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RIVEREAST
News Bulletin

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

Volume 47, Number 38 | Published by The Glastonbury Citizen | November 6, 2026



Conference Champs… **East Hampton High School girls soccer won the Shoreline Conference Championship, defeating Old Saybrook 1-0 at Valley Regional High School on Monday night (Nov. 2). Ava Ploszay scored the decisive goal with an assist from Liv Correia and goalie Cassie Owocki registered the shutout as the Bellringers prevailed in the championship match. Following a perfect 15-0 regular season, the team won a pair of games in the conference tourney to bring the championship banner back to Belltown. Pictured from left are Giuliana DonAroma, Owocki, and Correia. Next up is the Class M state tournament, where East Hampton is the No. 1 seed and earned a bye in the first round. The Bellringers are slated to host a second-round game on Tuesday, Nov. 10.**

Paul, Osten Win State Races

By Toriana Williams



Paul



Osten

Once the polls closed and the last votes were cast, Tuesday's election saw Democrats win across much of the state and the nation. That extended to the *Rivereast* towns of Andover, Hebron and Marlborough, where first-time candidate Ellen Paul defeated Republican incumbent Steve Weir to win a seat in the state House of Representatives.

Paul won District 55 by a combined tally of 6,704 votes to Weir's 5,983, which earned her a seat in Hartford. The district includes Andover, Marlborough and Hebron, as well as parts of Bolton and Glastonbury.

Meanwhile, Democratic state Sen. Cathy Osten won reelection to the 19th Senate District, which incluides Hebron and Marlborough.

In an interview with the *Rivereast*, Paul said the win was both exciting and humbling. She said she was grateful to the voters who trusted her to represent them and promised to work hard for everyone in the district - even those who voted for her opponent.

"I am feeling deeply honored. I am just really humbled that they went to the ballot box and chose to send me to Hartford," said Paul the morning after the election.

Paul, who had never run for office before, said she spent a lot of the campaign meeting voters face to face. She personally knocked on 3,157 doors across the district, and her campaign, including volunteers, knocked on about 8,000 doors and made thousands of phone calls.

"I really don't think that this would have happened if … I didn't spend so much time out there, listening to folks and hearing from them directly," she said.

Paul said those conversations showed her that people from different political parties more often than not share the same concerns.

"One thing that I learned, knocking over 3,000 doors, is we all have a lot more in common than the national news media might suggest," she said.

As she prepares to take office, Paul said she plans to remain accessible and ready to listen.

"I will wake up every single day ready to work for this district, and I am incredibly honored to serve," she said.

For Weir, the loss marked the end of a four-year stint as the district's state representative. While the result was not what he had hoped for, he said he was thankful for the chance to serve in the first place.

"I'm honored to have served the district, had the experience to serve the people for four years. It's the people's seat; I completely respect that," said Weir.

Weir admitted he was taken aback by what he felt was a negative tone during the campaign – and said he was proud his side had remained positive.

"I was a little surprised at the negative tone

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Sponsored by Harrington Real Estate

Ziobron Returns to Elected Office in Close Race

By Anne Lilburn



Ziobron

Republican Melissa Ziobron will return to the state House of Representatives this January, serving in the 34th district seat she left eight years ago, after a close election-day battle with Democratic candidate Meghan Rosenfeld. The 34th District includes the *Rivereast* town of East Hampton, as well as East Haddam and parts of Salem.

Ziobron, an East Haddam resident, previously served in the role from 2013-2019, before deciding to run for the 33rd District State Senate seat against Democrat Norm Needleman in 2018. This year, she was running against Rosenfeld to replace current incumbent Irene Haines, a Republican who was not running for reelection.

Ziobron and Rosenfeld ran a tight race, with both candidates putting in the time with door-to-door campaigning and appearances at local events and board meetings. Towards the end of the campaign, the candidates jostled back and forth over their presence at local campaign events, and the campaign took a turn towards topics not related to policy.

The end result reflected a divided electorate, with still-unofficial Wednesday morning returns showing Rosenfeld with 5,744 votes (49.7%) to Ziobron's 5,813 (50.3%), a margin of only 69 votes between the two candidates.

In East Hampton, where she lives, Rosenfeld bested Ziobron by 43 votes, earning 3,123 votes (50.35%) compared to Ziobron's 3,079 (49.65%). Ziobron outperformed Rosenfeld in both East Haddam and Salem, although East Haddam, where Ziobron lives, was also a close race, with Ziobron winning over Rosenfeld by a margin of only 19 votes.

On Facebook, Ziobron celebrated her win and her return to an elected office, having remained in politics in recent years as a fiscal policy staffer for the state's Republican caucus in Hartford.

"We did it!" she wrote. "Thank you to everyone for their support over the last 12 months. It's been a long day, but I wanted to take a moment to thank my opponent for her call tonight. It's not easy to run for office and kudos to everyone who stepped up to make their part of CT better. I love this state and I'm looking forward to getting back to the Capitol and doing the people's

See Ziobron Returns, page 26



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 9-9:30 a.m. **Senior Pantry** is on the opposite Wednesdays, from 8:30-10 a.m.

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

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

Autumn Luncheon: Saturday, Nov. 7, 1-3 p.m., with entertainment by Timeless Guitar's Greg Doane. Cost is $10 per person.

From Doormats to Destiny

On Tuesday, Nov. 10, at 6 p.m., Andover Public Library will hold a presentation on the New England Patriots. This program, "From Doormats to Dynasty and Beyond: A Patriots Celebration," is presented by veteran sportswriter Marty Gitlin.

From the struggles of the Boston Patriots to the decades of Super Bowl crowns, this program will take you on a roller coaster ride through the history of the franchise that has captured more crowns than any other. Gitlin will discuss and show videos of the greatest and most interesting players, teams, events and moments of the team since its birth in the American Football League in 1960.

Watch the exploits of such early standouts as Gino Cappelletti, relive the disappointment of the Jim Plunkett era and talents of Steve Grogan and Sam "Bam" Cunningham. Experience the transition from Drew Bledsoe to Tom Brady to Drake Maye. And enjoy highlights from various triumphs – including multiple Super Bowl wins – under Bill Belichick.

Gitlin will host a Q&A following the program.

RSVP isn't required but is requested, by calling 860-742-7428.

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Snowflake Bazaar
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RE11-6-26



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, email the AYB Coordinator at AndoverCTYouthBasketball@gmail.com.

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.

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.

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.

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: Fridays at 11 a.m. beginning Nov. 13.

'Jimmy': Friday, Nov. 13, 6 p.m. Sign up and come for popcorn and an evening movie! The movie will be "Jimmy," the true, untold story of Jimmy Stewart. The movie follows Jimmy's life, from winning an Academy award for "Philadelphia Story," to enlisting and becoming a combat pilot in World War II, to landing the famous role as George Bailey in "It's a Wonderful Life". Call 860-742-7305 ext. 4510 if you would like to come.

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.

See More Andover News, pages 7 & 8

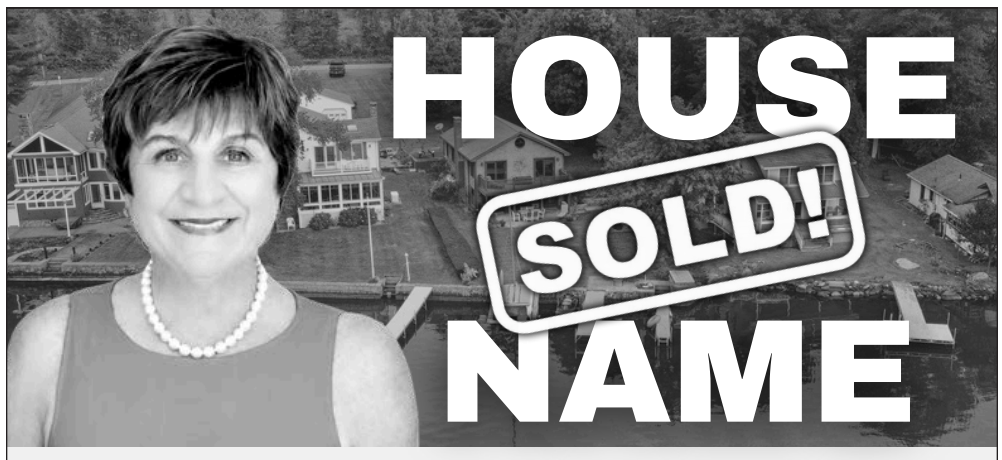
WAIM Flea Market

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.



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RE11-6-26

From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

By Mike Thompson

Haul out the holly
Put up the tree before my spirit falls again
Fill up the stocking, I may be rushing things
But deck the halls again now

Halloween has come and gone, so, at least from the point of view of the stores, it's Christmas season.

Heck, from the point of view of a lot of people, it's Christmas season too. A friend of mine decked his halls literally the day after Halloween this year. I can't say as I blame him or anyone for wanting to put up their Christmas decorations now. For many of us, it's been a tough year, so why not surround yourself with the trappings of that most festive and joyous of seasons? As the song says, "We need a little Christmas now."

Of course, at least here in America, before we get to Christmas there's another festive holiday on the calendar: Thanksgiving. It's not to be forgotten – and indeed, I love the way some of our *Rivereast* towns celebrate it.

From the start of my time here, I've been impressed with the interfaith gatherings so many area houses of worship have at Thanksgiving. It's a wonderful intention, and a great way to get to know people from different religions.

A very nice-sounding one is coming up in Portland on Sunday, Nov. 22. At 2 p.m. that day, at the First Congregational Church, 554 Main St., Portland, the Interfaith Coalition of Portland will hold its annual "Giving & Thanks" gathering. Neighbors from Portland and all surrounding communities are invited to attend.

The afternoon will feature music and prayers from Christian, Baha'i, Jewish, local Native American, Universalist Unitarian, Muslim and Hindu communities.

Attendees will also hear stories of hope from Gilead Community Services, which serves individuals in Portland, Middletown and surrounding communities who are experiencing mental health and substance use challenges. All who attend are encouraged to bring a donation to support these neighbors in need.

Donations that are needed include socks, combs and brushes, toothpaste and toothbrushes, fragrance-free deodorant, grocery store gift cards, coloring books and pencils, and journals plus nice pens. Also, to support the work that Gilead does, a free-will offering will be collected during this event.

Refreshments and conversation will follow the prayers and songs.

* * *

While the New England Patriots aren't exactly my cup of tea – I have the misfortune of being a Jets fan – I do know a lot of people in the state love them. Love them. (And frankly seem to have very easily gotten past Bob Kraft playing the state of Connecticut like a fiddle in the late-'90s when he led us to believe he was moving the team here – but that's beside the point.) So, for those folks, this program sounds like a lot of fun.

On Tuesday, Nov. 10, at 6 p.m., Andover Public Library will hold a presentation on the

Editor's Desk continued on page 7

Bulletin Board

We turned our clocks back last Saturday.

Why?

Nobody really knows.

Popular speculation is that "it's so school children don't have to wait for the bus in the dark." From my increasingly rare early morning excursions, it seems to me that school buses these days pretty much go house-to-house anyway, so what's the big deal?

If that dates me, then so be it. In my day, your parents would simply shove you out the door in the morning. There was no concern that serial killers or kidnappers or feral cats might be hiding in the front yard shrubbery just waiting for some random child to wander by. You'd walk down to the corner where a mob of other kids were standing around wiping runny noses on their sleeves and throwing snowballs at passing cars until the bus finally pulled up to cart you off to school. Simple, right?

Now kids wait in the car with mommy at the end of each driveway until the bus arrives trailing three miles of frustrated drivers who are going to be late for work.

But, as usual, I digress. Back to turning our clocks forward and backward every year.

My understanding is that Daylight Savings Time (DST), which involves turning the clocks ahead in order to have more light at the end of the day, came about in the U.S. during World War I as a way to save energy. Congress actually repealed DST in 1919, but President Woodrow Wilson boldly vetoed the repeal. Twice.

While I can cite no supporting authority, it is my suspicion that Wilson, who was a golfer, enjoyed being able to enjoy late afternoon golf games while his former caddies were getting blown to bits in France in the war he had promised to keep us out of. But, as you probably know by now, I am skeptical of politicians in general, so perhaps I am being unfair. In any event, I applaud him for preserving DST for at least part of the year.

Wilson's successor, President Warren G. Harding, widely viewed (at least until recently) as the worst president we have ever had, rejected his predecessor's laudable efforts to preserve DST. According to Harding, Daylight Savings Time was "a deception." Considering that Warren G. failed to inform his wife that he was regularly fooling around with his underage mistress in a (presumably) dark White House closet, I think we can safely say that he was somewhat of an authority on deception. (Oddly enough, Harding, like Wilson, was also an avid golfer, which casts some doubt on my golf conspiracy theory.)

Since I don't golf and since all the closets in our home are crammed full of my wife's clothes and Christmas presidents she has bought on sale to dole out to family and friends over the next 35 years, I can assure you in all confidence that my motives for wanting to maintain Daylight Savings Time (more light at day's end) all year round are pure. I vote for maintaining DST and not turning our clocks back for the following reasons:

Not because the great portion of Americans reportedly want it, but because I do. Frankly, I don't particularly care if the masses like it or not. (Hey, it's a reason. Some might even consider it "presidential.")

- Because "falling back" an hour doesn't "gain" me an extra hour of sleep, it only ensures that for the next two months I will continue to wake up at the old time with the feeling that something is wrong with the universe.

- Because changing the clock twice a year disrupts my natural biorhythms and interferes with my already tenuous emotional/spiritual connection to my fellow humans (i.e., it makes me cranky).

- Because it gives high school kids an extra hour of concealment as they throw empty beer cans on my lawn on Friday and Saturday nights. I don't mind picking up the cans, but I resent the fact that they're having more fun in the dark than I am.

- Because resetting the clock in my car involves pushing four buttons simultaneously while standing on my head and reciting the fine print of the owner's manual backwards in Japanese. As a result, the clock never gets changed and I never know if I'm an hour late or an hour early when I'm driving somewhere.

So, I implore you, as our Creator once declared, "Let there be light." And if the school bus "doth come in darkness," then suck it up, buttercup.

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.



Goin' Down to Pumpkintown… **The Colchester Cooperative Nursery School would like to thank Paul and Sandy's Too for a wonderful field trip to Pumpkintown U.S.A. in East Hampton! The children had a blast exploring the maze, climbing the spider web, visiting the pumpkin people, and going down the fireman's pole (over and over again!). The day ended with doughnuts, cider, and a hayride through the woods.**

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

Dementia Talks No. 77

To the Editor:

The other day, Mom was looking into the bathroom mirror. She was eyeing the reflection, more specifically the person looking back at her.

I was there, but my image was out of the way of being in the reflection.

We both paused. Then Mom inched closer, raised her right hand and pointed at the image. She then said "who are you?"

I let the question settle in my soul for a moment.

Mom is looking to know whose face is reflecting back at her. As the caregiver we balance the "catch" in our throats, the desire to "correct" our loved one because we desperately want them to "remember" and the knowledge that the only action, in this moment, is validation and acknowledgement.

Stepping into the picture by moving closer to her, I said that the person in the mirror is a loving and wonderful lady that I know. I paused and said "coffee is ready, let's go." Mom slipped her hand in mine, quickly looked at the mirror and smiled, then we wandered out to the table for breakfast.

Wishing you much joy today with your loving and wonderful human, and know that know you are not alone.

P.S.: To all those that stopped by Georgia's Pizza last Thursday; thank you from the bottom of my heart. The #HebronRocksAlz team is grateful for your support.

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

Thank You, Steve

To the Editor:

It's been a very long campaign season and I wanted to thank Steve Weir for his dedicated service to our communities and to the State of Connecticut.

A lot of politicians simply say what they think the voters want to hear, but Steve has proven himself to be a person of integrity. Throughout his years in the Connecticut legislature, Steve has been dedicated to doing what is truly in the best interest of his constituents.

I have been honored to assist Steve during campaigning and support him in his future efforts.

Thank you, Steve.

Ken Hjulstrom – Marlborough

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

Coffee with a Perk

To the Editor:

Squirrelled into a circular blue tunnel, a bewhiskered orange face stared back at me as he stretched out his paw to gently touch my finger. Two days later he was in his forever home.

We didn't intend to adopt that morning. We planned to explore this new-fangled concept, at least to us, of a tasty morning drink among numerous felines.

The first cat café opened in Taiwan in 1998. The United States opened its first permanent cat café in October 2014. Today more than 300 dot our country. Connecticut currently hosts five such establishments with more to come. Mar-

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

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

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

cie's Angels Cat Café, in Glastonbury since August 2024, has itself shepherded over 300 cats into new homes.

Beth Drazak, owner of Marcie's Angels, sums up our experience.

"It's not just a cat café; it's a mission fueled by love, compassion, and the belief that every cat deserves a happily ever after. Every adoption represents a life changed, and a story with a happy ending," Drazak says, adding, "Seeing hundreds of cats go from needing a chance to finding their forever families is the most rewarding part of this journey."

The pathway home for stray or abandoned cats is usually a shelter/rescue. When teamed with a café, the footprint and outreach of a rescue partner is enhanced. More lives saved! The café becomes a "halfway house" for felines under the auspices of the rescue––the rescue's policies and procedures apply so adopters shouldn't expect to walk out with coffee cup in hand and cat under their arm unless the application process has been completed.

Cats roam a designated room where visitors book sessions for an up-close experience with furry potential family members. Trained café staff share helpful intel on residents' personalities.

Adoption isn't the only reason to visit a cat café. Enjoy specialty drinks along with delectable confections while viewing cat antics from outside the cat room. Or maybe get a temporary cat fix. Yoga, dedicated timeslots for young'uns and other special programs are offered.

Dollars spent in cat cafés go a long way in supporting these little moggies while they're in transition – delicious and fun contributions to the Adopt Don't Shop movement that will save more animals.

Stop into a cat café – Marcie's Angels is just around our corner – for the experience. Do it for yourself and the four-leggeds counting on us.

Katherine Throckmorton – Middle Haddam

Beyond Aging in Place

To the Editor:

One of the greatest wishes many older adults share is the ability to remain in their own homes safely, comfortably, and independently for as long as possible. At the Portland Senior Center, we believe that education is one of the most powerful tools we can provide to help make that possible.

We are excited to invite our community to Beyond Aging in Place, a FREE Lunch & Learn program focused on aging in place and the importance of planning ahead.

Life can change in an instant. An unexpected fall, illness, or other challenge can quickly affect our ability to live independently. While we cannot always predict what tomorrow will bring, we can educate ourselves today and take steps to be better prepared.

Beyond Aging is an opportunity to learn from experts about ways to safely remain in your own home, understand potential challenges, and discover strategies that support independence and quality of life.

Here at the Portland Senior Center, education is at the heart of everything we do. We believe that knowledge empowers people to make informed decisions about their health, safety, and future. And, of course, we believe learning should always come with a little fun, friendship, and socializing!

I encourage older adults, caregivers, and community members to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity. Whether you are planning for yourself or helping someone you love, it is never too early to learn.

Please join us Monday, Nov. 9, from noon to 1 p.m., at the Portland Senior Center, for Beyond Aging. Enjoy a free lunch, connect with others, and gain valuable information that could make a meaningful difference in your future. Registration required.

Remember, aging in place doesn't happen by chance. It happens through knowledge, preparation, and the right support.

We look forward to seeing you!

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

Three Cheers

To the Editor:

Three cheers for Hebron's Department of Public Works. A tree, broken at its base, was hung up on another tree. It was an accident waiting to happen. I called the DPW, got a friendly voice and within two hours the project was done. The tree is now down, cut in sections and neatly stacked at the end of the driveway. Thank you PW.

It was a relief to experience good news from Hebron especially after reading the Oct. 1, 2026 Town Council minutes. The new ideas being introduced for water, development and schools are big ones. Additionally, it's become clear we need a better plan for 17 Kinney Rd. One that focuses on sustainability and the preservation of our historical and natural resources vs development. We also need the Town Council to be laser focused on rebuilding the PW while nurturing public support for that project. Over the past two decades its become evident that Hebron prefers to turn its focus on new developments while overlooking the PW facility.

Meanwhile, the town's DPW Action Committee has been hard at work with core tests and practical thinking as they move forward with plans to rebuild the PW on site. Lebanon, Conn., and Whitingham, Vt., are also rebuilding their PW facilities on site. Reuse, reduce, recycle is the way to go. A good ol' waste not, want not, form of thinking. A philosophy we could all benefit from with regards to our finite supply of land and water.

While Hebron organizers push for development and water usage, I encourage residents to check in with the DPWAC and, when the time comes, to vote in favor of funding for the new PW facility. Just as an army runs on its stomach, towns, like Hebron, run on their public works. #save17

Jean Tulimieri – Amston

National Politics Posing as Religion

To the Editor:

I applauded your editorial decision to not publish letters on national political issues. However, blatantly political ads from the Middletown Bible Church flaunt that wise editorial policy. Note *News Bulletin* 10/30…" Your Vote Is Important! A Constitutional Republic Versus Socialism/Communism" …a half page ad. I think your sales department and editorial department should get together for a consistent policy on what is acceptable. It seems to suggest two sets of rules; as long as you pay and put your national political views within the context of an ad, you are welcome to write whatever you choose. Your readers have no such freedom to spout political views in their letters to the editor. The inconsistency is entirely contrary to your wise attempt to keep the politics local.

I am not even reacting to the merger of religion and politics by this "church" which violates the wisdom of the framers of our Constitution in the separation of church and state.

Stephen Markson – Portland

Muddy Markham Bay

To the Editor:

Here we go again!

Developer Wayne Rand has reportedly acquired the former Hazen Tree property on the north side of Lake Pocotopaug. Nothing to see here, folks – except another proposed development in our already vulnerable watershed and a transaction reportedly brokered by longtime Town Council member Dean Markham.

Mr. Markham knows Mr. Rand's development history around our lake. Most recently, the Lakewood development raised serious concerns about compliance with East Hampton's Section 3.1 watershed zoning regulations and what appeared to be a "better to ask forgiveness than permission" approach.

Mr. Rand, is there any land outside the Lake Pocotopaug watershed you could develop? Asking for some concerned citizens.

Meanwhile, East Hampton has lost Town Planner Juliet Hodges, whose environmental background was particularly valuable to a community facing these challenges. With no replacement in sight, who is protecting the watershed?

I've heard the argument that nobody wants to challenge Mr. Rand in court. But if that's the case, who's fighting for the lake?

I spent a decade serving on the Lake Commission. I remember sitting alongside fellow commissioners as we worked to protect Lake Pocotopaug, including using grant money to repair retention ponds associated with Mr. Rand's Skyline development.

How many times must the community address stormwater problems associated with development before protecting the watershed becomes the priority?

Mr. Markham, your reported involvement in this transaction raises a legitimate question: How do you reconcile your public responsibilities with facilitating development in a watershed that our town has spent decades and substantial resources trying to protect?

I'm proposing we preemptively rename Markham Bay: Muddy Markham Bay – or perhaps Murky Markham Bay.

Mr. Markham, I sincerely hope you're helping ensure that properly engineered stormwater retention systems protect the lake and your family's legacy.

And if a commission was earned on this transaction, I have one final question:

Was it worth it?

Lake Pocotopaug deserves better than another round of preventable runoff, costly remediation, and unanswered questions.

Wesley Jenks – East Hampton

'Fairly Simple' School Renovation Project

To the Editor:

The Marlborough Elementary School Roof, HVAC and Electrical Project were described as a "fairly simple" process with "several steps" in an article from last week's paper. As a commercial construction superintendent, with both Construction Management (CM) and Owner's Project Management (OPM) experience, I have supervised over 700,000 square feet of roof installations in projects totaling over $500 million in both occupied and new construction over the past 11 years. I can confidently say that the proposed $28 million project at our elementary school will surely not be "fairly simple."

This project will be a huge undertaking for the school district, building committee, STV (OPM) and the CM it ultimately selects to complete the work. There will be many challenges

See Letters, page 6

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The "East of the River" Real Estate Report

What Happens If My Home Isn't Selling?

When a home sits on the market without an offer, it's easy to become frustrated. But rather than simply waiting for the right buyer, it's important to understand why the home isn't selling and what can be done about it.

Several factors influence a home's value: location, lot size and usability, neighborhood, style and layout, condition, mechanical systems, marketing, and price.

Some of these factors can't easily be changed. You can't move your home to a different neighborhood, flatten a steep lot, or easily change its layout. Those characteristics need to be considered when determining the asking price.

But there are three important things sellers and their agents can control.

Condition and Presentation: Addressing maintenance issues, decluttering, staging, and making appropriate improvements can change how buyers perceive a property.

Marketing: Professional photography, video, online exposure, and effective promotion help present the home in its best possible light to the widest relevant audience.

Price: Buyers compare your home with other available properties. If the condition and marketing are strong but buyers still aren't responding, the asking price may need to change.

This is where communication between sellers and their listing agent becomes particularly important. Are buyers scheduling showings? What feedback are they providing? How does the home compare with competing listings? Are similar properties going under contract?

A home that isn't selling needs an honest evaluation and a strategy, not simply more time.

Sometimes the solution is improving presentation or marketing. Other times, it's adjusting the price to reflect what buyers are willing to pay.

My advice: Focus on what you can control, listen to what the market is telling you, and work with your agent to make informed adjustments.

Market Snapshot – Past Week

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

Single-Family Homes
• 15 homes sold
• Average sale price: **$531,667**
• Average sale-to-original-list price (%OLP):**101%**
• Average days on market: **16 days**
• Median days on market: **6 days**

Condos
• 3 homes sold
• Average sale price: **$388,333**
• Average sale-to-original-list price (%OLP): **99%**
• Average days on market: **30 days**
Median days on market: **16 days**

Results vary by location, condition, pricing strategy, and market conditions.



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★ *Letters, cont. from page 5*

to overcome, such as budgetary (how much will residents be willing to approve/afford), scope of work questions (possible future solar, duration of roof warranty desired, etc.), logistical (where to stage contractors, material, parking), procurement (ordering materials to get them on time), labor and material escalation (how much more construction will cost in future years), existing conditions (new contractors uncovering issues), commissioning (making sure equipment works as intended), scheduling (when to complete the work to minimize disruptions) and building inspections and closeout (following building codes and final approvals).

The building committee will be faced with extremely important decisions in the coming months, which will directly affect the quality and longevity of the improvements. Each building committee member should be using their relevant construction or school renovation experience to make decisions for the good of the community, not to pad their ego or push their own personal agendas.

Michael Concodello – Marlborough

Note: *Concodello is an alternate on the Marlborough Zoning Commission, but said he is writing as an individual.*

A Note of Gratitude

To the Editor:

The Andover Norton Children's Fund Commission would like to extend its sincere thanks to the many supporters of our inaugural Trick or Trot 5K Run/Walk and Kids Fun Run, held in Andover on Saturday, Oct. 24.

The event's success was made possible by the incredible support of our volunteers and community partners, including the Andover/Hebron CERT, Connecticut State Troopers, Andover Fire Department, Town of Andover, Andover Public Library, and Andover Elementary School. Their dedication and assistance helped ensure a smooth and enjoyable race day experience for everyone.

We are also deeply grateful to the community members and fiscal sponsors whose generous contributions helped offset event expenses, allowing a greater portion of race proceeds to benefit the Commission. Special thanks to Over AndOver, Dubois Automotive, Welles House Candles, Andover Pizza, Ted's IGA Market, The Hoot, Horst Engineering, Integrated Rehabilitation Services, Run Manchester by Kelley's Pace, and Central Rock Gym for their support.

In addition, participants generously donated four boxes of food, which were collected on race day for the Andover Food Pantry.

With more than 100 registered runners and walkers in the 5K event and 25 children participating in the Kids Fun Run, the day was a tremendous success. Perfect sunny weather, witches and a musician stationed along the 5K course handing out treats, a costume contest for both children and adults, and plenty of community spirit made for a memorable and festive experience enjoyed by all.

Thank you to everyone who participated, volunteered, sponsored, and cheered on our runners. Congratulations to all of our award winners and participants!

We look forward to seeing you again next year for the Trick or Trot 5K Run/Walk and Kids Fun Run on Oct. 23, 2027!

With gratitude,
Charlotte Nelson, Chairperson
Norton Children's Fund Commission



Leaves in the Lake

Neighbors:

The Fall is upon us and with that, comes the leaves. Many people have worked hard over the last six years implementing and following the Prevention/Remediation/Education strategy that has allowed Lake Pocotopaug to regain a good part of its health. It is unfortunate indeed to have so many people around the lake work so hard to improve the lake health, only to have individuals rake their leaves directly into the lake, in direct opposition to the concept of Prevention.

I know what I'm about to say is just plain common sense. Don't rake or blow leaves into the lake! The decaying leaves add to the growth of blue/green algae in the summer, which we diligently try to eliminate to keep the lake open. While there is natural dropping of leaves from trees on the water's edge that cannot be avoided, why would anyone want to add more leaves that will only stress the lake further? Unfortunately, much of society today believes its "all about me," the rules don't apply to me, and so we all pay the penalty from their indifference. East Hampton has an ordinance that prohibits disposal of leaves on any town rights-of-way, roadways, or town-owned properties (read "the lake"). In East Hampton, leaves must be disposed of at the Transfer Station, where they must be emptied from plastic bags, as no plastic bags are accepted. Residents should ensure compliance with these regulations to promote environmental protection in the community. We cannot afford to lose or even lessen the momentum of the lake improvements and your individual support as a homeowner is necessary for continued success. If you see something, say something; but don't tolerate the behavior.

Lake Pocoptopaug is recovering slowly, but that precious improvement that we all have come to appreciate will be in jeopardy as long as people do the wrong thing.

Regards,
Bob Yenkner – East Hampton

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With gratitude,
Charlotte Nelson, Chairperson
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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.

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.

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.

Town Clerk Open House, Senior Center Meet & Greet

The Town of Andover invites residents to the second annual Town Clerk's Office Open House on Monday, Nov. 23, from 1:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at Andover Town Hall, 17 School Rd.

Also on that same day, between the same hours, there will be a Meet & Greet at the Andover Community and Senior Center, 25 School Rd.

First held last year following Roberta Dougherty's election as Andover's Town Clerk, the Town Clerk's Office Open House provided an opportunity for residents to meet their new Town Clerk, learn about the services offered by the office, and connect with one another. This year's event continues that tradition of welcoming residents and building connections within the community.

Residents are invited to stop by, say hello, and enjoy light refreshments while learning more about the services provided by the town clerk's office. Dougherty will answer questions.

Meanwhile, the Andover Community and Senior Center will also welcome visitors for a Meet & Greet with the center staff. Residents will have an opportunity to meet the staff, tour the center, see the new senior transportation van, and learn more about the programs and services available. Light refreshments will also be served at the center.

Editor's Desk continued from page 4

New England Patriots. This program, "From Doormats to Dynasty and Beyond: A Patriots Celebration," is presented by veteran sportswriter Marty Gitlin.

From the struggles of the Boston Patriots to the decades of Super Bowl crowns, this program will take you on a roller coaster ride through the history of the franchise that has captured more crowns than any other. Gitlin will discuss and show videos of the greatest and most interesting players, teams, events and moments of the team since its birth in the American Football League in 1960.

Watch the exploits of such early standouts as Gino Cappelletti, relive the disappointment of the Jim Plunkett era and talents of Steve Grogan and Sam "Bam" Cunningham. Experience the transition from Drew Bledsoe to Tom Brady to Drake Maye. And enjoy highlights from various triumphs – including multiple Super Bowl wins – under Bill Belichick.

Gitlin will host a Q&A following the program.

RSVP isn't required but is requested, by calling 860-742-7428.

* * *

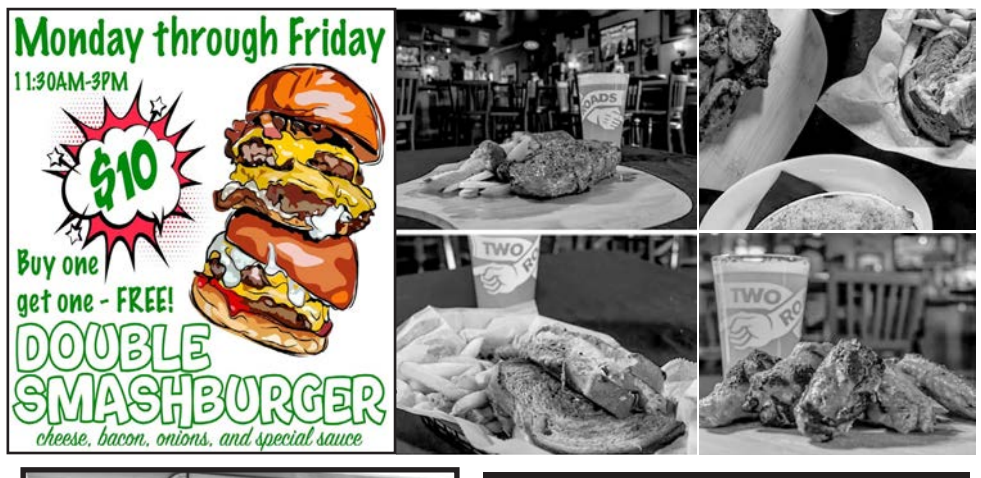
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Mediterranean Couscous Maple-Roasted Brussels Sprouts	Garlic & Herb Roasted Potatoes Italian Green Beans with Shallots	Honey-Roasted Carrots Herbed Rice Pilaf	Roasted Mediterranean Vegetables Lemon & Herb Orzo
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Mains (48 oz) $34 *Serves 2–3*

RE10-30-26

Rahman Wins Reelection to State Senate

By Toriana Williams



Rahman

State Sen. MD Rahman won another term in office Tuesday, as the Democrat defeated Republican Jenn Jennings by a wide margin.

In the state Senate District 4 race, Rahman, of Manchester, collected 26,329 votes, while Jennings, of Glastonbury, received 13,621. The district includes the *Rivereast* town of Andover, as well as Glastonbury, Manchester and Bolton.

Jennings said she entered the race knowing she faced a difficult challenge and said the campaign was about giving voters another choice and learning from the experience.

"To be honest with you, it was to be expected," she said of her loss. "I kind of just threw my hat in the ring to keep people an option."

Jennings, who has worked at the state Capitol in some capacity for 22 years, said the campaign gave her a chance to meet people, build friendships and hear new ideas.

"In my book, I really won. It was more the experience, the friendships, the conversations and lessons," she said.

She also said elected officials have a duty to speak for everyone, not just those who voted for them.

"The true measure of representation is really not how loudly they champion the majority. It's more about are they willing to represent the smallest voice in the room, that underdog?" said Jennings.

Jennings added that she hasn't decided whether she will run for office again, but nonetheless, she plans to continue her work at the Capitol and serve her community.

"Elections have winners and losers on paper, but life, service, friendships and community don't begin or end at the ballot box," she said.

Rahman could not be reached for comment by press time. However, on his Facebook page Wednesday morning, the senator posted, "We did it! Last night, in one of the largest margins of victory in the state, we sent a decisive message that here in Connecticut, people want an end to the chaos and divisiveness of Washington."

Rahman wrote that he is "so very grateful to every single person who raised their hand in participation yesterday," and added, "There's going to be celebration for Democrats today, and there should be. But right away we must also start the hard work of delivering on the promises we just made: the end of MAGA, a more affordable future, and a return to the promise generations before us have found in the American Dream. Let's get to work."

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.

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.





Resident Completes Half Ironman!… **On Oct. 24, Andover resident Becky Redhead-Carey completed the Jones Beach Half Ironman in New York, finishing in the top 10 in the female 35-39 category. After six months of training, Becky completed the 1.2-mile swim, 56-mile bike ride, and 13.1-mile run in 6:21:35. The water temperatures on race day were cold, and wetsuits were mandatory, but Becky pushed through, finishing the swim portion in 7th place for her category. Her parents, husband Dan, and daughters, Elle and Áine, were there to cheer her on and witness this incredible achievement.**

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CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

VIRTUAL PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

State Project No. 0120-0097
Rehabilitation of Bridge Nos. 02393 and 02394
Carrying Route 11 over Eightmile River
in Salem

Thursday, November 19, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

Attend & Learn More:
portal.ct.gov/DOTSalem0120-0097

The purpose of this meeting is to provide the community with an opportunity to learn about the proposed project and allow an open discussion of any views and comments concerning the proposed improvements. A Q&A session will immediately follow the presentation.

Originally constructed in 1971, the bridges have exceeded their original design lifespan and will undergo superstructure replacements to extend their service life and improve safety for all roadway users.

Right-of-way impacts are not anticipated.

Construction is expected to start spring 2029, depending on funding, right-of-way acquisition, and permits. The estimated cost is $16 million, with 80 percent Federal funds and 20 percent State funds.

The public can submit comments and questions during two-week public comment period following the meeting. Comments and questions can be submitted by Thursday, December 3, 2026, to **DOTProject120-97@ct.gov** or 860-594-2020.

ACCESSIBILITY

Non-English language closed captioning will be available on YouTube. The recording will also be posted following the meeting in CTDOT's public meeting playlist at **portal.ct.gov/ctdotVPIMarchive**.

For audio only, call 877-853-5257 with Meeting ID 852 4368 4473. Project information can be mailed within one week by contacting Brianna Ritacco at **Brianna.Ritacco@ct.gov** or 860-594-3205.

Individuals with hearing/speech disabilities can dial 711 for Telecommunications Relay Services (TRS). Request language assistance from CTDOT's Language Assistance at 860-594-2109 at least five business days before meeting.

RE11-6-26

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.

Wreaths Committee to Meet

The Wreaths Across America 2026 committee meeting will be Thursday, Nov. 19, from 6-7 p.m., in the Andover Community and Senior Center.

Attendance is encouraged as the committee enters its final month of planning. The committee said it has a few issues to wrap up and some semi-final coordination to make. Wreaths Across America will be held at Veterans Monument Park at noon Saturday, Dec. 19.

For more information, come to the meeting or contact Susan Camoroda at 703-472-3209 or veterans@andoverct.org.

Therapy Dog to Visit

Sheena the Therapy Dog and her human, Jen Nadeau, are coming back to Andover Public Library on Saturday, Nov. 14, at 11 a.m. Younger readers are encouraged to read a book of their choice, and Sheena will be a great listener.

Nadeau and Sheena are bringing a friend this time around: Maryann Fusco-Rollins of the Tolland County UConn Extension Service. Fusco-Rollins will be doing a program on Ozobots.

For more information, call contact the library at 860-742-7428.

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7-3-2025

Thanksgiving Food Drive

Hebron Interfaith Human Services (HIHS) invites the community to contribute to its Thanksgiving food drive. Neighbors, businesses and community groups are all welcome to participate.

Donations of non-perishable sides such as stuffing mix, gravy, cranberry sauce, vegetables and dessert mixes will be collected from Nov. 7 through Nov. 15. Collections boxes are located at Hebron Town Hall, Ted's IGA (box inside the store as you exit) and at the HIHS Food Pantry, located at 26 Pendleton Drive. Furthermore, a turkey and frozen pie collection will occur on Saturday, Nov. 14, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., at the food pantry.

Grocery gift cards and monetary donations are also accepted. Visit www.hihsct.org/donate to learn more.

Program on Jewish Immigrant Farmers

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

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

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

Douglas Library News & Notes

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

Holiday Closing: The library will be closed Wednesday, Nov. 11, in honor of Veterans Day.

Adult Programs: Friday Films: Fridays at 1 p.m. 11/13: "The End of Oak Street" (PG-13).

North Atlantic Packards Technical Seminar: Saturday, Nov. 14, 10 a.m. The history of the Caribbean. Introduced in 1953, it was the last luxury Packard produced. Join automotive expert and restoration specialist Parker Roaf for a look at the evolution of Packard's entry into the convertible game.

Medicare Fraud and Other Scams: Wednesday, Nov. 18, 1 p.m. Jill Vasington from Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) will talk about preventing medicare fraud and the current scams that are targeting older adults.

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

Artist of the Month: Local artist Christiane O'Brien is October's featured artist. Her art is in the Community Room.

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

Teens: Teen Book Group: Thursday, Nov. 19, 6:30 p.m. This month, read and discuss "The Ghost Hunter's Daughter." Books are available on shelves near Teen Zone. Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month; everyone aged 12 and up is welcome.

D&D Club: Group 1 meets Friday, Nov. 20, from 3:30-5:30 p.m., and Group 2 meets Saturday, Nov. 21, from 12:30-2:30 p.m. Pre-made character sheets and dice are provided. New players welcome! Register by contacting the library.

Children: PJ Storytime: Tuesday, Nov. 10, 6 p.m. Come in your pajamas for an evening storytime. For ages 1-5; siblings are welcome.

Lego Club: Saturday, Nov. 14, noon-1 p.m. All are invited to come build some Lego creations.

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

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.

Tour of Synagogue and Hannukah Celebration: Tuesday, Dec. 1, noon. Take a tour of the United Brethren of Hebron Synagogue. Located just up the hill from the Senior Center at 10 Church Street, the building is listed in both the state and national Registers of Historic Places, and has many unique design features not typically found in other rural Jewish houses of worship. Participants will meet at the synagogue and then head to the senior center after the tour for latkes and apple cider. People of all faiths, traditions, and backgrounds are welcome to join this free event.

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

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.

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.

Turkey Shoots Weekly

Skungamaug Fish and Game Club is 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.

#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 No Registration is Needed – Just Stop By: Sunday, Nov. 8 (note the new date), 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.

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.

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.

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: 11/7, 9:30 a.m.: Wise Warrior Yoga in Fellowship Hall; 11/8, 10 a.m.: Sunday Worship Service with Angel Tag Decorating in Sunday School; 11/8, 11 a.m., Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall; 11/9, 9:30 a.m., Online Bible Study via Zoom; 11/10, 7:30 p.m.: AA Meeting in Fellowship Hall; 11/11: Church Office closed for Veterans Day; 11/11: 9:30 a.m., Wise Warrior Yoga in Fellowship Hall; 11/11, 10:45 a.m., Book Group in Fellowship Hall; 11/11: 7 p.m., Choir Practice in sanctuary; 11/12, 7 p.m.: Trustees Meeting in Parish House Conference Room;.

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

Annual Church Workday: Join Gilead's Trustees at the annual church workday Saturday, Nov. 7, at 9 a.m. Spend time cleaning up the church grounds and facilities. Rain date is Saturday, Nov. 14.

Annual Membership Meeting: Sunday, Nov. 8, at 11:30 a.m., following the 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.

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

Hebron Community Chorus Concert at Gilead: Friday, Nov. 13, 7 p.m. "The Songs We Carry" will be performed. Suggested donation is $20.

Save the Date: Hebron's Community Interfaith Thanksgiving Service at Gilead Church: Sunday, Nov. 22, at 3 p.m., co-hosted by Gilead Church, Church of the Holy Family, St. Peter's Church, and the United Brethren Synagogue.

St. Peter's News & Notes

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

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

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

Alzheimers and Dementia Awareness: Sunday, Nov. 8, at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. services

Veterans Day Recognition Sunday: Nov. 15 at both 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. services.

Project Hope Meal Assembly: Saturday, Nov. 14, 2 p.m., in the parish hall. Please have all food contributions in the parish hall by Saturday morning.

Roast Pork Community Dinner: Saturday, Nov. 21, 4 p.m. The takeout dinner includes roasted potatoes, gravy, winter squash, applesauce, rolls and desserts. A portion of the proceeds will benefit Windham Area Interfaith Ministry.

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.; 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. 1. Hours are now: Sundays, 7:30 a.m.-2 p.m.; and Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

Classifieds Pay

The Glastonbury Citizen & Rivereast News Bulletin

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Remembering Our Saints… **On Nov. 1 the Anglican Church celebrates All Saints Day, a time where people can remember the saints in their lives – the ones who have passed away and those still living. The Rev. Ron Kolanowski presided at the service, provided by St Peter's Episcopal Church in Hebron. He has offered a monthly service to the residents of Colebrook Village, a senior living facility also in Hebron, for the past eight years. The celebration, in addition to a full service with communion, offered each resident the opportunity to have a candle burn for someone in their lives they chose to memorialize.**

'Giggles at Gilead' Returns Nov. 20

Gilead Congregational Church invites all to "Giggles at Gilead" on Friday, Nov. 20, at 7 p.m., at the church, 672 Gilead St.

Presented in partnership with Funny 4 Funds, this PG-13 comedy fundraiser for the church will feature an all-new lineup of comedians, as well as raffle baskets.

Doors open at 6 p.m., and tickets are $25 per person. Popcorn will be provided; bring your favorite snacks.

Seats are limited; purchase tickets at www.bit.ly/GileadGiggles.

Fot more information, email gcc@gileadchurch.net or call 860-228-3077.

Revolutionary Lecture Series

The Hebron CT Celebrates America 250 Committee, in coalition with the King's Loyal Americans, Jessup's Corps, will present "Hebron: Revolutionary Town, Loyalist Leanings" in the Parish Hall at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 30 Church St., on Sunday, Nov. 8, from 1-4 p.m.

The afternoon will feature lectures from two luminaries of Revolutionary War studies bringing to life the stories of the town's history, including Hebron's own son, Lt. Colonel John Peters, founder of the Queen's Loyal Rangers, and the lives of civilians throughout the war.

Loyalist Studies expert Todd Braisted will present his lecture "A Sacrifice to the Rage of a Misguided People: The Revolutionary War Adventures of Loyalist John Peters," to be followed by Alexander Cain, who will provide a lecture on the lives of civilians during the American Revolution, titled "I Have Scarcely a Mouthful of Bread for Myself or My Children: The Plight of Loyalist on the Eve of Independence".

Registration is not required and the program is a free to the public. Light refreshments will be served.

For more information, follow on Facebook: Hebron CT Celebrates America 250 or The Town Center Project, Inc. More information is also at www.thetowncenterproject.org/about-hebron-250.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Visit Burrows Hill School

The Hebron Historical Society invites all to visit Burrows Hill School (125 School House Rd.) on Sunday, Nov. 15, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., to view artifacts uncovered in the Burrows Hill and Hope Valley area.

Meet the members who uncovered them and discuss their research. Agricultural, jewelry, utilitarian and other items manufactured in the area will be exhibited.

The two-room outhouse will be decorated for family photo ops and outdoor games will be available.

Burrows Hill School is the earliest remaining Hebron schoolhouse still on its original location. Constructed c.1730 with a barrel vaulted plaster ceiling, it still retains the original interior and houses original desks, blackboard and books. This schoolhouse provides a unique insight into early classroom life.

Removed from use, then maintained by caring neighbors, it was restored by the Hebron Historical Society in the 1990s. It has opened intermittently over the years.

This is a continuation of the historical society's America 250 series. Admission is free, but donations will be accepted.

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; "3-in-one" shampoo, conditioner and body wash; 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.

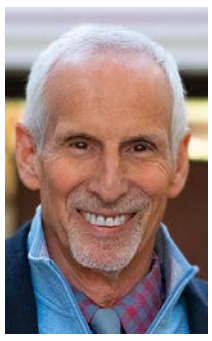
Homebound Ministry: The parish ministers to homebound parishioners who wish to receive the sacraments. Call the parish office (860-228-3727 ext. 105 or 110) to set up a schedule.

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.

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RivereastNewsBulletin

Needleman Wins Fifth Term

By Anne Lilburn



Needleman

Democratic incumbent Ned Needleman won his bid for reelection in the State Senate's 33rd District, which covers the *Rivereast* towns of Colchester, Portland and East Hampton this week. Needleman, who also serves as first selectman of Essex, will begin serving his fifth term as a senator early next year.

The outcome was not a surprising one, with Needleman, who has repeatedly described himself as a moderate, enjoying relatively broad support in the district. His opponent, Republican Charlie Ferraro of Clinton, was a former resident of West Haven, where he served as state representative for the 117th District. The two described themselves as friends, and worked together on energy issues during their time together in state government.

Needleman made appearances at the polls in all three *Rivereast* towns, posing for pictures in East Hampton with U.S. Congressional incumbent (and eventual winner) Joe Courtney, a Democrat serving the state's second district.

In *Rivereast* towns, unofficial results as of Wednesday morning showed that Needleman performed well in the individual towns as well. In Portland, he earned 2,663 votes combined on both the Democratic and Independent lines, which amounted to 59.54% of the vote, compared to Ferraro's 1,810 votes (40.47%). In East Hampton, Needleman's combined vote total was 3,493 (56.58%) compared to Ferraro's 2,680 (43.41%), and in Colchester, Needleman received 4,634 votes total (59.98%) compared to Ferraro's 2,912 (40.02%).

In a press release, Needleman said he was grateful to the voters of the 33rd district.

"Serving the people of Connecticut and giving back to the communities who have supported me and my family for decades is one of the great joys of my life, and I am proud to bring common-sense principles and support back to Hartford for another two years," said Needleman. "For nearly a decade now, I have served to give our towns a voice in significant issues that impact our lives, and I look forward to continuing my work."

Needleman also praised Ferraro "for running a spirited campaign" and said he wishes him well.

Needleman wrote that he was "grateful" for the voter turnout.

"This year's election drove significant voter turnout and I'm grateful for that, as an informed and engaged Connecticut makes for better leadership and representation," he said. "Today, tens of thousands made their voices heard. I'll keep listening."

The *Rivereast* reached out to Ferraro for comment and did not hear back by press time, but In Portland, Republican Town Committee Chair Peggy Keser said she was disappointed with the overall election results, in which Democrats won several major seats, including governor, and United States Congressional seats, including in the first congressional district that serves Portland, where Democrat Luke Bronin won against Republican Amy Chai.

In terms of the 33rd State Senate race, Keser said she believed Ferraro's loss came down to "name recognition."

"You know, when he was a state rep, it was in the West Haven area of the state," she said, "so I don't think Middlesex County really knew who he was until he came knocking on the door."

Incumbents, she said, are often challenging to defeat.

"I think people get complacent and they like what they know," she said. "They'd rather sleep with the devil they know than the devil they don't. From what I have heard in my position as RTC chair, I have just heard on both sides people say, 'I'm just voting blue down the line,' or 'I'm just voting red down the line.' I think they get so entrenched into the 'us versus them,' that they really don't look at policy or performance."

Overall, on the topic of the election in general, she said, "we're obviously very disappointed, but we're also hopeful for the next election cycle, which is next year. We've got municipal [elections] coming up next year and we've got some great candidates who are going to be stepping up, and so we can't focus on the past. We're just kind of analyzing what we could have done more as an RTC to help on the state [and] national level, and we're really going to focus in on our local election next year."



Rian Calhoun broke RHAM volleyball's all-time assist record during the team regular season finale last Friday. Calhoun is pictured with head coach Timothy Guernsey after eclipsing the mark.

Rivereast Standout Athletes of the Week

By Josh Howard

Rian Calhoun – RHAM High School (Volleyball): Calhoun broke the school record for career assists, dishing up her 2,364th assist during the Raptors three set victory over Tolland on Oct. 30. Calhoun, a senior, surpassed the previous mark (2,363) that was set in 2015 by Mckenzie Maneggia. During the record-breaking performance, Calhoun had 20 assists, adding 9 digs, 5 aces, 4 kills, and a block as RHAM wrapped up the regular season with a record of 13-6.

Brendan Kissane - East Hampton High School (Cross-Country): Kissane placed eighth at the Class SS state championships, helping the Bellringers earn silver medals with a second-place finish. Kissane, a junior, ran a 17:22 to lead a group of Bellringers that included Lee Barron (16th / 17:51), Luke Garcia (18th / 18:00), Brett Gustavson (23rd / 18:09), and Jackson Moulthrope (24th / 18:11). The Bellringers placed behind only the champs from Haddam-Killingworth and ahead of the other 24 programs that competed at Wickham Park in Manchester on Oct. 31.

Molly Reilly - Portland High School (Volleyball): Reilly was named to the All-Shoreline Conference (SLC) second-team. Reilly, a senior setter, led the team in assists this year, along with posting team-highs in digs and aces. It was the second straight season that Reilly was named all-conference, making the Honorable Mention team in 2025. Reilly is also a standout on the school's track and field team where she specializes in the javelin, along with running and jumping for the Highlanders.

Boden Paul - Bacon Academy (Cross-Country): Paul finished third overall at the Class SS state championships, running a 16:59 to earn the bronze medal at the state-wide meet at Wickham Park in Manchester of Halloween. Paul, a senior, crossed the line after champion Evan Berardino and runner-up Wyatt Voegti, both of Haddam-Killingworth, and ahead of 185 other competitors in the field. The Bobcats placed eighth overall as a team at the meet, which featured 26 different programs.

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.

Tri-County American Legion Baseball

Registration is open for those interested in Tri-County American Legion baseball program's winter hitting league.

Deadline to register is Dec. 1, but space is limited to the first 40 paid registrants.

The six-week league is scheduled to run in two sessions (Wednesdays and Saturdays) beginning in early January. It is open to serious players who will be between the ages of 12-19 in 2027 – and who have a parent residing in Andover, Colchester, East Haddam, East Hampton, Hebron, Lebanon or Marlborough.

For more information and to register, go to www.tclegion.com or contact GM Len Lampugnale at Lampugnale@comcast.net or at 860-295-0437.

Tryouts for Tri-County's 2027 teams will begin in February. Registration for tryouts will open up by late November. Depending on interest, Tri-County can again form teams at all four levels of American Legion (19U, 17U, 15U and 13U), as well as teams to compete in Babe Ruth (13U-16U).

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:

11/7: 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.

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by George M. Mantikas, DMD

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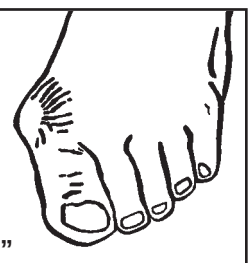
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RE6-26-20

Carpino Sails Unopposed to a Ninth Term

By Anne Lilburn



Carpino

State Rep. Christie Carpino, a Republican who ran unopposed, has formally been elected to her ninth term serving the state's 32nd District, which covers Portland and Cromwell.

Carpino, an attorney who also describes herself as a human resources professional, has been serving as a state representative since 2011. She has found support among Portland Republicans, and Republican First Selectman Mike Pelton previously described her as a supportive voice for the town at the state level.

"What we especially appreciate about Christie is that her commitment doesn't end at the State Capitol," said Pelton recently. "She is a familiar face throughout Portland, attending community events, meeting with residents, listening to concerns, and taking an active interest in what is happening in our town. She understands that being an effective representative means being present, available, and willing to do the work. We have personally witnessed the time and energy Christie devotes to Portland. Whether helping residents navigate state government, advocating for the needs of our community, or supporting local initiatives, she has consistently demonstrated how seriously she takes her responsibilities."

Carpino was unable to be reached for comment for this story.

Republican Town Committee Chair Peggy Keser said that Carpino's win, even if it was uncontested, was a bright spot for her after an Election Day that saw many seats going to Democratic candidates – across the state as well as across the nation. She described Carpino as a strong community member who works with non-profits and votes along the party line.

"We're so happy that she's continuing to fight for Portland and Cromwell. She's got a terrific voting records, so she's in alignment with the party ,and she's a great gal. I mean, she does a lot for the community," said Keser. "I really have a lot of admiration for her and I'm happy she's back in."

Interfaith 'Giving & Thanks' Gathering

Neighbors from Portland and surrounding communities are invited by the Interfaith Coalition of Portland to its annual "Giving & Thanks" gathering. This year it will be held on Sunday, Nov. 22, at 2 p.m. This time, the host will be the First Congregational Church, 554 Main Street, Portland.

The afternoon will feature music and prayers from Christian, Baha'i, Jewish, local Native American, Universalist Unitarian, Muslim and Hindu communities.

Attendees will also hear stories of hope from Gilead Community Services, which serves individuals in Portland, Middletown and surrounding communities who are experiencing mental health and substance use challenges. All who attend are encouraged to bring a donation to support these neighbors in need.

Donations that are needed include socks, combs and brushes, toothpaste and toothbrushes, fragrance-free deodorant, grocery store gift cards, coloring books and pencils, and journals plus nice pens. Also, to support the work that Gilead does, a free-will offering will be collected during this event.

Refreshments and conversation will follow the prayers and songs. All are welcome.

First Congregational Church News

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

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.

Red Cross Blood Drive: Friday, Nov. 13, noon-5 p.m. Donors are encouraged to register in advance at redcrossblood.org to find a convenient donation time. The church holds this blood drive every year on the Friday closest to Veterans Day.

Spiritual Group: All are invited to join the Rev. Judith Meyers on the first Wednesday of each month at 1 p.m. (November – 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.

2026 Leaf Pickup

The Town of Portland Department of Public Works will conduct its annual leaf pickup beginning Monday, Nov. 30.

Leaves must be placed in paper bags at the curb so as not to cause a sight line issue. Leaves must be out no later than Nov. 29. Plastic bags will not be picked up.

Residents who do not place their leaves at the curb can bring them to the transfer station (permit required). Leaves not in paper bags must be emptied by the resident in an area at the transfer station designated by the attendant.

Public Works requests that homeowners refrain from blowing or raking leaves into the roadway as blocking the storm drain inlets may cause flooding and create safety hazards.

For more information, call Public Works at 860-342-6733.

Public School Preschool Screening

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

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

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

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

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

Portland Library News & Notes

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

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

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.

Children's Programs: Late Fall Storytimes: Begin the week of Nov. 16; registration is required and is open now. **Preschool Storytimes (Ages 3-5):** Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. Nov. 17-Dec. 8.

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.

Drop-In Playdate: Thursday, Nov. 12, at 10:30 a.m. 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.

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.

Teen Program: 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.

Adult Programs: 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.

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

Book Clubs: Mystery Lovers Book Club: Tuesday, Nov. 17, 1 p.m. "A Traitor in Whitehall" by Julia Kelly will be discussed. **Talk About Books:** Tuesday, Dec. 1, 1 p.m. "Art Thief" by Michael Finkel will be discussed. **1st Thursday Night Book Club:** Thursday, Dec 3, 6:30 p.m. "The Mother-in-Law" by Sally Hepworth will be discussed.

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.

Zion Lutheran Coat Drive

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

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

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

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Draft POCD Sets Priorities and Goals

By Anne Lilburn

Portland has completed the draft of its Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD), a state-mandated planning document that must, by law, be revised every 10 years.

As described in the draft document, the POCD is a "strategic and comprehensive document that provides guidance for the future growth and development of a municipality as it makes its decisions about land purchases, infrastructure investments and zoning changes."

The document, which was last revised in 2016, has been undergoing the revision process for the better part of the past year, with Town Planner Dan Bourret working with outside consultants to gather public input and help write the new document. A public hearing to adopt the plan will be held next month.

For those wanting to read the draft document, it is available on the town website, www.portlandct.org. Interested residents will find everything from history dating back to colonial and pre-colonial times, to current demographics, to future planning goals in the report.

The POCD was prepared over the course of the past year; the process included gathering public input through both public visioning sessions and surveys. The document highlights some areas that residents viewed as town strengths, including the town's small-town identity and sense of community, its natural resources and open space, its strong school district, and its community events and traditions.

On the flip side, residents expressed concerns as well. Residents lamented the appearance of the downtown district and blighted and vacant buildings, expressed fear about overdevelopment and concern over losing the town's small-town, rural character, and worried about educational facilities (though much of the public input was gathered prior to the town's passage of its school consolidation and renovation plan). Residents also said they disliked the limited number of local amenities, and said they wanted more restaurants and recreational activities available in the community.

Other issues noted by residents in the public input for the POCD include walkability, traffic issues from future development and overall affordability, including housing costs and tax burdens. The document notes that currently, according to the state Department of Housing, only 6.93% of the town's current housing stock meets the state definition of "affordable," and cites that lack of housing access as an area of concern.

Community goals that were highlighted from the public input included: 1) Revitalizing Downtown and Main Street, with streetscape improvements, landscaping, and increased development, including restaurants and retail; 2) "Unlock[ing]" the Riverfront Potential, including expanding public riverfront access, and development including restaurants, docks, recreational spaces, and events and concerts; 3) Growing Recreation and Community Programming, including farmers markets, outdoor concerts and events and activities for all ages; 4) Preserving Open Space, with a priority placed on protecting farmland, preserving environmental assets, connecting trails and recreation corridors, and concentrating growth in existing developed areas; and 5) Encouraging Thoughtful Economic Development, with residents wanting strategic development with a focus on local businesses, growth in existing commercial corridors, and avoiding heavy industrial expansion, particularly in the riverfront area.

Accordingly, the document sets out several "visions" for the town: "a Portland that provides Opportunity and Growth through a Strong Downtown Redevelopment and Diverse Economic Development," with a focus on promoting economic vitality and developing a "vibrant" and walkable village area; "A Portland that Protects Its Important Resources," with a focus on preserving natural and historic resources; "A Portland with sufficient affordable and attainable housing in order to retain and attract new residents," focusing on diversifying local housing stock to make the community attractive both to young residents looking to establish themselves in the town and older residents looking to age in place; and "a Portland that is Connected and Inclusive," seeking to connect the community with infrastructure projects, including the town's water project and the school building plan.

Redeveloping the downtown and riverfront areas and repositioning the town as a recreational destination are also described as key priorities, and the document highlights recent and current projects that seek to achieve these goals and visions, including Brownstone Quarry Exploration Park, Brainerd Place, the Nordic Spa, and the ongoing expansion of the Air Line Trail to connect fully with regional recreation opportunities. It also discusses the potential future use of Brownstone School.

The POCD sets several goals related to transportation, including sidewalk and crosswalk improvements to improve pedestrian access and a potential "road diet" on Main Street. It also sets goals for preserving natural resources, including water, open space and farmland, and sets priorities for expanding recreational activities to take advantage of Portland's natural setting.

It expands upon the need the Portland has for affordable housing, and describes some of the challenges of matching housing stock to the needs of the community, and also sets priorities for infrastructure maintenance, enhancement and expansion within the community.

The entire 110-page document is available on the town's website on its front page, and the town's Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing to adopt the plan on Dec. 3 at 7 p.m. at Portland Library, 20 Freestone Ave.

Festival of Wreaths to Return

In 2012 a small group from the Portland Historical Society's executive board traveled to Bolton, Mass., to attend a small Festival of Wreaths that the Bolton Historical Society had been holding for a number of years. Full of ideas and enthusiasm, the Portland Historical Society then started the townwide tradition of a Festival of Wreaths – "Jingle & Mingle" – as a teacup raffle.

The society is planning this year's festival for the weekend of Dec. 5 and 6 at the Grange Hall on Sage Hollow Road. Last year, over 40 wreaths and tabletop decorations were donated. Decorations can range from traditional to innovative, from sophisticated to child-like.

Individuals, families, businesses, clubs and organizations are invited to donate a decorated wreath for this raffle. Wreaths can be real or artificial, can be a size and shape of your choice and can even be made from other materials — shells, pinecones, scrapbook papers, candies. It can have a theme, e.g., "Glistening Snowflakes" or "Forest Wonderland," or be decorated to attract a particular audience — Legos or Crayolas for the younger boys and girls or cookie cutters for the home baker. A gift card or certificate for a service can be attached as part of your decoration.

All wreaths should be pre-registered by Thursday, Dec. 3, by sending an email to PortlandCThistory@gmail.com.

If you would like to participate but don't have time to create a wreath, for a donation of $30 a Historical Society "elf" will decorate one for you. Your name, business or organization will be listed as the donor. Email PortlandCThistory@gmail.com to make arrangements for a society elf to "work" for you. If you prefer to make a financial donation, your name will be posted as a supporter during the event.

The Festival of Wreaths will be back at the Grange Hall for the third year — located at 17 Sage Hollow Road. All decorations must be dropped off by their creators on Thursday, Dec. 3, or Friday, Dec. 4. The festival will be open for the public on Saturday and Sun-day from noon to 4 pm at the Grange Hall. On Saturday, Dec. 5, at 3 p.m, the Portland High School A Capella Group, under the direction of Samuel Tucker, will perform holiday songs.

All proceeds from this event will be used to further the society's mission to preserve Portland's history and to fund educational projects for the community.

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. 16.

Weekly Programs: Monday, 11/9: *Light Aerobics, 9:30-10:30 a.m.*

Tuesday, 11/10: 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: chicken fajitas/tortillas and lettuce, Spanish veggie rice, milk, grapes; **Coupons for Troops,** 1-4 p.m.; **Setback,** 1 p.m.; **SyncoCize,** 5-6 p.m., fee is donation to instructor.

Wednesday, 11/11: Senior Center closed for Veterans Day.

Thursday, 11/12: Seated Stretch & Tone, 9:30 a.m.; **Knit & Stitch,** 10 a.m.; **Congregate Meal,** noon – $3 suggested donation (must fill out form). Menu: beef stroganoff with egg noodles, mixed veggies, cheddar biscuit wth butter, string cheese, cup of pears; **Mah Jongg,** 12:30 p.m.; **Scrabble,** 1 p.m.

Friday, 11/13: Light Aerobics, 9:30-10:30 a.m.; **Chair Yoga with Gia,** 10:30 a.m., $5 donation to instructor.

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

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

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.

Monday, Nov. 16: A Veterans Day Salute: Coffee, Camaraderie & Country, 2 p.m. Enjoy coffee and pastries as you celebrate local veterans and express appreciation for their services and sacrifice. There will be a performance by the For Fun Duo. All are welcome.

Wednesday, Nov. 18: Shopping Trip to Middletown, 2:30-5:30 p.m. Visit Stop & Shop, Marshall's and Dollar Tree. There is a $5 ride fee.

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.

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Zion Lutheran News & Notes

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

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

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

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

Year-Round Giving: 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.

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.

Help Shape The Future Of Aging In Connecticut

By Sarah Elliott-Caratasios, MSW, LMSW
Director, Portland Senior Center/ Municipal Agent on Aging

I am pleased and honored to share that the Portland Senior Center will be one of the few senior centers in Connecticut to host a community listening session for Connecticut's next State Plan on Aging.

This is an extraordinary opportunity for older adults in Portland and our surrounding communities to have their voices heard and help shape the future of aging in our state.

On Monday, Dec. 7, from noon to 1 p.m., we will welcome representatives from the Connecticut Department of Aging and Disability Services' Bureau of Aging to the Portland Senior Center, 7 Waverly Ave., for this important conversation.

Throughout my work with older adults, I have always believed that advocacy begins with listening. When opportunities arise for individuals to share their experiences, concerns, and ideas, I believe we have a responsibility to make those opportunities accessible to our community.

That is why hosting this session is so meaningful to me.

Connecticut's State Plan on Aging serves as a roadmap for supporting older adults and their families. It helps establish priorities surrounding healthy aging, independence, access to services, and the resources individuals need to remain active and engaged in their communities.

But to truly understand what older adults need, we must hear directly from the people experiencing the challenges and opportunities of aging every day. This is something I strive to do daily at the municipal level, listening to our older adults, identifying barriers, and advocating for programs and services that support their independence and quality of life. However, this listening session provides an opportunity to bring those same voices and concerns to a much larger, statewide conversation. Opportunities like this should not be overlooked. I strongly encourage our community to take advantage of this chance to help influence the future of aging in Connecticut.

What is working well in our communities? Where are the barriers? Are older adults able to access transportation, healthcare, nutrition, social opportunities, and the support needed to remain independent? What challenges are caregivers facing? What could we be doing better?

These are the conversations that matter.

This listening session provides an opportunity for older adults, family caregivers, service providers, community partners, and anyone interested in aging in Connecticut to participate in a meaningful discussion. Representatives will provide a brief overview of the State Plan on Aging, followed by a facilitated conversation about what is working, what is needed, and what can be improved.

I often remind people that no one understands the experience of aging better than those living it. Your experiences, whether positive or challenging, are valuable. They provide insight that cannot always be captured through reports, statistics, or data alone.

As a professional dedicated to healthy aging and aging in place, I believe it is important not only to provide programs and services but also to advocate for the systems and resources that allow older adults to maintain their independence, dignity, and quality of life.

This is an opportunity to do exactly that.

I warmly invite our Portland residents and neighbors from surrounding towns to join us. You do not need to be a member of the Senior Center to attend. This session is free and open to the public.

Although registration is not required, we would appreciate a quick phone call to let us know if you plan to attend. This will help us prepare and ensure we have enough light refreshments for everyone.

Whether you are an older adult, a caregiver, a professional working in aging services, or someone who simply cares about the future of our aging population, your perspective matters. I am proud that our senior center can help bring this important statewide conversation directly to our community. After all, the future of aging in Connecticut should be shaped by the voices of those who know it best.

Please join us, enjoy some light refreshments, learn about Connecticut's State Plan on Aging, and most importantly, make your voice heard. We look forward to welcoming you!

For more information about Connecticut's State Plan on Aging, visit portal.ct.gov/ADS-CTSTATEPLAN.

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.

Food Drive Reminder

This is a reminder to Portland residents that the 32nd annual food drive to benefit Portland Food Bank will be Sunday, Nov. 8. Volunteers will drop off grocery bags to different neighborhoods starting at 1 p.m. They will then return Sunday, Nov. 15, to pick up the bags.

For more information or to volunteer, call Kelly Mainetti at 860-685-1985.

Bereavement Support Group

St. Mary Church, located at 45 Freestone Ave., invites all to attend the Bereavement Support Group.

The evening session meets the second Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m., in the church hall, and the afternoon session meets the fourth Tuesday of the month at 2 p.m. – also in the church hall.

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



Senior Scramble… **Tuesday Morning Senior Mixed Golf League played their season ending Fall Foliage Scramble Golf Tournament at Portland West Golf Course on Oct. 27.**

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.

Holiday Craft and Vendor Show

The Trinity Church Holiday Craft and Vendor Show is planned for Saturday, Nov. 21, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at 345 Main St.

There will be a large assortment of Thanksgiving and Christmas Crafts, Baked Goods, Vintage Christmas items, scarves and "Crown Jewels" provided by Trinity Crafting Commandos and Bakers.

Vendors will include crafts, jewelry, Connecticut-made food items, ornaments, homemade children's clothes, nursery décor, crochet items, gift items, soaps, candles, book items, canvas art, decoupage, handmade baby items, fabric toys, table runners, insulated casserole totes, ID holders and more.

Library in Laptop Program

Portland Public Library is participating in the Laptop ConneCT Program. The program is designed to help users bridge the digital gap, and will allow participants to work, learn, and connect from home.

To be eligible, the patron must be at least 18 years old, have a valid Portland Public Library card in good standing, and be a current participant in a qualifying state or federal assistance program (SNAP, CEAP, LIHEAP, Medicare, or HUSKY Health).

Applications to participate are available at www.portlandlibraryct.org or by calling or stopping by the library, located at 20 Freestone Ave., during its open hours: Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.; and Saturday, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

For more information, call the library at 860-342-6700 or email portlandlibrary@portlandct.org.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

See More Portland News, page 30



Wangunk Ceremony… **Middle Haddam Public Library held a reception with Wangunk artist Kyle "Bright Star" O'Neil on Sunday, Oct. 4. Many of Kyle's family and friends were in attendance, including members from eight different native tribes – Wangunk, Nipmuc, Apache, Nehantic, Taino, Paugussett, Ponkapoag and Inca. The reception included a traditional Wangunk ceremony to welcome the ancestors, along with a short talk by Kyle's father, Gary "Red Oak" O'Neil. Gary gave an informal talk at the library on Kyle's artistic journey and Wangunk history on Sunday, Oct. 18.**

Local Man Dies in Traffic Collision

By Anne Lilburn

An East Hampton man was killed in a vehicle crash on Route 15 in Orange on Saturday, Oct. 31.

Dylan Barthell, 38, from East Hampton, died in the two-vehicle collision that occurred just after 4:15 p.m., according to State Police. The driver of the other car, a 64-year-old woman from Fairfield, suffered minor injuries and was taken to Yale New Haven Hospital by ambulance, while Barthell was pronounced dead at the scene, police said.

According to police, the crash occurred on southbound Route 15 near Exit 42B, when the Ford pickup truck that Barthell was driving hit the woman's Ford SUV after he drifted from the left lane into the right lane. Both vehicles left the road and hit a metal guardrail, with Barthell's vehicle also striking a highway sign support post, before heading down an embankment and coming to a rest on the sloped area on the side of the highway.

Connecticut State Police are investigating the crash and have asked anyone who may have witnessed the crash or been traveling in the area at the time to contact Trooper Patrick Miko at 203-393-4200 or patrick.miko@ct.gov.

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.

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.

Local Art on Display

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

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

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

Holiday Makers Market

All are invited to save the date for a Holiday Makers Market at Middle Haddam Public Library, 2 Knowles Rd., Middle Haddam, on Saturday, Dec. 12, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

The market will features products by local artisans, including art, jewelry, pottery, woven blankets and kitchen towels, fabric hand bags, jams, scarves and textile art, greeting cards and more.

After the Dec. 12 opening day sale, products will be on display and available for purchase the following week through during library hours.

Call 860-267-9093 for more information.

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.

Fabric Donations Welcome!

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

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

Holly Bazaar

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

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

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Wreaths Across America

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

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

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

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

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

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.

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.

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.

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. 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.

Nov. 8 is Veterans Sunday to honor all who have served in the United States armed forces with the Sunday school children participating. The service will be led by Seaver. Her sermon title is "They All Fell Asleep," based on Solomon 6:12-16 and Matthew 25:1-13.

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.

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.

St. Patrick Church News & Notes

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

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

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

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

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

The parish website is www.sjpii.org.

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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." The scripture reading for this Sunday's service is 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. The Rev. Robin Blundon will deliver the sermon. Coffee hour will follow the worship service. All are invited.

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. – new members are always welcome.

Christmas Collection for DCF Clients: The church is collecting gift cards that will be given to children who receive services through DCF. Cards may be purchased through the RaiseRight program available through the church (order deadline is Nov. 22) or directly from a retailer.

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.

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.

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.

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.



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. Pictured is Delilah Koonankeil from the last open stage.**

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.

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.

The Connecticut 169 Club

On Thursday, Nov. 12, at 6 p.m., Martin Podskoch will present "The Connecticut 169 Club: Your Passport and Guide to Exploring Connecticut" at the Cragin Memorial Library, 8 Linwood Ave. This program is sponsored by the Colchester Historical Society.

All are invited to this book talk and signing by author and historian Marty Podskoch. His travel book, "The Connecticut 169 Club: Your Passport and Guide to Exploring Connecticut," encourages travelers to visit all the towns and villages in the state.

Podskoch created this book to be both a guide and a passport. Each town's description highlighting their town's location, history, and interest was written by a local resident. The book has a space for travelers to journal about their experiences and a place to get the book stamped or signed by a resident or business. Travelers will get to know the locals and perhaps learn about a good place to eat, an interesting local attraction or insight into their residents. People who visit all 169 towns will receive the "Leatherman Award" patch at a luncheon or dinner held at a different town each year. The award is named after the vagabond who lived in caves and traveled a route regularly (approximately 34 days) from the Connecticut River to the Hudson River during the late 1800s.

This event is free and books will be available for purchase at the event.

For more information, contact the Colchester Historical Society, at mail@colchesterhistory.org or 860-537-4032.





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Artopia to Return

Epoch Arts will host its annual "Artopia" event on Sunday, Nov. 15, from 1-4 p.m., at Epoch, 27 Skinner St.

This is a free community event for the entire family that includes an all-ages art show, live music, live art demonstrations, kids crafts, adult hands-on art, vendors, food and more. There will be more than 17 vendors selling homemade soaps, weaving and fiber goods, award winning hot sauces, breads and baked goods, henna, jewelry, 3D-printed items, Christmas crafts and more.

If you're an artist and would like to share your artwork in the gallery – whether it be painting, drawing, printing, sculpture, photography, mixed media or another art form – contact Rachel at rachel@epocharts.org or visit www.epocharts.org. All ages are welcome to participate.

East Hampton Library News & Notes

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

Hours: Monday - Wednesday, 10 a.m.- 8 p.m.; Thursday - Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

All-Ages Book Bingo!: Wednesday, Nov. 16, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Win some new books. Refreshments provided.

Adult Programs: 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.

Drop-In Mah Jongg Play: Wednesday, Nov. 18, 6 p.m. There will be tables and Mah Jongg sets available. Space is first-come, first-served and open to all levels of play.

Craft + Crumbs: Adults & Grades 8-12: Tuesday, Nov. 17, 6 p.m. Come for a snack program that happens to involve crafts. Learn how to create bookmarks using old book spines. No experience required; supplies included.

Monthly Adult Book Club: Wednesday, Nov. 18, 6:30-7:30 p.m. This month's pick is "Mrs. Lincoln's Dressmaker" by Jennifer Chiaverini. Pick up a copy of the book at the circulation desk.

Tech Help: Thursday, Nov. 19, 2-4 p.m. Basic technology help for phones, laptops, tablets, and e-readers. No registration required; just bring your device with you.

Teen Programs: 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.

Teen Advisory Board: Tuesday, Nov. 17, 6 p.m. Take a leadership role in shaping how the library serves teens like you. Help plan programs and improve the Teen Space.

'The Hunger Games' Ultimate Tribute Challenge: Grades 6-12: Saturday, Nov. 21, 1:00-2:00 p.m. Test your skills with Hunger Games-inspired challenges and diy crafts! For grades 6-12. Sponsored by Teen Advisory Board.

Children's Program: Read to a Therapy Dog: Tuesday, Nov. 17, 4:30-5:30 p.m. Readers will be assigned a 15-minute time slot to read to Jovie, a certified therapy dog. This is an opportunity to read aloud in a comfortable environment. Registration required.

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.

Featured Artist for November: Steven Wells, a lifelong Portland resident and builder. Wells attended Paier College of Art and has taught watercolor classes for several years. His watercolors depict scenes of Portland and other favorite places in New England. His work can be viewed during regular library hours. An artist reception will held Friday, Nov. 13, from 4-6 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

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.

Tree-Lighting and Carol-Singing: Friday, Dec. 4, at 5 p.m. All are welcome.

Holiday Party: Sunday, Dec. 6, 4:30-6:30 p.m. All are welcome. Bring an appetizer or dessert to share if you can.

Makers' Market: Saturday, Dec. 12, featuring local artisans. Makers will be on site that day, and many items may remain available to purchase at the library through Dec. 19.

Mahjong: Mondays, 10:30 a.m. All levels of experience welcome. Contact the library for more information.

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

Chatham Chess Club: Select Wednesdays from 6-9 p.m.; November and December dates to be announced. All ages and skill levels welcome; lessons available. For more information, email pjhoffman1@juno.com.

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

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

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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RE9-18-26



Donation for Senior Center… **The National Mahjongg League, Inc. recently donated $789 to East Hampton Senior Center. The donation came after participants in the senior center's Mahjongg classes and leagues purchased Mahjongg cards through the National Mahjongg League. Pictured are East Hampton Senior Center Director Holly Marrero and center member and Mahjongg onstructor Barbara Hahn.**



RHAM Girl Scouts are getting ready for the annual Holiday Craft Fair. Pictured at last year's fair are members of Marlborough Troop 61097.

Girl Scouts Holiday Craft Fair

The RHAM Girl Scouts are busy working on their unique, handmade items that will be available for purchase at the 32nd annual Holiday Craft Fair, scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 5, from 9 a.m.-noon, in the Marlborough Elementary School community room.

The fair is open to the public and has no admission fee. All items are priced at $10 or under, and each purchase comes with free gift wrapping.

The craft fair also allows children to independently shop for gifts for their favorite people and pets. Young shoppers can bring a list of who to buy for and some money, and older Girl Scouts will be available to assist them with gift selections and financial transactions. Family members can watch from afar or relax in the cafeteria while their children pick out the perfect gifts.

There will also be a bake sale in the cafeteria with a selection of baked items and free drinks for shoppers to enjoy. This year, the Girl Scouts will also collect non-perishable donations for the Hebron and Marlborough food banks.

All craft fair proceeds go directly to RHAM Girl Scout troops for troop activities and community service projects.

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RE10-23-26

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.

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.

Tech Help with Scott Cross: Tuesday, Nov. 10, 10 a.m. to noon. Call for an appointment for technical help with your laptop, cell phone or iPad.

Senior Center Book Club: Tuesday, Nov. 10, 10:30 a.m., featuring a discussion of the book "The Borrowed Life of Frederick Fife" by Anna Johnson. New members welcome.

A Closer Look at Processed Food: Tuesday, Nov. 10, at 12:15 p.m. Learn what "processed food" really means and get a clear overview of how foods are classified. (Held during lunch so call for a lunch reservation the day before by 10:30 a.m.) Presented by Chris Blancarte of Senior Resources Agency on Aging.

Trips: 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.

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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.

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.





Car Show Fundraiser… **In July, the B.A.K Farm on Old West High Street in East Hampton had a car show. The B.A.K Farm is a nonprofit organization started by Anthony Flannery III, to support first responders and veterans. The July fundraiser specifically supported the East Hampton Ambulance Association scholarship foundation. The car show raised $2,167, and Belltown Motors donated an additional $1,000 – meaning the farm was able to present a check for $3,167 to the scholarship foundation. Pictured from left are Curtis and Kitty Strong, Chief Chris Wherry, EMT Tyler Brown, Anthony Flannery III, and Jen Day.**

Upcoming Events at Haddam Neck Church

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

The church will hold a blessing of the animals Sunday Oct. 25, during the 10:30 a.m. service. The Rev. Linda Choser will lead the blessing. Bring your dog, cat, bird, fish, goat, sheep, horse, cow or whatever animal you would like to have blessed to church. Larger animals will be blessed outside. Refreshments will follow.

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

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

American Legion to Meet

The next meeting of the Treadway Cavanaugh American Legion Post 64 will be held Tuesday, Nov. 10, at 7 p.m., at the VFW, 20 North Maple St.

All members are encouraged to attend. Any veterans interested in joining are also welcome.

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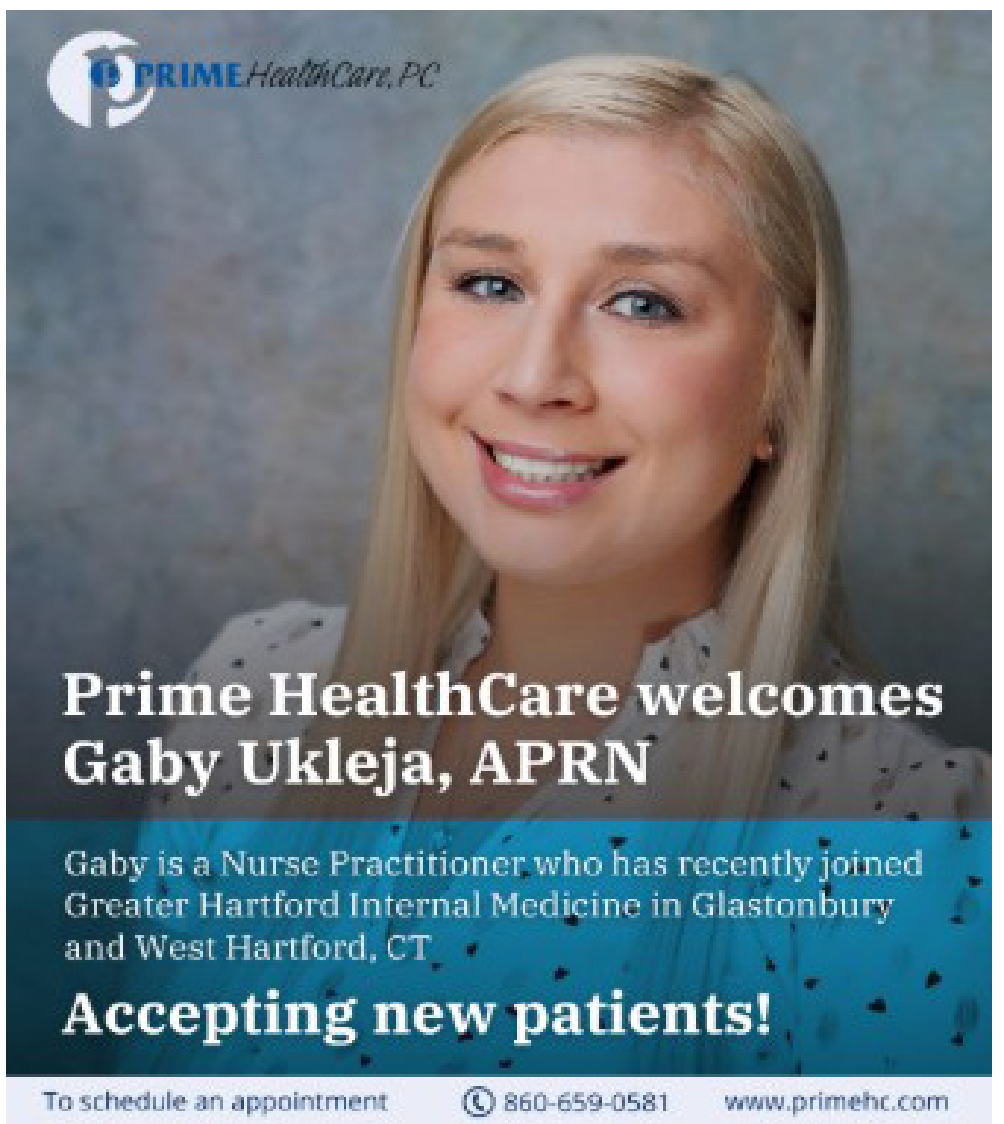
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Sewer Usage Bills Due

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

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

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

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).



The Hosmer Mountain Boys – a retro bluegrass band – will perform at Marlborough Arts Center Friday, Nov. 20.

Concert at Arts Center

If you like bluegrass music and old-fashioned soda flavors like Sarsaparilla, you need to come to November's 4th Friday at the Arts Café at Marlborough Arts Center – which this month will take place on the third Friday.

The Hosmer Mountain Boys, a retro bluegrass band, will perform. Showtime is 7:30 p.m. and doors open at 7 p.m.

The Hosmer Mountain Boys were voted the "Fan Favorite" at the 2023 Podunk Bluegrass Festival, performed in Lexington, KY on WoodSongs Old-Time Radio Hour, and crossed the pond for the 2024 Battlefield Bluegrass Festival in England.

What is the connection to soda?

Banjo player, Simon Brogie, was born in a house a short walk away from Hosmer Mountain and the famous Hosmer Mountain Soda Company located in eastern Connecticut. As a young boy he told his parents that when he grew up, he would have a bluegrass band one day and name it "The Hosmer Mountain Boys."

Marlborough Arts Center is located at 231 North Main St. Tickets for the show are $15.









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.

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.

Lions Held Masquerade 5K

The Marlborough Lions held a successful Masquerade 5K on Sunday, Oct. 25, with 62 runners enjoying the fall day and showing their Halloween spirit.

The top male runner was Matthew Ackroyd of Colchester, with a time of 21 minutes and 33 seconds. The top female runner was Sarah Lombard of Southbury, with a time of 24 minutes and 24 seconds.

The youngest runner was Andromeda Mullane of East Hampton, with an overall time of one hour, two minutes and 25 seconds, beating her father Thomas Mullane by just one second. Thomas also won overall best costume with his Storm Trooper.

Winning funniest costume went to folks dressed as red Spice Girls; scariest costume went to a runner clad as Morticia; and best group costume was the characters from Mario Brothers, including the youngest Princess Peach. Winners were able to choose gift cards donated by Run Manchester, Marlborough Pizza, and Marlborough Tavern.

Sponsors of the event were Hebron Veterinary Hospital, Gano's, Toyota of Colchester, Village Green, Greloch Eyecare, Sweet Jean's Cafe, Marlborough Barn, Marlborough Family Dental, Glastonbury Animal Hospital of Marlborough, Fuller Paving, Allegra & Steve Weir, and Ken Hjulstrom – William Raveis Real Estate.

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.

Mahjongg Location: On the first Wednesday of each month, from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Mahjongg will be held at Marlborough Bakery, 8 Independence Drive. All other Wednesdays of the month the game will be played, also from 1:30-3:30 p.m., at Fire House 2 on West Road. All skill levels are welcome. There is no fee to play, but players use 2026 Mahjongg cards, which they purchase on their own.

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

Blood Drive: Wednesday, Nov. 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: Thursday, Nov. 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: Friday, Nov. 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 Nov. 6.

Lunch and Learn with Farley-Sullivan Funeral Home: Monday, Nov. 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 Nov. 12.

Nail Care: Wednesday, Nov. 18, 9 a.m.-noon, by appointment 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: Wednesday, Nov. 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.

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.

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.

Holiday Craft Fair

There will be a Holiday Craft Fair Sunday, Nov. 29, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., at American Legion Post 197, 128 East Hampton Rd., Marlborough.

There will be shopping, raffles, and food for purchase.

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.

New Art Exhibit at Town Hall

The nonprofit Marlborough Arts Center (MAC) announces a new solo art exhibit of local artist Sherry Pratt-Totten at Town Hall, 26 N. Main St.

Pratt-Totten's paintings are now on display in the main hallway of the town hall this November and December as well as through January 2027.

Pratt-Totten attended Eastern Connecticut State College, and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in fine art. She worked from high school until retirement in 2019, dreaming of painting when she had time. Once retired, Pratt-Totten began painting from the many photographs of her gardens with acrylic and pastels. In addition, she is an avid gardener, having planned and planted many gardens over her 40 years in East Haddam.

Pratt-Totten also paints pet portraits and sews jointed faux fur memory bears. Her husband Steven, born in East Haddam, is a retired finish carpenter and makes some of the frames for her paintings.

Pratt-Totten is a member of the East Haddam Art League, the Lyme Art Association and Marlborough Art Center and paints pet portraits on commission.

Marlborough Arts Center presents three-month solo exhibitions for member artists in the Town Hall's main hallway.

For inquiries regarding Pratt-Totten's paintings, contact Barbara Lazzari in the Town Hall's tax collector's office, or contact Marlborough Arts Center at 860-467-6353 or info@marlborougharts.org.

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.

Save the Date

The Gathering on the Green will be held on Saturday, Dec. 5, from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Watch the *Rivereast* for more information.

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.

Country Line Dancing Fundraiser

There will be a Country Line Dancing Fundraiser Friday, Nov. 13, from 6-9 p.m., at Marlborough American Legion, 128 East Hampton Rd.

Aric Lemeiux of Sound Train Music will DJ and lead country line dancing. Cost is $10.

Feel free to bring your own snacks. A cash bar will be available. The event is open to the public.

★ *State Races, cont. from page 1*

of the campaign," he said. "I was definitely not expecting that. I had not experienced that in the first three times I ran." (Weir had previously unsuccesfuly ran for state Senate in 2020.)

Weir also said he believed national politics played a part in local races across Connecticut.

"I think what's happening nationally certainly affected it," he said. "We saw it affect other races in the state with long-serving, good-quality members who lost their seats."

Despite the loss, Weir is excited to spend more time with his family, focus on his private-sector career and return his attention to his farm. He also plans to finish out his time in office and take part in local events before leaving the Capitol in January.

Osten Wins Another Term

Meanwhile, in the state Senate District 19 race, incumbent Democrat Cathy Osten of Sprague defeated Republican Jason Guidone of Hebron. Osten received 21,605 votes, while Guidone received 14,573.

The district includes the *Rivereast* towns of Hebron and Marlborough, as well as Columbia, Lebanon, Franklin, Sprague, Lisbon, Norwich, Montville and Ledyard. Osten has served as senator for the district since 2013.

Osten could not be reached for comment.

Guidone said Wednesday morning that he was disappointed by the loss but was not completely surprised after seeing Democrats win races across Connecticut.

"There are a lot of Republican incumbents that I admired that have been unseated," he said. "Strong representatives that typically won by a good margin got flipped."

While he had obviously hoped for a different outcome, Guidone said he felt encouraged by the support he received while meeting voters all the same.

"It felt really good," he said. "It was very encouraging out on the campaign trail. I was encouraged and had a hopeful view of what might come."

Guidone also said he enjoyed running against Osten and believed the two campaigns remained respectful.

"We're not enemies," he said. "It's a competition for a seat. We're cordial, and we joke around."

Guidone, who currently serves as the chair of the Hebron Republican Town Committee, said he plans to stay involved in local politics, and he pointed to the 2027 municipal elections and the possibility of another run in 2028.

"I'll probably take a nap tomorrow," he joked when asked what's next, and added that he also needed to pick up campaign signs and catch up on things around the house.

He said he would be praying for the state's new leaders and hoping their decisions benefit residents.

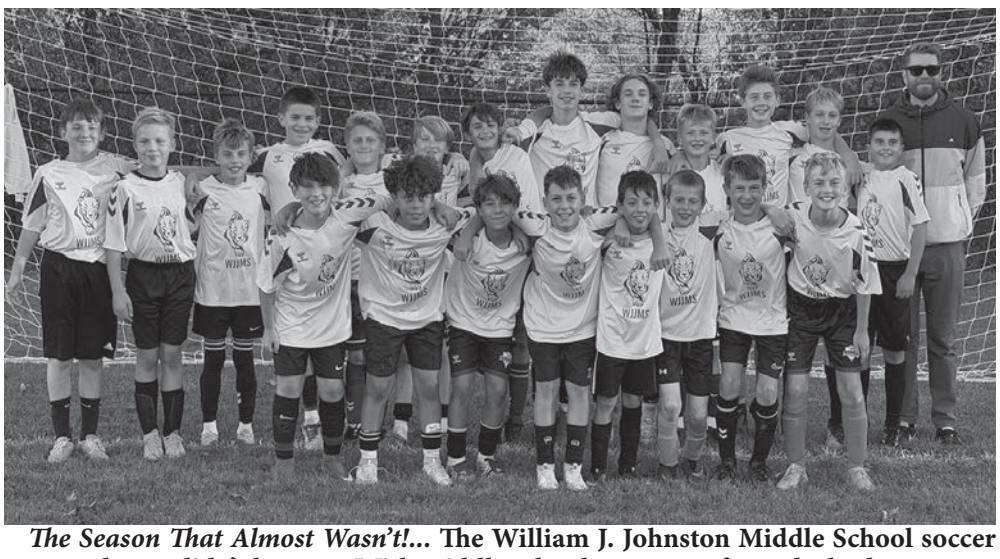
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The Season That Almost Wasn't!... **The William J. Johnston Middle School soccer season almost didn't happen. With middle school sports cut from the budget, a one-time donation from the Colchester Soccer Club pushed the "canceled" season forward. Pictured here is the William J. Johnston Middle School boys team with Coach Toni Stahl. The team came out of the season with two varsity wins. This is the first time the team has won a game in seven years. The JV and varsity teams ended with a 5-12-5 record. Funds continue to be raised to support middle school sports. If you'd like to make a donation, send a check to William J. Johnston Middle School, with "Middle School Sports" in the memo.**

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?

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 Sake 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.

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 November.

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.

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.

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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.

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.

Youth Football Recap

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

Seniors: While the Seniors lost, 38-32, Jake Sheehan, Bo Thody and Brandon Hopkins all scored touchdowns via runs and passes. Brandon also had a interception and William Pagel recovered an onside kick on the first kick-off of the game. Colchester Cougars wishes a farewell to the following Youth Football and Cheer graduates; Grace Wissler, Jaylene Kaden, Brynn Angell, Jakob Sheehan, Aiden Francis, Camden Allard, Monty Ramar, Bo Thody, Travis Clark, Garrett Berg-Johnsen, Jaxon Ward, AJ Ferreira, Kayden Summerlin, Bennett Cappiello, and Payton Belch.

Juniors: Varsity: Played WPTP Sunday which ended in an exhilarating 20-19 win. It took point returns, fumble recoveries, and commitment to responsibilities to get the job done. The victory won the Cougars home field advantage against WPTP in the first round of playoffs.

JV: Played an exciting Blue vs. White game on Oct. 26. Many players showed a level of confidence that hasn't been seen all year. There was a passing barrage, defenses flowed to the ball, and most players executed their assignments with consistency.

Peewee: Both the offensive and defensive units played together as a team to outscore their opponent and win the final game of the season . The Cougars had fumble recoveries, they had big runs for touchdowns, and they had offensive and defensive line play that was unstoppable.

Senior Center News & Notes

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

Monday, Nov. 9: 9 a.m., Making Memories, Exercise w/ Anne, CoA Meeting; 10 a.m., Sittercize, Haircuts with Deborah, Mystery Art Adventures; 11 a.m., Learn to Sign; 11 a.m.-noon, Fitness Orientation; 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., AARP Driver Class; 12:30 p.m., Mah Jongg, Set Back, Bridge.

Tuesday, Nov. 10: 9 a.m., Making Memories; 9:30 a.m., Diabetes Management Class; 9:45 a.m., Tai Chi; 10:30 a.m., Garden Club Pumpkin Craft; 11:11 a.m., Veterans Day Tribute; 12:30 p.m., Pinochle, In the Know; 1 p.m., Cornhole; 1:15 p.m., Bingo; 5:30 p.m., Hand & Foot Card Game, Bunco.

Wednesday, Nov. 11: Senior center closed for Veterans Day Holiday.

Thursday, Nov. 12: 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Vaccine Clinic; 9 a.m., Exercise w/ Anne; 10 a.m., Sittercize, Wii Bowling, Card-Making; 11 a.m., Yoga; 12:05 p.m., Chair Massage; 12:30 p.m., Dominoes, Needlework Club; 6 p.m., Trivia Night.

Friday, Nov. 13: 9 a.m., Social Service Hours, Open Art Studio; 9:30 a.m., Seasonal Crafting; 10 a.m., Sit & Be Fit; 10:30 a.m., Choral Group; 10:45 a.m., Blood Pressure Clinic; 11 a.m., Yoga; 11:15 a.m., Chatham Health Education Series; 12:30 p.m., Tech Time with Harry; 1-3:30 p.m., Open Ping Pong; 1:15 p.m., Bingo.

Make One / Give One Holiday Craftng Workshops: Make Decoupaged Holiday Candle Holders on Tuesday, Nov. 17, at 12:30 p.m., and Scrabble Christmas Ornaments on Thursday, Nov. 19, at 12:30 p.m. In these workshops, participants will make two of each craft. They will donate one to be sold at the fair and they will take one home to decorate their home or give as a gift. Registration is required for each session. Space is limited. These are free programs.

Pizza & A Movie: Tuesday, Nov. 17, 5:30 p.m. This month's film, "The Thursday Murder Club," based on the bestselling novel by Richard Osman, follows four residents in a peaceful retirement community who spend their time investigating murders for fun. Rated PG-13, the movie runs two hours. Cost is $7, and registration is required.

Ultimate Bingo: Thursday, Nov. 19, 6 p.m. Space is limited for this monthly game, where you pay to play and the prizes are bigger. Cost is $10.

Free Thanksgiving Bingo: Tuesday, Nov. 17, 10:30 a.m., sponsored by Harrington Court. All prizes will have a Thanksgiving Day theme. This is a free program, but space is limited.

Movie Time – "Ordinary Angels": Monday, Nov. 23, 10 a.m. In the film, a struggling hairdresser moves mountains to help a girl waiting for a liver transplant, and sets in motion a tale of faith, everyday miracles and ordinary angels. This is a free program, and popcorn will be served.

Veterans Day Program at CES

There will be a Veterans Day program at Colchester Elementary School on Monday, Nov. 9, from 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.

Also, there will be a commemoration ceremony at 11 a.m. on the Veterans Green on Broadway Street.

Colchester Molasses Crisis of 1705

On Sunday, Nov. 15, all re invited to visit the Colchester History Museum between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. for a special program on the 1705 Molasses Crisis.

Discover how this event disrupted Colchester's Thanksgiving celebrations and gain insight into the town's history during that era.

Visitors can also sample a molasses dessert to taste one of the most common sweeteners that the settlers of Colchester would have used during the early American colonial period.

Fernandez Wins, Unseating DeCaprio in Close Race

By Toriana Williams

Democrats experienced astounding results across the *Rivereast* towns on Election Day, but one of the closest races came from state House District 48, where, Democrat Bob Fernandez defeated Republican incumbent Mark DeCaprio by just 57 votes, as of press time Wednesday.

Fernandez received 5,796 votes, while DeCaprio received 5,739, according to unofficial results posted on the secretary of the state's website. The district includes the *Rivereast* town of Colchester, as well as Bozrah, Franklin, Lebanon and Windham.

Fernandez, a first-time candidate, said his victory came after months of meeting voters and going door to door. The morning after the election, he said he was feeling positive and ready to get to work.

"I'm just looking forward to getting to work for the people of the 48th and the people of Colchester," said Fernandez.

With such a small margin between the candidates, Fernandez said he understood that the final results could take time to settle. State law requires a recount if the vote difference between the two candidates is 0.5% or less; at 0.98% as of press time, the Fernandez-DeCaprio race does not meet that benchmark.

Fernandez said he believed his campaign's hard work helped make the difference.

"I literally walked and knocked on about 4,000 doors in the district, from May through Election Day. Going one door at a time, one voter at a time and introducing myself and my policies, and I think that - in the end - made the difference in this race," he said.

Fernandez added that he made an effort to visit areas that hadn't received much attention from elected officials or other candidates.

"I went to doors where people never saw an elected representative in their lives," he said.

He also said that he wanted people in every part of the district to know that their voices mattered.

"Because you're out of the way, that doesn't mean that your voice isn't supposed to be heard," said Fernandez.

When looking at the close results, Fernandez believes voters sent a clear message about what they want from their elected leaders.

"I think that the voters of the 48th sent the message that they want Democrats and Republicans to work together and to solve the problems that everyday people face in the district," he said.

Fernandez also promised to represent people who did not vote for him. He said his time as a military veteran and health care professional taught him to treat everyone fairly, no matter their political beliefs.

He emphasized that he never asked the political party of the Marines and sailors he served alongside in the military, and he plans to bring that same approach to Hartford.

"We have a disagreement on policy; the policy disagreement is not personal," he said.

Fernandez added that he believes people with different political views may have more in common than they realize.

"I bet that if we have time, if we have an ability to speak, we probably will agree on 80% on certain issues, and I think that's what we need to start concentrating on," he said.

He also wants residents to know that he will be easy to reach, as his personal cell phone number is listed on his campaign website and that he answers when people call.

"People are shocked that I do," he said with a laugh.

Despite the close race, Fernandez also had kind words for DeCaprio, and he said he respected DeCaprio and appreciated the chance to run against him.

"I really like Rep. DeCaprio, for all his work; it was a real pleasure to run against him," said Fernandez.

The two had even agreed to meet for coffee after the election, and Fernandez said he planned to call DeCaprio to make that meeting happen.

DeCaprio could not be reached for comment.



First-time candidate Democrat Bob Fernandez, middle, claimed victory during his election party at St. Joseph's Polish Society. In no particular order, appearing in the photo are members of the Franklin Democratic Town Committee Jessie Barbone, Matt Navasad, Tom Craney, and Maritiza and John. Photo provided by Christian Talarski.

In the state Senate District 33 race, incumbent Democrat Norm Needleman won reelection against Republican Charles Ferraro. Needleman received 29,244 votes, while Ferraro received 19,999.

The district includes the *Rivereast* town of Colchester, as well as Chester, Clinton, Deep River, East Haddam, East Hampton, Essex, Haddam, Lyme, part of Old Saybrook, Portland and Westbrook.

Democrats also won the major statewide races. Incumbent Democratic Gov. Ned Lamont defeated Republican Ryan Fazio, receiving 687,001 votes to Fazio's 492,560.

In the race for Connecticut's 2nd Congressional District, Democrat Joe Courtney won reelection with 156,606 votes. Republican George Patrick Austin received 100,261.

Incumbent Democrat Stephanie Thomas won reelection as secretary of the state with 748,419 votes, defeating Republican Peter Lumaj, who received 435,286.

Democrat William Tong also won another term as attorney general. Tong received 719,099 votes, while Republican John Bolton received 436,791.

Westchester Church News

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

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

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

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

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

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.

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.

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.

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Dean's Goal Lifts Bobcats in Conference Tourney

By Josh Howard

Playing the first tournament game on the freshly installed field turf at Bacon Academy, the girls soccer team defeated Waterford, 1-0, in the quarterfinals round of the Eastern Connecticut Conference (ECC) tourney last Thursday (Oct. 29).

Sophomore Gianna Dean scored the game-winner in the 73rd minute as the No. 3 Bobcats eliminated the No. 6 Lancers from visiting Waterford High School.

Following a scoreless first half, senior Madeline Ives said the home team wanted to be "more aggressive" over the final 40 minutes.

"We talked about continuing to do what we were doing, because we knew we could score," added Ives. "It was just about finishing."

Ives and Hannah Ferrigno are the only two Class of 2027 members on the roster this season. The two team captains have stabilize a varsity group – featuring mostly juniors and sophomores – that finished the regular season with a record of 8-5-3.

"We have a lot of younger girls, so we had to incorporate them and make sure that they were comfortable," stated Ferrigno. "They've fit in well, and I think that shows."

In the conference tourney win, the Bobcats controlled the tempo and ball for a majority of the game, but were unable to break the seal until a corner kick from Violet Melino was deflected several times in front of the goal before Dean poke in the loose ball into the net with 7:50 remaining in regulation.

Bacon Academy head coach Matt Rafala called Dean an "unsung hero", noting that his sophomore midfielder has become a reliable starter in only her second season with the club.

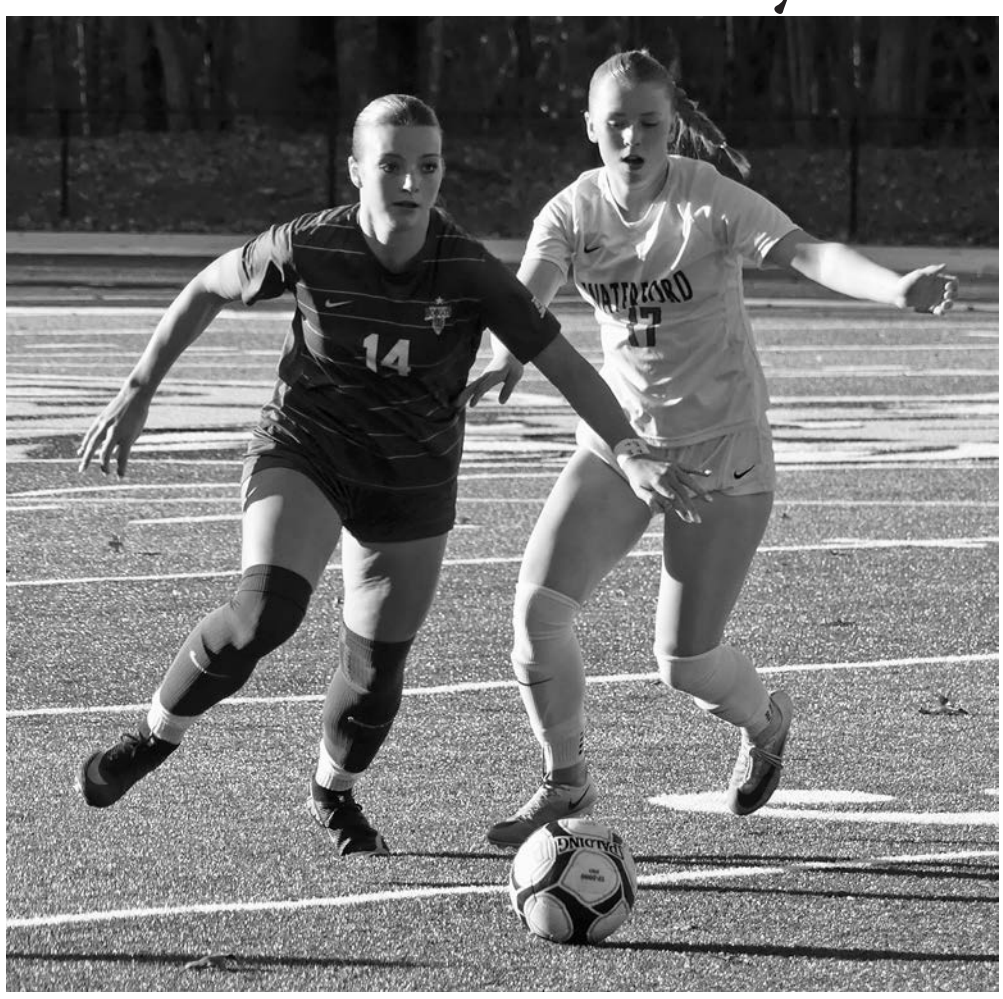
"[She] is a heck of a player," Rafala said of Dean, who played spot duty on varsity a year ago. "She has stepped right into the starting role and hasn't missed a beat. She is not scared to get in for a tackle or do dirty work, and that's tough to find."



Hannah Ferrigno (pictured) and Madeline Ives are Bacon Academy's team captain's and only two seniors this fall.

It marked the ninth time that the Bobcats defense has blanked an opponent this fall. Sophomore Gabrielle D'Arti is in her second year protecting the net, serving as the starting goalie as a freshman a year ago when the Bobcats went undefeated in the regular season.

Rafala said D'Atri has returned as a more "confident" keeper, adding, "Last year's group did a really nice job at welcoming her in and making her feel comfortable, and now this year you can see the benefits of that."



Bacon Academy senior Madeline Ives competes for the ball with Waterford's Abigail Williams during the Bobcats 1-0 ECC tourney victory last Thursday.

For Rafala's two senior captains, the postseason tournaments will serve as their swan song.

Both Ives and Ferrigno have been a part of a lot of winning over the past three seasons. They were freshmen on the 2023 team that won the program's first state championship, defeating Suffield in penalty kicks in the Class M title match. The following season, Bacon won an ECC conference tourney championship and a year ago they helped the team win all 16 regular season games.

"They've been there through it all," Rafala said of his senior captains. "They've seen it, they've been there, and they've done it."

Following last season, the team lost several starters to graduation, including all-state players Alyssa Blanchette and Mia Hageman.

With several new faces on the field, Ives noted the importance of "staying positive" on the field this fall, noting, "Especially in elimination games – being there for each other is a huge part."

Ferrigno added, "Even when things go bad, we just have to keep going and play our game."

The win was also a monumental moment for the school as the game was the first ever postseason tournament game played on the new artificial field turf, which was installed prior to the season to replace the grass field that had become deteriorated. Lights and a new track around the field were also part of the upgrades in the offseason.

For Rafala, the new playing surface and the improvements to the athletic facility hold an even deeper meaning. He played at Bacon Academy and coached with the boys program before taking over the girls team.

"Ive seen the field when it's been good, bad and horrible – and everything in between," explained Rafala. "It's a special moment for the town and a special moment for the high school."

Following the victory over Waterford, the No. 3 Bobcats fell to No. 2 Woodstock Academy (3-1) in the semifinals.

Bacon will now play in the Class M state tournament, opening with a game against Northwestern on Saturday, Nov. 7. The state tourney game will be at Bacon Academy, starting at 11 a.m.

Upcoming Programs at Cragin Library

Cragin Memorial Library, located at 8 Linwood Ave., has announced the following pieces of news. For more information, call 860-537-5752 (for adult and teen programs) or 860-537-7201 (for children's programs).

Adult Program: Book Bingo: Runs 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.

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.

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.



Banner for Bobcats… **The boys soccer team from Bacon Academy won the Division I Eastern Connecticut Conference (ECC) by defeating NFA, 1-0, at Windham High School on Tuesday. Owen McLoughlin scored the decisive goal in the second half, booting home a deflected free kick from Zachary Chiarella. Michael Wisniewski registered the shutout in goal as Bacon held all three opponents scoreless in regulation during the conference tournament. The Bobcats, the No. 4 seed, opened the tourney with a 2-0 victory over Stonington in the quarterfinals and then beat top-ranked Waterford in penalty kicks in the semifinals to reach the championship match.**

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Hearing Examines Removal of Finance Director From Union

By Toriana Williams

The Connecticut state labor board held a hearing over the removal of Colchester Finance Director Mary Williamson from the town union, and it focused on how the decision was made, what the union knew about her job and whether she was properly informed about what would happen.

The hearing looked at a Dec. 27, 2023, agreement between the town and the Municipal Employees Union Independent Local 506. The agreement removed the finance director position from the union's bargain unit, and union staff representative Theo Horesco said the union believed Williamson's job should never have been part of the unit.

Williamson's lawyer, Craig Fishbein, questioned how carefully the union looked into her duties and how the agreement was put together. The hearing ended without a final decision.

The hearing was held after the Connecticut Superior Court sent the case back to the labor board, and the board said its job was to give the court answers about the dispute and the events around the agreement.

At the start of the hearing, the board also said it had denied a request for more documents and information. Fishbein had asked for more records about how the agreement was created, as he wanted to know who suggested removing the position, who worked on the drafts and what was said between town and union leaders.

Union Rep Explains His Decision

Horesco was the main witness during the hearing. He told the hearing he had worked as a union staff representative and helped members with workplace problems, contract talks and dealings with town leaders.

He said Local 506 had "a little under a thousand" members and it worked with many towns and other public employers.

Horesco said he was the person who made the decision for the union that the finance director position should be removed from the bargaining unit. He had looked at the job description, information from town leaders, past union records and input local union members to make said decision.

Attorney Cara O'Sullivan of the Municipal Employees Union Independent asked what his basis for review was on – the position or the person. Horesco made the distinction that he was looking at the job itself, not Williamson as a person.

"The person didn't play into it at all in my analysis," said Horesco.

He added that he looked into "how this position got in the bargaining unit" and whether it belonged there to begin with.

The history of the position was also questioned during the hearing. O'Sullivan questioned if Horesco had reviewed any records the union had on file related to the position, and Horesco said the union had records going back to around 2000. This was a point in time when the town and union first fought over whether the finance director position should be included at all.

Those records included a union filing that asked the labor board to place the position in the bargaining unit, as well as court papers from the town's effort to challenge that result.

Fishbein questioned why the union had fought beforehand to include the finance director position but later agreed to remove it.

Horesco said the title of the job and the duties Williamson had performed were not the same thing and that the union believed the work she was doing should not have been covered by the agreement.

Questions About Williamson's Job

The hearing looked at what Williamson's duties were as a finance director.

Horesco agreed that she provided financial information during contract talks, that she had taken on some human resources work when the town's human resources position was vacant and had "participated in" employee discipline matters.

It was argued that these duties raised questions about whether or not the union had done enough work before agreeing to remove her position.

O'Sullivan asked whether the town had told the union that it had changed the finance director job description.

"No they did not," answered Horesco.

When asked whether the town had contacted him to ask for the union's thoughts before changing the position, Horesco answered, "Nope."

Fishbein pointed to language in the union contract that allowed the union to raise concerns about job description changes. Horesco agreed that a dispute could have been brought to the labor board but that he didn't believe the position covered by the union agreement had changed.

Questions About Agreement, Its Drafts

A large portion of the questioning during the hearing focused on how the December 2023 agreement was written. Horesco said he was involved in the discussions between the town and the union, where he identified First Selectman Bernie Dennler as a key town official involved in the talks. Union steward John Chaponis was also involved.

However, Horesco could not recall who wrote some of the drafts or who made each change and that there was a chance informal talks were had between Dennler and Chaponis that he didn't know about.

"I have no idea if it was drafted by [Dennler] or [Chaponis]," said Horesco, though he did review and approve the final version before signing it.

Fishbein asked why Horesco didn't know more about the earlier drafts if he had made the decision to remove the position. Horesco said he couldn't know about conversations that may have taken place without him.

Fishbein also asked whether the union received anything in return for agreeing to remove the position.

"Absolutely nothing," said Horesco.

Fishbein argued that losing a member could make the union smaller and reduce the money it collected from dues. Horesco disagreed that the decision weakened the union and said it was correcting what it believed had been an improper placement of the job.

A Raise and Meeting With Williamson

Fishbein asked about a $10,000 raise that Chaponis had received from the town not long after the agreement was signed.

Horesco said the raise was "completely unrelated" to Williamson's position being removed and added that it was part of a broader contract process that included pay changes for certain jobs.

Fishbein noted that the raise wasn't included in the contract that was in place at the time. Horesco agreed and said he didn't know what the town had expected to do when the year began.

Another part of the testimony mentioned a meeting Horesco, Chaponis and Williamson had before the agreement was signed. Horesco said they had talked about whether Williamson might face discipline but that none of them knew of any pending discipline and that there was nothing to worry about.

When asked whether he would have waited to sign the agreement if he had learned Williamson was about to be disciplined, Horesco said, "I would have."

He also said he told Williamson that once the agreement was signed, she would no longer be part of the bargaining unit, but he couldn't remember whether he showed her the exact agreement at that meeting.

"I don't recall if I shared the exact Memorandum of Understanding with [Williamson]," he said.

More Hearings Planned

The hearing did not decide whether the town or the union had acted improperly, and more testimony and evidence is expected. The board scheduled two more hearings for Jan. 8 and Jan. 22, both at 9:30 a.m.

Festival of Lights Fundraiser

The Bacon Academy Trustees will host the second annual Festival of Lights Fundraiser on Friday, Dec. 11, at 6:30 p.m., at Historic Bacon Academy, 84 Main St.

The event will showcase locally decorated tabletop holiday trees and wreaths donated by community members, all of which will be offered through a silent auction to support the historic school's ongoing restoration efforts.

Tickets are $25 and include a wine-tasting from Priam Vineyards, cider or hot chocolate, and hors d'oeuvres, plus live music from the Bacon Academy Choir and Jazz Combo band. Event proceeds will support Historic Bacon Academy.

Tickets may be purchased by emailing info@baconacademytrustees.org or visiting baconacademytrustees.org/festivaloflights.html.



TROIANO

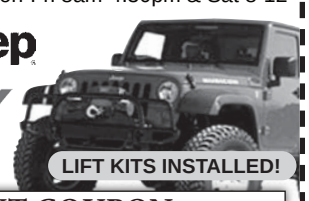
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RE11-6-26



Field Trip to Fire Department… **Colchester Cooperative Nursery School thanks the Colchester Fire and EMS Department for welcoming its preschool students for a field trip. The children enjoyed exploring the emergency vehicles, learning about the equipment, and gaining a better understanding of fire safety. CCNS said it appreciates the department taking the time to provide such an engaging and educational experience for the students.**

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.

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.

★ ***Ziobron Returns, cont. from page 1***

business.

Rosenfeld also posted on Facebook the day after the election, saying she was, "Sad to have lost but so very proud to have run."

Rosenfeld expanded on those thoughts in a text sent to the *Rivereast* Wednesday.

"This race was decided by fewer than 70 votes out of more than 11,500 cast, which tells me how closely divided, and how engaged, our community is," she said. "I am grateful to every volunteer, donor, and voter in East Hampton, East Haddam, and Salem who did this work alongside me. Running to serve these towns was an honor."

During her campaign, Ziobron had pritorized "fiscal responsibility" – but Rosenfeld expressed concern about what that might mean.

"Our new representative has spoken about making cuts," Rosenfeld said. "I hope her proposals will not come at the expense of our seniors, students, and young families. A community is only as strong as its most disadvantaged member. I'll continue working for them through my service on the East Hampton Commission on Aging and as a Democrat in our community."

Ziobron's victory was a small bright spot for Republicans this election, with a "Blue Wave" sweeping through both national and state-level elections. On the East Hampton ballot, the only other Republican winner was Registrar of Voters Rosemarie Hecht, who ran unopposed. The town's Republican Town Committee seemed happy to see Ziobron succeed.

"Congratulations to Melissa Ziobron on her victory tonight!" the East Hampton RTC posted on Facebook. "We're looking forward to having her represent us in Hartford! Thank you to everyone who voted!

"My happiest moment is that Melissa won," RTC Chair Melissa Engel added Wednesday. "We've known her for a long time. She's always done a good job and she's right back where she needs to be, so. I'm delighted about that."

Still, Engel noted the difficult time overall that Republicans had at the polls on Tuesday.

"It's obviously a sad day to be a Republican," she continued, "but nobody should be terribly surprised with the outcome. Even the Republican polls were giving the edge to the Democrats."

Engel said she believed the outcome was due to the economy, with voters feeling the pinch and taking it out on the party that was in power at the national level. She added that she was accustomed to feeling like an outsider as a Republican in Connecticut, and said that Ziobron's win gave her some hope at the state level.

"We live in Connecticut. It's a blue state. Anytime the Republicans win anything, it's a gift," said Engel.

For his part, Democratic Town Committee Chair Kevin Reich said he was proud of Rosenfeld's showing in the race, while also celebrating the Democratic Party's performance overall in the election.

"Statewide and nationally, the Democratic party did extremely well," said Reich. "Our candidate in the 34th District, Meghan Rosenfeld, did a fantastic job in what was probably one of the most difficult state representative races in the state. Meghan knew it was not going to be easy, but she put in countless hours and her efforts showed when the final votes were tabulated. Though Meghan came up short, she had the strongest showing representing the Democrats in over a decade. I am confident Meghan will continue to be involved with the community."



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Moroccan Memories… **Piedad Beaupre of Andover recently got back from a family trip to Marrakech, Morocco. Piedad's daughter Caty (not pictured) took the photo.**



My Old Kentucky Home… **Ron Lee of East Hampton recently traveled to southern Indiana and Louisville, Ky. – and while in Louisville he did some sightseeing, including the H&B "Louisville Slugger" baseball bat company headquarters and tour factory.**

Where in the World is the *Rivereast*?

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



Down East with the Rivereast!... **Glenn and Susan Bagdonis of Marlborough are shown with the *Rivereast* in Boothbay, Maine, where they recently enjoyed down east hospitality complete with a Lobster Bake on Cabbage Island!**



Checking Out the Cliffs… **While on a cruise to Quebec, Canada, Jane Muskatallo of Portland took a side trip to see the sea sculpted limestone cliffs on Petite lie au Marteau (Little Hammer Island) and visited the lighthouse.**

Where in the World?

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

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Obituaries

East Hampton

George Albert Peltier



George Albert "Papa" Peltier, 95, of East Hampton, passed away peacefully at his home Friday, Oct. 9.

George was born in New London, the son of the late Ernest and Viola Peltier. He served his country in the U.S. Navy from 1948 to 1952, and later spent 33 years at Stanley Works in New Britain, where he built a reputation as a steady, dependable man who showed up and did the job right.

At home, George was always making something. He loved woodworking and creating sculptures, and many of the pieces he built are still in use by the people he loved. He spent countless hours tracing the family's ancestry and was happiest when he could share what he'd found, usually with a story attached. Each year he made custom family calendars, filled with the birthdays and faces that mattered most to him.

He had a remarkable memory and a gift for storytelling. He could recall names, dates, and details from decades ago, and he told those stories with warmth and wisdom. He was sincere in everything he did, and people always knew exactly where they stood with him.

George enjoyed watching his grandson play baseball, watching soccer, and working through a good crossword puzzle. He never tired of *Columbo*, and *The African Queen* was his all-time favorite movie.

Above all, George loved his family.

He was predeceased by his beloved wife, Mildred Peltier; his brothers Donald, Edward, and Ernest Peltier; and his sister, Lorraine McGlohon.

He leaves behind his sister, Frances Peltier of Florida; his three sons and their wives, George Jr. and Lissa Peltier of Colchester, Christopher and Lisa Peltier of East Hampton, and Patrick and Kathleen Peltier of Manchester; six grandchildren, Ginger, Tabatha, Steven, Lauren, Emma, and Zachary; and his great-grandson, Robbie Blakeley, of whom he was very proud.

In keeping with George's wishes, there will be no formal services. Instead, his family will honor him the way he would have wanted: gathered together around the dinner table, sharing a meal and telling his stories.

Salem

Richard Chyinski



Richard Chyinski, 85, a lifelong resident of Salem, passed away suddenly on Saturday, Oct. 24. He graduated from Norwich Free Academy in 1959 and received his associate degree in applied science from Thames Valley State Technical College in 1968. He served in the U.S. Army National Guard where he was a helicopter mechanic. He was employed by United Nuclear Corporation in Uncasville, for almost 30 years, ending his career as a project leader in the core assembly division.

During his life he was an outdoorsman, enjoying hunting, fishing and whitewater canoeing. Richard was a lifelong Red Sox fan and loved to watch the UConn women's basketball team play. He was an avid softball player, playing in local leagues and tournaments with teams including Walt's Country Motors, The Monkey Farm, Wonder Bar, Farmer's Club and Freddie's Oil. He enjoyed playing golf with friends and family. Some of the more famous places he played were Pebble Beach and St. Andrews. His last round was at Norwich Golf Course just three weeks before his passing. He spent many winters in Florida but was happiest in his hometown of Salem.

Later in life he became interested in the conservation of open space and the protection of endangered species of birds and butterflies. He traveled the world searching for and exploring the habitats of local birds and butterflies, including the rainforests of Central and South America, Australia, Kenya and Alaska. Identifying 57 butterfly species in Kenya alone. He tracked the migration of hundreds of birds as they visited his backyard feeders. Richard volunteered with the Connecticut Butterfly Association, the Eightmile River Wild & Scenic Watershed, and the Nature Conservancy. He tagged Monarch butterflies in Connecticut that migrated and were discovered as far away as Mexico. He served on the board of the Eightmile River Coordinating Committee, gathering information from water quality to rare species, as required by the federal designation of the Eightmile River as a wild and scenic river.

For the past 26 years, Richard's main passion was volunteering for the Salem Land Trust where he served as treasurer since its inception. Through his dedication to the Salem Land Trust and his desire to maintain the beauty of Salem, he was instrumental in obtaining open space throughout the town. He was the steward of Walden Preserve where he spent untold hours maintaining the hiking trails, mowing and making sure the preserve was safe for the many hikers who continue to enjoy the preserve today. He led many nature hikes and butterfly walks while sharing his knowledge and joy of nature to many.

His dedication to countless years of volunteer work throughout the town of Salem earned him the honor of receiving the Salem Unsung Hero Award in 2022.

Richard was preceded in death by his parents Joseph and Helen Chyinski of Salem and his brother Joseph. He is survived by his four daughters, Deborah Strong of Colchester, Denise Wagner (Thomas) of Hillsborough, N.J., Cheryl Dolloff (Joseph) of Salem, and Karen Rochette (Richard) of Middletown; and nine grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

Whenever you see a butterfly, remember him.

A private burial will be held at Salem Green Cemetery. A celebration of life will be held at a later time.

Donations can be made to the Salem Land Trust at Avalonia.org.

Portland

Joseph S. Field



Joseph S. Field, 71, of Portland, passed away peacefully Wednesday, Oct. 28, surrounded by family, after a brief illness.

Joe was a graduate of Portland High School class of 1974 and a lifelong Portland resident. For 48 years, Joe dedicated himself to his work at Pratt and Whitney and was looking forward to retirement in the upcoming year.

Joe was predeceased by his parents, David and Theresa Field of Portland, brother Michael of Portland and sister Patricia Kruvka of Middletown. Joe is survived by his sons, Bryan and wife Michelle of East Hampton, Michael and wife Marli of Portland; brother David and wife Karen of Portland; sisters Cathy Field and Theresa Dipace both of Middletown and many nieces and nephews. He was a doting Papa Joe to eight grandchildren and two great-grandsons.

Joe adored his family and loved spending time with them. He enjoyed the simple pleasures like chatting on the porch, yardwork with Ryder and Gracie or spoiling his great grandsons, Axel and Reed. He was so proud of his family. Joe was a generous, caring man with a huge heart, a quick wit and a mischievous sense of humor. He was at his best making people laugh even if it was controversial.

Papa Joe, as he was referred to by many people (not only the grandkids), was extremely talented. He was a genuine helper and spent many nights in his garage fixing anything and everything. If you needed guidance, you knew to call him. He was an avid grocery shopper and a fantastic cook. He took great pride in selecting the perfect roast for the holidays. He loved to garden and was most proud of his tomatoes. He had a remarkable talent for making friends everywhere he went and will be missed by many.

Joe was truly one of a kind and his loss will leave those of us who were lucky enough to have known him with a huge void in our hearts.

A memorial Mass will be held Tuesday, Nov. 10, at 10 a.m., in St. Mary Church, Portland. Friends may call from 5-7 p.m. Monday, Nov. 9, at Biega Funeral Home in Middletown.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Nathaniel B. Field Memorial Fund, 32 Old County Rd, East Haddam, CT 06438.

To share memories or express condolences online, please visit www.biegafuneralhome.com.

Lebanon

Robert Chalifoux Jr.



Robert S. Chalifoux Jr., of Lebanon, passed away at his home Wednesday, Oct. 28, surrounded by his loved ones. Born April 27, 1960, Robert was the son of Robert Chalifoux Sr. and Sandra (Hansen). A lifelong Lebanon resident, he graduated from Lyman Memorial High School with the class of 1978.

Robert enjoyed spending his time peacefully on the family farm tending to his property and working outdoors. His greatest joy was to spend time with his beloved grandchildren.

Robert will be profoundly missed by all that knew him, especially his wife, Lydia Chalifoux; daughter, Jamison Salva and husband Phillip; father, Robert Chalifoux Sr.; grandchildren, Edward and Vivian Salva; and his dear uncle Guy and aunt Patricia Hansen and many extended family members and friends.

He was predeceased by his mother, Sandra.

There will be a graveside service in the South Cemetery (New Lebanon Cemetery, Waterman Road) in Lebanon on Friday, Nov. 20, at 11 a.m.

Care of arrangements has been entrusted to the Aurora McCarthy Funeral Home To share a memory or a story with the family, please visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

East Hampton

Dylan Gene Barthell
April 21, 1988 – Oct. 31, 2026

With heavy hearts, we announce the sudden loss of Dylan Barthell. Dylan's life ended tragically in a truck accident on Halloween.

Dylan was a jack of all trades. He was always ready for a challenge and diligently worked on trucks and construction.

He will be best remembered for the lives he touched. Dylan was a mentor and North Star for many children. He taught them not only practical life skills but also instilled moral character in them.

Dylan loved animals and was always willing to help animals and people in need.

He lived fearlessly, true to himself, and by his own set of rules.

His loving spirit lives on in his mother, Eileen

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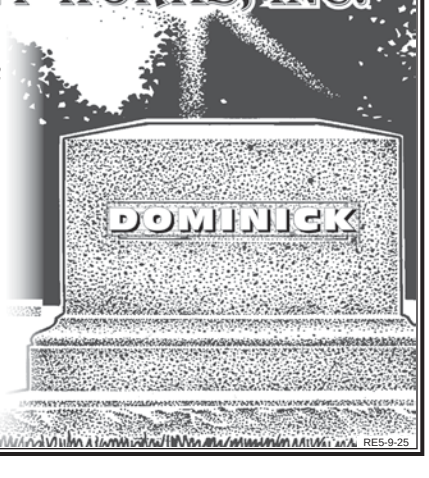
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RE5-9-25

Obituaries

Ceder; brother Taylor Barthell (Holly); grandmothers Sheila Ceder and Sally Barthell; Aunt Lorraine Liswell (Bill); Uncle Jim Barthell (Connie); dear friend Lynn Morrow; loving companion, Zoe Fales; and many cousins and the many children he nurtured over the years.

He was predeceased by his father, Robert Barthell; grandfathers Ralph Ceder and James Barthell.

Services will be held Saturday, Nov. 7, at the East Hampton VFW at 2 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to the Connecticut Humane Society. Always remember to pay it forward – help someone in need.

Hebron

Vincent J. Campo



Vincent J. Campo died Tuesday, Oct. 6. He was born on Jan. 22, 1929, in Brooklyn, N.Y., the son of Vincent and Mary Campo.

He grew up in Brooklyn, where he met his future wife, Helen Takis, at a church dance when they were both 16 years old. He attended St. Vincent's Prep School in Pittsburgh, Pa., and later Pace College, where he studied accounting. Vince and Helen were married on May 27, 1950, in Brooklyn. Vince began his career in the business world working as an accountant and later as a comptroller. An opportunity with a new publishing firm brought him to Connecticut, a significant leap of faith for him and his young family as they left New York to begin a new chapter in their lives.

Vince and Helen raised their four daughters in Waterford: Dorothy Bridgeman (James), Hope Lombardi (Louis), Michelle Zapata (Manny), and Faith Manierre (Harold).

Vince eventually purchased Commercial Printers of Connecticut with his business partner, Herbert Hartman. The company was initially located in New London before moving to Norwich Industrial Park. He sold the business in 1988, and he and Helen began a long and happy retirement together.

In the early years of retirement, Vince and Helen became snowbirds, spending time in their Connecticut home and winters on Hutchinson Island, Florida. Throughout their years in Connecticut and Florida, they owned a succession of boats and enjoyed boating, fishing, and traveling to new destinations. Together, they traveled extensively throughout the world, visiting national parks, China, Russia, and many destinations throughout Europe. Italy held a special place in their hearts, and they returned there many times. Their lives were also enriched by the many lifelong friendships they made along the way.

Vince was a man of many passions and interests. He was an avid tennis player, a student of history, an enthusiastic bridge player, and for many years maintained enormous saltwater aquariums. He loved big band music, especially Frank Sinatra, as well as classic musicals and opera. He shared his love of opera with his family and enjoyed a subscription to the Metropolitan Opera for many years.

Vince loved telling stories and sharing his memories and wisdom. His wife, daughters and grandchildren were often the audience for his stories, which they came to know and enjoy over the years. He had a way of bringing the past to life, sharing lessons learned, and keeping family memories alive. His stories and words of wisdom will be remembered and cherished by those who loved him.

Vince was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Helen, who died in 2023. They shared 73 wonderful years of marriage.

Following Helen's death, Vince moved from Florida back to Connecticut and became a resident of Colebrook Village in Hebron. There, he enjoyed new friendships, played bridge, and enjoyed the warmth of the staff who became an important part of his life. Colebrook became his home, and he was fortunate to remain there until his death. The family extends its heartfelt thanks to the entire Colebrook staff for their kindness, warmth, and compassionate care. Special thanks go to Olivia, his wonderful caregiver, for the exceptional care and companionship she provided.

Vince is survived by his four daughters, eight cherished grandchildren – Scott and Mark Lombardi, Alexandra Pezzello, Vinnie and Matthew Manierre, Kate Bartlett, Michael Wilkinson, and Lindsey Pugliese – and 21 great-grandchildren.

Colchester

Keith James Goodell

July 11, 1946 – October 21, 2026



Keith James Goodell passed away peacefully at his home in Colchester on Wednesday, Oct. 21, at the age of 80, with his beloved wife, Anne "Annie" Garland, by his side. Born in Ravenna, Ohio, he grew up on the historic Goodell family farm in Mantua, the son of the late Frank H. and Virginia B. (Black) Goodell.

Keith was salutatorian at Crestwood High School and a top wrestler. He graduated from Hiram College in 1968 with a BS degree in Mathematics. A motorcycle and a semester in Europe studying art history sparked a lifelong love of travel and art.

Keith built a distinguished career in actuarial consulting, first with UTC divisions and Milliman & Robertson. He then founded Outland Consultants, LLC, in Glastonbury, which he led for 18 years before it merged with Lockton Companies in 2016. He retired in 2021.

A farm boy and many-time 4-H winner, Keith found the tractor simply wasn't fast enough. Motorcycles became a passion, leading to Enduro racing and honors as a top senior rider. Later came road cycling, where a 75-mile ride was nothing unusual. He treasured riding with his son, Joe. When he wasn't on wheels, he was working out with his CrossFit family.

Keith and Anne married in October 2005, a year after they met, and shared a wonderful life of travel, food, wine, art, music, and collies. Each wedding invitation held a living maple leaf, a tribute to the great maple that shaded the Goodell farm. Keith later planted Ohio maples along his Connecticut driveway, a quiet thread running through his life.

He worked hard and played hard. He was a wonderful storyteller, generous, and quietly charming, with the warmest smile. After his thyroid cancer diagnosis in 2020, he met each challenge with grace, determination, and an unwavering belief that he would live to 100.

Keith is survived by his wife, Anne; his children, Roland "Joe" (Sherri) Goodell and Reba Goodell; his grandson, Arthur; stepchildren, Lauren and Sam Handel, and John and Ann D'Ambruoso; step-grandchildren, Orson, Wild, Virgil, and Alma; his brothers, Jay (Barb) and Bruce Goodell; and many loving nieces and nephews.

A Celebration of Life will be held Monday, Nov. 9, at the historic Westchester Congregational Church, 98 Cemetery Rd., Colchester. Please join us at 10 a.m. in Canney Hall to view memorabilia of Keith's life. The Celebration of Life service follows in the church from 11 a.m. to noon. Keith loved a good story, so please come ready to share one.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Keith's memory may be made to Rams Motorcycle Club (Joe Eaton, Secretary/Treasurer), 281 Stafford Rd., Mansfield, CT 06250-1423.

TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN MEETING
LEGAL NOTICE
TUESDAY, November 17, 2026
6:30 P.M.
Town Hall

The legal voters of the Town of Marlborough and eligible Property Owners with a Property Assessment of $1,000 or more are hereby notified and warned that a duly called Town Meeting will be held at the Town Hall, 26 North Main Street, on Tuesday, November 17, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. with check-in opening at 6:00 p.m. for the following purpose:

To consider approval and act upon the use of funds from the Undesignated Fund:

- Not to exceed $192,826.50 for the purchase of a Tiger BB-18 Roadside Mower

Dated at Marlborough, Connecticut this 20th day of October 2026
Board of Selectmen
Susan McFarland, Chair

2TB 11/6, 11/13

TOWN OF PORTLAND
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

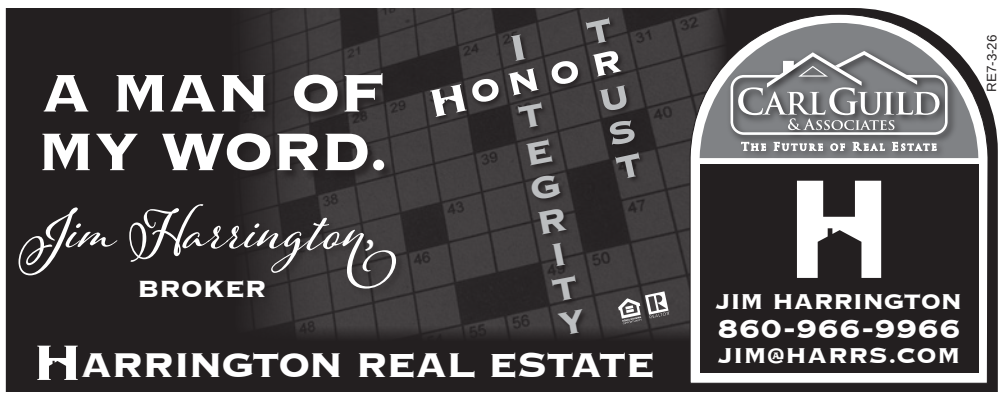
Notice is hereby given that the Portland Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, November 19, 2026 at a meeting to start at 7:00 p.m. in the Buck Foreman Room (2nd Floor), 265 Main Street, Portland, CT.

Application #26-02: 95 Culver Lane. Request for variance from Zoning Regulation Table 4.2.1 from the side yard setback to allow construction of a shed with a setback of 1 ft where 25 ft is required. Application and property of Sade Holley and Angel Solis. Assessor's Map 42, Lot 24. Zone RR.

At this hearing interested persons may appear and be heard and written communications will be received. A copy of this application is available for public review in the Portland Land Use Department.

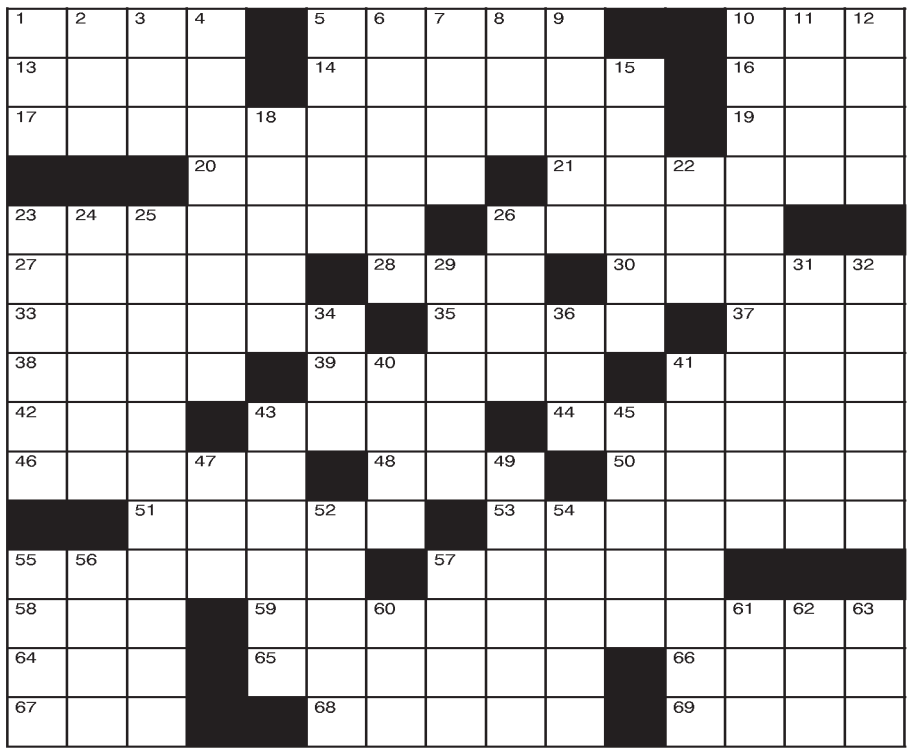
Dated at Portland, CT this 2nd day of November 2026.
Kurt Peterson, Chairman

2TB 11/6, 11/13



'90S PRIMETIME

★ *Answers on page 30*



CREATORS NEWS SERVICE By Neil Manausa

ACROSS

1 Military meal
5 "Alice in Wonderland" instruction
10 Ernesto Guevara
13 Frère's friend
14 Excite
16 Villain in "2001: A Space Odyssey"
17 '90s primetime comedy
19 Class
20 Shrub sticker
21 Boots out
23 Uncovered, in a way
26 Madison Square Garden, e.g.
27 On the ___ hand
28 Dwindle
30 Garden tool
33 Sound equipment
35 Oh, woe!
37 Eggs
38 Military good night
39 Hash house
41 Fashionable
42 ___ conditioner
43 Plunder
44 King of singing-songwriting
46 Bag
48 Clairvoyance initials
50 Addict
51 Shopping aids
53 Good hand holders
55 Gawain's king
57 Ore-filled fissures
58 Wahine's wreath
59 '90s primetime comedy
64 Calendar abbreviation
65 He plays Data
66 Fleming and Ziering
67 Bitter brew
68 Garden implement
69 Shepherd's herd

DOWN

1 Capt.'s superior
2 Cassowary cousin
3 Little girl in the family
4 They went West
5 Group spirit
6 ". . . my kingdom for ___"
7 1982 sci-fi film
8 Cambridge univ.
9 Famous Fudd
10 '90s primetime medical drama
11 March command
12 Fraternal group
15 Flood barriers
18 "The Jungle Book" tiger, ___ Khan
22 Loyal to no pol. party
23 Plantain lilies
24 Reach
25 '90s primetime legal drama
26 Competent
29 Cloud masses
31 More wicked
32 Thoroughbreds
34 Harem chamber
36 Jeanne d'___
40 Knocks off
41 Railroad track support
43 Injectable fluids
45 French farewell
47 Sideline support
49 Looked into
52 Drum set
54 Love like crazy
55 Actor-director Alan
56 Rod connection
57 The Sweater Girl Turner
60 Pickpocket: sl.
61 Ship's shift
62 Blast off! preceder
63 ___ Enterprise

"PET OF THE WEEK"



Mocha, 4 mths, loves to come hop on your lap, although she is very catlike—if you pick her up and put her there, she won't stay long. She's super silky and utterly adorable. Like her sister, Matcha, she's loving and trusting with her people. They are both special kittens.



Andy is a male, 9 month-old short-haired German Shepherd/Husky mix who weighs 45 lbs, he is expected to weigh about 60 lbs when fully grown. He's sweet, gentle, friendly and good on a leash. Andy loves kids and other dogs. He rides well in the car and loves to go on adventures to meet new friends and play with other dogs. Andy loves playing ball, and will chase and return as long as you can throw.

FOR MORE INFO ON ADOPTING CATS OR DOGS, CALL 860-569-0722
VOLUNTEERS & FOSTER HOMES NEEDED – CALL: 860-569-0722

Protectors of Animals, Inc. 144 Main St., Unit O, E. Hartford, CT 06118
A non-profit, all volunteer animal rescue organization, rescuing abandoned, abused and impounded cats and dogs.
WWW.POAINC.ORG

RE11-6-26



Happy Trails… **Recently, volunteers from the Gilbane Building Company of Glastonbury spent time with members of the Portland Air Line Trail Committee pulling invasive weeds, cutting back bushes and tree branches, raking and cleaning up the trail, railroad trestle and parking areas. The committee is looking for volunteers to assist throughout the year. If interested, email Lou Pear at louisjpear@gmail.com or R. "Riz" Rizzo at theriz4@sbcglobal.net.**

St. Mary Church News & Notes

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

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

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

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

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

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

www.creators.com

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'90S PRIMETIME

Fiery Pandas Win Soccer Championship



The Fiery Pandas won the Pool 3 Division Championship at the South Windsor Fall Classic. Pictured from left are, front row, Paige Campbell, Amalia Barry, Charli Houghton, Mara Coronella, Amarose Tiea, Jezebelle Khim and Alina Aquino; middle row: Colbie Manfredi, Brielle Farmer, Callie Lawrence, Grace Reilly, Chelsea MacDonald, Emily Archer, Claire Chou, Emma Hodge, Emelia Moss and Ella Williamson; back row, coaches Ingrid Moss, Kevin Lawrence and Chad MacDonald.

The Portland Soccer Club's U12 girls team, the Fiery Pandas, captured the Pool 3 Division championship at the South Windsor Fall Classic on Oct. 24, finishing the tournament with a perfect 4-0 record.

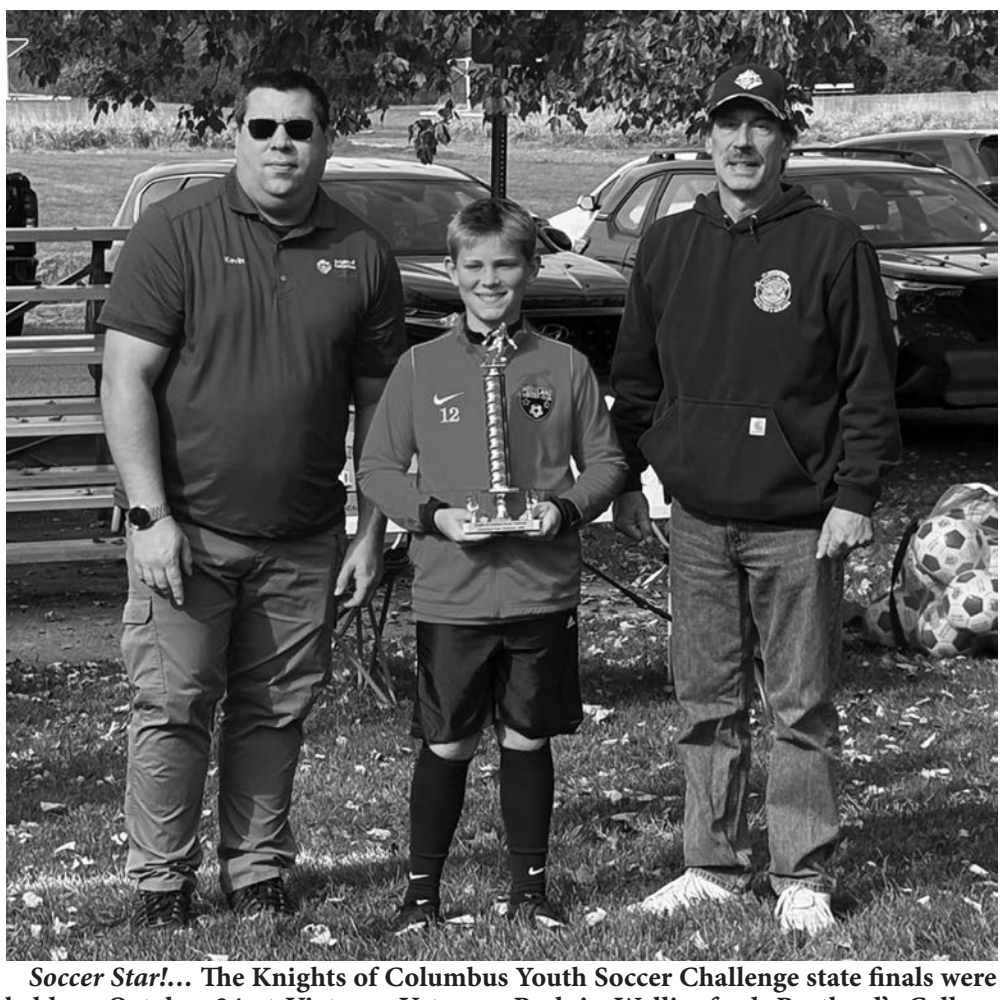
After opening their championship run with a hard-fought 2-1 victory over the Tolland Thunder, the Fiery Pandas carried that momentum throughout a tense second match where they shut out Suffield White, 2-0. The third round brought a rematch against the Simsbury Stingrays, whom the Pandas had battled to a 2-2 draw just three weeks earlier. This time, the Fiery Pandas jumped out to an early lead in the first five minutes and never looked back, delivering their most complete performance of the season in a dominant, confidence-boosting 5-0 victory.

In the final, the Fiery Pandas took the field against RHAM, a formidable *Rivereast* community member who had surrendered just one goal on its undefeated march to the championship matchup. As they had throughout the tournament, the Fiery Pandas struck first, powering a shot into the back of the net as they countered RHAM's early pressure.

A second unanswered goal before halftime provided Portland some breathing room, but RHAM countered with two unanswered goals. It was then back-and-forth action for the final 10 minutes, and in the wild final minute of play, it was the Fiery Pandas who capitalized on one of several late-game attacks to net the game winner and claim the championship.

Each member of the Fiery Pandas roster made valuable contributions throughout the championship effort. Chelsea MacDonald, Emma Hodge, Jezebelle Khim, and Paige Campbell (who tallied eight goals) all found the back of the net to pace the scoring attack, while Ella Williamson, Amarose Tiea, Grace Reilly, and Colbie Manfredi provided sustained offensive pressure to keep opposing defenders and goal keepers busy. In the midfield, center midfielder Callie Lawrence delivered tenacious, two-way play while Claire Chou, Alina Aquino, MacDonald, Khim, Mara Coronella, Emily Archer, and Charli Houghton consistently won midfield possessions and disrupted opposing pressure, forcing turnovers and mounting counter attacks.

Defensively, led by the always-reliable and assertive Brielle Farmer in the center and flanked by bold, aggressive outside backs Emelia Moss and Amalia Barry, the back line proved especially difficult to break through. Together, the defensive unit limited opponents' scoring opportunities with their quick reactions and well-timed tactical awareness. Backstopping the team's championship run were goal-keepers MacDonald and Aquino, who delivered impressive saves when tested to preserve the Fiery Pandas' undefeated record.



Soccer Star!… **The Knights of Columbus Youth Soccer Challenge state finals were held on October 24 at Vietnam Veterans Park in Wallingford. Portland's Callum Moss was the top scorer in the 11-year-old boys' group, with 255 points scored on 25 penalty kicks, scored from 30 feet from the goal. Pictured from left are Kevin Glazier, Knights of Columbus State Deputy; Callum Moss; and John Burni, Freestone Council 7 Soccer Challenge chairman.**

MARLBOROUGH CONSERVATION COMMISSION
NOTICE OF ACTION

The Marlborough Conservation Commission Wetland Enforcement Officer issued this day, November 2, 2026, took the following actions:
APPLICATION APPROVED:
APPLICATION #08-26 – Nicole Pizzoferrato (Owner/Applicant) 129-131 No Main Street, Single Family Residence
PETER HUGHES, WETLAND ENFORCEMENT OFFICER
1TB 11/6

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7-3-2025

LEGAL NOTICE
PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION
HEBRON, CONNECTICUT

The Hebron Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing at a meeting scheduled for Wednesday, November 18, 2026 at 7:00 P.M., to be held virtually through the GoToMeeting Platform, on the following:
Petition 2026-11: Petition from Michelle Nicholson for Special Permit for the sale of open alcoholic beverages at the Flour Girl Café at 14-16 Main Street in accordance with Section 5.O.1 of the Hebron Zoning Regulations, Hebron Green District.
Planning and Zoning Commission
Nov 18, 2026, 7:00 – 9:30 PM (America/New_York)
Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.
https://meet.goto.com/293531869
You can also dial in using your phone.
Access Code: 293-531-869
United States: +1 (872) 240-3212
Get the app now and be ready when your first meeting starts:
https://meet.goto.com/install
Dated at Hebron, Connecticut, this 3rd day of November 2026.
Frank Zitkus, Chair
2TB 11/6, 11/13

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WANTED TO BUY

BUYING COLLECTIONS & ACCUMULATIONS, FREE REVIEW: Comic Books, Vintage Toys, Sports Cards, Adv Signs/Cans (Soda, Beer, Gas Station), Zippos, License Plates, Jewelry, Postcards, Etc. Call/Text 860-817-4350

WANTED TO BUY: your sterling silverware, tea set, or any item made of sterling. Top cash price paid on the spot. I can come to your home or meet you at a place of your choosing. Call/text Dominic at 860-836-5013 or email dmbappraisal@sbcglobal.net.

WANTED TO BUY: All antiques; toys, military, watches, advertising, jewelry, coins, clocks, signs, all musical instruments, guitars, saxophones, keyboards, trumpets, amplifiers, accordions, vintage electronics, hi-fi stereo, amplifiers, pro-audio, radios, ham equipment, tube type equipment, plus more. 1 item or entire estate. Call 860-707-9350.

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CIT1-12-23

PETS

DOG OBEDIENCE CLASSES: starting soon. Offering Puppy Kindergarten, Basic Manners/What Rescue Dogs Need and Want; CGC/Therapy; Agility. Over 25 years experience. Michelle Larson, Paws-N-Heel DTC, 860-267-6040. paws-n-heel-dogtraining.com.
Automotive

HOUSING

DISCRIMINATION IS ILLEGAL For Help Call 888-247-4401

If anyone refused to rent to you because of your source of income, race, color, national origin, sexual orientation, gender, religion, marital status, age, disability or because you have children, you may have been the victim of illegal housing discrimination. Contact the Connecticut Fair Housing Center.

REAL ESTATE

RENTALS

FARM LAND FOR RENT: Quarry Hill Farm, Haddam Neck. Six-acre field for rent; other fields available. 908-232-0292. david@kn-investors.com.

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.

GLASTONBURY - LOVELY LARGE FURNISHED HOME: with all utilities included. WiFi to share with mature person. Veterans, elderly people welcome. Background check. $800/monthly plus security deposit. Call Richard 860-716-1227.

GLASTONBURY CONDO RENTAL: Beautifully remodeled 1BD at Hale Farm. New wood floors, new paint, SS appliances, newer cabinets. Heat/hot water included. No pets. $1,800. Armand 860-810-0550.

VERNON RENTAL: Mature woman with beautiful furnished home. All utilities included with TV and internet. Wants to rent room to same. $950 and up per month. Security deposit, background check, no pets, no drugs, no smoking in common areas. Veterans and elderly welcome. Call Richard 860-716-1227.

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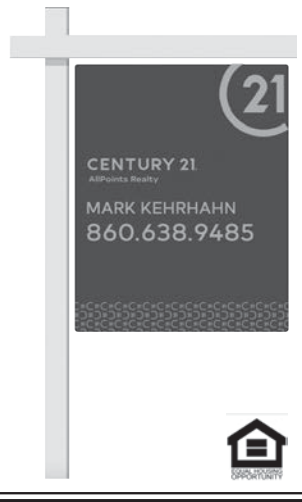


Whether you're considering selling your home, or beginning the quest to find your first/next home, let me partner with you to accomplish your goals! As a team member of Century 21 Allpoints, we have the experience, resources, relationships and proven track record to guide you through this volatile Market.

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Markk.realestate@gmail.com

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EMPLOYMENT

PART-TIME OFFICE ASSISTANT GLASTONBURY: Looking for a dependable person with some office experience and computer skills. QuickBooks experience is a plus! Flexible hours. Training provided for the right person. Please call 860-633-0692 to leave a message.

PCA NEEDED PART-TIME: Early mornings and evening hours available. Approximately 15-20 hours weekly. For personal care, cooking, cleaning, and errands. Bending/lifting, must be able to lift 40+lbs. Time & half for holidays. Weekly pay through payroll company. $23/hr. Background check and drug test required. Willing to train. 860-949-7016.

Classifieds Pay
The Glastonbury Citizen & Rivereast News Bulletin
Call 860-633-4691 **or email your line ad to** admin@glcitizen.com

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
Substitute Teacher per diem rate is $120.00 per day.
Building Substitute $135.00 per day
Intervention Specialist pay range:
$24.73-$31.81 hr. depending on experience
Paraeducator pay range (class II):
$20.48-$27.91 hr. depending on experience
Please apply on-line at
https://jobs.redroverk12.com/org/easthamptonct
For further information contact Mary Clark, mclark@easthamptonct.org.
The Town of East Hampton is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
RE10-30-26

New Beginnings for Life is a smaller company with a big heart that cares for individuals with intellectual disabilities. We are seeking kind, patient, and passionate candidates to join our team. We have individuals who need care and companionship in Colchester and surrounding towns.
We have great benefits, and the rate of pay is $17.25 per hour.
For our day support program, which is from 8am-4pm and 2pm-5pm, the towns are in Salem, Groton, Hebron, Lebanon, Higganum, East Haddam, New London, Norwich, East Hampton, Colchester.
For our group home positions we have Monday-Sunday open second and third shift which is 3pm-11pm and 11pm-7am.
These positions are in Colchester.
If you are interested in becoming a part of our team, please feel free to call us and ask for more information at 860-531-9426
RE3-15-24

Colebrook Village at Hebron:
NOW HIRING!
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3rd shift- 1 Part/Full Time (24/32 hours)
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Call Marie DeCoste at 860-801-1114 or email mdecoste@colebrookvillage.com
CIT10-15-26

Truck Driver/Maintainer

The Town of Hebron is seeking a candidate for the position of Truck Driver/Maintainer in the Public Works Department. Applicants must have a CDL Class A or B license. Must have a minimum of a High School Diploma or GED. Three years of truck driving experience including snow plowing and public works operations or an equivalent combination required. Experience should also include working with heavy trucks and heavy equipment. Applicants must be available nights and weekends during winter months. Must be able to pass a complete physical examination and pre-employment drug test. This is a bargaining unit position. The hourly rate is $30.70, with a generous benefit package including medical, retirement and paid time off.
Letters of interest or resumes should be mailed along with a Town of Hebron employment application to Town Manager, Town of Hebron, 15 Gilead Street, Hebron, CT 06248 by December 4, 2026. Hebron is an equal opportunity employer.
1TB 11/6

Reference Librarian / Librarian I, Part-Time
Town of Portland, Connecticut (EOE)
Deadline: 11/17/2026

Email Town General Employment Application to:
mceppaglia@portlandct.org
Or mail to: First Selectman's Office,
P.O. Box 71, Portland, CT 06480-0071
Part-time position for energetic and organized person for reference/information services. Assists library patrons at the front desk, over the phone or email. Flexibility in scheduling is required. Subject to criminal history background check and pre-employment drug/alcohol testing. All qualified applicants will be considered for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. Part-time, non-exempt; up to 14 hours weekly Tues & Thurs (5:00-8:00pm) & 3 Saturdays per month (9:00am-3:00pm). Additional shifts/hours may be available pending coverage needs. $30.38 to $35.14 (starts at base pay). Limited benefits, MEUI Library Unit union. Projected start: 12/15/2026
Qualifications: MLS, experience with Reader's Advisory desirable; demonstrated computer skills; organizational abilities; must have valid driver's license, physical dexterity and visual acuity.
1TB 11/6

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

ADVERTISERS

The Glastonbury Citizen and *Rivereast News Bulletin* will make every effort to see that all advertising copy is correctly printed. The publisher assumes no liability or financial responsibility for typographical errors in advertising, but will reprint, without charge, that part of an advertisement in which an error may occur, provided that a claim is made within 5 days of publication. The liability of the publisher on account of errors in or omissions from any advertisement will in no way exceed the amount of the charge for the space occupied by the item in error, and then only for the first incorrect insertion. Also, the publisher takes no responsibility for statements or claims made in any advertisement, and will upon request, reveal the name and address of the person or persons responsible for placing any display advertisement, political or otherwise, except for "blind" box ads. The Glastonbury Citizen Inc. reserves the right to reject advertisements which it deems unsuitable for its publications. Every effort will be made to verify the legitimacy and propriety of all ads for the protection of our readers. *The Citizen* will take requests for specific placement of ads and will try to accommodate everyone's requests. *The Citizen* cannot guarantee specific placement.

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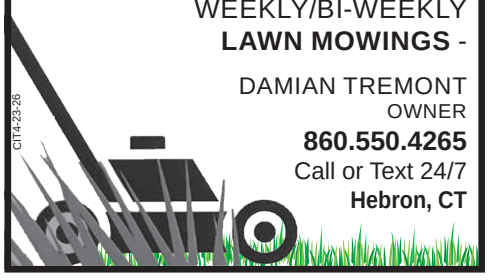
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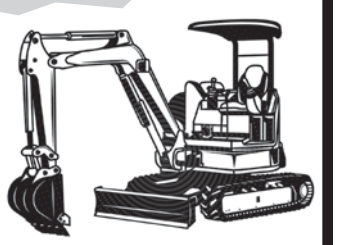
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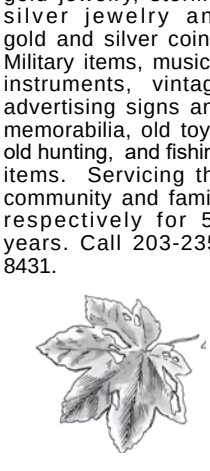
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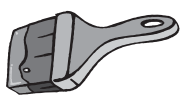
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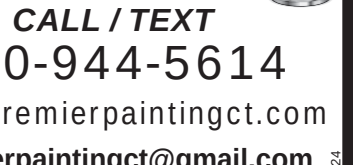
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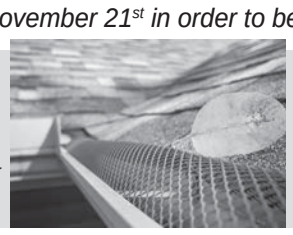
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ST. PAUL'S CHURCH FAIR: Saturday November 21st. 9am-2pm, 371 Wolcott Hill Rd, Wethersfield. Bakery, Country Store, Cafe, Holiday/Handmade Items, Grandma's Attic, Inspiration Garden, Cookie Walk. All proceeds donated to Charity. More info: 860-529-5397.

TAG SALE: 11/6 & 11/7, 10am-2pm. Avery Heights, Hartford. Enter at Newington Rd or 550 New Britian Ave. Miscellaneous household, collectibles, lamps, pictures. No clothing.

ST. PATRICK CHURCH CHRISTMAS BAZAAR: Sat, Nov 7th, 9am-2pm. 47 W High St, East Hampton. Christmas gifts, raffles, jewelry, bake sale, food.



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