

The Gazette

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Crafted from the finest local ingredients since 1885

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Board awards Synergy contract

By Robert Kanehl

At its regular meeting, the East Hartford Board of Education awarded a \$414,000 contract to Diversity Construction Group of Wallingford to construct the Synergy CNC Lab. The remodeling project will be conducted during the summer. Diversity's bid was the lowest of five received by the school department. The company is well known having completed three projects for East Hartford in the past two years.

The current remodeling project is designed to provide a space for a modern technical lab for instruction of machine manufacturing. The money for the new program came from a \$700,000 grant received by the District. The remainder of the money will be used for staffing and other materials needed for the site. Chairman Tyron Harris noted that the East Hartford program will be the first modern technology training sites not only in town, but also in the state.

In other business, the board signed off on various state mandated agreements to keep the district in compliance. The first action was agreeing with two food requirements. The first outlines that foods sold in the

See SYNERGY LAB, pg. 10

WHO'S IRISH? EVERYONE IN PARADE



EAST HARTFORD was wearing the green Saturday in Hartford for the St. Patrick's Day parade. Photos, page 6

\$2M DOT grant includes new bridge

By Bill Doak

It appears the state Dept. of Transportation federal grant pursuit lags significantly behind the reality of local developers.

A week after the developers of Port Eastside abandoned their plan for linking Coltsville with a new pedestrian bridge over the Connecticut river to East River Drive in East Hartford the DOT said it received \$2 million in federal grants to, among other things, study the

concept.

The grant from the US Dept. of Transportation will enable preliminary engineering, environmental documentation, and public outreach for the River Gateway component of the Greater Hartford Mobility Study. That includes, the DOT press release states, "designing a new local bridge over the Connecticut River with bicycle and pedestrian amenities between the Whitehead Highway area and Riverfront Boulevard/East

River Drive in East Hartford."

As reported previously in the Gazette, the Greater Hartford Mobility Study outlines transportation projects and improvements in Hartford, East Hartford, and surrounding communities. The River Gateway component improves safety, supports multimodal transportation opportunities throughout the region, and expands cross-river connections.

See NEW BRIDGE, p. 10

Council approves FY 24-25 budget

By Bill Doak

Monday the East Hartford Town Council unanimously adopted Mayor Connor Martin's proposed \$221, 482,324 budget for the 2024-25 fiscal year, setting the mill rate at 44, representing a 3.4 percent tax increase for real estate property owners.

The mill rate for motor vehicles remains at 32.46, or \$32.46 in tax on every \$1,000 of assessed value.

The Council shifted expenditures, adding more to the contingency fund because of one-time revenue from the town's new leading taxpayer, two National Development warehouses at Rentschler Field. Although build in an enterprise zone, automatically qualifying them for a 5-year tax abatement, the massive twin \$60-million buildings for Lowe's and Wayfair will pay \$1.3 million in taxes to the town this year, plus building and inspection fees, as they did not qualify for the tax abatement program this year but next year they will, explained Town Council Chairman Richard Kehoe.

As a result the Council opted to transfer the \$1.3 mil-

See BUDGET APPROVED, p.10



Stay informed during water and sewer emergencies. Sign up by visiting the MDC website, www.themdc.org.

MDC ALERTS

NOTIFICATION SIGN UP

POWERED BY



AROUND TOWN

Main Street at Pitkin will be closed March 23 for drill

Saturday, March 23, from 6 a.m. until 2 p.m. a portion of Main Street at Pitkin will be closed for a stop log exercise.

The purpose of the stop log exercise is to practice and prepare for a levee closure using the structure across Main Street just south of Pitkin.

Main Street between Pitkin and Silver Lane will be closed to all traffic and pedestrians at 6 a.m. Saturday, March 23, and will remain closed for the duration of the exercise, town Public Works officials stated.

Detours will be posted along Pitkin and Jayce Streets, as well as Silver Lane Extension. All businesses within the area should plan to remain open

throughout the exercise and patrons will be allowed to access them either via Pitkin Street or from the intersection of Main and Silver Lane Extension.

Police officers will be posted at various locations along the detour route.

A shuttle will be provided for pedestrians needing to cross the closed portion of Main Street.

"The Stop Log Exercise is an important drill that allows us to evaluate our operational readiness to respond to a flood emergency. This exercise provides real-life experience to personnel from several different town agencies, including public works, the fire department, and the police department for a potential flood emergency," said Mayor Connor Martin.

The drill is being held in accordance with the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) mandates, to ensure the Town has the materials, equipment, and trained staff necessary to erect the closure in the event of a flooding emergency.

For more information on the levee system visit: LeveeSystem/easthartfordct

SALADS AT DOTTIE'S SEA MOSS



DOTTIE'S SEA MOSS WELLNESS BAR now has salads with its sea moss products. Located at 1177 Main Street, the vibe is freshing and renewing. Owner Dottie Barnett would love to see you! Order ahead: 860-881-5474

Town offices moving back

East Hartford employees have begun moving town offices back to the newly-renovated Town Hall at 740 Main Street. The move will occur in three phases, beginning with the Town Clerk, which reopened March 4 on the first floor of Town Hall. Town Clerk office hours are Monday-Thursday 8:30am-4:30pm and Fridays 8:30am-12:30pm. Parking for the Town Clerk's office will remain on the south side, between Town Hall and Fire Station One. Building access will be basement level, with handicap access to the elevator and stair access to Town Clerk side door. No other areas of Town Hall are open yet.

A State Ballot box for absentee and early voting for presidential primaries will remain on the south side front lawn of Town Hall.

Humanities Festival at Goodwin Tuesday

On Tuesday, March 19, Goodwin University will hold its annual Humanities Festival from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. at its main campus at One Riverside Drive.

Community activist Elizabeth Horton Sheff will deliver the festival's keynote address at 11:45 a.m. Horton Sheff is widely known throughout Connecticut for her role as named plaintiff in the Sheff v. O'Neill landmark case, which ensured that all students have equal access to educational opportunities. She has an extensive background in education and community relations, currently serving as the alumni specialist for the Goodwin University

Magnet School System.

In addition to Horton Sheff's keynote address, Goodwin's Humanities Festival will feature engaging presentations and activities challenging humanity's inaction by championing the humanities in action.

The festival draws inspiration from the National Humanities Center's project highlighting important issues of humanities education and offering fresh perspectives on important topics of public debate.

Included in the day's events are a presentation that reflects on working in the Conservation Department at Memorial and Museum Auschwitz-Birkenau, a documentary film and discus-

sion on neurodiversity, an exploration of food and identity in the face of medical diagnoses, an examination of the power of breathing to change our physical and mental body, and multiple interactive sessions on use of artistic practices to build well-being and community.

Members of the public are welcome to attend any of the presentations for this free event.

Registration is required.

To register, please visit <https://padlet.com/elenswider/GU2024Humanities-Fest>

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LEGAL NOTICE

ADOPTION OF THE 2023-2024 BUDGET

This is to certify that the East Hartford Town Council, in session on March 11, 2024, voted in accordance with Section 6.4(b) of the Town Charter to adopt the Mayor's Budget as amended:

Town Government Budget of	\$106,832,491
Board of Education Budget of	\$102,535,000
and a Debt Services payment of	\$9,275,900
and a Capital Improvement Budget of	\$2,838,933
For a Total Adopted Budget of	\$221,482,324

Tax Collection Rate: 97.29%

Mill Rates of:

Real Estate and Personal Property:	44.00
Motor Vehicles:	32.46

Generating taxes of:

Real Estate and Personal Property @44.00	\$139,213,574
Motor Vehicles @ 32.46 (incl. Supple. MV)	\$13,702,042
(Local Elderly, Veteran's, Revaluation Reserve)	(\$1,427,000)
Other Receipts	\$69,993,708
Total Revenue:	\$221,482,324

Attest: Connor Martin, Mayor
Date signed: 3/12/2024

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Town Council Clerk, Town of East Hartford

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Egg Hunt March 23; 'Egg Splash' March 22

East Hartford Parks and Recreation Department's will be holding a **Splashing for Eggs** Event at the Middle School Pool, 777 Burnside Avenue, pool entrance located on Scotland Road on Friday, March 22nd from 5:30-8:00 p.m. Participants will be assigned a time slot to 'hop' into the pool to collect some floating eggs. Children will then turn in their eggs for a goody bag. We will also have music, floats and snacks. U.S. Coast Guard approved life jackets must be worn in the water for those who do not know how to swim, and children ages 6 and under must have a parent/guardian in the water with them at all times. This event is \$3 per child participant with an additional \$1.50 credit card processing fee and registration is required at ehparks.org due to limited space. You may also stop by the East Hartford Parks and Recreation office during business hours and pay by cash or check. Parents/guardians do not need to register! Registration will open on Wednesday, February 28, 2024 at 9am.

Parks and Recreation will also be offering their **Annual Egg Hunt** at McAuliffe Park, 30 Remington Road on Saturday,



EAST HARTFORD PARKS AND RECREATION
EGG HUNT
SATURDAY MARCH 23, 2024

3 & UNDER 11:00 - 11:20 AM
AGES 4 - 5 11:30 - 11:50 AM
AGES 6 - 10 12:00 - 12:20 PM

MCAULIFFE PARK
30 REMINGTON ROAD

Free event for East Hartford children ages 10 and under! Bring a bag or basket to collect eggs and dress for the weather. In case of inclement weather or poor field conditions, updates will be posted on our website and facebook page www.facebook.com/ehparks.

March 23rd starting at 11 am. There will be thousands of pieces of candy, treats and stuffed plastic eggs. This event is for children ages 10 and younger (and their accompanying parent/guardian.) Participants will be grouped by age and there will be staggered start times: Ages 3 and under 11 - 11:20am (parent/guardian can accompany child on the field); Ages 4-5 11:30 - 11:50am; Ages 6-10 12:00 - 12:20pm

Each child should bring their own bag or basket to collect eggs and candy. Please note that the parents/guardians of children ages 4 - 10 are not allowed on the field during the egg hunt. Dress appropriately for the weather. In case of inclement weather or poor field conditions, updates will be posted on the town website and www.facebook.com/ehparks.

The event is FREE for residents. FMI call 860-291-7160.

Holy Week services at South Congregational

South Congregational Church, 1301 Forbes St., has planned the following worship opportunities for Holy Week, March 24 - 30. All are open to the community.

Mandy Thursday worship begins at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 28. After music, prayers and meditation, the service will conclude with a Tenebrae ceremony which is characterized by scripture readings and the gradual extinguishing of candles following these readings.

Soup and Bread at St. Christopher

Join fellow parishioners for a sharing of soup and bread at 5:30 p.m. in the Saint Christopher campus church hall (538 Brewer St.) on the Wednesdays during Lent, next on March 20.

Stations of the Cross begins at 6:30 p.m. in the church. The young people from our religious education program will lead us in the Stations. Volunteers are needed to prepare soup and/or bring bread Wednesday.

Attendees are encouraged to leave the sanctuary in silence.

March 29, Good Friday, the church sanctuary will be open from 1 to 6 p.m. for anyone to drop in for a time of personal meditation. Rev. Kent Rhodamel will offer scripture readings on every hour.

Easter Sunday, March 31st, brings a celebratory worship

service which will include a special musical performance by a brass quintet. The service begins at 10:00 a.m.

South Church is handicap accessible and parking is available behind the building. Follow the paved walkway from the parking lot to enter the church. FMI call 860-568-5150. We invite you to join us.



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| <input type="checkbox"/> Hydro-seeding | <input type="checkbox"/> Stumps removed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Liming | <input type="checkbox"/> Clearing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rolling of lawns | <input type="checkbox"/> Demolition work |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dethatching | <input type="checkbox"/> Mailbox posts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Low-voltage lighting | <input type="checkbox"/> Fencing of all types |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patios | <input type="checkbox"/> Firepits |

'When landscaping, think Peter's'

FOUNDED IN 1980 - EST. 1981 - 40 YEARS OF SERVICE

The Gazette

Thursday, March 14, 2024

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SPEAKING OUT & LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

AI might kill the Starchitect – but make buildings more sustainable

By Alessandro Melis

In the next 30 years, sea levels will rise as much as they have in the last century, threatening urban areas all over the world.

Unfortunately, most of our existing cities aren't built to withstand encroaching salt water or other climate-change impacts like floods and extreme storms. And while we need new infrastructure in order to adapt, construction is a major polluter. Today's built environment is responsible for close to 40% of energy-related carbon emissions.

Architects can help us get out of this double bind – but only if they embrace generative artificial intelligence, which many have so far resisted. To fight climate change, architects need to reimagine their role and abandon their

long-held obsession with individual authorship.

While some see AI as an existential threat, it could be our best tool yet for mitigating and adapting to climate change. "Traditional" AI tends to rely on narrow metrics to accomplish specific tasks, but newer generative AI tools can create original content by combining information from billions of sources.

For example, generative AI can help architects pinpoint the best building locations and develop the most sustainable materials. It can use satellite images to create detailed land-use maps, making it possible to test future climate scenarios, such as extreme heat or flooding, for specific places. Architects have already used AI to develop a ceramic surface that defends against viruses and pollution. And

they could soon use it to significantly reduce the amount of time and energy needed to design and construct a building.

In all likelihood, the collective creativity of generative AI heralds the end of sole authorship and the celebrity architect. It's time for architects to abandon individual perspectives and work together to overcome the very real existential threat of climate change.

The end of the celebrity architect is actually a return to older understandings of authorship. Sole credit for a single designer has never been as central to great architecture as some would like to think. Long before Frank Lloyd Wright designed Fallingwater, unknown designers created what is now the world's longest-standing temple, 11,000-year-old Göbekli

Tepe in modern-day Turkey.

In designing sustainable places for tomorrow, the layout of medieval cities could serve as key source material for generative AI tools tasked with creating climate-conscious municipalities. Back then, cities were typically mixed-use, dense, and connected to the surrounding environment – the same principles informing sustainable urban development today.

Architects, and those of us who teach future architects, have a major role to play in saving our environment. With the help of AI, we can design, construct, and maintain structures that emit little or no carbon and also protect us from what's ahead. Sacrificing claims to authorship to fulfill our duties to the planet is a small price to pay.

Reading, and success in athletics celebrated in schools during March

Dear Friends,

March recognizes Women's History and celebrates literacy with Read Across America. We encourage all families to make reading part of the evening events at home to support the daily reading occurring in our schools. Strong literacy skills, combined with critical and analytical thinking skills, are our students' key to success on all levels in their futures.

EHPS partnered with the United Way of Northeastern and Central Connecticut to celebrate our annual Read Across America Day on March 7. More than 50 volunteers read to our 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grade classrooms then led students in an activity to reflect on the story. These guest readers included Mayor Connor Martin, State Sen. Saud Anwar, State Rep. Jason Rojas, and groups from Travelers, Pratt & Whitney, Bank of America, American Eagle Financial Credit Union and First Church of Glastonbury. Thank you to all the volunteers who gave up their time to visit our students and make this day so special.

Another cause for celebration is our recent recognition from the UConn Early College Experience (ECE) program. This dual enrollment program allows our high school students to take UConn courses and earn college credit. UConn is commending East Hartford High School for its 132% enrollment increase compared to 2022-2023. We're proud to offer 7 ECE

WHAT'S WELL FROM WELLS HALL



Thomas Anderson
Superintendent of Schools



Tyron Harris
Chair, EH Board of Education

courses at EHHS with 144 students enrolled in at least one of those courses this year. EHPS will continue to seek out opportunities for our students to begin their pathways to college and career before graduation.

We have some tremendous student-athletes who won several state championships and earned top 5 finishes in New England competition this past winter season. Special congratulations to 1,000-point scorer in basketball

Dominick LaDuca; wrestling state champions Dravyn Roberts, Isaac Quiles, Samuel Montovani, Jaeckez Mendez and Yaxier Rivera; and indoor track and field state champions Keira Stewart, Kyrach Smith, Nya Cohen, and Queen Lewis.

Finally, we are reaching the end of the budget cycle for Fiscal Year 2025 while planning for summer programming and the 2024 – 2025 school year. We sincerely appreciate our mayor and town council's support of our district needs and budget priorities. The East Hartford Board of Education will vote to adopt the final budget during its next regular meeting on April 15.

Your continued support of East Hartford Public Schools is appreciated. If we can be of service, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Harris at 860-622-5017 or harris.tv@easthartford.org, or Mr. Anderson at 860-622-5107 or superintendent@easthartford.org.

With East Hartford Pride!

Tyron V. Harris
Board of Education Chairman
Thomas Anderson
Superintendent, East Hartford Public Schools

The Gazette welcomes signed letters on subjects of interest to our readers. Remember to also provide a daytime phone number. Mail to: The Gazette, 1406 Main St., EH, CT 06108 or e-mail to editor@ehgazette.com

East Hartford's history also the history of Pitkin family

by Robert Kanehl

Did you know that in East Hartford, maybe in all of Eastern Connecticut, you can't help but run into a historical Pitkin? Even trying to avoid the connection, I was hit square in the face with it as I found a Pitkin Glass Works display in the Ray-

DID YOU KNOW?

Looking back at East Hartford

mond Library. Right next to the reference room there is a display case filled with various glass bottles, and a write up of the early glass industry in the state.

As noted the Pitkin family was heavily involved with glass making. What is fascinating is their glass work factory has been in three different named locations without ever moving. (Ok - that was a historical joke.) The land on which the stone factory was located has been called East Hartford, Orford Parish and Manchester. The remains of the thick stone walled factory which produced glass bottles and jars from 1783 to 1832 are still visible today.

As a member of the Pitkin Glass Work's Executive Council, it was great to see the display. The site is opened a few times during the year for visits, and in the past two years, we have had three archaeological digs hoping to answer some of the mysteries as to the factory's appearance.

No photo or painting exists displaying its operational days. A written description of the original construction, survives but we do not know for certain how many floors were in oper-

ation, or even what the roofing structure looked like.

The factory was started after the American Revolution by William Pitkin, who saw action at the Seize of Boston, but was sent back to produce gun powder by George Washington. The Pitkin's' East Hartford powder mill was one of very few in colonial America. Because they maintained a supply of gun powder, the family received a monopoly to produce glass, and snuff after the war.

William and Elisha Pitkin established the glass factory in 1783, as East Hartford became a separate town.

What is interesting is that these East Hartford natives, relatives of other famous town residents, and grandsons of a governor, did not want to live in East Hartford.

They were among the movers and shakers, who first petitioned to break off the area into Orford Parish. This parish constructed its church less than a mile from the factory. Within a few years, the Pitkins were petitioning the state this time for independence from East Hartford. By 1823, Orford Parish became Manchester.

Another fascinating fact noted in the Raymond Library display is it appears someone broke the Pitkin's monopoly in glass production. Among the dates listed for 1800s glass producers is John Mather's company running from 1806 to 1821.

Mather's factory was located in the Lydall section of East Hartford (later Manchester). If the starting date is correct, that would have violated Pitkin's monopoly by a couple of years. Either way, Mather's did not do well at his site. His company suffered at least two or three massive fires. After the last one, he was asked by the local officials to move his company out of town.



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

City streets dance with spirit, fun O' the Irish

Saturday East Hartford was well represented in Hartford's St. Patrick's Day Parade led by Matthew Corey as Town Marshal and Cephus Nolen as Town Honoree, below. East Hartford Mayor Connor Martin and Town Council Chairman Rich Kehoe took a break from the budget deliberations and Town Council leaders were high-fiving spectators and generally getting into the celebration of all things Irish and the joy of being in a parade.

DOAK PHOTOS



Intersections Concert at Wickham tonight

The Intersections Concert Series is organized by East Hartford Public Schools music teacher Dan O'Brien. Concerts feature performances by professional musicians as well as student ensembles. The next performance takes place at the Wickham Library Thursday,

March 14 at 7 p.m. Performing will be the East Hartford Middle School Global Jazz & Creative Music Ensemble, the East Hartford High School World Drumming ensemble, and professional musicians DoYeon Kim, Michael Suddes and Ghazi Omair. Free.

Tere Luna at Raymond

Bring your family to the library this spring to experience arts and culture!

On **Sunday, March 17** at 3 PM at the Raymond Library, enjoy a performance of music and dance from Tere Luna, who brings the rich and colorful music and dance culture of Mexico to life! A native of Mexico, Tere studied under Marlén Santillán and Amalia Viviana Hernández. With over 15 years as a professional dancer and singer, and almost 8 years of experience as a teaching artist, Tere brings audiences the best of Mexican folkloric song and dance. Her colorful dresses and dances and beautiful songs and narratives make learning about this culture a fun and unforgettable experience. For all ages.

On **Tuesday, April 9** at 6:30 PM at the Wickham Memorial Library, gather in the meeting

room for "Elegant Equilibratics and Other Cool Stuff" with acrobat Li Liu, who was born in the city of Shenyang in the northeast of China. At the age of six she began her acrobatic training, and the following year she was chosen to attend The Chinese National Circus School in the capitol city of Beijing. While in Beijing she trained for eight hours a day until she was 16. For many years Ms. Liu traveled extensively throughout Europe, Africa and Asia with The Liaoning Acrobatic Arts Troupe. She came to the United States in 2000 with Ringling Brothers Barnum & Bailey Circus and toured all over the US for two years. She has been living in the US and working as a freelance performer since 2003. For all ages. Register for reminders on the library's online calendar of events.

STILL FRIENDLY

The Class of 1974 of Penney High School will soon be celebrating their 50th Class Reunion! On October 5, 2024 alumni will gather at Georgina's Restaurant in Bolton from 6 to 11 p.m. For more information, please contact Dawn (Kelly) Erikson at dkellyerikson@yahoo.com or Deb (Russell) Henderson at dhenderson128@comcast.net. The invitations will be going out via e-mail or snail mail in July. They hope to have pizza gatherings on Friday night and Breakfast on Sunday morning with their classmates too, but those details have yet to be established. They're looking for volunteers to plan those! Join their FB page George J Penney Class of 1974 Reunion for more details.

East Hartford High School Class of 1974 will hold its 50th reunion, "The Biggest We've Had", on **Sunday, August 25, 2024**. East Hartford High School Class of 1974 needs your help. They are looking for contact information for people who graduated in the class. If you know someone, or were a graduate of the class, please send the name (include maiden if changed), address, e-mail and phone number to: ehhs1974.classreunion50@gmail.com Confirm your e-mail address now to ehhs1974.classreunion50@gmail.com and follow the reunion page on Facebook.

Society

Library has tickets to 'Hot Wing King'

Thanks to the Commission on Culture and Fine Arts, the Town of East Hartford is offering half-price tickets to the Saturday, March 23, 2 p.m. matinee at Hartford Stage for the comedy "The Hot Wing King". These tickets will go on sale at the Raymond Library circulation desk at 9:30am on Friday, March 15. Two price options are available: \$30 tickets toward the center sections and \$10 tickets toward the sides. Tickets are limited. You must show proof of East Hartford residency and you can purchase two tickets at a time, with cash or check, made out to "Town of East Hartford". Tickets are offered on a first-come, first-served basis, but you can find out if tickets are still available

Learn how herbs can help manage stress at EH Garden Club meeting


The Garden Club of East Hartford presents Nora Toomey, Clinical Herbalist of True Bloom who will be speaking on Monday, March 25 at 6:30 p.m. at the Grange Hall, 617 Hills St.

Her talk, "Nourishing the Nervous System: Herbs for Stress & Anxiety" will inform us about a handful of plants that nourish and support the nervous system. In this one-hour program, you will learn about plant actions and energetics as well as practical applications and preparations of various plants that prevent and relieve anxiety.


Each participant will receive a relaxing tea blend. The public is invited. A brief club meeting will follow.



by calling the Raymond Library circulation desk during library open hours at 860-290-4330. The library is open Tuesdays - Thursdays from 9 AM - 8 PM, Mondays and Fridays from 9 AM - 5 PM, Saturdays from 10 AM - 2 PM, and Sundays from 1 - 5 PM. For other questions, you can call 860-528-0176 and leave a message. The Raymond Library is at 840 Main St.



LEHY Swimming



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Mission Statement of the Laurel East Hartford YMCA Swim Team (LEHY)
Using the YMCA Core Values of caring, respect, honesty and responsibility, the Laurel East Hartford YMCA Swim Team is open to all level of youth competitive swimmers and committed to developing youth to reach his/her highest potential through the sport of swimming.

Philosophy of LEHY Coaching Staff
Through the sport of swimming, the LEHY coaching staff is committed to teaching our swimmers lessons for life. We are devoted to creating a strong team atmosphere where swimmers discover how to win with modesty, support their teammates (and all competitors), and accept defeat with dignity. We work to help our swimmers develop a strong self-esteem, and encourage them to set goals and exceed expectations. We respect each swimmer's individuality and acknowledge every swimmers' ability level. Finally, we are looking to create a lifelong love for the sport of swimming while they are building a positive work ethic within a setting that is nurturing and fun.

- Programs for all ability levels and all ages (18 and under) – Stroke Clinic and competitive long course programs
- Short course and long course training
- Multiple YMCA Nationals Qualifiers and Finalist, Junior National Qualifiers, USA Swimming Sectional Qualifiers, Eastern Zone Age Group Championship Qualifiers, and all CT level championship meets.
- Consistency in coaching
- Respect all swimmers, their ability and create a positive atmosphere in and out of the pool.
- Registration Opens- Monday, March 11, 2024, forms available on the website. Registration is online. Call with questions 860-289-6612.

2024 Long Course Evaluation Dates
(only need to attend one)

Location: East Hartford High School
Time: 5:30 pm
Wednesday, March 27, 2024
Thursday, March 28, 2024

For more information visit our website at:
<https://www.teamunify.com/team/ymca-0983/page/home>
Check us out on Facebook (LEHY Swimming) and Instagram (@swimLEHY)

EAST HARTFORD SPORTS

UConn women play quite a hand

Next week we begin determining the best college basketball teams in the nation.

Who has the best women's team? We'll know soon, but how about this? Who has the best starting five?

I spent the weekend watching a team with barely more than five players dominate its conference tournament. The UCONN women entered the Big East tournament in Uncasville with 8 available players. Just over halfway through their opening game they were down to 7 when Aaliyah Edwards, the target of aggressive play by Providence the entire first half, was forced to leave

SCOTT GRAY on SPORTS

by Scott Gray



the game with a broken nose. She saw no more action as the Huskies went on to claim their 22nd Big East tournament title with a 33-point win over the Friars, a 29-point win over Marquette, and a 36-point win over Georgetown in the championship game.

Edwards had 12 points and six rebounds in the 24 minutes she played in the Providence game.

UConn arrived for the next two games with just 7 available players, the minimum required by the Big East for a team to be eligible to play. Four UConn players are out for the season. Of the two non-starters, Ines Bettencourt's job is to eat up a minute or two when a starter needs a breather. It was basically a five-player effort that propelled UConn to the title. All five starters averaged 34-plus minutes for three games in three days. Paige Bueckers, the repeat tournament Most Outstanding Player, played an average of 37-plus minutes and scored an average 28 points. Nika Muhl averaged 36-plus minutes, and conference Freshman of the Year Ashlynn Shade, 35-plus.

At halftime of the final, Geno Auriemma wasn't sure freshman Ice Brady could finish off what she started, playing all 20 minutes of the first half. They had yet to have a chance to find out. After the game he pointed out "Ice Just played 80 minutes in two games." In the final she had 17 points and 7 defensive rebounds. Playing defense is more draining physically than playing offense. For 19 minutes, from holding Marquette scoreless in the fourth quarter to the start of the Georgetown game UConn allowed zero points.

"All our championships are unique and special," Auriemma said after the Georgetown win, "because we had to play these three games under these circumstances. I don't think any of them were as special as this one is for these kids."

"Play the hand you're dealt," said Bueckers of her daily devotional she read in the locker room before coming out for the championship game. "That's been our theme all season. Everyone stepped up in so many different ways."

The 10th-ranked Huskies entered the tournament as a projected #3 seed for the NCAA. That isn't likely to change. They never had a chance to notch a "signature" win in Uncasville. Creighton, the only other ranked Big East team, failed to reach the championship game. The Huskies can prepare for the NCAA's knowing, with 10 days off, Edwards is likely to return, and the starters won't again be called upon to play 35-plus minutes on back-to-back days. There aren't many starting fives in the nation capable of enduring the conditions UConn's five just played through.

EH's Tyree Mitchell selected DIII All-Star

Rosters have been announced for the 2024 National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) - Reese's® Division III College All-Star Game, and East Hartford senior guard Tyree Mitchell of the University of Saint Joseph (USJ) men's basketball team has been selected to participate as a member on Team Moore.

Mitchell marks the first-ever selection in USJ men's basketball history for this event, which is set to be held Saturday, March 16 at 12:30 p.m. ET at Allen County War Memorial Coliseum in Fort Wayne, Ind.

The Division III All-Star Game, held in conjunction with the 2024 NCAA Division III Men's Basketball Championship and played prior to the national championship game, features the top senior talent across Division III. It will be broadcast online, with D3hoops.com's Pat Coleman and Dave McHugh on

the call.

The teams are composed of 20 senior student-athletes from across the country in Division III, including 18 at-large selections and two who were selected by online voting on D3hoops.com. Players whose teams are still playing in the Division III NCAA Tournament were not available for consideration. Rosters include representation from each Division III region. Mitchell was selected as the lone participant from Region I.

Former Wooster coach Steve Moore and former Marymount and Frostburg State coach Webb Hatch will coach the two Division III All-Star teams.

Mitchell was also named a National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) All-District player for the 2023-24 season, it was announced by the association Tuesday. Mitchell was named to the All-District 1



Tyree Mitchell

First Team, voted on by NABC-member coaches from across NCAA Division III. And to cap off the honors for the Blue Jay's senior, he was also named D3hoops.com (D3hoops) All-Region I First Team, while senior forward Jalen Samuels (Franklin, Mass.) was named to the All-Region I Third Team.

Richie 'Popeye' Rivera at Sun April 6

Light Heavyweight, Richie "Popeye the Sailor Man" Rivera, who fights out of East Hartford and trains out of Orlando, Florida will headline the Star Boxing "Slugfest at the Sun" Saturday, April 6 at 6 p.m. at Mohegan Sun Arena, Uncasville.

Rivera is promoted by NY and CT Hall of Fame promoter Joe DeGuardia.

Considered one of the most popular and hard-hitting boxers in the New England area, Rivera likes to describe his fights as "quick to the finish, because I eat my spinach."

Although Rivera had a relatively non-descript amateur boxing career, other than winning top honors at the 2016 Rocky Marciano Tournament, he gained invaluable experience boxing many of the leading New England amateurs, as well as in several national events. His real learning has developed over the years as a professional sparring partner for former world champions such as Peter "Kid Chocolate" Quillin, Chad Dawson and WBO World Champion and Star Boxing stablemate, Joe Smith,



Richie 'Popeye' Rivera

Jr.

"The positive feedback I received from fighters I sparred fed into my confidence," Rivera said. I had been insecure." Rivera made his pro debut on January 19, 2017, stopping Devonte Hopkins in the second round at The Palladium in Worcester, Massachusetts. Bus-

loads of his passionate fans from Hartford started traveling all over New England, even through winter blizzards, to watch Rivera fight at venues like Foxwoods Resort Casino and Mohegan Sun in Connecticut, in addition to Hampton and Derry, New Hampshire.

Rivera has overcome many obstacles in life. He spent part of his childhood living at home in the Hartford area, largely due to an abusive father and overburdened mother who were unable to provide a stable home, before he finally landed at an alternative high school in East Hartford. At one point, he was kicked out of his house and forced to apply for food stamps.

In 2015, Rivera started working at the Hartford Boxing Club. Rivera has successfully marketed his "Popeye" persona: wearing a sailor's cap into the ring before and after his fights, along with a traditional Popeye pipe dangling from his mouth. His growing fan-base love his cartoon-like look, especially children and women who pose post-fight with Rivera.

OBITUARIES

Lawrence 'Larry' Leonard; decorated veteran, Dovalette

Lawrence "Larry" J. Leonard, 91, of East Hartford, son of the late Joseph and Mary (Stanley) Leonard, passed away peacefully on Saturday, March 9, 2024 after a long, courageous battle with dementia.

He leaves behind his loving wife of 65 years, Camille (Begin) Leonard of East Hartford; two daughters, Linda Futtner and her husband Henry of East Hartford, Catherine Hogan and her husband Matthew of Newport, NH; a son, Joseph Leonard and his wife Valetta of Brighton, MI; fourteen special grandchildren, Bridget, Mary, Kelly, Anne, Monica, Allison, Brendan, Brian, Thomas, John, Jacinta, Nicholas, Peter, and Joseph; and eleven adored great-grandchildren. In addition, Larry leaves his brother, James Leonard and his wife Elta of Columbia; a sister-in-law, Elaine Gilbert and her husband Tom of East Hartford; a brother-in-law, Roland Begin and his wife Barbara of Glastonbury; and a sister-in-law, Connie Leonard of Vernon. He also leaves many loving nieces, nephews, and dear friends.

Besides his parents, Larry was predeceased by two brothers, Donald Leonard and his wife Mabel of East Hartford Gerald Leonard of Vernon; a sister-in-law, Janet Risley; and two nephews, Timothy Gilbert and James Begin.

Larry was born on March 22, 1932 at Hartford Hospital and raised in East Hartford. He graduated from East Hartford High School, class of 1951 where he was a standout pitcher and basketball player.

He worked at Western Electric before being drafted into the U.S. Army for service during the Korean Conflict where he earned a Bronze Star with Valor. He continued with Western Electric upon his return, retiring in 1992.

He continued to enjoy playing softball for many years with both the Dovelettes in East Hartford and the Codgers in Vero Beach, Florida where he retired with Camille for 24 years. He dedicated many years coaching youth sports through the East Hartford Park &



Recreation department.

If you were a friend of Larry, you were a friend for life. He made a point to keep in close contact with many childhood friends and was often on the telephone checking up on friends and grandchildren.

He was a man of faith and was a former member of the Knights of Columbus, Rev. J.C. Martin Council #3901 of East Hartford.

Funeral service will be Monday (March 18, 2024) with a Mass of Christian Burial celebrated at 10:30 am at St. Christopher Church of St. Edmund Campion Parish, 538 Brewer Street, East Hartford.

Everyone has been asked to please go directly to the church on Monday morning.

Burial with military honors will follow at the State Veterans' Cemetery, Bow Lane, Middletown.

Calling hours will be held on Sunday (March 17, 2024) from 3 - 6 pm at the D'Esopo East Hartford Memorial Chapel, 30 Carter Street, East Hartford.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Larry's name may be made to a favorite charity of the donor's choice. Larry's family would like to thank the staff at the John C. Levitow Veterans Health Center in Rocky Hill for their outstanding and compassionate care given to Larry and his entire family.

For on-line expressions of sympathy to the family, please visit www.desopoe.com.

George J. Cachy, 88; restaurateur

George J. Cachy, 88, of South Windsor, formerly of East Hartford, died peacefully on Wednesday, March 6, 2023 at home surrounded by his loving wife of over 63 years, Francine and his princess dog, Lola. George was born in Agios Petros, Greece, November 4, 1935 son of the late John P. and Katarina (Mingas) Katsis. He grew up in Greece and immigrated to the U.S. in 1957, to Hartford. George met and married the love of his life, Francine Martin in 1960 and they settled in East Hartford where they lived for 50 years before moving to South Windsor in 2015. George worked for Taner's Restaurant from 1957 until 1970 when he bought the business and continued to run it until 1995. George then went to work for Hastings Hotel from 1995 until 2002. He was a hardworking and generous man. George walked 5 or 6 miles every day. George and Francine loved to travel and had the opportunity to travel all over the world to the Caribbean, Europe, Canada, Middle East, and Greece every five years to see



George Cachy

family. George and Francine would close the restaurant for two weeks a year to travel and come back ready to work for another 50 weeks. He was a wonderful gardener and home landscaper. A kind, caring, loving, and devoted husband, brother, uncle, and friend to many he will be dearly missed. Along with his wife Francine of South Windsor he leaves many nieces and nephews in Greece, Canada, and the U.S. He was predeceased by all his siblings,

Marina, Petroula, Georgia, Anastasia, Panagiotis, and Haralambos all of Greece, and his brother Mihail and his son, John of Mass. His family will receive friends on Friday, March 15, from 9-10:30 a.m. at the St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral, 433 Fairfield Ave., Hartford. A Funeral Mass will follow in the church beginning at 10:30 a.m. Entombment will follow at St. Mary's Cemetery, Burnside. In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to the St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral and/or St. Jude's Research Hospital. Visit Samsel & Carmon, www.carmonfuneralhome.com

St. Jude Novena

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world now and forever, amen. Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, helper of the hopeless, pray for us. Say this prayer 9 times a day. By the 8th day, your prayer will be answered. It has never been known to fail.

(Publication must be promised.)
Thank You St. Jude.

J.B.

If you've been putting off prearranging because of the expense, we have good news...

Prearrangement doesn't have to cost anything.

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From Page One

lion in revenue into a non-recurring items and the town's contingency account, for making lease payments and to address storm water culverts. The Council also moved the mayor's request for two new police officers for a new PAL program into the contingency account as well pending further review from a broader personnel structure, said Kehoe.

The adopted budget allocates \$106,832,491 for the town, and \$102,535,000 for the Board of Education, with additional funding anticipated for schools from the state. Contingency reserve was increased by \$442,680 and capital improvements reserve increased by \$750,350.

"The Council does not disagree that it is worthwhile," he said, adding "we are currently conducting a survey of the needs of our youth. A PAL-type program is consistent with the needs and services," but a consultant was recently contracted by the Parks and Recreation department to examine the town's current parks programming and identify needs.

The Council also stipulated that all "special revenue" accounts come before the Town Council, and that all special Parks and Rec activities be self-supporting, financially.

The 3.4 percent increase in the mill rate will mean a home valued at \$200,000 will pay \$17 per month more in taxes, the Council chair said. The budget preserves elderly, veterans and disabled tax exemptions, up to \$700, applications now ac-

cepted by the town assessor.

"It is never great to be increasing the mill rate, however when you think about all the services... when you get up in the morning and drive to work, those roads need to be repaired, plowed in the winter; when you pass a bus the kids are getting on to get a good education in our schools. When you pass by a park, you have upkeep. You feel safe. You can call 911 in a medical emergency and paramedics are there in three minutes or less. That all costs money, all these services are important. Just as your costs are going up, so too does the town face the same pressure. Our goal is to look at ways to save, find efficiencies for the town. This year we contributed more to the pension fund, and that will save us in the long run."

The town reduced its anticipated rate of return for the pension fund from 7.2 to 7.1 percent, a decision that added \$2.2 million to the employees' pension account. The budget also changes the size of the contingency fund to 11.25 percent of the total budget, with any excess automatically going into the pension plan by statute.

Republican Travis Simpson suggested the town look at the lease program and vehicles used by the town. The suggestion was incorporated into the budget. "We should have the right sized vehicle for the job," said Simpson.

The Council congratulated Mayor Martin and Melissa McCaw, Chief Administrative Officer and Finance Director, for their work on the budget noting more hours were spent reviewing each department but the information was presented much clearer than in year's

past.

Mayor Martin also gave praise to McCaw "my partner," for her work. A former member of the Town Council before being elected mayor in November, he said he saw it "through a few different lenses. I saw it as a young mayor who has a lot of energy" and as a \$200 million budget for the first time. "That changes your perspective and you have to question what you can and can't do. We have to show people the best value. This budget also supports our future. 2024 is going to be our year, and I mean it."

The mayor said he also "appreciates all the staff doing their jobs and without whom there would not be these services," and listened to the critics speak at the public hearing saying they could do without leaf pick up, for example.

"Convenience, it is baked into your tax bill. Without leaf pickup you would have to fill a vehicle. Convenience contributes to our life in East Hartford. Convenience is what we should take pride in East Hartford, and it's what the budget supports," said he mayor. "It's so you don't have to think about that stuff, and do family activities or go on vacation. This is not just the mayor's budget but the town's budget. And it is a budget that will continue to move East Hartford forward."

A motion was made to refer department services to the Council's budget subcommittee to work with the mayor "on ensuring that personnel changes will bring a more efficient and effective delivery of Town services" and a "review of town acquisition of vehicles for Police, Fire, Public Works and other Town Government use."

From Page One

cafeteria meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards. The second provides an exception for foods not meeting these standards, allowing them to be sold only at an event being held before are after the school day or weekends.

The district received over \$75,000 last school year through its participation in the national food lunch program. This money is placed in the school meals account to help improve the food services program through purchases of replacement cafeteria equipment and other initiatives.

The Board also agreed to the Head Start Selection Criteria. Each year this program must establish its criteria used in acceptance to the program.

This year's scoring rubric has no changes except for age brackets, from last year's criteria. The rubric takes into account such items as family income, education statues, disabilities and other criteria.

According to the federal guidance, poverty levels run from \$15,000 for a family of one to \$52,000 for a family of eight.

Finally, the Board voted to establish a diversity plan for the district's faculty.

It will use this plan to increase the diversity of the district's faculty to "ensure that all students have racially, ethnically, and linguistically diverse teachers and leaders who can provide them with a high-quality education."

The Board was informed by district staff and Superintendent Thomas Anderson, that the state mandated local plan was developed through collaboration between the Human Resources Department, the

Supervisor of Professional Learning and Educator Evaluation and the Deputy Superintendent.

This plan focuses the district's efforts in recruiting, hiring and retaining a diverse workforce. Under its guidance, East Hartford will be reaching out to local colleges and university as it looks for qualified applicants, as well as using the standard recruitment agencies.

Among the programs the District is investigating will be residual teacher programs where non-certified employees can obtain university credits while continuing to work in town. These programs also help current certified teachers obtain additional endorsements.

The plan also calls for an increase in awareness of racial, ethnic and linguistic diversity in the schools, and central office. This awareness will also be the focus of future professional development, with the overall goal of bringing this diversity into the regular classroom.

Superintendent Anderson stressed that this plan would not create a diverse faculty for diversity sake, but would guide the District into recruiting and retaining a diversity of qualified instructors creating a better educational environment for the town's students.

All state and all conference athletes from the winter sports season were also honored at the meeting. These athletes represented the wrestling, basketball and indoor track teams.

Honored were: Dominick LaDuca; Drayvn Roberts; Isaac Quiles; Samuel Montovani; Jaeckez Mendez; Yaxier Rivera, Queen Lewis; Keira Stewart; Kyrh Smith and Nya Cohen.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF
RICHARD JOSEPH DEVITT
(23-00393)

The Hon. Richard P. Gentile, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of East Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated **March 5, 2024**, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Matthew E. Cella, Clerk

The fiduciary is:

John Alexander Devitt, 48 Silver Birch Lane, Windsor, CT 06095

DOT pedestrian bridge study

From Page One

The creation of the region's highway system, including Interstate 91, disconnected neighborhoods from each other and resources in Hartford and East Hartford, impacting health and economic potential. The River Gateway Project will strengthen the City of Hartford's connections to the Connecticut River, East Hartford, and reconnect the Downtown to the surrounding neighborhoods, which have had limited access due to the barrier created by I-91 in the mid-20th

century. To remove the existing barrier, the proposed River Gateway Project involves four components: Lowering and capping I-91 from the Founders Bridge to Dillon Stadium, creating a surface boulevard between the Founders Bridge and Whitehead Highway to address traffic congestion on I-91, redesigning the Whitehead Highway as an urban boulevard with a connection to Pulaski Circle to the west and the riverfront to the east.

"These federal funds are going to increase safety and

mobility throughout the Greater Hartford region. Much of our state's infrastructure was designed and built for cars and cut off communities from one another," said Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont. "By refocusing on pedestrians and bicyclists, the state can have roadways that work for everyone. Thank you to President Biden, Secretary Buttigieg, and our entire federal delegation for supporting these funds that improve safety and reconnect our communities."

"The Greater Hartford Mobility Study is a generational investment that will improve

safety, reduce congestion, reconnect the city, and provide greater access to the riverfront and open space," said Connecticut Department of Transportation of Commissioner Garrett Eucalitto. "From re-designed highways to improved local roads and new public transportation services and additional bicyclist and pedestrian amenities, the Greater Hartford Mobility Study is a transformational project that benefits all roadway users. Thank you to Governor Lamont and Connecticut's federal delegation for the continuous support."

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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF
PATRICIA ANN BLAIR
 (24-00099)

The Hon. Richard P. Gentile, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of East Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated **March 1, 2024**, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Matthew E. Cella, Clerk

The fiduciary is:

Kristin Bradley
 c/o Kathleen Mary Nevins,
 Esquire; Nevins Law Group
 LLC, 773 Main St.,
 Manchester, CT 06040

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF
KATHERINE ELLIOTT
 (24-00081)

The Hon. Richard P. Gentile, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of East Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated **March 4, 2024**, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Matthew E. Cella, Clerk

The fiduciary is:

Donna Coffin
 c/o Lee W. Reiber, Esquire;
 Mahon Quinn & Mahon P.C.,
 636 Broad St., P.O. Box
 2420, Meriden, CT 06450

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF
CAROL NOIVA, AKA CAROL F. NOIVA, AKA CAROL U. NOIVA
 (24-00110)

The Hon. Richard P. Gentile, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of East Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated **March 5, 2024**, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Matthew E. Cella, Clerk

The fiduciary is:

Susan N. Hamilton, 46
 Shaughnessy Drive, East
 Hartford, CT 06118

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF
LORETTA P. FRANCIS, AKA LORETTA FRANCIS
 (24-00111)

The Hon. Richard P. Gentile, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of East Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated **March 6, 2024**, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Matthew E. Cella, Clerk

The fiduciary is:

Robert Francis
 c/o Michael John Bonanno,
 Tavano, McCuin & Bonanno,
 LLC, 140 Glastonbury Blvd,
 Suite 29, Glastonbury, CT
 06033

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF
CHARLES A. LESOVECK, II, AKA CHARLES ARTHUR LESOVECK, AKA ARTHUR A. LESOVECK
 (24-00042)

The Hon. Richard P. Gentile, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of East Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated **March 4, 2024**, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Matthew E. Cella, Clerk

The fiduciary is:

Mary Teixeira
 c/o Michael J. Keenan,
 Esquire; Keenan Law, LLC,
 787 Main Street, So.
 Glastonbury, CT 06073

WHERE THE ACTION IS!

BY CORINNE HORAN

MARCH 16: FREE MOVIE NIGHT - The East Hartford Commission on Culture & Fine Arts presents the third film in their sixteenth series of foreign films on Saturday, March 16 at seven o'clock in the evening in the Community Cultural Center at 50 Chapman Place. Admission is free. The East Hartford Summer Youth Festival will be selling concessions, including popcorn. This month's film is "The Quiet Girl". In the summer of 1981, Cait, living in rural Ireland, is sent to stay with relatives she's never met while her mother has yet another baby. 2023 Nominee for the Oscar Best International Feature Film. This film is rated PG-13 and runs 95 minutes. The final film in the series is "The Lost King", screened on April 20.

MARCH 20: NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES (Narfe) meets at the Solomon Wells House, 220 Hartford Ave., Wethersfield at 1:30 p.m. Mara Logan from Neptune Cremation Services will give a presentation on prepaid services. This meeting is open to all.

MARCH 20: PRATT & WHITNEY AND UTRC RETIREES meet beginning at 9:30 a.m. at the PWA Club, Inc., 200 Clement Road. East Hartford Police K-9 team will present a program at 10. All P&W and UTCRC retirees welcome. FMI call 860-565-6236.

MARCH 21: HILLSTOWN GRANGE CHILI FEST. Enter for the chance to win! Doors open at 6 p.m. for dinner featuring home-made chili. The Grange hopes to have some plain and some spicy for heat lovers. Three scoops of chili, cornbread, drink and dessert - \$10. Chili cooks that bring a pot of chili get reduced price admission. For those bringing pots of chili, please come between 5:15 and 5:45. There will be prizes for best chili, first empty pot, and hottest chili. The Grange Ag Committee will have a new supply of free garden seeds available. FMI call Frank at 860-690-2845; email hillstowngrange@aol.com.

MARCH 21: GLASTONBURY GRANGE #26 Social Evening at the Masonic Hall, 895 Main St., South Glastonbury at 7 p.m. The public is invited. Beverly and Andy Bell will be talking and demonstrating starting your vegetable and flower gardens. Free seed packets for all.

MARCH 22: THE AMERICAN PARKINSON DISEASE ASSOCIATION (APDA) and Riverside Health & Rehabilitation will host a Parkinson's Lunch & Learn Friday, March 22 at 11 a.m. Held at Riverside Health & Rehab, 745 Main St., a complimentary lunch will be provided. Dr. J. Antonelle de Marcaid's topic: "Behavioral and Mental Health & Wellness in Parkinson's Disease." She is a board-certified neurologist with subspecialty training in movement disorders. Space limited. Register on the ctapda.org website and visit the events page, or e-mail hseymour@apdaparkinson.org, by March 18. You can also call Holly at 860-996-4276.

MARCH 22, 23: EAST HARTFORD PARKS AND RECREATION WILL BE "SPLASHING FOR EGGS" at the Middle School Pool, 777 Burnside Avenue, Friday, March 22 from 5:30-8 p.m. Participants will be assigned a time slot to 'hop' into the pool to collect some floating eggs. Children will then turn in their eggs for a goody bag. We will also have music, floats and snacks. U.S. Coast Guard approved life jackets must be worn in the water for those who do not know how to swim, and children ages 6 and under must have a parent/guardian in the water with them at all times. This event is \$3 per child participant with an additional \$1.50 credit card processing fee and registration is required at ehparcs.org due to limited space. You may also stop by the Parks and Rec office and pay by cash or check. Parents/guardians do not need to register!

"Stress & Anxiety" will inform us about a handful of plants that nourish and support the nervous system. In this one-hour program, you will learn about plant actions and energetics as well as practical applications and preparations of various plants that prevent and relieve anxiety. Each participant will receive a relaxing tea blend. The public is invited. Club meeting will follow.

APRIL 6: SPRING BREAK PANCAKE BREAKFAST at Hillstown Grange, 617 Hills St., Saturday from 8:30 to 11 a.m. Take a break from spring cleaning and getting the garden ready and come relax and enjoy pancakes, sausage, bottomless cups of coffee, tea and juice for just \$6, children under 14 just \$3. Special "kid-cakes" with chocolate chips. Featured pancakes are "Girl Scout Cookie-Inspired." A local Girl Scout troop will be on hand to sell Girl Scout cookies, so bring extra cash. Free garden and flower seeds will be available in the upstairs Grange library. Just in are 800 packets of seeds from UCONN master gardeners' program with Burpees and Ocean State Job lot. FMI call 860-690-2845 or e-mail hillstowngrange@aol.com.

TROLLEY MUSEUM APRIL PROGRAMS - Looking for something to do during April vacation? The Connecticut Trolley Museum has scheduled activities all week long. Take a trolley ride with a motor operator, dressed for the historical period. Learn about each historic car as you ride, and then climb aboard stationary trolleys at the visitors center. The CTM has streetcars and interurban cars. Make a hat, create a trolley fare ticket, visit the dress-up station to become a motorman or conductor. Lego station focusing on trolley and trains. Add your creation to the display. At the Fire Truck museum, view over 15 fire trucks dating back to 1923.

LEGO Workshops are April 12 and 19, from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. \$25 per person which includes admission. Advance registration required at www.ct-trolley.org. The Trolley Museum is located at 58 North Road (Rt. 140), admission is \$12 for adults, \$11 seniors 62 and up, \$11 for youth ages 12-17, and \$9 for ages 2-11.

MAY 11: RACE IN THE PARK registration now open. Run, walk and help save lives through the CT Breast Health Initiative. Stanley Quarter Park, New Britain on Mother's Day weekend, May 11. Sign up at www.ctbhi.org. Every dollar raised stays here in Connecticut.

VETERANS COFFEE HOUR at the Senior Center, 15 Milwood Dr., 10 a.m. third Tuesday of the month. Veterans - drop in!

THE EAST HARTFORD SENIOR CENTER serves breakfast Saturdays promptly at 9 a.m. Come alone or bring a guest. Every week is different breakfast menu, posted online. Breakfast comes with coffee or tea. One adult guest per member. Space limited, show up early.

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MARCH 23: ANNUAL EGG HUNT AT MCAULIFFE PARK, 30 Remington Road on Saturday, March 23rd starting at 11 am. There will be thousands of pieces of candy, treats and stuffed plastic eggs. This event is for children ages 10 and younger (and their accompanying parent/guardian.) Participants will be grouped by age and there will be staggered start times: Ages 3 and under 11 - 11:20am; (parent/guardian can accompany child on the field); Ages 4-5 11:30 - 11:50am; Ages 6-10 12:00 - 12:20pm Each child should bring their own bag or basket to collect eggs and candy. Please note that the parents/guardians of children ages 4 - 10 are not allowed on the field during the egg hunt. Dress appropriately for the weather. In case of inclement weather or poor field conditions, updates will be posted on www.facebook.com/ehparcs.

MARCH 25: THE GARDEN CLUB of East Hartford presents Nora Toomey, Clinical Herbalist of True Bloom who will be speaking on Monday at 6:30 p.m. at the Grange Hall, 617 Hills St. Her talk, "Nourishing the Nervous System: Herbs for