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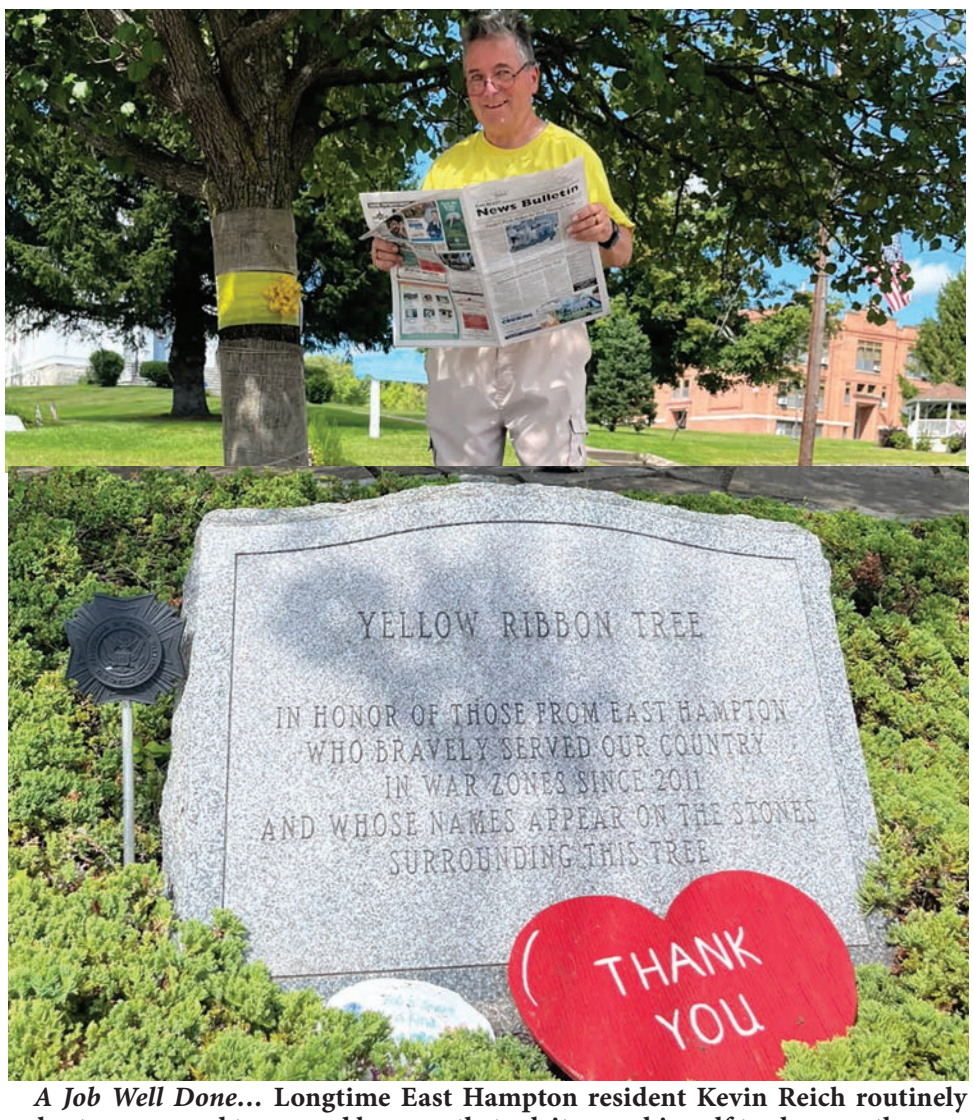
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RIVEREAST
News Bulletin

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

Volume 47, Number 36 | Published by The Glastonbury Citizen | October 23, 2026



A Job Well Done… **Longtime East Hampton resident Kevin Reich routinely volunteers around town, and he recently took it upon himself to clean up the area surrounding the Yellow Ribbon Tree. Since 2011, the tree has honored people from East Hampton who have served the country in war zones.**

Proposed Data Center Causes Concerns

By Toriana Williams

A proposed data center on Old Amston Road in Colchester has raised several concerns among residents about noise, wildlife, water use and the town's rural charm.

The project could include a data center powered by natural gas fuel cells, but it's still in its early stages. Town officials stress that no formal application has been filed by John Matheson – president of ReNew Developers and principal of CMMD LLC – with the town's Planning and Zoning Commission. Developers would need a zoning change and approval of a master plan before it could move forward to the next step.

If a formal application is filed, residents would have a chance to speak for or against it at a public hearing. A separate agreement between the developer and the town would also need approval from residents at a town meeting.

Town officials said the project is a private proposal, not a town project. Meanwhile, neighbors living near the property are asking questions about how it could affect their homes and the land around them.

Project Years in the Making

According to First Selectman Bernie Dennler, the proposal has been discussed for more than five years. It began before he took office, and the developer has contacted town staff over the years to ask about the approval process.

Dennler told the *Rivereast* a letter of support was provided by his predecessor, Andreas Bisbikos, in 2023. However, the idea remained a proposal until the developer asked for a preliminary review at a Sept. 16 meeting of the Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC).

"I think people may think the private proposal is further along than it is," Dennler said.

He explained that developers sometimes ask for an early review of a project and never file a formal application. In this case, the developer said it intends to submit one, but the town has not received it yet.

At the September meeting, ReNew said it planned to ask for a zoning change for the property at 42 Old Amston Road. The requested change would move the land from Suburban Use zoning to a category called Large Scale Indoor Agricultural Technology.

This type of zoning could allow certain large indoor farming and technology projects. The developer would also need approval of a master plan before applying for permits to build the facility.

The property has been described in project plans as an old junkyard that has been cleaned up. The materials say the site could support a data center of about 20,000 to 40,000 square feet, with five acres available for development.

The plan calls for natural gas fuel cells to provide power, and these fuel cells make electricity through a chemical process using fuel, rather than burning in the same way as a typical engine. The plans also mention the site could use battery storage and connect to the electric grid.

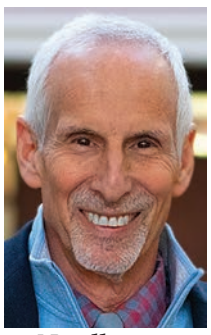
ReNew Developers is listed as the company providing the power infrastructure, while Gray Wolf Data Centers would operate the facility and offer space for computer equipment. The project plans also mention possible carbon capture and hydroponic farming, a way to grow

See Data Center, page 34

Needleman, Ferraro Face Off on Friendly Terms

By Anne Lilburn

State Sen. Norm Needleman (D-33) is seeking his fifth term in office, while Republican Charles Ferraro of Clinton is looking to unseat him. But while the two candidates may differ on key issues, neither one wanted to attack the other's character.



Needleman



Ferraro

"We're friends," said Ferraro, who spent 10 years representing the 117th district in the State House of Representatives and worked with Needleman on energy issues.

"I hope when this is all over, whether I win or lose, we'll still be [friends]," he said.

The 12-town 33rd State Senate District includes the *Rivereast* towns of Colchester, East Hampton and Portland, as well as Chester, Clinton, Deep River, East Haddam, Essex, Haddam, Lyme, Old Saybrook and Westbrook.

Ferraro, who moved to Clinton from West Haven about two years ago, is a co-founder of the Worldwide Tang Soo Do Family of karate schools. He left his former House seat, serving parts of West Haven, Orange and Milford, in 2025. It was meant to be a semi-retirement, he said, though he continued teaching karate and stayed involved in Republican politics — but for someone who had once been involved in government, it proved hard to stay away. When duty called and the Republican party asked him to run, Ferraro said he was happy to step up.

One of the main reasons he wanted to run, Ferraro said, was affordability.

"People that I knew in my age group, who are retiring now, were really concerned about how are they going to make ends meet with a fixed income, and how are they going to stay in the house that they worked hard to buy," Ferraro said. He noted that he knew many people who had retired to other states that they felt were more affordable.

Affordability, he argued, also affected younger generations.

"Our young married couples [are] trying to find a way and pay these huge mortgages that they have, trying to pay back student loans, which can be very sizable getting out of college," he said. He said he worried that young people

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Sponsored by
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Clothing & Linen Sale

Andover Congregational Church, located at 359 Route 6, is collecting donations for its Clothing & Linen Sale, which is coming up Saturday, Nov. 14, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., with a Bag Sale from 2-3 p.m.

Donations can be left on the cement ramp at the back of the church. Leave a message at the church at 860-742-7696 for more information.

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.

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.

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 is underway, and will continue through Sunday, Nov. 1, at the Town Hall Community Room, 17 School Road. 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.

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RE10-9-26

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-Vitamins
-Samples
-Medications for pets

Not Accepted
-Thermometers
-Hydrogen Peroxide
-Inhalers
-Aerosol Cans
-Needles (sharps)
-Medications from businesses or clinics
-Ointments, Lotions or Liquids

East Hampton Town Hall
Sat. October 24th
10am-2pm

For More Information:
+860-267-4468 Ext. 3227
bbillings@easthamptonct.gov

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

east hampton prevention partnership

RE10-16-25

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

Friday Lunch Bunch: Oct. 23, Vernon Diner; Nov. 6, noon, Cracker Barrel; Nov. 13, noon, Andover Pizza; Nov. 20, Gina Marie's Restaurant.

Grocery Shopping: Tuesdays, 8:30 a.m. Manchester 10/27 and 11/10, and Willimantic 11/3 and 11/17. Also, on Thursday, 11/19, shop Trader Joe's and Michael's. Transportation is available.

Beginner Quilting with a Twist: Mondays, 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.

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.

Harvest Parade Prep: Friday, 10/30, 1 p.m., in the multi-purpose room. Enjoy apple cider doughnuts, pumpkin spice coffee, and warm apple cider as you prepare small surprises for the Andover Elementary School students. The students will parade through at 2 p.m. with AES staff, for their annual Harvest Parade. Call and sign up if you would like to help.

Stained Glass Workshop: Friday, Oct. 30, 6 p.m. Make your own stained-glass sunflower or pumpkin. All materials are included. Class is beginner-friendly and no experience is necessary. Class is $65 per person. Call the center to sign up.

November Veterans Breakfast: Monday, Nov. 2, 9:30 a.m. Call the center at 860-742-7305 ext. 4510 to sign up.

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.

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.

Fire Department Turkey Drive

All are invited to help the Andover Volunteer Fire Department reach its goal of 100 turkeys for the Andover Food Pantry. The fire department said it is in need of turkeys, stuffing and monetary donations.

Donations will be collected Saturday, Nov. 14, from 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m., at the firehouse on School Road. Make checks payable to Andover Food Pantry.

Therapy Dog to Visit Library

On Saturday, Oct. 24, from 11 a.m.-noon, therapy dog Sheena, Queen of the Jungle, will be at Andover Public Library with her handler, Andover Friends of the Library member Dr. Jenifer Nadeau.

All are invited to come read a Halloween-, fall- or dog-themed book or any book to Sheena, or just visit her. The library is located at 355 Route 6.

Autumn Luncheon at Church

Andover Congregational Church, located at 359 Route 6, will hold an Autumn Luncheon Saturday, Nov. 7, from 1-3 p.m.

The luncheon will include an assortment of fall soups, teas, a basket raffle, and homemade delicacies. Entertainment will be provided by Timeless Guitar's Greg Doane.

Admission is $10.

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4 Harvest Ln, Colchester — $799,000
Stephanie Starr 860.214.4385

49 Doubleday Rd, Columbia — $355,900 — UNDER CONTRACT
Mary Parker 860.883.9949

46 Briarcliffe Rd, East Haddam — $339,900
Mary Parker 860.883.9949

110 W. High Street, East Hampton — $429,900 — UNDER CONTRACT
Mary Parker 860.883.9949

1 Day Point Rd, Unit 19, East Hampton — $450,000
Roberta Romeo 860.817.6856

36 Charles Mary Dr, East Hampton — $759,900
Jamie Bell 860.604.8459

520 Goshen Hill, Lebanon — $475,000
Kellee Smith 860.373.8849

180 Clubhouse Rd, Lebanon — $699,000
Christopher Ferreira 860.537.6699

12 Parker Rd, Marlborough — $320,000
Joyce Covone 860.608.1708

28 Hickory Rd, Marlborough — $365,000
Wendy Dietz 860.305.6932

132 Pepperidge Rd, Portland — $460,000
Stephanie Starr 860.214.4385

CIT10-23-26

10 EDGEWATER CIRCLE | EAST HAMPTON, CT | 860.267.4481
955 WASHINGTON STREET | MIDDLETOWN, CT | 860.347.4486
96 LEBANON AVENUE | COLCHESTER, CT | 860.537.6699
30 WELLES STREET | GLASTONBURY, CT | 860.633.3674
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From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

By Mike Thompson

Well, I hope you got it all out of your system.

I've made it clear all month that this week would be the last one in which I'd be accepting any political letters to the editor that criticized candidates or were otherwise negative in nature. So if you wanted to get any last-minute jabs in, this was the time.

And boy did you pounce on that chance.

Which is fine, I'm not complaining; you did what you're supposed to do.

It's just, like I said, I hope it's all out of your system.

That's because things are different next week. For next week's *Rivereast,* all political letters must be endorsements only, or otherwise positive in nature. No attack letters; no letters critical of anyone's past votes; don't even write that you dislike a candidate's dog. (It's a dog, for crying out loud.)

If you can't stay positive, at least stay neutral. "Don't forget to vote!" types of letters are fine.

But nothing negative – about anyone. Whether it's about a state representative's race or the governor's race, keep it positive. You had 51 weeks to be negative. (Though I suspect not even The Grinch would be writing political attack letters at Christmastime.)

Like I said last week, there will be no negotiating. Your letter will either be edited to meet this standard or, if it's particularly egregious, it'll be tossed altogether.

Every year I have this standard, and every year most of you cooperate completely, so I'm sure that will be the case this time. But I'm just reminding you: there will be no leeway.

* * *

Nor will there be any leeway about when letters are in. For next week only, all letters to the editor – whether they're about the election or not – must be submitted by **noon Monday, Oct. 26 . No exceptions will be made.**

All other copy – press releases, church/senior center listings, meeting notices, etc. – can be submitted by noon Tuesday as usual. It's just for letters there's an early deadline.

So if you want a letter in, get it to me early – and remember, keep it positive!

* * *

The other day I spotted my first Christmas commercial of the season. I mean, we're in the back half of October, so I guess that makes sense, but…...wow.

Anyway, if you're the type of person who likes to give scarves, towels, or other woven items, an event is coming up in Hartford that might be for you.

The Hartford Artisans Weaving Center will have an Open House and Sale Saturday, Nov. 14, and Sunday, Nov. 15. Hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on Saturday and 11 a.m.-4 p.m. on Sunday. The center is located at 42 Woodland St. in Hartford.

The sale will feature one-of-a-kind scarves, kitchen linens, towels, wearables, and more – all handwoven by artisans age 55 and older, as well as people of all ages who are blind or visually impaired.

In addition to getting some early Christmas shopping done, folks can tour the Main Studio, meet the artisans, try weaving on a loom, and more.

For more information, visit weavingcenter.org.

* * *

See you next week.

Bulletin Board

My wife decided recently that we need to start cleaning out unnecessary stuff because it would be unfair to our two boys to leave them with a mountain of junk they'll have to get rid of when we die.

My initial response to this concern was, "Screw 'em." They moved out of state so they wouldn't have to shovel my driveway in the winter, so they can damn well spend three or four years sorting through all of my accumulated stuff when I die. And, should they think they're just going to rent a dumpster, I plan to leave a note advising them that I've hidden a number of valuable coins in various unnamed items that appear to be of little value.

My second response, following the failure of the first, was that I have no intention of dying, so the whole issue of what happens to our stuff is meaningless.

And so it was that I found myself holding a garbage bag up in what was once the boys' lair as my wife picked through a variety of old baseball cards, "magical" rocks, birds' nests, broken electronic devices and sports equipment, most of it still lying just where they dropped it on the way out the door. For some reason, this was apparently my fault because, I was informed, "apples don't fall far from trees."

"Look at this!" she exclaimed, holding up a length of fabric and what appeared to be a crushed rubber toadstool. "Do you know what this is?"

Frankly I didn't care what it was so long as it wasn't a Wonder Girl costume in men's extra large. However, I feigned interest because I recently read in a magazine while waiting to get my car emitted that a primary problem in marriages is men who can't bring themselves to pretend that they actually care about the incredibly bizarre things that seem to interest women.

"Wow," I ventured.

"Do you know what this is?" she persisted.

"It's a…um…it's…No, I have no idea," I finally admitted.

"It's the gargoyle costume Son #2 wore one year for Halloween. It was so cute! You don't remember?"

I have trouble keeping track of our anniversary and she thinks I should remember what one of the kids wore for Halloween 30 years ago? "Oh, yeah!" I lied. "How could I ever forget that! Cute and terrifying at the same time! Really, that was one of the most memorable Halloweens ever!"

Still holding the costume, she gave me a disapproving look. I was beginning to think maybe I'd overdone it a bit in the false enthusiasm department.

"That was the year you told the kids that Snickers candy bars make people cross-eyed," she said.

"Oh, yeah," I said. Finally, something I actually remember. "That was pretty funny, wasn't it?"

She just looked at me.

"Okay, okay," I said. "But they wouldn't share. All they'd give me was those horrid little candy dot on paper things. There they were sorting through piles of candy. The greedy little monsters."

"Maybe if you'd taken them trick or treating instead of leaving it to me, they would have been a little more generous," she said.

Yeah, I thought. And maybe pigs fly. "Hey, somebody had to stay home and hand out goodies to all the children and protect our property against juvenile delinquents," I said.

"First of all, you didn't hand out any goodies. As soon as we were gone, you turned out all the lights and pretended nobody was home. You spent the next two hours sitting in the dark eating Reese's peanut butter cups."

"You know," I said. "I bet if you hold a Snickers bar up at the end of your nose for maybe a month, you really could go cross-eyed."

She just shook her head. "Someday," she said, "if you live that long, your sons are going to be pushing your decrepit old self across a busy intersection in your wheelchair and a big bus is going to come speeding along. And you know what the last thing is that you're going to hear?"

"Ah, maybe… 'Look out, Dad! Mom hijacked a bus!'?"

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.



Seventy Years!!!... **The 70th class reunion for the class of 1956 from East Hampton was held at the Dublin on Sept. 17. Some came from as far as Vermont, New Hampshire and Cape Cod. Pictured from left are, front row, Harrison Hodge, Pat (Fink) Czlapinski, Joan (Avery) Measimer, Janet (Hill) Kolk, Arline (Coffee) Lachapelle, Paul Peszynski, Joyce (Durgan) Biondi; back row, Ed Schuler, Dan Pessoni, Doug Islieb, Bob Hanna.**

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

Early Letters Deadline

All letters to the editor for next week's *Rivereast* must be submitted by noon Monday, Oct. 26.

The deadline for all other copy – press releases, church listings, etc. – will remain noon Tuesday.

Also for next week's issue, all political letters must be endorsements only, or otherwise positive in nature. No letters criticizing candidates will be published.

Move Beyond Blame

To the Editor:

Last week's *Rivereast* included two letters blaming "Democrats" for the state's ills – high taxes, unfunded mandates, government giveaways, and the rest. One went so far as to claim "Democrats have controlled Connecticut for 54 years," apparently assuming that the role of governor (remember Jodi Rell (R), Lowell Weicker (CT) or Thomas Meskill (R)?) is irrelevant. These letters continue a steady drumbeat arguing that all ills are due to the Democrats.

Let's assume, though, that Democrats have been solely responsible for the state's problems. That leads to an obvious question: why have they so consistently beaten Republicans to stay in power?

Do the writers of these letters believe that a) the voters are too stupid to realize how terrible Democrats are, or b) that voters have actually evaluated their choices and decided that Democrats are less terrible than the competition?

It would be helpful to move beyond blame and explore why the state has so consistently failed to learn from their mistakes.

John Herring – Colchester

Vote for America

To the Editor:

Nov. 3 is coming soon. Time to vote for who will represent you and Colchester and Connecticut to help preserve our democracy. I urge you to consider voting for Bob Fernandez for 48th District State Representative, for Norm Needleman for State Senator from the 33rd District, and Joe Courtney to represent us in the U.S. Senate.

Vote for Democracy and the American way of life as we learned it from elementary school history through high school civics. Vote.

John Barnowski – Colchester

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

Support Ellen Paul

To the Editor:

I recently had the pleasure of meeting Ellen Paul and was impressed with her plan for a better Connecticut. I support Ellen as our next state representative because she supports quality public education for our state. She plans to achieve this by revisiting Connecticut's Education Cost Sharing formula so the burden of funding public education does not just rest on the property taxes of the town.

The high cost of electricity is another issue Ellen is concerned about. I feel she will work hard to make Connecticut's electricity affordable. Finally, as a senior, something very important to me is making Connecticut affordable for seniors. I see her focusing on property tax relief, promoting affordable health care and keeping energy costs in check. Please join me in voting for Ellen Paul as our next state representative. Thank you

Tom Golub – Hebron

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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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Successful Garlic Season

To the Editor:

On behalf of the Hebron Sportsman's Club, I would like to thank all of this year's customers and club members for a very successful garlic selling season. I would like to give special thanks to those who made the newly established Hebron Garlic Institute presentations an exciting and fulfilling experience.

See you next year.

Len Giddix – Amston

Why I'm Supporting Weir

To the Editor:

I'm supporting Steve Weir for reelection because I believe he is fighting for what is best for Connecticut residents. We need representatives who listen to the people who live here and make government work for us, instead of giving in to pressure from Hartford insiders and special interests.

I appreciate Steve's commitment to reducing state spending and questioning spending that seems wasteful or frivolous. Our money should be used responsibly and focused on real issues that affect Connecticut families, including the extra tax on prepared meals and the high cost of electricity, gas, and everyday living.

Steve introduced legislation to eliminate the extra 1% tax on prepared meals, and he has spoken up about the effect energy costs can have on electric ratepayers. Those issues matter to families like mine. I want to see him keep pushing for relief and for a future where Connecticut residents can afford to live, work, and thrive here.

His commitment also shows in the time he puts into the job. In the 2026 legislative session, he was present for all 316 House floor votes and every committee vote. That kind of commitment matters. I'm grateful to have a representative who shows up, takes the work seriously, and keeps fighting for our district and for Connecticut residents.

Ashley Alibrio – Marlborough

Paul for More Homegrown Power

To the Editor:

Open your last electric bill. Now consider a few facts alongside it.

Connecticut households pay some of the highest electricity rates in the continental United States. The utilities delivering that power have been posting healthy profits and returning for rate increases anyway. And the state's supply of homegrown power has not kept pace with what we use, which leaves every ratepayer exposed when prices spike.

Ellen Paul, candidate for State Representative in the 55th, has put this at the center of her platform. In her words: "Connecticut families pay some of the highest electric bills in the country, while utility companies keep posting massive profits and asking working families to pay more." Her answer has three parts: stronger oversight of the utilities, real accountability when they fail the people paying the bills, and long-term investment in a diverse, reliable energy supply so Connecticut is producing more of its own power rather than importing its price shocks.

More supply, more competition, less exposure. It is the least ideological plan you will read this year, which is rather the point. As she puts it: "Affordable energy isn't a luxury. It's essential."

There are many reasons to choose a legislator. The number at the bottom of your electric bill is as good as any. Read her plan at ellenforstaterep.com, and remember the name on November 3: Ellen Paul.

Sincerely,
Matt Wilson – Marlborough

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

No on Steve Weir

To the Editor:

The towns in the 55th District, like all towns in Connecticut, are facing another difficult budget season. The loss of financial support from the federal level, past and pending health care premiums increases caused by the big beautiful bill, escalating diesel and gas prices and the accelerating rise in inflation are combining for a perfect financial storm.

We need state representatives who understand these problems, support what the voters want and make effective policy changes.

Steve Weir does none of these things. Every flyer I see, every letter to the editor, all say the same thing: Steve is a great guy, a nice neighbor, easy to talk to, reads all the bills he votes on to make sure he understands them and never missed a vote yet. And then he voted 'no' on over 90% of the bills. He voted 'no' on helping reduce our local tax burden, voted 'no' on ending childhood marriage, voted 'no' on early childhood learning and his 'no' vote list goes on. He states he reads the bills to understand all of the add-on legislation put in place which he says he determined to be detrimental. So he votes 'no.' Think about that. He is saying, with his 'no' voting record, that over 90% of the bills are detrimental. I think he always sees the cup as half-empty.

Ellen Paul has advanced bills, crossed the aisle to get support and gotten them passed. Steve Weir has passed exactly none.

We have the opportunity to put a positive, forward-thinking legislator in office who understands the problems we face and will pass effective legislation to address them. Join me in voting for the cup is half-full candidate Ellen Paul.

Davis Howell – Hebron

Note: *Howell is a member of the Hebron Democratic Town Committee but said he is writing as a concerned citizen.*

We Need Steve Weir

To the Editor:

I've been reading all the letters regarding the 55th district and noticed several things in common. Most of the letters written by Democrats are very negative, while most of the letters written by Republicans and supporters of Steve Weir are positive. I also noticed that many call for more money from the State for education and other things, to keep property taxes down. Where does the state get the money? Some will reply, "from the federal government!" Okay, where does the federal government get the money? Governments, be they local, state or federal, have no money except for the money we all pay in taxes.

Steve Weir is the one trying to keep expenses down, encourage small business creation, and is in favor of students learning skills that are needed, especially working with their hands. We need carpenters, electricians, plumbers, mechanics, etc., to replace those that have retired. New small businesses bring more income, thus increasing the tax base. Every new government job does not increase the tax base, since the cost of it is paid from our taxes.

Why does the Democratic Party keep thinking they can fix something by spending more money on it. Republicans try to reduce spending by reducing the size of government and excessive regulations. When Steve Weir reads an entire bill and finds unnecessary or unintended consequences, he votes 'no,' so don't let the title of the bill fool you. We need Steve Weir to stay on the job of representing all of us in the 55th District. Please re-elect him.

Respectfully submitted,
Georgette Conrad – Andover

Vote Meghan Rosenfeld

To the Editor:

Campaigning for an election is hard; so many events for so many different groups that put you in front of so many people in the district you wish to represent. In a perfect world, these events would work around every candidates personal and professional schedule and every voter can hear your opinion on every topic that is important to you and them. For a career politician, it's easy to find the time on a weekday morning to attend any and every event that may hold voters you're looking to court.

That's why it's clear to me that East Hampton, East Haddam and Salem don't need a career politician representing us in Hartford. We need a representative who understands that when I don't go to work, it puts more pressure on my coworkers, while also cutting my own personal paycheck. A representative who knows how to balance a budget for their family, instead of failing into a cushy six-figure career politician job constructing make believe state budgets that cut out working families and public education, after being rejected by the voters of the 33rd Senate District.

When elected, Meghan Rosenfeld is ready to do the work for our district, even if she can't be the perfect campaigning career politician. Vote Meghan Rosenfeld for families, seniors and the future of the 34th District!

Paul Wisniewski – East Hampton

Landlord Accountability

To the Editor:

I invite anyone voting for Connecticut State Representative for the 55th District (Andover, Bolton, Hebron, Marlborough and eastern Glastonbury) to view the *CT Mirror* article of May 6, 2026 titled "House kills bill to hold nonresident landlords accountable." Senate Bill 274 sought to increase penalties for repeated building and fire code violations by landlords and require out-of-state landlords to register additional personal contact information with the Connecticut town in which their rental properties exist. Common-sense stuff, right?

The bill was a response to a crisis in Rocky Hill, at the Concierge Apartments, owned by a California private equity firm. Thousands of tenants were displaced in February due to flooding and lack of heat.

Although having passed in the Senate, the bill was killed on the last day of the legislative session. State Rep. Steve Weir of the 55th District and other Republican legislators had threatened to run the clock out on debate until midnight, according to the Majority House leader.

While Rep. Weir has accumulated an impressive public service record in our towns, it isn't mentioned on his campaign website that he is an Associate Director of the Connecticut Apartment Association, a landlord and property management advocacy group.

This concerns me, as does the 52% out of 100% score given him this year by the Connecticut Education Association on education advocacy and policy issues. Is it time for a change? Weir's challenger, Democrat Ellen Paul, is the director of a consortium of libraries in Connecticut. She served as an intern for U.S. Rep. Joe Courtney, and supports the rights of tenants, quality public education, property tax reform and other issues that make sense to me.

Please consider voting for Ellen Paul. She is a common-sense candidate who better reflects our values.

Kathleen Lenane – Glastonbury

Before You Vote

To the Editor:

Things to ponder before you vote. I just want to remind voters of a few facts. The Democrats have controlled the Senate and the House of Representatives for over 25 years, and have had a supermajority for almost eight years! They have controlled individual portions of government even longer than that. They have controlled the state budget and, due to that control, seriously impacted the local budgets. They have enacted multiple unfunded mandates. Every budget season, the issue of unfunded mandates is part of the discussion. Every year, more unfunded mandates come out of the Democratic-controlled state government. The costs of these mandates end up on someone's shoulders. Guess whose shoulders they end up on??? The taxpayer!!

They have passed laws that have impacted building codes. They have supported, if not encouraged the power company to enact other fees onto your electric bills. (Public benefits charge, EV outlet subsidies, green energy fees to name a few.) Lamont claims in his ads that the state pays for education. Obviously, he hasn't seen how much of our local taxes go towards education! They have enacted laws on local zoning, items protected in the constitution, things that should be personal choices, home education and who knows what. You see in the news where people go up to state their opinions, only to be ignored.

It's time to change the balance of power. It's time to elect Republicans and see if they can control the insane spending that is occurring. It's time to put in people who are willing to listen to the electors and actually serve the electors. If there is no change, I, for one, don't want to hear your complaints.

Daniel Larson – Amston

Ellen Paul for Libraries

To the Editor:

Hello! I have never written a letter to the editor before, but this time I am compelled to write to support our local libraries. As you know, libraries are critically important centers of our communities. Libraries provide books, research, education, book clubs, hundreds of programs, and connection for citizens of all ages! They support people in our communities of all income levels. These materials and programs need to be available to everyone, but libraries are operated as non-profits and typically underfunded.

We all need to support our local libraries. You can support by getting a library card, taking out books and materials, and joining programs of interest. But these efforts are not enough. To make the most impact, we need to support library boards, school boards, finance boards, town councils, state representatives, and people in congress that have the power to make major decisions for our libraries.

It has never been more important than today in our country to support libraries, which are centers for learning and essential to support education, sharing of ideas, free speech and critical thinking.

That is why I support Ellen Paul for state representative in the 55th district in this election. She has deep experience with libraries. She is currently the executive director of the CT Library Consortium (2021 to present). She personally drove two 2025 Connecticut laws, the library e-book licensing law (Public Act 25-9) and the freedom-to-read library-policy law (within Public Act 25-168), and was named a national *Library Journal* "Mover &

See Letters, page 6

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The "East of the River" Real Estate Report

How Does Your Lot Impact Your Home's Value?

When homeowners think about property value, they often assume more acreage means more money. But lot size doesn't always tell the whole story.

In real estate, usable land can be more valuable than additional acreage buyers can't easily enjoy. Consider two similar homes. One sits on a flat, usable one-acre lot with a spacious backyard. The other has three acres, but much of the property is steep, wooded, or covered by wetlands.

Despite having less land, the one-acre property could actually be worth more.

Why? Buyers don't just look at acreage. They look at what they can do with it.Topography: Steep slopes, ledge, and uneven terrain can limit outdoor improvements such as patios, pools, and play areas.

Wetlands: Wetlands and other land-use restrictions can limit construction and future improvements.

Lot shape and frontage: Narrow, irregularly shaped lots may offer less usable space, flexibility, or privacy.

Backyard usability: Buyers with children, dogs, or an interest in outdoor entertaining often value a level, functional yard.

Privacy: Mature trees, natural buffers, and separation from neighbors can add appeal, even when portions of the land aren't usable.

These differences are also why online home valuations don't always tell the full story. An algorithm may recognize acreage without understanding the property's terrain, layout, or usability.

My advice: Don't focus solely on how many acres you own. Consider how functional, desirable, and usable those acres are.

Sometimes, one great acre is worth more than three challenging ones.

Market Snapshot – Past Week

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

Single-Family Homes
• 12 homes sold
• Average sale price: **$512,366**
• Average sale-to-original-list price (%OLP): **102%**
• Average days on market: **43 days**
• Median days on market: **11 days**

Condos
• 1 home sold
• Average sale price: **$200,000**
• Average sale-to-original-list price (%OLP): **100%**
• Average days on market: **5 days**
Median days on market: **5 days**

Results vary by property characteristics, condition, location, and pricing strategy.



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★ *Letters, cont. from page 5*

Shaker" for her work in 2026. The organization she leads saves Connecticut taxpayers millions a year through cooperative purchasing.

She has also been a hands-on librarian for over 15 years, most recently serving as the director of the East Hampton public library. Under her leadership, the library was awarded the Excellence in Public Library Service Award by the Connecticut Library Association for innovative projects. Additionally, her advocacy and improvements led to the library breaking records in annual borrowing, program attendance, and summer reading participation.

She cares deeply to ensure that all of our citizens have access to critical library services.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Pamela Thompson – Marlborough

Same Person = Same Results

To the Editor:

There's an expression that goes like this: "Insanity is the doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results."

State Rep. Steve Weir is now running for his third term representing the 55th District. My question is what tangible results has he brought to the district? How has he assisted in actively addressing pressing issues such as affordability? The burden of taxes on our families and senior citizens? Addressing the severe lack of affordable housing in the district?

Since January of 2023, Rep. Weir put his name on 41 bills as an introducer and not one of them became law.

For example, he introduced a bill in 2023 that would have barred minimum wage class action lawsuits where hourly workers band together to sue an employer for systemic pay violations. Thankfully, this bill died in committee.

On Nov. 3rd, I will be casting my vote for Ellen Paul for the 55th. We need a state representative that will advocate for practical solutions for our towns' real problems: public education & property tax relief, affordable housing, reducing our energy cost burdens and supporting our seniors.

I ask you: don't we want to see real change for the 55th instead of the same representation that has yielded little results?

Now is the time — voters can enact fresh, new leadership in Hartford. And that is Ellen Paul.

Claudia Tejada Riley – Amston

Note: *Riley is a member of the Hebron Board of Selectmen, but is speaking as an individual.*

Cost of Electricity

To the Editor:

After knocking on more than 3,000 doors across our district, few issues generate as much frustration as electricity.

People show me their bills. They ask why electricity has been so expensive in Connecticut and why a bill for something as basic as keeping the lights on is so difficult to understand.

I share their frustration.

Electricity is different from most things we buy. If I don't like the price or service at one grocery store, I can go somewhere else. But most of us cannot choose the company that delivers electricity to our homes.

When consumers don't have the power of choice, government regulation has to provide the power of accountability.

That means utility companies should not simply be guaranteed the opportunity to earn more regardless of their performance. Their financial incentives should be tied to measurable results: reliability, affordability, customer service and controlling costs. Connecticut has begun developing this kind of performance-based regulation. I believe we should follow through and make it meaningful.

We also need to look carefully at what we put on people's electric bills.

I support helping neighbors who cannot afford to keep their homes warm. I support investments that make our energy system more efficient and reliable. But if the legislature decides that something serves a broad statewide public purpose, we should ask whether an electric bill has become a substitute for taxation. Does that program truly belong on your electric bill, or should it compete with every other priority in the state budget?

Finally, people deserve transparency. An ordinary person should be able to look at an electric bill and understand where their money is going, what each major charge pays for, and who is responsible for it.

Electric rates have come down this year, and that is welcome news. But Connecticut families need more than temporary relief. They need an energy system they can understand and trust.

If a company has a monopoly, accountability should come with it. And if government puts a charge on your bill, government should be able to explain why it is there.

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

Note: *The 55th House District covers Andover, Hebron and Marlborough, and parts of Glastonbury and Bolton.*

Let's Embrace Change

To the Editor:

We're so lucky to live in our small Connecticut towns. As the leaves turn and nights cool, we are reminded of the beauty of New England's ever-changing seasons. No matter how much we might enjoy summer, Autumn always comes. We can't stay stuck in the past. We know how to embrace change.

This November, we can make another change. For most of our lives, Andover, Bolton, Glastonbury, Hebron and Marlborough have been represented by the Republican Party. I can't help but feel that they take our district for granted and have grown complacent. We're a sure thing. They have no incentive to work hard and deliver for the people in our towns.

With all the challenges we face, we need more than just a seat warmer in Hartford. We need someone focused on advocating for our district at the capitol. It's time for a change.

This November, we have a special opportunity to send someone to the legislature who is ready to be that powerful advocate. Ellen Paul knows that good government is still possible when people are willing to listen, build consensus, and stay focused on solving problems instead of scoring political points.

Paul wants to reform property taxes to ensure the state pays their share of education funding. Aren't we all sick of fighting over school budgets? She has a plan to provide for our schools without hiking mill rates.

Ellen wants to ensure our seniors aren't priced out of their homes, giving them tax relief so they can stay in the towns they spent their lives improving.

Ellen isn't afraid to tackle the big problems of energy policy or technology. She wants to hold Eversource accountable for rate increases. She knows part of the solution is diversifying how we make power so we can cope with price spikes. She also knows the billionaires running AI companies need guardrails and will work to build them for Connecticut.

Ellen Paul has experience in public policy and leadership. She is energized and wants to hear everyone out, not just the people who vote for her. As many have seen, she been knocking on doors for months, talking to thousands of us. She wants to earn your vote, not expect it.

Let's embrace change and send someone to Hartford willing to put in the work. Vote Ellen Paul this November.

Jay Kamins – Andover

Vote for Ellen Paul

To the Editor:

You have read all the letters supporting Ellen Paul to be our representative in the General Assembly. The information has been factually correct, the evaluation of her character and dedication has been spot on, and the opinions of her skills and outstanding character are not overstated.

Ellen has stepped up to the plate to represent us. Now it is time for you to step up to the plate and vote for her!

We cannot do better than electing Ellen Paul to be our representative. Please make it so! Thank you.

Denise Rodosevich – Hebron

Supports Weir

To the Editor:

I am writing to endorse and strongly encourage voters who live in CT District 55 to support Steve Weir with their vote in November 2024. Knowing Steve personally and professionally through his support of veteran and other organizations in Connecticut, I have witnessed firsthand how his hard-working, common-sense voice is exactly what we need advocating on our behalf in the Hartford Legislature.

Nationally and locally, and regardless of political affiliation, the economy overwhelmingly tops the list of what is important to voters this election year. Steve's experience as an entrepreneur and small business owner, common sense approach to problem solving and experience representing the 55th District in Hartford make him the right choice for the challenges facing Connecticut today. His 100% voting record clearly shows his commitment to represent all constituents. As a state representative Steve earned the reputation of working hard to understand all sides of complicated issues, and then reaching across the aisle for collaboration without compromising his core values.

Rounding out his lifelong dedication to serving others, Steve also worked as a police officer, and on many local boards and community organizations spanning local business, athletics and youth services.

A lifelong resident of the district, he values and prioritizes family, hard work and service to his neighbors. Another important trait of Steve is that he listens. During one-on-one interactions, or in a sea of people at an event, Steve actively takes note of what all people have to say and uses their input to inform his decisions.

If you already know Steve Weir and his work for the 55th District, you have likely observed firsthand the attributes I describe. If you have yet to have the pleasure to meet him, I suggest you take the time to learn more and consider supporting him with your vote in November.

Sincerely,
Scott Fleeher – Marlborough

Eversource Rate Hike

To the Editor:

Eversource is asking Connecticut PURA (Public Utilities Regulatory Authority) for a 50% increase in Local Delivery component of your bill, which means $727 million of increased revenue for Eversource. In the year 2025, Eversource Energy had annual revenue of $13.55B with 13.83% growth. According to Energy Factbook, as of July 2026, Connecticut's average residential rate is 24.16¢/kWh, the 11th-highest of the 51 states and DC and 32% above the U.S. average of 18.31¢/kWh. This disparity leads to an average monthly bill of around $322 in Connecticut, which is almost double the national average of about $188. At 2026 prices, Connecticut households are paying $1,608 per year more than they would have at national-average prices. Connecticut's own generation is about 58% natural gas and 38% nuclear and it sells surplus power into the same ISO New England market as its neighbors.

What? We have a surplus of electricity? Basic economic theory says "A surplus in economics occurs when the supply of a good exceeds the demand for it. This excess supply leads to a decrease in the price of the good, as sellers compete to sell their surplus inventory. This is because consumer surplus represents the difference between what consumers are willing to pay for a good or service and what they actually pay." So theoretically, electric prices should go down. Unfortunately for Connecticut citizens, Eversource is a monopoly, thus no competition (other than solar, which Eversource limits how much your panels can produce). And the concept of "willing to pay" has no meaning (should be "forced to pay") since homeowners do not have a choice.

In April 2026, PURA actually took action to lower Eversource residential rates with a decrease by a total of 4.3 cents per kilowatt-hour or about $30 on an average monthly bill effective May 1, 2026, through April 30, 2027. And in case the reader is unaware, Eversource is requesting an increase of 18 percent (about $33 per month effective July1, 2027, for grand total of a 68 percent increase in the next year! Then again, it is an election year, so Governor Lamont can claim he reduced electric, but PURA giveth and PURA taketh away with no worry about government interference.

Want to really reduce your electric bills by 50% or more? Go solar and stop paying the monopoly known as Eversource.

Regards,
Bob Yenkner – East Hampton

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The Heart of a Community

To the Editor:

Some of the most extraordinary people in a community are often those who quietly work behind the scenes, never seeking recognition, applause, or anything in return. They simply see a need and find a way to help.

Portland is fortunate to have many such individuals, and among them are the dedicated members of the Knights of Columbus, Freestone Council No. 7, under the leadership of Grand Knight Val Burzynski.

Guided by the principles of charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism, the Knights have a longstanding tradition of giving back. Their commitment extends beyond their parish and into the broader community, where their time, talents, and generosity make a meaningful difference.

What makes organizations like the Knights of Columbus so special is not simply what they accomplish, but why they do it. They understand that community is more than the place we live. It is the relationships we build, the neighbors we help, and the responsibility we share to care for one another.

I would especially like to recognize Grand Knight Val Burzynski for his leadership and dedication. True leadership is demonstrated not only through words, but through a willingness to serve, inspire others, and lead by example.

On Thursday, Oct. 29, at 1 p.m., we are delighted to welcome Grand Knight Val Burzynski and fellow council members to the Portland Senior Center for our monthly Sweet Treats and Conversations with Community Leaders program. This is a wonderful opportunity for residents to meet the Knights, learn more about their mission and contributions, ask questions, and enjoy meaningful conversation over something sweet.

Programs like these remind us how important it is to bring people together, strengthen relationships, and recognize those who contribute so much to our community.

In a world where we often hear about what divides us, it is refreshing to celebrate what brings us together: compassion, generosity, kindness, and the belief that each of us has something valuable to contribute.

To Val and all the members of Freestone Council No. 7, thank you for your dedication, your generosity, and your continued commitment to making Portland a wonderful place to call home.

A strong community does not happen by accident. It is built, day after day, by people who care enough to show up.

We look forward to welcoming you on Oct. 29!

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

Supporting Melissa

To the Editor:

I want the public to know that Melissa Ziobron has deep roots in her district. She didn't just move here a few years ago. She is well aware of the overdevelopment encouraging by the state and how high energy costs are so detrimental to our local businesses. She can fight against those with a real passion. She has always been a voice of reason among her peers in the legislature. Melissa has managed to pass significant legislation such as the "cottage food" law as a Republican in a Democratic state. That was not an easy task. That law is why anyone with a good recipe can use their own kitchen to see if it would sell at farmers markets. Without that law, a huge investment in a kitchen would prevent people from even trying to sell baked goods like breads, cookies, or cakes in the state.

Melissa knows how to find the money squirreled away by the governor and the democrats for their friends running special projects like windmills. That money is instead supposed to be for education like where the casino money was originally supposed to be used. If you want your property taxes lower just know that by the Democrats taking money for education away that you have to make up the difference.

Vote for Melissa; she is a real fighter.

Salvatore Nucifora – East Hampton

Same Shelf, Same Rules

To the Editor:

Sam Prentice says he has tried to understand what Democrats stand for. John Barnowski can speak for himself; I'll explain what Ellen Paul and I said.

Our most important issue, he said? This fall I've written about town aid, pool fences, tenant safety, nursing homes and wage theft. My Banned Books Week letter turned halfway to hospital investors and absentee landlords.

He calls it outrageous that Ellen's law "protects a library's ability to carry books like the Bible as much as it protects books about gender identity." That is not moral equivalence. It just means the same rules apply to both. The law bars removing a book because of its author's views. That guards his shelf against those who dislike his views exactly as it guards other shelves against him.

In 2023 a Utah school district, acting on one person's challenge, pulled the Bible from school shelves for vulgarity and violence. Anyone who has read Genesis 19, 2 Samuel 11, or Judges 19 knows what the reviewers found. Those chapters don't make the Bible unfit for a library. They show why no single objector should decide what is on the shelf for everyone else's child.

He compares book review to movie ratings. But ratings don't pull a film from every theater because one patron objects. They inform parents, and families decide. Connecticut's law works the same way: every library needs a written collection policy, and anyone objecting to a title gets a fair, consistent process.

Nor is raising the marriage age a contradiction. Marriage binds a child to an adult by contract. A library book binds no one, and a parent can return it. The Senate passed that law unanimously, the House 98 to 45, and Connecticut became the ninth state to end child marriage. Rep. Steve Weir voted no.

I've repeatedly debunked his minimum wage theory; no need to do so again.

Why do Democrats care about children not their own? Caring for other people's children is the whole premise of public schools and libraries. As for education at six months, whatever he means, the 2025 early childhood bill passed the House 133 to 10. Weir was one of the ten.

He closes by wishing for more children and fewer Democrats. I'd settle for more children in well-funded schools, choosing from shelves filled by parents and librarians, not the loudest objector. On Nov. 3, that means Ellen Paul.

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.*

Why Not Ellen Paul?

To the Editor:

Our political system often leaves us choosing between a Republican and a Democrat. Both parties seem increasingly focused on appealing to the extremes rather than the voters in the middle. Too often, we're left feeling like we're choosing the lesser of two evils. Here's why I'm voting for anyone but Ellen Paul.

First, the negativity. I've lived in the 55th District for 15 years, and one thing I've learned is that we don't appreciate negative campaigning. If she can't explain why she's the better candidate without tearing down her opponent, what does that say about her ability to lead? We're being asked to trade someone we know for someone whose approach we are being given a preview of. Her campaign manager believed negativity would work, and she chose that path rather than standing on her own merits. If she can't push back against her own campaign team, how will she stand up to her party in Hartford when the 55th's interests are on the line?

Second, the campaign promises. Her mailers promise to protect local control, deliver property tax relief, hold Eversource accountable, and declare that "it's our turn to drive." Look beyond the slogans. The Democrats she would join in Hart-

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★ *Letters, cont. from page 7*

ford have held power for decades, and the policies she promises to fight for are products of that same leadership. Everything she is "fighting" for was put in place by them. My first point proves that she can't stand up to them. Where has the meaningful property tax relief been? While the state directs millions in taxpayer dollars toward Eversource-related rate relief, Connecticut families continue to shoulder the costs. We deserve more than recycled promises and political talking points.

Third, the constant references to Donald Trump. Again, she can't run on her own merits, so she just keeps invoking his name. As an educated voter in the 55th, I am voting to send someone to Hartford, not Washington. We need a representative with a plan to address Connecticut's problems, not someone whose primary strategy is blaming the feds. Frankly, few things are putting more pressure on my wallet than the decisions of Connecticut's unchecked Democratic majority.

Ultimately, this election should be about leadership, accountability, and results – not attack mailers, party loyalty, or slogans. For these reasons, and plenty more reinforced by what keeps arriving in my mailbox, I'm voting for anyone but Ellen Paul.

Keith Petit – Amston

Note: *Petit is a member of the Hebron Town Council but said he is writing this letter as an individual.*

Weir Asks for Reelection Support

To the Editor:

Thank you for the honor of serving as your state representative for the past four years. The opportunity to represent the families, businesses, and communities of Andover, Bolton, Glastonbury, Hebron, and Marlborough is both a privilege and a responsibility I take very seriously.

Politics is the arena in which ideas are debated, common ground is found, and support is built to move those ideas forward. I have earned the endorsements of both the Republican and Independent Parties, validation that I have worked with colleagues on both sides of the aisle. Part of the job also requires building relationships and being an honest broker.

It's easy for some to criticize without offering an alternative, but being a good representative requires one to sometimes compromise. Washington-type mudslinging is thankfully not how I've observed the inner workings at the Capitol. Representatives should also not go to Hartford to be a rubber stamp for a particular party. Good ideas come from many places, and reaching solutions requires listening and considering different perspectives.

I am also honored to have the support of the Glastonbury Police Officers Association, Connecticut Realtors, and the Connecticut Fraternal Order of Police, and to have received awards from several small business organizations, as small businesses are the drivers of our economy.

My perspective has been shaped by experiences beyond the State Capitol. As a nearly lifelong resident of the district, I've built businesses, created jobs, made payroll, and seen firsthand the pressures facing small employers and working families. My years in law enforcement taught me the importance of listening, exercising judgment, and helping people through difficult circumstances. Coaching youth basketball, supporting local charities, and volunteering in our communities have reinforced the responsibility we share to look out for one another.

The decisions made under the Golden Dome in Hartford are not abstract political exercises. I take the time to read the bills before me, listen to people with differing perspectives, ask questions, and carefully consider the consequences before deciding how to vote. The record shows that I voted with the House majority 77% of the time this past session. Nobody is going to agree 100% of the time.

I believe our district deserves a representative who listens, does the homework, considers the consequences, and approaches every decision with care and a strong sense of responsibility. I respectfully ask for your vote and the opportunity to continue serving as your State Representative.

State Rep. Steve Weir
R-55th District

Note: *The 55th House District serves Andover, Hebron and Marlborough and parts of Bolton and Glastonbury.*

Ned, Enough Already!

To the Editor:

Ned Lamont does not deserve a third term. He has failed the middle class, seniors and all non-state workers. His tax-and-spend policies must go. Our state needs new leadership badly. The dems have controlled the state legislature for over 30 years. and look what they've done. We're the third-highest-taxed state in the country. You don't do that by accident. The state has moved many tax burdens to the towns which have resulted in higher property taxes. They continue to cultivate an oppressive climate for large and especially small businesses . Business owners must spend massive amounts of money to comply with Connecticut's multiple regulations, inspections, fees, building regulations, public hearings and more- No wonder small businessws close and large corporations choose not to come here.

State unfunded mandates are another big problem The paid sick leave program pays out more than they take in. The family leave/maternity program is way too generous – up to eight weeks for both parents. Who do you think pays for that? And our high minimum wage has a negative on employment; small businesses cannot afford to take on new hires.

Lamont said in his last campaign that he'd repeal the gift tax – guess what never happened? He claims in his TV ads that he gave a middle class tax cut and reduced our electric bills – that's just a falsehood . What he did do was to create a Public Benefits charge to our Eversource and gas bill and force the working people to "chip in" for those that who don't pay their bills. His most recent answer as to whether he'll have to raise taxes again was "I sure as hell hope not." We know what that means. His off-shore wind project has been a disaster. Our state workers payroll has ballooned to over $6 billion. As you drive around our state there always seems to be a wagon train of orange D.O.T trucks driving around or sitting in the breakdown lanes – I'm not sure what they're doing but there are usually plenty of D.O.T workers milling around

We don't know that Ryan Fazio will be able to fulfill his promises of lower taxes, repealing the Public Benefits cause or capping property raxes for seniors, but I's sure like to find out.

Don Denley – Andover

Dementia Talks No. 76

To the Editor:

So I touched on cost of care previously, this said sometimes we just need to accept certain costs of care.

For example, at home dentists. Who knew that was a possibility? I am thrilled because when Mom's teeth, gums, tongue are healthy she won't have issues eating. Well, until Alzheimer's advances to the point when swallowing stops.

For now, Mom is still able to tolerate someone poking and prodding her mouth. Well, for the most part. It was amazing to see all the portable equipment and sterile tools of the trade. Luckily we still had the reclining chair from Mom's apartment – it worked awesome and she was familiar with the chair.

It was an amazing experience and I was happy to play dental assistant! The denist left with all his digits and the price tag ($900) was worth it (not covered by Medicare or Medicare Advange).

Now on a different topic: Georgia's in Hebron will be donating a percentage of sales on Oct. 29th, to our Walk to End Alzheimer's team (#HebronRocksAlz). Hoping you will stop in for take-out, lunch or dinner. Thank you in advance.

Please know you are not alone.

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

Look at What Matters

To the Editor:

I've lived in East Hampton for 35 years, and I've watched what an election season does to this district. The signs go up, the mailers arrive, and somehow, we end up arguing about things that have nothing to do with our lives.

So, I've been asking a simple question of both candidates for state representative: who is going to work on the bills that land in my mailbox?

Melissa Ziobron recently shared a local Republican committee post telling voters the choice on the ballot is "common sense or crazy & communist." I've got neighbors on every side of the aisle, and none of them are communists. They're people trying to pay their bills. Name-calling doesn't do anything for my property taxes, my electric bill, or my health insurance premiums.

Meghan Rosenfeld has answered that question directly. She wants to fix how the state funds education so schools don't depend on property wealth and seniors aren't taxed out of their homes. She wants to lower utility costs and bring down premiums. She has spent her career helping people facing poverty, domestic violence, wrongful convictions, and disability rights violations, people of every political stripe, because those problems don't check party registration.

She's also keeping her job if elected. She isn't a career politician, which means party leadership doesn't own her vote.

When someone wants you to start hating your neighbors, it's fair to ask what they don't want you looking at. Our taxes, our electric bills, and our premiums are where I want my representative looking. I want a representative who can build coalitions with everyone.

I'm voting for Meghan Rosenfeld on Nov. 3.

Kevin M. Reich, Chair
East Hampton Democratic Town Committee

So We Can All Afford to Stay

To the Editor:

For nine months I've knocked on doors in East Hampton, East Haddam, and Salem, talking with Republicans, Democrats, independents, and unaffiliated voters, and with kids about the futures they hope for. Everywhere, I've heard the same thing: people love it here and worry they can't afford to stay.

Funding our schools shouldn't mean seniors can't afford to stay in their homes. Young families shouldn't be priced out of renting, let alone buying. Here's where I'll start:

A fair school funding formula, paid through the state income tax, so schools don't depend on property values and property taxes can come down.

Adjusted fiscal guardrails, so more state money reaches classrooms and tax relief, with reserves kept for a downturn.

Expanded senior property tax relief, fully funded by the state.

Auditing the utility regulator (PURA) that holds Eversource accountable, and creating more diverse sources of power.

Partnerships between schools and employers that bring good jobs back to Connecticut.

That's a starting point, not a promise to fix everything. What I can promise is to listen first, including to voices outside the majority, and to give neighbors clear information and room to solve problems together.

We're one community with many good ideas and valid concerns. National politics wants us divided. Our towns work better when we're not. A loud voice gets nowhere if it burns bridges. I've already started building the relationships it takes to get things done in Hartford.

Early voting runs daily through Nov. 1, and Election Day is Nov. 3. I'd be honored to have your vote. We can do better for each other, together.

Meghan Rosenfeld – East Hampton
Candidate for State Representative

Support of Steve Weir

To the Editor:

I first met Steve Weir when our daughters played on the same high school volleyball team. We spent many evenings sitting on the bleachers, watching the girls play and talking about life, family, and our community. Through those conversations, I came to understand who Steve is at his core: a devoted husband and father of three daughters, and someone who shows up for the people around him.

Steve and his family are deeply engaged in our community. Their shared commitment to service is a cornerstone of their family life, reflecting values that inspire Steve's work and dedication to the community. Whether volunteering with the Hebron Lions at the Hebron Fair or supporting dog rescue efforts, their family's involvement is a living example of the care and responsibility they feel toward making this community better for everyone.

One evening, during a gathering of volleyball parents, Steve shared his background with me. I learned that he served as a police officer in Glastonbury before becoming a small business owner. A few days later, he texted me, recalling details from our conversation. That small gesture stood out to me. It showed how attentively he listens and how much he values the people he interacts with.

When Steve learned that my wife was exploring

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Laughing and Learning for 100 Years

By Toriana Williams

If anyone asked Ida Millman what it felt like to turn 100 years old, she was quick with her answer.

"Not a whole lot different from 99," she said.

She had heard the question before, and she wasn't about to pretend it was a great one.

Millman turned 100 on Oct. 20 at Colebrook Village in Hebron, where she has lived for the past four years. She is sharp, funny, and full of questions of her own. She has spent a century watching the world change, raising a family, working as an interior designer, facing loss and finding ways to grow. And she's not done thinking about any of it.

"I have thought of myself as aging. And as of today, I decided to think of myself as dying, 'cause that's what I'm doing," she said bluntly on Tuesday.

It was a bold way to mark a birthday, but Millman seemed like she's never been interested in sugarcoating the truth just to make other people feel better. She knows she's old. She knows her body cannot do what it once could, and she knows that 100 years is a long time to be alive.

Still, she has plenty to say about how to spend those years.

A Life That Took Work

Millman said she was "Rhode Island born and bred," and when she dies, she'll be "Rhode Island dead." She comes from a family with a history of long lives, too, as her paternal grandmother lived to 96, and a cousin reached 102.

Good genes helped, she said, but that's not the whole story.

"Life takes a lot of effort," Millman said.

The best way to keep at it, she said, is to be curious.

The day before her birthday, she had been thinking about what had driven her through life, and that's when she came up with the answer of curiosity.

It makes sense. Talk with Millman for a while, and it becomes clear that she wants to understand how things work, why people think the way they do and what the world might teach her next. She studied at the Rhode Island School of Design, where she learned to look closely at herself and the world around her. She then became an interior designer where she worked on homes and other buildings.

She was interested in more than how a room looked, though. She wanted it to work well.

"A house is a machine for living," she said, quoting the architect Marcel Breuer.

That idea still shapes how she thinks about her home; she wants things within reach. She wants her space to be useful and comfortable. She absolutely does not want to get up to find a pencil, only to forget why she stood up in the first place.

That's a daily problem many older people know well, but Millman sees the possibility to make the most of the abilities a person still has.

"The space I live in is a comfortable place in which to exercise my waning capabilities," she said.

What an honest way to talk about aging. There are losses that cannot be wished away, but there are also ways to adjust, make choices and keep living on your own terms.

The Hard Work of Happiness

Millman said her life has included joy, pain and plenty of both.

She married Lester Joshua Millman, an architect who was active in Providence. They had children and built a life together, and he was, she said, a determined man.

He also loved tennis.

Millman recalled a summer when her husband was told by his doctor not to play and to stay off his feet. A few days later, three women at a party needed a fourth player for a tennis match the next morning, and Lester offered to help.

The women weren't sure about that plan, but Lester said he would stand in one spot and hit the ball if he could. He played the next morning, then he played again and again.

When he returned to the doctor, the doctor was surprised by how well he looked.

"Well, there you go," Millman laughed. "Shows you how much they know."

Her humor has a sharp edge, but it also carries something deeper. Life rarely goes exactly as planned, and sometimes the people who think they know best get it all wrong.

Millman also knows that life can change in an instant. Her husband died at 67, after years of health problems. They had just returned home from Boston, where he had been recovering from surgery. She explained that they were sitting on the couch, watching television, when he said, "Gee, I feel funny."

Then he was gone.

Millman described his death as a good way to go, without knowing what was happening. But losing him left her alone with a life that had to be reorganized.

Ultimately, she found a way forward through her Jewish community. She began learning to read Hebrew and formed close ties with others. She also sought help for depression, which she had first experienced at 18 but did not begin treating until she was 42.

It took years of work and several therapists before Millman felt she had worked through much of what had held her back. By then, she was in her early 80s.

She had learned something important: It is never too late to change.

"I like the person I've become," she said.

Goodness knows, it wasn't an easy journey. Some parts were wonderful, others were not. But Millman knows those experiences helped shape her into who she is.

As for whether she would do it all again?

"I haven't a clue," she said.

Millman also explained that she doesn't believe happiness arrives at the door and asks to be let in. What she means is people have to put in the work to find good moments, even when things are hard. She knows happiness is not something a person feels every hour of every day. A vacation may bring a week of joy, whereas the rest of life takes effort.

Her advice is to not let every bad thought pull you into a dark place.

One of the lessons she learned late in life came from a caregiver named Lillian at Colebrook Village. Lillian gave her a message that stayed with her: "Make it a good day."

Millman took those words to heart.

A good day may not mean doing something grand. It may mean enjoying a meal, watching a movie, talking with a friend or learning something new.

For the rest of her birthday, Millman told the *Rivereast,* she planned to watch Netflix and eat leftovers for dinner from a wonderful lunch with her children. Between the lunch at a Colebrook birthday bash, she'd already done enough for one day.

Millman also has a clear view of what it means to grow old. She likes being with people, but she has always enjoyed time alone, too. Even as a child, she described herself as a "chosen loner." She laughed when she said she doesn't like being fussed over, because accepting regular help has been one of the hardest parts of life at Colebrook Village.

However, she praised the staff for being kind, helpful and understanding. She also praised the people who set the tone for the place.

Millman said she knows she's lucky to have a safe, warm home and people around her who care.

But she made a point to discern the difference between good care with having control over every part of her life. The loss of physical freedom is one of the hardest parts of getting older, she said.

It's a loss that can be hard for younger people to understand. Simple tasks can become difficult; choices that used to come easily can now depend on someone else's help.

Millman didn't hide that truth, and she wants people to understand it. At the same time, she knows there are still choices only she can make.

"The only thing over which any human being … has control is [their] decision," she said.

She cannot control what other people do, she cannot stop the world from changing, but she can decide how she responds.

"That's a lot of control. It's enough for me," she said.

The World Never Stops Changing

Millman has watched a century of change, from new technology to new ideas about family, faith and how people live. Her own family reflects many of those changes. Her children and grandchildren live in different places, and the family includes people from different cultures and backgrounds.

She sees that variety as something to welcome.

"We believe in accepting and accommodating each other," she said.

She is also concerned about how much information people take in today, and how quickly words can lose their meaning. New tools can make it easier to share ideas, but that doesn't mean people always understand one another.

For Millman, the real danger is not knowing everything – it's refusing to be curious.

"What's really dangerous is not being interested, not caring," she said.

That may be the closest thing she has to a rule for life. Ask questions, listen, try to understand and don't assume the world has nothing left to teach you.



Ida Millman just celebrated her 100th birthday, and she is still quick-witted and kind, and she is also an avid collector of graphic tins. When speaking about them, her eyes light up in the same way as when talking about reading written works by philosopher Frederich Nietzsche or how much she enjoys having her family around. Her secret to a long life is simple enough: "curiosity," she said.

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: 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.

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.

Fall Prevention Workshop with Enliven Health: Monday, Nov. 2, 10 a.m. This free workshop is focused on reducing falls, improving safety, and maintaining independence. You will learn about common fall risk factors, prevention strategies, and ways to improve balance and confidence with daily activities. Coffee and light refreshments will be served.

Veterans Day Lunch: Monday, Nov. 9, noon. The center is offering a free homecooked lunch for Hebron veterans and a guest. The menu will include roast pork, mashed potatoes, glazed carrots, applesauce, and a dessert. Register by Nov. 5.

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.

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.

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; all types of cleaning products, especially bleach; 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, hoodies and sweatpants (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.

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.

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

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

Spooky Fun Awaits at Harvest Moon Festival

By Toriana Williams

Get ready for pumpkins, costumes, creepy scenes and a whole lot of fall fun at Hebron's Harvest Moon Festival, which returns on Saturday, Oct. 24. This annual event brings families, friends and plenty of visitors to Main Street for one of the town's favorite fall traditions.

The festival will run from 1:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. along Main Street. If rain washes out the fun, Sunday, Oct. 25 is the planned rain date.

The annual festival has a little something for everyone. The Town Center Project (TTCP) President Candice Deguzis said that this year, there will be new attractions along with many old favorites.

"We do try to try something new every year," said Deguzis.

One of the new attractions Deguzis is most excited for is a spooky trail at St. Peter's Preserve, where attendees can take a walk through the trail for some Halloween thrills. Deguzis hopes it will bring something special for older kids and teens, too.

But the spooky trail isn't the only new treat in store. The festival will also welcome the Crow and Cauldron Witch Dancers, a group of volunteers who dress as witches and perform dances along Main Street.

And keep your eyes peeled for painted rocks! Visitors can hunt for rocks decorated as eyeballs and either choose to keep their finds or trade them in for a prize.

"Adults can do it too!" added Deguzis.

Along with new attractions, plenty of the festival's most loved traditions are coming back. One of the biggest sights of the day is the tower of carved pumpkins, where visitors can bring their own carved jack-o'-lanterns to join the display. Awards for the pumpkin carving contest will be handed out at 6 p.m.

Deguzis shared that she loves the pumpkin display, and that it's a big part of what makes the event special to her.

"Seeing that big tower that we have with the carved pumpkins is kind of what I envision when I think about Harvest Moon," she said.

The contest will have three judges: Hebron's new town manager, Marc Strange, along with Christa Goodwin-Babka from Hebron Interfaith Human Services and Bria Comer of Hebron Mini Golf.

Another crowd favorite is the Parade of Pooches, where dogs dressed in fun and silly costumes will march down main street.

"The pooch parade is a staple. Like, how fun to see all the dogs in costume parading down Main street," laughed Deguzis. "I definitely think that's a classic."

There will also be spooky scenes performed by RHAM drama students at the American Legion Post, where student actors will bring Halloween stories to life.

But at the end of the day, Deguzis explained that the Harvest Moon Festival is a beautiful chance for neighbors to come together and enjoy the town they call home.

Deguzis grew up in Hebron and returned to raise her family here. She first got involved with TTCP after stopping at a booth during an event and talking with a volunteer. She began helping with Make Music Day and the Maple Festival before taking on more work with the group.

She became the president in July after sharing the role with former president Holly Habicht. For Deguzis, volunteering is a way to make a difference while meeting people and building friendships.

"I think it's great to have an outlet and a way to positively impact the community," she said.

She also hopes the festival will give children many happy memories of growing up in Hebron.

"I hope that kids growing up, who are from Hebron, can talk about how in their hometown they have this really cool festival," said Deguzis.

The event also brings people into the town center, giving plenty of exposure to local ships, restaurants, clubs and other groups. None of which would happen without the people who give their time to make the festival possible, emphasized Deguzis.

"We operate with a very small, but mighty, group of volunteers," said Deguzis.

She stresses that people do not have to make a big commitment to help. Even an hour or two on festival day can make a real difference and be a huge help. Volunteers can help set up, run activities, put up signs or pack things away when the fun ends.

"Every volunteer is so valuable to the organization. It's 'many hands make light work,'" she said.

Absentee Ballots Available

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

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

The state election for governor and lieutenant governor, representative in congress, state senator, state representative, secretary of the state, treasurer, comptroller, attorney general and judge of probate will be held at Hebron Elementary School, 92 Church St., between 6 a.m. and 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 3.

Also, early voting will continue daily through Sunday, Nov. 1. Hours are 10 a.m.-6 p.m. each day, with extended hours from 8 a.m.-8 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday, Oct. 27 and 29. The early voting location is the Lower Meeting Room at the Hebron Town Office Building, 15 Gilead St.

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: Friday, Oct. 23, 5 p.m., Whist Tournament for #HebronRocksAlz in Fellowship Hall; Saturday, Oct. 24, 9:30 a.m., Wise Warrior Yoga in Fellowship Hall; Saturday, Oct. 24, 5 p.m., Gilead to Go Meal Pickups in Gilead's Parking Lot; Sunday, Oct. 25, 10 a.m., Worship Service with October Youth Birthdays and Youth Bibles in Sanctuary (in-person and livestreamed); Sunday, Oct. 25, 11 a.m., Garden of Remembrance Celebration in Garden (weather permitting); Sunday, Oct. 25, 6 p.m., Youth Group Monthly Meeting in Fellowship Hall; Monday, Oct. 26, 9:30 a.m., Online Bible Study via Zoom; Tuesday, Oct. 27, 7:30 p.m., AA Meeting in Fellowship Hall; Wednesday, Oct. 28, 9:30 a.m., Wise Warrior Yoga in Fellowship Hall; Wednesday, Oct. 28, 10:45 a.m., Book Group in Fellowship Hall; Wednesday, Oct. 28, 7 p.m., Choir Practice in Sanctuary

Upcoming Events: 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.

St. Peter's News & Notes

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

Sunday Communion Worship: Communion services, where all are welcome, are held at 8 a.m. (Rite 1) and 10 a.m. (Rite 2). Sunday School is at 10 a.m. A coffee fellowship follows each service. The 10 a.m. service is livestreamed on Facebook. Visit www.stpetershebron.com to join.

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

Fall Book Club: Mondays from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Starting on beginning Oct 26, the Fall Book Club will continue with a study of the Episcopal Catechism. All are welcome to attend. Contact the office for more information.

Community Events Planning Meeting: Thursday, Oct. 29, 7 p.m. in the parish hall.

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.

Roast Pork Community Dinner: Saturday, Nov. 21, 4 p.m.

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, 10:15 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, Hall Committee, Worship, Pastoral Care and Vestry. Also, the Women's Club typically meets the third or fourth Sunday each month for crafting and fellowship.

Turkey Shoots to Start

Skungamaug Fish and Game Club will hold its annual turkey shoots Sundays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., from Oct. 25 through Nov. 22, at the club, 423 Jones St., Hebron.

All are welcome.

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.

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

Bottle Drive

Scouting America Troop 28/1028 in Hebron will have a bottle drive on Saturday, Nov. 14, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., at Ted's Supermarket, 127 Main St.

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.

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.

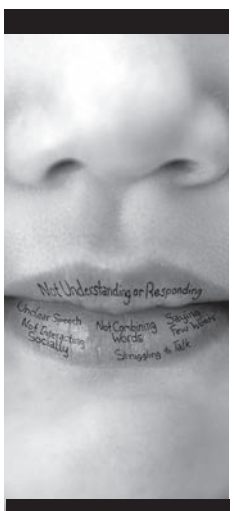
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Program on Jewish Immigrant Farmers

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

The event will begin at the library with the showing of *Harvesting Stones*. The documentary film tells the story of how Jewish families, escaping persecution in eastern Europe, traveled to eastern Connecticut where they established farms and synagogues and became valued members of the communities where they settled. The documentary features interviews with the children and grandchildren of the original settlers and includes historical footage.

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

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. 10/23: "Gremlins" (PG); 10/30: "Little Shop of Horrors" (PG-13).

Access Health Assistance: Monday, Oct. 26, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Access Health CT will offer free one-on-one sessions with trained professionals who can guide you through your choices, answer your questions, and help you enroll in the right plan for you and your family.

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: Friday, Nov. 6 and Saturday, Nov. 7. Group 1 meets every other Friday from 3:30-5:30 p.m., and group 2 meets every other Saturday from 12:30-2:30 p.m. Pre-made character sheets and dice are provided. New players welcome! Registration requested.

Children: PJ Storytime: Tuesday, Oct. 27, 6 p.m., for ages 1-5. Siblings welcome. Come in your pajamas for this evening storytime.

Drawn to Read: Wednesday, Oct. 28, 1-2 p.m. Kids in grades 2-6 are invited to join the Graphic Novel Club. You'll read a chapter in a new graphic novel(s) each session. They will be available to check out if there is interest in it.

Lego Club: Saturday, Oct. 31, noon-1 p.m. All ages are invited to come build some Lego creations.

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★ ***Friendly Terms, cont. from page 1***

were leaving the state.

Needleman, too, has made affordability a centerpiece of his campaign. He is currently running for his fifth term in office, and also serves as the first selectman of Essex, a position he has held since 2011. Needleman, a businessman who founded Tower Labs, which makes effervescent pharmaceutical products, takes no salary in his state Senate role.

Needleman said he was running because "I love serving the public and feel that I bring a moderate thoughtful voice to the conversation regardless of the topic. I work to always try to see all sides of an issue because making a decision on policy."

Needleman also said he had concerns about the cost of living in the state, but he framed his concerns on the issue in a slightly different way, emphasizing the importance of making room for all.

"I would argue that the biggest challenges facing the state are making sure that we don't leave more people behind, be they rural or urban poor and working class residents," he said. "We also need a strong focus on economic development because re-slicing the pie doesn't solve the issues of better education, healthcare and affordability for the majority of our residents. We need to grow the pie and create more opportunity."

Another issue that both candidates feel strongly about is that of energy policy. Needleman has served as the chair of the Senate's Energy and Technology Committee. Ferraro also served on the House Energy and Technology Committee, and the two candidates often worked together on energy issues.

Ferraro has made fighting to remove the state's Public Benefits Charge, which is added onto utility bills, a campaign promise. He argued that the state's utility bills are among the highest in the country.

According to a public Connecticut General Assembly document explaining the charge, the Connecticut public benefits charge is a "state-mandated fee on your electric bill. It funds assistance provided to low-income customers, energy efficiency programs and renewable energy investments, as well as offsets regulatory costs. It also supports the nonprofit ISO New England, which supervises the regional power grid."

The document further explains that this fee "has been a part of your bill for two decades," but notes that in 2023, state law started requiring utilities to report the public benefits charge as a separate line item. "As a result, the charge became highly visible," the document states.

At a recent candidates' forum in Colchester, Needleman emphasized that last point when talking with the audience, making the case that the charges were always there, even if they were not separated out. He framed the charge being isolated on bills as a win for transparency. He also challenged audience members to look at their bills, saying that the public benefit charge was now negative – meaning it was a credit, and not a charge.

That credit is due in part to a decision made by the Connecticut Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) that took effect this past May. The state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) said that the reduction was the result of the state's contracts with its nuclear power plants, which are not subject to the same price volatility that fossil fuels are, as well as past policy decisions relating to electric vehicle charging.

Ferraro called that recent reduction an "election gimmick" and said he worried about the number of initiatives that were currently included in the public benefits charge.

"I'm a firm believer that some of those things can be put into general budget," Ferraro said. "Then they can compete with all the other things that are in the general budget," he said.

"If they're not valuable, they'll fall by the wayside," he added, "and if it's something we really need, they're going to win, then they're going to be planned."

Needleman said he was proud of his "deep well of understanding" of the state's energy challenges, which has previously described as one of the most complicated problems in state government. He said his goals in that area included "affordability, reliability and environmental goals like air and water quality."

In a discussion with the *Rivereast* earlier this year, Needleman described himself as a moderate Democrat.

"I don't think government can solve all problems," he said, "but I think that when you get around to basic necessities — shelter, food, healthcare — you know, these are basic necessities that I think in a modern society are a right. Not an unlimited right, but a right."

At the same time, he said, "on economic issues, I tend to be prudent and thoughtful and believe that balancing budgets makes sense," adding that he did not believe that "taxing people in an unlimited way is going to solve anything."

Ferraro said he believed in increasing transparency and efficiency. He described himself as "a true conservative" who believed in "balanced budgets," and "not borrowing money that we can't pay back, not spending spending money we money don't we have."

Both candidates said they weren't afraid to reach across the aisle to get things done.

"My work behind the scenes to build consensus is widely regarded as a key asset," said Needleman. "Too many political figures retreat to their corners and evaluate issues based on preconceived notions."

On that point, Ferraro agreed.

"Republicans are going to come at it from one point of view, and Democrats are going to come at it from another viewpoint," he said. "And that's why you put both ideas on the table and you say, 'Okay, well, there's no doubt we need this.'"

"Would I like to see a Republican majority? Of course. Of course I would, but I'm not crazed by it," Ferraro added. "I'll just settle for making it close enough where both sides of the aisle can come together and come up with solutions. I'd be happy with that."

Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 3. Early voting began Oct. 19 and runs daily through Sunday, Nov. 1.

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.

Christ Lutheran Church News and Notes

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

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

Sunday Bible Study: Sundays at 10:30 a.m., following service and fellowship time. All are welcome. **Men's Bible Study:** Saturday, Nov 14, 8 a.m. Topic: Bible on Trial. **Women's Bible Study:** Thursday, Nov. 5, 6:30 p.m. Topic: Prayer.

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

Caring Shepherds Social Ministry Group: There are open food pantry days held to distribute food staples, household and hygiene items as well as Bibles and prayers. The next one is Saturday, Nov. 7, at 9 a.m. For more information about donating or participating in food pantry days, call 860-228-1152.

#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.

United Brethren Synagogue News & Notes

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

About the Synagogue: United Brethren of Hebron offers a flexible, inclusive approach to Judaism. The synagogue combines elements from both the Conservative and Reform traditions, and our membership includes interfaith families and couples. If you are interested in attending services, becoming a member or would like to learn more about the synagogue, email ubofhebron@gmail.com, call 860-337-3618, or visit www.ubofhebron.org.

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

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.

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.

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Community Chorus Fall Concert

The Hebron Community Chorus is performing its Fall Concert, The Songs We Carry, at 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 13, at Gilead Congregational Church.

The chorus of 20 or so singers from Hebron and surrounding towns, is helmed by Andrey Stolyarov, who has been its director since its founding by The Town Center Project in 2022. This program features seasons of beautiful music.

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.

From the Committee on Solidarity

In his song, "The Stranger," Billy Joel says *Well, we all have a face/That we hide away forever.* But should we have to hide away who we really are? This is the vein of questioning that I find myself following as we journey through this "spooky season" towards November. Nov. 20, is a day when we honor and remember those who have passed that identified as transgender. Why do we need a special day for remembrance of transgender people? Shouldn't their lives be remembered like any loved one who passes, privately by friends and family? The answer to the latter is yes, of course. It's a terrible thing to lose someone – anyone – to something that feels like it could have been prevented if only we had known that they were suffering. The answer to the former is more complex.

To be fair, everyone has parts of themselves that they hide. Do you remember being a teenager with a secret crush and being terrified someone would find out? Many of us might not relate to the feeling that we're hiding most of ourselves, though – which is what it might be like to be a trans person who is in the closet. Imagine leading a life feeling that the true you is intrinsically different – perhaps even opposite – from the you that everyone sees. That would be a heavy weight, the combination of a secret and the insecurity that you'd be rejected if others knew that secret. And many trans individuals feel they can neither continue to carry that weight nor set it down. Alternatively, many who decide to show their authentic self are physically (and sometimes fatally) attacked for it.

The Transgender Day of Remembrance gives friends, family and even acquaintances of those who have passed a chance to remember whom they have lost. It gives us a chance to say, "I wish I'd known." To say, "I wish I could have protected you." To reflect on what part of ourselves we're hiding, and try to give that part a little compassion. As Joel says to himself after discovering the hidden side of his lover, *You've done it, why can't someone else?*

The Committee for Solidarity is crafting and will provide a modest kit for anyone interested in privately honoring someone on Nov. 20. Anyone interested in helping to compile them is invited to the Portland Library's Mary Flood Room on Saturday, Nov. 7, from 1-2 p.m. The Trans Vigil Kits will then be held at the library, available for pick up from the front desk until Nov. 17.

We welcome the public to join us for our monthly meetings on the second Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m. You can join us either in person at the Waverly Senior Center or online at http://www.portlandct.org/zoom, Zoom B. Agendas, minutes, and general information can be found at portlandct.org/solidarity-task-force. If you are interested in the committee, you do not have to be a member to participate! To learn more about the committee and its workgroups, email portlandctsolidarity@gmail.com.

Portland Committee on Solidarity

Early Voting and Absentee Ballots

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

Early voting continues daily, including weekends, through Sunday, Nov. 1, at Town Hall, 33 East Main St. Early voting hours are 10 a.m.-6 p.m. every day, except that hours are extended to 8 a.m.-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 still available from the town clerk's office. Call 860-342-6743 or stop by the office for an application. Residents can also apply for an absentee ballot on the Secretary of 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.

Lastly, residents who are looking to vote in Portland for the first time can complete a voter registration form in the Town Clerk's Office, 33 East Main St., or online at the secretary of the state's website, portal.ct.gov/sots.

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.

A Musical Holiday Celebration

The Middlesex Hospital Vocal Chords will present its 36th annual winter concert, entitled "A Musical Holiday Celebration," on Sunday, Dec. 6, at 2 p.m., at Portland High School, 95 High St.

Samuel Tucker, musical director, along with Alan Dougherty, accompanist, have arranged a varied program. Along with the all time favorite traditional carols, some selections include Beethoven's "Hallelujah", the "Little Drummer Boy," "It's Beginning to Look a Lot like Christmas," "What Child is This," "Sleigh Ride" and "Mele Kalikimaka."

This 80-member chorus also features 10 orchestra members.

Tickets are $25; call 860-347-2787 or visit vocalchords20.org for more information. Like ther Vocal Chords on Facebook and Instagram.

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: Collected pull tabs are 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.

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 Nov. 2.

Weekly Programs: Monday, 10/26: Light Aerobics, 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Tuesday, 10/27: Bears on a Journey, 9:30-11 a.m. – help make fleece teddy bears for cancer patients. Also, donations of light fleece (one yard or more) are sought for making teddy bears for cancer patients throughout Connecticut. To donate, call 860-342-0809; **Watercolor Painting Class with Bivenne Staiger,** 9:30 a.m. to noon. Payment to instructor. Contact bivenne@yahoo.com for more information; **Congregate Meal,** noon. Menu: baked, sliced ham, macaroni and cheese, mixed veggies, fruit cup, dinner roll with butter; **Coupons for Troops**, 1-4 p.m.; **Setback,** 1 p.m.; **SyncoCize**, 5-6 p.m., fee is donation to instructor.

Wednesday, 10/28: Light Aerobics, 9:30-10:30 a.m.; **Bridge**, 12:30 p.m.

Thursday, 10/29: Seated Stretch & Tone, 9:30 a.m.; **Knit & Stitch**, 10 a.m.; **Congregate Meal,** noon – $3 suggested donation (must fill out form). Menu: grilled chicken, roasted vegetables, roasted potatoes, flatbread with yogurt sauce, pineapple; **Mah Jongg**, 12:30 p.m.; **Scrabble,** 1 p.m.

Friday, 10/30: 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. 26: Technology Tips Workshop, 11 a.m. Topic: Artificial Intelligence: Are We Going Too Fast?

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.

Monday, Nov. 2: Health Education with Chatham Health, 10:45-11:15 a.m. Learn about insulin resistance, presented by Stephanie Reyes, MPH, CHES. Diabetic-friendly recipes will also be given out.

Monday, Nov. 2: Blood Pressure Clinic, 10-11 a.m. Learn how to take a proper blood pressure and how to monitor your blood pressure at home. You can also learn about how to reduce your risk for heart attacks and strokes.

Wednesday, Nov. 4: Shopping Trip & Lunch in Old Saybrook, departs senior center at 9 a.m. Shop at Big Y, Marshalls, Walmart, Dollar Tree, Ocean State Job Lot, and Homegoods, Lunch at Pizza Works. Pay for own lunch and shopping.

Friday, Nov. 6: Lunch at Red Fox, bus departs center at noon. There is a $5 ride fee. Pay for your own lunch.

Monday, Nov. 9: Beyond Aging in Place, noon. Designing a Home That Evolves with You, with Join Steve Gregory, owner of Oakley Home Access of Connecticut. The open discussion will highlight key areas of the home to evaluate and why planning before a crisis provides more choices, better outcomes and greater peace of mind. Lunch sponsored by Marlborough Center and Water's Edge Center, affiliates of National Healthcare Associates.

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.

Zion Lutheran Coat Drive

Zion Lutheran Church, located at 183 William St., will hold its third annual Coat Drive to support Amazing Grace Food Pantry on Saturday, Nov. 7, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Located in Middletown, Amazing Grace Food Pantry services eight surrounding towns, including Portland.

Prior to Nov. 7, gently used or new coats, vests and heavy sweaters of all sizes, including adults and children's, may be dropped off at the church. Contact the church office at 860-342-2860, or Kathy Richards at 860-982-7624 to make arrangements for drop-offs.

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Traffic Pattern Change for Halloween

Motorists driving on Main Street (a.k.a. Route 17A) in Portland will experience a temporary traffic pattern change on Friday, Oct. 30, from 4:30-6:30 p.m. due to the annual Halloween on Main Trick-or-Treating.

To ensure pedestrian safety as families visit businesses in the Village District, a portion of Main Street/Route 17A will be partially closed. Traffic will be restricted to the two center lanes only (one lane in each direction), with the following specific outer lane closures:

· Southbound lane closure: one southbound lane will be closed from the Portland Post Office (320 Main St.) to Quarry Heights (208 Main St.) at the intersection of Main Street/Route 17A and Marlborough Street/Route 66.

· Northbound lane closure: one northbound lane will be closed from the intersection of Main Street/Route 17A and Marlborough Street/Route 66 from Walgreens (227 Main St.) to the Portland Post Office (320 Main St.)/Fairview Street.

Additionally, motorists will have to find alternate routes as direct turns onto Main Street from Freestone Avenue, Waverly Avenue and Fairview Street will not be allowed.

Drivers should expect minor delays through the Village District during these hours and are urged to use extra caution due to heavy pedestrian and trick-or-treater activity.

Public School Preschool Screening

Connecticut public schools are responsible for identifying children who are eligible to receive special education services. Valley View School in Portland will conduct a preschool screening on Friday, Nov. 13, for children ages 3 to 4 years. The screening is designed to answer any questions or concerns about a child's development, as well as identify children who may be eligible for the preschool selection process.

During the screening, your child will meet with members from our preschool team and participate in a variety of activities. These activities assess different developmental areas including cognition, communication, fine and gross motor skills, and social interaction. During this time, the parent/caregiver will meet with another member of the team to discuss your child's adaptive and personal social skills.

Following the screening, you will receive a letter stating your child's result.

In order for your child to attend Valley View's preschool program, they must participate in the screening process. Peer role models are determined on a year-to-year basis.

For more information and to schedule an appointment, call Valley View School at 860-342-3131.

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: 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: 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. **Mystery Lovers Book Club:** Tuesday, Nov 17, 1 p.m. "A Traitor in Whitehall" by Julia Kelly will be discussed.

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

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.

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.

Invisible No More: Wangunk Artists – An Evening with Gary Red Oak O'Neil: Thursday, Nov. 12, 6 p.m. Learn about the original caretakers of Portland, the Wangunks, from elder, artist and tribal historian Gary "Red Oak" O'Neil. Red Oak is an educator and a descendant of the Wangunk Jonathan Palmer line. He is the genealogist of the remaining Wangunks in Middlesex County, and has served as an organizer and leader of that community since the 1970s. Attendees will also view a special screening of Eiley Doyle's short 2025 film "Piece by Piece." Doors open at 5:30p.m. and the event will begin at 6 p.m. Refreshments provided by the Portland Historical Society.

Invisible No More: Wangunk Artists Reception: Saturday, Nov. 14, 1 p.m. This reception celebrates the exhibition of Wangunk Elder Gary "Red Oak" O'Neil's ceramics, alongside a display of other contemporary Wangunk works curated by him. Learn about the original caretakers of Portland as you trace connections between family, land, memory, and cultural preservation. The pottery exhibit will be in the display cases in the Portland Library through Nov. 19. The art exhibit will run in the Mary Flood Room from Nov. 3-Dec. 7.

Adult Craft: The Art of Rock Painting: Tuesday, Nov. 17, 6 p.m. Nature artist Denise Smith will lead this workshop, at which people will turn simple stones into meaningful objects that provide purpose and calm creativity. This craft experience is for all skill levels. All supplies are provided, as well as instruction and inspiration. Registration is required and opens on Monday, Nov. 2, at 10 a.m. Space is limited.

Gun Brandished in Boat Works Assault

By Anne Lilburn

Portland Police responded to an altercation involving a firearm at Portland Boat Works, located at 51 Grove St., last Saturday, Oct. 17 – an incident that resulted in an assault and an arrest, police said.

Brian Rohan, 49, of Westfield, Mass., was charged with failure to comply with a fingerprinting request, carrying a pistol without a permit, carrying a firearm under the influence of drugs/alcohol, breach of the peace, assault with a weapon without discharging a firearm, masking a physical threat, and reckless endangerment.

Police said they responded to a reported dispute at Portland Boat Works involving Rohan and two other men at approximately 4 p.m. on Saturday. According to the police report, "a verbal confrontation led to the accused retrieving a handgun from his vehicle."

Rohan then "struck each one of them with the handgun before pointing the gun at the rear of one of the victim's heads," police said.

The men were able to leave the area, police said, but Rohan followed them before returning to the boatyard, where police officers found him.

Rohan was released on a $150,000 surety bond pending a court appearance on Oct. 27.

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 "Taking Root."

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.

Upcoming Event: The church will hand out treats on Friday, Oct. 30, during Portland's annual Halloween on Main Street. Stop by and pick up a sweet treat.

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.

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The restored bell at Zion Lutheran Church will be dedicated during the regular church service on Sunday, Nov. 8, at 9 a.m.

Zion Restored Bell to be Dedicated

A dedication of the restored bell at Zion Lutheran Church will take place during Zion's regular church service on Sunday, Nov. 8, at 9 a.m.

Coffee hour with homemade baked goods will be served afterwards. All are welcome to attend. The church is located at 183 William St.

Eighteen months ago, Zion created a Bell Committee tasked with the goals to replace the bell striker and construct a new bell tower for the benefit of the church and the wider community. The bell was used to celebrate July 4 to celebrate 250 years of American independence. It also rang on the somber anniversary of Sept. 11. The bell tolls daily at 9 a.m., noon, 3 p.m. and 6 p.m., as a reminder for daily prayer.

The 1,200-pound bronze bell was cast in 1850 and originally hung at Center Church on Bartlett Street. In 1935, Howard Hale purchased the property of the closed-down Center Church and donated the bell to Zion, then located on Waverly Avenue. In 1968, the bell was moved to its current location on William Street where it hung until 2015 and was taken down due to the deterioration of the wooden bell tower.

Church members and non-members made donations toward the restoration of the bell. The Travelers Championship provided a boost with its Birdies for Charity program. Gary Colby and Susan Hale Colby of Colby Transportation transported the bell from Portland to the Verdin Company in Cincinnati, Ohio, for repairs and upon completion, they delivered it safely back home.

The talents of local professionals performed the work on the bell structure: Paul Redfern of Redfern Engineering, for the structural design; David Peterson of Peterson Brothers Electric for the connectivity of the electrical wiring; Ted Coughlin and his team at Coughlin Services Corp and Mark DeFrancesco Masonry for the construction of bell structure.

Correction

In the cover story last week on the Ralph Paley Spirit of Portland Awards, the director of the senior center was misidentified as Sarah Caratasios-Elliot. Her name is actually Sarah Elliott-Caratasios.

The *Rivereast* regrets the error.

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.

Guild Basket Raffle

St. Mary Church will host its annual basket raffle on Saturday, Nov. 7, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., and after all weekend masses. Last year, the Guild offered 70 baskets in addition to a variety of gift cards.

All are welcome.

Concert for Food Bank

Tony Rome and The Peacemakers will play a Halloween show to benefit Portland Food Bank on Saturday, Oct. 31, at 2 p.m., at Concentric Brewing Company, 91 Main St.

Costumes are optional, but welcome.

If you can't make the concert, donations can be sent directly to the Food Bank at 7 Waverly Ave., Portland, CT 06480.

Exchange Club Final Bingo Night

The Portland Exchange Club will hold a Bingo Night 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.portlandexchange.org.

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.

All are asked to donate new, unwrapped toys to children in need. The donation location is the Town Garage, 505 Glastonbury Tpke.

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.

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.

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.trinitychurchportlandct.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.

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.

Meet-and-Greet with a Fire Truck

Portland Library Meet-and-Greet with a Fire Truck will be held Saturday, Oct. 24, at 10:30 a.m., on the Town Green.

October is Fire Prevention Month and the library will celebrate with a visit from the fire department. Learn about fire safety and get to tour a fire engine during this special program from the Portland Volunteer Fire Department.

All ages are welcome. Registration is not required for this event.

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.

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.

Adult Programs: 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.

Drop-in Mah Jongg Play: Wednesday, Nov. 4, 6 p.m. Drop in for an evening of casual Mah Jongg play. Tables and Mah Jongg sets will be available. Space is first-come, first-served and open to all levels of play.

Teen Programs: 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.

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.

Helping at the Fair: The church's Autumn Leaves Fair is coming up Nov. 7, and volunteers are sought. Sign up to help with set up, working during the fail, baking for the Bake Sale, and/or clean up.

Thanksgiving Food Baskets: The Missions Team is collecting food items for five families this year. Sign up to donate to a local family through Covenant to Care.

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

America 250 Presentation on the Wangunk Tribe

The East Hampton 250th Anniversary Committee is pleased to announce that Gary "Red Oak" O'Neil will offer a talk about the Wangunk, the original caretakers of this region which includes East Hampton on Thursday, Nov. 5, at 6:30 p.m., at East Hampton High School.

O'Neil's presentation will begin with a film screening of the 12-minute documentary "Piece by Piece" by Eiley Doyle and followed by a talk with questions and answers.

A living elder of the Wangunk tribe, O'Neil is one of the last traceable Wangunk descendants through Jonathan Palmer. He has maintained the tribe's records and genealogy since the early 1970s and carries powerful stories of his ancestors' resilience from ancient times to the present.

The documentary "Piece by Piece" focuses on O'Neil's ceramic practice and family history; it visits the cemetery grounds of O'Neil's ancestors, as well as the archaeology dig at the Lt. John Hollister site in South Glastonbury and the office of CT State Archaeologist Sarah Sportman. It is a beautiful and concise portrait of Wangunk past and present as embodied by this extraordinary artist.

In recent years, O'Neil has been working with regional municipalities and schools to uplift the tribe's history and presence and to educate the public on this important history. Recent acknowledgements have included exhibits, lectures, city proclamations, ceremonies and municipal memorials across regional towns including Middletown, Portland, Manchester, East Hampton, Middle Haddam and East Haddam.

Senior Night Brilliance for Bellringers Soccer

By Josh Howard

Though the team's first dozen matches this year, East Hampton High School girls soccer has been nothing short of spectacular.

The Bellringers are undefeated through the first twelve, besting their opponents by a combined score 64-3.

Last Thursday (Oct. 15), the team earned win No. 12 by scoring a season-high in goals as they shutout Portland, 9-0, as the Bellringers celebrated Senior Night under a setting sun at EHHS.

Head coach Andrea Giuliano credited her team for keeping the energy level up on the field after a celebratory pregame ceremony, which recognized the program's three seniors.

"They wanted to finish Shorelines strong," Giuliano stated. "Obviously, we've been really successful this season, but they wanted to make our mark and continue that undefeated way."

Senior captain Liv Correia led the offensive onslaught with four goals, including three in the first 16 minutes of action.

Correia, Kota Cloutier, and Savannah Groeper were the trio of Bellringers that were honored prior to the contest.

"We just had to go out there and play our game. We wanted to have good intensity," noted Correia. "We've tried to keep that same mindset all season."

At the 34:27 mark of the first half, sophomore Hadley Galovich scored, opening the flood gates. Correia then scored the next three as the Bellringers took a commanding 4-0 lead into the halftime break.

East Hampton added four more goals over the first nine minutes of the second half as Abigail Hambidge, Addison Perkins, Correia, and Giuliana DonAroma scored. Cloutier polished off the nine-goal performance by scoring in the 63rd minute.

The convincing victory wrapped up an undefeated conference schedule and was the latest in a series of dominant performances, which include a pair of 8-0 wins over Westbrook and Valley Regional earlier this month.

Junior goalie Cassie Owocki has been nearly flawless during the first 12 games, blanking nine of those opponents.

Correia credited Owocki and the team's backline for allowing the offense to do what they do best. She added that the entire team's chemistry has solidified, both on and off the field this year.

"We're like a family now," added Correia. "When someone is down, we look to lift each other up."

A year ago, the team finished 13-0-2 in the regular season before placing as the runner-up in the Shoreline Conference (CCC) tourney and advancing to the semifinals of the Class M state tourney, before losing to the eventual state champs from Foran High School.

Following last season's success, eight of the players (Galovich, Hambidge, Perkins, DonAroma, Owocki, Quinn Rurka, Ava Ploszay, and Alexis Bailey) helped Sporting CT's U16 girls win the 2026 DPL National Super Group Championship in Virginia Beach this past summer.

Giuliano said that her three seniors and the team's deep talent pool have helped carry the momentum from 2025 into this fall.

"They wanted to take it to the next level," explained Giuliano. "They want to improve every single game, no matter who we are playing. They take each game seriously. It's impressive because the work ethic never drops."

Sprinkled in during the team's blowouts are three narrow wins, beating Old Saybrook, Cromwell and Stonington each by a single goal.

With the conference and state tournaments kicking off shortly, Correia noted that the goal is to keep the pedal to the metal.

"We want to keep the same mentality no matter who we play," she said. "No one is going to hand it to us, so we have to continue to work for it."

The Bellringers final test in the regular season is this Saturday, Oct 24, when they travel to Bacon Academy to take on the Bobcats at 5 p.m.

Giuliano said the hope is that the team continues to bring the same championship mentality from the first whistle until the last, adding, "We want to find our rhythm of the game a little sooner and we want to exploit what the other team is giving us more effectively."

The SLC tourney is slated to start later this month and the opening round of the Class M tourney is set to begin on Friday, Nov. 6.



East Hampton girls soccer seniors Kota Cloutier, Savannah Groeper, and Liv Correia were honored prior to the Bellringers defeating Portland, 9-0, on Senior Night last Thursday.

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 Majors on Main Street 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.

Health Expo Nov. 7

The East Hampton Commission on Aging will hold the second annual East Hampton Health Expo on Saturday, Nov. 7 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at East Hampton High School. People of all ages are encouraged to attend and the entire event is free – including refreshments at no cost.

The event features more than a dozen guest speakers. Curious about GLP-1 weight-loss options like Ozempic? Wondering if medical marijuana or CBD is right for you? Experts will dive into those trending topics, alongside vital discussions about staying fit, nutrition, osteoporosis, healthy aging and the latest breakthroughs in Alzheimer's treatment.

You'll also get practical advice to stay safe from local experts on home safety, how to avoid scams, how to keep devices with lithium-ion batteries safe, estate planning, and how to build an accessory dwelling unit.

Between talks, you can explore more than 50 vending tables offering seasonal vaccines, a free blood pressure check, vision screening or a free "sound bath" to help you unwind through vibration and sound.

Check out the full schedule at www.easthamptonct.gov/1377/Commission-on-Aging.

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Power Surge Affects Local Customers

By Anne Lilburn

Some residents in East Hampton spent part of last week recovering from a power surge that occurred on the night of Oct. 13, around 8 p.m.

In Facebook posts, the Town of East Hampton described the event as a "surge or back feed of power" that occurred due to an equipment malfunction. The town estimated that 41 homes in town were affected, in the areas of Hog Hill Road, Terp Road and Schoolhouse Lane.

The surge resulted in a power outage for those properties, and crews contracting with Eversource were deployed to inspect wiring in each circuit in the homes prior to re-energizing them. Residents were told not to use generators until their wiring had been checked to ensure it was not damaged.

Residents were cautioned by the town that "an owner that chooses not to allow the internal inspection may have their power restored at their own risk." The town also told residents that, "in all cases, any damage to wires internally will initially be the responsibility of the property owner, but a claim may be made with Eversource online."

Town Manager Dave Cox said that, as he understood it, no homes had been damaged, but some residents did see damage to refrigerators, pumps and other electronics. In Facebook comments, at least one resident noted that their dryer had been damaged by the event. Cox said affected residents should file a claim with Eversource and also consider whether they wanted to involve their homeowners insurance.

The East Hampton Volunteer Fire Department responded to the event and remained on the scene as Eversource crews investigated and as inspections were underway, and Cox said he was thankful for their work.

Fire Chief Robb Rainville wrote in a Facebook post that "at one point, approximately 3,000 customers were without power." He clarified, though, that "if you simply lost power…that does not necessarily mean your home was affected by the electrical issue. As a safety precaution, power had to be shut off at the grid level to protect the affected properties and prevent further damage."

The homes that were actually affected by the surge included those on Terp Road, street numbers above 47 on Schoolhouse Lane, and 70-128 Hog Hill Road. By 8:30 p.m. the following day, the town reported that power had been restored to all of the affected properties.

Rainville thanked Eversource and their crews for their "hard work and dedication in checking all 41 affected homes to ensure everyone was safe before restoring power" and noted that "this was a significant incident that required a tremendous amount of coordination and teamwork." He commended his firefighters for their hard work responding to a "challenging and unusual incident," and also thanked residents for their "patience, understanding, and kindness."

"From providing drinks and snacks to our crews to simply checking on your neighbors and rallying behind one another, you showed what makes East Hampton such a great community," Rainville said.

When reached for comment Eversource spokesperson Sarah Paduano said that "the cause remains under investigation."

"Our priority is always the safety of our customers, and our crews worked nonstop to make repairs and safely restore power following last Tuesday's outage in East Hampton, while staying in close communication with the impacted customers and town leaders," she said. "While 41 customers in the Hog Hill Road area lost power, that does not mean all experienced property damage or further impacts."

Health Expo Nov. 7

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

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

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

Refreshments will be served.

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.

Autumn Leaves Fair Coming

Christ Episcopal Church, located at 66 Middle Haddam Rd. (Route 151), will hold its annual Autumn Leaves Fair on Saturday, Nov. 7, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., at the Parish Hall.

Various baked goods, jellies, jams and pickles, handmade items, pottery, and artisanal crafts are for sale.

Fall Turkey Takeout Dinner

Haddam Neck Congregational Church Ladies Aid will hold the annual Fall Turkey Takeout Dinner at Haddam Neck Congregational Church, 408 Quarry Hill Rd., Haddam Neck, on Saturday, Nov. 14, from 5-6:30 p.m.

Cost is $15 for a full turkey dinner and trimmings and a piece of apple or pumpkin pie.

To place an order, call Melissa Pionzio at 860-993-5311 or Deb Olsen at 860-267-8936 by Monday, Nov. 9.

Police News

10/17: Alexa Bernstein, 39, of Marlborough was arrested and charged with driving under the influence and failure to drive in proper lane, East Hampton Police said.

From Oct. 12-18, officers responded to 22 medical calls, three motor vehicle crashes and eight alarms, and made four traffic stops, police said.

Veterans Breakfast

All veterans and their family members are invited to a Veterans Breakfast at the East Hampton Senior Center on Wednesday, Nov. 4, at 10 a.m., with breakfast from Two Brothers Restaurant.

The VFW Color Guard and Ladies Auxiliary will attend and Veterans are invited to bring photos and other mementos from their service experience.

Call 860-267-4426 for more information and to register.

Turkey Shoots

The Belltown Sportsman's Club will hold Turkey Shoots Sundays, Nov. 8 and 22, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., on the club grounds off of Tartia Road, which is off of Route 16. (Follow the signs.)

Bring your own shotgun or one will be provided. Gauge is 20 and 12. The club will supply the shells. Cost is $4 a shot. Refreshments will be available.

For more information, call Kurley at 860-638-7221.

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.

Waving Events for Ziobron

The East Hampton Republican Town Committee is hosting waving events for Melissa Ziobron, and all are invited to participate.

The events will be Saturday, Oct. 24, from 9-11 a.m., at 20 East High St. (across from McDonald's) and Monday, Oct., 26 from 7-9 a.m., at the CVS corner.

There will be yard signs available for pick up.



On a recent Sunday at the Congregational Church of East Hampton, Yarner participants Jackie Hooper-Hage and Cyndi Shirshac shared their thoughts before a special blessing of the knitted and crocheted goods.

Yarners Present at Church

On Sunday, Oct. 4, the sanctuary at the Congregational Church of East Hampton was filled with items knitted and crocheted by The Yarners, a group that meets year-round at the church.

These handmade items included prayer shawls, throws, mittens, scarves, hats and dolls that will be distributed to organizations throughout the area, including St. Vincent de Paul, Amazing Grace Food Pantry, Middlesex Hospital Hospice and Cancer Center, the East Hampton Food Bank, Memorial School, Portland Convalescent Home, and Connecticut Children's Hospital.

Congregants had the opportunity to admire the many beautiful creations and participate in a special blessing of the items before they are delivered.

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.

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/easthampton-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.

Chair Yoga: Wednesdays at 1:15 p.m., Oct. 29-Dec. 30. Featuring a gentle seated yoga class with instructor Kate Jones. Cost is $25 for the session. Zoom option available. Please register in person.

Sit Flex and Flow Exercise Class: Thursdays at 9:30 a.m.; six-week session started Oct. 15. This class features chair exercises, balance work, playful movement, and—when appropriate—ground exercises. All levels welcome. Drop-in fee is $5 per week.

Linefit: Monday, Oct. 26, 2:30 p.m. This is a low-impact line dancing class. Instructor is Mariana Sigleski. Fee is $5 to drop in.

Fire Cider Workshop: Tuesday, Oct. 27, 10:30 a.m. The workshop highlights the herbs, flavors, and wellness benefits of this zesty tonic. Participants create a bottle to take home, offering a fun, hands-on way to learn about traditional herbal remedies. Cost is $5.

Café Conversations with the Coordinator: Tuesday, Oct. 27, 12:15 p.m. Chat with center director Holly Marrero, share ideas and provide feedback.

Meditation with Eileen Higgins: Wednesday, Oct. 28, 10 a.m.

Wednesday Film & Fun: Wednesday, Oct. 28, 1 p.m., featuring "Hocus Pocus" with Bette Midler, Sarah Jessica Parker and Kathy Najimy.

The Pretend Cooking Show: Thursday, Oct. 29, 2 p.m. Center director Holly Marrero leads another hands-on cooking class featuring the Indian street food dish "Papdi Chaat," made with crispy flour crackers, topped with boiled potatoes, chickpeas, yogurt and tangy chutneys. Cost is $5.

Trips: Seasonal Craft-Making Session with the East Hampton High School Art Club: Thursday, Nov. 5, departing at 2:15 p.m. Take the senior center bus to East Hampton High School and spend time with the school's Art Club to create seasonal decorative creations. Cost is $4 for bus donation. Registration now open.

Rosenfeld, Ziobron Prioritize Community and Affordability

By Anne Lilburn

When they head to the polls this year, East Hampton residents will be helping to choose the new state representative for the 34th House District – and one of the candidates has been there before.



Rosenfeld

Incumbent state Rep. Irene Hayes, a Republican, is retiring from her current seat, leaving the race to candidates Meghan Rosenfeld, a newcomer, and Melissa Ziobron, who previously served in the same seat from 2013 to 2019.

The district serves East Hampton, East Haddam and part of Salem.

Ziobron, an East Haddam resident, currently serves as a senior staffer overseeing fiscal policy the state's Republican caucus, while Rosenfeld, an East Hampton resident, is a career educator and paralegal who currently leads human resources for an independent school.

Ziobron previously left her role as state representative to pursue a state Senate seat, unsuccessfully running against Democrat Norm Needleman in 2018. She said she is running to return to her previous role in the House because she believed "we must always put our small-town values first."

Ziobron noted that she herself has small town roots, having grown up in Moodus and East Hampton before settling in and raising her family in East Haddam. While she said she has enjoyed her time working behind the scenes in Hartford, she wanted to return to office.

"I know I can do more with a microphone in my hand," said Ziobron. "With our current representative retiring, the timing is right. I want to walk back into the Capitol in January 2027 as a seasoned, homegrown legislator, someone with the experience and the courage to stand up to the bureaucrats who so often control the purse strings. I am running to restore accountability, bring radical transparency to the budget process, protect local control, and make government answer to the people."



Ziobron

Rosenfeld, who moved to East Hampton from Pennsylvania three and a half years ago with her family, said she too valued the area's small-town feel; in a prior interview with the *Rivereast, she said* she moved to East Hampton because it reminded her of her childhood.

Rosenfeld said she was running with affordability on her mind, because she saw the need first-hand when she talked to her neighbors.

"At the doors I hear the same concerns again and again: property taxes, energy bills, and whether we can support our schools and our older neighbors at the same time," said Rosenfeld. "I also hear that people are tired of politics that revolves around the politician. I see a state representative as a resource for the community: someone who brings residents' voices into Hartford and gives people clear information so they can take part."

Both candidates triumphed their work and outreach at both the state and local levels. Ziobron told the *Rivereast* that she was proud of her work as an appointed member of Connecticut's Paid Leave Program, as well as her roles as a member of both the East Haddam Board of Education and the town's Open Space Committee. She said she has been involved in environmental issues, working to preserve state parks and oversee fishing regulations as well.

Rosenfeld touted her experience in education and law, highlighting her years as a teacher, HR specialist and paralegal. She also said that she served as the vice oresident of the Chatham Theater Company and noted her role on the East Hampton Commission on Aging. Rosenfeld also pointed to her vocal role at the past year's East Hampton Town Council meetings, where she advocated for property tax relief and other affordability measures for seniors.

Among her biggest priorities, Rosenfeld cited property tax relief and affordability. She said that she believed that, when it came to the biggest challenges facing the state, "affordability ties most of them together."

Rosenfeld said she wanted to "shift the state's share of education cost spending (ECS) toward the income tax, so school quality doesn't depend on local property wealth." She said she'd also like to adjust the state's "volatility cap" so that "more state revenue can go to education rather than sitting in reserve."

Rosenfeld also said she wanted to raise the income limit and expand eligibility on the state's Circuit Breaker property tax relief program. She said she also wanted to "lower [energy] costs by diversifying how Connecticut generates energy."

On the hot topic of development and affordable housing, Rosenfeld said she prioritized "respect[ing] our towns' ability to make decisions about their own infrastructure and growth."

For her part, Ziobron said she ranked the state's top three challenges as "federal funding uncertainty, internal pre-existing structural budget pressures that are producing projected deficits in the out-years, and lastly, an aging population."

She said the state needed to "live within [its] needs and stop using one-time funding for ongoing costs" and claimed that "the state has expanded healthcare insurance and taxpayer services for those here illegally." Ziobron said she believed that "it is not only time to prioritize what taxpayers can realistically afford, but also prosecute fraud and abuse within the system."

She said that she would "protect local decision-making on education and land use, support our famers by cutting unnecessary red tape, and ensure small towns receive their fair share of state education dollars," while also advocating for increased housing.

"We need greater investment in smaller housing options so seniors can safely downsize and remain in their communities, freeing up family-sized homes for the next generation," she said. "Aging in place and creating a continuum for families to lay down roots is part of the joy of living in a small town. Balancing those needs against a growing tax base is the key to enhancing the communities we all love."

Both candidates argued that their decision to run was rooted in service and a commitment to their communities.

"I am willing to take a significant pay cut to leave my full-time staff position and return to elected office because I believe the people of the 34th District deserve a strong, independent voice who will put small-town values first," said Ziobron. "Government should work for you – not the other way around."

Rosenfeld echoed some of that sentiment.

"I don't believe in sides," said Rosenfeld. "I believe in perspectives, and the more of them we consider, the better our solutions. My door will be open to every resident of East Hampton, East Haddam, and Salem, because the best answers for our towns will come from all of us."

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.

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.

All Saints Day on Nov. 1: Email the name of your loved one(s) who have passed away during this past year that you would like remembered.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Christmas Bazaar: Saturday, Nov. 7, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. There will be Christmas décor, gifts, jewelry, a bake sale and a basket raffle. All are invited.

The parish website is www.sjpii.org.

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No Injuries When Car Strikes School Bus

By Anne Lilburn

East Hampton police and fire departments responded to a traffic incident involving a car and a school bus on Oct. 15. Photos posted on Facebook showed a silver vehicle that had crashed into the rear end of a school bus, and East Hampton police confirmed that the driver had been ticketed in the incident, but declined to comment further.

Twenty-four students were on the bus, but no injuries were reported in the crash.

Police said that the accident occurred in the area of Lake Drive at Mott Hill Road, and said that Brian Dickerson, 43, of Marlborough, had been issued a ticket for following too closely and operating an unregistered motor vehicle.

East Hampton's Volunteer Fire Department also responded to the scene of the crash, with Fire Chief Robb Rainville noting in a Facebook post that the department had recently updated their standard operating procedures to include responding to all motor vehicle accidents, "regardless of whether injuries are initially reported."

Writing the day after the bus incident, Rainville said, "Yesterday was a perfect example of why we made this change," and noted the presence of children were on the bus.

"While on scene, our command staff requested an ambulance as a precaution due to the number of children involved. We wanted to make sure we had the appropriate resources available if they were needed," wrote Rainville.

"Under our previous procedures, the fire department could have been delayed in responding or might not have been dispatched at all because there were no reported injuries," he noted.

Rainville pointed out that, in an accident like this, a firefighter's job might go beyond the basics and highlight their role as community support members. He said firefighters handed out Frisbees and bracelets to comfort and distract kids at the scene. In the comments, some parents noted their children's happiness at getting a Frisbee, while others thanked the fire department for making the event less scary for young kids.

"Our job isn't always about putting out fires, treating injuries, or handling emergencies. Sometimes it's about making a scary situation a little less frightening," Rainville said on Facebook. "Sometimes something as simple as a small gift and a friendly firefighter can make a big difference in a child's day."



Julianna's Art will be among the many crafters at the Snowflake Bazaar on Saturday, Nov. 7, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., at Markham Meadows Campground on 7 Markam Road in East Hampton.

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. All proceeds benefit Westchester Congregational Church.

Email westcongchurch@gmail.com for more information.

Absentee Ballots Available

Absentee ballots for the upcoming state election 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 is underway, and runs through Sunday, Nov. 1, between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. each day. There are 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.

Art Association to Welcome Author

On Thursday, Oct. 29, the East Hampton Art Association will welcome featured guest Ralene Goff, who is an award-winning author. The program will be held at 7 p.m. at East Hampton Public Library Function Room, 105 Main St.

Goff is a music educator specializing in music for young children. She has written and self-published several colorful picture books and two books for young middle grade readers. Her book "What If, Fergus" received the 2026 Gold Award from Ella's Way for promoting kindness through children's literature. After a long career as a registered nurse, Goff returned to college, earning a master's degree in music education.

When writing some of her children's books, she used watercolor illustrations from the artwork of her mother and grandmother. She will have many books on display and for sale. Goff will speak about the steps to publishing our own books using our artwork for illustration purposes. All are welcome; there is a suggested $5 donation for non-members, and students are always free. Refreshments and coffee will be served.



Ralene Goff

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.

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.

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. Pre-registration 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.

KofC Polish Dinner

The Knights of Columbus Saint John Paul II Council 6190 will sponsor a Polish Dinner on Sunday, Oct. 25, at St. Bridget Church in Moodus.

Music and dancing start at 3 p.m., and dinner starts at 5 p.m.

Entertainment will be provided by The Happy Travelers Band, and the meal includes perogi, golabka, kielbasa and more.

Tickets are $30 in advance, and are available after weekend Masses at St. Patrick Church in East Hampton, as well as St. Bridget Church. Tickets are also available by credit card, by calling Craig Parker at 860-334-8874.

For more information, contact Ernie Malavasi at 203-287-0707.

Epoch Arts Stage Fright and Hayride

Epoch Arts has renamed its Haunted House; it's now called Stage Fright, and will continue Oct. 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.

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.

Holly Bazaar

The Second Congregational Church of Middle Haddam is hosting its Holly Bazaar on Saturday, Dec 12, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at 52 Middle Haddam Road.

Peanuts, Rada cutlery, baked goods, raffles, tag sale items, holiday crafts and a light lunch are all being offered.

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.

Helping Hands Open Twice Monthly

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.

Athletic Hall of Fame Elects Five

The East Hampton Athletic Hall of Fame's induction ceremony is Friday, Oct. 23, at 6 p.m., at Blackledge Country Club in Hebron.

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 ceremony 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.

Tennis Program for Adults

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

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

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

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

Local Art on Display

Two East Hampton Art Association members are presently displaying their art work locally until the end of November.

Betsy Rich has her oils at the East Hampton Public Library and the local Senior Center.

Also, the oils and watercolors on display at the Town Hall on the first floor belong to Betty Sennett.

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.

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

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.

EHNS Touch-a-Truck Fundraiser

East Hampton Nursery School will hold its fourth annual Touch-a-Truck fundraiser on Sunday Nov. 8, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., at East Hampton High School, 15 N. Maple St.

All are invited to come see police cars, fire trucks, ambulances, and more. There will be a food truck, face-painting, and a special guest. Suggested donations is $5/person or $20/family (food trucks and face-painting not included in donation). Cash and Venmo accepted.

EHNS is a nonprofit organization that has been open in town for over 60 years. For questions or more information, contact general@easthamptonnurseryschool.com.

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.

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 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.

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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.

Colchester Federated Church News

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

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

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









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AARP Meeting Features Local Gravestones

The October meeting of the Colchester Area Chapter of AARP will be held Tuesday, Oct. 27, at Colchester Senior Center, 15 Louis Lane.

The board will meet in the conference room at noon. Members will meet in the senior center at 12:30 p.m. and are asked to bring refreshments to share.

This late October meeting is in place of the November meeting, so as not to conflict with Election Day.

The program topic will be "Interesting Colchester Gravestones," presented by member Irene Watson. This will be a slideshow presentation of some of the gravestones of note from various cemeteries in Colchester.

All seniors in Colchester and surrounding towns are invited to attend.

Books & Bricks Dinner

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

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

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

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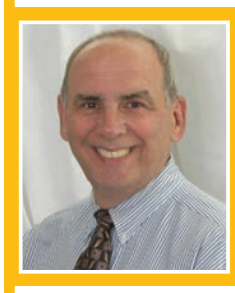
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Christian Life Chapel News

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: Fridays at 10 a.m. This relaxed gathering is an open discussion on the theme: How does God fit in this thing called life?

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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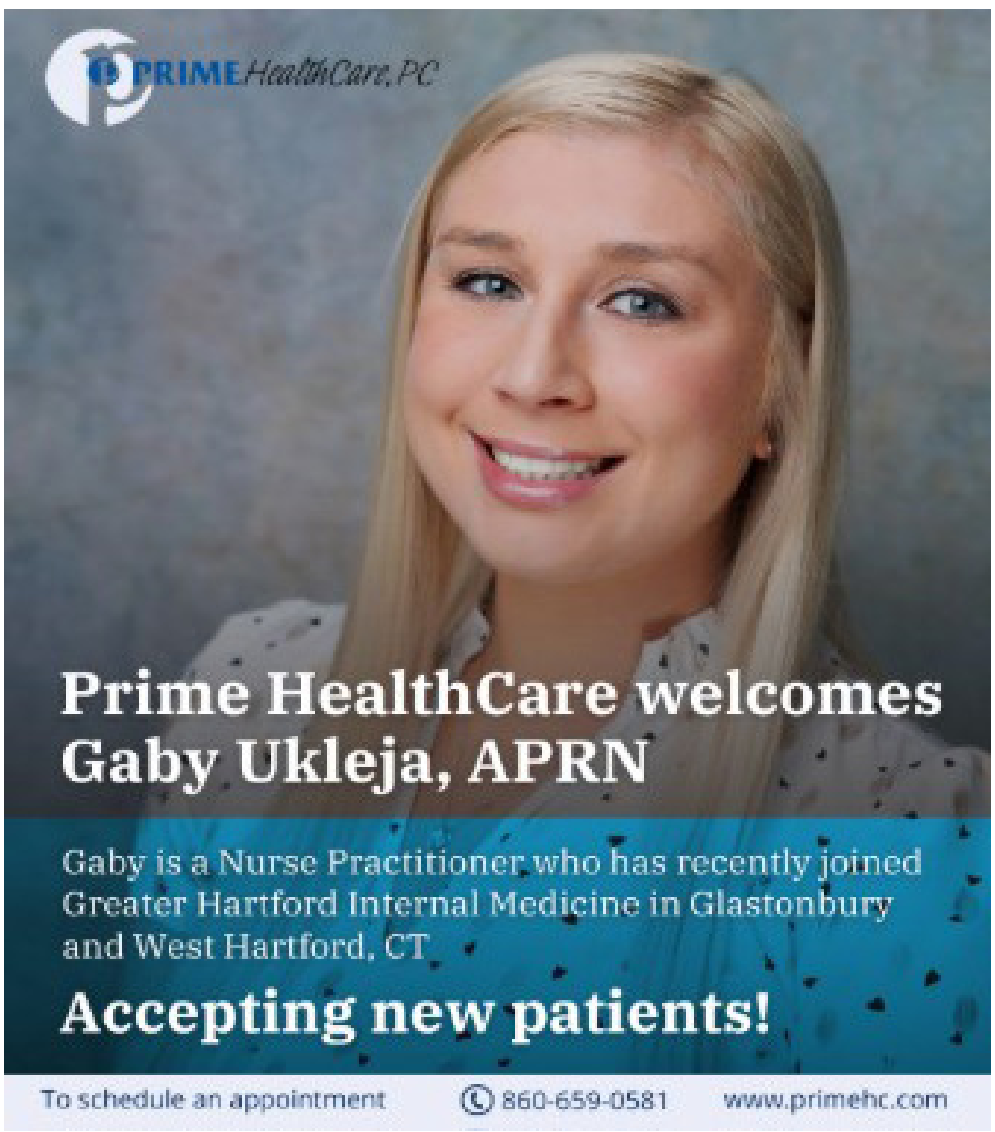
PASTA COURSE
Penne Aglio Olio • Penne with garlic and oil • Penne Marinara
Penne Alla Vodka Asparagus, sun dried tomatoes in a vodka blush sauce
SOUP OR SALAD Cup of soup of the day or garden salad

DINNER CHOICES
Chicken Parmigiana
Eggplant Rollatini Rolled eggplant stuffed with ricotta, prosciutto and roasted peppers
Chicken Marsala Sauteed with mushrooms, shallots in a marsala wine sauce
Stuffed Pork Chop Stuffed with broccoli, gorgonzola cheese and ritz crackers in a brown cognac sauce
Stuffed Sole Crab meat stuffing served over spinach
Balkan Meatballs Beef meatballs sauteed with scallions, roasted red peppers, grape tomatoes in a marsala cream sauce
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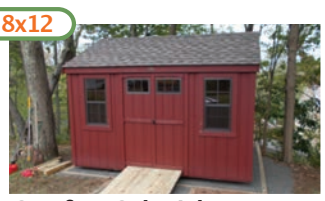
CIT9-18-25

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CIT9-24-26

Community Trunk or Treat

Colchester Parks and Recreation invites local families to join in an afternoon of Halloween festivities at the annual Trunk or Treat event on Sunday, Oct. 25, from 3-6 p.m., in the Bacon Academy parking lot.

The first hour (3-4 p.m.) will be a sensory-friendly time for anyone who may not like loud noises, scary costumes or bright lights. At 4 p.m., DJ Montez will play Halloween music. There will be four food trucks to enjoy while trick-or-treating.

Children and families are encouraged to dress in their favorite costumes and enjoy a safe, family-friendly trick-or-treat experience as community members and organizations decorate their vehicle trunks and hand out candy throughout the event.

Each child attending is asked to bring two bags of wrapped candy to enter the event, which will be collected upon entry and distributed among participating trunks to ensure there is plenty of candy for everyone to enjoy.

Event organizers encourage attendees to carpool if possible and bring a reusable bag or pumpkin pail for collecting treats.

For more information about this event and other programs offered by Colchester Parks and Recreation, visit www.colchesterct.gov/parks-and-recreation or call 860-537-7297.

Military Honor Squads for Veterans

Military honor squads have been a tradition in the United States military since its earliest days. When an active duty member gives their life in the defense of the U.S., fellow servicemen provide a service in honor and in appreciation of their sacrifice.

This usually takes the form of an honor guard that will provide graveside burial services. It can take many forms but usually serviceman's fellow soldiers will accompany the casket that is draped with the national flag, fire a rifle salute, play Taps, then fold and present the United States flag to the family.

But what happens when the deceased is a veteran and not an active duty serviceman? In Connecticut, twelve volunteer service organizations (VSO) step in to render the military honors for departed veterans. These honor guard services are coordinated through the funeral provider and the CT Army National Guard (NG) Military Honors Unit. A family need only provide proof of honorable service to the funeral home, in order for their deceased veteran to get the honor squad services they have already earned. There is no charge for military honors as the NG Military Honors Unit will provide representatives from the branch of service in which the veteran served at no cost. The National Guard will also contact one of the VSO to provide a rifle salute and play Taps.

The local volunteer service organization is the Colchester Veterans Honor Guard. It was formed nearly 24 years ago to help veteran's families by training in and performing honor squad duties. The Colchester Honor Squad meets the first and third Tuesday of every month from 7 to 8 p.m. at the former senior center, now "Veterans Hall," at 95 Norwich Ave. The 20-plus member squad is actively looking for new members so that it can continue to provide funeral honors to all departed veterans. Any interested veteran is welcome to stop by a Tuesday meeting.

For more information, contact Al Letendre at 860-537-6516 or letendrej@sbcglobal.net.

CPR/AED, Stop the Bleed Training

Colchester Fire & EMS is offering free CPR/AED and Stop the Bleed training to Colchester residents on Wednesday, Nov. 4, from 2:30-5 p.m., at Company No. 1, 52 Old Hartford Rd.

Call 860-537-2512 or email firedepartment@colchesterct.gov to register.

Snowflake Bazaar Nov. 7

Westchester Congregational Church will hold its annual Snowflake Bazaar Saturday, Nov. 7, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Markham Meadows Campground in East Hampton, 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.

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.

Ahavath Achim Schedule

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

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

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

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

History Museum Open Sundays

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

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

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

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

Senior Center 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.

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.

Westchester Church News

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

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

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

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

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

Wreaths Across America to Return

Volunteers from the Westchester Cemetery Association and Scout Troop 72 are supporting Wreaths Across America at Westchester Cemetery, working to ensure that the 55 service members buried there will indeed be honored again this year with the placement of live, balsam veterans' wreaths as part of National Wreaths Across America Day 2026.

The cemetery will join the more than 5,600 participating locations across the country to Remember, Honor and Teach on Saturday, Dec. 19. This annual event is held outdoors on location at the Westchester Cemetery off Route 16. The program starts at noon.

Donations are welcome in the form of purchasing a wreath for a soldier and laying wreaths at gravestones. Each individual $17 sponsors a fresh balsam veterans wreath that will be placed on the headstone of an American hero on Dec. 19. For event details, visit www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org/CTWCCC. You can also send your contribution to Wreaths, c/o Joanne Rioux, 219 Lakeview Dr., Colchester, CT 06415.

Wreaths Across America is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded to continue and expand the annual wreath-laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery begun by Maine businessman Morrill Worcester in 1992. The organization's mission – Remember, Honor, Teach – is carried out in part each year by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies in December at Arlington, as well as at thousands of veterans' cemeteries and other locations in all 50 states and beyond.

Ukrainian Catholic Church News

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

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

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Abundant Life Church News & Notes

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Youth Football Recap

The Colchester Cougars youth football squads were in action the last two weekends. Here is how they fared on Oct. 11.

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.

Junior – JV: Secured a 12-0 victory over East Lyme on Monday, Oct. 5, 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.

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.

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.

Here is how the squads fared the following Saturday, Oct. 17:

Senior: Fell to Griswold. A few good things did happen that showed promise; Garrett ran the ball well, Jakob Sheehan had a crazy interception, and Connor Peck is still slaying the tackles on defense, and Sam Gorman got to kick the ball of for his first time.

Junior – Varsity: Lost to Griswold, 18-13. The game was pretty evenly matched offensively and defensively. The Cougars had the ball driving hard up field when time expired. The difference in the game was the Cougars' ability to defend the deep ball and not securing tackles in the backfield.

Junior – JV: Showed several bright moments in a game against New London, but also demonstrated noticeable gaps in tackling, blocking and overall determination. These challenges provide clear insight into key areas for improvement both on amd off the field.

Micro: Got off to a slow start, and Griswold built a commanding lead by halftime. Defensive leaders Bryce Besse and Jackson Portilla spearheaded the turnaround. The second-half surge culminated in a sustained drive powered by hard running from Sebby Perez, who pushed the offense deep into Griswold territory. Despite a penalty and a fumbled snap setting up a daunting 4th-and-5 from the 12-yard line, quarterback Braxton Engle delivered under pressure – connecting with Perez on a 10-yard strike. Perez fought through a defender to score the Cougars' first offensive touchdown of the season.

Peewee: Against Griswold, the defense played well and worked together as a unit. It took the offense a while to get its rhythm and timing, but once the offensive line started clicking the touchdowns started coming.

Dean's List

Colchester residents Alicia Burroughs, William Petersen, Hannah Nolsoe and Carissa Anderson made the summer 2026 Dean's List at Goodwin University.

President's List

Colchester residents David Gazdzicki and Allyson Knorr-Anderson made the summer 2026 President's List at Goodwin University.

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 Cragin Book Club: Monday, Oct. 26, 6 p.m. For this month, read *Dark Matter* by Blake Crouch.

Teen Program: 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.

Teen Program: 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.

Teen Program: 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.

Children's Program: 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: Saturday, Oct. 31. Grab a bag to pick up.

Adult Program: Book Bingo: Monday, Nov. 2 through Saturday, Dec. 5. Pick up a bingo sheet at the Adult Circulation Desk. Finish a column, row, or diagonal to get "bingo" and receive a raffle ticket to enter for a gift card to a local business.

Adult Program: A Court of Fantasy Readers: Monday, Nov. 2, 5:30 p.m. This month, read *Witches of Dubious Origin* by Jenn McKinlay.

Children's Program: Drop-In Snail and Whale Art: Tuesday, Nov. 3, 6 p.m., for grades K-5. Enjoy a read-aloud of "The Snail and the Whale" by Julia Donaldson, then create a watercolor snail or whale painting.

Teen Program: Crochet Your Own Hacky Sack: Thursday, Nov. 5, 2:45-3:45 p.m. Learn how to crochet your own hacky sack. No experience required. Materials will be provided. Registration required; call 860-537-5752 to register.

All-Ages Program: Local Author Fair: Saturday, Nov. 7, 1-3 p.m. Authors from Connecticut will have tables set up with displays of their work. Cragin will supply refreshments, and Folklore and Fable will sell items from its store. Call 860-537-5752 to register.

Children's Program: Drop-In Early Learning Station – Dinosaur Movement: Monday, Nov. 9 through Saturday, Nov. 14: Drop by the children's department and move around like dinosaurs.

Adult Program: You're Dead: Monday, Nov. 9, 6 p.m. Beth Alves, a professor at Connecticut State Community College Quinebaug Valley, will share tips to help those left behind after a loved one passes. She will also talk about the importance of creating an "If I Am Dead" file that is designed to make life easier for your loved ones.

Virtual Adult Program: Trace Your Connecticut Revolutionary Roots: Tuesday, Nov 10, 6 p.m.: Did your Connecticut ancestor support the American cause during the Revolution? This program will introduce you to the major sources that trace their service during the war, from pension files to town meeting records. Presented by Charter Oak Genealogy. Registration required; visit tinyurl.com/craginvirtual

Friends of Cragin Memorial Library Meeting: Thursday, Nov. 12, 5:30 p.m.

Children's Program: Drop-In Storytime: Dinosaurs: Thursday, Nov. 12, 6 p.m. All ages are welcome to drop by for a storytime featuring dinosaurs.

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.

Bible Baptist Church News

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

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

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.

Police News

10/1: Connor Tuttle, 21, was arrested and charged with second-degree stalking and second-degree harassment, state police said.

10/1: Jenny Vanessa Cabrera-Rivera, 38, of Colchester, was arrested and charged with risk of injury to a child, second-degree assault, and disorderly conduct, state police said.

10/2: Chase Joseph Michael Dill, 29, of Goshen, was arrested and charged with illegal operation of a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol or drugs, and failure to drive in proper lane, police said.

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Area Students Enrolled at ECSU

The following area students have enrolled at Eastern Connecticut State University for the fall 2026 semester:

Amston: Benjamin Giarrusso, a first-year student majoring in anthropology; Gianni Wursthorn, a first-year student majoring in criminology.

Andover: Brianna Adu-Poku, a first-year student majoring in nursing; Bezaleel Agyemang, a first-year student majoring in computer science; Ashley Moore, a graduate student majoring in accounting; Kamali Franklin, a junior majoring in psychology.

Colchester: Emma Fidrych, a first-year student majoring in sociology and early childhood education; Nicholas Gilman, a first-year student majoring in business administration; Jackson Pecor, a first-year student majoring in finance; Natalie Uhrig, a first-year student majoring in nursing; Landon Vigil, a first-year student majoring in computer science; Lily Koziol, a sophomore majoring in nursing; Ella Soucie, a first-year student majoring in health sciences; Alicia Fleming, a junior majoring in art and early childhood education; Patrick Dieffenbach, a junior majoring in environmental Earth science; Aine Malone, a junior majoring in psychology; Eryn Wholey, a junior majoring in health sciences; Cheyenna Landry, a sophomore majoring in business administration.

East Hampton: Isabella Dickinson, a first-year student majoring in English and elementary education; Sophie Perron, a first-year student majoring in English and elementary education; Oscar Buro, a first-year student majoring in computer science; Anastacia Cooke, a first-year student majoring in health sciences; James Haslam, a first-year student majoring in criminology; Jillian Leonardo, a first-year student majoring in communication, film, and theatre; Lillian Lord, a first-year student majoring in art; Colin Marshall, a first-year student majoring in business administration; Kaylee Richardson, a first-year student majoring in social work; Sopia Snyder, a first-year student majoring in exploratory social sciences; Owen Browne, a sophomore majoring in nursing; Mariana Zulvaran, a junior majoring in business administration; Alyssa Snyder, a sophomore majoring in health sciences.

Hebron: Blake Vannostrand, a first-year student majoring in finance and accounting; Hailey Bergeron, a first-year student majoring in biology; Mikayla Erba, a first-year student majoring in health sciences; Daniel Mantilla, a first-year student majoring in biology; Julian Monroe, a first-year student majoring in psychology; Sophia Perkins, a first-year student majoring in psychology; Kaylee Sandhu, a first-year student majoring in political science; Jacob Viniconis, a first-year student majoring in sociology; Carys Akerlind, a first-year student majoring in mathematics and elementary education; Caden Bellmore, a sophomore majoring in health sciences.

Marlborough: Zachary Pugliese, a first-year student majoring in accounting and elementary education; Gabrien Allis, a first-year student majoring in biology; Gianna Catania, a first-year student majoring in nursing; Kaitlin Hobin, a first-year student majoring in biology; Katryna Paul, a first-year student majoring in psychology; Maia Stock, a first-year student majoring in exploratory social sciences; Lilah Belanger, a junior majoring in psychology; Paul DellaRocco, a junior majoring in computer science; Iuliia Smith, a senior majoring in psychology.

Portland: Conor Adanti, a first-year student majoring in psychology; Adam Dean, a first-year student majoring in health sciences; Gerald Hall, a first-year student majoring in communication, film, and theatre; Caleb MacKay, a first-year student majoring in data science; Laura Mierzejewski, a first-year student majoring in psychology; Eunice Ngunjiri, a first-year student majoring in business administration; Romeo Overton, a first-year student majoring in business administration; Kiley Scott, a first-year student majoring in nursing; Caitlynn Robertson, a graduate student majoring in applied data science; Sydney Wallengren, a graduate student majoring in accounting; Aleksandra Connolly, a junior majoring in mathematics.

Fraternal Order of Police Endorses Weir



Weir

State Rep. Steve Weir (R-55) has received the endorsement of the Connecticut State Fraternal Order of Police, as he seeks reelection to a third term in the state House of Representatives.

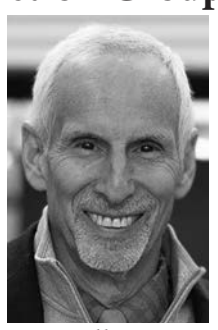
"I am honored to receive the endorsement of the Connecticut State Fraternal Order of Police," said Weir. "Their commitment to public safety and support for our law enforcement community is deeply appreciated, and I am grateful for their support."

A former Glastonbury police officer, Weir said his experience in law enforcement continues to shape his perspective on public safety and the challenges facing first responders.

"As a former member of law enforcement, I understand firsthand the challenges our police officers and first responders face every day," Weir said. "I appreciate the work the FOP does to support officers and their families and to advocate for the communities they serve. That experience remains an important perspective as I consider legislation and work to support public safety across Connecticut."

The 55th House District covers Andover, Hebron, Marlborough and parts of Bolton and Glastonbury. Weir has received the endorsements of the Republican Party and Independent Party of Connecticut and will appear on both parties' lines in November.

Citizen Action Group Endorses Needleman



Needleman

The Connecticut Citizen Action Group recently endorsed state Sen. Norm Needleman (D-33), his latest support as he continues campaigning to earn another term in the State Senate.

The 12-town 33rd District includes Colchester, East Hampton and Portland, as well as Chester, Clinton, Deep River, East Haddam, Essex, Haddam, Lyme, Old Saybrook and Westbrook.

The Connecticut Citizen Action Group endorses candidates it feels put constituents ahead of special interests, strengthen democracy and protect consumer interests.

In recent years, Needleman led the passage of legislation seeking to hold state utilities responsible for the service they provide and the actions they take. He further voted in support of consumer protection legislation protecting data privacy and regulating AI. He also supports environmental endeavors, fighting to preserve Connecticut's open spaces and clean air and waters and protect against harmful invasive species.

"Connecticut isn't great because of corporations; it's great because of constituents," said Sen. Needleman. "I have supported and will continue to support legislation putting people ahead of profits and making sure our systems are working for our residents who rely on them. I'm grateful to the CCAG for its endorsement."

So far this year, Needleman has additionally received the endorsements of AFSCME, the Uniformed Firefighters, College Democrats of Connecticut, Connecticut Against Gun Violence, the Independent Party, CT Realtors, the Connecticut League of Conservation Voters, the Association of Retired Teachers, the 314 Action Fund and AFT.

Needleman serves as Senate Chair of the Energy and Technology Committee, Vice Chair of the Planning and Development Committee and a member of the Commerce, Finance, Revenue and Bonding and Transportation committees.

Needleman founded and runs a manufacturing company, Tower Laboratories in Centerbrook, and is currently serving his sixth term as the first selectman of Essex.

EEE-Positive Mosquito Found in Colchester

On Oct. 21, Chatham Health District was notified by the state Department of Public Health that a mosquito trapped in the Babcock Pond Wildlife Management Area of Colchester tested positive for the virus that causes Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE).

Though very rare, and no human cases have been reported this year in Connecticut, Chatham Health said EEE can be a serious and often fatal disease. It is spread to people through the bite of infected mosquitoes. In 2019, two residents of Chatham Health District were sickened by EEE, one of whom died.

There is no vaccine to prevent or medicine to treat EEE, Chatham Health said, so the best way to guard against the disease is to prevent mosquito bites. While the end of mosquito season is near, Chatham Health said precautions to guard against bites are still recommended until the area experiences a hard frost.

For more information, visit www.chathamhealth.org.

Important Election Info

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

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 is Underway: All Connecticut towns will hold Early Voting through 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.

VITA Seeks Volunteers

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

Middlesex VITA specializes in maximizing tax credits for families and individuals with incomes under $70,000. No prior tax preparation experience is required, as training is provided. You will collaboratively prepare client returns, ensuring you're never working alone.

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

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

LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON

At the regular meeting of the East Hampton Town Council held Tuesday, October 13, 2026, an ordinance amending Chapter 6 of the Code of the Town of East Hampton regarding the Agriculture Commission was adopted. The ordinance is available in the Office of the East Hampton Town Clerk and shall take effect 20 days after publication.

EAST HAMPTON TOWN COUNCIL
Dean Markham, Chairman
Jack Solomon, Vice Chairman
Timothy Feegel
Ted Hintz, Jr.
Richard Knotek
Joelyn Leon
Karen Wanat

1TB 10/23

LEGAL NOTICE
MARLBOROUGH WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

Notice is hereby given to all property owners connected to the sewers in the Town of Marlborough that a sewer usage charge is due in one installment on October 1, 2026.
The last day to pay without interest is November 2, 2026. Interest for a late payment is 1.5% per month reverting to the due date. The usage charge set for the Fiscal year 2026-2027 is $654.00 per EDU. Failure to receive a bill does not invalidate the fee or interest. Contact the tax office immediately if you do not receive a bill.
Please make checks payable to MWPCA (Marlborough Water Pollution Control Authority).
Payments may be mailed to Tax Collector, P.O. Box 29, Marlborough, CT 06447. There is a lock box to the left of the Town Hall door for check payments only (do not leave cash), or at the Tax Office in the Town Hall, 26 North Main Street, Marlborough, CT. The Tax Office is open Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Tuesdays 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Fridays 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Respectfully submitted
Barbara Lazzari, Tax Collector

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

LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF ANDOVER
REVENUE COLLECTOR'S NOTICE

To the property owners of the Town of Andover:
The second installment of the Real Estate and Personal Property taxes listed on the October 1, 2025 Grand List becomes due and payable to the Town of Andover on October 1, 2026. Payments must be US postmarked, paid on line, or brought to Town Hall by November 2, 2026 to avoid an interest charge. Interest will be charged starting November 3, 2026 on all delinquent bills at a rate of 18% per year (1½% per month) from the due date of October 1st, with a minimum charge of $2 for each bill.
View or pay taxes online at www.andoverct.org. Cash, check or money order payments are accepted at the Town Hall during business hours. Payments by check or money order may be mailed to the Tax Collector's office or placed in the drop box outside Town Hall. Typical office hours during collection months are Monday 8:15am- 7pm, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 8:15 am-4pm. The Tax Office will have altered hours most Thursdays in October. Please refer to www.andoverct.org for updated office hours.
Failure to receive a tax bill will not invalidate the tax or any interest which may, by State law, accrue.
If you have any questions, please contact the tax office at 860-742-4035 option 4.
Kate Fuller, Tax Collector
Town of Andover
17 School Road
Andover, CT 06232

3TB 9/25, 10/2, 10/23

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CIT 4-2-26





Hebron, Marlborough Trails Receive $390,000 Grant

By Toriana Williams

State Sen. Cathy Osten (D-19) announced in early October that Hebron and Marlborough will receive roughly $390,000 in state grants to improve trails. Hebron will receive $193,120 to build the Bernstein Trail, while Marlborough will receive $196,950 to finish the third phase of the Blackledge River Greenway Trail.

The grants are part of about $10.5 million in state funding for 50 trail projects across Connecticut, which was announced by Gov. Ned Lamont and the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. The money will help make trails easier to reach, safer to use and more enjoyable for walkers, families and people who love the outdoors.

Hebron Plans New One-Mile Trail

Hebron's portion of the grant will help build a new trail between Old Colchester Road and the Air Line State Park Trail. The project will open up a beautiful section of the town-owned lands that people today cannot reach easily.

The planned Bernstein Trail will stretch about one mile, and it will also give visitors another place to park and enter the well known Air Line Trail.

According to Director of Planning and Development Matthew Bordeaux, the town bought the land in 2022, with help from a state grant meant to protect open space and watersheds. The grant required the town to improve parking and access so people could enjoy the land without harming the natural beauty it offers.

The new trail is proposed to include two raised wooden walkways over wetland areas. One will be near Old Colchester Road and the other will be closer to the Air Line Trail.

Bordeaux said the town hopes to prepare the plans and construction bid in time for work to begin in the middle of 2027. He also shared that the project will help protect what makes Hebron special while giving people more ways and opportunity to enjoy nature.

"Projects like this maintain the rural charm of the community and promote a healthy lifestyle," Bordeaux said.

He added that the trail could potentially draw visitors from nearby towns, and by creating another entrance to the Air Line Trail, Hebron hopes to make the area easier to explore.

The town will be responsible for maintenance of the new trail after its completion, and volunteer groups that helped with the grant application will also help look after it.

Marlborough Moves Closer to Finish Line

Marlborough's portion of the grant will help build the third phase of the Blackledge River Greenway Trail. The new section will connect the existing trail near West Road to the North Parker Road trailhead and once finished, it will create a formal trail between the two areas.

The project will include an eight-foot-wide trail and two raised walkways over wetlands, and the walkways will help hikers cross wet areas while protecting the land around them.

The town plans to work on the design in 2027, with construction hoped for in the fall of 2027 or spring 2028.

According to Planning and Development Director Peter Hughes, Marlborough has already used two state grants received previously to build around 3,600 feet of trail and two bridges starting at the West Road trailhead. The new grant, along with money from the town, will help finish the next section.

Hughes shared that the town had applied for funding for the third phase for about 10 years before finally receiving an award, putting an end to the long wait. While waiting for the money, the town's Nature Trails and Sidewalk Commission kept the existing wooded path open for hikers, according to Hughes. The group also takes care of the edges of the improved trail.

The commission holds monthly workdays to trim plants and remove dead or fallen trees. It also maintains other town trails and helps connect outdoor paths with historic mill sites, charcoal mounds and interesting land features.

Hughes said the town has worked for decades to give residents more ways to enjoy the great outdoors.

"Marlborough has over 4,000 acres of open space, which is about one-third of the town land area," wrote Hughes.

He added that these natural areas give residents places to enjoy outdoor activities and help shape the town's character and quality of life.

Why Trails Matter

Osten told the *Rivereast* that keeping trails in good shape is important because paths can become overgrown and hard to use if they're not cared for properly or at all.

"If you don't maintain it, it falls fallow and starts getting overgrown," said Osten.

She also said better access can help people with disabilities better enjoy outdoor spaces. Trails can offer places for older adults, families with young children and other residents to have fun outside.

"It's very good for seniors, families with young children," she said.

She pointed to the need for outdoor spaces where people can walk, get fresh air and spend time together and called central Connecticut, particularly Hebron and Marlborough "the prettiest part of the state" as they "have a lot of trail access."

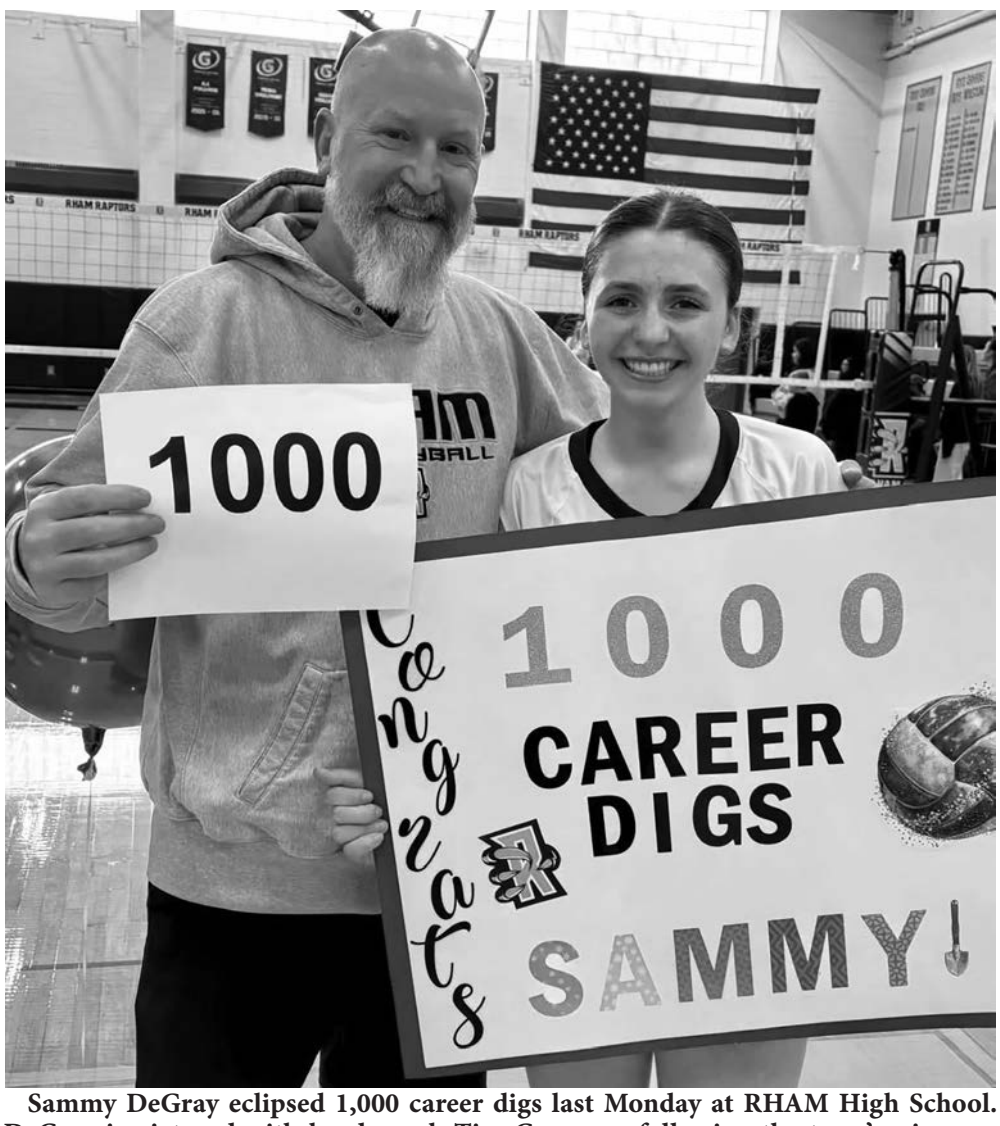
"We want to make sure that they can always use that access, and that everybody can get around," she added.

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:

10/26: 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.



Sammy DeGray eclipsed 1,000 career digs last Monday at RHAM High School. DeGray is pictured with head coach Tim Guernsey following the team's win over East Hartford.

Rivereast Standout Athletes of the Week

By Josh Howard

Sammy DeGray – RHAM High School (Volleyball): DeGray surpassed 1,000 career digs during the Raptors straight sets victory over East Hartford at RHAM High School on Oct. 12. DeGray, a senior, finished with a dozen digs during the contest as the Raptors earned win No. 8 this fall. The following night, the all-conference libero added 23 more digs to her growing total as RHAM won a three-set match at East Catholic. DeGray and the Raptors will next host Manchester tonight (Friday, Oct. 23) at 6 p.m.

Luke Davidson – East Hampton High School (Soccer): Davidson scored a goal and doled out an assist as the Bellringers blanked Morgan 2-0 on Oct. 12. Davidson, a junior, scored a goal in the first half and then set up Hudson Lombardi for an insurance goal late in regulation as the Bellringers took down the rival Huskies at Indian River Complex in Clinton. Sebby Woodson also tallied a helper in the victory as the team improved to 8-2-2 this fall. East Hampton will wrap up their regular season schedule on Saturday, Oct 24 when they visit Portland High School to take on the highlanders at 1 p.m.

Gracie DeRing – Portland/Springfield College (Soccer): DeRing, a 2026 graduate of Portland High School, earned her first win as a collegiate goalie as Springfield College blanked the Coast Guard, 1-0, on Oct. 7. DeRing, who made three saves to help preserve the shutout, was the 2025 Shoreline Conference (SLC) Goalie of the Year last fall while playing for the Highlanders at PHS. She is in her first year with the Pride at Springfield, majoring in applied exercise science.

Shane Meyer – Bacon Academy (Soccer): Meyer netted a hat trick, scoring three goals as the Bobcats blanked Morgan 5-0 at Bacon Academy on Oct. 17. Meyer, a junior, led an offensive attack that also got a goal and two assists from senior captain Zach Chiarella. Sophomore Cayden Steele also found the back of the net, while Owen McLoughlin, Logan Sheridan, and Izsak Treat dished out assists. Senior Mike Wisniewski and freshman Jake Ward combined for the shutout in goal, totaling five saves.

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.

HEALTHCARE SERVICES



Better Dental HEALTH
by George M. Mantikas, DMD
A Practice For Optimal Dental Fitness

THE FINE ART OF FLOSSING

It takes less than 24 hours for plaque to form, so it's crucial to floss at least once daily. Plaque forms under the gum line and between teeth where it's impossible to remove with a toothbrush. That's why it's important to bring floss under the gumline to remove plaque. Start with 18 inches of floss wrapped around your middle fingers. Gently move the floss between your teeth and under the gunline, rather than snapping it into place, which can irritate the gums. Press the floss into your gumline and then form a C-shape that wraps around the tooth. Gently move the floss up and down both sides of your tooth. Don't forget to floss the outside of your last molars.

Another flossing option is using a water flosser before brushing to dislodge food debris and plaque. They are especially effective for those with braces. We are diligent in our approach to making sure plaque build-up doesn't destroy your smile. It is our mission to deliver the highest level of care, using the latest materials and always keeping our patients' comfort and well-being in mind.

P.S. In general, children should begin flossing as soon as they have two teeth that touch, around two to three years of age.

George M. Mantikas, DMD, PC
The Ridge • 142 East High Street • East Hampton, CT 06424
860-267-6666 • **www.**DrMantikas**.com**
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The early stages of communication disorders are easier to spot when you know the signs.

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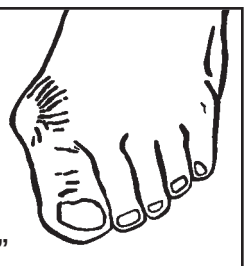
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RE6-26-20

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!



The Wilsons Head West… **Tom and Chris Wilson of Portland, along with their family, took a trip in August to Montana and Wyoming to visit Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks.**



Rivereast Rocks Out… **Priscilla and Don Barnes of Andover brought along the *Rivereast* on a recent cruise vacation to the Western Mediterranean – and they snapped this picture at the Rock of Gibraltar!**



A Canadian Cruise… **Kayleigh Kinsella of Portland brought the *Rivereast* aboard the cruise ship Norwegian Spirit anchored in Vancouver Bay, British Columbia, Canada.**



Hopping With the Rivereast… **During a recent Holland America Cruise from Boston to Montreal, while in port in Quebec City, Barbara Hahn of East Hampton took the Hop On Hop Off Bus. One of my favorite stops was the Chateau Frontenac Hotel. It is widely known as the most photographed hotel in the world. It is perched high up on a hill overlooking the Saint Lawrence River. The Dufferin Terrace boardwalk is directly in front with beautiful views of the River, port and Old City. It also features many local street performances.**

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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Fine Italian & American Cuisine
151 Marlborough Street (Rt 66), Portland

★ *Letters, cont. from page 8*

new career opportunities, he immediately offered guidance and support. He didn't have to do that. But he did, because that's who he is. He cares about the people in this community and wants to help where he can.

I am a father of two daughters, and Steve and I share common values rooted in family and community. This connection is evident in how attentively he listened to me and the support he offered my wife when she was exploring new career opportunities. His family reflects that same generosity and commitment through their volunteer work and community involvement. Getting to know Steve has shown me that he is thoughtful, engaged, and dedicated to serving the people of Hebron, Marlborough, Andover, Bolton, and Glastonbury.

I am proud to support Steve Weir for State Representative for Connecticut's 55th District.

Sincerely,
Kyle Smigala – Marlborough

Choose Wisely

To the Editor:

The definition of insanity is doing the same thing and expecting a different result. Connecticut has been under Democratic rule for decades and the Democrats are responsible for the high taxes and lack of affordability.

Connecticut is the third-highest-taxed state, has some of the highest electric bills including the Public Benefits charge where the legislature shovels government costs, the highest debt per resident, and ranks dead last for financial transparency.

Melissa Ziobron has a strong record of prioritizing fiscal responsibility and fighting for legislative accountability. She knows how to set priorities, find savings and turn those savings into tax relief. She reads the budget proposals line by line, has fought tax hikes and unaffordable policies and offered solutions in every debate. In 2017 she was one of the leading voices in the House Republican caucus that forced Democrats to pass a bipartisan budget that for the first time put real limits on spending and borrowing and forced volatile revenue into savings instead of new programs, with billions paying down pension debt. Democrats now want to roll back those protections so they can spend more.

Melissa's history as a state representative demonstrates concern only for her constituents. She has never been a rubber stamp and is running to make Connecticut more affordable for us. She will fight to reduce taxes and fees and to control state spending. She will fight to secure increased state education funding to keep property taxes in check. She will continue to fight for local control to make our own decisions about our schools and land use.

If you want lower taxes and want Connecticut to be a more affordable place to live, you should not vote to send another Democrat to Hartford. Nothing will change if you vote Democrat.

Choose wisely. Vote for Melissa Ziobron for state representative and Charlie Ferraro for state senator.

Linda Ursin – East Hampton

Osten & Paul for Progress

To the Editor:

Municipalities across Connecticut are struggling with the same problem: How to properly fund town services and schools without burdening taxpayers. That's why we need active representation at the State Capitol – someone who understands these issues and is willing to fight for us. That's why I support state Sen. Cathy Osten.

Cathy is a champion for small towns in eastern Connecticut. She understands the unique challenges we face and has fought for Hebron, Marlborough, and all towns represented by the 19th District. She has brought money back – money that helps us move important projects forward, or, simply cover the rising costs of doing basic town business. Last year alone, she voted to send more than $250K in extra money to Hebron to help with our schools' budgets.

Cathy is a fighter. She advocates for fully funding excess cost, which would be a significant boost to our school budget. I know she will continue this fight in the next state budget. She supports labor – not just the right to organize, but the right to earn good wages and provide for a family. She is also present at nearly every significant event in Hebron. It matters when you can see your state senator on a regular basis and know she is fighting for you.

Cathy needs a reliable partner in Hartford to continue these efforts, and that's why I'm voting for Ellen Paul for state representative. As a librarian, Ellen understands the importance of access to education and the need for funding. She will work with others to fix our outdated Education Cost Sharing grant funding, and alongside Cathy, will ensure that Hebron has a voice in Hartford.

Structural changes in Hartford are necessary for municipalities to thrive, and Cathy and Ellen are not afraid to advocate for these changes and solve problems. Showing up matters, and what you do with that time matters too. I'm proud to cast my vote for Cathy Osten and Ellen Paul.

Sincerely,
Tiffany V. Thiele – Hebron

Note: *Thiele is the chairwoman of the Hebron Town Council but is writing this letter as an individual.*

Vote for Ellen Paul Now

To the Editor:

The time for voting has started. You can vote from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily from now until Nov. 1. Ellen Paul is the person I am voting for because her values closely resemble the Connecticut values I grew up with. Among these are trust for information, and respect, fairness and opportunity for everyone. We need to have responsible governance in the 55th District.

Please get out there and vote. With the state of our current economy, now is the time to make your voice heard. Vote.

Please join me in voting for Ellen Paul.

Maryanne Leichter – Amston

Osten and Paul

To the Editor:

I was brought up in Connecticut and spent most of my life in this state. However, I have spent some years in other states attending school and working. After living in other states, I moved back to Connecticut when I remembered how great this state is to live and work in eventually settling down in Marlborough. I'm mentioning my travels because the reason I'm voting for Cathy Osten is that in the all the various places I have lived, I have never met a harder working politician or one who is as very effective as she is in her role as a representative. Although she is busy as co-chairman of the Senate appropriation committee, she has made a monthly commitment to be in each of the 10 towns she represents to inform them about what is happening in Hartford. She does this even in those years that were not her election years. She has been effective in Hartford getting bills passed dealing with both sexual harassment against state workers and setting up a registry for child molesters. She has also gotten grants and bills passed that benefit the towns she represents. She knows the issues of the towns in her district having served as a first selectmen. As a mother herself, she is familiar with the issues parents face on a day to day basis. She also volunteered to serve in the armed forces and was assigned to be an intelligent officer in Japan giving her insight into both the military and national security.

To continue to be truly effective in bringing many benefits to her towns, Cathy needs partners in the House of Representative. Ellen Paul would be such a partner. Ellen has shown how hard she can work as she has knocked on over 2,500 doors; democratic doors, republican doors and independent doors. More importantly, Ellen has outlined her positions in detailed as to what she wishes to accomplish as our representative, something that her opponent has not done. Furthermore, as a member of what will likely be the majority party in the house, she will have a seat at the table when important decisions are being made unlike her GOP opponent. In my opinion she will be a great representative.

I hope that you will join me in voting for Cathy and Ellen.

Bob Larson – Marlborough

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

Rosenfeld the Ideal Choice

To the Editor:

Some might argue that a candidate with a variety of background experiences and a wealth of responsibilities might not be the ideal choice for a state representative. I couldn't disagree more. The residents of East Hampton, East Haddam and part of Salem have an incredible opportunity before them to elect Meghan Rosenfeld to represent the 34th district.

Meghan moved to East Hampton with her family a few years ago. She chose this town, not because she grew up here or had any ties, but because she loved its character and charm and found a community that shared her values. While adjusting to a new town, balancing a full-time job and raising her children, Meghan also made the choice to step off the sidelines and into the work of making positive contributions to the community. As an active participant in East Hampton's Plan of Conservation and Development and a member of the Commission on Aging, Meghan has showed her concern for both the current needs of our residents and for the future of our town.

I have had the privilege of engaging with Meghan at many meetings of various boards and commissions over the past year. This is another indicator of the kind of representative that Meghan will be. She shows up.

But here is what else I have learned through those encounters: Meghan is smart and brings a wealth of knowledge from her background in education and human resources as well as her community involvement. She listens, always making time to hear the concerns of her fellow citizens. She is compassionate and cares deeply about ensuring that everyone is afforded the same rights and opportunities. And she is solutions oriented. Meghan is always ready to come to the table with viable ideas and action plans.

Meghan understands the importance of fixing the broken state education funding system, of providing our children with a strong educational foundation, and of working to address the affordability crisis affecting families and seniors across the state. I proudly support Meghan. She already represents the best in us. She is already doing the work. Please join me in voting for Meghan Rosenfeld as the state representative for the 34th District in the General Assembly on or before Nov. 3rd.

Sincerely,
Nancy Kohler – East Hampton

Note: *Kohler is a member of the East Hampton Board of Education, but said she is writing as an individual.*

Vote for Steve Weir

To the Editor:

I am writing to express my support to reelect Steve Weir as our state representative for the 55th District. He represents the values that I want to see in our State leaders. I have known Steve and his family for many years and I have seen firsthand how he has diligently volunteered to help many causes that are important to him. I have watched him coach youth sports; dedicate time to our church serving on the Board of Trustees and offering the sermon when requested; foster many dogs; and with his wife, raise three amazing daughters who share the same set of values that I respect.

Steve has dedicated many hours to serving this community and his constituents. I know that he truly reads every piece of legislation that he will vote on, and carefully considers his decision before casting his vote. I trust that his vote reflects what he believes will be the best for his constituents.

If you want a candidate who is trustworthy, dedicated, and willing to help anyone when necessary – then I hope you will join me in casting your vote for Steve Weir.

Heather Franzese – Hebron

Ziobron's Troubling Lack of Judgment

To the Editor:

I was shocked to see a Facebook post shared Sunday by Melissa Ziobron, a candidate hoping to represent our district. The original post, from the Salem Republicans, encouraged voters to "vote for common sense or crazy & communist. That's what's on the ballot."

I never expected to see someone like Ziobron endorsing this kind of divisive rhetoric.

What exactly is the message here? That anyone who doesn't vote Republican is crazy or communist? That the many residents of our district who hold different political views are somehow less deserving of respect?

Ziobron may not have written those words herself, but she made the decision to share them. In doing so, she demonstrated a troubling lack of judgment and a disregard for the very people she hopes to represent.

Public service requires the ability to represent an entire community, not just those who agree with you politically. Sharing a message that labels your potential constituents as "crazy" or "communist" is not only disrespectful, it raises serious questions about your ability to serve them fairly.

Regardless of political affiliation, voters should expect better from someone seeking public office. Melissa Ziobron's decision to amplify this message should give every voter in our district reason to pause.

Karen Wanat – East Hampton

Note: *Wanat is a member of the Colchester Democratic Town Committee and the Town Council but said she is speaking as an individual.*

Colchester Deserves Better

To the Editor:

Colchester residents are paying more and more just to maintain the services our community depends on. Property taxes have increased, education costs continue to rise, and taxpayers have endured repeated budget referendums.

Meanwhile, what has Governor Ned Lamont proposed for towns like ours?

In 2025, his proposed state budget threatened Colchester with approximately $500,000 in cuts to Education Cost Sharing (ECS) funding.

Half a million dollars.

And this comes after years of declining purchasing power in our state education funding.

In fiscal year 2020, Colchester received approximately $12.36 million in ECS funding. By fiscal year 2026, that figure was approximately $12.04 million. Adjusted for inflation, the funding lost more than 20% of its purchasing power.

Democrats in Hartford have our money, we pay more than plenty in state taxes. Unfortunately for us Rivereast towns, we're not their priority. So why do they deserve our vote?

These are real financial pressures confronting our community. With a Democrat Governor and Democrats in control of the state house we have seen funding for rural towns like ours collapse.

State Rep. Mark DeCaprio has publicly challenged Hartford's spending priorities, including in his opposition to the 2025 state budget. He cited increased spending, weakened fiscal safeguards, and insufficient support for special education. He's authored and passed bills sending money to Colchester!

Colchester taxpayers send their hard-earned money to Hartford. They deserve an honest accounting of how much comes back, how it is distributed, and whether it keeps pace with the costs imposed on our municipalities.

Governor Lamont's proposed education funding reductions deserve scrutiny. So does the long-term erosion of Colchester's funding from the state under complete Democrat control.

Our town deserves more than rising costs and uncertainty from Hartford. That's why I support DeCaprio, Fazio and the entire Republican ticket. We deserve better!

Michael Dubreuil – Colchester

Ellen's Democratic Party

To the Editor:

Ellen Paul is misleading, when she says "there is no greater priority then sending more money to municipalities for education." Where would Ellen Paul get this increased funding for education? It would come from increased taxes, of course, because taxation is the sole source for state spending. We have: state income tax, state sales tax, state utilities tax, state tax on services, state tax on licenses, state network tax, state gas tax, and more! Will Ellen Paul support increasing these taxes, or will she support finding a new area to tax?

Ellen Paul does not have a magic formula for a new income source. The source is always tax revenue. When towns are sent state funding, it is really our money that has been taken from us, via taxation, and then sent back to us. Sent back to us with restrictions on how it can be used! Perhaps we citizens should keep more of our money, and our local towns could decide our own education spending, without state mandates? Another wild idea – perhaps we citizens should object to all the extreme taxation mentioned above, and demand tax reform ? Have any of those taxes been lowered, or eliminated in 16 years of Democratic Party control?

Ellen Paul will comply with her Democratic Party. The party that has controlled Connecticut politics for 16 years. The Democratic Party that has implemented its agenda, restrictions and regulations that we live under today. Ellen Paul will not bring change.

Sue Custance – Hebron

Vote Early!!

To the Editor:

In Connecticut, we now have the opportunity to vote early, prior to election day on November 3, 2026. Early voting began on Monday, Oct. 19.

More days to vote. More flexibility for you and me, the voters!

Fourteen days of in-person voting, including two weekends. Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., with extended hours, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Oct. 27-29. Contact your town hall for voting location. Early voting is available through Nov. 1.

The voters in Connecticut supported early voting in a referendum question in 2022. And the state legislature passed the implementation legislation in 2023.

I know quite a few people who have already voted on day 1. I will be one of the many to vote early.

FYI: our current state representative, Steve Weir, voted 'no' for early voting. Our current state senator, Cathy Osten, voted 'yes' for early voting.

Your vote! Your right! Exercise it!

Linda Estabrook – Marlborough

Steve Weir Is Every 'Weir'

To the Editor:

There is something to be said for a person who doesn't simply talk about community but is part of it.

Steve Weir's connection to Hebron and the surrounding area isn't something that appears when campaign signs start going up like so many others that we see this time of year. What stands out is his presence in the community, his willingness to volunteer, talk with residents, listen, and simply show up.

Every year, elections bring mailers, campaign slogans, political talking points, and plenty of noise. But beneath all of that is a much simpler question: Who truly knows the people they hope to represent vs. who wants just the position.

Representation is about more than having your name printed on a ballot. It's about being present when there isn't an election around the corner. It's about knowing your neighbors, participating in your community, volunteering alongside the people who live there, and understanding the things that matter to them because they matter to you, too.

Anyone who has had a conversation with Steve knows how deeply he cares about this community. You don't need a campaign flyer to tell you. Talk to him. Ask him a question. Have a conversation at the door or when you see him around town. His connection to the community becomes apparent very quickly. He will listen to you. His candidacy is run on values and his love for this community, and that is what one should want in a representative.

As voters head to the polls, I hope we can look beyond political rhetoric and ask ourselves what kind of representation we value. Do we want someone who simply campaigns in our community, or someone who is genuinely part of our community?

It's about being seen, involved, and present all year long.

And around Hebron and the surrounding towns, Steve Weir seems to be everywhere. Or maybe I should say… every "Weir."

Krystin Strumskas – Hebron

Steve Weir Works for Us!

To the Editor:

When I think about whom I want representing the community, I think about someone who lives with the same concerns we all have. Steve Weir votes with commitment to fiscal responsibility which benefits the community's best interest. When Steve votes on a bill, he votes for what's on the inside, taking time to carefully read it and not just looking at the name of the bill.

I have known Steve for over three years and anytime I have a concern on a matter he doesn't hesitate to call me and answer my questions. He is an honest person and will tell you the way it is. He will always find time to attend, volunteer his time at any type of event.

I will again be supporting Steve Weir for the House of Representatives, 55th District. I look forward to more of his honest leadership. Please join me by supporting Steve this November.

Craig Duprey – Hebron

Common Sense That Makes Sense.

To the Editor:

This election cycle, I'm seeing so much emphasis placed on the letter next to a candidate's name. But shouldn't we be looking beyond the D or the R and focusing on the person, their record, and their ability to make thoughtful, informed decisions?

I've had the opportunity to talk with Steve Weir about his voting record and hear him explain the reasoning behind certain bills. More than once, I've found myself thinking, "Yes, that makes sense."

Those conversations have given me a better understanding of his approach to the issues and reinforced why I support him.

We need representatives who think critically, ask questions, and consider the bigger picture—not simply vote along party lines. We need people willing to look at the issues, weigh the options, and make decisions based on what they believe is right for the people they represent.

At the end of the day, leadership should be about more than party politics. It should be about thoughtful decisions, sound policies, and good old-fashioned common sense.

Steve Weir. Common Sense That Makes Sense.

Jennifer Tyler – Amston

Big Brother Is Coming – In a Police Cruiser

To the Editor:

I support our police officers and their responsibility to protect our community. However, I strongly oppose activating Automatic License Plate Readers (ALPRs) in East Hampton.

Our police chief recently renewed a contract that includes licenses for readers for every police cruiser, along with two stationary cameras. While they have not been installed or activated, residents need to understand what this technology could mean.

Imagine stopping at a gas station, visiting the grocery store, or simply passing a police cruiser. Without being suspected of anything, your license plate, location, date, and time could be recorded in a searchable database.

Now imagine passing two or three cruisers while driving through town. Each encounter could create another record of your whereabouts. No officer needs to follow you. The technology can document your movements for them.

Companies such as Flock Safety and Axon offer this technology. But surveillance itself is only part of my concern.

According to our police chief, once the council authorizes these readers, he alone could grant law enforcement agencies throughout Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and New York access to the information collected.

Think about that. Giving one individual sole authority to determine who can access information about your movements, potentially across four states, is simply unacceptable.

We are told searches must be logged. So what? Logging a search doesn't prevent misuse, unauthorized access, or cyberattacks.

How many of you have received notices that your bank, doctor's office, or insurance company suffered a data breach? How many now use credit monitoring because your personal information was compromised?

Do we really believe these surveillance databases cannot be hacked?

Courts are already questioning this technology. In United States v. Kyle, a federal judge in Oklahoma ruled that a warrantless search of Flock camera data violated the Fourth Amendment. While not binding in Connecticut, that decision should give us pause.

This isn't about distrusting our police officers. It's about protecting residents from unchecked government surveillance, regardless of who holds authority today or tomorrow.

Once information is collected, shared, or compromised, we cannot simply take it back.

The cameras may be licensed, but that doesn't mean we must activate them.

Public safety matters. So does the freedom to drive through your hometown without having your movements recorded.

Ted Hintz Jr.
Member, East Hampton Town Council

I'm Voting For Ellen Paul

To the Editor:

Ten days to go and still no answers!!

State Rep. Steve Weir has refused to publicly answer why he voted 'no' to increasing state dollars to towns for education, municipal expenses in FY 26-27; why he voted 'no' to supporting women's reproductive/healthcare initiatives (HB7213-2025). Why he voted 'no' to extending programs for renewable energy sources (HB5340-2025).

All of these bills would lighten the burden on residents of all residents in Connecticut, yet Rep. Wier voted 'no.'

We elect public officials to support our views and values. When elected officials are asked questions we should expect answers. To date we still don't know Why he votes "NO" on bills that would help his constituents!

I have reviewed his recent mailers and past letters to the editors and agree 100% that Steve is a very nice man and a caring individual. He volunteers in his community. He is a protector of animals and often is involved helping members in the community.

However, his voting record in the House does not support these values.

We need a representative in Hartford that not only represents our values but votes to support them.

Ellen Paul is just that person!!

Ellen supports increased state funding for Towns and Schools. She understands that when programs don't work that funding needs to be redirected or eliminated as a means of being fiscally responsible. She will make industries such as Eversource more accountable to their end users by creating policies that make consumers most important and demand that accountability and long-term planning become built into the process.

With the national and world economy in shambles, we need a leader who can make "the tough decisions." As a former aid to Congressman Joe Courtney, Ellen has viewed these issues from a much more complex level than her opponent has.

Ellen has demonstrated skills in working across the aisle and building consensus for the good of all people. She learned these while working at the federal level and continues them today as executive director of the Connecticut Library Consortium.

Voters of the 55th House District need a change. Let's make that change by electing Ellen Paul as our new state representative.

Ellen will "Support and Defend Connecticut Values". That is why I am voting for Ellen Paul.

Please Join me!!!

Mal Leichter – Amston

Affordability: Not Just Lower Costs, But Better Wages

To the Editor:

Affordability is at the forefront of nearly every conversation these days. Families are struggling with the rising costs of housing, groceries, utilities, and healthcare. But when we talk about making Connecticut more affordable, we cannot ignore one fundamental part of that equation: ensuring that working people earn wages that allow them to support themselves and their families.

That's why our choice for state representative in the 34th District matters.

Melissa Ziobron talks about affordability, but her record during her previous service in the General Assembly raises serious questions about her commitment to working families.

In 2014, when Connecticut passed legislation to gradually increase the minimum wage to $10.10 an hour, Ziobron opposed that increase. At a time when working people needed higher wages, she stood against legislation that would help them make ends meet.

Her position on construction workers' wages is equally concerning. In 2015, Ziobron supported raising the thresholds for prevailing wage requirements on public construction projects. These are projects funded with taxpayer dollars, including our schools, roads, and municipal buildings. When we invest public money in construction, we should ensure that the workers building our communities receive fair wages, benefits, and workplace protections. Raising those thresholds would exempt more projects from prevailing wage requirements, weakening those protections and allowing public dollars to support lower-paying jobs.

When taxpayer dollars build our communities, they should also support the workers and families who live in them.

We cannot claim to be serious about affordability while supporting policies that make it harder for working people to earn a decent living.

Meghan Rosenfeld understands that affordability means protecting wages, strengthening the middle class, and ensuring that people who work hard can afford to live in the communities they help build.

Meghan has already forged meaningful relationships with leaders and organizations both inside and outside the State Capitol. The endorsements and broad support she has earned reflect the confidence others have in her ability to lead. Those relationships matter. They are how legislators build coalitions, advocate effectively, and deliver results. Meghan has already laid that groundwork and will be ready to get to work on day one.

For me, the choice is clear. I'm supporting Meghan Rosenfeld because working families deserve a State Representative who will fight for good-paying jobs, economic opportunity, and real affordability for everyone.

Joelyn Leon – East Hampton

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

Colchester's Data Center Issue

To the Editor:

Colchester is officially the test dummy for handling how artificial intelligence facilities will keep up with the high demand. Old Amston Road will soon be the home to two first-of-its-kind data centers manufactured by the company Gray Wolf. Data centers have been a recent controversy for their implementation into local towns, causing constant noise equivalent to a jackhammer, wastewater seeping into well water, and stealing land from farmers that are the size equivalent to 450 football fields.

I argue this new smaller data center will be a beneficial addition as it is here to address these concerns head on. Gray Wolf has promised to use sustainable methods such as carbon capture which takes roughly 90% of C02 generated from these data centers and compresses it into a liquid like state where it can be shipped off and injected into old used up oil and gas reservoirs where it will cause no danger. Additionally, they use hydroponic farming which takes excess mineral water base solution that circulates from the data center for cooling and farm pads in a closed cycle to grow plants that will be given back to the town.

This new innovation doesn't come without its concerns however. Being known as the "test dummy" can bring exciting new invitations or opposingly be a drastic failure that leaves Colchester with a mess to seal up. The original proposed idea was meant for a 250,000 square foot design, which has drastically been cut down to only 20,000 square feet. I urge Colchester town hall and citizens to be wary of allowing this new facility in without proper oversight, making sure it goes through on all its promises. I for one hope this new innovation brings prosperity to the town and a blueprint for future artificial intelligence facilities.

Gehrig Bartiss
Senior, 12th grade
Bacon Academy

In Appreciation of Steve Weir

To the Editor:

I am writing to express my heartfelt gratitude and admiration for state Rep. Steve Weir. In a time when public trust in government can be difficult to earn, Rep. Weir consistently demonstrated the kind of principled, tireless dedication that reminds us why civic service matters. As a Hebron Lions member, I have been privileged to work with Steve at many Community Service events.

From the moment he took office, he made it his mission to listen — truly listen — to the people of our district. Whether attending community town halls, responding personally to constituent concerns, or showing up at local events, he has never lost sight of the fact that his role is to serve the families, businesses, and neighbors who call the 55th District home.

Steve's legislative record speaks for itself. He has championed initiatives that strengthen our local economy, improve infrastructure, support our schools, and protect the well-being of our most vulnerable residents. He approaches every issue with thoughtfulness and integrity, seeking common ground where others might see only division. His willingness to work across the aisle has resulted in meaningful progress for our community — progress that improves daily life in tangible, lasting ways.

Beyond his legislative accomplishments, it is Steve's character that sets him apart. He is accessible, honest, and genuinely invested in the future of our district. He does not simply represent us in the statehouse — he advocates for us with conviction and passion.

The 55th District is fortunate to have a representative of Steve Weir's caliber. His hard work, dedication, and unwavering commitment to our community deserve recognition and our deepest thanks.

Sincerely,
A Proud Constituent of the 55th District,
Dawn Swagger – Hebron

Your Voice Matters

To the Editor:

As you consider the candidates seeking to represent you, it's important to find those who want the best for the people of Connecticut. The Lamont administration sees what's being doing nationally and does the opposite, regardless of what is best for us, by retaining the state tax on tips, overtime and Social Security, and setting aside more of your tax dollars to further fund the misguided sanctuary state immigration policies. We need leadership that considers all options first, regardless of the source, then decides what is best for Connecticut residents, schools and public safety.

With the second-highest energy costs in the nation, thanks in part to the public benefits charge subsidizing the green energy money pit, our electricity bills for homes and schools are ever increasing, and the pocketbook squeeze is on.

The Education Cost Sharing (ECS) formula for determining state aid to our schools hasn't been updated or adjusted for inflation since 2013, so the burden has shifted heavily to ever increasing property tax bills. In addition, our statewide underfunded public school system remains below pre-Covid levels in student proficiency seven years later, especially in the larger urban areas. It is easy to see that the current policies of this state and legislature are not well-serving to our families and children. The governor and legislative Democratic supermajority could've fixed these things in the last 8+ years, but didn't. It doesn't have to be this way. We can help our students, parents, and teachers get better results and get the state aid we need to improve our schools and keep our taxes low.

Clearly, it is time for fresh new leadership in the Governor's office and state legislature. That is why I'm supporting the Republican team of Ryan Fazio for Governor, Matt Corey for Lt. Governor, John Bolton for Attorney General, Peter Lumaj for Secretary of State (who isn't afraid of improving election integrity), Fred Wilms for Treasurer, Jen Tooker for Comptroller, Melissa Ziobron for GA District 34, and Charles Ferraro for Senate District 33, while sending George Austin to Washington to better represent us in the 2nd Congressional District.

It's past time for a change, and this is your time to act. Join me at the ballot box, as things won't change for the better without your vote!

Nathan Jaycox – East Hampton

Madame Librarian/Egalitarian!

To the Editor:

Many of us remember how librarians used to be characterized; sit behind a desk, checking books in and out, often sternly saying "Ssh", reprimanding most adamantly if a book was a day over due and so forth. At least that is my recollection from small town Iowa librarians, except, perhaps, for Marian in the "Music Man."

The best librarians today like Ellen Paul, can be seen as innovative and visionary, experienced in acquiring books and maintaining the standards of their library's collection. She successfully led East Hampton's library for 6 years, increasing book lending, supporting, initiating and offering programs for the community.

Her career then took her in a new direction, leading the Connecticut Library Consortium. The consortium brings together over 1,000 libraries in Connecticut to find ways to better serve their communities. Recognized as a strategic collaborator, Ellen was designated a "Mover and Shaker" by the Library Journal Movers and Shakers 2026 The 2026 class honors emerging leaders, innovators, advocates, and community builders

This same vision and vigor are needed to represent the constituents of the 55th District. Let's send an experienced collaborator and galvanizer of energy to Hartford to speak up and develop policies that improve the communities of the 55th. Ellen Paul knows how to analyze needs, develop strategies and carry out those plans. She is recognized across the state not just for thinking about how to support and champion libraries she gets out and does it. She will apply this highly valued skill to her duties as a representative of the people.

Constituents of the 55th, we finally can elect a representative who will jump right in and build relationships and prioritize the needs of seniors, working families, schools, housing and more East of the river.

In her capacity of director of the statewide Library Consortium, not only has she already advocated for and shepherded bills through committees and onto the floor for successful votes, she has two more successes in that regard than does her opponent who has none.

She has knocked on over 2,500 doors and listened to voters concerns and hopes that she will now take to Hartford.

A vote for Ellen Paul means a stronger voice among the decision makers in Hartford.

Respectfully submitted,
Dianne Dunn – Marlborough

Note: *Dunn is a member of the Marlborough Democratic Town Committee but said she is speaking as an individual.*

Disturbing Behavior

To the Editor:

After this past Town Council meeting, I am convinced counselor Ted Hintz cares more about national buzzwords than he does the safety and well-being of all people within East Hampton.

Well, Chief Dennis Woessner was giving his presentation of new police orders pertaining to automatic license plate readers. Mr. Hintz's response was to completely remove them from town even after it was well-publicized that they were used to apprehend the criminal that sped through an accident scene and hit and injured and sent to the hospital, one of our first responder firefighters. That knee-jerk reaction is not a defining characterization of a good leader. On the contrary, it shows that he is merely a follower of conspiracy theory propaganda. I applaud the other counselors for asking the chief questions, for asking for more time to look into how the town should use automatic license plate readers technology, for asking for information for the citizens so that everybody is informed, those actions are what actual leaders demonstrate.

Instead of having a conversation in a civil de-

See Letters, page 33

RHAM Repairs Could Cost Millions

By Toriana Williams

The Marlborough Board of Finance kicked off the 2027-28 budget season with a meeting on Oct. 8, where officials weighed major building projects, rising costs and staffing needs as the town begins planning next year's budgets.

RHAM Weighs $41M in Building Work

Regional School District 8 Superintendent Colin McNamara told the board that RHAM had just begun preparing its next operating and capital budgets. Still, the district already knows it faces some major building needs.

The high school is about 25 years old, and several important systems are nearing the end of their expected work lives, McNamara said. The district is looking at roof replacements, boilers, chillers, heating and cooling systems and other repairs.

McNamara said the district wants to fix problems before they become even worse.

"We want to be proactive with addressing those things as opposed to reactive," he said.

The district is considering borrowing money through bonds to pay for major projects. McNamara shared that the timing may work well because the district is in the final year of paying for the high school's construction.

However, McNamara said the RHAM school board asked him to review the project list and decide which smaller items could be removed from the bond package and paid for through yearly capital budgets instead. The goal being to reduce the total amount voters would be asked to approve at one time.

McNamara said the district would still need to replace the middle school and high school roofs, and he described the roof work as a major need and showed images of leaks during a heavy storm.

"The roofs at the middle school, the roof at the high school, will not be taken out," he said of the proposed bonding package.

RHAM's estimate put the full project list at $41,192,861. McNamara mentioned that the state reimbursement estimate is a little more than $16 million and said the amount the town and district would need to cover could fall around $24 million to $25 million if all projects move ahead and the expected aid comes through.

He said state aid could cover about 61% of some eligible work, but the exact reimbursement rate can change, though he said he expected the current rate to remain in place through 2027.

Roofs, Heating Systems, Internet Top The List

McNamara said many items on the list were considered priorities. Water is getting into parts of the building and old heating and cooling systems need replacement. Reliable internet access is another concern. McNamara said a wireless network problem at the middle school disrupted standardized testing on the day of the meeting.

"We live in a digital age where you can't really work in a comprehensive secondary school without having reliable wireless access," he said.

The tennis courts also need work, and McNamara said their condition has become so poor that the school may no longer be able to host home tennis matches. If the courts keep getting worse, then RHAM may have to close them to public use within a few years, McNamara warned.

Finance Board Sets 3.5% Budget Target

Board of Finance vice chair John Fidler, a Democrat, said overall increases for the 2027-28 fiscal year should not exceed 3.5%.

The finance board also said it wanted the town government and local Board of Education year-to-year operating budgets to remain flat, except for required costs such as contractual agreements.

Town officials must also share five-year capital plans with the board, and those plans should show earlier balances so members can see how much money is already set aside for each project. The town must also provide a schedule showing its unallocated fund balance, including money coming in, going out and the expected balance at the end of the year.

Their board said budget reports must compare actual spending with planned spending for the past years, and, since wages and benefits make up a large share of budgets, the board also wants each group to provide a summary of personnel costs.

Fidler said all budget presentations must reach the board's chair and vice chair at least two days before each meeting, so it can give members time to review the numbers and prepare questions.

Board Chair Michael Nastri, a Republican, said he also wanted to recognize the work departments have done to look for savings.

"I think that all the groups have done a good job of looking at that," he said.

Elementary School Face Staffing, Insurance Costs

Marlborough Superintendent of Schools Paul Smith said staffing and employee benefits make up about 75% to 80% of the school district's budget. He told the board that class sizes, health insurance and special student needs will be major factors in next year's spending.

If the town wants to keep current class sizes at the elementary school, the district may need to hire one more certified teacher, explained Smith. Enrollment estimates show that next year's sixth-grade class may need four sections instead of the tree sections that are currently in place.

Smith said another choice would be to keep the same number of teachers and place more students in each class. He gave one example in which a third-grade class could have about 22 students instead of around 16 if the district used three sections rather than four.

"These are good class sizes," said Smith.

Health insurance, Smith stressed, is a much bigger question. Smith said the district faced about a 21% increase last year, which he believed was a major reason why school costs rose. He said a larger insurance group may help, as the pool grew from about 400 people to 600 after East Hampton teachers and staff joined.

Safety Work, School Equipment Need Funding

Marlborough's budget may also include new school technology, math textbooks, classroom screens and student Chromebooks.

Smith said the district does not expect another large capital project, however, it may need an upgraded sound system for the stage and community room, along with indoor and outdoor security repairs. The district also wants to finish adding safety film to ground-floor windows. Such film can help make the glass safer during a break or other emergency.

Smith said the work has been delayed in part because safety grants have shifted away from schools and toward other public and nonprofit buildings. One choice, he said, is to pay for some of the work now and hope for a grant later. Another is to fund the full project and look for money to get back if a grant becomes available.

"But I hate to let safety issues go on too long," said Smith.

There are also roof and heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) projects needed at Marlborough Elementary School, and a building committee had picked a company to help prepare the project for a possible referendum, Smith said.

High Cost For Fuel, Road Salt

Town Manager David Porter told the board that town spending is facing its own set of challenges as well. Wages and health insurance remain as major budget drivers, while the cost of heating oil and road salt has also risen.

Porter explained that Marlborough still has three large facilities heated with oil and said buildings that have switched to propane have benefited from efficient boilers and smaller price increases than those that use oil.

Road salt is another problem. Porter said the town's first large delivery cost about 30% more than it did a year earlier, and Porter added that he doesn't fully understand why salt had increased in price as well.

Porter also said the town must start doing a better job of replacing vehicles and equipment. He described years of delayed spending as a growing problem.

"We kicked the can down the road, and now we're down the road," said Porter.

The Board of Selectmen had ordered a new dump truck costing around $300,000, which Porter said would be paid for with money from traffic cameras to avoid placing that cost on taxpayers.

The town also needs to plan for a future replacement of the firehouse. Porter said the current building likely dates to the 1950s and is in poor enough condition to call for replacement. He said the project was not expected this year or next year, but it could appear in the fifth year of the town's five-year capital plan.

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.

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.

Blood Drive: 11/11 For more information or to make an appointment to donate, call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or sign up online at redcrossblood.org with sponsor code "Marlborough".

Redefining Dementia Through Storytelling: 11/12, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. The Empowering Partnerships Network Speakers' Bureau will share three stories that will redefine what it means to live well with dementia.

Loaded Baked Potato Trivia Night: 11/13, 5:30 p.m. All are invited to this intergenerational event featuring trivia and a free baked potato bar. Trivia includes brands, fun facts from the decades, Marlborough history and more. RSVP by 11/6.

Lunch and Learn with Farley-Sullivan Funeral Home: 11/16, 10:30 a.m. Learn information on funeral service options, VA benefits, and probate. Bring your questions and hear directly from a funeral director and elder law professional. RSVP by 11/12.

Nail Care: 11/18, 9 a.m.-noon, by apppointment only. Britani Olsen from Olsen Homecare will provide a toenail-cutting service. Cost is $35, cash only. Service includes foot soak, nail trim, and lotion.

Making the Most of Your Medicare: 11/18, 2-3 p.m. The Center for Medicare Advocacy is a Connecticut-based non-profit organization that advocates for a stronger Medicare program. During this presentation, an attorney from the center will walk attendees through the rights people have as Medicare beneficiaries, including the rights to choose between different Medicare plans, to appeal coverage denials, and to be screened for cost assistance programs.

Thanksgiving Feast: Friday, Nov. 20, noon-2 p.m. Enjoy a Thanksgiving meal with all the fixins' from Highland Park Market and musical entertainment by local accordian player Mary Morse. Cost is $10/resident, $12/non-resident. RSVP by Friday, Nov. 13.

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.

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.

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.

Tickets at the door are $25.

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

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.

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: Anyone interested in registering to vote must do so at the registrars of voters office at 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 is underway, and continues through Sunday, Nov. 1, at Town Hall. Hours are 10 a.m. to 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.

Truck or Treat

All are invited to attend Marlborough Cooperative Nursery School's annual Truck or Treat event, to be held Saturday, Oct. 24, from 2-5 p.m., at Marlborough Elementary School, 25 School Drive.

See the many trucks on display and climb aboard, enjoy the assorted activities for children, stop by the face painting booth, do some trick or treating, take a chance on some great prizes, and a buy an item at the bake sale.

Costumes are encouraged. Per-person admission is $5, with proceeds to benefit MCNS.

Chili Cook-Off

Marlborough Congregational Church, located at 35 South Main St., is sponsoring its first Chili Cook-Off on Saturday, Oct. 24, from 3:30-6 p.m., in the Community Fellowship Hall.

All are welcome to come taste and judge the many types of chili that will be offered. Included in the $10 admission donation are beverages, desserts, and live music.

For more information, email ekukich@marlcongchurch.org.

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.

Arts Center Announces New Oil Painting Class

The Marlborough Arts Center, located at 231 N. Main St., will hold a new four-week adult oil painting class, "Painting the Features," 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.

Tuition for the series is $160. Space is limited, and proceeds support the local nonprofit 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.

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.

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. 25: The worship service will be led by Seaver. Her sermon title is "All We Need is Love, to Give Peace a Chance," based on Matthew 22:33-46 and 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8. After worship, Dorcas Women's Fellowship will sell their homemade cookies in the lounge at $5 a dozen with proceeds to benefit their outreach mission projects.

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.

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 freewill 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.

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.

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 Food Drive

On Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 3, all are asked to bring a non-perishable food item to the Marlborough Democratic Town Committee tent at Marlborough Elementary School.

Every donation goes straight to the Marlborough Food Bank.

Red Cross Blood Drive

The American Red Cross will host a blood drive at St. John Fisher Parish, 30 Jones Hollow Rd., from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., on Saturday, Oct. 24.

This is the third annual National Make-a-Difference Day blood drive, with lots of homemade baked goods.

Register at redcrossblood.org or by calling 1-800-REDCROSS (1-800-773-2767). Walk-in donors will also be accommodated.

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.

Parks and Rec. Programs

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

Youth Programs: 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.

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.

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.

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).

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Obituaries

East Hampton

Patricia Gulino



Patricia "Pat" Gulino (Burton) of East Hampton, beloved wife, mother, grandmother, sister and friend, passed away peacefully Thursday, Oct. 15, at the age of 94. Born April 20, 1932, she grew up in Moosup and was the daughter of Francis and Florence Burton. She was preceded in death by her brothers Donald Burton and Junie Burton, whom she adored.

Pat lived a life full of adventure, love, kindness and generosity. She will be remembered most by her kind heart and empathy. She added class, sass and of course an endless amount of sparkle to every room she entered.

Pat is survived by her loving and devoted husband of 70 years, Joseph Gulino; her daughter, Lisa Cyr (Gulino) and her husband Thomas Cyr; granddaughter, Chelsey Fuller (Cyr) and husband Michael Fuller; granddaughter, Chloe Cyr and fiance Eric Frohman; and lifelong beloved friends Shirley Sullivan, Lucille Smith, Lee Burnham and Ginny Pelletti.

During her many years of working at the Middle School as secretary in East Hampton, she took care all of the "bad" boys that would get sent to the office. She created a safe and loving environment for them.

Throughout her life, Pat loved going on adventures all over the world with her husband Joe, boating, knitting, tap dancing, attending Corvette club outings and spending time with family. Everyone that knew her loved her. She radiated a warmth that made everyone want to be around her. She was always ready with some cookies, a cold glass of Coca-Cola and a listening ear whenever family and friends needed her amazing advice. We are deeply grateful for all of the amazing and happy memories we have of her.

A wake will be held Friday, Oct. 30, from 4-6 p.m., at Spencer Funeral Home, located at 112 Main St., East Hampton.

She will be deeply missed and forever loved. Heaven has a little more sparkle.

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Hebron

Dorothy Ann Enos



Dorothy "Dottie" Ann (Dubord) Enos, 79, passed away peacefully at home on Saturday, Oct. 10, surrounded by her family.

Born Dec. 1, 1946, Dottie spent her childhood in Wethersfield and Coventry. In 1965, she married the love of her life, Francisco "Chuck" Enos, beginning a beautiful partnership that would span more than six decades. Together, they raised their two children in Vernon and Columbia, building a life centered on family, love, and unwavering devotion to one another.

Dottie was the first in her family to graduate from college. She went on to earn her master's degree from Eastern Connecticut State University in 1999, an accomplishment that reflected her determination, commitment to learning, and lifelong pursuit of personal growth. She enjoyed a fulfilling career with the State of Connecticut, retiring at the age of 57.

Throughout her life, Dottie embraced health and fitness with determination and enthusiasm. An avid runner, she participated in the Manchester Road Race many times and completed a marathon. She inspired her son, Michael, to share her passion for running, and the miles they spent running together became a cherished bond between mother and son.

In retirement, Dottie and Chuck shared a love of travel, exploring destinations throughout Europe, the Caribbean, Canada, and across the United States. Dottie loved to paint and had a deep appreciation for art, especially paintings and artwork featuring birds in garden settings. She found joy in creativity, beauty, and the peaceful inspiration of gardens. She also treasured the longtime friendships she maintained throughout her life.

Dottie was a woman of remarkable strength, quiet wisdom, and unwavering determination. She had an extraordinary ability to navigate whatever life placed in her path, always seeming to know just what to do. She was a steady and reassuring presence to her family, someone whose guidance and wisdom could always be counted on. Independent, resilient, and deeply devoted to those she loved, Dottie lived her life with purpose, dignity, and grace. Her strength was not something she spoke about; it was simply who she was.

Above all, Dottie's greatest love was her husband, Chuck. Their marriage was a testament to enduring love, loyalty, and partnership. The devotion they shared was extraordinary, a beautiful example of what it means to stand beside one another through all of life's seasons.

Dottie was predeceased by her parents, Gerard and LuLu Dubord.

Dottie is survived by her beloved husband of 61 years, Francisco "Chuck" Enos; her daughter, Cindi Enos Clark of Bolton and her husband, Steven Clark; her son, Michael Enos of Marlborough, Mass., and his wife, Laura Enos; her grandchildren, Nicholas Ortiz and his wife, Jessica Ortiz, Anna Ortiz, Zoe Enos, and Owen Enos; and her great-grandchildren, Santi Ortiz and Ami Ortiz. She also leaves behind her sister, Gloria Roche, and her brother, Howard Dubord.

Dottie's legacy lives on in the family she loved, the values she instilled, and the countless memories shared with those closest to her. She will be deeply missed and forever remembered.

A celebration of Dottie's life and a remembrance memorial will be held at a later date. Details will be shared with family and friends once arrangements have been finalized.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial donations be made to Hartford HealthCare at Home Hospice, 34 Ledgebrook Drive, Mansfield, in gratitude for the exceptional care provided to Dottie and her family. The family extends special appreciation to Holly, Dottie's hospice nurse, whose kindness, compassion, and exceptional care supported Dottie and her family throughout her hospice care.

Lebanon

Connie Trevithick



Connie Lee Trevithick of Lebanon passed away unexpectedly in her sleep on Friday, Oct. 16. She fought for a long period of life with illness. She was born in Virginia on the Navy Base to Donald Wilson of New York on Dec. 7, 1964.

Her passion in life was being with her husband of 31 years, Jack Trevithick, and their home. She was an enthusiastic Patriots fan. Never missing a game and full of Patriot spirit. The family knew didn't bother Connie during a game. She knew her gardens and what she loved. No flower was unnoticed. The kitties were always underfoot wherever she was. She loved her white Willow.

Our Connie has joined her loved ones, her dad and her best friend, recently passed, her mother-in-law Susan Hendricks. The family takes comfort knowing they are together now. May they be at peace.

Together, Jack and Connie raised two boys, Patrick Heath Jr. of Montville and Jesse Wilson of Lebanon. They have five grandchildren. Her family of nieces and nephews are many, and she will be missed by all.

Arrangements are being handled by Aurora McCarthy Funeral Home. No services are planned currently. Notice will be sent for a Celebration of Life during the season of flowers which she loved.

Portland

Elizabeth L. Strickland

Elizabeth L. Strickland of Portland, beloved wife of Herbert C. Strickland, Jr., passed away peacefully at home with her family by her side on Wednesday, Oct. 7. Her passing came in the peaceful moments just after sunset on a beautiful New England fall day as the stars filled the evening sky.

Born on May 30, 1941, in Norwich, she was the youngest child of the late Helen (Lynch) and Albert Lasch II. As a child, she was surrounded by a large extended Catholic family with many aunts, uncles and cousins-Irish on her mother's side; German on her father's. She was every bit an Irish lass. Her older brother's (Albert III) tragic passing at just 19 left a lasting void. Her sister and brother-in law, Eileen and Phil Cone, also predeceased her.

Betty grew up in East Hampton and graduated from East Hampton High School, Class of 1959. A natural athlete, she competed in sports and also led the cheerleading squad while in school. On Oct. 5, 1963, Betty and Herb married in St. Patrick's Church and would share 63 years together. She passed just two days after their anniversary.

She started her career in banking and, after taking a hiatus to raise her children, returned to the field after her retirement. But family was always her priority. In 1966, they built their home in East Hampton where they raised their two daughters. After her father's unexpected death, she became her mother's primary caregiver and they welcomed her into their home so she would be cared for and comfortable in her final years. When her three grandchildren were born, she found her joy. She was a devoted mother and doting grandmother who steadfastly supported her children's and grandchildren's professional, academic, athletic and personal pursuits. She loved cheering them from the sidelines of playing fields near and far, no matter fair or foul weather, win or lose.

After their children graduated from college, they bought a vacation home in Vermont and enjoyed many fall and winter seasons relaxing there with family and friends. As they neared retirement, they found a home in Portland that reminded them of their Vermont home and where their neighbors became dear friends. They traveled to Ireland where she kissed the Blarney Stone, Aruba, Florida and Hawaii to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. They also enjoyed numerous shorter trips to the beaches of Cape Cod and Maine. She loved having her feet in sand, toes in the water and taking evening strolls searching for sand dollars. Above all, she cherished spending time with family and friends on life's ordinary days.

Family also came to include grand dogs who also softened her. So much so that when her neighbor's golden retriever had puppies, she visited them every day. One of those puppies, Piper, and her mama, Lexie, were her gentle guardians during her final years.

While her long illness diminished the enjoyment of her golden years, she handled it with quiet fortitude, perseverance and grace. She was able to spend many hours enjoying the simple comfort of holding Herb's hand. Her family remains grateful that she was able to receive all the care that she needed at home and is thankful for the all the compassion and support they received along the journey.

She is survived by her husband, her daughters, Maureen Strickland and Kirsten Reilly, and her three grandchildren Meghan, Ian (Jessica) and Sean Reilly. In addition to her parents and siblings, she was predeceased by Herb's parents, Josephine and Herbert C. Strickland Sr., and many extended family members.

As Betty wished, her funeral services were private. Burial was in Lakeview Cemetery, East Hampton, in the Strickland family plot.

To leave online condolences, please go to www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Preplanning Funeral Services makes sense and is free to do at Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home



167 Old Hartford Road
Colchester, CT 06415
www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com

Please call our office for personalized information on costs and services.

860-537-9611

RE8-29-25

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RE5-9-25

★ *Letters, cont. from page 28*

bate, we get "Big Talk Ted," who shoots first and asks questions later. This is not unlike his viewpoint when it came time to discuss tax abatements for our disabled veterans. At the first meeting, he was in favor for tax abatements for everybody. Then, once he finally read the legislation he did an about face, started criticizing certain veterans for receiving tax abatements because in his eyes, they do not meet his definition of disabled. How disgraceful, calling out neighbors, citizens of East Hampton who bravely served their country and who may also presently serve in a first responder capacity, these are not actions of a leader or a patriot. These are actions of a loudmouth, power-hungry bully. The people of East Hampton need to stand up against this aggressive behavior. He has proven himself time and time again to be rude and condescending not only during meetings but also to town staff and the fellow council members.

I urge everyone to go to the Town Council meetings and express their disapproval of councilor Ted Hintz and if you can't make it, please, by all means email the town council that there is no place for this kind of behavior, especially from a council member, in our hamlet of East Hampton.. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Rick Wanat – East Hampton

Hebron's Wonderful Tree Walk

To the Editor:

Thank you to everyone that came out on the recent Mother Tree Walk in Hebron. The crowd of nearly 50 people, the brilliant fall sunshine and the regal Mother Trees combined for an afternoon full of wonder and community. With attendees spanning from 7 years old to over 70, with Hebron residents as well as those from a variety of nearby towns, it is clear that the interest in the environment and history of Hebron center is a big draw. The large turnout also confirms the belief that ecotourism and outdoor recreation is the future Hebron and particularly 17 Kinney Rd.

Starting at the Raymond Brook Preserve we visited four Mother Trees that are also listed on the Connecticut Notable Tree database, as well as one candidate awaiting approval. The highlights of the tour included walking down the middle stonewall laneway at 17 Kinney Rd. to come face to face with the ancient White Oak nicknamed Mr. Gnarly, CT Notable Tree ID 226526. The audible gasps and oooooohhs from the crowd are a treat to hear every time. This historic tree measures 14 1/2 feet around the trunk and has a spread of nearly 100 feet. It is a marvel of living history and has a profound presence that bespeaks its great age.

During the walk we discussed the groundbreaking work of Dr. Suzanne Simard and her book, "Finding the Mother Tree," published in 2021. Exploring the intricate relationship between mycorrhizal fungi and trees, Dr. Simard notes, "Ecosystems are so similar to human societies—they're built on relationships. The stronger those are, the more resilient the system… A system is ever-changing because its parts—the trees and fungi and people—are constantly responding to one another and to the environment. Our success in coevolution—our success as a productive society—is only as good as the strength of these bonds with other individuals and species." Dr. Simard has recently published a follow up book, "When the Forest Breathes." The title comes from the Indigenous philosophy that states, "When the forest breathes out, we breathe in. When the forest thrives, we thrive. When the forest lives, we live."

It is time for Hebron's town leaders to embrace 17 Kinney Rd., the Mother Trees and our remarkable ecosystem to build a new system, a new future. For more information, please visit Save Hebron Center on Facebook.

Sincerely,
Kevin J. Tulimieri – Amston

TOWN OF PORTLAND
PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION
LEGAL NOTICE OF DECISION

At the October 15, 2026 meeting, the following actions were taken:
Approved with conditions Application #26-03: 338 Airline Avenue. Request for a Special Permit for retail cannabis dispensary. Application of PegArch Architecture and property of Ferrara Garbriel Revocable Trust. Map 10, Lot 19. Zone I.
Dated at Portland, CT this 19th day of October 2026
Robert Ellsworth, Chairman
Planning & Zoning Commission
1TB 10/23

TOWN OF COLCHESTER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
LEGAL NOTICE OF AGENT DECISION

Notice is hereby given that on October 20, 2026, the Duly Authorized Agent for the Colchester Conservation Commission made the following decision:
W2026-3150 - 833 Middletown Rd; Thomas O'Meara - Applicant/ Owner; Assessor's ID 03-19-033-001, Proposed detached garage within 75' Upland Review Area. - **APPROVED WITH STANDARD CONDITIONS**
Dated October 20, 2026
Conservation Commission
Falk von Plachecki, Chair
1TB 10/23

Town of Portland

Legal notice is hereby given to the water and/or sewer usage customers of the Town of Portland that quarterly bills are due and payable October 20, 2026. Payments not made in full on or before November 20, 2026 will be subject to interest of 1.5% per month from the due date.
Failure to receive a bill does not invalidate the charge or the statutorily required interest when a payment is late. Please contact the Water/Sewer department if you do not receive your bill at (860) 342-6735 or by email darce@portlandct.org
Payments are accepted in person at the Town Hall, 33 East Main Street, Portland. Payments can also be placed in the dropbox or mailed to the address listed below.
Town of Portland
Water/Sewer Dept.
P.O. Box 71
Portland, CT 06480-0071
Michele Nuhn, CCMC, CCMO
Town of Portland
Collector of Revenue
1TB 10/9, 10/23, 11/13

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.
Access Code: 960-717-229
United States: +1 (872) 240-3212
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Dated at Hebron, Connecticut, this 14th day of October 2026.
Frank Zitkus, Chair
2TB 10/16, 10/23

TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
NOTICE OF ACTION

At its Regular Meeting held at 6:30 pm on October 19, 2026 at the East Hampton Town Hall - 1 Community Drive, the Zoning Board of Appeals rendered the following decision:
ZBA-26-009: Peter Kuhn, Requesting the following variance to section 4.4.E of the Zoning Regulations to reduce the required front yard setback in a R-4 District from 50' to 30' to allow for the expansion of an existing accessory structure on 28 Old Chestnut Hill Road, Map 13 / Block 33 /Lot 16. **APPROVED**
ZBA-26-010: Adam Fortier, Requesting the following variance to section 4.4.E of the Zoning Regulations to reduce the 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. **APPROVED**
1TB 10/23

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
LEGAL NOTICE of PUBLIC HEARING
November 4, 2026, at 6:50 PM
Public Library, 20 Freestone Avenue, Portland, CT 06480

Pursuant to Section 506 of the Portland Town Charter, a public hearing will be held by the Board of Selectmen on **Wednesday, November 4, 2026 at 6:50 P.M.** in the Public Library Mary Flood Room to consider public comments and questions, both orally and in writing on the Town joining the Connecticut Municipal Development Authority as a member municipality. Public Access also through the Zoom link A – www.portlandct.org

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Portland Board of Selectmen hereby approves the Town of Portland joining the Connecticut Municipal Development Authority as a member municipality; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Portland Board of Selectman hereby authorizes the First Selectman to enter into a memorandum of agreement or other similar agreements with CMDA to create one or more development districts within Portland to advance the purposes contained in Section 8-169jj.

A copy of the complete resolution is available for public inspection in the Town Clerk's Office and on the Town's website at www.portlandct.org. Dated this 22nd day of October 2026
Attest: Michael A. Pelton, First Selectman
1TB 10/23

TOWN OF COLCHESTER
LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the Town of Colchester Ratepayers that quarterly water and/or sewer usage bills are due and payable October 1, 2026. Payment not made in full on or before November 2, 2026, will be subject to interest of 1.5% per month from the due date. Mail postmarked (US Postal Service postmark only) on or before November 2, 2026, will be considered paid on time. **Payments dropped in the town hall's drop box after 4:30 p.m. on Monday, November 2, 2026, will be considered as having been made on the following business day and will be deemed as paid late. Failure to receive a bill does not invalidate the bill nor interest.** Please contact the Tax Collector's Office if you have not received your bill.
Water & Sewer Payments should be made payable to the Water & Sewer Commission. Please write your account number on the check. Payments can be made online through the town's website https://www.colchesterct.gov/ - fees apply. OR: come into the Tax Office, use the Town's Night Drop, and/or mail payments to: Tax Office, 127 Norwich Ave, Colchester, CT 06415. If a receipt is desired, please send a self-addressed stamped envelope.
Office hours are Monday – Friday, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm, and on Thursdays until 7 pm. Questions concerning payments should be directed to the Tax Office, (860) 537-7210.
Michele Wyatt, CCMC CCMO
Town of Colchester
Tax Collector
3TB 9/25, 10/9, 10/23

Fall Into Art

AHM Youth and Family Services will hold its second "Fall Into Art" Autumn-Themed Community Art Show on Saturday, Oct. 24, from 1:30-6:30 p.m., at AHM, 25 Pendleton Drive, Hebron.

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

For more information, call AHM at 860-228-9488 or visit www.ahmyouth.org.

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 RHAM Youth Soccer program.

Guests can look forward to more than 25 raffle baskets, 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.

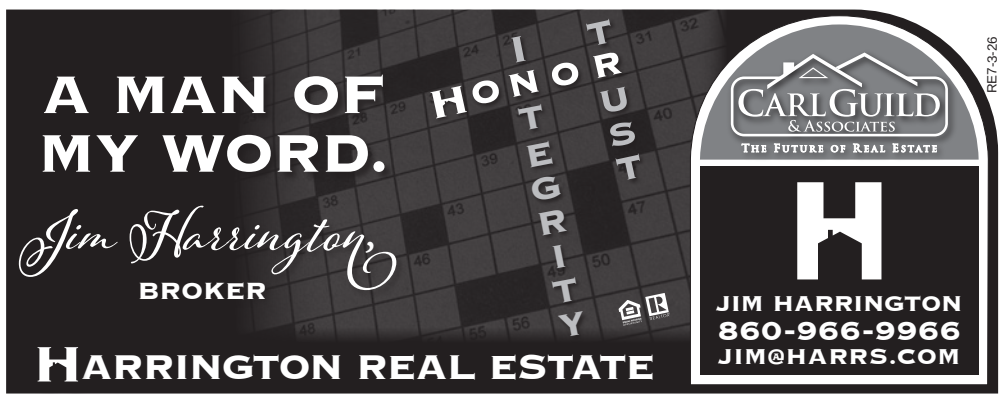
This is a casual, adults-only event; there is no need to dress up.

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.

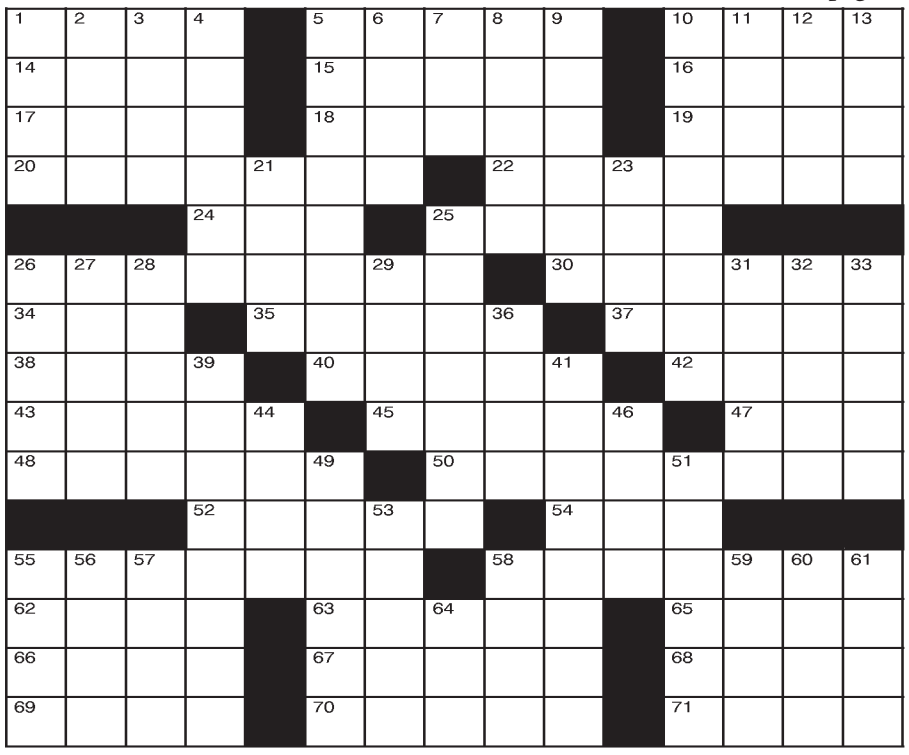
RSVP online at tinyurl.com/rhamsoccersoiree.

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



POTPOURRI

See Answers, page 24



CREATORS NEWS SERVICE By Neil Manausa

ACROSS

1 Late actor Sharif
5 Lamb cuts
10 Crowd support
14 Cast a ballot
15 For women only
16 Curved molding
17 Yalies
18 Marooned
19 Tender
20 Drive away
22 Stated as true
24 Small rug
25 Permit
26 Shrewdly devious
30 Relieve
34 Bar drink
35 Chinese or Japanese
37 Skin openings
38 Pork or lamb
40 Inventor Howe
42 Like a wet cellar
43 Uncovered
45 Delegate
47 Hard water
48 Elk's horn
50 Part of a school year
52 Smallest amount
54 Have a bite
55 Air inhaler
58 Unpredictable
62 Operatic showstopper
63 Faces for watches
65 Scarlett's home
66 Official stamp
67 Author Zola
68 High collar
69 It's worth stealing
70 Find new tenants
71 Hollow in a fender

DOWN

1 Completed
2 Double agent
3 Take ___ from me!
4 Begin again
5 Criticize strongly
6 Nathan the patriot
7 Gold, in Madrid
8 Colony for cons
9 Detects smoke, in a way
10 Furniture material
11 Awestruck
12 Roll call response
13 Planter's supply
21 Tibetan priest
23 Downtown Chicago
25 Leaning on
26 Latin dance
27 Do windows and floors
28 Blood pumper
29 White or Blue
31 Characteristic
32 Therefore
33 Glacial ridge
36 Church section
39 Secret sharer
41 W. ___ Maugham
44 Hunter's quarry
46 Four seasons
49 Las Vegas NFLer
51 Declared
53 Ooze
55 Poet Ogden
56 Crème treat
57 Thailand, once
58 Supermodel Macpherson
59 The ___ Gallery, London
60 Monopoly token
61 "This ___ Be Love"
64 Feel unwell

★ *Data Center, cont. from page 1*

plants without soil.

The *Rivereast* reached out to ReNew Developers for comment on the proposal but has not heard back as of press time.

Town Approval, Public Input

Dennler said the PZC must make its own decision, as the Board of Selectmen cannot tell the commission how to vote or take over its review.

"The PZC must operate independently, and we cannot interfere," Dennler said.

If a formal application is submitted, the zoning change would require a public hearing. Residents could share their concerns, ask questions and submit written comments where the commission would then consider the information before deciding whether to approve or deny the zoning change and master plan.

Dennler said residents have raised several concerns, including some about the environment, home values, Colchester's rural identity and the wider effects of artificial intelligence.

He said town officials also need answers about issues such as water use and noise, and those questions came up during the preliminary review during the PZC meeting.

Money is another question, Dennler said, as he added that the town does not yet know how much income the project might bring in.

"Data centers are not traditionally taxed in Connecticut, so we don't know yet what the potential revenue would be if the developer received approval," he said.

State law also requires a data center developer to reach a host fee agreement with the town before construction can begin, and such an agreement could set out payments to the town.

Dennler said that agreement has not been worked out because officials do not yet know how residents feel about the project overall. He added that residents would have the final say on whether to approve a proposed host fee agreementing at a town meeting.

"This is not a town project," Dennler said. "Private applicants have the right to submit their proposal to the town, but the town is not a party to this private proposal."

He said residents with concerns should share them with the PZC, which has the power to ultimately approve or deny the application.

Neighbors Worry About Noise, Wildlife

Rosemary Longo, who owns land next to the proposed site, said she and other nearby residents were surprised to learn that a data center was being considered for the property.

Longo said the original idea was for a smaller fuel cell project and a hydroponic growing operation. Neighbors had concerns about the fuel cells even then, she said, but they believed the project would not create much noise.

That experience has made her worried about the new proposal.

"We were told, 'Oh, you'll never hear it," said Longo of an existing fuel cell facility in the area. "Which is totally untrue."

She said the sound is especially clear at night, where there is less noise from traffic and other noise to cover it up.

"During the day, because you've got traffic and other noise, [you can't hear it] as much. But at night, it is really awful," she said,

Longo said she worries that another group of fuel cells could make the noise even worse for people living nearby. She said one neighbor in particular, who is close to the proposed site, could face especially difficult conditions if the project moves forward.

"Just the noise from the current fuel cells, and then add in the fuel cells that aren't there yet in the data center … it's going to be awful," said Longo.

Noise is not her only concern, either. Longo said the area is home to many kinds of wildlife, including turtles, foxes, beavers, bobcats, deer, owls and hawks. She also said an eagle has been seen hunting in the area.

The land is also near wetlands and the Air Line Trail, a popular path for people who walk, run, bike and just enjoy being outdoors. Longo said she is trying to learn more about how the proposed project could affect these areas.

"There's a lot going on environmentally," she said.

She also questioned whether earlier environmental reviews fully considered the wildlife and wetlands around the property and said she is looking into those questions with help from neighbors and town officials.

ReNew's project plans state that an environmental report was completed in 2022 and that cleanup work was done on the former junkyard. However, Longo said she still has questions about the cleanup and whether past pollution from oil and other materials could affect the area.

Longo also keeps bees, and said she worries about how the project could affect them. She said nearby residents are concerned about the possible effects on their homes, too.

"We are all concerned about the impact on the valuation of our homes," she said.

Some neighbors had been thinking about retirement and selling their houses before learning about the proposal. Now, Longo said, they worry that a data center could make it harder to sell their homes or lower what buyers would be willing to pay.

What Happens Next?

Nicole Haggerty, Colchester's planning director, said that, since no formal application has been submitted to the PZC, there's nothing to approve or deny.

If an application arrives, the zoning change would automatically require a public hearing, said Haggerty. Under the process outlined by the town, the commission generally has 65 days from receiving an application to hold the hearing. Once the hearing opens, the commission has 35 days to complete it, followed by 65 days to make a decision after the hearing closes.

Residents can send written comments to the commission through Haggerty at NHaggerty@ColchesterCT.Gov or speak during the public hearing if/when one is scheduled.

Haggerty also said commission members cannot discuss the proposal outside the formal hearing process after a preliminary review has taken place.

For now, the future of the proposed data center remains uncertain. Dennler said the process must give both sides a fair chance to be heard.

"My job is to help staff administer a process that is fair to both sides, transparent and legal," he said.

Legal Notice
Andover Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission

The Duly Authorized Agent of the Andover Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission **APPROVED** the following application on October 21, 2026:

- **Application #IWWC 26-9W**: Town of Andover, **34 Bailey Road**– Replacement of septic system at 34 Bailey Road. Work is within the 100-foot upland review are of a Perennial Stream.

The above decision may be appealed to the Andover Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission pursuant to Section 12.2 of the Town of Andover Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations, available at www.andoverconnecticut.org.

1TB 10/23

LEGALS

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

Notice is hereby given to all property owners connected to the sewers in the Town of East Hampton that the sewer use payment is due and payable on October 1, 2026. East Hampton Sewer Use bills may be paid in two equal installments; October 1 and April 1. The last day to pay the Sewer Use fee for the October 1, 2026 installment without a penalty is November 2, 2026. **Property owners will not receive a second sewer use bill for the installment due on April 1, 2027. The October bill is a three-part form which includes the April installment.** Payments received November 3, 2026 and later, including payments postmarked November 3, 2026 and later, are considered past due and will be subject to an interest penalty of 1.50% per month. or a fraction thereof, 18% per annum, from the due date of the tax, as required by Connecticut General State Statues 12-130 and 146. The minimum interest charge is $2 on each tax bill. A returned check fee is $20. Payments legibly postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service on or before November 2, 2026 are considered on time regardless of when they are received by the Collector of Revenue.
As owners of property, taxpayers are responsible to see that taxes are paid when due. Failure to have sent or received a bill does not exempt the taxpayer from payment of all taxes, interest charges and collection costs, as per Conn. Gen. Stat. 12-130 and 12-146. Interest is charged on all late payments. There are no exceptions.
Please make checks payable to Town of East Hampton.
Payments may be mailed to Collector of Revenue, 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, CT 06424. Pay online by visiting our website at www.easthamptonct.gov **Note: Your sewer account number is required when making a payment online.**
Hours of collection are: Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 8:00 am – 4:00 pm, Tuesday 8:00 am – 6:30 pm and Friday 8:00 am – 12:30 pm.
Respectively Submitted,
Water Pollution Control Authority

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

LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
PUBLIC HEARING

The Marlborough Zoning Board of Appeals will hold the following public hearing On Wednesday, November 04, 2026, at 7:00 P.M. in the Marlborough Senior Center, 17 School Drive.
APPLICATION #ZBA-05-26 – Joseph M. Grillo Jr. (Applicant/Property Owner) 331 Jones Hollow Road - is seeking variance of Article Three A.1, Minimum Requirements, Article Three A.3 Conformity of Buildings & Land, Article Three A.5 Reduction of Lot Areas or Minimum Required Yards, Article Three A.9 Minimum Required Yards, Article Six D. 2 b Side Yard Setback, in order to construct a garage with a Side Yard Setback of 4 feet where 15 feet is required.
Interested parties can review the application materials in the Land Use/Building Department during normal Town Hall hours. Written testimony should be sent at least 24 hours ahead of the public hearing date to building@marlboroughct.gov , and oral testimony may be given during the public hearing.

2TB 10/23, 10/30

TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON
PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION
LEGAL NOTICE
Notice of Hearing

Notice is hereby given that the East Hampton Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing at their meeting on Wednesday November 4, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. at the East Hampton Town Hall – 1 Community Drive, Room 107 and via ZOOM to consider:
PZC-26-011: Devon Hills, 19 Flanders Road, Special Permit for a roadside stand for the sale of farm produce in accordance with Section 4.4.D.2. Map 26/ Block 85/ Lot 29
Applications and Plans are on file in the Land Use Office 860 267-7450.
Ray Zatorski, Chairman

2TB 10/23, 10/30

REAL ESTATE

RENTALS

GLASTONBURY OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT: Individual offices or space up to 1,000-1,400 square feet suites. Use of conference room included. Call 860-633-3545.

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.

HOUSING DISCRIMINATION IS ILLEGAL For Help Call 888-247-4401

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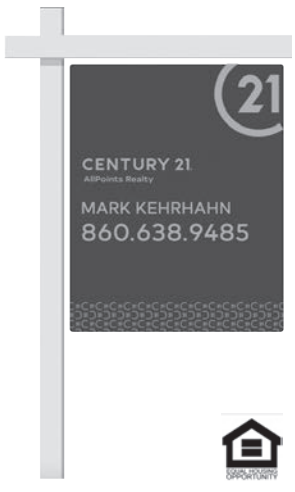
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Parks & Recreation Department
Office Assistant

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Resume, cover letter and a Town of Hebron employment application should be sent to Town Manager, Town of Hebron, 15 Gilead Street, Hebron, CT 06248. Application deadline is Friday, November 13, 2026. Hebron is an EOE.
1TB 10/23

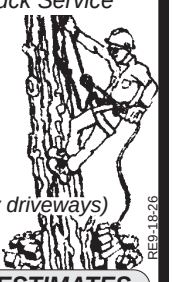
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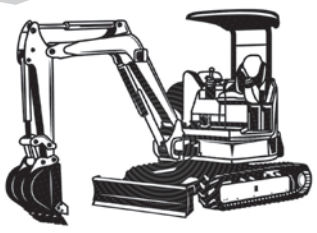
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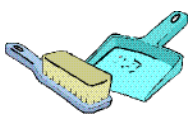
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MARLBOROUGH MULTI-FAMILY TAG SALE: Saturday, 10/24, 8:30am-2:30pm. 47 Avalon Lane. Household, clothing, miscellaneous. Many free items. No early birds please.

TAG SALE 10/23-10/25: 8:30am-3pm. 36 Karen Lee Rd, Glastonbury. Household & kitchen items, tools, jewelry, holiday decorations, scarves, outdoor tables, and more!

TAG SALE SAT 10/24: 10am-4pm. 41 Reidy Hill Road, Amston. Furniture, bikes, and household goods. Check out pictures posted in the Hebron and Marlborough Facebook groups!

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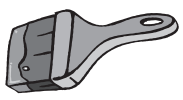
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2 Lb Bag



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40 Lb Party Chicken Wings
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