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RIVEREAST
News Bulletin

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

Volume 47, Number 37 | Published by The Glastonbury Citizen | October 30, 2026



Must Be the Season of the Witch… **The annual meeting of the East Hampton witches took place this week at Loco Perro! Keep your eye out; you never know where they'll show up next!**

Marlborough Lions Host Masquerade 5K

By Toriana Williams

From Mario to Luigi to princesses and mushrooms, Marlborough runners turned a fall race into a colorful show of community spirit last weekend. The town was filled with bright colors, fun costumes and plenty of contagious smiles as runners gathered for the Marlborough Masquerade 5K.

The yearly event brought together people who love to run, families to cheer them on and neighbors who want to help support their community. Some runners came in regular gear; others came in costume. Each runner made the race feel like a Halloween party and raised money to help people in need.

The race is run by the Marlborough Lions Club, a local group that works to support people and organizations in the community. As club secretary Megan Lloyd explained, the idea for the annual autumn race grew from a separate longtime town tradition.

"We've been doing the race around the lake in the spring for like 40 years," said Lloyd.

The club also held a pasta supper in the fall. But when a member who had helped run the supper moved away, the fundraiser became harder to manage.

Instead of giving up on a fall event, the club found a new way to bring people together.

"Since the race … was self-running at that point, we were like, 'Why don't we add another race?" said Lloyd.

The club chose to hold the new race around Halloween. That choice gave runners a chance to show off their costumes while helping a good cause, and what better way to celebrate fall than with a run full of colorful characters?

Lloyd said the race usually attracts a handful of people who dress up. Some years bring more costumes than others, but the funky outfits often become part of the event's best memories.

One of the scariest costumes she could remember belonged to a runner dressed as Michael Myers.

"He was in full Michael Myers garb," recalled Lloyd. The outfit included a mechanic's overall, a mask and a pumpkin.

The runner arrived after the race had already started, but he didn't let that stop him.

"He was a very tall guy, and he walked the entire circuit as Michael Myers," she said.

A tall man walking through a fall race dressed as a horror movie villain, carrying a pumpkin, was certainly a sight to remember.

Not every costume was scary, though. Some were clever, funny or just plain sweet.

Lloyd remembered a local runner who dressed as Forrest Gump. The choice was especially funny because he was usually one of the fastest runners in the race.

"The fact that he ran as Forrest Gump was like perfect," she said.

Another year, a mother and daughter duo dressed up as an egg and a devil. Together, they became a pair of "deviled eggs."

These costumes help show that the Masquerade 5K is just as much about having fun as it is about running fast for a good cause.

Even with the costumes, though, the 5K is

See Masquerade 5K, page 10

Case of the Missing Campaign Signs Solved

By Toriana Williams

Dozens of political signs began disappearing from yards and roadsides across the area in the weeks before Election Day. Now, the mystery has been – mostly – solved: The Connecticut Department of Transportation (DOT) has been removing signs it said were placed illegally on state-owned land.

The missing signs sparked many questions and frustration, along with fears that political rivals were taking down each other's signs. But officials and local party leaders discovered many of the missing signs were sitting at a state transportation garage in Mansfield, waiting to be picked up.

"Let's share a happy ending to a very frustrating situation," wrote the Columbia Republican Town Committee in a public statement after they discovered what was happening.

The committee said signs had been going missing for a week or two, and it also warned that missing signs can lead to unfair blame between political parties.

"The worst part however is missing signs always leads to allegations against the opposing parties," wrote the committee. "This sort of situation is the last thing we need in the midst of such an over the top, contentious election season."

State Sen. Cathy Osten (D-19) – whose district includes the *Rivereast* towns of Hebron and Marlborough – said she had already contacted the DOT about the missing signs and said the Mansfield garage had been collecting signs across the area.

"We've gone up and retrieved those signs and put them back," said Osten.

She explained that the state has rules about signs that block drivers' views, but she questioned why so many signs were being removed so close to Election Day.

"They send a notice out to all candidates every election cycle that if you are impeding a sight line issue, they're going to take your signs down," Osten said, but added, "Usually by the time you get to this point of a campaign, DOT just says, 'We're not going to do anything until after the election,' because we only have five or six days left."

In a statement, the DOT said it had sent letters to Democratic and Republican party leaders on June 2 and again on Aug. 31. The letters explained the rules for campaign signs on state property.

"No calls will be made to candidates prior to the removal of the signs," the department said.

The state also said workers would keep the removed signs at the nearest transportation maintenance facility.

So now that it's known where the signs are – but *why* were they removed in the first place?

DOT said state law does not allow political signs on state-owned property, including highways, roads, railways and transit facilities, unless they meet the rules or have the required permit.

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Republican Registrar to Retire

The Republican registrar of voters (ROV) is retiring from the position on Dec. 31, and the Republican Town Committee is looking for a replacement. The ROV works with the secretary of the state to provide up-to-date voting information.

If you are a retiree, or an at home parent who wants to earn extra money this position may be for you, the Republican Town Committee said. The current term is an elected one.

Salary is paid quarterly. You would also be paid for training, conventions, travel, and town meetings.

Since the registrar's last day will be Dec. 31, the RTC said it would be ideal to have someone starting to learn by Nov. 30 if possible.

Call Republican Town Committee Chair Carol Barton at 860-230-5854 for more information.

Congregational Church News

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

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

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

AA Meetings: Saturdays and Mondays, 7 p.m.

Sonshine Stampers: Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m.

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.

Recreation Commission Events and Programs

The Andover Recreation Commission has announced the following pieces of news. For more information, contact Meghan Lally, Recreation Commission chair, at AndoverRec@andoverct.org or 203-313-4104.

Andover Youth Basketball (AYB) Volunteers Needed!: Are you a current or former basketball player looking to give back to your community? AYB is looking for high school students and adults to volunteer for 1-2 hours on Saturdays from December through February to run the score clock and/or manage the game book during games. All adult volunteers must agree to a background check and interview by the AYB subcommittee. High school volunteers will be supervised by an onsite adult coordinator from the AYB program. If interested, contact the Recreation Commission to learn more.

Mini & Junior Redhawks Basketball Program (PreK-2nd grade): Registration remains open for the winter developmental basketball program. Children in PreK and Kindergarten are invited to join the Mini Redhawks program, while students in 1st and 2nd grade are invited to sign up for the Junior Redhawks program. Both programs are intended to introduce children to the sport of basketball through hands on learning at the Andover Elementary School gymnasium. Clinics will be held on Saturday mornings, starting in December and running through February. A parent/guardian must remain with each child. To register go to https://www.andoverconnecticut.org/about/pages/sports-recreation. Registration fee: $45. Deadline: Oct. 30.

Halloween Trick-or-Treat Stop: Saturday, Oct. 31, from 5-7 p.m. Andover families are invited to stop by the town gazebo on Halloween evening. Recreation Commission members will hand out candy, cider, hot cocoa and doughnuts to trick or treaters. Be sure to take your photo in the photo booth and enjoy other Halloween themed activities while you're there. Several businesses will also be on hand to hand out treats and provide hands-on fun for children. Contact Haley Proto, Recreation Commission vice chair, at 203-645-4933 for more information.

Veterans Day Ceremony: Wednesday, Nov. 11, 11 a.m., at Veterans Monument Park on Monument Lane. The event will include guest speakers, a placing of the wreath by Andover scouts, a singing of the national anthem, readings by Andover Elementary School students, and a musical performance. Pizza will be available at the conclusion of the ceremony. Any veterans, seniors or individuals with a disability may contact the Community and Senior Center at 860-498-2326 to request transportation to/from the event. In the event of rain, the event will be moved to Town Hall.

Recreation Commission Meetings: The commission meets the second Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. in the Town Hall Community Room as well as via Zoom. Members of the public are welcome to attend. The next meeting will be held Nov. 10.

See More Andover News, page 8 & 9





From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

By Mike Thompson

Get ready for those 4 p.m. sunsets, folks.

Yup, it's that time again. This weekend, we move our clocks back one hour, as daylight saving time will come to a close for 2026.

It looked for a quick second there that we might all be spared the time shift this year, but alas, it wasn't to be. While the U.S. House of Representatives voted in July – by a pretty wide margin (308 to 117) – to make daylight saving time permanent, the bill, called the Sunshine Protection Act, stalled out in the Senate. Senators remain divided on the concept, Senate Majority Leader John Thune has said, so it's unlikely the legislation will collect the 60 'aye' votes needed to move it forward.

And that's a shame.

Yes, there are much – much – bigger problems facing our country at the moment, but extending daylight saving time feels like an easy win. The argument against it that I see most often is that having year-round daylight saving time would force kids to wait for the school bus in the dark in the middle of winter. A way around that would be to start the school day later – which is something many child learning experts have advocated over the years anyway.

Opponents of the legislation have also argued that we tried having year-round daylight saving in a 16-month experiment in 1974-75, and people didn't like it. But that was over 50 years ago; why not give it another whirl? Maybe this time, schools will get on board with adjusting their start times, and it'll go down smoother.

Until everybody can come to an agreement, though, it looks like we're going to keep on adjusting those clocks twice a year.

* * *

Twenty-one award-winning Connecticut women artisans – including one from Hebron! – will display and sell their work at the annual Fall Celebration of Women's Crafts on Sunday, Nov. 22, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event will be held at the Pond House Café, located in Elizabeth Park, 1555 Asylum Ave. entrance, in West Hartford.

This show is now celebrating its 29th year, and offers folks a chance to browse and purchase an array of handcrafted gift items for family and friends.

Hebron resident Stephanie Keene, of Keenecraft Creations (www.facebook.com/keenecraftcreations), will be among the participants in the event, and will be present to meet shoppers and discuss her work.

Among the 21 artisans' creative renderings presented for sale will be pottery, clothing, jewelry, artwork, sculpture, and more.

Admission is free. As has become a traditional feature of this show, a gift raffle will also be held, featuring hand-crafted items from the participating artists and a Pond House gift card, with the ticket proceeds donated to Foodshare.

For more information email womenscraftcelebration@gmail.com or visit the Women's Craft Celebration Facebook page at www.facebook.com/womenscraftcelebration.

* * *

It's Halloween on Saturday, so to wrap things up this week, here are some Halloween-related quotes, courtesy of the Today show on NBC:

"All the spirits, good and evil, fairy and pixie, witch and wizard, on this night will sure be stirring." — Arthur Peterson, "Halloween"

"Halloween shadows played upon the walls of the houses. In the sky the Halloween moon raced in and out of the clouds." — Eleanor Estes, "The Witch Family"

"It's Halloween! It's Halloween! The moon is full and bright and we shall see that can't be seen on any other night." — Jack Prelutsky, "It's Halloween"

"All that we see or seem is but a dream within a dream." — Edgar Allan Poe, "A

Editor's Desk continued on page 24

Bulletin Board

When it comes to football, my wife and I agree to disagree – sometimes vehemently. As a New Englander, born and raised, my affections lie with the New England Patriots. As a city girl from the western periphery of New York State, my wife is a rabid Buffalo Bills fan. As such, she maintains that I know absolutely nothing about football.

This is not entirely true. As it so happens, I once played the game. Sort of.

Long, long ago, when I was probably nine or ten years old and anything seemed possible, I decided to sign up for the local midget football team. This decision was more than a little optimistic considering that I weighed about 64 pounds and had the coordination of a frog hooked up to a high voltage battery. Nevertheless, I was bound and determined to play and even dared dream of achieving great glory on the fabled gridiron. What I should have been concerned about was my own personal survival, but more about that in a moment.

My father, who was a terrific athlete his entire life (and who probably spent many an idle hour wondering what genetic fluke had presented him with a son who couldn't get on a bicycle without riding directly into the side of the family station wagon), managed to conceal his skepticism. He dug up a football and brought me out into the yard to teach me a few fundamentals – like how to catch the ball.

This did not go as smoothly as it might have. As it later turned out, I was in desperate need of glasses, though I don't mean to use this as an excuse. Honesty compels me to admit that glasses would only have allowed me to actually see the ball in the instant before it bounced off my head, chest or flailing hands.

Oblivious to all the warning signs, I nevertheless signed up for football. My first clue that reality was not going to measure up to my optimistic expectations came when I went to get my spiffy new uniform. A coach quickly escorted me to the tail end of the line where I found the rest of the underweight, under-gifted, under-appreciated recruits with hearts like lions but the abilities of, well…frogs hooked up to a high voltage battery. We band of hopefuls ended up with a mismatch of cast-off uniform parts of various styles and colors which, for most of us, was our first intimation (in this pre-participation trophy era) that our mothers' concern for our feelings did not necessarily extend into life's larger arenas.

I was assigned to play guard where I was supposed to block anybody trying to get through the line. This seems like a peculiar spot to place somebody who weighs 64 pounds soaking wet, but the coach presumably hoped that anybody charging my position might at least trip over me or feel compelled to pause to wipe whatever was left of me off his cleats before going after the quarterback.

As it turned out, I only got to participate in one actual game all season and then for only one play. Our team was leading about a billion to one when I got the call: "Hallas! Go in for Smith!" I sprinted out onto the field like a tiger and took up my position at left guard across from a scowling monster of a lad with murder in his eye. He looked to be at least 11 years old. I resolved to knock him into next week.

The play began and I charged forward…and bounced off the guy. I was still sitting on the ground admiring stars when I realized that Smith was standing over me informing me that he was back in. Oblivious to the implications, I swaggered (read "staggered") off the field, convinced I had shown the world that I had what it takes.

And so ended my football career. The following year I decided to forgo athletics and devote my idle hours to improving the formula for gunpowder.

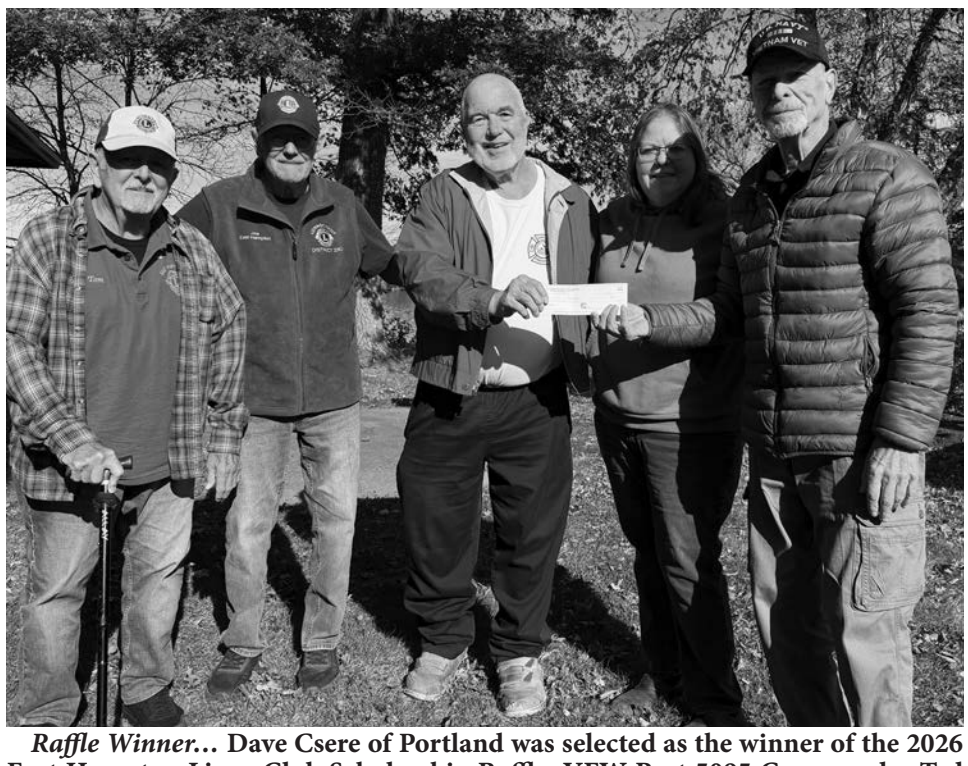
And the less said about that, the better.

Go Pats!

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.



Raffle Winner… **Dave Csere of Portland was selected as the winner of the 2026 East Hampton Lions Club Scholarship Raffle. VFW Post 5095 Commander Ted Turner drew the winning ticket and presented Csere with the raffle prize check. The East Hampton Lions Club thanks everyone in the community who supported this year's raffle. Pictured from left: Raffle Chair Tom Denman, Lion Joe Walters, winner Dave Csere, Lions Club President Liz Cooper, and VFW Post 5095 Commander Ted Turner.**

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

Voting for Weir

To the Editor:

I would like to urge you to consider voting for Steve Weir for state representative, as I will be. Having known Steve for many years, I can speak to his passion for service to the community of the 55th District and I trust in his ethics. Discussing Connecticut political issues with Steve, I am amazed that the details of many bills are often presented at the last minute to his office, with little time before a vote. Steve takes pride in sifting through the many layers of detail, often revealing the unrelated "pork" tacked onto the larger body of the bill. This, of course, guides his vote.

Something you may not know is that Steve has voted with the majority 77% of the time. Therefore, I feel it is disingenuous to label him as "extreme" as it been suggested during this campaign season. I encourage you to speak with Steve about the rest of those bills as I have. The news media is not revealing all of the layers rolled into many of these bills. Anyone with an open mind will find these discussions enlightening.

I am so thankful that we have a thorough, trustworthy legislator in Steve. He asks the necessary questions when these bills have serious flaws and doesn't vote only on the misleading and catchy surface headlines we see in the news.

Thank you, Steve, for your dedication. And thank you for educating me to the real, behind-the-scenes dealings at the capitol here in Hartford. I appreciate you helping to keep Connecticut's political machine in check! You have my vote!

Bruce Langevin – Hebron

Who Really Represents Change?

To the Editor:

There has been a great deal of talk lately about "change," but many letters ignore one simple fact: Connecticut has been governed by Democratic majorities for the past 16 years. Yet voters are being told that voting against Steve Weir is somehow a vote for change. Don't fall for that argument.

The status quo is not change. The policies that have shaped Connecticut for nearly two decades are not change. Steve Weir, Jason Guidone, Ryan Fazio, and George Austin represent a different direction and a new approach.

While some politicians celebrate expanding government programs, Jason Guidone and Steve Weir are focused on creating the economic opportunities that help people achieve independence and self-reliance. The path from government dependency to prosperity is through a stronger economy, more jobs, and greater opportunity.

In the past eight years, businesses have continued to leave the state, property crime remains a concern in many communities, and parents, teachers, students, and administrators have become increasingly frustrated by education policies driven from Hartford. Too often, residents hear that nothing can be done.

Something can be done. Elections are about choices.

If you want real change, vote for Steve Weir, Ryan Fazio, Jason Guidone, and George Austin.

Michael Beaulieu – Hebron

Note: *Beaulieu is a member of the RHAM Board of Education, but is writing as an individual.*

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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.

(860) 633-4691 — bulletin@glcitizen.com

Meghan Rosenfeld: The Right Choice!

To the Editor:

Nov. 3rd is the day that voters of East Hampton have the opportunity to make a difference!

Many residents have already met and spoken to Meghan. She has spent many hours greeting you at your door and asking you how she can help. She supports education and is a cheerleader for our children, supporting the resources needed to educate them and give them a strong beginning.

She stands with organized labor to protect collective bargaining, fair wages and safe workplaces. She understands how important it is for Seniors to have a supporter, so they aren't taxed out of their homes. She is a member of the Commission on Aging and realizes what is at stake when funding for senior services falls short.

Healthcare is a burden on our senior population! She will work to lower the cost of prescription drugs and healthcare premiums.

Meghan has been endorsed by AFT Connecticut and the AFL-CIO, because working families need an advocate to speak for them. Meghan will!

Join me in voting for Meghan on Nov. 3!

Respectfully,
Barbara Moore – East Hampton

Highly Recommend Paul

To the Editor:

The upcoming election gives us all a chance to choose the best state representation – one that syncs with the needs and morals of our community.

I've had the honor of getting to know Ellen Paul and highly recommend supporting her.

I met Ellen at a town meeting in June and was immediately inspired by her energy and passion. As a librarian, Ellen has her pulse on the community's needs and understands the issues that are crucial to voters in her district. Her profession has taught her to be curious by nature, to do her research, and look at the facts. She is a commonsense politician driven by firsthand knowledge from interacting with community members and by her own convictions, not by the man in the White House. She will be an excellent state representative for the 55th District.

When you vote in this election, vote for the candidates who are not beholden to the agendas of others, and instead will best serve you. When you vote, make sure Ellen gets your vote.

Karen Nemiah – Glastonbury

Supports Fernandez

To the Editor:

As we head into the election on Nov. 3rd, it is important to evaluate what each candidate would actually do in office. We have state Rep. Mark DeCaprio's voting record. Because letters to the editor must be "positive" this week, I will not scrutinize incumbent DeCaprio's record. I will say though, that if elected, Bob Fernandez (candidate for district #48; Colchester, Lebanon, Bozrah and Franklin) would vote to support property-tax relief, public safety, and appropriately scrutinize government spending.

Connecticut residents continue to face the burden of high taxes, and families deserve representatives who take that burden seriously. In 2026, Bob Fernandez would have voted 'yes' for Senate Bill 1, a budget adjustment that included a homestead property-tax exemption and a family caregiver tax credit. Bob would also have voted 'yes' for Senate Bill 477, the budget implementer, which included property-tax provisions. These votes provided meaningful tax relief to Connecticut families.

Public safety and immigration enforcement also warrant examination. In 2026, Bob Fernandez would have voted in favor of Senate Bill 397, which restricted the sharing of certain surveillance data with federal immigration authorities. This bill addressed multiple issues, but the immigration-related provisions deserve consideration when evaluating his approach to public safety and cooperation with federal authorities.

Bob Fernandez would have voted 'yes' on House Bill 5003 in 2026, a broad package that included workforce development initiatives and increased workers' compensation for healthcare workers and teachers assaulted on the job, along with benefits for first responders and veterans. While the bill contained other provisions, voters deserve to understand how their representative weighs the interests of workers, first responders, and the communities he serves.

A single vote does not tell the whole story, and no responsible assessment should ignore the details of a bill or a legislator's reasons for opposing it. But a voting record provides an important starting point for accountability.

Bob Fernandez has been out front explaining the specific steps he supports to lower property taxes, protect public safety, and serve Connecticut families. Voters deserve more than campaign promises. They deserve clear answers about what their representative has done in Hartford and what he intends to do next.

Joanne Rose – Colchester
Resident of District 48

Supports Paul and Osten

To the Editor:

Serving in local government has given me a firsthand understanding of the challenges facing our communities. Every budget season brings difficult decisions about maintaining quality public schools, providing essential services, protecting taxpayers, and supporting the people who make our communities work.

These challenges make our representation in Hartford particularly important.

Ellen Paul, candidate for state representative in the 55th District, has made education funding and property tax relief central priorities of her campaign. She supports updating Connecticut's Education Cost Sharing formula, increasing state support for special education, and ensuring that state mandates do not place unreasonable financial burdens on municipalities.

State Sen. Cathy Osten brings extensive experience in municipal government and public service. As Senate Chair of the Appropriations Committee, she has played a significant role in state budget decisions affecting education, municipal assistance, and essential public services. Her experience in local government provides a valuable perspective on the challenges facing Connecticut's towns and cities.

From my experience, I know that strong schools, responsible budgets, and support for working families are not competing priorities. They are interconnected responsibilities that require cooperation between state and local government.

Hebron and the surrounding communities deserve a thoughtful discussion about how Connecticut can maintain excellent schools, make life more affordable, reduce the burden on local property taxpayers, and protect the services residents depend upon.

I support Ellen Paul for state representative and Cathy Osten for state senator because of their focus on the issues that matter to our communities. I encourage voters to consider their records, experience, and priorities as they make their decisions on Nov. 3.

Jan Lawrence, Vice Chair
Hebron Town Council

Continuing the Democratic Success

To the Editor:

After many years of Democratic leadership in Hartford government, we can be proud of Connecticut's performance relative to the rest of the nation. For instance, according to the State Department of Education, our students in 4th and 8th grade rank among the top in national test scores in reading and math; we have the second lowest rate of violent crime in the nation (FBI); we rank fifth in terms of life expectancy (CDC); and the U.S. Census Bureau indicates that our median household income is 17% higher than the national average while our high school graduation rate is above average. Yes, there is more to do, and Ellen Paul knows what our top concerns are because she has listened to us, having knocked on more than 3,000 doors so far. Ellen Paul is ready to continue to make Connecticut excel among the states.

For instance, Ellen will work to continue our great educational success and shift the tax burden more broadly with local property tax relief through a revision of the educational cost sharing formula. And she will work on affordable housing and lowering our energy costs while protecting our environment and our families.

Please join me in voting for Ellen Paul for the 55th House District on Nov. 3rd.

Drew Golfin – Marlborough

Note: *Golfin is co-vice chair of the Marlborough Democratic Town Committee and a member of the RHAM Board of Education, but is writing as an individual.*

Fernandez Answers the Call

To the Editor:

Candidates often talk about representing the people. But how often can voters actually reach them?

Bob Fernandez has made accessibility a priority throughout his campaign for Connecticut's 48th House District. He puts his personal cell phone number on his campaign literature and answers when people call. He has knocked on thousands of doors this campaign season, taking the time to speak directly with residents about their concerns, questions, and experiences.

What stands out is that Bob's willingness to help does not depend on someone's political affiliation. He has worked with both Democrats and Republicans to address individual concerns and help people navigate problems affecting their lives. That kind of engagement reflects an understanding that a state representative serves an entire district, not just the people who share his party or voted for him.

Door-knocking is more than a campaign activity when it involves genuinely listening to people. Answering a phone call is a small act in itself, but it sends an important message: constituents deserve to be heard, and their concerns deserve attention.

Residents should expect their elected officials to be accessible, responsive, and willing to work with anyone who needs assistance. These qualities should not be extraordinary in public service, yet they are worth recognizing when a candidate demonstrates them consistently.

As voters consider their options in the 48th District, they should look beyond campaign slogans and ask how candidates have engaged with the communities they hope to represent. Bob Fernandez's approach offers a tangible example of constituent service in action.

Please join me in voting for Bob!

Amy Domeika – Colchester

Colchester Data Center

To the Editor:

why would you have a horrid sound
in a place people still want around
where the people would like to walk
where the forests that don't need to be chopped
the building would be a roadblock
where you want to clear your mind on a nature walk
how long would this building take to make
when you have trips to make
down to the dog park
where the dogs bark
the noise pollution would reach far
you would hear whining from the park.
this is my protest against the new thought
where the pollution is both noise and smog.

Travis Wood – Colchester

One Neighbor to Another

To the Editor:

By now the mailers have piled up and the signs are everywhere, so let me try to put the choice in the 55th District plainly, one neighbor to another.

Ellen Paul is a librarian and nonprofit executive from Glastonbury. She leads the Connecticut Library Consortium, working with more than 1,000 libraries of every kind to deliver better services for less money. She wants to modernize the state's school funding formula so our property taxes stop absorbing what the state should share. She wants more homes ordinary families can afford, utilities answerable to the people who pay the bills, and legislators bound by real accountability rules: term limits, no stock trading in office, regular town halls. Her whole career has been listening and building agreement, and it shows in how she campaigns. This is the kind of representation that the 55th district needs.

On Nov. 3, or before it if voting early suits you better, I hope you will join me in choosing Ellen Paul. Learn more at ellenforstaterep.com, and check your voting options at myvote.ct.gov.

Sincerely,
Charlotte Nelson – Andover

I Trust Meghan Rosenfeld

To the Editor:

There is no person I would trust more to represent East Hampton and the rest of the 34th District than Meghan Rosenfeld. On every issue, she has proven herself not only intelligent, but also true in character and devoted to what is best for the people she is seeking to lead.

I trust Meghan to fight for education and every dollar owed to our communities. She knows the challenges that small towns face and what must be done in the name of fair funding. She understands the importance of good teachers and supporting their work.

I trust Meghan is seeking election for the right reasons. She cares about people, not political affiliations. She wants to lower tax burdens, make it easier for seniors to live independently, and unite communities. She has a passion for public service and seeks to make things better, not to stoke her ego.

I trust the many unions and civic organizations that have endorsed Meghan. She is a friend to labor and to teachers, as evident by her support among groups like the AFT, SEIU, and AFL-CIO. I trust a candidate who has the backing of Planned Parenthood to protect women's health, and any person

See Letters, page 6

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RE10-18-24

The "East of the River" Real Estate Report

Is Winter Really a Bad Time to Sell Your Home?

Many homeowners assume spring is the best time to sell and that listing during winter is a mistake. But winter can actually offer some advantages for sellers.

It's true that buyer activity typically slows during colder months. Holidays, shorter days, snow, and less attractive landscaping can make selling more challenging. However, there are some advantages worth considering.

Less competition: Fewer homes are typically listed during winter, meaning your property may face less competition from other sellers.

Motivated buyers: People shopping during winter often have a specific reason to move, whether it's a job relocation, family circumstances, or changing housing needs.

Timing opportunities: For homeowners downsizing, relocating, or purchasing another property, selling sooner may make more financial sense than waiting several months. Spring generally brings more buyers and increased showing activity, but it also brings more competing listings.

And waiting isn't free. Additional mortgage payments, property taxes, insurance, utilities, and maintenance can add up over several months.

I've seen homes sell very successfully during winter when they're priced appropriately, presented well, and marketed effectively.

My advice: Don't automatically assume waiting until spring will produce a better outcome. Consider your home's condition, competition, carrying costs, and personal circumstances.

The best time to sell isn't always the busiest season. It's the time that makes the most sense for your situation.

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

Single-Family Homes
• 9 homes sold
• Average sale price: **$448,967**
• Average sale-to-original-list price (%OLP): **99%**
• Average days on market: **14 days**
• Median days on market: **6 days**

Condos
• 2 homes sold
• Average sale price: **$330,550**
• Average sale-to-original-list price (%OLP): **98%**
• Average days on market: **13 days**
Median days on market: **13 days**

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


Jason Boice, REALTOR® | eXp Realty
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RE10-30-26

★ *Letters, cont. from page 5*

with the support of the Connecticut Citizens Action Group and the Sierra Club will act responsibly on climate and conservation issues.

I trust that Meghan has the best interests of my family in mind. She will legislate with an eye toward the needs of the future and make logical decisions on our environment, economic growth, and educational policy.

I trust Meghan to be a legislator my daughters can idolize.

I trust Meghan to work with our legislature and leadership to enact common-sense laws in the face of a gun violence epidemic.

I trust Meghan to be the progressive voice the 34th District has been without for far too long.

I will be proud to vote for Meghan Rosenfeld on Tuesday, Nov. 3. I invite the residents of East Hampton, East Haddam, and Salem to join me in casting a ballot for someone they can trust.

Sincerely,
Matt Engelhardt – East Hampton

Note: *Engelhardt is a member of the East Hampton Board of Education and East Hampton Democratic Town Committee, but said he is writing independently of both.*

Moral Obligation

To the Editor:

Our country is at a crossroads. This election will set our course for probably the next twenty years. All votes, local, state and national, will be looked at, tabulated and utilized by the current political order to validate their position.

This election will be as impactful as the 1860 (lead to the Civil war) and the 1920 (lead to the Great Depression) elections. With so much at stake, it is every citizen's moral obligation to vote.

We have seven more days to vote. Do not lose this opportunity to make your voice heard.

Davis Howell – Hebron

Paul for State Representative

To the Editor:

I am writing as chair of the Hebron Democratic Town Committee to express my support for Ellen Paul for State Representative in Connecticut's 55th District.

Ellen has been working tirelessly every day since January to connect with the people in our community. She has knocked on more than 3,000 doors, taking the time to meet residents, listen to their concerns, and hear what matters most to them. That kind of dedication speaks volumes about her commitment to representing the people of our district.

What stands out to me about Ellen is that she listens, she understands that being a representative is about more than making promises; it is about hearing people's concerns, understanding their values, and working hard to represent them. Her values reflect the values that matter to so many of us in our community. She is a nice person and she listens.

Ellen is a librarian, the executive director of the Library Consortium, and also a wife and a mother of two children. Like so many families in our district, she understands the importance of family and the everyday concerns that affect our lives. She is putting in the time and effort to earn the trust of the people she hopes to represent. She will bring progress to our towns.

Now, it is up to us to do our part. We need to get out and vote! Elections are decided by the people who show up, and every vote matters. If we want a representative who takes the time to listen, works hard, and cares about our community, we need to make our voices heard at the polls.

Please join me in voting for Ellen Paul for state representative in the 55th District.

Let's get out the vote and make our voices count on Nov. 3rd!

Cris Lawrence, Chair
Hebron Democratic Town Committee

Truly Dedicated

To the Editor:

Politicians can be anxious to seem authentic, but Meghan Rosenfeld is calmly and resolutely herself: caring and courageous. Meghan, a mother of six, an educator, and an advocate for victims of domestic violence, is absolutely committed to helping others. As a woman with these qualities, she brings considerable resources to the people of the 34th District.

A combination of caring and courage is hard to find, though it is that which has given birth to the great social achievements of our nation: Black and woman's suffrage, civil rights, unions, environmental protections, the right of people to be in control of their own bodies, and the vital support structures which ensure that everyone receives the basic care and necessities for a decent life.

Meghan is a champion for the positive potential in us, a champion defined by action not by laurels. She will get to the bottom of why we vote down school budgets: the educational cost-share by the state must be adjusted to the reality of town finances. She will support funding of public education at all levels, as well as housing and tax relief for seniors, and affordable solutions to complex energy issues; and she will protect the environment while understanding the need for economic growth. Further details on the issues she will address as your representative may be found at Meghan's website: meghanforct.com.

One could say these are fine but difficult goals to reach. In Meghan Rosenfeld we are fortunate, however, to have a candidate who is both youthful and experienced, one with a natural gift for making alliances; indeed she is already doing so with members of the General Assembly in which she is offering to serve. I am confident that she will be an extraordinary leader and heartily endorse Meghan Rosenfeld for this seat.

John Olin – East Haddam

Note: *Olin was the Democratic candidate for 34th District Representative in 2022.*

Ziobron is Outstanding Candidate

To the Editor:

Melissa Ziobron is an outstanding candidate for the state representative position. She has a proven track record in state service as a representative who demonstrated the valuable ability to identify and to bring our local issues to the Capitol for legislative action. Experience matters – now more than ever.

Melissa is deserving of our support to return to Hartford as our state representative.

Gloria Standish – East Hampton

Future of Data Center

To the Editor:

Would it be smart for Colchester to turn away the opportunity for economic growth without even fully considering its benefits? The proposed data center planned on Old Amston Road has raised major concerns, but I think our town should look into this project and allow it to continue within reasonable environmental protection.

Data centers support the modern economy by providing infrastructure for technology, AI, and online services. As the U.S. Chamber of Commerce explained, data centers support businesses and technology growth. If the town supports this development, it could help Colchester be part of a growing industry and create opportunities for local businesses and workers through construction employment, ongoing jobs, and tax revenue. Even though the exact financial benefits have yet to be established, the possibilities deserve great consideration before the town rejects the proposal.

I see why residents are concerned about noise, water use, wildlife, and environmental impacts. Instead of ignoring these, town officials should require the developer to explain how the project impacts surrounding areas and establish protections to reduce negative impacts. The Bipartisan Policy Center notes the importance of balancing data center development with energy and environmental concerns.

Rather than automatically having a negative thought on the data center, the community should evaluate evidence, establish safeguards, and consider the economic benefits. I encourage residents and town officials to keep an open mind and evaluate this proposal before making their minds up. Colchester shouldn't miss the opportunity without understanding what it could offer first.

Sincerely,
Evy Koutsofavas
Secretary, Class of 2027
Bacon Academy

Asking for the Opportunity

To the Editor:

Over the past several weeks, I have written about why I am running for state representative and what I have learned from knocking on more than 3,000 doors across our district.

I have heard concerns about property taxes and the cost of electricity. I have talked with parents wondering whether their children will be able to afford a home here and seniors who want to downsize without leaving the communities they love. I have heard how deeply people value our schools and how strongly they want to protect the farms, forests and open spaces that make Eastern Connecticut special.

Those conversations have reinforced something I believed before I ever decided to run: good government starts with listening.

I have spent my career in public service. I am a librarian, a nonprofit executive and a former staff member for Congressman Joe Courtney. I have worked with people across Connecticut and across the political aisle to solve problems, navigate complicated public policy and get things done.

That experience has taught me that government can work. But it requires people who are willing to listen, learn, compromise when appropriate, stand firm when necessary, and remember who they work for.

I believe in strong public schools and communities people can afford to call home. I believe in responsible government, equal rights under the law, and decisions grounded in facts and expertise. I believe we can disagree without treating one another as enemies. And I believe elected office is public service, not an entitlement.

Most of all, I believe representation requires showing up.

I have tried to do that throughout this campaign. I have knocked on doors regardless of the party registration behind them because I want to understand the people I am asking to represent. I will bring that same approach to Hartford.

I never expected to run for office. But I stepped forward because I believe this district deserves thoughtful, accessible and accountable representation.

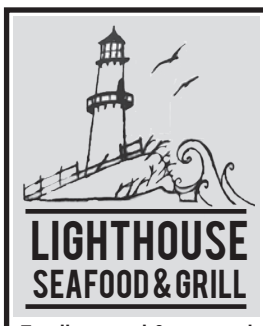
Now I am asking for the opportunity to serve.

I want to earn your vote. And if elected, I intend to keep earning it every day.

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.*

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CIT9-17-26

New Data Center

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, waste water 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

Paul Gets My Vote

To the Editor:

Ellen Paul gets my vote for representative in the 55th District.

Please visit her website, ellenforstaterep.com/#issues, to read about her positions on legislation that affects us all.

Some important quotes from Ellen Paul ..

"Affordable energy isn't a luxury. It's essential."

"Growing older shouldn't mean being priced out of the community you call home."

"Connecticut's Education Cost Sharing formula hasn't been updated since 2013."

"Government has a responsibility to set reasonable guardrails so that technology serves people, not the other way around."

"When we invest in families, we invest in Connecticut's future."

"When bills reach my desk, I won't look for a political angle. I'll ask one question: does this make life better and safer for the people of the 55th District? If the answer is yes, so is my vote."

"I'll work to modernize the Education Cost Sharing formula so it reflects today's costs and delivers real property tax relief for the families of Andover, Bolton, Glastonbury, Hebron, and Marlborough."

"I'll fight for stronger property tax relief for older homeowners and help for renters, real accountability for utility companies, and access to the health care, prescription help, transportation, and services that let seniors live safely and independently. When a bill helps our neighbors stay in their homes, I'll vote yes."

Yes, I believe that Ellen Paul will read bills thoroughly, and I believe that she will make decisions that help the people she will represent.

My vote is for Ellen Paul. With her in office, I will feel truly represented.

Sue Smallidge – Hebron

Ellen Ready to Deliver

To the Editor:

In her campaign, Ellen Paul has knocked on over 2,700 doors. Here's what Ellen heard, and what she ready to fight for...

· Property tax relief: Ellen will work to modernize the Education Cost Sharing formula to reflect today's costs and ease the burden on families in Andover, Bolton, Glastonbury, Hebron, and Marlborough.

· Lower electric bills: Ellen will vote for more homegrown energy and for accountability. More supply means more competition and fewer price spikes.

· Strong schools: Endorsed by the Connecticut Education Association, Ellen will fight for resources from early childhood through graduation.

· Fair treatment for workers: Ellen will stand with eastern Connecticut's workers, because an economy only works when it works for the people doing the work.

· Growth without losing our landscapes: Ellen backs new homes and a stronger economy, and will vote to protect clean water, open space, and clean air.

· Secure, accessible voting: Ellen will never vote to make participating harder.

· A representative who answers to us: Ellen will back good ideas from either party, say so when their own party gets it wrong, and answers to five towns, not a caucus.

Ellen listened, understands what matters to us, and is ready to deliver. For a representative who will work for the 55th District, Ellen Paul will fight for you.

Sincerely,
Karen Wilkinson – Marlborough

Note: *Wilkinson is a member of the Marlborough Democratic Town Committee but said she is speaking as an individual.*

Tribute to Carolyn Aubin

To the Editor:

Sitting in the Marlborough Congregational Church last Saturday, I was struck by the deep love and affection shared by so many people for the late Carolyn Aubin of Hebron. Her three sons, Nicholas, William and Parker, offered moving tributes to their Mom. Stories of the adventures of Carolyn's French alter-ego, the compelling composition of her "force-of-nature" personality, and a pair of elegant poems brought laughter, joy, and a feeling of the large void left by her passing. My most sincere condolences go out to her sons, her grandson, her husband David, her large extended family and her even more extended group of adoring friends.

Among the heartful messages about Carolyn's bright and determined character were echoes her love of gardening, nature, and history. I will forever be grateful for her bold efforts to help preserve the unique, historic and environmentally significant town-owned property at 17 Kinney Road in Hebron center. I have no doubt that Carolyn's wide

See Letters, page 8



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Sides (38 oz) $22 Serves 3–4
Mains (48 oz) $34 Serves 2–3
RE10-30-26

★ *Letters, cont. from page 7*

reach in the community, and deep respect she had earned over decades of service, made a tremendous impact.

I recall having Carolyn and Dave on a Historic Walking Tour of Kinney Road and seeing her genuine joy walking through the landscape. On March 24, 2023, Carolyn posted a powerful message on Facebook: "Hey Hebron Friends and Neighbors, Dave and I just took a delightful walk on Hebron's beautiful parcel of land across from Raymond Brook Preserve at 17 Kinney Road. It is full of historic walls and laneways, farm fields that were originally farmed by native people and then owned and farmed by Governor Peters, and lined by ancient legacy oak trees that were there at that time. You should visit this land yourself. We are very upset with the Town of Hebron's plan to build a huge public works complex and salt shed on this site with no regard for the agricultural history, wildlife, and pristine watershed that leads to Raymond Brook and beyond. If you live in Hebron please learn more about this issue at www.facebook.com/SaveHebronCenter. Please share!"

Fortunately, since 2023 the town has made significant progress towards rebuilding the Public Works at Old Colchester Road. However, those same fields and ancient legacy oak trees are under a renewed threat of development by the town. I will miss Carolyn's enthusiasm and dedication to preserving Hebron's history and environment, but more importantly, I will miss her smile, generous heart and unbridled spirit.

Sincerely,
Kevin J. Tulimieri – Amston

Common Sense: Steve Weir

To the Editor:

Steve Weir is our best representative for the 55th District. Steve has honed a great deal of common sense through his career serving as a state police officer, businessman, and legislator. We need and must use every opportunity to bring common sense legislation to Connecticut I am a longtime resident of Hebron and Rep. Weir has been an excellent neighbor throughout.

Steve always listens closely to opinions and studies issues and makes common sense decisions that are in the best interest of the 55th District. Never have I heard, read or seen Steve use derogatory innuendo to sway an opinion or garner a vote. Doing so is far beyond what we expect of any person asking to represent us the problems that his opponent promises to fix are the problems generated by the Democrats dominated legislature.

Please join me and vote for Rep. Weir this November.

Steven Wheeler – Hebron

DeCaprio for Colchester

To the Editor:

I am writing for the first time to this newspaper to endorse Mark DeCaprio for our representative. In the past few years he has been very responsive, engaging and knowledgeable whenever my husband and I have had concerns or questions regarding topics such as the increasing electric bills, and recently the data center proposal. He didn't delay to text and call us back whenever we reached out to him, and has been very helpful and gracious.

I recently had the opportunity to meet him and was impressed with his willingness to take time for his community. He shared his experience with me in the Navy, his career knowledge in biological science, his concerns for our freedoms and the sanctity of our rural neighborhoods. Having a representative who is willing to talk to anyone and understand where they're coming from, wants to get to know people and what is important to them is a blessing.

I encourage everyone to take the time to get to know Mark DeCaprio and hopefully we can keep him in office.

The Aligata Family – Colchester

Bring a Can to the Polls

To the Editor:

On Nov. 3, cast your vote, then help make sure every neighbor has enough to eat. The Democratic Town Committee is holding its 2nd annual Food Drive for our Marlborough's Food Bank at our tent at MES on Election Day, Nov. 3.

Bring a nonperishable item or make a donation at foodbankofmarlborough.wordpress.com/donate.

Hunger is not a partisan issue.

The need is growing! Over the past year, federal changes to SNAP have pushed many people off food assistance:

· Adults up to age 64 must now document 80 hours of work a month or lose benefits after three months. The cutoff used to be 54.

· Parents whose youngest child is 14 or older no longer qualify for an exemption.

· Since Oct. 1, states have paid three-quarters of SNAP's administrative costs. Next fall, many states will start paying for part of the benefits themselves.

Picture a 60-year-old laid off after decades on the job, or a father whose part-time shifts fall short of 80 hours. When federal help shrinks, families like theirs still need to eat. They turn to local food banks, and those food banks are being asked to do more with less.

Your vote shapes our community. Your can feeds it.

Baird Welch-Collins and
Dianne Greco-Dunn
Co-Chairs, Marlborough
Democratic Town Committee

Osten and Paul for Marlborough

To the Editor:

The Democratic ticket representing Marlborough offers the right combination of proven leadership and fresh perspective: incumbent Cathy Osten for the 19th State Senate District and Ellen Paul for the 55th House District. Together, they would bring the experience, energy, and commitment needed to serve our community.

Cathy Osten has consistently championed the needs of small towns throughout eastern Connecticut. As a multi-term state senator and co-chair of the Appropriations Committee, she has helped shape state budget priorities that balance Connecticut's needs with the growing financial pressures facing residents and municipalities. Her priorities have included additional Education Cost Sharing funding for local schools, $100 million in state grants to municipalities, increased support for HUSKY Health to help address rising healthcare costs for vulnerable residents, and investments in early childhood education and childcare to support families and providers.

Cathy also understands the importance of preserving the rural character and open spaces that make our communities special. She was instrumental in securing recent state grants totaling $390,000 for Marlborough and Hebron to support the Bernstein Trail and Blackledge River Greenway Trail. Her experience, leadership, and understanding of the challenges facing our region make her a valuable voice in Hartford.

At the same time, effective representation benefits from new ideas and a fresh perspective. Ellen Paul brings a strong record of public service, professional expertise, and a commitment to delivering results. A librarian, nonprofit executive, and former staff member for Congressman Joe Courtney, Ellen has worked across multiple levels of government and understands how to turn ideas into meaningful progress.

As executive director of the Connecticut Library Consortium, she works with more than 1,000 libraries to improve public services, reduce costs for taxpayers, and expand access to information. Her work with the General Assembly has helped advance landmark, bipartisan legislation protecting library access and intellectual freedom. Ellen's priorities reflect the concerns of families throughout our region: property tax relief, strong public schools, lower energy costs, support for Connecticut seniors, stronger families, and preserving Eastern Connecticut's rural character and green spaces. You can learn more about Ellen and her positions at www.ellenforstaterep.com.

Marlborough deserves representatives who understand our communities, recognize the pressures facing our families, and are committed to finding practical solutions. Together, these candidates would make a formidable team for Marlborough and Eastern Connecticut. Please join me in voting for Cathy Osten and Ellen Paul this Election Day.

Jack Fidler – Marlborough

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

Proud to Serve

To the Editor:

I have proudly served as the probate judge for the Windham-Colchester Probate District, serving the towns of Colchester, Lebanon, Windham, Chaplin, Scotland, and Hampton, since June of 2025. After a highly contested Democratic primary and the special election in November of 2024, I took office knowing the importance of showing the town leaders and residents throughout the district my competency, compassion, and leadership.

The biggest challenge facing the court was the significant backlog in processing petitions (delay of over two months) and the number of old estate files (opened more than three years). In just one year, with my direction and leadership, the court clerks have eliminated the delays. Petitions are being processed within two weeks, and we have closed a substantial number of old estates.

I established weekly court hours in Colchester held at the Colchester Senior Center. The main court and children's court remain in Willimantic and Windham. Additionally, court hearings are held throughout the district at nursing homes, group homes, and personal residences.

I serve with compassion and sympathy for those who appear before me during emotionally challenging times. Whether it is the death of a loved

See Letters, page 30

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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 or stop by the center if **interested in volunteering.**

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.

Harvest Parade Prep: Friday, Oct. 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.

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

Grocery Shopping: Tuesdays, 8:30 a.m. Willimantic Nov. 3 and 17, Manchester Nov. 10 and 24. Also, on Thursday, Nov. 19, shop Trader Joe's and Michael's. Transportation is available.

Beginner Quilting with a Twist: Mondays, Nov. 9, 16, 23 and 30, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Cost is $10 per class. Call the center for fabric requirements and to sign up.

Andover Community & Senior Center Giving Tree is accepting applications from now through Nov. 13. Contact the center at 860-742-7305 ext. 4510 if you are a family in need this holiday season or if you would be interested in donating a gift or gifts.

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

Rummikub: Tuesday, Nov. 3, 1 p.m. New day/time. All are invited to this game that is similar to Rummy but played with tiles.

Trip to Hobby Lobby: Thursday, Nov. 12, 10 a.m. Call if you'd like to attend.

Stronger Core, Better Balance: New class begins Friday, Nov. 13, and will meet every Friday at 10 a.m. Enjoy gentle chair-based exercises designed to strengthen your core, improve stability, and help reduce risk of falls.

Seated Beach Ball Volleyball: New day/time – Fridays at 11 a.m. beginning Nov. 13.

Changes to Medicare: Friday, Nov. 20, 1 p.m. Melanie Lambert from the Center for Medicare Advocacy will help people understand the 2027 changes to Medicare. She will be available after the presentation to answer individual questions. All are welcome.

Haircare with Helen: Monday, Nov. 30, 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Haircuts are $22, or free for Andover veterans. Call the center for an appointment.

Election Ballot Information

By Toriana Williams

Election Day is next Tuesday, Nov. 3. In Andover, polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Town Hall Community Room, 17 School Rd.

Also, early voting continues daily through Sunday, Nov. 1, also at the Town Hall Community Room. Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day. Same-day registration will also be available at the early voting location during early voting hours.

Voters will choose candidates for several state and federal offices.

For **Governor**, the candidates are Democratic incumbent **Ned Lamont** and his running mate, **Susan Bysiewicz**, and Republican candidates **Ryan Fazio** and **Matt Corey**.

For **Representative in Congress**, the candidates are Democratic Incumbent **Joe Courtney** and Republican **George Patrick Austin**.

For **State Senator**, the candidates are Democratic incumbent **MD Rahman** and Republican **Jenn Jennings**.

For **State Representative**, the candidates are Democrat **Ellen Paul** and Republican incumbent **Steve Weir**.

For **Secretary of the State**, the candidates are Democratic incumbent **Stephanie Thomas** and Republican **Peter Lumaj**.

For **Treasurer**, the candidates are Democratic incumbent **Erick Russell** and Republican **Fred Wilms**.

For **Comptroller**, the candidates are Democratic incumbent **Sean Scanlon** and Republican **Jennifer S. Tooker**.

For **Attorney Genera**l, the candidates are Democratic incumbent **William Tong** and Republican **John Bolton**.

For **Judge of Probate**, Democratic incumbent **Thomas A. Robinson** is unopposed.

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. 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.

Election Day Food Collection

On Tuesday, Nov. 3, when you come to vote for Election Day, you're invited to drop off some food that the Republican Town Committee can bring to the Andover Food Pantry.

There will be a collection area outside the voting area for any food you wish to donate.

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 sandwiches, fall soups, teas, a basket raffle, and homemade delicacies. Entertainment will be provided by Timeless Guitar's Greg Doane.

Admission is $10.

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.

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.

Bingo & Basket Raffle

Andover Congregational Church, located at 359 Route 6, will hold a Bingo & Basket Raffle night on Friday, Nov. 20, starting with dinner at 5:30 p.m. The game starts at 6:30 p.m.

Admission is $15 and includes dinner, drink, dessert and bingo. No reservations required.

Leave a message at the church at 860-742-7696 for more information.

Learn CPR

The Andover Volunteer Fire Department is offering a Heartsaver CPR class Saturday, Nov. 14, from 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m., at the Andover Volunteer Fire Department.

Class cost is $25 and includes use of training materials, CPR/AED, choking for adults, child and infant; and two-year certification from the American Heart Association.

Registration is required and class size is limited. To register, call 860-474-5525 option #1.

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.

The church will be open Friday, Nov. 13, from 46 p.m., for an Early Bird Sale. There is a $5 admission charge.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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. The early voting location is the Lower Meeting Room at the Hebron Town Office Building, 15 Gilead St.

#HebronRocksAlz Events

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

Events Where Registration is Required: Sunday, 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.

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

National Take-a-Hike! Day

Celebrate National Take-a-Hike! Day on Saturday, Nov. 14, from 10-11:30 a.m., with a Trail Ranger and Hebron Paths & Trails Guided Hike at Hebron's Town Center Trail.

This guided hike of the Hebron Center Trail, a 2-mile plus little-known nature trail system in the midst of Hebron's town center. Meet at the Veterans Park parking lot on Wall Street, across from RHAM, at 9:45 a.m. and take the walking path from the park. The trail will take people through town-owned Open Space, through preserved forests, along wetlands, and over a pedestrian bridge on its way to the Main Street trail head at Ted's IGA Plaza.

Hikers may then continue the adventure on sidewalks along Main and Wall streets leading back to Veterans Park or else backtrack along the nature trail to the park.

A trail brochure and map are available at tinyurl.com/trailbrochure, or go to hebronpaths.org and select the Town Center trail for a map.

The hike is easy to moderate, on mostly smooth and level surface. Pets on leashes are welcome. As always when hiking, wear bright clothing, tick protection, and be sure shoe soles are clean when entering. The event is free and open to all. Steady or heavy rain cancels the event.

Author Talk: Abolitionists of the Northeast

Award-winning journalist Gail Braccidiferro MacDonald will share stories about abolitionists of the Northeast, based on research published in her newly released book," on Thursday, Nov. 5, at 5:30 p.m., at Gilead Congregational Church in Hebron.

All are welcome to this talk and discussion sponsored by the Coalition on Diversity & Equity (CoDE).

"Abolitionists of the Northeast: Black Leaders in the Antislavery Movement" tells the stories of the courageous but little-known people from throughout New England and New York during the 18th and 19th centuries who dedicated their lives to fighting to end slavery and improving conditions and opportunities for people of color. For more info, visit: www.gailmachistoryandmore.com.

MacDonald is a longtime, award-winning journalist, retired University of Connecticut journalism professor, and the author of three books focused on history. She is active in community service in her hometown of New London, currently serving as president of the Rotary Club of New London. She frequently leads history-themed tours for Uncovering New London-One Story at a Time and at the historic Cedar Grove Cemetery.

Copies of the book are available at many bookstores, including River Bend Bookshop in Glastonbury.

The event is free, but registration is requested. Register at tinyurl.com/hebronauthortalk.

CoDE is an educational nonprofit organization serving the five towns of Andover, Columbia, East Hampton, Hebron and Marlborough, as part of its ongoing efforts to share little-known stories and history that have impacted local communities. For more info about CoDE, visit www.code-diversity.org.

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Gilead Congregational Church News

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

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

This Week: Saturday, Oct. 31, 9:30a.m.: Wise Warrior Yoga in Fellowship Hall; Sunday, Nov. 1, 10 a.m., All Saints and Pledge Sunday Worship Service with Communion (in person and livestreamed); Sunday, Nov. 1, 11 a.m., Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall; Monday, Nov. 2, 9:30 a.m., Online Bible Study via Zoom; Monday, Nov. 2, 5:45 p.m., Girl Scout Troop 61096 Meeting in Fellowship Hall; Tuesday, Nov. 3, 7:30 p.m., AA Meeting in Fellowship Hall; Wednesday, Nov. 4, 9:30 a.m., Wise Warrior Yoga in Fellowship Hall; Wednesday, Nov. 4, 10:45 a.m., Book Group in Fellowship Hall; Wednesday, Nov. 4, 7 p.m., Choir Practice in sanctuary; Thursday, Nov. 5, 5:30 p.m., Hebron's Coalition on Diversity & Equity (CoDE) Author Talk with Gail Braccidiferro MacDonald in Fellowship Hall; Thursday, Nov. 5, 7 p.m., Deacons Meeting in Parish House Conference Room; Friday, Nov. 6, 6 p.m., Faith and Film Potluck Gathering in Fellowship Hall.

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

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

Annual Membership Meeting: Sunday, Nov. 8, following the 10 a.m. worship service. The meeting will be livestreamed for those who cannot attend in-person; see the Gilead newsletter or reach out to the church office for the link.

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.

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.

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.

MacGrogan-Ellis is presenting 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.

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.

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. 10/30: "Little Shop of Horrors" (PG-13); 11/6: "Hadestown: The Musical" (not rated).

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

Local Author Book Talk: Wednesday, Nov. 4, 6 p.m. Lisa Dunn will speak about her recently published book, "Nothing More, Nothing Less." This book is a reflection on raising a child with Down syndrome.

Beginner Pilates: Saturday, Nov. 7, 10 a.m. This will be a beginner's floor Pilates class taught by Doug Gomez of Pathways to Peace Yoga. Please bring your own mat.

Jewish Immigrant Farmers in Eastern CT: Saturday, Nov. 7, 1 p.m. This program will begin with the showing of the documentary "Harvesting Stones" at the library, followed by a tour of Hebron's synagogue.

Blood Drive: Monday, Nov. 23, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Donors will receive an exclusive coffee mug. Register at RedCrossBlood.org.

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: Board Game Play: Wednesday, Nov. 4, 4-5 p.m. Come and play a different board game each month. You can then check them out to bring home.

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: 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.

Cooking Demo: Greek Eats: Wednesday, Nov. 4, 1 p.m. Come prepare a healthy recipe from start to finish. This month, make baked falafels and tzatziki sauce. Samples will be available. This program is free.

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.

RHAM Bingo: Monday, Nov. 16, 2:30 p.m. Students from the RHAM National Honor Society will host the event – calling all eight games, serving refreshments, and handing out prizes. You can play up to four cards completely free.

Friendsgiving Potluck Lunch: Wednesday, Nov. 18, noon. Sign up to bring a dish, a dessert or an appetizer. Sign up list will be located outside of the program window. If you do not want to bring a dish you can still attend. This program is free.

Trips: Lunch at Windham Tech Culinary: Thursday, Nov. 12, 10:30 a.m. The senior center bus will take a trip to Windham Tech's Uncommon Kitchen for a lunch prepared by the culinary students. The menu will consist of soup, a choice or either salmon or chicken pot pie for an entree, and choice of dessert. Cost is $20 per person which includes transportation. Register by Nov. 9. Cost: $20 per person.

Trip to Yankee Candle Village, Magic Wings Butterfly Conservatory, and Lunch: Thursday, Nov. 19, at 9:30 a.m. Head to Yankee Candle Village in Deerfield, Mass. Shop in the morning then head to lunch at Wolfie's Diner. Wrap the day up with a visit to the Magic Wings Butterfly Conservatory, home to over 4,000 free flying butterflies. Cost: $10 per person, plus money for lunch, shopping, and entry into the conservatory

Wadsworth Festival of Trees and Mozzicato's Bakery: Wednesday, Dec. 10, meet at the senior center at 12:30 p.m. Head to Hartford to see the holiday trees at the Wadsworth Atheneum – including one tree donated by the senior center. The bus will make a stop at Mozzicato's bakery after the museum so you can load up on Italian goodies. Cost: $5 per person, plus money for museum entry and bakery.

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.

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.



Marlborough residents dressed up to run the Lions Club annual Masquerade 5K. The event was a costume contest – with this gang in "Super Mario"-inspired outfits winning Best Group Costume.

★ *Masquerade 5K, cont. from page 1*

still a real test for runners. The course begins at Blish Park and takes runners along nearby roads before bringing them back toward the lake. The route has hills that can make runners work hard, especially at the start.

Lloyd said people who know the race enjoy it, but they also know it is not an easy run.

"It's a quick hit, but it's also a very challenging race," she said.

First time runner and Marlborough resident Samantha Hajjar could attest to that.

"This was my first year running this race and not the last," said Hajjar.

She and her husband have lived in Marlborough for almost four years, and she said taking part in a local event gave her another way to enjoy the town and meet people. She also liked the course itself.

"The beautiful look around the lake, clear course markings and manageable hills make it a grace race," she said. And of course, the costumes helped make the day special.

"The costumes were also an added fun bonus," said Hajjar.

Hajjar believed her finish time was 26 minutes and 47 seconds, which is a strong effort on a course that includes hills and turns.

Her answers also showed that the race meant more than a time on a clock. For her, joining the event was a way to feel connected to Marlborough.

"It's a great way to connect with others and feel actively involved in the town we call home," she said.

Her experience reflected one of the best parts of a community race. Some people come to compete, others come to support a friend – but everyone has a reason to be there.

The Masquerade 5K is fun, sure, but its main purpose is to help others.

Money raised by the Marlborough Lions Club goes toward many local needs. The club supports the town food bank, helps provide gift cards around the holidays and funds a yearly scholarship for a Marlborough high school graduate. It also gives money to local groups and larger causes.

And the Lions Club welcomes people who want to help, even if they don't want to run three miles.

"We love it when people can come out and support us. You don't necessarily have to run," said Lloyd.

She added that the club welcomes donations of any amounts, and people can contact the group if they know of a need in the community that the Lions may be able to help meet.

"Our motto is if there's a need, there's a Lion," she said.

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Christ Lutheran Church News and Notes

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

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

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.

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. 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.

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 Nov. 17 due to the Thanksgiving holiday. Contact Diane (860-508-9959) for more information.

Knights of Columbus Food Drive: The Knights are sponsoring a food drive for CSK throughout the month of November. The list of needed items is posted in each church and was also included in the Oct. 25 parish bulletin.

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.

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.

Election Ballot Information

By Toriana Williams

Election Day is next Tuesday, Nov. 3, and in Hebron, polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Hebron Elementary School Gymnasium, 92 Church St.

Also, early voting continues daily through Sunday, Nov. 1, from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. each day. The early voting location is the Lower Meeting Room at the Hebron Town Office Building, 15 Gilead St.

Voters will choose candidates for several state and federal offices.

For **Governor**, the candidates are Democratic incumbent **Ned Lamont** and his running mate, **Susan Bysiewicz**, and Republican candidates **Ryan Fazio** and **Matt Corey**.

For **Representative in Congress**, the candidates are Democratic Incumbent **Joe Courtney** and Republican **George Patrick Austin**.

For **State Senator**, the candidates are Democratic incumbent **Catherine Osten** and Republican **Jason Guidone.**

For **State Representative**, the candidates are Democrat **Ellen Paul** and Republican Incumbent **Steve Weir**.

For **Secretary of the State**, the candidates are Democratic incumbent **Stephanie Thomas** and Republican **Peter Lumaj**.

For **Treasurer**, the candidates are Democratic incumbent **Erick Russell** and Republican **Fred Wilms**.

For **Comptroller**, the candidates are Democratic incumbent **Sean Scanlon** and Republican **Jennifer S. Tooker**.

For **Attorney General**, the candidates are Democratic incumbent **William Tong** and Republican **John Bolton**.

For **Judge of Probate**, Democratic incumbent **Michael Peoples** is unopposed.

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.

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.

Woman's Club Crafting: Sunday, Nov. 1, after the 10 a.m. service. Meet in Phelps Hall.

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

Fall Book Club: Mondays from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The club is continuing with a study of the Episcopal Catechism. All are welcome to attend. Contact the office for more information.

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.

Transfer Station Hours Change

Hebron Transfer Station hours have changed to the winter schedule as of Nov. 2. Hours are now: Sundays, 7:30 a.m.-2 p.m.; and Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

Turkey Shoots to Start

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

All are welcome.

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Selectmen Consider Tax Relief, Appoint Charter Commission

By Anne Lilburn

Portland's Board of Selectmen met on Oct. 21 for a regularly scheduled meeting where they discussed property tax exemptions for some veterans, appointed seven members to the new Charter Revision Commission, and received updates on the town's school construction plans, among other things.

The board also discussed the town's Portland Cares winter fuel assistance program, which First Selectman Mike Pelton, a Republican, said was funded by donations. Pelton said that residents in need should reach out to the First Selectman's office.

Information on the town's website said that the "Portland Cares Fuel Assistance Program is supported by donations only. It is available to residents only, on a limited basis of once per client per 12-month period (maximum two assists), [with a] maximum delivery of 100 gallons home heating oil. Proof of income is required."

Selectman Vinnie Pitruzzello, a Republican, said he wanted more information about the program, saying that he wanted to know "how it works, where does the money come from, who gets it, [and] how much."

Selectman Jim Tripp, a Democrat, said he thought that the amount was actually 150 gallons this year, and noted the current high cost of fuel.

"To put an idea why the dollars and cents are challenging," he said, "that's about 900 bucks."

The board also discussed traffic and speeding near Brownstone School. Pelton said he had received a letter from the principal there, expressing his concerns over speeding while kids were getting dropped off or picked up. Those concerns were particularly of note because the school will soon transition to serving students in younger grades.

Pelton said he wanted to work with the state Department of Transportation to explore putting up school safety lights, and Tripp asked whether there had been an update from the DOT regarding the proposed "road diet" that would push Main Street down to fewer lanes in the downtown area, and Pelton said that that plan was still being considered and worked on.

Both Bobby Hetrick, a Republican, and John Dillon, a Democrat, wondered if an increased police presence nearby might deter speeding, though Pelton noted the challenges with a limited police staff.

"I implore people that are driving on Main Street, especially during school hours," said Pelton, "[to] slow down, pay attention. There have been so many close calls before."

On the topic of school construction, the board also heard an update from Tripp regarding the School Building Committee, which he sits on. Tripp said the committee had voted to recommend that the Board of Selectmen enter into a contract with STV Construction for project management and owner's representative services for the Valley View project.

The committee had taken six bids, he said, and STV had great references and the best price. He said they had worked on projects in Durham and Middlefield and had previously worked in Sandy Hook, so they have "good experience with security." Their bid for the services was $430,000, he said, coming in under the budget line item of $450,000. The Board of Selectmen voted unanimously to approve entering into the contract.

Town Considers Veterans Tax Exemptions

The board heard from Town Assessor Rich Lasky about the town's current veterans' property tax exemptions and the potential for additional axe relief for certain groups of veterans and their families. Currently, he said, the town is complying with the state's currently required tax relief program that allows for a property tax exemption for the dwelling portion of a piece of property for veterans who are deemed by the Veterans Administration to have a total and permanent service-related disability.

Lasky said that for the average property in town, the dwelling portion of a property typically accounted for about 70% of the total assessment value, meaning "veterans have been paying about a third of their [property] taxes in the last few years."

Lasky said that the state had originally estimated that only three Portland residents would qualify for this exemption, but that he currently had 31 eligible veterans in the program. Those who do not have real estate are eligible for a property tax exemption off their vehicle. He said that, for the 2025 grand list, he had 23 real estate-eligible veterans and one motor vehicle, making the total exemption of dwellings about $3.3 million off the grand list. The total amount of tax exempted, he said, was about $120,000.

Recently, the state has added additional property tax relief options to towns for disabled veterans, including exempting up to two acres of land. Making that change, the one that is most often discussed, would bring the total amount of exempted tax up to $170,000 for the current veterans who qualify.

There are also other options that towns can opt into, including exempting property taxes for certain surviving spouses, and capping the exemption at the median assessment value of a residential house in town.

Lasky said it was up to the town's Board of Selectmen to decide what they wanted to opt into, and noted that other towns were dealing with the same questions. He acknowledged that it was a challenge for the board to "make sure the veterans get what they deserve" but also "make sure that it's not going to kill the budget as well."

Pitruzzello questioned how Portland had ended up with so many eligible veterans, noting that he had heard that larger urban communities had similar numbers of eligible veterans despite having populations many times larger than Portland, and Lasky said it was hard to determine why populations had settled where they had, noting that Old Lyme, which is also a small community, had over 50 eligible veterans.

"Before we go any farther with this, I think our next step is, Rich, you've gotta get a list of these 23 to 30 people, every single person, and really find out what category they all fall into. Are they 100% permanent and total [disabled], are they [temporarily disabled], are they getting their benefits," said Pitruzzello.

He said he couldn't make a decision without that information.

"Unless I see a list with the 23 to 30 people, where they qualify, [what category] they're in, and we recheck [if their disability is temporary or permanent and total], only then can we make intelligent decisions," he said.

Pelton said he wanted to remind residents that "we support our veterans, we appreciate our veterans."

"Whatever they qualify for legally, and even ethically, we want to do whatever we can, but it's one of those uncomfortable things, as a board, we have to discuss all the different options and all the different variables before we make a decision."

Charter Commission Appointed

Finally, the board heard from Attorney Steve Mednick, who is working with the town to shepherd it through the charter revision process. He explained some of the details regarding the timeline requirements and required public meetings to ensure the charter process complies with the state statute.

He encouraged Board of Selectmen members and Charter Commission members to attend each others' meetings, in order to help communication and make sure everyone was on the same page. That way, he said, they could avoid unanticipated bumps in the road at the end of the process.

The council voted unanimously to approve the appointment of the members of the Charter Commission. They are Robert Croce Sr., Christopher Darby, Kimberly Hanna, M. Terri Larson, Timothy Lavoy, Sharon Peters, and Ralph Zampano.

The Board of Selectmen will meet next on Nov. 4 for a public hearing regarding the town's joining the Connecticut Municipal Development Authority; the board's regular meeting will follow immediately afterward.

Limited Voter Enrollment Session

The Portland registrar of voters will hold a limited voter enrollment session at Town Hall, 33 East Main St., on Monday, Nov. 2, from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., in advance of the upcoming election.

Residents who seek to vote in the election whose qualification as to age, citizenship or residence was attained since Oct. 16 can register during this session.

All others looking to register and then vote in the election should utilize same-day registration at early voting or at the polls.

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 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."

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

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.

Learn About the Wangunk of Middlesex County

Portland Historical Society has joined forces with The Brownstone Quorum, The Portland Public Library and The America 250/Portland CT Committee to present a program about Portland's indigenous people, the Wangunks, on Sunday, Nov. 8.

The guest speaker, Katherine Hermes, has spent almost thirty years working on the history of the Wangunk people. Her talk will explain Wangunk migration to Middletown, their form of government, social customs, and important historical contributions from 1600 to 1815.

Hermes is the publisher and executive director of Connecticut Explored, Inc. She received her J.D. from Duke University School of Law, and her Ph.D. in Colonial American history from Yale University. She is professor emerita in early American history at Central Connecticut State University. She is a member of a local Wangunk Studies Working Group.

The program, "The Wangunk of Middlesex County," will begin at 2 p.m. at the Waverly Senior Center, 7 Waverly Ave., on Sunday, Nov. 8. The program is open to the public free of charge. Light refreshments will follow the program.

Deadline Extended for Commemorative Booklet

The America 250 Portland Committee has extended the advertising deadline for its special commemorative booklet celebrating Portland's America 250 festivities.

The booklet will showcase the many people, organizations, businesses, and events that have made this year's celebration such a success. Local businesses, community groups, and individuals are invited to participate by reserving space and demonstrating their support for this historic community effort. Advertising opportunities are available in a variety of sizes, including affordable business card-sized advertisements, making participation accessible for any business or individual.

The commemorative booklet will serve as a lasting keepsake of Portland's America 250 celebration and provide recognition for the sponsors and advertisers who helped make the year's events possible.

The new deadline to reserve space is Monday, Nov. 9.

For more information, email terryagrady@aol.com or call 860-342-2262.

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.

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.

Exchange Club 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.portland-exchange.org.

St. Mary Guild Basket Raffle

The St. Mary Ladies Guild will sponsor their annual Basket Raffle on Saturday, Nov. 7, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., and after all weekend masses in the church Rosary Room.

The event will include a variety of 65+ baskets and four pumpkins, with several gift card combinations in each. All are welcome.

Portland Voters Head to the Polls

By Anne Lilburn

Election Day is next Tuesday, Nov. 3, and in Portland, residents will cast votes for Governor, United States Congressional Representative, State Senator, State Representative, Secretary of the State, State Treasurer, Comptroller, Attorney General, Judge of Probate and Registrar of Voters.

Polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. at Portland Middle School, 93 High St. Also, early voting continues daily through Sunday, Nov. 1, at Town Hall, 33 East Main St. Early voting hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

For the Governor's race, incumbent **Ned Lamont,** a Democrat, is running alongside Lieutenant Governor candidate **Susan Bysiewicz** against Republican challenger **Ryan Fazio** and his Lieutenant Governor running mate **Matt Corey.** Lamont and Bysiewicz also appear on the ballot for the Working Families Party, while Fazio and Corey also appear on the ballot for the Independent Party. Voters should vote for one candidate and their running mate.

For United States Congressional Representative for the state's first district, Democrat **Luke Bronin**, who defeated incumbent John Larson in the primary, is running against Republican **Amy Chai.** Green Party candidate **Mary L. Sanders** also appears on the ballot. Voters should choose one.

In the State Senate race to represent Connecticut's 33rd district, Democratic incumbent **Norm Needleman** is running for his fifth term against Republican **Charles Ferraro,** who previously served in the State House of Representatives. Needleman also appears on the line for the Independent Party. Voters should choose one.

For the State Representative seat in the 32nd district, Republican incumbent **Christie Carpino** is running unopposed.

For the Secretary of the State, incumbent **Stephanie Thomas,** a Democrat who also appears listed under the Working Families Party and Independent Party lines, is running against Republican **Peter Lumaj**. Voters should vote for one.

In the Treasurer role, Democrat **Erick Russell,** who is also listed on the Working Parties line, is running against Republican **Fred Wilms,** who is also listed on the Independent Party line. Voters should vote for one.

For the Comptroller race, Democrat **Sean Scanlon** is also listed on the Working Families line and the Independent Party line and is running against Republican **Jennifer S. Tooker.** Voters should choose one.

In the Attorney General race, Democrat **William Tong,** the incumbent who is also on the Working Families line, is running against Republican **John Bolton.** Voters should choose one.

For the Judge of Probate position for the 14th probate district, Democrat **Mark Alan Balaban** is running unopposed for the seat.

At the town level, Democrat **Maureen O'Doherty** is running against Republican **Cynthia J. Hickey** for the town's Registrar of Voters position.

Local political leaders encouraged voters to turn out for the election, and expressed confidence in their candidates.

"As a group I believe we have the best, most capable candidates we've had in many election cycles," said Portland Republican Town Committee Chair Peggy Keser, "and I'm very confident in a major victory next week."

"With Election Day approaching, we are energized by the opportunity to support our Democratic candidates and the priorities they represent," said Democratic Town Committee Chair Andrea Alfano. "We hope voters in Portland and across Connecticut will make their voices heard on Nov. 3rd. Every election matters, and every vote counts."

First Congregational Church News

All are welcome to First Congregational Church, 554 Main St., for worship each Sunday. This week's sermon title is "Vines and Branches."

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.

Air Line Trail Volunteers Wanted

Portland's Air Line Trail Committee has been in operation for 12 years – and there is a need to recruit new members to serve on the committee or subcommittee for trail maintenance.

If you would like to join this group of hikers, email Lou Pear at louisjpear@gmail.com.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

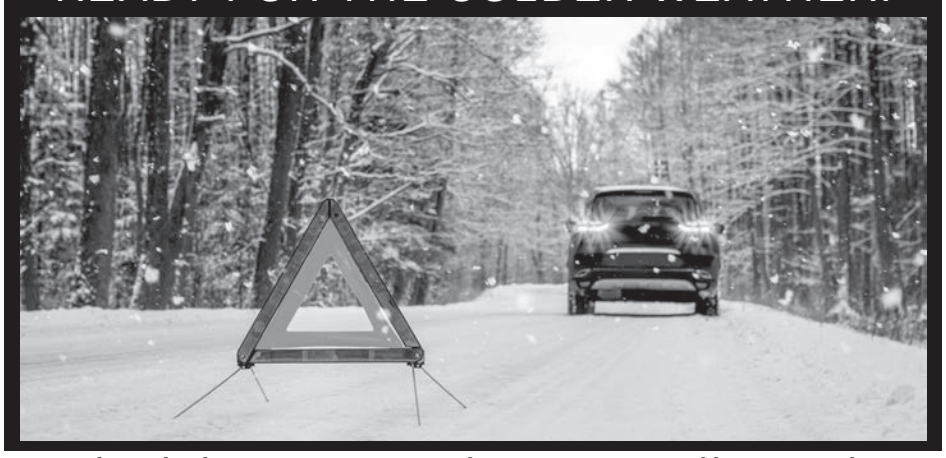
Portland Election Information

The November election will be held Tuesday, Nov. 3, at Portland Middle School, 93 High St. The polls will be open from 6 a.m. until 8 p.m. Curbside voting is available at the polls. Voters looking to utilize curbside voting should park in the circle at the school with their car's hazard lights on. There will be a phone number posted to call for curbside assistance. A sample ballot is posted on the town website.

Early voting continues daily through Sunday, Nov. 1, at Portland Town Hall, 33 East Main St. Early voting hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The early voting location will also offer same-day registration and curbside voting. For curbside assistance during early voting, call 860-342-6740. There is no early voting on Monday, Nov. 2.

Absentee ballots are still available from the town clerk's office through Monday, Nov. 2. Emergency absentee ballots will only be available for those who qualify on Tuesday. Stop in to the town clerk's office for an application/ballot. All outstanding absentee ballots need to be received by the Town Clerk, or deposited into the absentee ballot drop box behind Portland Town Hall (33 East Main St.) no later than 8 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 3. For questions on absentee ballots, call the town clerk's office at 860- 342-6743.

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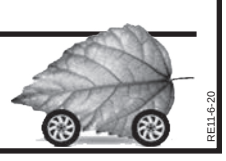
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Senior Center News & Notes

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, 11/2: Light Aerobics, 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Tuesday, 11/3: 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: Mexican salsa chicken, quinoa, veggie medley, cornbread and butter, string cheese. apple; **Coupons for Troops,** 1-4 p.m.; **Setback,** 1 p.m.; **SyncoCize,** 5-6 p.m., fee is donation to instructor.

Wednesday, 11/4: Light Aerobics, 9:30-10:30 a.m.; **Chair Yoga with Gia,** 10:30 a.m., $5 donation to instructor; **Fiber Arts Group,** noon.

Thursday, 11/5: Seated Stretch & Tone, 9:30 a.m.; **Knit & Stitch,** 10 a.m.; **Congregate Meal,** noon – $3 suggested donation (must fill out form). Menu: chicken and veggie pot pie with gravy, sweet potatoes, milk, fruit cup; **Mah Jongg,** 12:30 p.m.; **Scrabble,** 1 p.m.

Friday, 11/6: 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, 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.

Tuesday, Nov. 3: Rides to the Polls for Voting. Call the senior center if in need of a ride to the polls to vote.

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.

Tuesday, Nov. 10: The Memory Connections Group, 1 p.m. If you or someone you care about is experiencing early memory changes, dementia, or Alzheimer's disease, you're invited to join this group. Please call Sarah at (860) 342-6760 or e-mail her at selliott@portlandct.org for more information and/or to sign up to attend.

Thursday, Nov. 12: Community Quilters, 7 p.m. This is a group dedicated to the art of quilting and passing on the knowledge of this art. All skill levels and ages are welcome. Meets the second Thursday of each month.

Monday, Nov. 16: Cooking for One with Chef Marilyn McGrath 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Enhance your cooking skills, enjoy social interaction, learn how to maximize food budget and learn how to reduce food waste. Class will make roasted shrimp, baked stuffed mushrooms and a baked brie. Don't forget to bring a take-home container. Space is limited. Class cost: $10.

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 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.

The 1,200-pound bronze bell was taken down in 2015 due to the deterioration of the wooden bell tower.

Church members and non-members made donations toward the restoration of the bell – and now it's back home and will soon be officially dedicated.

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.

Inclement Weather Protocol: Portland Library adheres to the following weather procedure in regards to its scheduled programs: If Portland Public Schools have a delayed opening or are closed for the day due to inclement weather, the library will not run morning storytimes. Afternoon and evening programs will be decided on an individual basis that day, and registered participants will be contacted through email as soon as possible if the program will be canceled. Call the library at 860-342-6770 if you have any questions on whether a program will be held.

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.

Thanksgiving Week Activities. Thanksgiving Centerpieces: Tuesday, Nov. 24, 1:30 p.m., for grades K-5. After a half day of school, drop in to make a small fall flower decoration for Thanksgiving. Add a little tag to your creation saying what you are thankful for. No registration required. **Special Family Film:** Wednesday, Nov. 25, 1 p.m. *Toy Story 5* (2026; rated PG) will be shown. Run time is 102 minutes.

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.

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 5:30 p.m. and the event will begin at 6 p.m. Refreshments provided by the Portland Historical Society.

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are sought to help do some planting next weekend at River Bend Landing Park.

Volunteers are needed to help plant native ornamental trees and bushes on the road shoulders, near the picnic areas and around the parking lot. Volunteers plan to start work from 8 a.m. until 10 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 31. Please bring work boots, gloves and a shovel.

These plantings are supported through a National Realtors Association Grant. Special thank you to Karen Renner and Carl Guild.

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.

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.

At the show, Rome will perform the single "The Two Left Feet Blues" for the first time in public. Costumes are optional at the show, 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.

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Council Revises WPCA Ordinance, Endorses POCD

By Anne Lilburn

The Town Council met for a regularly scheduled meeting on Oct. 27, where they discussed budgetary issues, revised the wording of its WPCA ordinance, endorsed the town's Plan of Conservation and Development and heard updates from two town commissions.

Updates from Commissions

Russ Kaplan, chair of the town's Clean Energy Task Force, and Clean Energy Task Force Sustainability Subcommittee Chair David Price shared updates on their work, including new charging stations which are now in the village center, and updates on the town's participation, along with regional partner communities, in the statewide Heat Smart home energy efficiency program.

The Task Force is also celebrating the news that the town received a Sustainable CT Bronze certification for its work to implement local sustainability initiatives, and Kaplan said that he appreciated the work that had been accomplished by a team of volunteers.

"Every member stands out and stands up when needed," he said.

Kaplan said he would be stepping down from his role as chair of the task force at the end of the year, with Price taking over.

The council also heard from Conservation and Lake Commission Chair Jay Hartling, who described the past few months on the lake as "something of an emotional roller coaster from a conservation standpoint."

He noted wins, including the nesting eagle pair (one of only 56 in the state, he said), but also pointed out the lake's more recent troubles with algal blooms, noting that this was the first bloom to hit during the lake's peak recreation season in several years.

Hartling said that there hadn't been just one reason for the blooms, noting weather conditions with high heat and sudden intense storms among the challenges that they faced this year. He did say that nutrients entering the lake continued to be a problem, and one that residents could make a difference on, unlike the weather conditions.

"We need to reduce (preferably eliminate) fertilizer use, keep the leaves and grass clippings out of drainage systems, stabilize exposed soils, maintain vegetation buffers, slow runoff and allow more water to simply soak into the ground," he said.

He noted that the bloom and water clarity issues had led some residents to believe that the aeration system was not working, and he noted that aeration on its own would not solve all the lake's problems. A bloom this year, he said, did not mean that the aeration had failed.

"Aeration is essentially, at this point, life support for Lake Pocotopaug," he said. "It helps maintain important lake functions while we continue to work together as a community to work on the underlying nutrient problem.

"Aeration doesn't remove phosphorus that's already in the lake, it does not stop nutrients from entering through the watershed, and it does not cool the entire lake. It cannot replace natural whole lake mixing that happens from wind events and things like that."

WPCA Ordinance to Public Hearing

The council also revised its WPCA ordinance amendments and set a hearing date on the issue. Much of the discussion on revisions discussed the monetary limits at which the WPCA would be required to bring spending items in front of the Town Council.

Rich Knotek, a Democrat, expressing concern that too low spending values would result in the WPCA constantly appearing before the council. He suggested adjusting some of the dollar amounts requiring approval into the $50,000 range for most items (up from $25,000) and the council managed to find middle ground, adjusting the amounts to allow the WPCA to spend when needed to get everyday tasks done.

Knotek also said he wanted to revise language in certain sections to make clear the ordinance's compliance with state statute and emphasize that "the WPCA serves the users of this sewer system."

"I think it's important just to throw in there," he said, "as we're trying to craft an ordinance going forward that the WPCA has a foremost responsibility to serve its users," and is not an arm of or responsible to the Town Council. He said it was important to him that someone reading the ordinance would understand that the WPCA was not a council board.

The council also modified the amended ordinance to clarify that the town council could offer comments on the WPCA budget, but did not have the legal authority to approve or reject that budget. Knotek seemed happy that the council had approved the revisions.

"We've got to exude a tone, I think, of congeniality and respect for each other and each other's boards," said Knotek.

The council voted unanimously to approve the amendment to the ordinance and send it to a public hearing for their Nov. 24 meeting.

Council Endorses POCD Revision

The council also voted to endorse the town's Plan of Conservation and Development, which was recently revised as part of a long process involving public input, but there was some clarification around the topic, as council member Ted Hintz Jr., a Republican, asked why the Planning and Zoning Commission had not yet voted on it, and other council members, as well as Town Manager Dave Cox and former Town Planner Juliet Hodge, clarified the council's role in the POCD process.

"I thought by statute [Planning and Zoning Commission members are] the ones responsible for it, they're the ones that do it, do the public hearing, then send it to us for approval," said Hintz.

"It doesn't come back to you for approval," explained Cox. "The Planning and Zoning Commission is the end body as it relates to the POCD."

Hintz insisted that he did not feel comfortable voting on the POCD, because the Planning and Zoning Commission hadn't had a formal hearing on it, but Hodge said it had been on the PZC agenda for months to discuss or take public comment if anyone had wanted to.

"It's Planning and Zoning's plan," said Hodge. "They get the last say. You don't even have to give a report; they can make a decision anyway. It's a courtesy to allow you to make comments."

Council Chair Dean Markham, a Democrat, explained to Hintz that this was not like many other town policy decisions.

"I think the difference is, we're typically the last in the chain, and we're not [this time]" he said.

Hintz also sought to clarify what sewer map was contained in it, and Hodge said that it was the "historic sewer map," which is the "last adopted map," while also noting that it is clearly reflected in the POCD that that map was from 2006.

"We basically got the message," said Hodge. "We found the town didn't want to expand the sewer at this point."

She noted that the town was going through a facilities plan update in the near future and that the POCD was not static, so it could be updated to include a new map when it is finished.

"I think it's important to note," he added, "that this is the most comprehensive study and plan that the town has put together regarding the POCD"

"It's an amazing amount of data in this plan," said Jack Solomon, a Democrat.

In the end, the council voted unanimously to endorse the POCD, with Hintz voting against it. Council member Joelyn Leon, a Democrat, was absent, and therefore did not vote, but submitted comments indicating her approval.

End-of-Year Budget Transfers

Lastly, the council hard about some end of year budget transfers from Town Finance Director Jeff Jylkka. These transfers, he said, would help close out financials prior to the town's annual audit. The town had unexpended funds and Jylkka said that the Board of Finance had recommended transferring $100,000 to the capital reserve funds to cover road maintenance and repairs, and another $100,000 to the transfer station is a separate fund that would allow for greater transparency as to the station's expenditures and costs were.

Cox said this separate fund made sense, as it would allow residents to see the "tax subsidy for the transfer station." He said people were currently able to see the expense and the revenue associated with the station, but that the public didn't really know how much was being subsidized.

"I like the idea of saying 'this is what the transfer station costs all of us, as taxpayers, in one line," he said.

Despite some resistance from Hintz about the separate transfer station fund, the council eventually voted unanimously to approve the funds transfers and the creation of the separate transfer station fund.

The last items that the council considered were the council's endorsement of a letter from the Board of Education to state lawmakers about education funding concerns, which was approved unanimously, a contract amendment regarding the environmental work at several town-owned brownfield properties (also approved unanimously) and a town human resources job description that would allow the town to move in the direction of sharing services between the municipal government and the school district.

The Town Council will meet for their next regularly scheduled meeting on Nov. 10.

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.

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.

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.

Food Drive

Haddam Neck Congregational Church will hold a food drive to benefit the local food bank on Saturday, Nov. 28, at the church, 408 Quarry Hill Rd., Haddam Neck.

Donations of non-perishable food items will be accepted from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Call 860-930-8520 for more information.

AUTUMN LEAVES FAIR
Saturday, Nov 7th
10 am - 3 pm
CHRIST CHURCH
66 Middle Haddam Rd (Rt 151)
RE10-30-26

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29 West High Street
East Hampton, CT 06424
Visit us on Facebook

RE10-30-26

New EV Charging Station in Village Center

The East Hampton Clean Energy Task Force announces the installation of a new Volt Post dual electric vehicle charging station in the village center parking lot, located at the Air Line Trail head.

Payment for charging will be handled directly through Volt Post and individual users will be responsible for associated charging costs.

To ensure this resource remains accessible to everyone, drivers are asked to use the designated charging spaces only while actively charging their vehicles. Overnight parking in the spaces is discouraged, as it prevents others from accessing the chargers.

Police News

10/21: Lana Delman, 24, of East Hampton, was arrested and charged with driving under the influence and failure to drive right, East Hampton Police said.

From Oct. 19-25, officers responded to 13 medical calls, five motor vehicle crashes and five alarms, and made four traffic stops, police said.

Coats & Winter Clothes Available

The East Hampton Lions Club has collected gently used coats and winter clothing, and free shopping will take place Friday, Oct. 30, from 10–11 a.m. and 5–7 p.m., in the St. John Paul II Parish Hall (a.k.a. St. Patrick Church), 47 West High St.

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.

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. 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.

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.

November 3, 2026

Your Vote Is Important!

A Constitutional Republic Versus Socialism/Communism

Representatives of the 13 states signed the Declaration of Independence at a very great cost. Now we are voting to keep and uphold the Declaration and Constitution of this REPUBLIC, one nation UNDER GOD. There are those seeking **a radical restructuring and total transformation** of our country contrary to what our founding fathers envisioned. Some are advocating adding justices to the Supreme Court, making the District of Columbia a state, opening our borders, restricting fossil fuels, defunding the police, sending criminals back to the streets, eliminating the Electoral College and even getting rid of the Senate. It is vital to hold to **traditional American values** such as honoring the Constitution, respecting our nation's heritage and our flag, protecting our borders, being tough on crime, eliminating fraud and waste, being fiscally responsible and honoring those serving in the military.

There are those seeking power who are in pursuit of a Marxist, socialist society, the Great Reset, etc. Socialism and Marxism have failed in every country where they have been tried. Godless communism has been a disaster and is responsible for 100 million deaths in the past century. Yet sadly, Marxist principles are popular on university campuses, and applauded by many in the media. Also ***consider all the benefits gained and being worked out that would be lost.*** Whatever happened to pledging our full allegiance to our American Republic, one nation under God, WITH LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL? As Americans we have the freedom to vote our consciences, and choose leaders whom we believe will best represent us. May God give us much wisdom as we vote in this important midterm election. Be sure to vote!

Where the candidates stand is revealed by **what they vote for and what they promote**. But all that is voted for needs not to be disappointing. At the very least, let there be a voting for the **good governing of one's heart**. God's rightful righteous rule seeks one's decision **to receive God's saving grace.** We either vote for the direction of rightness or for the direction of wrongness. Consider:

A "NO" VOTE IN THE PAST

The elders of Israel said to Samuel: "Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now **make us a king** to judge us **like all the nations**. And the **LORD** said unto Samuel, Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, **but they have rejected Me that I should not reign over them."** (I Samuel 8:5,7). "Pilate saith unto them, Shall I crucify your King? The chief priests answered, We have no king but Caesar" (John 19:15).

YOUR VOTE?

"I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you LIFE and DEATH, BLESSING and CURSING: therefore **choose life**, that both thou and thy seed may live. That thou mayest love the LORD thy God, and that thou mayest obey His voice, and that thou mayest cleave unto Him: **FOR HE IS THY LIFE**, and the length of thy days" (Deuteronomy 30:19-20). The Lord Jesus said, "Search the Scriptures; for in them ye think ye have **eternal life**: and they are they which testify of Me. And ye will not come to Me, that ye might have **life"** (John 5:39-40). "And this is **life eternal**, that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent" (John 17:3).

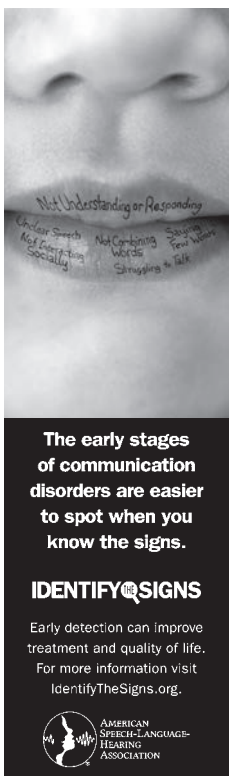
Will it be **NO** or **YES** to God, His Word and His saving grace in the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ? Cast a **YES VOTE** today!

Middletown Bible Church • 860-346-0907

349 East Street, Middletown, CT 06457

www.middletownbiblechurch.org

1124cm



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.

Portofinos

Italian Restaurant

246 New Britain Rd, Kensington, • 860-826-6374

You Deserve a Great Meal!

We specialize in Southern and Northern Italian cuisine. Everything at Portofinos is prepared using only the freshest ingredients and made from original recipes. Our menu includes many traditional as well as a variety of unique dishes. We also offer daily specials for lunch and dinner.


Shrimp & Pasta


Salad


Filet Mignon

Hours: Mon. 11am-8:30pm,
Tue. Closed, Wed. & Thur. 11am-9pm,
Fri. & Sat. 11am-9:30pm,
Sun. 11am-8pm

Lunch & Dinner menu
www.portofinosrestaurantct.com

- Dine In
- Outside Patio Open
- Take Out


Pizza

Order: 860-826-6374
(No Minimum)

We are following strict COVID-19 safety guidelines to ensure your safety.

Voters to Weigh in on State, National Races Tuesday

By Anne Lilburn

In East Hampton, voters will head to the polls next Tuesday to cast votes for Governor, Congressional Representative, State Senator, State Representative, Secretary of the State, State Treasurer, Comptroller, Attorney General, Judge of Probate and Registrar of Voters.

Polls will be open from 6 a.m.-8 p.m., at East Hampton High School, 15 N. Maple St.

For the Governor's race, incumbent **Ned Lamont**, a Democrat, is running alongside Lieutenant Governor candidate **Susan Bysiewicz** against Republican challenger **Ryan Fazio** and his Lieutenant Governor running mate **Matt Corey.** Lamont and Bysiewicz also appear on the ballot for the Working Families Party, while Fazio and Corey also appear on the ballot for the Independent Party. Voters should vote for one candidate and their running mate.

For United States Congressional Representative for the state's second district, Democratic incumbent **Joe Courtney** is running against Republican **George Patrick Austin,** who also appears listed for the Independent Party as well. Voters should choose one.

In the State Senate race to represent Connecticut's 33rd district, Democratic incumbent **Norm Needleman** is running for his fifth term against Republican **Charles Ferraro,** who previously served in the State House of Representatives. Needleman also appears on the line for the Independent Party. Voters should choose one.

In the State Representative contest for the state's 34th district, Democrat **Meghan Rosenfeld** is running against Republican **Melissa Ziobron,** who previously served in the role from [2013-2019] Ziobron also appears listed for the Independent Party. Voters should choose one.

For the Secretary of the State, incumbent **Stephanie Thomas,** a Democrat who also appears listed under the Working Families Party and Independent Party lines, is running against Republican **Peter Lumaj.** Voters should vote for one.

In the Treasurer role, Democrat **Erick Russell,** who is also listed on the Working Parties line, is running against Republican **Fred Wilms,** who is also listed on the Independent Party line. Voters should vote for one.

For the Comptroller race, Democrat **Sean Scanlon** is also listed on the Working Families line and the Independent Party line and is running against Republican **Jennifer S. Tooker.** Voters should choose one.

In the Attorney General race, Democrat **William Tong,** the incumbent who is also on the Working Families line, is running against Republican **John Bolton.** Voters should choose one.

Voters also will have the opportunity to cast votes in two unopposed contests. **Mark Alan Balaban,** a Democrat, is running unopposed for the Judge of Probate position for the state's 14th probate district, while Republican **Rosemarie Hecht** is running unopposed for the Republican Registrar of Voters position.

Local leaders from both parties encouraged voters to turn out, even if they were looking for different results.

"The most important message is for everyone to get out and vote," said East Hampton Republican Town Committee Chair Melissa Engel. "We have the best of the best running on the Republican ticket and I urge you to support them and take back our state."

"When more people participate in elections the outcome is a more accurate reflection of public opinion," said East Hampton Democratic Town Committee Chair Kevin Reich. "By casting your vote, and encouraging those around you to do the same, you contribute to creating a government that is representative and responsive to the needs and desires of all its citizens, not just a few. There is no more important time than now to exercise your franchise and vote."

Early voting continues through Sunday, Nov. 1, from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. each day, at Town Hall, 1 Community Drive.

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.

Open Mic Night: Friday, Nov. 20, 6-8 p.m. Come and perform or just watch. Performers, call the library to sign up, at 860-267-9093.

Nominations for Humanitarian of the Year

The East Hampton Lions Club is seeking nominations for its 2027 Humanitarian of the Year, who will be honored at the Lions District 23-C Annual Humanitarian Banquet on Jan. 19, 2027.

Each year, the East Hampton Lions recognize an individual who exemplifies compassion, generosity, and a strong commitment to serving others. The nominee must either live in East Hampton or have performed humanitarian acts that have made a meaningful impact within the East Hampton community.

Community members are invited to submit a one-page letter explaining why they believe their nominee deserves to be recognized as this year's Humanitarian of the Year.

Nomination letters should be mailed to: East Hampton Lions Club, P.O. Box 153, East Hampton, CT 06424

Letters should include the nominee's name, contact information, and a description of their contributions or service that demonstrate why they should be honored.

The deadline for submissions is Nov. 15.

For additional information, call Lion Mary Krogh at 860-977-5760.

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.

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.

Epoch Arts Teen Open Stage

Epoch Arts will hold its next Brookside Nights Open Stage Friday, Nov. 6, from 7-9 p.m., at Epoch, 22 Skinner St. Teens in grades seven and up are invited to share your talent on stage, be it art, poetry, dance, music, improv, your favorite thing, or anything that inspires you. If you don't want to share, you can come hang out with your friends in an environment featuring free food and drinks and art supplies. Admission is $10.

First Responders to Support Food Bank

East Hampton's emergency services personnel are teaming up for a pre-holidays collection drive to support the East Hampton Food Bank. The annual "Stuff-a-Truck/Stuff-a-Cruiser" event will be held the weekend of Nov. 7 and 8 at Stop & Shop, 11 East High St.

This yearly event provides a significant boost to the Food Bank as it strives to restock its shelves for the upcoming holiday season and prepares for the arrival of the cold winter months.

On Saturday, officers from the East Hampton Police Department will partner with members of the Volunteer Fire Department from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. to collect donations of food items, toiletries, and other necessities that the Food Bank utilizes to support community residents in need. On Sunday, members of the East Hampton Ambulance Association will be stuffing an ambulance with the same and similar items, again from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The local Food Bank discreetly serves hundreds of clients who may need a little help. The nonprofit Food Bank's operations depend on monetary donations from various sources as well as food collection drives such as these Stuff-A-Truck/ Stuff-A-Cruiser events.

Waving Events for Ziobron

The East Hampton Republican Town Committee is hosting waving events for Melissa Ziobron.

All are invited to participate Saturday, Oct. 31, from 9-11 a.m., at 20 East High St. (across from McDonald's) and on Monday, Nov. 2, from 7-8:30 a.m., at Cobalt Center.

There will be yard signs available for pick-up.

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.



East Hampton
HEALTH
EXPO
Saturday, Nov. 7
10 AM – 3 PM
East Hampton
High School
15 North Maple Street

Live longer, stay active and take charge of your life

Come listen and talk with leading experts and find out:

Featured Topics & Activities:

- Are GLP-1s right for you?
- Would medical marijuana and CBD help?
- How to improve your longevity
- Nutrition: How much protein do you need?
- What about supplements?
- How to best protect your bones
- Is it dementia or depression?
- How to avoid falls and stay mobile
- New medications to slow Alzheimer's
- How to stay safe, avoid scams and cons.

PLUS: Vaccinations and blood pressure clinics, vision tests. Experts on wills, trusts and estates, accessory dwelling units, hospice and palliative care, long term care and other topics. In addition, more than 50 health organizations and service vendors ready to answer your questions. You'll find valuable health info for every stage of life!

FREE & OPEN TO ALL

Refreshments provided

Sponsored by the East Hampton Commission on Aging

EAST HAMPTON
commission on aging
A VOICE FOR OLDER ADULTS

RE10-9-26

★ *Case Solved, cont. from page 1*

The department said signs placed in the wrong spots can create safety problems for drivers, people riding bikes and people walking.

"Signs illegally placed on state property can cause safety risk to motorists, cyclists and pedestrians by obstructing views and creating distraction," said DOT.

Workers have been told to remove signs that are placed illegally while doing their daily jobs. The rules apply to all signs on state-owned property, not just political ones.

Osten agreed that safety matters, especially when signs block a driver's views, but she said many of the signs being taken were small yard signs that she did not believe created a danger.

She added that she had not yet spoken with the department to learn why the signs in question were removed.

Hebron resident and Osten's opponent, Republican Jason Guidone – whose signs were also often removed – said the news brought some relief. He said missing signs often lead people to wonder whether someone from the other political party is responsible.

This time, photos and reports helped show that signs from both parties had ended up at the state garage.

Guidone estimated that the DOT was responsible for more than 90% of the signs that were gone.

He said the news was a relief because it meant people did not need to assume that political opponents were behind the missing signs.

Guidone also spoke about how upsetting it can be when political signs are damaged or taken. He recalled that some of his signs were run over or pulled out during the 2024 election, when he unsuccessfully ran for state Senate against Osten.

"I'm like, guys, you don't even know me," he laughed. "It's just a political party, and you're amped up like this?"

He said his signs only cost a few dollars each, but buying many of them can quickly become expensive.

Osten said candidates had been able to collect signs from the Mansfield garage, and she planned to have staff members help retrieve more.

"We took care of it. It seems to be fine," she said.

So, if you're missing signs, be sure to call your local maintenance garage and ask if they've picked them up.

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.

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.

Pledge Drive: If you have not returned your pledge card for 2028, you are asked to do so as soon as possible.

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.

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: 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.

Library Yoga with Amie Meacham: Tuesday, Nov. 10, 6:30 p.m. Join Yoga 200 Certified instructor Amie Meacham for an hour of gentle all-levels yoga in the library. Bring a mat and wear comfy clothes. There are modifications for every level.

Teen Programs: 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.

Middle Grade Dungeons & Dragons: Grades 5-7: Monday, Nov. 9, 6-7:30 p.m. The adventuring party is tasked with helping...a sheep?? New players welcome.

Chapter Chat with Keri & Friends: Grades 7-10: Tuesday, Nov. 10, 6 p.m. Join Keri to discuss a new book every month.

Teen TCG Club: Saturday, Nov. 14, 1-3 p.m., for grades 8-12. Come play your favorite trading card games alongside fellow fans or learn a new one. Magic: The Gathering decks will be available for new players to use.

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.

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.

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Recreation News

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

Air Line Trail Clean-Up Day: Saturday, Oct. 31, 9 a.m.-noon. Meet at Cranberry Bog on Smith Street.

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

Christmas Wreath Workshop: Wednesday, Dec. 2, 4-5:30 p.m. and 6:30-8 p.m. Create your own custom wreath using fresh greenery, ribbons and decorative accents. Fresh wreath and decorative accents included. Cost is $40

Solstice Fire Cider: Thursday, Dec. 17, 6:30-8 p.m. Explore aromatic herbs and spices as you create your own bold and flavorful blend. Cost is $35.

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 church at congregationalchurcheh@gmail.com with the name of your loved one or loved ones 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.

Senior Center News & Notes

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

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

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

Trailblazers Walking Group: Mondays at 9 a.m. Call the center for the walking schedule as the weather cools.

Self-Kindness Workshop: Monday, Nov. 2, 11 a.m. Victoria, who leads the Honoring the Journey program, will guide this self-care themed workshop. Participants will receive a small self-kindness swag bag filled with thoughtful goodies to support relaxation and positivity.

Veterans Breakfast: Wednesday, Nov. 4, 10 a.m. All veterans and their families are invited to enjoy free breakfast from Two Brothers Café. The VFW 5095 Color Guard and Ladies Auxiliary have been invited and veterans and family members are welcome to bring photos and mementos from their military service experience to share.

Design & Create: Thursday, Nov. 5, 1:30 p.m., with staff member Cindy Houle. Create a painted acorn wreath made with real acorns. Free but registration is requested.

Brain Health Spotlight: Lunchtime Brain Boost: Friday, Nov. 6, noon. What does daily life feel like for someone living with dementia? Join Angela Christie from Hartford HealthCare's Center for Healthy Aging for a conversation about changes in memory, communication, and behavior. A boxed turkey sandwich, water, chips and cookie will be served.

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.

Lunch Bunch Outing to Rossini's Restaurant: Friday, Nov. 13, departing at 11:30 a.m. Take the Xtramile bus together or carpool to the restaurant.

Visit the New England Air Museum: Thursday, Nov. 19, departing at 9 a.m. Explore the museum's collection of restored aircraft from years past and learn the story of aviation and aerospace, with an emphasis on New England's role. Cost is $22 and includes admission and transportation.



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.

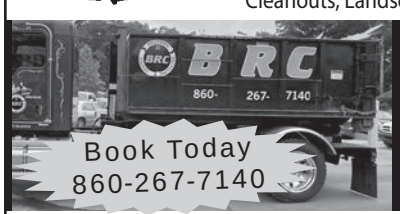
Helping Hands is located at 27 Skinner St. For more information, call Beth Cunningham at 860-365-1054.

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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.

Second Felting Workshop

The East Hampton Art Association, due to popular demand, is sponsoring a second felting workshop on Sunday, Nov. 15, from 1-4 p.m., at the Second Congregational Church of Middle Haddam, 52 Middle Haddam Road.

To register please call Geri at 860-682-2067 or Rita at 860-798-1092. There is a $5 materials fee. The art association will make a 3-D black or white, mid-sized felted sheep with a holiday scarf under the guidance of local felter Kristen Walsh.

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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.

Annual Meeting for Library

All are invited to the annual meeting of Middle Haddam Public Library on Thursday, Nov. 12, at 5:45 p.m., at the library, 2 Knowles Rd., Middle Haddam.

Bring your questions and comments, and find out how the library's year has been and what is on the horizon.



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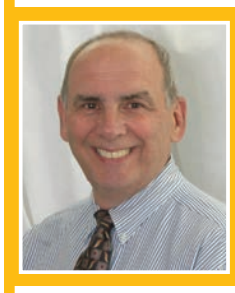
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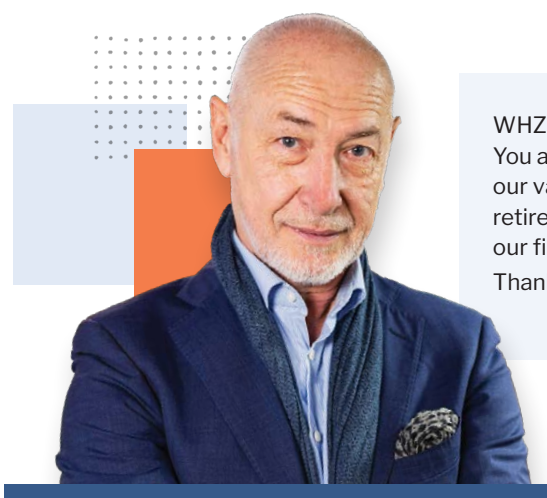
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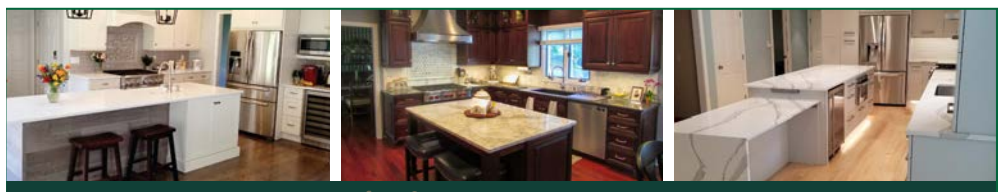
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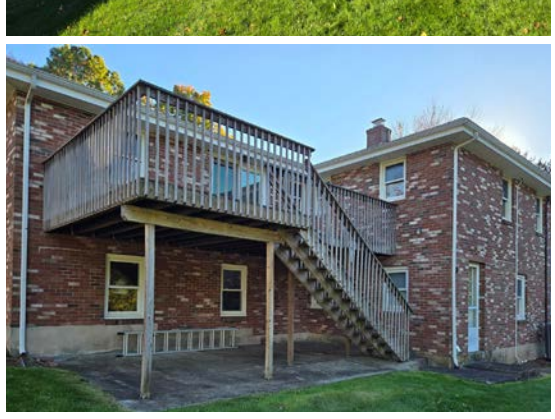
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Christian Life Chapel News

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?

Colchester Federated Church News

Colchester Federated Church, located at 60 Main St., holds Sunday services at 9 a.m. each week. The church is "Open and Affirming." All are welcome.

Church Office Hours: Monday and Friday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.; Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 1:30-5:30 p.m. The office manager is Lauren Basler. The office can be contacted at 860-537-5189 or cfc06415@gmail.com. For more information on church activities, look for the church on Facebook or visit ColchesterFederatedChurch.org.

Holly Fair Coming: Watch for more information in the *Rivereast* about the Holly Fair on Dec. 5.

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

Boy Scout Troop 72: Meetings are held in the Stage Room every Monday at 7 p.m. from September through June.

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.

Fall Vendor Fair Coming

Colchester Federated Church's annual Fall Vendor Fair is Saturday, 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.

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.

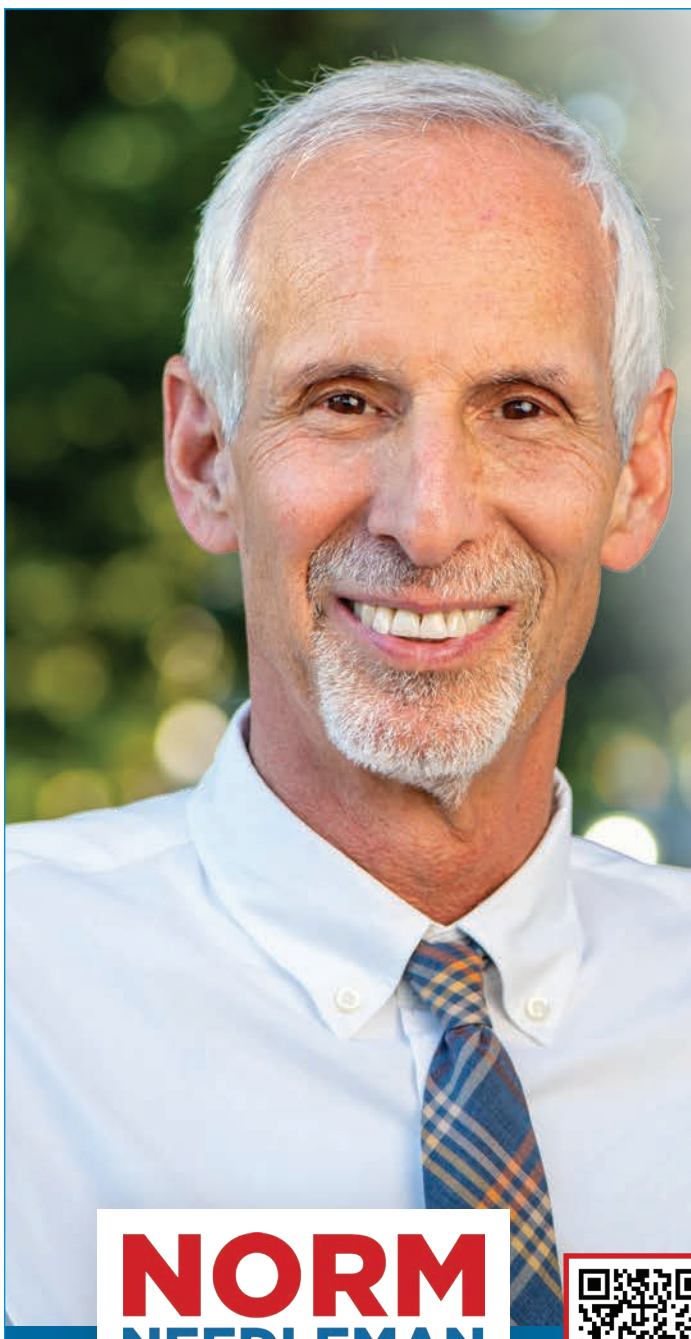
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Sidewalk Improvements Receive Grant

By Toriana Williams

The Colchester Board of Selectmen met on Oct. 22 during a special meeting, where they unanimously voted to support spending nearly $90,000 to upgrade the town's fire station alert system and approved a state-funded sidewalk project along Norwich Avenue.

Members also supported seeking federal grant money to replace an aging fire station generator and discussed how to choose the next town clerk and members of a charter review committee.

Norwich Avenue Sidewalk Improvements

The board unanimously approved a commitment to fund a project to repair and improve sidewalks along Norwich Avenue. The LOTCIP program, a program funded by Connecticut that provides grants to towns for local transportation projects, could pay about $900,000 for the work, including replacing a pedestrian bridge that was closed last year.

First Selectman Bernie Dennler, a Democrat, said the project would fill sidewalk gaps from William J. Johnston Middle School toward downtown. Plans also include work near Mel's Downtown Creamery, the intersection at Old Bacon Academy and the town green.

"I think that it is absolutely a worthwhile value to get this $1,000,000 of construction work out of DOT to replace these sidewalks, which are in terrible condition – frankly, dangerous condition," said Dennler.

He added that the sidewalks are among the most common reasons people contact his office with complaints.

The route is heavily used by students and others who walk the area. Dennler called it "the primary route to schools from William J. to the Youth Center to Cragin Library to the town green."

Board member Tim Vaillancourt, a Republican, praised the plan but also asked about damaged sidewalks near Country Place, where residents have also been waiting for improvements.

Dennler said the town had tried to include that area in an earlier grant request, but it was ultimately not approved. The latest grant only covers state roads, leaving the Country Place connection out of the project.

"We would love to find a funding source," said Dennler. He added that the town could look at other grants in the future and that a sidewalk and bus shelter for Country Place neighborhood would be "a tremendous improvement."

Officials hope to move the Norwich Avenue project forward in 2027, though Dennler warned that state reviews could cause delays. The town will also need to pay for engineering plans, estimated to cost likely less than $50,000.

Fire Stations Need New Alert System

The board unanimously recommended that the Board of Finance approve $89,921 from the town's unassigned fund balance to buy and install a new alert system at fire and EMS headquarters and Station 2.

Fire Chief Steve Hoffmann said the change is sorely needed because the regional dispatch center plans to stop using an older radio frequency by the end of this year.

The stations currently use an outdated system that triggers lights and loud speakers when emergency calls come in. Some of the equipment is no longer made, which makes repairs and upgrades difficult or impossible.

"If they go away from [the current system], we will not have any type of station alerting system currently," said Hoffmann.

Dennler asked specifically what that would mean for crews staying at the station overnight.

Hoffmann replied: "Calls could potentially get missed or delayed."

The proposed system would send alerts over the internet instead of old radio waves, and it would also slowly increase the volume of alert tones rather than suddenly blasting firefighters awake in the middle of the night.

Hoffmann said that could reduce the physical shock of loud alarms, which can make a person's heart race.

Board members supported the upgrade. Vaillancourt called it "a no brainer," while asking whether the town would be locked into one company for repairs. Hoffmann said two companies in Connecticut can install and repair the system.

Public Access for Clerk Interviews?

The board spent a significant amount of time discussing how to hire the next town clerk, a position that will become vacant on Jan. 1.

According to rules in the charter, the town must appoint a registered Democrat who lives in Colchester to finish the term of Gayle Furman, which ends in November 2027. The appointment will last about 11 months.

Dennler said the town had received three applications so far, and he hopes to settle the appointment by early December so the new clerk can learn the job from Furman before she leaves.

The biggest disagreement was whether the first round of interviews should take place in private or in public.

Dennler proposed holding an initial round in executive session to protect applicants who might be leaving other jobs. The board could then interview the leading candidate in public before making an appointment.

"I do think there needs to be some public-facing aspect before an appointment gets made," said Dennler.

Board member Denise Turner, a Democrat, agreed with the plan, but Vaillancourt argued that the public should be able to watch the process from the start.

"I don't believe we should be behind closed doors on anything," said Vaillancourt.

He added that voters should be able to see the same information board members used to make their choice. Vaillancourt also warned that private interviews could raise questions about favoritism.

"I'm just afraid that it opens the door to somebody going, 'Well, how do we know that it isn't the first selectman's friend? Or, you know, Tim picked the candidate he liked better and we didn't get to see what everybody else got to see,'" he said.

Dennler said he understood the concerns, but he also wanted to be fair to people who might not want their current employers to know they were seeking a new job.

Vaillancourt said he was willing to reconsider his view but stressed the need for openness because the town clerk is an elected position.

The board did not decide on the interview process at this meeting, with the topic being tabled for a future discussion.

Charter Review Commission Update

As a charter review is planned to begin soon, the board discussed how many people should serve on the committee in charge of review. During the discussion, members seemed to favor a committee with seven people without alternate members.

Vaillancourt said the town had a strong group of applicants and argued for a larger committee.

"More would be better," he said.

Turner agreed and said that a larger group would make it easier to have enough members present for meetings.

Denner said he had also come to favor seven full members. He noted that the board could take a different approach when the process moves from reviewing the charter to making possible changes.

Board member Rosemary Coyle, a Democrat, also supported seven members. She said the work would require steady attendance and "a lot of continuity in the discussions and recommendations."

Dennler said he planned to bring the appointment process back to the board at its Nov. 5 meeting.

Election Day is Next Week

By Toriana Williams

Election Day is next Tuesday, Nov. 3; polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

In Colchester, District 1 voters will go to Colchester Town Hall, 127 Norwich Avenue. District 2 voters will go to Abundant Life Church, 85 Skinner Road. District 3 voters will go to Bacon Academy, 611 Norwich Ave.

If unsure of your district, find it at portaldir.ct.gov/sots/LookUp.aspx.

Also, early voting continues through Sunday, Nov. 1, from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. each day. All early voting is done at Town Hall.

Voters will choose candidates for several state and federal offices.

For **Governor**, the candidates are Democratic incumbent **Ned Lamont** and his running mate, **Susan Bysiewicz**, and Republican candidates **Ryan Fazio** and **Matt Corey**.

For **Representative in Congress**, the candidates are Democratic incumbent **Joe Courtney** and Republican **George Patrick Austin**.

For **State Senator**, the candidates are Democratic incumbent **Norm Needleman** and Republican Charles Ferraro.

For **State Representative**, the candidates are Democrat **Bob Fernandez** and Republican incumbent **Mark DeCaprio**.

For **Secretary of the State**, the candidates are Democratic incumbent **Stephanie Thomas** and Republican **Peter Lumaj**.

For **Treasurer**, the candidates are Democratic incumbent **Erick Russell** and Republican **Fred Wilms**.

For **Comptroller**, the candidates are Democratic incumbent **Sean Scanlon** and Republican **Jennifer S. Tooker**.

For **Attorney Genera**l, the candidates are Democratic incumbent **William Tong** and Republican **John Bolton**.

For **Judge of Probate**, Democratic incumbent **George A. Baker** is unopposed.

For **Registrar of Voters**, the candidates are running unopposed and are Democratic incumbent **Sara Mussen** and Republican incumbent **Julianne M. Shilosky.**

Military Honor Squads for Veterans

In Connecticut, 12 volunteer service organizations (VSOs) step in to render military honors for departed veterans – and one of the 12 organizations is in Colchester.

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.

Troop 109 Fundraiser

Mel's Downtown Creamery, at 32 Norwich Ave., is hosting a Scouting America Troop 109 fundraiser on Monday, Nov. 2, from 5 to 9 p.m.

Mel's will donate a percentage of sales at this time to the troop for their activities.

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.

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.

Snowflake Bazaar
Saturday, Nov. 7th
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Markham Meadows Cpgd., E. Hampton
Sponsored by Westchester Congregational Church
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RE6-30-23



Ambulance 728 officially went into service on Dec. 19, bringing the Colchester Fire & EMS fleet of ambulances to three. Pictured from left are Deputy Fire Chief Paul Giudice, Colchester First Selectman Bernie Dennler, EMS Lieutenant Olivia Berard, EMS Captain Kaitlyn Standish, EMS Lieutenant Blake Bailargeon and Fire Chief Steve Hoffmann.

Ambulance 728 Officially Placed in Service!

Colchester Fire & EMS has announced that Ambulance 728 officially went into service on Monday, Oct. 19, following the successful completion of its OEMS inspection and registration with the DMV.

This addition brings the Colchester Fire & EMS fleet to three ambulances, strengthening its ability to maintain emergency medical coverage for our community. The department said more than 70% of its call volume involves EMS, and over 38% of its calls occur while two or more incidents are happening simultaneously.

With 53 EMS providers, including EMRs and EMTs, the department said it continues to strive to meet the growing demand for emergency medical services.

Ambulance 728 features the department's new color scheme, enhanced emergency lighting, updated communications technology, and improved ergonomics to support responders in the field.

The chiefs and EMS officers recently provided a tour for the first selectman of the new rig and associated EMS equipment.

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 860-267-7711. Pastor Ron Lake can be reached at 860-428-3460.

Editor's Desk continued from page 4

Dream Within a Dream"

"And skeletons dancing to a tune; and cries of children stifled soon; and over all a blood-red moon." — Conrad Aiken, "The Vampire"

"Evil has only the power that we give it." — Ray Bradbury, "Something Wicked This Way Comes"

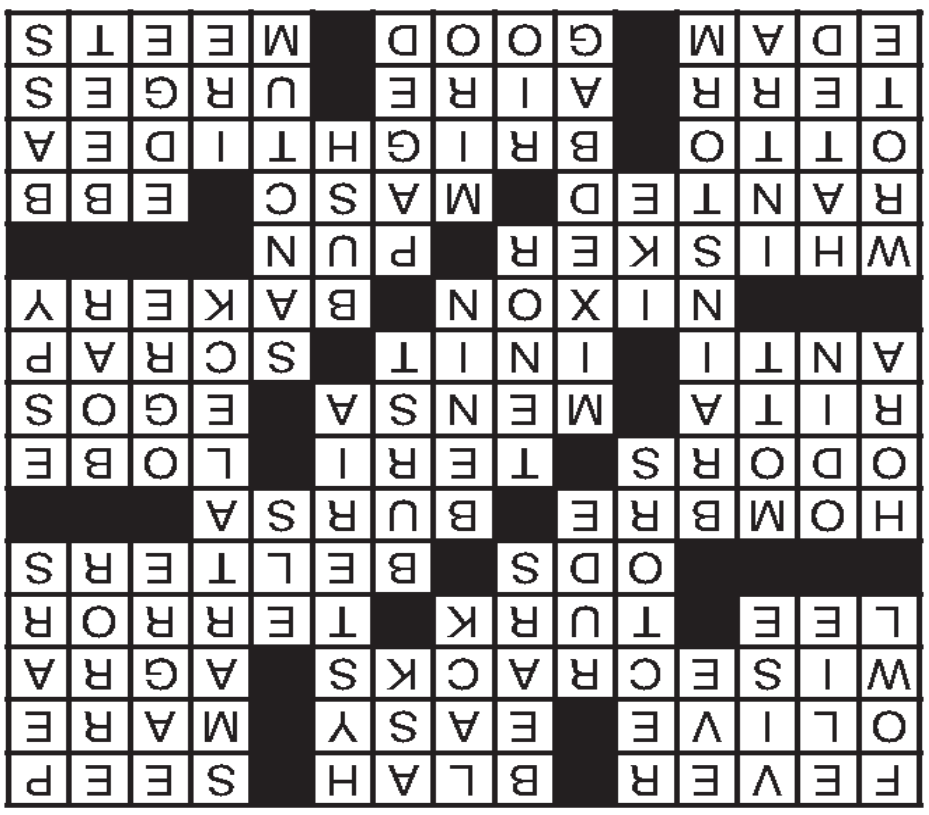
And lastly:

"I would rather sit on a pumpkin, and have it all to myself, than be crowded on a velvet cushion." — Henry David Thoreau

* * *

See you next week – and don't forget to vote!

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SHARP AS A TACK

Pumpkins, Apples Collected for Farm Animals

Colchester residents can give their leftover pumpkins and apples a second life this fall by donating them to local farm animals.

The Colchester Agricultural Commission is holding its fourth annual pumpkin recycling program from Nov. 1 through Nov. 15. The program collects pumpkins that were used as Halloween or fall decorations and gives them to farmers to feed their animals.

Donation sites include Colchester's elementary school, middle school, high school, Town Hall and the Senior Center.

Pumpkins must be free of mold, paint and other decorations, and gourds are not accepted either. Pumpkins can be lumpy, broken or uneven as long as they are clean and safe for animals to eat.

After Nov. 15, residents can bring pumpkins directly to the Agricultural Commission Chair Donna Rosenblad's farm at 348 Westchester Road.

The commission is also collecting fallen apples this year. Residents with extra apples from their trees can bring them to Rosenblad's farm as well. Apples should not be rotten.

Veterans Week Events and School Visits

The Colchester veterans community has been working with local schools and the town to have a very interesting first week of November.

All the schools have programs planned and on Wednesday, Nov. 11, there will be commemoration ceremony at 11 a.m. on the Veterans Green on Broadway Street. The program schedule at the schools is:

Bacon Academy: Nov. 5, 7:20-9:30 a.m. There will be a light breakfast snack and auditorium panel discussion program with veterans and students.

William. J. Johnston Middle School: Nov. 6, 9:15 -11 a.m. There will be a light breakfast and schoolwide assembly presentation.

Jack Jackter Intermediate School: Nov. 6, 1:30-2:30 p.m. There will be a snack and auditorium program to include flag folding demonstration and narration.

Colchester Elementary School: Nov. 9, 9:15-11 a.m. There will be a breakfast snack, and an auditorium program to include a flag-folding demonstration and narration.

All Colchester veterans and their families are invited to see these programs. If you are a veteran, you are encouraged to wear you military hat, uniform or other symbol of your service.

Youth Football Recap

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

Seniors: After multiple injuries, the team never gave up and continued to battle through the tough game. AJ Ferreira and Bennett Cappiello blocked very well on the line. Aiden Francis and Travis Clark helped fill in the role at quarterback and did a great job.

Juniors Varsity: Defeated East Lyme, 19-14. The Cougars commanded the first half and went into halftime with a 12-0 lead. While the Cougars took advantage of the opportunity to get minutes for all their players in the second half, East Lyme did cut into the lead. The Cougars were able to fend off a late East Lyme rally, capped off by an interception by Jude Billiot from the safety position. Next the Cougars prepare for WPTP for the final regular season game.

Micros: Went head-to-head against a physical East Lyme team. Starting the game with just 14 players, the Cougars were forced to play an entire half of "iron man" football – facing a 30-player roster with just 11 available Cougars. Despite the steep odds and a mounting injury list, Colchester battled every down, highlighted by a 50-yard run by Lincoln Kaden.

Peewee: Played defense once again with grit and heart and a no-quit attitude, and made many defensive stops that gave the offense time and room to work. The offense had one of its best days of the year with the offensive line playing exceptionally well and the O backs turning it up for what amounted to a very exciting game.

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.

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.

History Museum Open Sundays

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

Located at 24 Linwood Ave., the museum 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.

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.

Giving Garden Chosen for Fundraiser

The Colchester Giving Garden has been chosen by the local Stop and Shop to be the recipient of their "Bloomin' 4 Good" fundraising promotion for the month of November.

One dollar will be donated to the garden for each specially marked bouquet that is sold during the month of November.

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Indoor Tailgate Barbecue

St. Joseph's Polish Society, at 395 South Main St., is hosting its fifth annual indoor tailgate barbecue on Sunday, Nov. 8. There will be football and the last NASCAR race of the season on the big screen TVs.

Wings will be served at 2 p.m. The rest of the buffet will be served at 3 p.m. and includes brisket, pulled pork, chicken, meat bombs (bacon meat loaf), kielbasa with sauerkraut, macaroni and cheese, and baked beans.

Advanced tickets are required for this event. Cost is $20 per person. This is an in-person event and will not have a takeout option. Tickets must be purchased by Nov. 1.

For more information, call 860-537-2550.

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.

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.

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).

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: 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.

Children's Program: Sports Equipment Swap: Saturday, Nov. 14, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Drop by to take home some gently used sporting equipment. You do not need to donate anything to come pick something up.

Children's Program: Drop-In Family Craft Night: Duplo Dinosaur Stamping: Wednesday, Nov. 18, 6 p.m., for all ages. Use Duplo blocks as stamps to create a piece of dinosaur art.

Adult Program: Medicare Educational Events: Thursday, Nov. 19, 2 p.m. and 6 pm: Come and learn the ins and outs of Medicare (enrollment, drug stages, penalties, etc.) and the differences between Original Medicare and Medicare Advantage with Mark Macrina at Senior Health & Retirement Services, a local resident and insurance agent. This is an informational seminar, and no individual health will be discussed. For accommodations of persons with special needs please call 860-338-1466 TTY 711.

Teen Program: Holiday-Flavored Snack Taste Test: Thursday, Nov. 19, 2:45-3:15 p.m. Taste different snacks and treats that may have weird holiday season-inspired flavors. Registration required; call 860-537-5752.

Children's Program: Story and a Craft: Thanksgiving: Monday, Nov. 23, 10:30 a.m.: Drop by for a special Thanksgiving Storytime.

Children's Program: Drop-In Free Play: Tuesday, Nov. 24, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Best for ages 2-5. This free play has all the dino toys.

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.

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.



We All Scream for Ice Cream… **Mel Goggin, owner of Mel's Downtown Creamery, recently spoke with Junior Girl Scout Troop 63355 about what it's like being a business owner. Goggin answered the troops business questions as they prepared to market and sell items at the annual kids market on the green. The girls are working towards earning their Junior Business Jumpstart Badge.**

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.



The Colchester Giving Garden recently wrapped up its 2026 growing season – and more than 1,700 pounds of fresh produce were donated.

Giving Garden Wraps Season

The Colchester Giving Garden recently wrapped up its 2026 growing season. The garden grew and organizers donated over 1,762 pounds of fresh produce to the town food bank and two area soup kitchens this year.

Volunteers come weekly to care for the garden. The garden will continue its mission next spring – and new volunteers are always welcome. Organizers will begin sending "starting up" messages next March, when they kick off their 15th year of growing and donating. All are welcome to join; no gardening experience is necessary.

For more information or to make a donation to the garden, email colchestergivinggarden@gmail.com.

RHAM Soccer Preps for Postseason

By Josh Howard

With the postseason starting this week, RHAM High School boys soccer closed out the regular season on Tuesday with a home victory over Windsor.

The win polished off an 8-4-4 regular season for a Raptors team that is heading to the state tournament.

Last Thursday (Oct. 22), RHAM earned win No. 7 with a victory over the visiting Eagles from East Catholic at RHAM High School.

Three different Raptors scored in a 3-1 victory as Caiden Rojas, Yousef Ahmed, and Alex Elomaa found the back of the net.

Callan Melquist doled out two assists and Cam Fitzgibbons also had a helper.

RHAM head coach Ray Bell said he saw "growth and consistency" during the 80 minutes, crediting his team with controlling the tempo against an East Catholic team that entered the contest winless in their last seven games.

"I thought we took care of business today," added Bell.

Rojas, a senior captain, broke a scoreless tie with a goal at the 10:32 mark of the first half, giving the home team a lead they would not relinquish.

"We wanted to get a quick start," stated Rojas. "We knew we were a better team than them, so we wanted to get that first goal."

In the 45th minute, Ahmed scored what turned out to be the winning-goal before East Catholic got one back to trim the home team's lead to 2-1.

Once the visiting Eagles cut the deficit in half, Rojas said the team refocused, noting, "After they scored that goal, we didn't want to give them any chance or belief they could win."

Fitzgibbons netted an insurance goal with 6:03 remaining in regulation and the defense held up their end of the bargain the rest of the way.

It marked the ninth time this season that RHAM's defense allowed one or fewer goals.

Bell credited senior goalie Will Krajewski and his two senior defenders in Logan Roulier and Derek Barone, who he referred to as the "unsung heroes" for his squad.

"They're our anchors. They do all the dirty work," added Bell, who also praised Braeden Devine for his unselfish work in the midfield.

Bell has a large contingent of seniors, featuring nine players that have all made impacts this fall.

Rojas, Ahmed, Krajewski, Roulier, Barone, Devine, Chase McLaughlin, Zachary Juliani, and Nathan Solloway make up the Class of 2027 members that have helped the Raptors surpass their regular season win total from a season ago.

The nine have worked their way through the program together, helping RHAM qualify for state tourney in all four seasons.

"This is the closest senior class in my four years here," noted Rojas, a Nichols College soccer commit. "I'm really trying my hardest to take it all in and enjoy every moment of it."

In the regular season finale on Tuesday, Rojas and Melquist each scored two goals as the team blanked the Warriors (4-0) at Windsor High School.

The state tourney is slated to begin next Friday, Nov. 6. A year ago, RHAM won a pair of state tourney games to advance to the state quarterfinals.

Bell believes his team needs to have that "killer instinct" once the do-or-die games start.

"We want to have that drive to compete and have that will," added Bell.



Caiden Rojas, Cam Fitzgibbons, Yousef Ahmed, Callan Melquist, and Alex Elomaa contributed to the team's four goals as RHAM High School boys soccer defeated East Catholic 3-1 last Thursday.

School Board Approves Plan to Accept Outside Students

By Toriana Williams

During its regular meeting on Oct. 19, the RHAM Board of Education voted to allow students from other school districts to attend its Resilience special education program, heard plans for two new high school courses, and reviewed millions of dollars in proposed school repairs.

Resilience Hopes to Accept More Students

The board approved a plan to accept students from other towns into RHAM's Resilience program, which began in 2018-2019 to help students who have anxiety or depression that makes it difficult to attend regular classes.

Christine Hartwig, director of pupil services, said the program had been full in recent years, but some students have graduated or returned to regular classes which has opened up room for others.

"We have a really strong program," said Hartwig.

The program allows students to take regular classes, spend time with their peers and join school activities while getting extra help when they need it. Hartwig said students can return to the program during a hard day or even a difficult class period. A social worker and special education teachers also help support students.

"Getting to school sometimes is a win, right?" she said.

The district plans to start small, taking in one or two outside students at first. Hartwig said the program could likely serve five to seven students, depending on their needs. It has served as many as 10 students at one time, she added.

Board member Pam Farrington, a Democrat, asked how the district would make sure the program had enough staff if students needed different levels of help.

Hartwig said the district has room now, but it could hire more staff if the program grows. The goal, she said, is to keep meeting the needs of RHAM students while also helping students from other towns.

The proposed tuition is $27,187 per student, plus $10,000 for the Resilience program. Extra services, such as speech or physical therapy, would cost more.

Superintendent of Schools Colin McNamara said RHAM hopes the program will offer other towns a less expensive choice than private special education schools. Hartwig said some similar private programs start at more than $92,000.

School Project List Drops by Around $5M

The board reviewed a smaller list of proposed building projects after it asked school leaders to reduce the cost of a plan that first totaled about $42 million.

McNamara said the new list totals about $37.37 million, with about $17 million eligible for state aid. That leaves an estimated $20.5 million for the district to pay.

Projects removed from the main list included a middle school generator project, a parking lot expansion, new stage lighting, a folding wall and work on some sidewalks, stairs and courtyard areas. The district still plans to repair its parking lots, but the expansion was removed.

It should be noted that the removed work was not all canceled as many projects were spread across a 10-year capital plan.

One major project, replacing the schools' irrigation system, would be spread over three years. The project itself is estimated to cost about $1.31 million.

McNamara said the district is also seeking state help to finish work on a generator that could power both school buildings. The generator was bought through a town grant, but switches are needed before it can fully serve both buildings.

He added that state Sen. Cathy Osten has offered to push for funding.

Board member Scott Sauyet, a Democrat, raised concerns about how the district would pay for surprise repairs if most of its yearly capital budget was already committed.

"We usually have money available" through the district's 2% fund, said McNamara. But he warned that an unexpected problem could force the district to change its plans or find savings elsewhere.

"We would have to look at our budget in totality and say, this is an immediate need," said McNamara.

The board did not settle on a final project list or a possible date for a public referendum. McNamara asked members to review the plans and bring questions to the November meeting.

Students Show Strong Improvement in School Life

School leaders shared test results and other measures of student success, and said grades and test scores are only part of the story.

RHAM Middle School Principal Michael Seroussi said the school wants students to grow in skills such as critical thinking, motivation and communication.

The middle school offers 12 sports, in which about 260 students participated in sports across the three seasons last year. The school also reported 453 student spots in clubs and activities, with some students joining more than one.

This year, 125 students are taking part in chorus.

Seroussi said test scores have stayed fairly flat in recent years, which has led the school to try new ways to help students improve. These include changes to math lessons, extra tutoring and new ways to give tests.

He said middle school students' PSAT scores compared well with state and national results, and that the school is working to see if students are ready for college and careers.

RHAM High School Principal Penny Bryzgel reported that 521 students took part in athletics, and students also took part in clubs, music groups and college-level courses.

Last year, students took 364 Advanced Placement exams. Of those, 334, or nearly 92% earned passing scores that could qualify them for college credit, depending on the college.

The high school also reported success in its manufacturing program. Seventy percent of its manufacturing graduates passed a related exam, compared to a state average of 25%, said Bryzgel. Several graduates also received job offers in welding and machining.

McNamara said RHAM wants students to do well in class while also enjoying a full school experience.

"We want kids to achieve at high levels, but we want to offer them a variety of different opportunities," he said.

Two New Courses Proposed

The board heard plans for two new courses that could begin next school year.

Mary Rose Meade, RHAM's director of curriculum, proposed Modern Band as a new option for students interested in current music styles. Students already have keyboard and guitar courses, and a survey showed interest in a group performance class.

The second course, Math for Manufacturing, would help students learn the math skills used in manufacturing jobs. Meade said the course was created through work between the math department and the manufacturing department.

Some students enter manufacturing jobs right after graduation, she said, so the course would help prepare them for work.

RHAM Receives $43,000 Math Tutoring Grant

McNamara announced that RHAM was one of about 40 school districts in Connecticut to win a competitive state grant for math tutoring.

The district will receive about $43,000 to create a "high-dose tutoring" program at the middle school, said McNamara. The program will give extra math help to selected students in small groups several times a week.

McNamara thanked Meade for leading the grant application and said the district hopes the program will help improve student achievement.

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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!



Cruising Canada… **One of the stops on Marlborough resident Teresa Tacinelli's recent cruise was Corner Brook Canada, where she did some sightseeing and shopping, and took a train ride.**



The Bulletin and The Blarney… **Sue and Bob Griswold from Portland loved their August trip to Ireland and their visit to the Blarney Castle!**



The Paper in Portugal… **Erin & Joel Valenzuela of Marlborough recently traveled with the *Rivereast* to Lisbon, Portugal! This photo was taken at the Miradouro da Graça looking down over the rooftops, with a panoramic sweeping view across the city.**



Rivereast in Madrid… **Cindy and Mark Noniewicz of Colchester attended a wedding, of a former exchange student, in Madrid, Spain, at the Basilica Concepcion De Nuestra Señora.**

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

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Election Ballot Information

By Toriana Williams

Marlborough residents will vote Tuesday, Nov. 3. Polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Marlborough Elementary School Community Room, 25 School Drive.

Early voting continues, and runs through Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day, at Town Hall.

Voters will choose candidates for several state and federal offices.

For Governor, the candidates are Democratic incumbent Ned Lamont and his running mate, Susan Bysiewicz, and Republican candidates Ryan Fazio and Matt Corey.

For Representative in Congress, the candidates are Democratic Incumbent Joe Courtney and Republican George Patrick Austin.

For State Senator, the candidates are Democratic incumbent Catherine Osten and Republican Jason Guidone.

For State Representative, the candidates are Democrat Ellen Paul and Republican Incumbent Steve Weir.

For Secretary of the State, the candidates are Democratic incumbent Stephanie Thomas and Republican Peter Lumaj.

For Treasurer, the candidates are Democratic incumbent Erick Russell and Republican Fred Wilms.

For Comptroller, the candidates are Democratic incumbent Sean Scanlon and Republican Jennifer S. Tooker.

For Attorney General, the candidates are Democratic incumbent William Tong and Republican John Bolton.

For Judge of Probate, Democratic incumbent Mark Alan Balaban is unopposed.

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.

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.

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.

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.



Preparing Meals… **Marlborough Congregational Church sponsors a monthly Drive Thru Café for Marlborough Food Bank clients with vouchers and their families. On the last Sunday of the month, from September to June, volunteers from the church and other local organizations and businesses, including St. John Fisher Church and It's So Ranunculus, prepare the 50 hot meals and homemade cookies and deliver them from the church kitchen to the waiting cars. The meal was recently hosted by Boy Scout Troop 39.**

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.

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.

Driveway Reflective Number Signs Available: The cost of the sign is $50. Help emergency services personnel find your home without delay. Vertical sign is double-sided 8" x 24" with 4" numbers on blue highway reflective metal. Order forms are online and at Town Hall.

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).

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.

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

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

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

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

Board of Education Discusses Budget Shortfall

By Toriana Williams

The Marlborough Board of Education reviewed a projected budget shortfall of more than $236,000 and discussed plans for the future of Marlborough Elementary School at its Oct. 22 meeting.

Board members also reviewed new goals for the next two years, heard results from a community survey about what students should learn and discussed plans to improve communication with families and residents.

School Budget Faces $236,512 Shortfall

One of the biggest concerns shared during the meeting was the district's projected budget deficit of $236,512. Smith said the estimate was about $2,000 higher than it was the month before.

The increased costs include an Applied Behavior Analysis position and 2.6 paraprofessional positions that are needed to support students during the current school year. These jobs were not included in the current approved budget when voted on.

Smith said the district could use its 2% onlapsing fund if the shortfall remains, and board members discussed whether the reserves could be used for these costs and what rules control how the money is spent.

Smith said the fund should be kept for unexpected needs, especially in special education.

"Given the level of change in special education, we would be wise to always hold this money for a surprise outplacement or position that we have to hire," he said.

The district will continue to watch its spending before deciding whether to use the reserve.

School Building Project Moves Forward

The Marlborough Elementary School Building Committee met Tuesday night to discuss a contract with STV, the company chosen to help plan the school building project.

Committee members are waiting for the town attorney and STV to agree on the contract terms, where if they reach an agreement, the committee could recommend that the town manager sign it. If not, the decision will wait until a later meeting.

Board member Bill Guzman, a Democrat, said the Board of Selectmen approved an additional $26,000 for the project manager budget line after the committee found that its existing $30,000 would not be enough.

The timing of the referendum is currently undecided. Members discussed the possibility of holding it in late summer of 2027, although the schedule will depend on the work ahead.

The project has been described as fairly simple, but board members noted that the process has several steps.

Kindness Tops Community Survey

Smith shared results from a recent survey asking what skills and personal qualities Marlborough students should have as they grow up.

The survey had received 218 responses so far, with the top skills included being problem-solving, critical thinking, communication, teamwork, creativity and innovation.

For personal qualities, kindness and compassion ranked first. Respect, responsibility, perseverance and empathy also ranked highly.

"That's wonderful to see," Smith said.

The district plans to use the results to create a "Profile of the Learner," a guide to the skills and qualities students should hopefully develop before graduating.

Smith said 87 people who answered the survey offered to help with the next steps, and the district plans to ask them to review possible names and descriptions for the skills and qualities.

Students will also help shape the final project. Smith said he worked with the student council on the project and wants student voices included.

"Any student voice we can get on it, we will make sure to include students," he said.

The student council is expected to present the profile to the board at its Nov. 19 meeting. The district also plans to gather more feedback and develop clearer descriptions of what each skill looks like in the classroom.

The goal is to begin using the terms in school next year. The work will also help guide the district's long-term plan, called "Marlborough 2040 – Tomorrow's Future Today."

Goals for the Next Two Years

Board members discussed a revised set of goals for 2026-2028. The draft included plans to improve communication, support student learning, strengthen school operations and build a more caring school community.

One goal focused on making school decisions easier for residents to follow. Ideas included sharing information through websites and the Rivereast, making more meetings available in person and online and posting meeting minutes on school and town websites.

The board also wants to offer more chances for residents to share ideas, including during the school budget process.

Smith said the district has already collected requests for new items to include in the next budget, which includes several requests for teaching positions. These requests are planned to be shared before the Nov. 19 meeting in order to give residents a chance to explain why certain items matter to them.

"You may not be able to afford it this year, but let's keep talking about things like this," said Smith.

The board also discussed a proposed goal of keeping at least 95% of educators each year. Some questioned whether the board could control that number, since teachers may leave for retirement, health reasons or other jobs.

One member said the board should focus on supporting the superintendent's efforts to recruit and keep staff rather than promising a specific percentage.

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.

Early Voting Ends This Weekend

The registrars of voters would like to remind Marlborough voters that early voting continues this weekend at Town Hall, 26 North Main St., from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 30, Saturday, Oct. 31, and Sunday, Nov. 1.

The General Election will take place Tuesday, Nov. 3, from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m., at Elmer Thienes/Mary Hall Elementary School, 25 School Drive.

Political parties planning rallies or waving activities during early voting or Election Day are reminded that they must maintain a distance of at least 75 feet from the entrance to the polling place.

If you have any questions or concerns about voting or your voter registration, the registrars will be in their offices during all early voting hours. They can also be reached by phone at 860-295-6166.

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. 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.

Winter Clothes Drive

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

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

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

American Music Festival

The public is invited to an uplifting and colorful tapestry of music to be held in the meetinghouse at Marlborough Congregational Church, 35 South Main St., at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 7.

The festival is planned to honor the country's musical heritage and is in celebration of its 250th anniversary. Musicians and groups will perform a wide array of songs featuring patriotic, spiritual, film, stage, folk, ragtime, bluegrass, gospel, jazz, pop, and country.

The event is free; however, all donations will go to the Eastern Connecticut Veterans Center in Willimantic.

Fall Church Tag Sale

The annual fall tag sale at Marlborough Congregational Church, 35 South Main St., will be held Saturday, Nov. 7, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Community Fellowship Hall and several rooms will be filled with household and seasonal items, linens, vintage, toys and games, collectibles, framed artwork, electronics, small appliances, clothing, furniture, and more. Shoppers are asked to make a generous donation, as almost everything is price-your-own.

Second Blessings Thrift Shop, located down the hall from the tag sale, will also be open Nov. 7 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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.

Nov. 1 worship service will honor All Saints Day when the ancient church bell will be tolled in memory of loved ones from the congregation who have recently passed. The service will be led by Seaver, with the sermon given by Worship Assistant Gwen Lawson. Her sermon title is "Where Did They Go?" Holy Communion will be celebrated and is open to all, regardless of church affiliation, including children with parental guidance The annual Sunday School Halloween Parade will close the service with children and others parading through the sanctuary in their Halloween finery.

Nov. 7: Annual Fall Tag Sale from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and an Americal Music Festival at 7 p.m. The festival will highlight a wide array of songs from patriotic and film and stage to bluegrass, gospel and country. The festival is free, but any donations will go to the Willimantic Veterans Center.

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 Drive Thru Café, for Marlborough Food Bank clients and their families with vouchers, will be Sunday, Nov. 29.

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.

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★ *Letters, cont. from page 8*

one, appointment of a conservator or guardian, termination of parental rights, adoption, or appointment of a guardian of the estate of a minor, I decide each matter with empathy and fairness for all. The court staff promptly and efficiently processes cases. Regardless of party affiliation, none of us are immune from life's challenges and tragedies.

Probate judges are elected and serve four-year terms. I am proud to be the Democratic candidate. Probate is the only position that is not political. Although I am unopposed, I ask for your vote. Your vote is your voice of approval of my job performance, and expression of your desire for me to continue serving as your probate judge.

I am thankful to my constituents and the Colchester Democratic Town Committee for your support. None of this would have been possible without you. It is my honor to serve as the probate judge for the Windham-Colchester probate district. Please make a plan to vote on Nov. 3rd.

Sincerely,
Honorable George A. Baker
Probate Judge, Windham-Colchester
Probate District

Powering Colchester's Future

To the Editor:

Imagine turning 17 acres of underutilized industrial land into a self-sustaining engine for Colchester's financial future. The data center proposal on Old Amston Road represents a rare, forward-looking opportunity for our town, one we cannot afford to dismiss without looking at the facts.

Rather than overburdening our local power grid, this facility incorporates an on-site 10-megawatt fuel cell system to generate its own clean power. Additionally, modern closed-loop cooling technologies ensure zero continuous impact on our water supply. This is high-tech development engineered with environmental responsibility at its core.

Beyond environmental design, the economic benefits for taxpayers are substantial. Through a long-term Host Municipality Fee Agreement enabled by state law, Colchester stands to gain significant annual non-residential revenue. This predictable income stream can directly fund our public schools, repair town roads, and support emergency services, all while easing the tax burden on everyday homeowners.

Smart economic growth requires balance, not immediate rejection. Let's welcome clean technology, protect our town's fiscal health, and make Colchester a hub for modern innovation.

I urge my fellow residents to attend the upcoming Planning and Zoning Commission meetings, ask constructive questions, and speak up in support of this vital investment in our community's tax base.

Sincerely,
Leah Butterfield – Colchester

More Than Politics

To the Editor:

Our communities have changed considerably over the decades. Steve Weir and I both grew up in Glastonbury. Our families both moved to Hebron and our kids have gone through the RHAM school system together. In this community, families have built lasting friendships through the schools, sports, churches, and volunteer organizations.

These communities are about more than politics. They're about neighbors helping neighbors, parents supporting their kid's activities, and people giving their time to make their towns better places to live.

Steve Weir has been part of the Hebron community for more than 26 years. His involvement has extended well beyond elected office, including church activities, supporting local youth sports, AHM Youth and Family Services, small businesses, our schools, and assisting individual families in times of need.

That history deserves to be considered alongside his legislative record.

Serving in Hartford requires more than simply voting 'yes' or 'no.' Legislation can be complicated, and bills sometimes contain provisions that are unrelated to their stated purpose or carry unintended consequences. Careful scrutiny is not obstruction. Asking difficult questions, examining the details, and considering the consequences are important responsibilities of any legislator.

The increasingly negative tone of this campaign also deserves reflection. Political opponents have every right to disagree about legislation and public policy. We as voters deserve those debates. But campaign advertising that reduces complicated legislative decisions to inflammatory accusations can leave residents with an incomplete understanding of the issues.

Ultimately, a representative's record should be evaluated in its entirety: legislative diligence, accessibility, constituent service, community involvement, and a willingness to listen to people across political lines.

Our district deserves a thoughtful discussion of those qualities and the issues affecting our towns, rather than a campaign dominated by personal attacks.

Brian Tyler – Amston

Note: *Tyler is a member of the Hebron Zoning Board of Appeals but said he is writing as an individual.*

Improve Public Transportation

To the Editor:

Next time you travel through eastern Connecticut, look for how many areas you would be able to travel through safely on foot or bike, or have access to efficient and widely available public transport systems. You'll surely come to the conclusion that there are not nearly enough. Statewide, the CTDOT's crash data recorded 312 transportation-related fatalities in 2024, and 274 transportation-related fatalities in 2025.

The CTDOT has also recently announced Vision Zero (in 2021), with the goal of eliminating all transport-related fatalities and injuries. A great way in which we could aid this plan is by bettering our public transportation systems, with public transit reducing the chance of being in an accident by 90% according to the American Public Transportation Association.

Not only would public transportation systems offer a safer alternative, they would also offer cheaper and more environmentally friendly options for the citizens of this region. With extensive and efficient bus and/or train systems, fares could be cheaper than the costs typically associated with personal vehicles, mainly regarding gas, which has been rising exorbitantly in price in recent years. Also, with fewer cars on the road, there would not be nearly as many carbon emissions produced by our transportation, as public transport can cut CO2 emissions by about 45% per passenger mile according to UCLA Transportation.

If we want to offer healthier alternatives for our towns, region, and even state, bettering our public transportation systems is not just advised, it is a necessity.

Sincerely,
Paolo Uccello – Colchester

Simple Way to Save Money

To the Editor:

Every time Colchester residents toss food scraps into the trash, we are literally burning through taxpayer dollars. As a Colchester resident, I see firsthand how rising municipal transfer station costs impact our community budget, but there is an easy solution right at our fingertips, a dedicated food scrap recycling program.

According to the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, organic waste makes up over 30% of municipal solid waste statewide. Because Connecticut faces severe landfill capacity shortages, shipping our heavy, wet garbage out of state costs Colchester tens of thousands of dollars each year in tipping fees.

Programs highlighted by Sustainable CT show that separating food scraps reduces town waste weight significantly, directly lowering transfer fees and saving taxpayer money. Neighboring towns have already adopted drop-off composting initiatives with great success, turning waste into nutrient rich soil rather than costly garbage.

We do not need a massive overhaul to make a difference, just a dedicated drop-off station at the Colchester Transfer Station to start. I urge the Board of Selectmen and our director of public works to pilot a municipal food scrap recycling program this year. Fellow residents, please attend the next town meeting or email our local officials to support this budget-friendly and common-sense initiative.

Sincerely,
Raphael Antonacci – Colchester

A Desire to Fix the Issues

To the Editor:

My name is Steve Capetta and I have had the privilege of being married to Ellen Paul for over 12 years. Ellen has been community minded the entire time I have known her, from being part of a community volunteer organization 15 years ago when we met to her work today at the Connecticut Library Consortium, where she fights to both keep peoples' access to choose the books they want and make sure libraries and towns aren't forced to pay exorbitant prices for e-books.

Before declaring to run for state representative, Ellen and I used to spend the evenings discussing what was happening in the news after we put our kids to bed. As I am sure everyone else was, we were especially worried about what was happening nationally, especially in Minnesota. We were concerned about what type of world we were raising our daughters in and how much worse things look like they are going to be. Ellen decided she needed to do something about it and started writing letters to her representatives. When she saw a lack of action from Hartford, unlike most of us, myself included, she felt the need to get even more involved. She came to me soon after to discuss her running for state representative.

Ellen isn't politically ambitious; she has a real desire to fix the issues facing our community, from rising prices to the quality and safety of our schools. She is driven by the desire to make the world better for our children, your children, and all of us. I know she is capable of doing this; she is the smartest and hardest-working person I have ever met.

I know Ellen will bring honesty, perseverance, and thoughtful leadership to Hartford. I hope you will join me in voting for Ellen Paul for State Representative of the 55th district.

Steve Capetta – Glastonbury

Reelect Steve Weir!

To the Editor:

Steve has always shown competency, is extremely thorough and takes his responsibilities as our state representative to the next level.

During the campaign season, he has proven over and over that he works for his district. Always kind, always considerate and always willing to listen.

The fact that he reads a bill from page one to the end before he decides what's best for us, shows his commitment.

There's no negativity; just positive results.

Zina Planeta – Marlborough

Why I Support Ellen Paul

To the Editor:

Ellen Paul stands for the issues that matter to me. As a retired UConn faculty member, I understand the importance of public education in training the next generation. Paul is a strong supporter for public education and is endorsed by the Connecticut Education Association, the state's largest organization advocating for teachers and students. She will work to update the Connecticut's Education Cost Sharing formula so that it will strengthens public schools and provides meaningful tax relief for local families. Eastern Connecticut is blessed with farms, forests, lakes and protected open space. Paul supports preservation of our natural resources by thoughtful and well-planned development.

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

Sincerely,
James Cole – Andover

Supports Rosenfeld

To the Editor:

I have gotten to know Meghan Rosenfeld as we both serve on East Hampton's Commission on Aging. Meghan's commitment to public service runs deep. She has also served as a former victim advocate for domestic violence survivors and as a volunteer EMS responder.

Meghan has a master's in education, and has worked as a teacher as well as a school administrator. She understands educational institutions from the ground up. She has a clear plan to fix the broken Education Cost Sharing (ECS) formula to relieve our local property tax burden, ensure state funding for teacher training in the science of reading to solve our literacy crisis and raise the minimum wage for hard-working para-educators.

Meghan has also actively advocated for affordable housing options for our seniors as their property taxes skyrocket on fixed incomes. Affordable housing allows our young adults to stay in East Hampton as well.

Meghan brings heart, expertise, a rigorous problem-solving approach to public office and an incredible amount of energy. Join me in supporting Meghan Rosenfeld for our 34th District State Representative.

Cindy Craig – East Hampton

Note: *Craig is vice chair of the East Hampton Commission on Aging, but said she is speaking as a private citizen.*

Two Excellent Women for CT

To the Editor:

This letter is in support of two tireless workers, state Sen. Cathy Osten and Ellen Paul.

Senator Osten has been our state senator for the 19th District for the past 14 years. She has been instrumental in helping Hebron through several projects that she has appropriated money to: $2 million for a generator for RHAM High School to make it a Regional Emergency Shelter, $500,000 to offset the cost of a new fire truck, sidewalks in Hebron Center and around RHAM, and $1,00,000 to replace lead water pipes in Hebron Elementary School. She listens to the needs of our town, as she does in every town in the 19th District. Her attention to what we need makes our towns better places to live in. Her work at the State Capitol has created energy assistance programs, funding for veterans, manufacturing jobs, special-needs children, seniors and making sure every child in the State has breakfast waiting for them in their school. This is just a partial listing. Senator Osten fights daily to make Connecticut a better place to live for everyone.

Ellen Paul decided to run for the 55th District House of Representatives because she wants to make a difference. She is a person who brings consensus to groups in her role as executive director of the Connecticut Library Consortium. Ellen plans to bring that skill with her to the Capitol. She has already been instrumental in advocating for laws such as Connecticut's content/e-book laws that protect our libraries from unfair publishing contracts. She is ready to fight for lower property taxes, protecting our public schools, and defending our right to read materials that we want to read. Ellen will champion women's health issues if elected. In Ellen's quest for the 55th District House Seat she has knocked on over 5,000 doors to mee the voters in her district.

Sen. Cathy Osten and candidate Ellen Paul deserve your vote on Nov. 3rd. Please vote for them.

Maryanne Leichter – Amston

Weir Open About Stance

To the Editor:

I have known Steve Weir for about five years and over that relatively short period I have learned much about him and his values. Steve has lived in Hebron for more than two decades and was elected in November 2022 to represent Andover, Bolton, Glastonbury, Hebron and Marlborough. He isn't a career politician. He's a former small business owner and understands how State policy impacts people who employ our friends and neighbors while balancing budgets and watching expenses. And as the Ranking Republican on the Labor & Public Employees Committee, he provides real insight on legislative changes that can build a better economic climate and create more jobs in Connecticut. Something we could all be proud of.

Steve is open about where he stands on the issues, which I greatly appreciate. He has opposed state budgets he felt weren't sustainable, and he has spoken out on protecting individual and religious freedoms. You may not agree with him on every issue, but you will always know where he stands and that he will be in the room when the votes are cast.

Join me and vote to re-elect state Rep. Steve Weir on Nov. 3.

Sincerely,
Frank Kolakowski – Marlborough

Your Vote is Your Voice

To the Editor:

Many of us will be watching the national news so closely on election night that our attention may not be as focused on the races happening closer to home in our great state of Connecticut. Sometimes, Connecticut voters express that their vote doesn't count for much because some outcomes feel predestined. These sentiments could be no further from the truth. Strong winning margins demonstrate the public support behind an elected official, which is very important when it comes time to get things done. Many races are closer than people realize and even when there's a clear leader going into Election Day, anything can happen.

In 2006, Congressman Joe Courtney flipped our district by 83 votes. We need to send him back to Washington to fight corruption in our name. Also on the Democratic line, we have Gov. Lamont and Lt. Gov. Bysiewicz seeking reelection, along with our strong team of incumbent constitutional officers, to keep Connecticut a leader in affordability, education, healthcare, innovation, and citizens' rights. Our wonderful state Sen. Norm Needleman needs to go back to Hartford to keep fighting high utility prices. Colchester's own George Baker has firmly secured his position as a well-respected judge of probate. Our Democratic registrar of voters Sara Mussen is on the ballot to continue protecting our ballots in times like no other.

The race most closely up for grabs is that for 48th District State Representative. A new face, Bob Fernandez, is looking to join Norm in bringing more state funding to Colchester, Bozrah, Lebanon, and Franklin. A combat veteran, Bob served 20+ years in the US Navy before becoming an employee union negotiator fighting for families like ours. His race is tight and every vote will make a difference. You can learn more about him at bobfernandez.com or even better, check out his insert in this edition of the *Rivereast*.

In Colchester, polls will be open at each of the three district polling places from 6 a.m.-8 p.m. on Election Day. Please make a plan to vote. Your vote is your voice and every vote matters.

Sincerely,
Monica Swyden, Chair
Colchester Democratic Town Committee

Your Vote Counts

To the Editor:

Connecticut needs major realignment. Our state has become unaffordable for far too many families. We need balance in Hartford, something we have not had in years. Good legislation comes from listening, debating, and considering ideas from both sides of the aisle. When so many voices feel unheard, it is time for a change in leadership to take this state in a better direction.

I support Line B, including Mark DeCaprio for State Representative, Charles Ferraro for State Senate, and Ryan Fazio for Governor. Along with the rest of the Line B team, they offer an opportunity to bring fresh and proven ideas, greater accountability, and a renewed focus on all the people of Connecticut.

Families are struggling with the cost of just living in Connecticut, high electric bills, and the growing burden of simply making ends meet. It's time for a change so people can prosper. We need leadership willing to challenge the status quo, remove the red tape for businesses, ask tough questions, and put residents ahead of special interests. Connecticut deserves transparency, fiscal responsibility, and common-sense solutions.

This midterm election is about more than individual candidates. It is about the future direction of our state and whether we are willing to demand better from our government. We don't need more of the same. We need a willingness to listen, work together, and make decisions that put Connecticut residents first.

John Thomas – Colchester

Note: *Thomas is a member of the Colchester Board of Education, but is speaking as an individual.*

Support for Steve Weir

To the Editor:

I have known Steve Weir for more than 30 years, having grown up in the same town. As fellow small-business owners, we understand firsthand the challenges of operating a business in Connecticut, including navigating complex government regulations, managing rising costs, remaining financially viable, and keeping employees on the payroll. This practical experience is invaluable when shaping public policy and making decisions in Hartford.

Strong, growing businesses are essential to Connecticut's economic health and the prosperity of its residents. High taxes and burdensome regulations have made it increasingly difficult for businesses to succeed, prompting some companies to relocate to states with a more favorable business climate. Connecticut needs leadership that understands these challenges and recognizes that a thriving economy benefits everyone.

Steve also brings valuable experience from his career as a police officer. He understands the challenges facing our first responders and what they need from government to protect our communities effectively. The willingness to put one's life on the line to protect others speaks volumes about a person's character, dedication, and commitment to public service. Steve also understands the devastating impact violent crime can have on a family. He recognizes the importance of holding criminals accountable and pursuing policies that protect innocent people from becoming victims.

Raising a family in Connecticut is neither easy nor inexpensive. Steve understands that every tax increase and unfunded mandate imposed by the state ultimately affects household budgets. Families are working hard to manage the rising costs of everyday life, including housing, groceries, and utilities. They deserve leadership that respects their hard work, takes their financial concerns seriously, and works to make Connecticut a more affordable place to live and raise a family.

I believe it is time to take a serious look at our state's direction and consider a different approach. Connecticut needs policies that encourage economic growth, support working families, strengthen public safety, and make our state more competitive.

If you want a Connecticut with more affordable utility costs, lower taxes, a stronger business climate, safer communities, and an economy that attracts families and employers rather than driving them away, I encourage you to support Steve Weir's reelection.

Dave Hewett – Andover

Understanding the Issues

To the Editor:

As Connecticut voters prepare for the upcoming election, it is worth taking a closer look at the political parties represented on our ballots, including the Working Families Party (WFP).

A party's name does not always tell the full story of its political philosophy. Understanding its platform, priorities, and policy positions can help voters make decisions that best reflect their values and concerns for their communities.

For Colchester voters, several areas deserve consideration:

Public Safety: What are the Working Families Party's positions on police funding, law enforcement, and approaches to public safety?

Immigration: What policies does the party support regarding Connecticut's TRUST Act and state-funded services for undocumented immigrants?

Business and Jobs: How does the party view the role of business organizations, such as the Connecticut Business and Industry Association (CBIA), in shaping state economic policy and creating jobs?

Federal Immigration Enforcement: What is the party's position on federal immigration enforcement and the future role of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)?

Local Control and Zoning: What approach does the party favor regarding local zoning regulations, housing development, and the authority of Connecticut towns to make decisions about their own communities?

These issues affect our daily lives, from public safety and economic opportunity to taxes, housing, and the future of local government.

The Working Families Party has a progressive platform. Voters who generally favor more moderate or conservative policies may wish to examine how its positions compare with their own views. At the same time, it is important to consider each candidate's individual record, priorities, and commitments rather than relying solely on a party affiliation.

I encourage Colchester residents to visit the Working Families Party's official website, review its platform, and learn about the candidates appearing on its ballot line. Comparing the positions of all candidates is a valuable part of being an informed voter.

Elections provide an opportunity to shape the future of our towns and our state. Taking the time to understand the policies and priorities behind each party's name can help ensure that our choices reflect what matters most to us.

An informed vote is a meaningful vote. Know the candidates, understand the issues, and vote according to your convictions.

Rich Tanner – Colchester

Paul Will Make a Difference

To the Editor:

Before the campaign signs come down, it is worth asking a simple question: what do we actually want from the people we send to Hartford?

Ellen Paul, running for state representative in the 55th District, has given the clearest answer I have heard in years: "Elected office should be public service, not a lifetime job or an opportunity for personal profit." Those are her words, and her platform matches them. She supports reasonable term limits. She would bar legislators from trading individual stocks while in office. She would have every legislator hold regular public town halls in the towns they represent, so that answering to voters is a habit, not a campaign-season performance.

It fits everything else in her career. Ellen is a librarian and nonprofit executive who leads the Connecticut Library Consortium, working with more than 1,000 libraries of every kind to improve services and save taxpayers money. She served on Congressman Joe Courtney's staff. She has spent her working life listening, building coalitions, and delivering results without drama.

We spend a lot of energy every fall arguing about who politicians are. Here is a candidate telling us plainly what the job is, and volunteering to be held to it. That is what public service should look like. On Nov. 3, I am voting for Ellen Paul, and I hope you will look at her yourself: ellenforstaterep.com.

Sincerely,
Marcus Wilkinson – Marlborough

What Is It About Ellen?

To the Editor:

I have asked myself what is it that makes me so sure Ellen Paul should represent the 55th in the state legislature. To be sure, she is outgoing, lovely, warm and friendly. It is a pleasure to engage when she knocks on the door to seek your vote. But in no way would that be enough.

It is the thoughtful and thought-provoking content of her message. You know what she stands for.

She has spoken at length to the legislature to affect policy. She has been successful in keeping libraries free to get e-books and keeping books on the shelves that others would ban. She acts on the belief that citizens should be free to read.

She is committed to her efforts to modernize Connecticut's education cost sharing formula so it actually reflects today's costs and results in real property tax relief for us.

She has proven herself to be a leader who brings people together for the common good and achieves benefit for everyone. She listens, cares, and acts. She sincerely wants to be a voice for our five towns.

She is a fierce believer in voting rights and is committed to making the ability to vote safe, convenient and accessible.

Above all, Ellen is clear and direct in stating her beliefs, intentions, and reasoning.

It is no wonder the Connecticut Education Association and the Connecticut Working Families Party have endorsed Ellen Paul. By my one vote, I will endorse her too.

Sincerely,
Ann Terezakis – Marlborough

We Need a Homegrown Leader

To the Editor:

East Hampton and our neighbors in East Haddam and Salem need a homegrown leader to be our voice in the 34th District, and that leader is Melissa Ziobron.

Melissa is not new to the district. She was born and raised here, and she stayed to raise her own family here too. She has a lifetime of experience, both professionally and personally, as our lifelong neighbor with a proven record of service to the community.

Melissa knows we need her voice to push back against financial hardships caused by high taxes, state mandates, and the policies in Hartford. She knows we need more discipline at the state level when it comes to spending, to wisely use our hard-earned money to focus on core needs.

Melissa will represent all of us in Hartford without regard for special interest groups or personal ambitions. She knows our community needs her to help keep local decisions free from bureaucrats in Hartford seeking to overrule local authority and the will of the people. Melissa will work to protect local voices in all matters, to include education and land use decisions.

Melissa knows we need a friend and neighbor who understands firsthand the importance of our district's quality of life and unique character, and that we need a voice who will work to preserve it. Melissa is that voice.

Melissa knows that state government is supposed to work for us, and when elected she will remind those in the halls of power in Hartford of that fact. She will strive to make the state government easier to understand, harder to abuse and more responsive to all of us.

Melissa Ziobron is the obvious choice. Please join me in voting for Melissa for State Rep of the 34th District, either through ongoing early voting, or on Election Day.

Bryon Turner – East Hampton

No Data Centers for Us

To the Editor:

ReNew Developers (CMMD LLC) is exploring a zone change on a 17.15-acre parcel on 42 Old Amston Road so they can build a "sustainable" data center and a fuel cell facility and rack space. They want to build 2 buildings, one "initial" building sized at 20,000 sq feet. I don't know how big the other one would be but should the Zone be changed, the developer would be able to expand over time. This information is available on the internet by using the phrase "data center Colchester."

Our First Selectman Bernie Dennler has presented the facts on his Facebook page. I have not attended a Planning and Zoning meeting to hear the developers' details. Maps show the property is located just before the turn to the dog park and dump. Judd Brook runs down the middle of the parcel, and I would like to know if this or the water from the nearby marsh will be affected. I am against the zone change not only because it does not fit into Colchester's overall plan of growth, but I think it will open a floodgate of developers along Old Amston Road feeling they, too, should be entitled to a similar zone change.

I believe in Colchester's residents and our town leaders. It's up to us to carefully determine whether this dramatic change in Zoning is in our town's best interest.

H. Jean Smith – Colchester

Thanks to Blackledge Country Club

To the Editor:

Special Olympics Team RHAM would like to take this opportunity to thank Bill Anderson and the staff at Blackledge Country Club for hosting a wonderful golf tournament for the golfers and their unified partners from Colchester, South Central Shoreline, and Team RHAM Special Olympics Sunday, Oct. 26th.

The weather couldn't have been better, and all the athletes had a great time! They enjoyed the golf, getting medals, and the dinner following the tournament. Most importantly, it was a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with old friends and make some new ones.

We are truly fortunate to have an organization like Blackledge Country Club in our community that generously supports our athletes and brings people together through such special events.

Once again, we extend our heartfelt thanks to Bill Anderson and his entire staff for making this tournament such a memorable experience for everyone involved. Your generosity and support mean so much to our athletes and the Special Olympics community!

Rose Kalisz, Local Coordinator
Team RHAM Special Olympics

Ellen, Due Nov. 3

To the Editor:

In September I wrote here about the librarians who shaped my life, and said that November 3 would give me the chance to hand something back. That day is nearly here, so let me finish the story with what I've learned about Ellen Paul since.

She never expected to run for office. She was raised, she says, to believe that citizenship means more than voting, and that when you can make a difference, you step forward. She grew up in Mansfield and lives in Glastonbury with her husband and two daughters, and she has been stepping forward for years.

She spent four years working with a Republican senator, Tony Hwang, on a library e-book bill. When it passed the Senate 35 to 1 in 2025, she said she was "just overjoyed that we finally got it across the finish line." That same year she helped pass the freedom-to-read law, which she says protects a library's ability to carry the Bible as much as books about gender identity. In May, Library Journal named her one of its Movers and Shakers.

That is the habit I want in Hartford: find the people who disagree with you, listen, and get the work done anyway.

Her plans are practical. Modernize the school funding formula, untouched since 2013, so property taxes stop covering the gap. Build homes that teachers, nurses and young families can afford. Put ratepayers first on electric bills. Keep our farms and forests, because, as she puts it, some things can be rebuilt but our green places are gone forever once they're gone. And require legislators to hold regular public town halls in the towns they represent.

She also believes some votes should be easy. Protecting children. Keeping seniors safe. When those bills come up, she promises to ask one question: does this make life better and safer for the people of the 55th? If so, she votes yes.

Early voting runs through Sunday, Nov. 1. On Tuesday, Nov. 3, polls are open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m., and you can even register that day. Everything you need is at myvote.ct.gov.

More than once, a librarian handed me the right book at the right moment. On Tuesday, we can hand one the right job. Please vote for 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.*

Character Matters

To the Editor:

I have known Steve Weir and his family for five years, ever since our daughters played volleyball together. I have come to know Steve as a genuinely good person whose character and values I respect. While I am proud to call him a friend, my support for his re-election to the state House of Representatives goes beyond our personal connection. It is based on who he is and the leadership he brings to his role.

When choosing a candidate, I look at character, values, and what that person stands for. I want someone honest, transparent, respectful, and committed to doing the job.

Throughout this campaign, Steve has remained focused on his constituents. Steve is willing to discuss his positions and voting record with anyone who asks. Voters should judge him on his record, not inflammatory labels.

As a machine shop owner, I appreciate Steve's appointment to the Connecticut Career Pathways Commission, recognizing his industry experience and business expertise. The commission connects schools, higher education, workforce boards, and employers to address talent pipeline gaps. Having experienced the difficulty of finding skilled tradespeople firsthand, I am grateful Steve is helping create student opportunities while supporting Connecticut businesses and industries.

I have also heard claims that Steve does not care about senior citizens. In 2026, he introduced three bills proposing tax relief: HB 5104 concerning meals purchased from restaurants, caterers, and grocery stores; HB 5105 exempting residential handicap ramps from sales and use taxes; and HB 5106 exempting hospital beds used for home health care from those taxes. The latter two proposals are particularly relevant to older adults, people with disabilities, and families caring for loved ones. Though these were proposals, they address practical concerns affecting Connecticut residents.

Elections should be about character, experience, ideas, and a willingness to work—not political labels or personal attacks. Steve brings the integrity, respect, and practical experience our state needs. I encourage voters to look beyond the rhetoric and reelect Steve Weir.

Sincerely,
Laura Zito – Marlborough

Money Should Follow Child

To the Editor:

Some of the candidates running believe public dollars belong in public schools. Having children in both public and private schools, I believe the money should follow the child.

Every child deserves the opportunity to receive a quality education. Yet in Connecticut, a student's educational opportunity depends primarily on where their family lives and affordability. Families should have the freedom to choose the educational setting that best fits their child's learning style, challenges and family priorities.

A key argument is school choice takes resources away from traditional public schools. However, supporting school choice does not mean abandoning public education. Instead, Connecticut should pursue policies that improve neighborhood schools while giving families meaningful alternatives when their assigned schools do not meet their children's needs.

Competition and accountability are key benefits of school choice. In almost every other area of life, competition encourages improved products, better service and responds to the needs of their customers. Education should be no different. When parents have meaningful options, schools have a greater incentive to build strong academic/innovative programs, strengthen curriculum, support teachers, communicate with families and improve educational quality.

With Connecticut spending significantly more per student ($26,316 U.S. Census Bureau, fiscal 2024) than the national average ($17,619), it is worth examining whether expanded school choice could improve educational opportunities while controlling costs. Connecticut ranks 4th highest in the nation in public-school spending per student, yet its 2024 NAEP academic performance does not rank among the top four states across reading and mathematics (Grade 4 math/reading rank 15th/13th; Grade 8 math/reading rank 18th/9th). While Connecticut students perform above national averages, the gap between the state's high spending and its relative academic rankings raises legitimate questions about educational efficiency, accountability, and whether taxpayers are getting the results they deserve.

Jenn Jennings' Board of Education background, commitment to parental involvement, educational accountability, and responsible spending suggests she would be receptive to exploring school-choice policies in Connecticut. As a potential state senator, Jenn could champion policies that give families more educational options, encourage innovation and accountability among schools, and ensure taxpayers receive the greatest possible value for their education dollars.

Marlise Davis – Glastonbury

Note: *Jenn Jennings is running for the Fourth Senate District, which covers Andover, Bolton, Manchester and Glastonbury.*

See Letters, page 32

Obituaries

East Hampton

Dorothy Lukse



Dorothy (Dotty) Lukse (Jones), 95, lived life in full color, especially cobalt blue until she peacefully left us on Monday, Sept. 28. Born and raised in Mystic, Dorothy was the daughter of Marcus and Florence Jones.

In her perfectly coordinated outfits and curly perms, she was always planning or attending the next holiday, birthday or special occasion with family, extended family, and friends. Her mac and cheese in the big yellow bowl or her famous Rhode Island clam chowder was usually on the menu for everyone to enjoy.

There was always a yard sale, consignment shop or flea market to support her love of decorating her home every season and holiday. Music was a big part of her life and she made sure if Neil Diamond, Kenny Rogers or Journey wasn't playing, she'd be enjoying her kids and their friends singing their songs.

Dorothy is survived by her children Gregory Doughty of Pawcatuck, Judith Bradway of East Hampton, Tammy Moynihan of Hope Valley, R.I., and stepchild Larry Doughty of Erie, Pa. Grandchildren include Sebastian Doughty of Utah, Casey Moynihan of Groton, Erin Gannon of Johnston, R.I., Benjamin Gannon of East Hampton, and great-grandchild Cypress Moynihan.

She was predeceased by her siblings, Marcus Jones, John Jones, Marilyn Faulise, and Patricia Place, and her husbands, Robert Doughty, Leland Duerr and Robert Lukse.

At the request of Dorothy, a private ceremony will be held.

Marlborough

Robert A. Schweizer



Robert A. Schweizer, 71, of Marlborough, passed away at St. Francis Hospital in Hartford on Friday, Oct. 23, surrounded by his beloved family. Born in Hartford Dec. 8, 1954, he was the son of the late Arnold and Doris (White) Schweizer. Robert grew up in Rocky Hill and graduated from high school in 1973.

On May 4, 2002, Robert married the love of his life, Gloria Moon. Together, they made their home in Marlborough and shared a love of travel, with trips to Pennsylvania Amish Country among Robert's fondest memories.

Robert enjoyed a long and successful career in food service, retiring as a district manager. He found pleasure in dining out, enjoying good food, and spending time with family and friends at gatherings and special events. Although Robert and Gloria did not have children of their own, one of his greatest joys was spending time with his many nieces and nephews. He cherished being part of their lives and sharing in their milestones, celebrations, and special moments.

Above all, Robert will be remembered for his deep and unwavering love and devotion to Gloria, his beloved wife and best friend. He will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him, especially Gloria, his wife of 24 years; his sister, Jean Goff, her husband, John; and his many extended family members and friends.

In addition to his parents, Robert was predeceased by his sister, Sharon Schweizer.

Funeral services will be held Friday, Oct. 30, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. Calling hours will be held from 9 to 11 a.m., followed by a celebration of life at 11 a.m. at the funeral home. Burial will follow at New Lebanon Cemetery on Waterman Road.

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

Andover

Judi Izikewicz



Jude, Judi, Ma, Nama – she was so many things to so many people, and she had a way of making each person feel loved. Her animated personality touched countless lives, and her passing leaves an immeasurable emptiness in the hearts of all who knew her. On Saturday, Oct. 24, exactly one month before her 82nd birthday, she passed peacefully in her sleep and was reunited in heaven with her best friend, partner in crime, and soulmate, Randy.

Judi grew up in Hartford, the daughter of the late Eva (McGee) and Royal W. Hanson and sister of the late Willis Hanson. She also treasured the countless days she spent visiting family along the Richelieu River in Canada, especially time with her cousin Ann Keegan, who was more like a sister.

Throughout her life she was active in the lives of her children and grandchildren. She leaves behind her daughter, Kimberly "KC" Vaillancourt, and her husband, Dave, of Sutton, Mass.; her son, Steve Willard and his wife, Celeste, of Andover; and her son Josh Willard and his wife, Cheri, of Lamoine, Maine. She proudly carried the beloved name "Nama," given to her by her grandchildren Nicholas, Joshua and his wife Olivia, Jacob, Evan, Sophia, and great-granddaughter Khloe.

Some of Judi's happiest moments were spent in her garden, at the beach, or on the boat. She and Randy filled their years together with adventures both near and far—from their afternoon coffee outing to month-long cruises, countless trips into the bay from Pamet Harbor, and frequent visits to their camp in Maine. Together they fished and dug for clams on the flats of Cape Cod and watched moose and bear wander past as they sat side by side on the porch in Maine. Their black labs – Jake, Bubba, Bart, and most recently Cooper – were cherished companions on many of these journeys. Wherever the road led, Judi was happiest simply because she was with Randy.

After Randy passed, Judi shared a poem by Doug Craven that beautifully expressed the depth of their love: "The moment that you left me my heart was split in two. One side was filled with memories, the other side died with you. I often lie awake at night when the world is fast asleep and take a walk down memory lane with tears upon my cheek. Remembering you is, easy I do it every day; but missing you is heartache that never goes away. I hold you tightly within my heart and there you will remain. You see life has gone on without you but will never be the same."

Those words carried the love and longing she held for him every day. Although her family and friends will miss her more than words can say, they find comfort in knowing that Judi and Randy are together once more – reunited with the love of her life and, at last, happy again.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in her name to Cape Cod VNA Hospice, support.givetocapecodhealth.org/donate. A celebration of life will be held in the spring.

Colchester

Donna Marie Mildrum



Donna Marie Mildrum of Colchester died Monday, Oct. 12, at Hartford Hospital, with her family by her side after a courageous fight with cancer. She was born Aug. 16, 1961, in New London to Jacquelyn and Louis Mildrum.

She grew up in Lyme with her younger siblings, Joyce and Michael. Donna attended Lyme/Old Lyme schools, graduating from high school in 1979. She was studious, smart, and was always reading a book or listening to music. Donna developed her lifelong love of the arts, drawing, and music during her childhood and adolescent years. She collected many albums in her youth, with David Cassidy and the Partridge Family being her early favorites. One of her favorite stories was about a new owner of one of her albums tracking her down and sending her a Facebook message because her name was on the record; he wanted to compliment her taste in music.

Donna was a talented artist, and she nurtured her love of the arts by attending the Harris School of Art in Franklin, Tennessee, and later Central Connecticut State University in New Britain, where she made lifelong friends. Donna worked for many years at the Wadsworth Atheneum in Hartford before starting her career in human resources, retiring from Fiserv in 2023.

She will be remembered for her sharp wit, high intellect, and sarcasm. Despite being a self-proclaimed cynic and curmudgeon, she was anything but. She was a closet optimist, the first to cry at a beautiful song, feel moved by a piece of art, and be touched by literature. She was passionate about the things she liked, joining fan clubs for her favorite musical artists, where she met many of her dearest friends. She had an eclectic and impassioned taste, with her favorites ranging from Josh Groban to Puddles Pity Party to Led Zeppelin to Hozier. She loved to introduce others to her favorite shows, movies, and music, but she loved to travel the most. She especially enjoyed her numerous visits to Ireland, and her beloved family and friends joined her on every visit.

Donna also loved music and literature, with a special fondness for theater and movies. She had an amazing knowledge of artists, actors, and movies, all of which she would proudly voice her opinion on and come in clutch with during trivia contests. Everyone knew to leave the movie and theater questions to Donna; that was a sure path to victory. She was especially fond of old black-and-white movies, an opinion she attempted to convey to her family. She was always the DJ and took no suggestions – she played what she wanted.

Donna loved her nieces and nephews deeply and fiercely, and she was passionate about exposing them to the arts and culture. She had a special bond with her nephew Christopher, and was instrumental in raising him. Donna showed up to every sports game, graduation, event, celebration, no questions asked and with no hesitation. For her nieces and nephews, she was always there: a constant figure who brought nothing but love, pride, and support.

In July 2024, Donna was diagnosed with cancer. She faced this diagnosis with her usual disposition: sarcasm and cynicism. She was brave and strong, and she never let her diagnosis dull her biting wit. Her diagnosis propelled Donna to accomplish a lifelong desire to adopt a dog, and she brought her adored black lab Niamh home in 2025.

Donna was artistic, eclectic, and brave. She loved fiercely and followed her passions with no inhibitions. She was independent and deeply compassionate. There will forever be a place for her at the Sunday dinner table. She will be profoundly missed by everyone who loved her.

Donna was preceded in death by her mother, Jacquelyn Kiefer Mildrum. Donna is survived by her father, Louis Mildrum; her sister, Joyce Johnson, and brother-in-law John; her nieces and nephews, Scott, Pamela, Alvan, Christopher, Avery, Hanna, and Terrance; her brother, Michael Mildrum, and nephew, Christopher; her great-niece Willow and great-nephew Jaidyn; her dear college friend, Rose Lamoureux; her lifelong friend, Rachel Taylor; and her dog, Niamh.

The family invites Donna's friends to a celebration of life on Sunday, Nov. 8, beginning at 1 p.m. at Lyme Public Hall, 482 Hamburg Rd., Lyme. We'll wear green and share our favorite memories of an unforgettable person.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests that donations be made to Connecticut Public Radio, Connecticut Public Television or your favorite animal shelter.

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

★ *Letters, cont. from page 31*

Connecticut Needs a Reboot!

To the Editor:

Connecticut needs change. Our state has become unaffordable for far too many families, and it is time to take a hard look at how Hartford is operating. Connecticut needs a reboot!

We need balance in our state leadership. When one party holds so much power, where is the balance? Where is the opportunity for ideas from both sides of the aisle? Good legislation should come from listening, debating, and working together. Our residents deserve representation, regardless of political affiliation.

That is why I support Line B. From Mark DeCaprio for the 48th District State Representative, to Charles Ferraro for state Senate, to Ryan Fazio for Governor, this team represents an opportunity for change at every level of state leadership. While these candidates are among the names I want to highlight, they are part of a broader slate of individuals stepping forward to serve Connecticut. Every candidate on Line B has a role to play in bringing new ideas, greater balance, and accountability to Hartford. Our state needs that collective effort.

Mark DeCaprio consistently connects with his constituents and keeps their concerns at the forefront of his decisions. We need representatives who listen to the people they serve and bring those concerns to Hartford.

I believe Charles Ferraro offers an opportunity for a different approach in the State Senate. I was present on the Senate floor when legislation involving Second Amendment rights and medical freedom passed amid a clear division along party lines. Witnessing those votes firsthand reinforced my concerns about whether the voices of all constituents are being adequately represented.

Gov. Ned Lamont has had eight years in office. Yet Connecticut families continue to struggle with affordability, including the burden of high electric bills. Residents deserve transparency about the Public Benefits charge on their electric bills and any changes to it. These costs affect real families and businesses, and we deserve clear answers.

Connecticut needs a team willing to challenge the status quo, rethink policies that aren't working, and put residents ahead of special interests. This election is about more than any one candidate. It is about bringing a team of people to Hartford who will fight for affordability, accountability, and common-sense leadership.

Please vote Line B. Let's bring balance, affordability, and common sense back to Connecticut!

Olivia Duksa, Chairwoman
Colchester Republican Town Committee

Vote Row A, Andover

To the Editor:

On Nov. 3rd, Andover voters will find a full slate on Row A. We are proud of every name on it, and we'd like to tell you why.

For State Representative for the 55th District: Ellen Paul. She has spent her career making a modest budget go a long way, first as director of the East Hampton Library and now as the executive director of the Connecticut Library Consortium, whose contracts are used by libraries in all 169 Connecticut towns! In 2025, Ellen worked with legislators of both parties to pass two state library laws. Congressman Joe Courtney, who has known her for 20 years, says, "Ellen will bring integrity to Hartford, and much-needed resources back to the district." She is endorsed by the Connecticut Education Association, the state's largest organization advocating for teachers and students.

For State Senator: MD Rahman. MD came to this country with little more than a dream, and he knows what it means to stretch every penny. In Hartford, he helped pass one of the largest tax

See Letters, page 34

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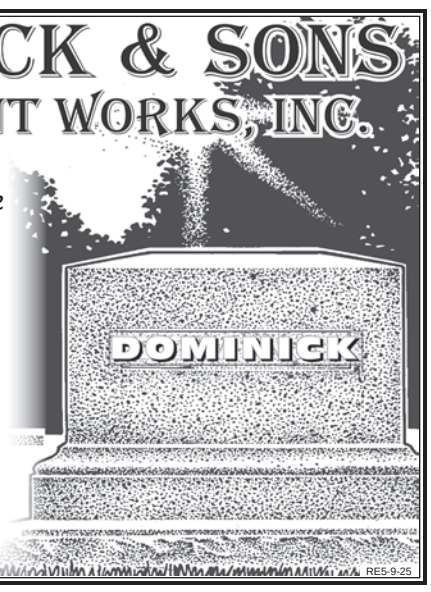
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RE5-9-25

Rivereast Standout Athletes of the Week

By Josh Howard

Morgan McCarthy – RHAM High School (Soccer): McCarthy netted a hat trick as the Raptors rallied to defeat E.O. Smith, 4-2, on Senior Night (Oct. 20). McCarthy, a senior captain, was assisted on her three goals by Milayna Daley, Ellie Sementa, and Giuliana McLaughlin. McLaughlin also had a goal, which was assisted by Liana Fox. On Tuesday, the team closed the regular season with a 4-0 shutout of Windsor as McCarthy scored a goal and dished out two assists. McLaughlin scored twice and Sementa added the other goal as the Raptors wrapped up the regular season with a record of 10-6. Next up is the Class M state tourney, set to begin Friday, Nov. 6.

Liv Correia – East Hampton High School (Soccer): Correia scored four goals and doled out two assists last week as the Bellringers won three more games, wrapping up an undefeated (15-0) regular season. Correia, a senior captain, first scored a goal as the Bellringers topped RHAM 2-1 last Wednesday at EHHS. The following day, she scored twice and served up a helper during a 4-0 win at Northwestern Regional High School and then added a goal and an assist in a 3-0 victory over Bacon Academy in Colchester. East Hampton now eyes a conference title after earning a bye in the first round of Shoreline Conference (SLC) tourney. The Bellringers, the No. 1 seed, now begin tourney play tonight when they welcome No. 5 Haddam-Killingworth to EHHS for a game at 4 p.m.

Remy Wilson – Portland High School (Soccer): Wilson scored the game-winning goal as the Highlanders took down Bolton 1-0 last Thursday. Wilson, a senior, was assisted on the goal by Tyler Fournier as Portland won their seventh game of the season. It was the team's second straight win, also beating Cheney Tech last Monday as Wilson scored a goal and had an assist. Fournier also tallied a goal and an assist, while Aidan Currie found the back of the net twice. Portland now preps for the Class S state tourney, set to begin Friday, Nov. 6.

Cadence Hlasyszyn – Bacon Academy (Soccer): Hlasyszyn was named the Player of the Game after scoring a goal during the Bobcats 3-0 win over Leyard last Thursday as Bacon Academy won the ALS Soccer Cup at Ledyard High School. Hlasyszyn, a junior, powered an offense that also got goals from Violet Melino and Quinn Guntulis. On Tuesday, the team wrapped up the regular season with a 3-0 victory over Montville, upping their record to 8-5-3.

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.



RHAM High School senior Morgan McCarthy (No. 11) scored three goals as the Raptors rallied for a Senior Night victory on Oct. 20.

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 remaining schedule is:

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.

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.

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.

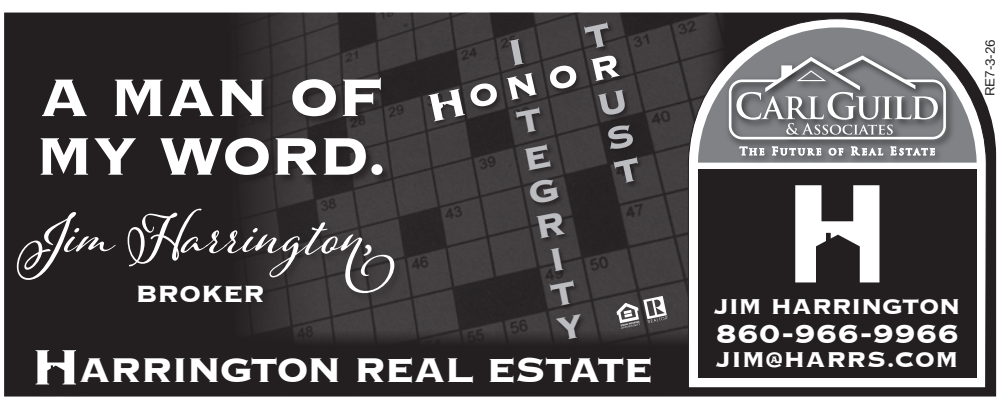
VITA Seeks Volunteers

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.

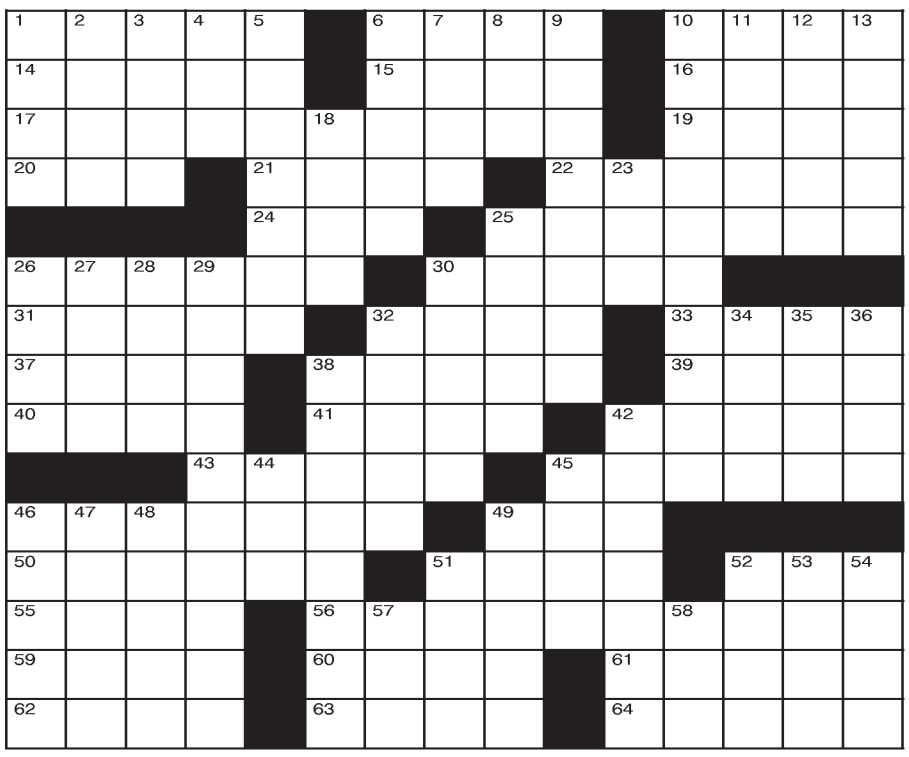
Middlesex County includes the *Rivereast* towns of Portland and East Hampton.

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



SHARP AS A TACK

See Answers, page 24



CREATORS NEWS SERVICE By Neil Manausa

ACROSS

1 Type of dream
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10 Slow flow
14 Popeye's lady
15 No sweat!
16 Foal's parent
17 Mots by members of 38 Across?
19 Pearl Mosque city
20 Wrangler rival
21 Go-getter
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25 Singers like Merman
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30 Anatomical sac
31 Bouquets
32 Actress Hatcher
33 Earring site
37 Riotous Rudner
38 The Brainy Bunch?
39 Psych I studies
40 Opponent
41 Short letter?
42 Kind of heap or book
43 Watergate's #1 loser
45 Pastry place
46 Slim margin
49 Play word games
50 Carried on
51 Fem.'s opposite
52 Dwindle
55 HRE emperor
56 Notion by a member of 38 Across
59 AK, once
60 Yorkshire river
61 Spurs on
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2 Nobelist Wiesel
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4 First lady
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7 Need
8 Inquire
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10 Member of 38 Across?
11 Tidal flood
12 Box score entry
13 Boscs and Bartletts
18 Unfinished
23 Kelly takes two
25 Go bang!
26 Circle dance
27 Loki's lord
28 Rock group, ___ The Hoople
29 Thought by a member of 38 Across?
30 Niger neighbor
32 Coltrane's axe
34 Tough boss
35 Tusker
36 Catch sight of
38 Assortment
42 "The Inner ___"
44 Harry's successor
45 Kind of league
46 Penned
47 Held in contempt
48 State starter
49 Called a beeper
51 Artist Joan
52 Brink
53 A sugar source
54 Finny largemouth
57 "___ Bravo"
58 Pique

TOWN OF COLCHESTER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
LEGAL NOTICE OF AGENT DECISION

Notice is hereby given that on October 23, 2026, the Duly Authorized Agent for the Colchester Conservation Commission made the following decision:
W2026-3149 - Country Place/ Birch Circle; Country Place Redevelopment, LLC - Applicant/ Owner; Assessor's ID 4W-01-014-004, Proposed replacement of bituminous driveways and parking within 75' upland review area. - **APPROVED WITH STANDARD CONDITIONS**
Dated October 23, 2026
Conservation Commission
Falk von Plachecki, Chair
Daniel Hickey, WEO

1TB 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

COLCHESTER HISTORIC
DISTRICT COMMISSION
LEGAL NOTICE

The Historic District Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, November 9, 2026, at 7:00 P.M., via Zoom and in the Town Hall Meeting Room, 127 Norwich Ave., Colchester, CT 06415 to hear and consider the following petition:
Certificate of Appropriateness- HDC COA 2026-005 Bacon Academy Board of Trustees, 35 Hayward Ave – application for expansion of and improvements to the existing parking area.
At this hearing interested parties may be heard and written communications received. A copy of this petition is available for public inspection in the Planning and Zoning Department at Colchester Town Hall, 127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester CT 06415 and may be inspected during regular business hours (8:00 a.m.- 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday)
Historic District Commission
Ellen Sharon, Chair

1TB 10/30

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

★ *Letters, cont. from page 32*

cuts in state history, helped end state taxes on most kinds of retirement income, and helped secure $5.7 million more for schools in his district.

For Congress: Joe Courtney, who has championed lower prescription costs, voted to protect Medicare, led investments in our Navy, and brought good-paying union jobs and federal dollars home to eastern Connecticut.

For Probate Judge: Thomas Robinson, who has focused his legal practice in Manchester on the types of issues addressed by the probate court for almost 30 years.

And for the statewide offices: Governor Ned Lamont, Lieutenant Governor Susan Bysiewicz, Attorney General William Tong, Secretary of the State Stephanie Thomas, Treasurer Erick Russell, and Comptroller Sean Scanlon. Together they have balanced the state budget, cut taxes for seniors, raised the minimum wage, and invested in our public schools.

These are people who show up, do the work, and bring results home to towns like ours.

Early voting runs through Sunday, November 1st. On Tuesday, November 3rd, polls are open 6 a.m. to 8 p.m., and you can register and vote on the same day. Everything you need is at myvote.ct.gov.

However you vote, please vote. We hope you'll vote Row A.

Sincerely,
Shannon O. Louden, Co-Chair
Andover Democratic Committee

Colchester Data Center

To the Editor:

I recently attended a Planning & Zoning Commission meeting in Colchester, where town residents shared their opinions about the possibility of a data center being constructed on Amston Road. People cited environmental/social impacts, and even moral quandaries with AI itself in their short speeches, as reasons not to allow a data center to be built in our area. During this moment of heightened tension and attention surrounding AI data centers, it is important for me to draw attention to a few facts which I find necessary to think critically about this issue – on both global and local levels.

One thing that is important to remember, is that the need for data centers comes from consumer and business usage of AI. We, as frequent users of Google, ChatGPT, and other technology in our schools and on our phones, are contributing to this. While our reasons for not wanting a data center are incredibly valid, it does not exempt us from being part of the problem. A couple of voices I have heard talking about this issue have said that "we just don't need something like that in Colchester," but the question remains, if we use the tech, why shouldn't we have to pay that price? This is not to say that I want a data center in any way, it is to say that we need to be conscious about our energy and data consumption.

On that idea, if a data center isn't built in our community, whose community should it be built in? According to the NAACP, data centers are often put in underserved communities such as poor or Black communities, as a form of "digital redlining." The companies build in the cheapest locations, which often already have things like highways and warehouses. The people in these areas are not necessarily more or less guilty of AI use, yet they suffer the effects of data centers much more frequently. Internationally, the same problem exists. AI data centers are often placed in countries with lax regulations, and cheap land. Many of these countries have very little technology use at all, why should their land be developed to generate the data that Americans use?

There are many ways to reduce our environmental footprints, and it's important to explore them. Before we speak about data centers, we need to examine our own part in this issue, and what it looks like globally.

Charles Mauldin – Colchester

Supporting Steve Weir

To the Editor:

My name is Christopher Aker, and I have lived in Hebron for 21 years with my wife and three children. And I love and respect community members and families for who they are – not their political affiliations. And because I have 400 words to accomplish my support for the re-election of this excellent incumbent Representative of the 55th, I am going to get right to it. And unlike others, I am not going to operate outside of my depth.

Steve has been unfairly attacked for his vote against making marriage illegal for youth under the age of 18. And not just because there was a ton of added garbage in the bill. I have been an assistant attorney general in the Child Protection Division of the OAG for 22 years. Before that I worked as a psychiatric social worker for almost 10 years. First at Garner Correctional Institute then at Riverview Hospital, a DCF hospital for children and youth – before its name was changed to Solnit South, an act of arrogance and disrespect for those who created and named an institution that was once nationally renowned for its clinical excellence and loving care of children and youth with psychiatric and behavioral disturbances.

I have dedicated my career to helping and protecting children and youth and I am an expert in child protection and juvenile law. Although promulgated with the best of intentions, the law prohibiting marriage for those under 18 years of age, is notional at best. This is because, Connecticut, in a wave of progressive initiatives, in some measure related to Miller v. Alabama, a 2012 SCOTUS decision, radically changed its juvenile justice legal framework, to include how "cross-over" children and youth are handled, culminating in 2017, with the evisceration of the Family with Service Needs statute.

Furthermore, in 2018, the Connecticut Juvenile Training School was closed and the jurisdiction, with respect to the disposition of juvenile delinquents, was transferred from DCF Parole to the Judicial Branch. Child abuse and neglect are inextricably linked to juvenile delinquency and out-of-control children and youth. And these changes have produced disastrous consequences for these children and youth. Sex trafficking is rampant and the "under 18" legislation does nothing to address this horrific societal problem.

Children of all ethnicities and sexual orientations, to include transgendered individuals, are precious and deserve to be protected – and sometimes from themselves. Steve embraces this!

Christopher Aker – Hebron

CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION
LEGAL NOTICE of PUBLIC HEARING
November 12, 2026, at 7:00 PM
Senior Center Multi-Purpose Room,
7 Waverly Avenue, Portland, CT 06480

Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §7-191, on **Thursday, November 12, 2026** at **7:00 P.M.** in the Senior Center, the Portland Charter Revision Commission will hold its first Public Hearing before beginning any substantive work to hear public comments, both orally and in writing, on changes to the Charter of the Town of Portland.
Dated at Portland, Connecticut, on the 27 day of October, 2026
Attest: Ralph Zampano, Chairman Portland Charter Revision Commission
1TB 10/30

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TOWN OF HEBRON
SEWER USE LEGAL NOTICE

Sewer Use Bills are due and payable October 1, 2026. The billing rate is $698.00 which may be paid in two equal installments, the first installment being due October 1, 2026, and the second installment being due April 1, 2027.
First Installment payments must be postmarked or received no later than November 2, 2026, to be considered on time with no additional charges. Second Installments must be postmarked or received no later than May 3, 2027. Payments that are unpaid as of November 3, 2026, and May 4, 2027, will be charged with 1.5% interest per month retroactive to the installment due date per State Statute 12-146.
To make payments by check, please make check payable to: Town of Hebron. Payments may be mailed to: Town of Hebron, 15 Gilead Street, Hebron, CT 06248. If desired, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope for a receipt. There is a drop-off box attached to the Town Office Building located next to the entrance on the lower level, south side. In addition, there is a box inside the building located in the hallway between the Tax and Assessor's Office. Payments left in the box after the closure of business will be retrieved the following morning.
The Collector's office is located in the lower level of the Town Hall at 15 Gilead Street. Hours are Monday through Wednesday 8:00am to 4:00pm, Thursday 8:00am to 6:00pm, and Friday 8:00am to 1:00pm.
Please note Monday – Thursday the office is closed for lunch from 12:30pm – 1:15pm.
Respectfully, Revenue Collector
3TB 9/25, 10/9, 10/30

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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WANTED TO BUY: All antiques; toys, military, watches, advertising, jewelry, coins, clocks, signs, all musical instruments, guitars, saxophones, keyboards, trumpets, amplifiers, accordions, vintage electronics, hi-fi stereo, amplifiers, pro-audio, radios, ham equipment, tube type equipment, plus more. 1 item or entire estate. Call 860-707-9350.

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WANTED TO BUY: your sterling silverware, tea set, or any item made of sterling. Top cash price paid on the spot. I can come to your home or meet you at a place of your choosing. Call/text Dominic at 860-836-5013 or email dmbappraisal@sbcglobal.net.

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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.

BEAUTIFUL RANCH-STYLE CONDO FOR RENT: Marlborough. Two bedrooms, one-car garage, ranch-style, single-level living. Convenient access to Route 2. $2,600/monthly. First, last and $1,000 security deposit. Available Dec 1st. Call/text Jason 860-808-6073.

RARE OPPORTUNITY TO LIVE IN: a farm setting in Hebron. HEAT/HOT WATER/ELECTRICITY/TRASH included in rent. $1900.00/month. Peaceful area, cows grazing, manager lives on premises, bright and clean. Close to shopping, golf, fairgrounds. Good credit. No smoking/vaping of any kind. Two parking spaces provided. Please contact Zina Planeta, Coldwell Banker Realty 860-798-6038. Zina.planeta@cbmoves.com. MLS#24207338.

CANDLELIGHT APARTMENTS, GLASTONBURY: RENT NOW, one bedroom available, renovated, first floor. Rent is currently $1,750 per month. Includes heat/hot water, trash, sewer. Onsite storage and assigned parking available. Property is a SMOKE FREE Complex. Please call via text or cell 860-913-6723, Office 860-529-1725.

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RE10-30-26

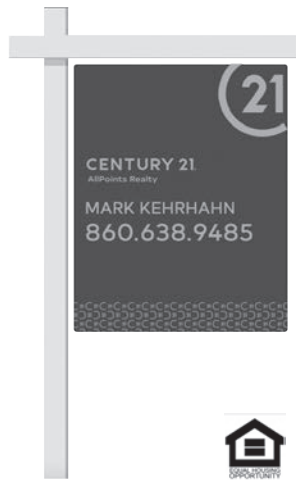
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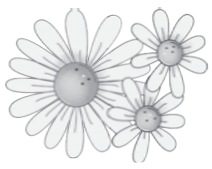
TOWN OF ANDOVER CT

VACANCY - MAINTAINER II

The Town of Andover is seeking applications for a full time Public Works Maintainer II. Starting salary is $31.29 per hour. This is a Union Position included in the Local 1303-368 of Connecticut Council #4, AFSCIME, AFL-CIO and subject to all conditions. CDL license is mandatory. The job description and application for this position are available at www.andoverct.org.

To apply, send a completed application to the Office of the Town Administrator, Town Hall, 17 School Rd, Andover, CT 06232, Or email it to adminassistant@andoverct.org This posting will remain open until the position has been filled. EOE M/F

RE10-30-26



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DPW Highway Division
Town of Portland, CT (EOE)
Deadline: 11/6/2026

Send Town CDL application to:
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Email: mceppaglia@portlandct.org
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1TB 10/30

East Hampton Public Schools is seeking Substitute Teachers, Paraprofessionals, and Interventionists

Applicants must have a bachelor's degree OR must be over 18 years old with a high school diploma or equivalent and documented experience working with school-age children. The position reports to the principal or designee at the location to which they are assigned and is responsible for providing instruction and managing the learning environment. Applicants for Paraprofessionals and Interventionists require two-year associates degree or equivalent. Paraprofessionals and Interventionists could also pass the ParaPro exam in lieu of an associate's degree or equivalent
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Building Substitute $135.00 per day
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Paraeducator pay range (class II):
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https://jobs.redroverk12.com/org/easthamptonct
For further information contact Mary Clark, mclark@easthamptonct.org.
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The Town of East Hampton Fire Marshal's Office is looking for a highly organized and detail-oriented part-time Administrative Assistant. In this vital role, the Administrative Assistant will facilitate the smooth operation of the office by handling administrative tasks, maintaining department records and files, coordinating communications, scheduling appointments, and supporting various projects. The Administrative Assistants' contributions will be essential to enhancing efficiency and fostering a positive work environment. Proficiency in Microsoft Office programs and strong customer service skills are required. Availability to work one afternoon shift per week required. Up to 15 hours per week. $20.00 per hour.
Please submit a cover letter, resume and employment application to the Town of East Hampton, Department of Human Resources, 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, CT 06424, or by email to lseymour@easthamptonct.gov, by November 19, 2026, or until filled. A job description and employment application may be found at www.easthamptonct.gov. EOE/AA/M-F.
1TB 10/30

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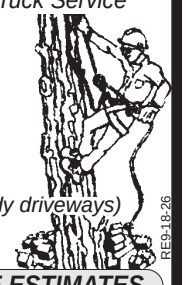
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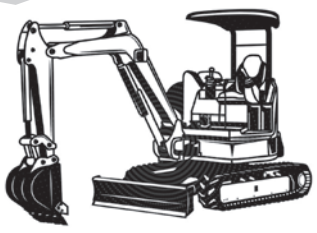
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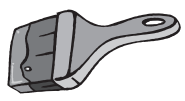
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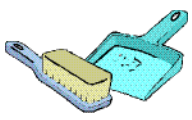
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