

# The Gazette

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Thursday, May 1, 2025

Crafted from the finest local ingredients since 1885

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## Anderson Jewelers moving from Main

By Bill Doak

Four years shy of celebrating 100 years on Main Street, Anderson Jewelers will be relocating to 411 Naubuc Avenue in Glastonbury in September.

"It's going to be a challenge. It's going to be fun. I'm excited," said owner George Agnelli Jr. Tuesday. He said he decided to move about 6 months ago, and will be moving into an office he already operates as Agnelli Realty, a small house between Stop & Shop and the Connecticut River.

"It's a good location, easy on and off the highway. That was important to me as we are a destination store for many of our customers."

Founded in 1929, the store was operated by George's father who, like his son, was a fixture behind the counter, repairing watches and providing wedding and engagement and graduation rings for generations during his 75 years. George senior passed away in November 2018, and his son and Eleanor carried on the tradition, serving the children and grandchildren of customers Mr. Anderson first helped decades earlier.

Losing a longtime store on Main Street will come as a shock to many. And it was not a decision easily made by the family.

"It's always a struggle being in Downtown East Hartford," said George Jr. "Parking can be a challenge, I have to shovel out the snow banks, the street lights

have been promised but never fixed, and there have been traffic studies going back to 1968 on how to improve the street. I'm not getting any younger," said Agnelli who has been working in the store for 47 years. Having a parking lot for the new store is a bonus, but he said his kids are not planning to follow in his footsteps, and there were signs that it was time to make a move.

"I want to enjoy live but to keep working," says George who also runs an extensive real estate agency with dozens of agents and affiliates. He spent many years fixing up local homes, upgrading them with new kitchens, refinishing floors, landscaping, etc. By his guesstimate he personally rehabbed over 300 homes from top to bottom. And when he wasn't employing a cadre of tradespeople he made sure he bought materials locally. "I was probably Main Hardware's biggest customer." He knew so much about the business that he bought the store, then tried to convert it into an ACE hardware - but the corporation rejected the request. So he sold it.

"My father always called East Hartford 'A sleeping giant.' But he also said that if the hardware store closes, it would be time to move." Main Hardware did not make it, and plans to auction off all furnishings and equipment May 8.

Over the years Anderson Jewelers expanded, and the new space will house just 20



GEORGE AGNELLI JR. stands in front of the 1904 Dumfee clock.

cases - a return to the day where it was more manageable. All the watch repair and other services will be retained, and there is a new tenant already lined up for the Anderson storefront.

"I love the people of East Hartford, I love helping people out, and that won't ever change at the new location. Everyone is welcome to visit. The only thing that is changing is our zip code."

Having served on the Town Council in the early 1990s, Agnelli entertained a run for mayor as a Democrat. On Main Street he was outspoken for supporting Downtown businesses, and also did not hesitate to pick up the phone and call Town Hall to report a problem.

One of the more contentious fights he had was over the placement of trees outside his

See ANDERSONS MOVING, pg 10

## EH Police leadership takes oath

by Rob Kanehl

Three of the newest members of the East Hartford Police Department's command staff were sworn into office Monday at the Public Safety Complex.

Joshua M. Litwin, Francis "Joe" McGeough and Michael J. Connolly, Jr. were all promoted by Police Chief Mack Hawkins and took the oath of their new offices from Town Clerk Kelly Bilodeau.

Litwin, a 23-year veteran of the department, was promoted from Deputy Chief - Professional Standards Bureau, to Assistant Chief of Police. Having also served as the department's Chief of Staff, Assistant Chief Litwin brings decades of experience and dedication to his new role. As Assistant Police Chief, he provides administrative and functional assistance to the Chief of Police by managing the daily administrative and operational services of the department, as well as serving as Acting Chief of Police when necessary.

McGeough, a 29-year EHPD veteran, was promoted from lieutenant to Deputy Chief. During his career, Deputy Chief McGeough was headed the department's Communications Division, was supervisor of the Detective Division, a SWAT supervisor and Patrol Commander. Deputy Chief

SEE NEW CHIEFS, page 10



Stay informed during water and sewer emergencies. Sign up by visiting the MDC website, [www.themdc.org](http://www.themdc.org).

# MDC ALERTS

## NOTIFICATION SIGN UP

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# AROUND TOWN

## Memorial Day Parade May 26

East Hartford's Memorial Day parade and more events will take place Monday, May 26, at 10 a.m. on Riverside Drive.

The event will consist of three parts, including a parade, program at the Fallen Star Memorial and celebration of East Hartford. The parade kicks off promptly at 10 a.m., proceeding from 9 Riverside Drive to the Fallen Star Memorial located at Goodwin University. The parade will be followed by a program at the Fallen Star Memorial and a family-friendly celebration of East Hartford with food trucks, music and activities.

Those who would like to

march or help volunteer in the Memorial Day Parade, or if interested in being a vendor, register by Monday, May 5.

For updates on East Hartford news and events, visit [www.easthartfordct.gov](http://www.easthartfordct.gov) and subscribe at [www.easthartfordct.gov/subscribe](http://www.easthartfordct.gov/subscribe).

## Vote for Josie

Don't forget to cast your vote between May 1 and May 9 and help support Josie Tedesco in becoming the 2025 Future Chefs Challenge National Champion.

## McCARTIN SCHOOL IS JUST A MEMORY



## Volunteer to be part of the Mayor's Cleanup on May 17

Join Mayor Martin for Spring Community Cleanup Day May 17. This annual cleanup day will bring together members of the community to roll up their sleeves and give a few hours to tidying up the town.

Community Cleanup Day starts Saturday morning at 10 a.m. and lasts until 2 p.m. in Downtown and along other public thoroughfares. Volunteers will gather first at the Town Green at Alumni Park, 1021 Main St. where they will be assigned to a cleanup squad. To coincide with Armed Forces

Day, May 17, a special group of volunteers will also be tasked with cleaning headstones of veterans at Hillside Cemetery using a non-toxic cleaning solution under supervision. An EH Public Works crew will provide protective wear, but dress appropriately.

Register to volunteer - every hand helps! Registrations closes Friday, May 9. Volunteers will receive more details as the event nears.

Please complete the participation waiver in addition to the registration form at

<https://www.easthartfordct.gov/mayors-office/web-forms/2025-east-hartford-community-cleanup-day-registration> Lunch will be provided following the cleanup.

## Market vendors sought

East Hartford Farmers' Market issued a Call for Vendors. Are you a farmer or market vendor that produces CT-made milk, bread, other foods, or locally produced crafts who wishes to be part of the East Hartford Farmers' Market? Are you a business or non-profit organization looking to promote your services? To apply online please visit [easthartfordct.gov/farmers-market](http://easthartfordct.gov/farmers-market)

## CLASSIFIEDS

**LIGHT MAINTENANCE / PERFECT FOR SEMI-RETIREES** Maintaining commercial properties, outside cleaning, light repairs, painting, etc. 15-20 hr./week 860-881-7479

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**LOST DOG? ITEM FOR SALE?** - A \$12 ad in the *Gazette* makes more sense than spending for markers, staplers, etc to place ugly signs on telephone poles.

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# DESDE LA ESQUINA

by Carmen Maldonado

## ¡Aguántame el tequila! ¿Ya tienes Id?

Mientras nos preparamos para celebrar el 5 de mayo en un año que ha estado bien tenso y medio algarète', también es importante tener en cuenta que la fecha límite para obtener tu Real ID ya está a la vuelta de la esquina.

Como ya sabes, el 5 de mayo se celebra con orgullo en muchas partes de E.U.

Aunque algunos lo confunden con el Día de la Independencia de México, en realidad esta fecha conmemora la victoria del ejército mexicano sobre las fuerzas francesas en la Batalla de Puebla, en 1862. Más allá del dato histórico, aquí en E.U. se ha convertido en una celebración vibrante de la cultura, la resistencia y la identidad del pueblo mexicano y así mismo de la comunidad hispana/ latina.

Este día es una oportunidad para mostrar con alegría quiénes somos: una comunidad diversa, trabajadora, resiliente y profundamente orgullosa de sus raíces. Pero también es un buen momento para reflexionar sobre los desafíos que seguimos enfrentando, especialmente en temas como nuestros derechos, la documentación y el acceso a servicios esenciales.

Uno de esos temas es precisamente el Real ID. A partir del 7 de mayo de 2025, ya no será suficiente tener una licencia de conducir regular para abordar vuelos nacionales o entrar a edificios federales. Y, sí, entendemos que eso a muchos no les cae bien.

Aunque muchas personas ya han gestionado su Real ID, hay otras que están preocupadas, confundidas o simplemente no quieren hacerlo. Y no es para menos: hay desconfianza sobre lo que implica esa estrellita en la esquina del documento, miedo a compartir más información con el gobierno y un historial reciente de políticas migratorias que han dejado heridas. Todas esas razones son completamente válidas.

Ahora bien, si decides esperar o prefieres no tener el Real ID, tu mejor aliado sigue siendo el pasaporte. Si no lo tienes, este es el momento de empezar el proceso. Y te lo digo con honestidad: aunque no te guste la idea del Real ID, tarde o temprano vas a tener que renovar tu licencia. Así que mejor asegúrate de tener todos tus documentos en orden desde ya.

Otras opciones para comprobar tu identidad lo son el certificado de nacimiento, la Green Card' o hasta tu tarjeta de seguro social. También en la página ct.gov dice que tu W-2, copia de la escritura de alguna propiedad, un estado de cuenta hipotecaria, un contrato de arrendamiento, una factura de servicios públicos o una copia de tus cuentas bancarias son suficientes para ayudarte a demostrar que eres residente. Pero con esto, tú sabes, procede con cautela.

Este 5 de mayo, mientras celebramos nuestras raíces con música, comida, arte y unión, también recordemos que proteger nuestra comunidad comienza con estar informados y preparados. No se trata solo de un documento; se trata de acceso. Acceso a volar, a trabajar, a vivir con más tranquilidad.

Así como nuestros antepasados lucharon por su dignidad en Puebla, nosotros también tenemos que seguir luchando, todos los días, para que a nadie se le niegue la oportunidad de avanzar.

**Próximo:** El 17 de mayo la ciudad de East Hartford está invitando a los residentes, negocios y miembros de la comunidad a unirse para un día de limpieza comunitario. El evento va a correr de 10:00am a 2:00pm. El último día para registrarte es el 9 de mayo. Para más información accede aquí

<https://www.easthartfordct.gov/mayors-office/webforms/2025-east-hartford-community-cleanup-day-registration>

Conecta Connigo: [cmaldonado8816@gmail.com](mailto:cmaldonado8816@gmail.com)

## Help place flags

The East Hartford Veterans Commission would like to extend an open invitation to join us in a memorable experience of honoring our deceased Veterans by placing an American flag at the Veteran's headstones for Memorial Day. The flag placing ceremony will be Sat. May 17th 2025 @ 8 a.m. at Hillside Cemetery, Hillside St. We welcome all volunteers. Volunteers are encouraged to bring a long screwdriver to help make a hole in the hard earth for the flag shaft.

FMI contact John Cook at 860-212-9966.

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## SPEAKING OUT!, LETTERS

### 'Electricity costs are just too damn high'

A late session bill that legislators say will reduce energy costs by 40 percent over two years is headed to the Energy and Technology (ENT) Committee for further action. The Finance, Revenue, and Bonding Committee voted to approve the bill, which would create an independent, quasi-public agency to regulate electricity, to the Senate floor. It is expected to be referred to the ENT committee, which is the committee of cognizance, for further action.

Proposed by State Sen. John Fonfara of Hartford the bill is somewhat of a radical measure that emerged from the legislative chaos with a chance to actually help improve the quality of life in Connecticut. Fonfara's idea would create a new CT Electricity Procurement Authority (CEPA) to manage the procurement of electricity and rates. The bill would also direct PURA to set 300 percent higher rates during peak energy use hours, mandate the rollout of smart meters, and replace part of the public benefits charge with state bond-

ing.

Sen. Norm Needleman of Essex, who sparred with Fonfara during the bill's public hearing, called the bill a "great point that we want to start working from" but said he was hoping the bill was sent either through the screening process or to the energy committee.

Given the concerns of Fonfara's Democratic colleagues, the proposal will have a difficult time getting approved. But anyone who doesn't think there is a problem need only look to their electricity bill. Not everyone can afford solar. Manufacturers are leaving the state owing to the high utility costs. Aging Millstone nuclear power is approaching the end of its lifespan. Something radical needs to happen to protect consumers. The solar industry ought not to determine the future of energy in Connecticut. And more smaller, diversified power plants should be permitted to make the state more resilient in a storm. That was rejected.

"Electric costs are too damn high." That sentiment

was echoed in comments made by several other legislators. He added that state policies contribute to high costs and state leadership needs to make electricity more affordable, calling the bill an effort to do so but also saying a lot in it needed to be "worked through." He voted for the bill to "keep the conversation going."

Fonfara closed the conversation by thanking members of the committee for their "indulgence" for hearing the bill, even though it is not the committee of cognizance. He also apologized for "dissension" caused by the bill's introduction and said he would "gladly" turn it over to the ENT committee with the belief that legislators on both sides of the aisle will continue to work together.

"I have a friend who says we can do hard things. And this will be a hard thing but we can do it for the betterment of this state, for the economy of our state, for the households of our state and for the businesses of our state." Fonfara said. We should try harder.

### A good life starts in a good hometown

By Senator Chris Murphy

Study after study finds that, far more than money or career success, the quality of our relationships makes the most impact on our likelihood to feel happy and fulfilled.

Those relationships start in our hometowns. At their best, the physical places we live—the town, the neighborhood, the block—are places where people are embedded in a thick web of ties to family and friends that helps form the core of their identity and builds community.

The world is becoming more connected, and lots of opportunity comes with having immediate access to anything and everything, anywhere and everywhere. But it can also feel overwhelming to have no limits on your existence. The flood of never-ending inputs can be dizzying and disabling. Being identified as a "global citizen"—one grain of sand in a desert of 8 billion—feels empty and meaningless to many.

Most Americans are not willing to simply give up their local identity and become citizens of the world. And not everyone

sees value in chasing professional achievement across the country. Many Americans say our culture should define success as building a decent life in the place you were raised—the place your family has roots—rather than being forced to move to find career reward.

More than half of young adults live within 10 miles of where they grew up,<sup>1</sup> but increasingly the base of the progressive movement is higher income and more mobile. As a result, we've become disconnected from what most Americans want—an economy and culture built around thousands of independent healthy places, rather than a nationalized economy and culture where opportunity is concentrated in a few major cities.

If progressives are going to reclaim our purpose to empower the masses rather than be beholden to the elites, we can start by confronting the fact that American hometowns feel less vital and relevant in our lives today. Local places like churches and union halls where we used to meet each other are

atrophying, with sharp membership declines in recent decades. The local news where we learned about our neighbors and communities is disappearing—more than 3,200 newspapers have folded since 2005.<sup>2</sup> Many downtowns are shells of their former selves, as remote work and online commerce facilitate a retreat into our homes.

Compounding these trends, geographic income inequality has increased by more than 40 percent since 1980,<sup>3</sup> concentrating economic power in a small number of high-income urban mega-economies. Many young people leave their hometowns to find work, and this lack of opportunity is seen in the growing number of places where a large share of income comes from government assistance rather than good jobs. In 53 percent of American counties—typically poorer and more rural communities—at least 25 percent of all income now comes from Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and other government programs. In 2000, this was only true for 10 percent of

counties.<sup>4</sup> The population is aging across America, but this level of reliance on government support is rarely seen in major metropolitan areas.

Rebuilding local communities is less about turning the dials of government spending and more about unrigging the system of concentrated economic power that holds them down. Big companies are easily able to move money, markets, and jobs overseas, giving them an advantage over workers and families who cannot move so readily. Business leaders who use accounting gimmicks to raise profits are not focusing on the innovation and investment that creates good jobs and raises living standards. Monopolies drive the small shops that help form local commercial identity out of business. Big Tech firms tilt their platforms to accumulate more power and profits at the expense of small business, in-person connection, and local journalism. Corporations fight tooth and nail to keep local workers from forming connection through labor unions.

Where are we left when so many Americans feel they have to choose between their hometowns and economic opportunity and increasingly cannot find connection through a meaningful relationship to the place they live? Americans have fewer friends than we used to. We spend more time alone. Roughly half of American adults say they are lonely.<sup>5</sup> We trust each other less than before, and we are losing faith in each other as partners in democratic governance. In 1997, Pew found that 64 percent of Americans trusted the wisdom of the American people to make political choices; only 39 percent felt the same by 2019.<sup>6</sup>

Creating a society where more Americans can live a good life starts by rebuilding power, vitality, connection, and unique identity at the neighborhood and community level. That means standing up to concentrated power and instead siding with the people in neighborhoods and towns across America who are working to build a better life for their families and communities.



# Not so long ago, death came early and often

Did you know that death came early and often for our Colonial relatives and those who settled here even a century ago?

One of the simple pleasures, writers have is being able to stroll through cemeteries, picturing life and struggles of the citizens past. A prominent fact that sings out during these strolls is that life was short, not just for the early settlers of East Hartford, but for all in town until just recently.

Hard back breaking labor and dangerous worksites took many adult males in middle age. We've found in the early 1930s, three of my great uncles died between 35 and 40, while working at the local mills.

My granddaughter reminded me of this fact as she prepared a school project on colonial illnesses and medical treatment, for her fifth-grade class. It was in that year of school I also fell in love with history and local history in particular.

Her report focused on medical treatments, such as bleeding, herbal remedies, and "just waiting and hoping," in an effort to show that modern medi-

cine has prolong death's visit.

We took a stroll to use actual history, the engravings on gravestones, to prove her belief.

Taking her to the local cemeteries we found that early graves in the town show that childbirth was a tragic event for many mothers to be. The grave of Doctor William Cooley, located in Buckland Cemetery, demonstrates this rather well. Two of his three wives died at age 22 in 1812 and 1817, from childbirth. A third wife out lived him.

Did you know that it was Doctor Oliver Wendell Homes Senior who drew the nation's attention to the simple practice of washing hands between patients. His 1843 study on puerperal fever showed this simple sanitary procedure saved new mothers from contracting the deadly contagious disease. Hand washing, did not appear in my granddaughter's list of colonial medical practices.

Not bad for a man known more for his poetry and humorous writing as well as his son, the Supreme Court Judge.

It was not just the mothers who suffered from childbirth,

## DID YOU KNOW?

*Looking back  
at East Hartford  
by Rob Kanehl*

the babies also contacted various different deadly illnesses. Nameless little grave markers alongside parent stones showed my granddaughter this fact.

Marked as baby or little girl or boy these stones speak of deaths before age one.

The frailty of youth was best demonstrated by our trip to Hochanum Cemetery.

In this cemetery, just off Main Street, there is a monument raised for Philo Brewer (1836 to 1914) and his wife Mary Hurlburt (1839 to 1924) that screams of the pain couples suffered even as late as the mid-1800s.

Engraved below the couple's

names are the following

Fanny A. (1859 - 1861)

Herbert E. (1861 - 1862)

Kate H. (1863 - 1863)

Minnie N. (1855 - 1865)

Our hearts just go out to the Brewers, as I look at my four children and my three grandchildren.

'Life was hard then,' my granddaughter came to understand.

History lessons are not always from a textbook. They are carved on our gravestones.

## THE EAST HARTFORD LIONS CLUB

### SPRING Hanging PLANT SALE

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Show dates:  
July 25, 26, & 27



# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## EH kids: Sign up for camp now

For the second straight year, Hartford's Camp Courant is expanding its program offerings to East Hartford families with children ages 5-12 this summer.

Camp Courant, a 36-acre facility on the Farmington/New Britain town line, has been serving kids since 1894. Its summer program includes services that go beyond camp classics and aim to combat summer learning loss.

The camp offers breakfast and lunch and transportation from designated bus stops. Over a dozen educational, enriching and interactive programs are offered for children each day.

Register your campers now for a weekly fee per child. However, Camp Courant also has income-based financial relief. FMI East Hartford students, parents

and guardians should contact Camp Program Manager Nicole Robinson at [nrobinson@campcourant.org](mailto:nrobinson@campcourant.org).

In addition to meals and recreation, the camp's daily offerings include nature excursions and hikes, STEM & manufacturing, healthy lifestyle choice courses, 'finance is fun' financial literacy, an early learning classroom, yoga, a swimming pool, and field trips. Swimming lessons also are offered on a sign-up basis.

Camp Courant's camp season begins Monday, June 23 and concludes Friday, August 1. It operates rain or shine and will be closed July 4. FMI go to [www.campcourant.org](http://www.campcourant.org).

Bus stops in East Hartford:

St. Christopher Church-East Hartford Residents ONLY

Family Dollar Parking Lot- 1150 Burnside Avenue- East Hartford Residents ONLY

Spaces are limited-enrollment is on a first-come, first-served basis and open to Hartford & East Hartford residents ONLY. The first 750 registrants who have completed the online registration application and have submitted the required medical documents will be considered. The remaining applicants will be placed on a waitlist. If spaces open up, registrants on the waitlist who have submitted ALL the required documents will be notified. Please note, that a new non-refundable registration fee of \$ 50.00 will be applied and will need to be paid in FULL before an application can be submitted.



At the Gengras Harley Davidson Spring Open House Saturday, BAAC volunteers gave information to visitors.

## Bikers support good cause

By Cathy Maldonado

Despite the steady rain, spirits were high this past Saturday as Hartford Harley-Davidson welcomed the community for its annual Spring Open House, held at the dealership on 221 Governor st. from 11:00am to 3:00pm.

Bikers, music lovers and animal advocates came together for a day filled with food, fun, and a heartfelt cause.

The event featured live music from 384 East Band, a delicious pig roast, local food trucks, and even a tattoo artist offering on-the-spot ink for the brave.

Guest explored the latest Harley models and browsed unique merchandise under umbrellas and rain jackets.

This year's Spring Open House also served as a fundraiser for Bikers Against Animal Cruelty (B.A.A.C.), a nonprofit dedicated to helping abused and neglected animals across the state.

Bikers and community members showed up in support of the cause, proving that not even

bad weather can dampen compassion.

"The funds go toward collecting food and essential supplies for local shelters that care for cats and dogs," said Jennifer French, president of B.A.A.C.

In addition to food and entertainment, attendees supported the mission by purchasing B.A.A.C. merchandise, with 100% of proceeds going directly to animal rescue and education efforts.

B.A.A.C. is a volunteer-driven organization that hosts events like this to raise both funds and awareness for animal welfare.

With the success of Saturday's event, the team is now looking ahead to its next major gathering, the 18th Annual Motorcycle Rally. The event will be on Aug. 9 at Martin Bishop Field, 111 Long Hill Road in Guilford, CT, from 11:00am to 5:00pm.

For more information or to get involved, visit [www.bikeragainstanimalcruelty.org](http://www.bikeragainstanimalcruelty.org). To stay up to date on future dealership events, visit [hartfordharley.com](http://hartfordharley.com).

## Springtime Bouquet for Mom



The East Hartford Woman's Club/GFWC/CT (EHWC/GFWC) in conjunction with the East Hartford Fire Department (EHFD) is sponsoring a SPRINGTIME BOUQUET in memory or honor of our mothers and other important women in our lives. As Mother's Day approaches, we remember these women who have impacted our lives. For the cost of \$5.00 per name, you may "purchase" a flower and know that your donation will assist the East Hartford Fire Department with the purchase of smoke alarms. Smoke alarms are kept on all fire apparatus and available to any town resident by contacting the Fire Marshall's Office at 860.291.7405. This bouquet will be presented on June 5, 2025 at 5:00 pm via Zoom. The Zoom Link is: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87248245832?pwd=7ioYiaUBHvrUznn3jtnsF9WS0PQ2Rw.1>. Meeting ID: 872 4824 5832. Passcode 459637. The names will be published in a June issue of the Gazette.

Please make checks payable to: **THE EAST HARTFORD WOMAN'S CLUB/GFWC/CT (EHWC/GFWC/CT)**  
Donations will be accepted through May 31, 2025  
Please print first and last names.

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# Society

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### ROCKIN' OUT AT SENIOR CENTER



THE SENIOR CENTER HELD A ROCK & ROLL DINNER AND DANCE THURSDAY, APRIL 24TH. At

least 54 attended. Food was prepared and served with a root beer float by staff and volunteers under the direction of Susan Gouin. Music was provided by "Sister Funk", a trio of young ladies on the keyboard, drums and guitar. Seniors wore 50's, 60's garb. Pictures above show the band and Lori and Sharon. - photo by Bob Valerio

### STILL FRIENDLY

East Hartford High School Class of 2015 will be celebrating our 10-Year High School Reunion on Friday, November 28, 2025, at Elicit Brewery in Manchester.

We are also looking for sponsors to enhance the reunion experience while also providing valuable exposure for local businesses and organizations. We would love to partner with members of the community who have supported us throughout the years. We can provide a sponsorship packet with more details on how you or local businesses can contribute.

If questions or to help promote this event, e-mail [ehhs2015alumni@gmail.com](mailto:ehhs2015alumni@gmail.com).

### ROTARY PAUL HARRIS CHOICES



THE EAST HARTFORD ROTARY CLUB held its Paul Harris recognition ceremony April 23. The three recipients are from left to right: Rob Rosa, Frank Leone and Lori Glass.

### The Garden Club of East Hartford

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### Annual Spring Plant Sale!

Saturday, May 17, 2025

9:am - 1:pm

(rain or shine)

### Sunset Ridge School

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# EAST HARTFORD SPORTS

## Sound and NFL fury of Shadeur

The NFL gave fans a glimmer of hope last week. The league that treats fans to premier games hidden behind paywalls, Super Bowl halftime shows featuring performers more noted for obscene lyrics and gestures than entertainment and players whose names are found as frequently on police blotters as roster sheets, finally demonstrated a semblance of common sense. Every NFL team ignored the hype and put more emphasis on scouting than choreographed media exaggerations in last week's draft.

For three months the buildup to the NFL draft centered around one player,

### SCOTT GRAY on SPORTS

by Scott Gray



based more on braggadocio and a hall of fame father who was known a time or two to play fast and loose with society's norms. The media machines had loaded tape decks with "Son of Neon" features that dominated three days of the draft focusing on every nook and cranny of the biography of Colorado quarterback Shadeur Sanders, son of former Dallas Cowboy Deion who spared no breath in selling his son.

Day one and round one came and went. As expected Miami quarterback Cam Ward went on the first pick, to the Tennessee Titans. Colorado two way player Travis Hunter was no surprise at #2. The Jacksonville Jaguars snatched him up and it was the Giants turn. Surely, with no one available to repair the mess they made of the Daniel Jones debacle they'd need a quarterback. The Giants did covet a quarterback, and they got him, not with the third pick, which they wisely used on Penn State EDGE Abdul Carter. The Giants had a second first round pick, and a second brilliant move up their sleeve, using #25 on Mississippi QB Jaxon Dart. Seven picks later the first round ended and Shadeur Sanders was left to face rounds two and three the next day.

Former UCONN quarterback Dan Orlovsky pointed out on ESPN some wily scouts noticed among Sanders gaudy stats the fact that he led FCS quarterbacks in time taken to release passes which led to him being sacked more than any other quarterback. Orlovsky also pointed out that he didn't interview well. From a character standpoint that's critical. Day two, no Sanders. His old man had some unkind words for Orlovsky.

Day three, round five, "Son of Neon" finally found a home, with the Cleveland Browns. He may end up a hall of famer like his dad, he certainly got a dose of humility over three days of waiting. Every team took at least one pass, a sign a more mature NFL is ready to put potential ahead of potential problems. I wish the kid well, but no team should feel regret for passing on him.

P.S. Next Thursday, May 8th, at 6 p.m. the Connecticut High School Coaches Association holds its annual Hall of Fame induction dinner at the Aqua-Turf in Southington. Among the inductees, long time WFSB sports director Joe Zone, one of the great guys and hard workers in the business. He's been at Channel 3 for 19 years and he's served the local sports scene well. Tickets are available at CIAC-sports.com.

## Track makes impact at O'Grady's

The Dan O'Grady Relays has established itself as one of the largest and oldest meets in Connecticut. What began as a single meet to give tribute to the Hall of Fame coach Dan O'Grady in 1979 by several of his former runners who had become outstanding coaches in their own right, has grown into a tradition that teams from all over the state look forward to every year. When bad weather was forecast for Saturday, Danbury coach and meet director Rob Murray made a quick decision to move the main portion of the meet to run under the lights on Friday and cancel the original Friday portion of the meet in order to hold the team event competition.

Before Dan O'Grady came to Danbury, he was coaching at LaSalle Academy in Rhode Island where his teams went undefeated for eight straight years, winning 24 state championships, 10 New England titles and three national individual titles. The Rams have continued that tradition and are still a dominant program in Rhode Island and the region. This past winter, they won New England's

in the 4x200m and were second in the 4x400m. On Friday, they attended O'Grady's for the first time and won the 4x100m in 42.38 and 4x200m in the New England leading time of 1:28.10.

They were pushed by East Hartford with a time of 1:29.71 by Davian Johnson, Emmanuel Frimpong, Tyler Davis and Isaiah Tripp. That broke the East Hartford High School school record of 1:30.1 for 4x200 set in 1963. EHHS's time in finishing 2nd in 1:29.71 is the #11 fastest time in state history.

In Womens Varsity, East Hartford finished 10th with 20.98 points. The EHHS Mens Varsity came in 8th place with 21.98 points scored.

East Hartford men came in 4th in the 4x100 with a time of 43.66 from Isaiah Tripp, Tyler Davis, Davian Johnson, Emmanuel Frimpong. The Hornets were 7th in the 4x400 relay with a time of 3:34.30 by runners Jordan Robinson, Jaylen Estrella, Savion Phillips, Oswaldo Guzman. In individual scores, Jaylen Estrella finished 4th in the Men's Varsity 300m hurdles at 40.49.

East Hartford women were

6th in the women's 4x100 relay with a time of 51.28 by a team of Biligisher Nimely, Kimonie Brown, Tiaeren Williams, Nya Cohen. The Hornets came in 3rd in the 4x200 relay with a time of 1:48.87 posted by Yaharah Coffie, Keyara Phillips, Angelina Nimely and Dereon Ellison.

In the 4x400 EHHS was 10th with a time of 10:35.45 by Alyssa Destremps, Celyn Kankam, Marcela Lozada and Celia Rojas. The Hornet women also came in third in the Womens Varsity SMR 1600m [200-200-400-800] with a time of 4:30.87 posted by Yaharah Coffie, Tiaeren Williams, Keyara Phillips and Marcela Lozada.

All state shot-putter Bryanna Boroze placed in the discus with a heave of 107-09, or 32.84. She was joined by teammates Mya Washington (79-06; 24.23m) and Milania Washington (73-02; 22.30m) both freshmen athletes.

Coming in seventh in the shotput was Julian Rivera with a toss of 45-01.00 (13.74m) and teammate Tyrell Cunningham was 8th with a throw of 44-09.00 (13.64m).

## Kids can play Golf Course for \$3

Golf with Us offers youth, ages 6-18, a free one-year membership to Youth on Course, courtesy of Bank of America. Enrollment in the program is open until May 24 and includes access to thousands of courses in 97 markets for \$5 or less per round. The courses are in the Youth on Course network.

"When kids get involved in sports, they learn first-hand about achieving their goals and develop lifelong skills that help them thrive," said David Tyrie, President, Marketing, Digital & Specialized Consumer Client Solutions, Bank of America. "By working with Youth on Course to help make golf more accessible, we're helping grow the sport while also making a positive impact in our communities."

Through Golf with Us, BofA will also bring unique instructional opportunities to youth in select markets throughout the spring, summer and fall by hosting a series of free clinics fea-

turing professional golfers, athletes and celebrities with a passion for golf.

Program membership also includes a registered handicap index in the United States Golf Association's Golf Handicap Information Network (GHIN) system, continued development as well as learning opportunities. Interested families can enroll in Youth on Course and learn more about the Golf with Us offer at BofA.com/GolfwithUs.

East Hartford Golf Course availability: Any time during the week, After 1PM on Weekends

Youth on Course Rate: 9 Holes - \$3; 18 Holes - \$5

130 Long Hill St. Call 860-616-6649 if questions.

Goodwin North Golf Course, Hartford - No limitations but please always call ahead to confirm availability.

Youth on Course Rate: 9 Holes - \$3. 1130 Maple Ave. Call 860-543-8518 if questions.

Goodwin South Golf Course availability: Weekends/Holidays

after 2:30 p.m./Weekdays after 5:00 in April, May, September, October/Weekdays after 5:30 in June, July, August Fridays after 3:00 p.m./Please call ahead to verify course availability. Youth on Course Rate: 9 Holes - \$4, 18 Holes - \$5; 1130 Maple Avenue. 860-543-8518 if questions.

"By making golf more accessible, Golf With Us offers young people in Greater Hartford an opportunity to spend time outdoors and participate in the sport while developing problem-solving skills and decision-making abilities, which translate into other areas of life.

"This partnership makes it possible for more young players to build confidence, patience and focus while socializing with others through the power of sportsmanship," stated Joseph R. Gianni, President, Bank of America - Greater Hartford.

Calls made to the East Hartford Golf Course were not returned to the *Gazette*.



## OBITUARIES

## Longina 'Gini' Gonzalez, 98

Longina "Gini" (Cruz) Gonzalez, 98, of East Hartford, loving wife of over 60 years of the late Pedro Gonzalez, peacefully entered into eternal life on Sunday morning, April 27, 2025, at her home with her beloved caring family by her side. Born in Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico on April 15, 1927, a daughter of the late Juan and Georgina (Vega) Cruz, she had been a



Longina Gonzalez

resident of East Hartford for over the past 25 years. A woman of strong faith who read the Bible faithfully, Longina was a longtime active member of Templo Fe Church in Hartford. She liked baking (especially her pineapple pastries) and cooking every day for her family and friends to enjoy. She liked to sew, garden, and travel to visit family members in Florida and Puerto Rico. Most of all, she took great pride in her home, being a proud wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother caring for and supporting everyone.

Longina is survived by her two sons, Eliezer Gonzalez and his wife Onelia of Florida, Alejandro "Alex" Mendez and his wife Evelyn of Florida; her five daughters, Carmen Gonzalez and her husband Primitivo Concepcion of

Florida, Emilda Medina of Florida, Miriam Cedenio and her husband Elias of Springfield, MA, Loida Oliveras and her husband Angel of East Hartford, and Dorca Gonzalez of East Hartford with whom she made her home. She also leaves a brother, Luis Cruz and his wife Maria of New Jersey; 22 special grandchildren; 48 cherished great-grandchildren; 21

adored great-great grandchildren; many nieces, nephews, cousins, and dear friends.

Longina's family will receive family and friends on Friday morning (May 2, 2025) from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm at Templo Fe Church, 1019 Broad Street, Hartford. Her funeral service will begin at 12:00 pm at Templo Fe Church. Burial will follow at St. Mary's Cemetery, (Section P), Burnside Avenue, East Hartford. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Longina's name may be made to Templo Fe Church, 1019 Broad Street, Hartford, CT 06106. The D'Esopo East Hartford Memorial Chapel, 30 Carter Street, East Hartford has been entrusted with the care of the funeral arrangements. For on-line expressions of sympathy to the family, please visit [www.desopoech.com](http://www.desopoech.com)

## Donna (Sukosky) Kirby

Donna (Sukosky) Kirby, 72, of East Hartford, wife of the late Ronald G. Kirby, died peacefully January 15, 2025. Born May 6, 1952 in Hartford, daughter of the late William Henry Sukosky and Barbara (Yost) Sukosky, she was a lifelong resident. She retired from Pratt and Whitney after over 40 years of service. She loved her canine friends, Lilly and Gabby, knitting, friends, charity, ocean cruising and spending time with family. Donna was a devoted wife of 52 years, loving daughter, kind and generous



Donna Kirby

sister, aunt, great-aunt and friend who will be greatly missed.

She leaves a brother, Robert Sukosky and his wife Patricia of Manchester, a niece, Christina Cohen and her husband Alex and their children Corbin, Aurora and Keegan Cohen of East Hartford, and many loved-in-laws in the Kirby Family. Donna will be laid to rest alongside her husband at Saint Mary's Cemetery, Burnside, in a private service. Gifts in her name may be made to the CT Humane Society.

## Jane Anne Bergren Zimmerman

Jane Anne Bergren Zimmerman, beloved sister, mother, and grandmother passed away peacefully on the morning of April 26, 2025. Jane was a long-time resident of Tolland, CT, born in Hartford on October 10, 1946, and raised in East Hartford by her parents Nelson and Beatrice Bergren. Jane is a graduate of East Hartford High School and the



Jane Zimmerman

University of Hartford. In 1971, she married Richard Zimmerman and together, they started Cloverdale Golden Retrievers. Her love for Golden Retrievers, and all animals, grew the business to a point where her dogs became a national legacy within the breed. Over the next 50 years in the business, she produced hundreds of Show Champions, obedience, and field titled dogs, but most importantly cherished family companions. She became a mentor to new breeders, providing them with treasured advice for their careers.

Jane became a proud mother in 1974 when she gave birth to her beautiful daughter Amy. A proud grandmother, Jane was the first one at the hospital to hold her first grandchild, Sam. Jane enjoyed entertaining family and friends on special occasions and loved hosting Christmas Eve dinner. She was a great cook who loved to make elaborate meals, enjoy a nice glass of wine, and spend time with family and friends telling stories of her childhood and the great times she had with her father Nelson. She loved to garden, and many people would drive by her home to see her beautiful hydrangeas and the assortment of flowers she constantly tended to. Jane enjoyed seeing her friends at her local breakfast spots like Shady Glenn and Reins Deli and loved to have a nice dinner out with her friends and fami-

ly. Jane spent the last four months of her life living on Cape Cod with her daughter Amy, son-in-law Rick, and her two grandchildren Sam and Lily. She was enjoying the retired life on the Cape, finding new breakfast spots, and revisiting the old spots she enjoyed on her many vacations to the Cape years earlier. She found comfort in seeing the life Amy had with her husband and children, and that comfort eased her heart. She is survived by her daughter Amy, son-in-law Rick, grandchildren Sam and Lily. Along with her sister Wendy, niece Amanda and nephews Adam and Erik and their families, she leaves behind her last golden Daniel, her companion Pomeranian Angel, and cat Jeremy. It gives us great peace to know that she is at the rainbow bridge with all her kids. A burial service for family and close friends will be held TODAY, Thursday May 1, 2025, at 11 a.m. at Center Cemetery, 983 Main St., South Windsor. Gifts may be made in Jane's memory to the Animal Rescue League of Boston. [www.byronkeen.com](http://www.byronkeen.com)

## Patricia 'Pat' Jean Samson

Patricia (Pat) Jean Samson of East Hartford passed away peacefully at the age of 80 on April 22nd, 2025. She was surrounded by her loving children, grandchildren and a great friend of the family. She was born in Windham, Connecticut on February 20th, 1945 to her proud parents Arthur and Germaine Williams. She spent the majority of her life in Windham County until moving to be close to her growing family in 2019.

Pat was the matriarch of the family and a devoted mother to her three children beyond any single mother's ability. She worked for the State of

Connecticut for over 25 years before retiring from the DDS formerly known as the DMR. She cared for the invisible with compassion and respect for their dignity while being a reliable co-worker and friend. After her retirement from the DMR she started a food truck business and enjoyed that for several years, along with that she was a very active member of the ASPCA, caring for cats and assuring that they went to good families. Many times, they ended up in her care. She loved gardening and could often be found in her garden or on her property



Patricia Samson

planting cultivating all her myriad plants, bushes and vegetables. Pat is survived by her three children, Garrett (Gary) Samson of Glastonbury, daughter, Lorrie and her husband, Brad Barlow of Glastonbury and her youngest daughter, Susan Samson of Glastonbury.

Gramma Pat was the proud grandmother of Jordan Barlow, Nicole Barlow, Julia Cusack, Alexina Cunha, Emma Samson and Evan Samson. She was also blessed with her only Great-Grandson, Sammy Cusano.

Out of respect for our mother's wishes the services will be private.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to the ASPCA.

*The Gazette publishes the obituaries of those connected to East Hartford free of charge.*

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# Anderson Jewelery moving

From Page One

building. “They blocked the signs and nobody would do anything to fix it.” He also paid to string his own holiday lighting on the sidewalk in front of his store, and in the past strung a wire across Main Street with a giant “NOEL” sign above. Those actions got him in trouble, which George finds both amusing and a challenge.

George and his father and mother have always supported local civic organizations and causes, frequently donating items for charity auctions.

“The people at Town Hall have zero vision when it comes to making real improvements to Main Street,” said Agnelli. “Now they want to put in roundabouts. That’s going to be a disaster if it ever happens.” He also believes that the town should impose a residency requirement for government employees.

“I coached East Hartford Little League for 17 years and there was never a coach in Little League who worked for the East Hartford Fire or Police Department. People working on the police department, in the fire department are making three times the median household income of the residents here in town. They pay their salaries to shop somewhere else. They don’t support the town like they should.”

After it seemed that everyone would go do their shopping at the mall, Andersons always bucked that trend by offering quality goods and a personalized shopping experience. And that concept is still going strong.



**WELCOME TO COMMAND** Deputy Chief Francis "Joe" McGeough, Assistant Police Chief Joshua Litwin, and Deputy Chief Michael Connolly Jr.

## New Police Chiefs take Oath of Office

From Page One

McGeough has assumed his new responsibilities as Commander of the Operations Bureau, overseeing Patrol functions and the Criminal Investigations Division.

Joining the EHPD command as a Deputy Chief, Connolly served 25 years with the Wethersfield Police Dept. where he also served as a member of the Capital Region Emergency Services Team (CREST) for over 18 years, retiring as WPD lieu-

tenant and assistant commander of CREST in 2023. Most recently, Deputy Chief Connolly served as a lieutenant with the CT State Community College System and as commander at Manchester Community College.

In East Hartford Deputy Chief Connolly will head the department's Support Services Bureau.

Said Mayor Connor Martin: "Today, I am proud to announce the promotions of Assistant Police Chief Joshua Litwin and

Deputy Chiefs Francis "Joe" McGeough and Michael Connolly. Both Assistant Chief Litwin and Deputy Chief McGeough have a history of exemplary leadership from within our department, and we are honored to welcome Deputy Chief Connolly, an East Hartford native, to our force. Their leadership will strengthen our police department's unwavering commitment to public service and safety. These dedicated officers bring experience, integrity, and a vision for community-focused policing that will enhance our efforts to protect and serve every resident with excellence."

In addition to these appointments, Deputy Chief Donald Olson, previously responsible for the department's Operations Bureau, will now oversee the Professional Standards Bureau, continuing the department's commitment to accountability and integrity.

Deputy Chief Olson is a 26-year veteran of EHPD, and has served as Patrol Commander, as well as Commander of the department's Communications Division and Criminal Investigations Division.

"We are excited to announce these promotions and appointments to our command staff," stated Chief Hawkins. "These leaders bring a wealth of experience and a shared vision to keep moving East Hartford forward, creating tremendous value for the residents we serve."



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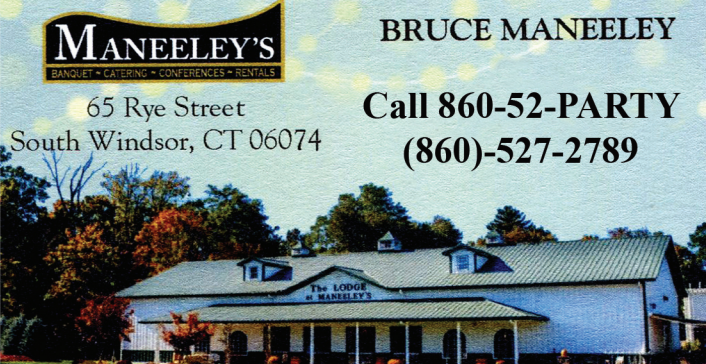


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## LEGAL NOTICES

Court of Probate, District of East Hartford Probate Court

NOTICE OF HEARING  
ESTATE OF KYSHAWN CHAMAR TEAL, JR. (25-00146)

Pursuant to an order of the East Hartford Probate Court, dated April 29, 2025, a hearing will be held on an application for Change of Name – Child, as in said application on file more fully appears, at the Court of Probate, District of East Hartford, 740 Main St., East Hartford, CT 06108 on June 12, 2025 at 2:00 PM.

By Order of the Court,

Alex M. LaValley, Assistant Clerk

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STATE OF CONNECTICUT

Court of Probate, Hartford Regional Children's Probate Court District

**NOTICE TO Anael Andrade Pineda, whose last known residence is unknown to the court.**

Pursuant to an order of Hon. Richard P. Gentile, Judge, a hearing will be held at the Hartford Regional Children's Probate Court, 50 Chapman Place, Suite 109, East Hartford CT 06108 on **May 29, 2025 at 12:00 PM** on a petition for Termination of Parental Rights concerning a certain minor child born on March 4, 2010. The Court's decision will affect your interest, if any, as in the petition on file more fully appears.

**RIGHT TO COUNSEL:** If the above-named person wishes to have an attorney, but is unable to pay for one, the court will provide an attorney upon proof of inability to pay. Any such request should be made immediately by contacting the court office where the hearing is to be held.

By order of the court,

Kemston N. Best, Esq., Chief Clerk

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# WHERE THE ACTION IS!

BY CORINNE HORAN

**MAY 3: PANCAKES!** Surprise mom with an early Mother's Day breakfast at Hillstown Grange Saturday, 8:30 to 11 a.m., at 617 Hills St. Special pancake of the month: Lemon with blueberry topping. Chocolate chip 'kid-cakes'. Pancakes, sausage, bottomless cups of coffee, tea and juice just \$6, children under 14, \$3. Visit the Grange hall library and gaming area. Books available for a donation to the historic Grange Hall building fund. FMI call Frank at 860-690-2845 or e-mail hillstowngrange@aol.com.

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**MAY 4: EUCLID STRING QUARTET**, 2 p.m. at Evergreen Crossings Retirement Community, 900 Hemlock Avenue, South Windsor. Free. Reception follows with the performers.

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**MAY 7 HEALTHY COMMUNITY CONNECTIONSDAY** Wednesday (rain date May 8), 4-6 p.m. at Early Childhood Learning Center, 191 Main St. Discover more about town activities and helpful resources with vendor booths, activities, face painting, refreshments, groceries and chances to win raffle prizes. Free! See you there!

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**MAY 14: WICKHAM DAY QUILTERS OF EAST HARTFORD** from 1:30-3:30 pm at the Wickham Library meeting room at 656 Burnside Avenue in East Hartford. Like to sew? Interested in quilting? Not a fan of driving at night? Attend a meeting to see if you would like to join us. Any skill level welcome. We meet the second Wednesday of the month. Wickham Day Quilters is a chapter of the Greater Hartford Quilt Guild. The May program is instruction in making your own portable design board. Any questions? Email us at Wickhamdayquilters@gmail.com

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**MAY 15: FARMER'S MARKET POP UP** at Hillstown Grange #87, 617 Hills St., Thursday from 4-7 pm. Local gardeners, artisans and vendors will offer their garden plants, local honey, soap and crafts for sale. Free seed packages while they last and bring any extra seeds or plants to share. Expert gardeners will try to help with your garden questions. Come browse or to visit. Free Admission. Parking on the street. Rain or shine. Are you a vendor or want to participate? Give Frank a call 860-690-2845 or e-mail hillstowngrange@aol.com.

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**MAY 17: HELP PLACE FLAGS ON VETERAN'S GRAVES** at Hillside Cemetery. Meet at 8 a.m. and join members of the East Hartford Veterans Commission. Volunteers are encouraged to bring a long screwdriver to help make a hole in the hard earth for the flag shaft. FMI contact John Cook, Veterans Commission, at 860-212-9966.

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**MAY 17: MAYOR MARTIN'S SPRING COMMUNITY CLEANUP DAY.** Give a few hours to tidying up the town. Begins on Saturday morning at 10 a.m. and lasts until 2 p.m. in Downtown and along other public thoroughfares. Volunteers will gather first at the Town Green at Alumni Park, 1021 Main St. where they will be assigned to a cleanup squad. To coincide with Armed Forces Day, May 17, a special

group of volunteers will also be tasked with cleaning headstones of veterans at Hillside Cemetery using a non-toxic cleaning solution under supervision. An EH Public Works crew will provide protective wear, but dress appropriately. Register to volunteer at <https://www.easthartfordct.gov/mayors-office/webforms/2025-east-hartford-community-cleanup-day-registration> Lunch will be provided following the cleanup.

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**MAY 17: BIKE RODEO** at South Congregational Church, located at 1301 Forbes Street in East Hartford, will host a free Bike Rodeo in their parking lot behind the building on Saturday, May 17th, from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM. Bring your kids for fun and challenging activities designed to teach the skills and precautions needed for safe bike riding. There will also be raffles and giveaways, along with free

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car seat safety checks and car seat installments. The program is offered in cooperation with the East Hartford Police Department, and is open to the community. FMI call 860-568-5150 or contact Lisa at [cefe@southucc.org](mailto:cefe@southucc.org).

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**MAY 17: WHEN DISASTER STRIKES:** Join Cedar Hill Cemetery Foundation on Saturday at 10 a.m. for the guided walk, to learn about local and national disasters through the experiences of Cedar Hill residents on this tour of the historic cemetery. Karin Peterson shares stories about the Titanic, 1906 San Francisco Earthquake, 1888 Blizzard, 1938 Hurricane, and more. Admission \$10; free for Cedar Hill Cemetery Foundation members. Advance reservations recommended online at [www.cedarhillfoundation.org](http://www.cedarhillfoundation.org). Cedar Hill Cemetery is located at 453 Fairfield Avenue, Hartford. The walking tour begins at the flagpole at the end of the entrance drive.

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**MAY 18: TOUCH-A-TRUCK EVENT**, 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. at East Hartford High School, 869 Forbes St. The Cub Scouts of Pack 61 will host this first-ever event and are also looking for businesses to bring

one of their trucks down to allow kids to sit in it, ask questions about it, and learn. Sponsorships welcome. The Pack is grateful for anything the community might be willing and able to donate to the Touch-A-Truck event and the Pack hopes to make this an annual event in our town. Donations can be mailed to Pack 61 of East Hartford, 944 Forbes St., East Hartford, CT 06118. If questions or to help make this first-time event a success e-mail [Pack61EastHartford@gmail.com](mailto:Pack61EastHartford@gmail.com).

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**MAY 21: PRATT & WHITNEY AND UTRC RETIREES** meet at the PWA Club, 200 Clement Road at 9:30 a.m. for conversation, coffee and doughnuts followed by Mike Thornton who will speak about Pratt & Whitney and the New England Air Museum. FMI call 860-565-6236

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## SOCIAL DANCE TUESDAYS AT FIRST CHURCH:

Gentlemen, It's Time to Become James Bond! Imagine walking into a room with confidence, charm and style - just like James Bond. What's his secret? Presence. Poise. And the ability to sweep a lady off her feet. Tuesday Nights, First Congregational Church, 837 Main, Lessons 7 and 8, dance 9 p.m.

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## MAY 22: CONNECTIKIDS "BOTANICAL BALL"

Thursday, May 22 at 6:30 p.m. at the Pond House in Elizabeth Park, West Hartford. Dinner, dancing and fun. Tickets \$100 at [givebutter.com/CTKBall](http://givebutter.com/CTKBall) or contact Kaleitha Brown at 860-522-8710 x12. FMI visit [www.ct-kids.org](http://www.ct-kids.org)

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## MAY 26: MEMORIAL DAY PARADE AND MORE

Monday beginning at 10 a.m. on Riverside Drive. The event will consist of three parts, including a parade, program at the Fallen Star Memorial and celebration of East Hartford.

The parade kicks off promptly at 10 a.m., proceeding from 9 Riverside Drive to the Fallen Star Memorial located at Goodwin University. The parade will be followed by a program at the Fallen Star Memorial and a family-friendly celebration of East Hartford with food trucks, music, activities. To march, volunteer or be a vendor register by May 5.

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**MAY 31: FISH FRY** sponsored by the CT Chapter of Bikers Against Child Abuse at St. Joseph's Polish Society, 395 South Main St., Colchester, 1 to 6 p.m. Features catfish, French fries, soda, hush puppies, coleslaw, water, desserts, music. Cash bar. Donation: \$25 per person, age 10 and under free. Questions? Call Happy at 860-912-4038.

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## JUNE 7: AN EVENING OF WORSHIP, STORIES & SONGS WITH DAVE PETTIGREW

at Burnside United Methodist Church, 16 Church St., 7 p.m. Free. An offering will be taken. A graduate of Berklee College of Music in Boston, with majors in music business and arranging, Dave uses music as a vehicle to speak on behalf of the poorest of the poor, each of his shows gives his audience the ability to sponsor a child and save a life. Join the "There Is Hope" movement. FMI go to [dave@davepettigrew.net](mailto:dave@davepettigrew.net)