at 7 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:

10/20: 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.

★ *Letters, cont. from page 28*

I Call Baloney

To the Editor:

I have been asking for specific information from Steve Weir. I have read every article and endorsement letter for Steve Weir, hoping to see legitimate responses.

Last week, I carefully read Weir endorsement letters. His supporters believe he is willing to listen, has energy, does the right thing, has a 100% voting record, and defends the rights of all families. The belief that appears to drive his supporters is that Steve reads bills carefully, probably finds additions "tucked into them" (Sept. 4), or worse, "unintended consequences," (Weir Aug. 28) hence votes no even if his own party strongly supported the bill. People endorsing him, trusting souls who want to believe his best intentions and careful work, assume he found something so negative for his constituents that he went against a bill his party or even his state supported. I call baloney. Pay attention to issues, not personality.

What unintended consequences would keep a caring father of daughters from voting to end child marriage? Does it really give families greater independence? Or does it open the door to predatory practices with underage girls? The Connecticut House passed it 98 to 45, the Senate passed it unanimously. An explanation would really help.

What addition was "tucked in" to make him vote no on early childhood education and care? There can be no doubt that early childhood sets the stage for health, well-being and successful learning. He was one of only 10 "no" votes in the entire House. An explanation would really help.

Given the horror stories coming out of nursing homes, what "unintended consequences" were in that bill on nursing home transparency that caused Weir to vote no? His fellow Republicans supported it 41 to 10. An explanation would really help.

Writers said that Weir is "focused on issues affecting working families." (Oct. 9) Really? The Connecticut Working Families Party endorsed Ellen Paul. It is an independent political organization. It prioritizes affordable communities, workers' rights, and strong public schools. They are clearly not impressed with Weir's stand on issues affecting working families.

The Connecticut Education Association endorsed Ellen Paul. Clearly they respect her focus on strong public schools.

Go to EllenforStateRep.com; pay attention to her focus on real, practical issues. Consider whether her stand on issues outweighs a 100% voting record that says 'no' on issues important to you.

Ann Terezakis – Marlborough

A Scout's Values in Hartford

To the Editor:

I am writing to support state Rep. Steve Weir's reelection in the 55th District.

As a former scoutmaster of Troop 28 in Hebron, I have seen firsthand how much Steve invests in our young people. He has attended every one of our Eagle Scout ceremonies, and at each one he presents a proclamation from the House of Representatives marking this milestone in a scout's life. He also takes time to speak to the troop about his own scouting years in Glastonbury and his journey on the Trail to Eagle. For a young scout, hearing that from someone who walked the same path means a great deal.

Steve's support goes beyond ceremonies. Every year he joins our Scouting for Food drive, which stocks the community food bank at AHM in Hebron. He does not come for a photo. He comes to connect with the young male and female scouts and share the impact that scouting had on shaping his own character and values.

I have known Steve (and his wife Allegra) for more than 30 years, as a fellow communicant at Gilead Hill Church, as parents raising children in our own community, and as a business leader and friend. I can personally attest to his character and integrity.

Some letters have asked how Steve decides his votes. From what I've seen over three decades, he decides by the same principles every Scout promises to live by: be trustworthy, do your duty, and help other people. When he votes no, it is because he believes the bill is not right for the people he represents, not because it is the easy thing to do.

As a small business owner, Steve also understands what our rural farming community needs to grow, and how to balance that growth with the character that makes Hebron special.

Please join me in voting for Steve Weir on Nov. 3.

Edward Fournier – Hebron

Obituaries

Andover

Robert Eells



Robert Eells, 94, of Andover, passed away peacefully at home Friday, Oct. 9. He was born May 31, 1932, in Deep River, the son of the late Robert Eells and the late Genevieve (Blaschick) Eells.

Robert proudly served his country as a Navy veteran and after service he became a graduate of the University of Connecticut. Following his education, Robert built a career in quality control at Pratt & Whitney. Bob also had a great love for the game of baseball, playing hard ball in Cuba and fast pitch softball for the state championship team Reed Construction. He also loved coaching Little League in Andover. Retirement brought a passion for his vegetable garden and special trips to Stowe, Vt., with Fran and Kathy Williams.

Robert was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Bonnie, and son William. He is survived by his sons, Joe (Rachel) of Columbia, Steve (Chris) of Hebron; grandchildren, Jeff (Alyssa) of Manchester, Mark (Abby) of Manchester and three great-grandchildren, Ben, Brooks and Madison.

A graveside service was held on Thursday, Oct. 15, at New Hebron Cemetery in Hebron.

To leave an online condolence, please visit www.holmeswatkins.com.

Colchester

John Allen Hoban



John Allen Hoban, of Colchester, passed away peacefully early Friday morning, Oct. 9, at the age of 82.

Born April 18, 1944, in Hartford, he was the son of the late John and Marion-Louise (Lathrop) Hoban Barrett. In 1956, his family moved from Windsor to Colchester, where John attended local schools and graduated from Bacon Academy with the Class of 1963. On May 20, 1967, he married the love of his life, Barbara Staba. The couple settled in Colchester, where they built a warm home and raised their family.

An entrepreneur with a deep passion for mechanics, John turned his lifelong labor of love into a successful business, owning Hilltop Marine in the Westchester section of Colchester. He possessed a natural talent for anything with an engine, especially classic motor vehicles. As a young man, he worked at the Studebaker dealership in Colchester, which sparked an enduring involvement with the Nutmeg Chapter Studebaker Drivers Club. He was also an active member of the Belltown Antique Car Club in East Hampton. John had a true gift for restoring classic cars, meticulously bringing countlessly many automobiles back to life over the years.

John's love for mechanics was matched only by his love for the water and the community. As a founding member of the Bashan Lake Association (BLA), he held a special place in his heart for time spent at the family cottage on Bashan Lake. He cherished lake life and boating, especially leading the annual 4th of July BLA boat parade – a tradition he loved dearly.

In his younger years, he enjoyed winter days skiing and snowmobiling. Later in life, he and Barbara began spending winters in Florida – a warm refuge where he could continue enjoying his passions for cars, boats, and being out on the water year-round.

John was widely known throughout the community and will always be remembered as a hard-working family man and a true friend to all who knew him.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 59 years, Barbara Hoban; his son, Bruce Hoban, and his wife, Meg, of Hebron; his grandson, Lance Corporal Joseph Hoban; his sisters, Claire Gibson and her husband, Herman "Doc," and Dolly Maikshilo, all of Arkansas; as well as many extended family members and dear friends.

Calling hours will be Saturday, Oct. 17, starting at 10 a.m., followed by a memorial service at noon, at Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. Burial will be private.

Donations in John's memory may be made to the Alzheimer's Association at www.alz.org.

To extend online condolences or share a cherished story of John, please visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Hebron

Eleanor Alice Button



Eleanor Alice (Blish) Button of Hebron, lovingly remembered for her devotion to family, faith, and community, passed away peacefully Saturday, Oct. 10. Born April 13, 1929, in Marlborough, she was the daughter of the late E. Allan and Sarah (Lord) Blish. On Oct. 11, 1947, Eleanor married Milton S. Button Jr. at the Congregational Church of Marlborough, beginning a marriage and life together rooted in family and community.

Eleanor attended Marlborough schools and graduated from East Hampton High School in 1947. Over the years, she made her home in Marlborough, East Hartford, Colchester, East Hampton and Hebron, forming lasting ties in each community. A devoted member of the Marlborough Congregational Church for more than 50 years, she was a member of the Dorcas Society and served as a deacon, historian, and delegate to the Hartford East Association. She was also a member of South Congregational Church in East Hartford, taught Sunday school, and generously shared her time as a 4-H leader in both Marlborough and East Hartford.

Eleanor also enjoyed many years as a member of Belleville Chapter #46, Order of the Eastern Star, in East Hampton, as well as NCT and Travelers Woods Campground. She worked for the East Hartford school system and later devoted 18 years to Northeast Savings Bank.

Above all, Eleanor treasured her family. She is lovingly remembered by her three daughters: Sarah Poulin of Auburn, Maine; Evelyn Dillman of Hebron; and Marilyn Henry of Hebron. She also leaves nine grandchildren: Richard (Ann), Michael (Debra), and Matthew (Makalla) Sellinger of Maine; Thomas (Lisa) and Robert (Tiffany) of Massachusetts; Scott Bernier of Hebron; Jennifer Bernier of East Haddam; Brian (Megan) Henry of Maryland; and David Henry of Hebron.

Her memory will also be cherished by her 10 great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. In addition to her husband, Eleanor was predeceased by her granddaughter, Catherine Sellinger; her sisters, Dorothy West and Ruth Gidley; and her brother, E. Allan Blish Jr.

The family extends its heartfelt thanks to the nurses and volunteers of VITAS Healthcare.

Those wishing to honor Eleanor's memory may make memorial contributions to the Marlborough Congregational Church.

Friends may call at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, on Friday, Oct. 16, from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. Burial will be Saturday, Oct. 17, at 11:30 a.m., in Rose Hill Cemetery in Rocky Hill. A memorial service will be held Sunday, Oct. 18, at 1 p.m., in the Marlborough Congregational Church in Marlborough.

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

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RE10-2-26

Legal Notice

Colchester- The Registrars of Voters will hold a registration session on Friday, October 16, 2026, from 9:00am to 8:00pm in the Registrar's office at Colchester Town Hall, 127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, CT. This is the last regular session for admission of electors for those who become 18 years of age, US Citizens, or residents of the town on or before November 3, 2026. Those whose rights as to age, citizenship or residence mature after the above date may apply in the office on a daily basis until the opening of Early Voting on October 19, 2026.
Thank you,
Julianne Shiolsky and Sara Mussen
Registrars of Voters
1TB 10/16

Republican Registrar to Retire

The Republican registrar of voters (ROV) is retiring from the position on Dec. 31, and the Republican Town Committee is looking for a replacement. The ROV works with the secretary of the state to provide up-to-date voting information.

If you are a retiree, or an at home parent who wants to earn extra money this position may be for you, the Republican Town Committee said. The current term is an elected one.

Salary is paid quarterly. You would also be paid for training, conventions, travel, and town meetings.

Since the registrar's last day will be Dec. 31, the RTC said it would be ideal to have someone starting to learn by Nov. 30 if possible.

Call Republican Town Committee Chair Carol Barton at 860-230-5854 for more information.

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.

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 10/27 and 11/10, and Willimantic 10/20 and 11/3. Also, on Thursday, 11/19, shop Trader Joe's and Michael's. Transportation is available.

Decorative Pumpkin with Dried Flowers: Make a one-of-a-kind arrangement with Chelsea from Lavender Ridge Farm on Friday, Oct. 16, at 6 p.m. She will bring dried flowers from her farm and mini pumpkins. Older children welcome if accompanied by an adult. $15 per person. Call to register ASAP.

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.

Beginner Quilting with a Twist: Mondays, 10/19, 10/26, 11/9, 11/16, 11/23 and 11/30, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Cost is $10 per class. Call the center for fabric requirements and to sign up.

Flu Clinic: Monday, 10/19, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. CVS Pharmacy in Coventry will be at the center to offer the high-dose flu vaccine, the regular flu vaccine and the COVID-19 vaccine. This is a walk-in clinic. Bring all of your insurance cards with you.

Food Share Truck: Wednesdays, 10/21 and 11/4, 9 a.m. Free transportation is available to Andover Congregational Church. Contact the center for a ride. For more information on other available dates and times, call Joan Soucy at 860-208-3226.

Essex Steam Train/Riverboat Foliage Tour: Thursday, 10/22. The steam locomotive pulls vintage coaches through Deep River and Chester. Enjoy views of Gillette's Castle, The Goodspeed Opera House & the Haddam Swing Bridge from the Becky Thatcher Riverboat. Bring a bag lunch. Snacks are available for purchase on the boat. Cost is $35 per person. Call to register ASAP.

Foot Care with Sue: Thursday, 10/22, $42. Call The Center for an appointment. Transportation is available.

Brunch Bunch: Friday, Oct. 23, 10:30 a.m. Take a trip to Vernon Diner for breakfast, lunch or a combination of the two.

Haircare with Helen: Monday, Oct. 26, 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Come with clean, dry hair. Haircuts are $22 – and they're free for Andover veterans. Call the center for an appointment.

LEGAL NOTICE OF ACTIONS
HEBRON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
15 GILEAD STREET, HEBRON CT

At its October 8, 2026 meeting, the Hebron Conservation Commission took the following action:

Petition 2026-12 – 53 Ridge Road, Perry, Daniel, Construction of a 44' by 30' Garage within the 100' Upland Review Area. **Approved**, with conditions.

Petition 2026-14 - 255 Millstream Road, Cavaliere, Jeff, Landscape approach for Sedimentation / Erosion Stabilization of the Eastern Bank of a Pond within the 100' Upland Review Area. **Approved**, with conditions.

James P. Cordier, Conservation and Inland Wetlands Agent
For: Thomas Loto, Chairman, Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commission
1TB 10/16

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

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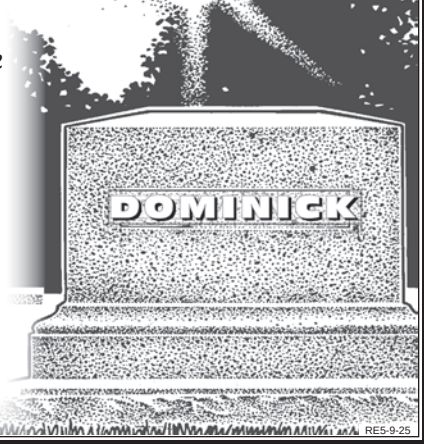
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RE5-9-25

Two Candidates, Two Visions for Senate Seat

By Toriana Williams



Rahman



Jennings

Early voting begins soon, and it's up to the residents of Andover to help decide who represents them in the state Senate's Fourth District. Incumbent Democratic Sen. MD Rahman is running against Republican Jenn Jennings in the Nov. 3 election. The fourth District includes the *Rivereast* town of Andover, and Bolton, Glastonbury and Manchester.

Early voting begins on Oct. 19 and runs through Nov. 1, and will take place at the Andover Town Hall Community Room, 17 School Rd. Early voting hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day, except on Oct. 27 and 29, when the hours are extended to 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Rahman, a Manchester resident, first won his seat in 2022 is seeking a third term. Jennings, a Glastonbury resident a member of that town's Board of Education, hopes to displace him. Both candidates say they want to help local families, but they have different ideas about how state government should work.

Jennings Wants More Questions, Better Answers

Jennings shared with the *Rivereast* that she wants state leaders to look closely at how tax money is spent. She believes government programs should be checked to see if they work well.

"My goal is to attach smart goals to every tax dollar and program we put out," said Jennings.

She explained that leaders should set clear goals and measure results. Programs should not keep running without proof they help people, according to Jennings. She also wants lawmakers to work across party lines. Although she is running as a Republican, she said voters should look beyond party labels when choosing a leader.

"A good idea is a good idea, whether it comes from a Republican or Democrat," she said.

Jennings shared that listening is a key part of the job. She said lawmakers should hear from people even when they disagree with them.

"I'm running to represent people, and that means all people," she said.

She also questioned how much Rahman speaks during Senate sessions. Jennings said he spoke for too short a time during the last legislative season and argued that voters deserve a senator who speaks up for their needs.

According to Jennings, she brings years of work experience to the race. She has spent nearly 20 years leading the Connecticut Heating and Cooling Contractors Association, where her work focuses on skilled trades, job training and helping small businesses.

She also works in real estate and has served on the Glastonbury BOE. She explained that her work with families, schools and businesses have helped her understand the challenges people face.

Jennings shared that she is aware running against an incumbent can be difficult. She said many people may vote based on party names instead of learning about each candidate.

So her message to voters was to "please take a moment to really get to know your candidates."

Rahman Focuses on Jobs, Schools, Housing

Rahman shared that his time in office has helped him build relationships and bring state money back to local towns, and that he wants to keep working on jobs, education, public safety and housing. His goal is to give people more chances to succeed.

"We need to support our communities, making sure state funding is reaching our towns and schools," wrote Rahman to the *Rivereast.*

He also called housing a major issue for Connecticut families. He believes the state needs to improve the supply of homes so families can afford to live and build a future in the state.

Rahman explained that his four years in Hartford have taught him how to work with other lawmakers, find common ground and reach deals. He also pointed to the importance of recognizing the different needs of the four towns in his district, where he said he has worked to meet residents, town leaders and community groups across the area.

In his statement, Rahman praised Jennings for her work with Glastonbury schools. At the same time, he argued that his experience makes him ready to serve all four towns. His path to public service began after coming to the United States, where he held minimum-wage jobs in several different industries before he later built businesses in health care, construction and real estate.

His background has shaped his view of opportunity. He said people need access to jobs, training and education in order to build better lives.

Rahman is also working to address housing needs as chair of the state Senate's Planning and Development Committee. He said he has supported local projects and efforts to help towns manage taxes.

One District, Two Candidates

This race offers voters two different views of leadership. Jennings said she wants more checks on state spending, clearer goals and a stronger voice for residents. Rahman pointed to his experience, his work with local leaders and his efforts to bring money and support to the district.

Both candidates said they want Connecticut communities to do well, and both also stress the importance of listening to the people they hope to serve.

Rahman urged voters to put aside their differences and work together.

"I hope we can come together and celebrate what brings us together – community, family, connections," he wrote.

Jennings stressed the importance of researching your candidates.

"Pretend there's no letters next to the name and get to know who you are voting for," she said.

Youth Basketball Registration

Andover Youth Basketball (AYB) registration is open for the 2026-27 season. While the deadline for Grades 3-6 has passed, the Mini & Junior Redhawks Developmental Program (PreK-2nd Grade) is still available.

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

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

Kids Art Class

The Andover Community and Senior Center (ACSC), located at 25 School Rd., is holding a Kids Art Class with Kim on Wednesday, Oct. 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.

Dean's List

Tristan Joshtin Mateo of Andover made the summer 2026 Dean's List at Goodwin University.

President's List

Rebecca Risley of Andover made the summer 2026 President's List at Goodwin University.

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.

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

MIDDLE HADDAM HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, October 22, 2026
6:30 P.M. AT TOWN HALL
LEGAL NOTICE

Public hearing will be held to consider the following:
Application 630 for a Certificate of Appropriateness for Joe Salonia of 1 Schoolhouse Lane, Middle Haddam, for installation of a 12-foot by 16-foot cape shed with architectural shingles.
Application 631 for a Certificate of Appropriateness for the Middle Haddam Public Library at 2 Knowles Road, Middle Haddam, for an enclosure on the north side of the building to store the garbage and recycling bins. The four-sided shed would be made with pressure treated posts and framing with western red cedar fencing and trim on a bluestone base.
The foregoing applications are available for public review at the East Hampton Town Hall. At this hearing interested persons may be heard and written communications will be received.

1TB 10/16

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

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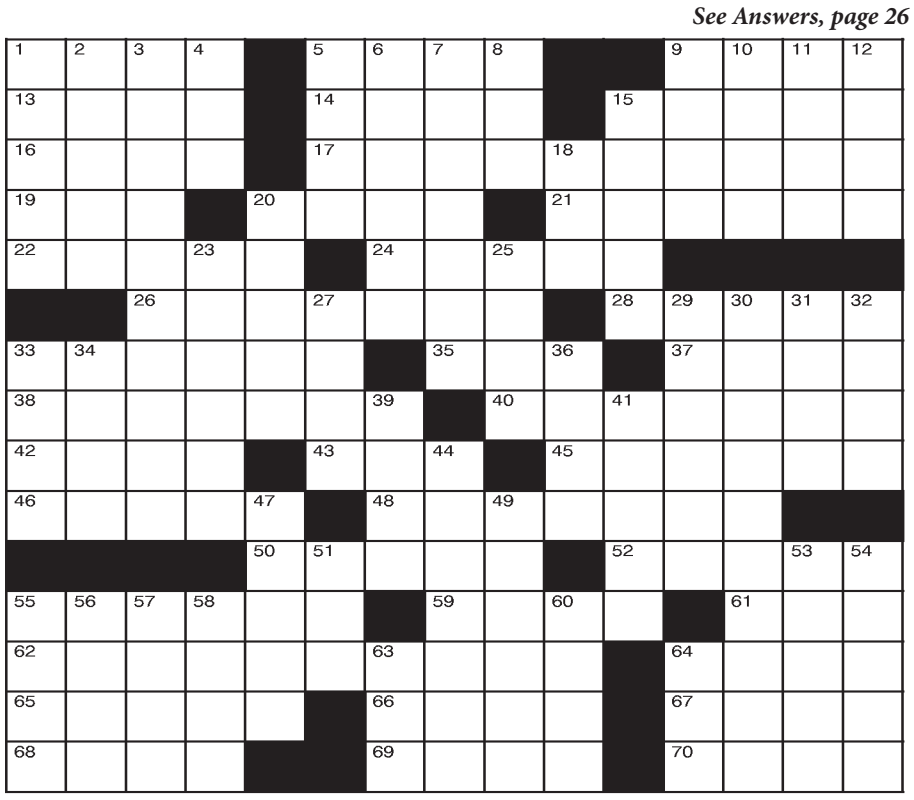
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See Answers, page 26



CREATORS NEWS SERVICE By Neil Manausa

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52 Advances
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64 French bread?
65 Naysayers
66 Vogue rival
67 Ball of yarn
68 Noun suffix
69 Being
70 Song of the past: var.

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11 Lazybones?
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25 Poker choice
27 Cleese crony
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36 Agreement
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41 Copper exporter
44 Statistical standards
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49 O'___ sports apparel
51 WWII servicewoman
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54 Like the Alps
55 Curious as ___
56 Prof. Guinier
57 That ___ say
58 Knockout button?
60 Whimsical Swiss painter
63 Car starter?
64 Friendly prefix

LEGALS

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, October 22, 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
1TB 10/16

Warning for November 3, 2026,
State Election

The electors of the Town of Marlborough 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, United States Senator, 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 is as follows:
Elmer Thienes/Mary Hall Elementary School
Community Room
25 School Drive
Marlborough CT 06447
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:
Marlborough Town Hall
26 North Main Street
Marlborough CT 06447
Absentee ballots will also be counted at the Marlborough Town Hall. 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.).
Dated at Marlborough Connecticut, this 15th day of October, 2026.
Lauren A. Griffin
Town Clerk
Town of Marlborough
1TB 10/16

TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON
PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION
NOTICE OF ACTION

At the regular meeting on Wednesday, October 7, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. at the Town Hall and via ZOOM, the East Hampton Planning and Zoning Commission took the following actions:
Application PZC-26-010: Town of East Hampton PZC, Text Amendment to Section 8.4.M (Accessory Dwelling Units) of the Zoning Regulations – Approved with an effective date of October 19, 2026.
Ray Zatorski, Chairman
1TB 10/16

EMPLOYMENT

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

PART-TIME BAKER NEEDED, GLASTONBURY: Will train. Early morning hours. Call for more info. 860-657-4400.

WESTCHESTER MARKET CURRENTLY SEEKING: Deli Manager and Closing Manager positions. Experience preferred. Please inquire at the store or call 860-365-0071.



Teen Peer Advocate
(Part-time)
Youth & Family Services Department

The Town of East Hampton is accepting applications for the position of Teen Peer Advocate. This position will assist the East Hampton Prevention Partnership to reduce underage drinking and prescription drug abuse among youth and young adults. Responsibilities include working on projects and outreach, participating on the advisory board, and developing partnerships with schools and community youth groups. The Teen Peer Advocate must be a student of East Hampton High School between the ages of 14-17, who will serve as liaison to the middle and high school. This is part-time position. $16.94 per hour, 5-10 hours per week.
Applicants should submit an employment application to the Town of East Hampton, Department of Human Resources, 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, CT 06424, or by email to Human Resources at lseymour@easthamptonct.gov by 10/28/2026, or until filled. A job description and employment application may be found at www.easthamptonct.gov. EOE/AA/M-F.
1TB 10/16

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WANTED TO BUY

BUYING COLLECTIONS & ACCUMULATIONS, FREE REVIEW: Comic Books, Vintage Toys, Sports Cards, Adv Signs/Cans (Soda, Beer, Gas Station), Zippos, License Plates, Jewelry, Postcards, Etc. Call/Text 860-817-4350

WANTED TO BUY: your sterling silverware, tea set, or any item made of sterling. Top cash price paid on the spot. I can come to your home or meet you at a place of your choosing. Call/text Dominic at 860-836-5013 or email dmbappraisal@sbcglobal.net.

WANTED TO BUY: All antiques; toys, military, watches, advertising, jewelry, coins, clocks, signs, all musical instruments, guitars, saxophones, keyboards, trumpets, amplifiers, accordions, vintage electronics, hi-fi stereo, amplifiers, pro-audio, radios, ham equipment, tube type equipment, plus more. 1 item or entire estate. Call 860-707-9350.

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DOG OBEDIENCE CLASSES: starting soon. Offering Puppy Kindergarten, Basic Manners/What Rescue Dogs Need and Want; CGC/Therapy; Agility. Over 25 years experience. Michelle Larson, Paws-N-Heel DTC, 860-267-6040. paws-n-heel-dogtraining.com.

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CIT1-12-23

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RARE OPPORTUNITY TO LIVE IN: a farm setting in Hebron. HEAT/HOT WATER/ELECTRICITY/TRASH included in rent. $1900.00/month. Peaceful area, cows grazing, manager lives on premises, bright and clean. Close to shopping, golf, fairgrounds. Good credit. No smoking/vaping of any kind. Two parking spaces provided. Please contact Zina Planeta, Coldwell Banker Realty 860-798-6038. Zina.planeta@cbmoves.com. MLS#24207338.

CANDLELIGHT APARTMENTS, GLASTONBURY: RENT NOW, one bedroom available, renovated, first floor. Rent is currently $1,750 per month. Includes heat/hot water, trash, sewer. Onsite storage and assigned parking available. Property is a SMOKE FREE Complex. Please call via text or cell 860-913-6723, Office 860-529-1725.

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GLASTONBURY CONDO RENTAL: Beautifully remodeled 1BD at Hale Farm. New wood floors, new paint, SS appliances, newer cabinets. Heat/hot water included. No pets. $1,800. Armand 860-810-0550.

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.

HOUSING DISCRIMINATION IS ILLEGAL For Help Call 888-247-4401

If anyone refused to rent to you because of your source of income, race, color, national origin, sexual orientation, gender, religion, marital status, age, disability or because you have children, you may have been the victim of illegal housing discrimination. Contact the Connecticut Fair Housing Center.



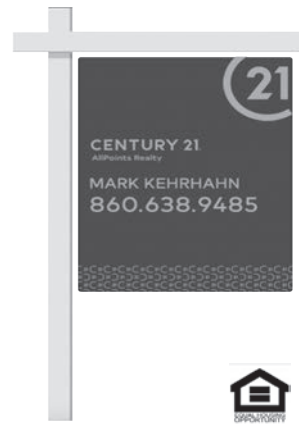
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Call Marie DeCoste at 860-801-1114 or email mdecoste@colebrookvillage.com
CIT10-15-26

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For our day support program, which is from 8am-4pm and 2pm-5pm, the towns are in Salem, Groton, Hebron, Lebanon, Higganum, East Haddam, New London, Norwich, East Hampton, Colchester.
For our group home positions we have Monday-Sunday open second and third shift which is 3pm-11pm and 11pm-7am. These positions are in Colchester.
If you are interested in becoming a part of our team, please feel free to call us and ask for more information at 860-531-9426
RE3-15-24

WESTSIDE MANOR IS HIRING!
Full and Part-Time 2nd Shift Attendants
Hours: 3:00 PM–11:00 PM, $18.00/hour
Are you dependable, caring, and looking for meaningful work where you can make a difference? Westside Manor is looking for team-oriented individuals to join our staff! Our Attendants play an important role in creating a safe, comfortable, and welcoming environment for our residents.
Responsibilities: Housekeeping, meal preparation, and medication administration. Employees will be cross-trained, and duties will vary based on the scheduled assignment.
Medication administration training will be provided and is mandatory for this position.
Every other weekend is required and is a mandatory part of the position.
Full job responsibilities for both positions will be discussed during the interview.
Walk-In Interviews: Monday–Friday, 10:00 AM–2:00 PM
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Prefer another time? Call us to schedule an interview! 860-267-4401
RE10-2-26

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RE10-2-26

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Newspaper experience preferred.

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INTERIOR/EXTERIOR RENOVATIONS: Dry wall repairs, sheet rocking, water damage, interior/exterior painting, 6" gutter installation and gutter repairs. Call 860-347-0509.

J & S MASONRY: Design patio, pool patio, Chimney repair. Stone walls, brick walls, retaining walls, steps. Roofs done, veneers done, walkways. Cement, tiles, paving and building maintenance. All kinds of masonry and home repairs. Call John, 860-796-0006.

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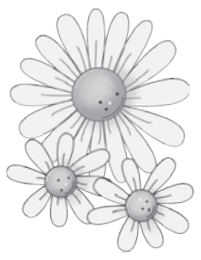
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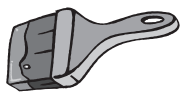
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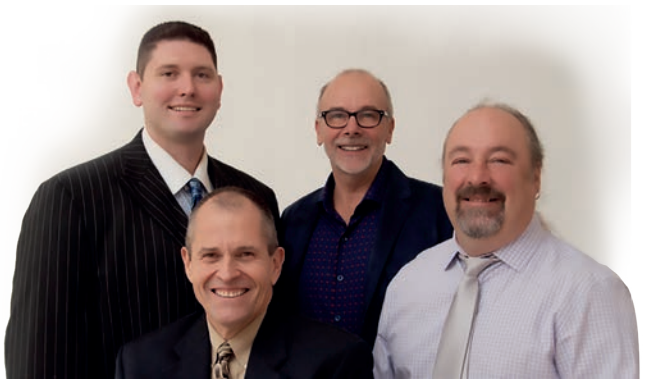
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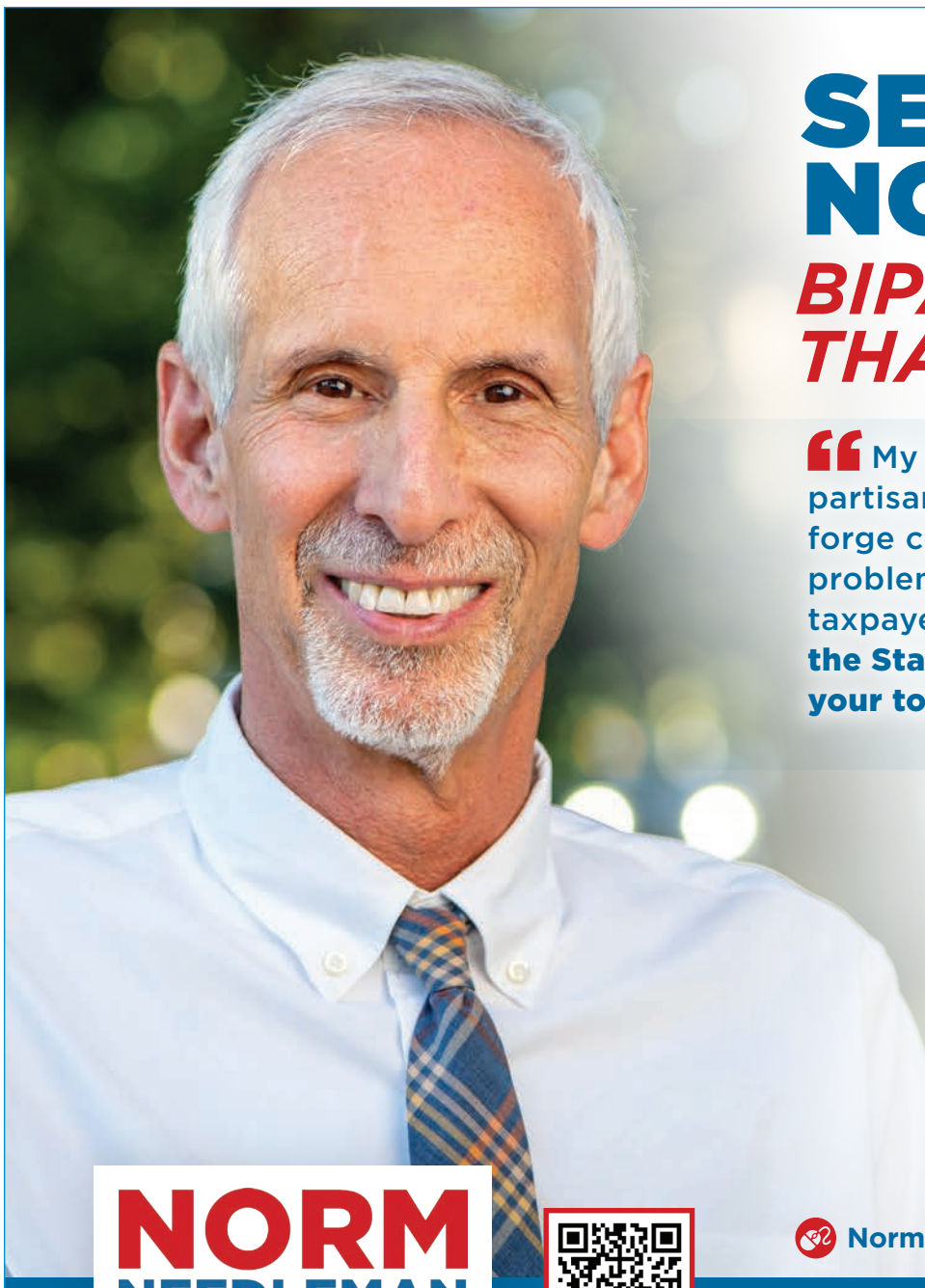
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VOTE EARLY OCT. 19-NOV. 1 | ELECTION DAY IS NOV. 3

Paid for by Norm 2026. Approved by Norm Needleman.