

The Gazette

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Thursday, May 8, 2025

Crafted from the finest local ingredients since 1885

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Contracts, policies BoE focus

By Robert Kanehl

The East Hartford Board of Education held its regular meeting at Goodwin Elementary School as part of its efforts to be more accessible to the general public. Attending community members were treated to an evening of contract approvals and policy changes.

The Board approved a \$272,118 contract with Perfectemp, Inc. of Plainville to perform the East Hartford High School Library/Media Center HVAC Roof Top Unit Replacement. This project will be completed by the end of this summer.

The Board also officially accepted three building projects as complete. This official acceptance is required in order for the town to collect reimbursement funding from the state. The three projects are: Norris Elementary School Flooring Abatement Project; East Hartford Middle School Flooring Abatement State Project; and the Hockanum Steam Tunnel Abatement Project. The three projects should bring in about \$811,000 in state reimbursement.

The Board then awarded the contract for substitute services to Kelly Services for the next three years, with possible two one-year extensions. Kelly Services has been providing substi-

SEE BOARD OF ED, page 10

A HEART FOR EAST HARTFORD



VOLUNTEERS with the International WeLoveU Foundation out of New Windsor, New York are helping to build a "Mom's Garden Project" in DePietro Park alongside two pollinator garden areas and a planned 40 x 40 foot sunflower maze patch. The concept is the brainchild of Mayor Connor Martin with assistance from the East Hartford Garden Club, East Hartford Rotary Club and the Handel Family Farm on Forbes Street.

Machinists hit the picket line

Machinists started picketing outside every entrance to Pratt & Whitney Aircraft Sunday night after overwhelmingly rejecting a three-year contract in a vote Sunday afternoon at the Oakdale Theater in Wallingford.

The vote came after a month of closed door negotiations which seemed to agree on objectives but hit a snag on pension, job protections and raises.

But P&W, a division of RTX,

maintains it has "contingency plans" in place to keep production going in the midst of the labor dispute.

The International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM) Locals 700 and 1746 appeared braced for a strike.

"Pratt and Whitney is a powerhouse in military and commercial aerospace products because our membership makes

it so," IAM Eastern Territory General Vice President David Sullivan said in a statement. "This offer does not address the membership concerns, and the membership made their decision — we will continue to fight for a fair contract."

Sunday Rep. John B. Larson released the following statement after IAM Locals 700 and 1746

See IAM ON STRIKE, pg 10

Healthy day at ECLC

by Carmen Maldonado

East Hartford Families gathered at the Early Childhood Learning Center on May 7, on Main Street for the Fourth Annual Healthy Community Connections event. Hosted by InterCommunity Health Care's School-Based Health Centers (SBHCs) in partnership with East Hartford Public Schools (EHPS), the event was a free, community-centered initiative focused on combating food insecurity and promoting whole-person health.

Funded by the School-Based Health Alliance and supported by InterCommunity's community partnership with ShopRite of East Hartford, the event brought together local families, community partners, and health professionals in an afternoon of connection, resources, and celebration.

The event provided families with free groceries, health and wellness resources, interactive activities, refreshments, and raffle prizes, including two grand prize \$65 ShopRite gift cards.

Designed to promote whole-person health, the event featured vendor booths, face painting, and community engagement opportunities that brought families and service

See HEALTHY DAY, page 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

Parade Monday, May 26 at 10

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 and subscribe at www.easthartfordct.gov/subscribe.

Vote for Chef Josie

Videos of Chef Jose Tedesco of O'Connell School and voting are online through Friday, May 9 at <https://futurechefschallenge.com/>. This is a chance for the East Hartford community and beyond to come together in support of Josie Tedesco and help her bring this national recognition home.

JERSEY MIKE'S SUPPORTS VFW



THE VFW gave a plaque to Jersey Mike's for their outstanding support they provide to the VFW Fundraisers, passing out red poppies for Memorial Day. Above, from left, is Dan Lareau Senior Vice Commander, Post Commander Frank Forrest, General Manager Jonique Davis, Quartermaster Rich Bates, Junior Vice Commander DR Popeye Whittingham and VFW Trustee Brigette Berner with Jersey Mike's Glastonbury store manager.

Mayor's Cleanup Downtown, at Hillside 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>

ov/mayors-office/web-forms/2025-east-hartford-community-cleanup-day-registration Lunch will be provided following the cleanup.

Dietary restrictions? Bring your own picnic lunch!

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

CLASSIFIEDS

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

HELP WANTED - LANDSCAPE workers to assist with professional yard work crew. Mowing, weed-wacking, brush trimming, etc. Must have driver's license, be reliable. Start immediately. **Call Bill at 860-798-3184**

GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS GET RESULTS
E-MAIL: ADS@EHGAZETTE.COM
OR CALL 860-289-6468

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.



EAST HARTFORD RESIDENTS: MDC Household Hazardous Waste Collection

**SATURDAY
MAY 17
8AM-1PM**



**MDC Water Pollution Control Facility
65 Pitkin Street, East Hartford**

Rules for Bringing Waste to a MDC HazWaste Collection Day

- Please Stay In Your Vehicle While the waste is removed.
- IDs will be checked to verify residency.
- Bring your waste in their original containers whenever possible or label containers with their contents.
- If a container is leaking, place it in a larger, non-leaking, covered container and label the container.
- Do not mix different products.
- Collect your waste containers in disposable boxes or bins, which should be transported in your trunk.
- Do not put your Household HazWaste in the backseat with your children or pets. If possible, leave children and animals at home.
- Remove other items from your car or trunk that could be mistaken as Household HazWaste.
- Bring something to read, the wait is usually 5-15 minutes, but can be up to 30 minutes (and at the very large collections sometimes longer).
- No Smoking in Your Car. Most wastes are flammable.
- Please put waste fuel in a container that you do not want returned.

For a complete list of materials accepted and not accepted, see the Hazwaste webpage



LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that the Town Council of the Town of East Hartford, Connecticut, will hold a public hearing on **May 20, 2025 at 7:15 p.m.** in Town Council Chambers, 740 Main Street, East Hartford, Connecticut and via Microsoft Teams, to hear public comment on the proposed renaming of the Community Cultural Center as the "East Hartford Community Resource Center."

Any person(s) wishing to express an opinion on these matters may do so at this public hearing.

Jason Marshall
Town Council Clerk

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DESDE LA ESQUINA

by Carmen Maldonado

Mi mamá, me mima

Llegó el Día de las Madres, y para muchos latinos que tenemos a nuestra madre, abuela o hermanas lejos, estos días pueden ser especialmente difíciles. Desde la distancia, el Día de las Madres se convierte en una mezcla de emociones: amor, orgullo, nostalgia y, a veces, tristeza.

Estar lejos duele, pero también te da la oportunidad de celebrar de forma creativa. Vivir lejos es aprender a llevar a los tuyos en el corazón, sin importar dónde estés.

Nuestra cultura está profundamente marcada por el respeto y el amor hacia nuestras madres, abuelas y figuras maternas.

Cuando llega este día y no estás cerca, ese amor no disminuye; al contrario, se intensifica.

La distancia nos obliga a demostrar ese cariño con más intención: una videollamada, un mensaje de texto lleno de amor o un regalo enviado por correo pueden significar mucho más de lo que creemos.

Yo crecí celebrando este día llevando a mami, a mi abuela y a mis hermanas a comer. A veces nos reuníamos en casa de abuela y celebrábamos todos juntos con una cena. Pero la vida cambia. Todos han tomado diferentes caminos, y yo ahora estoy lejos.

Las celebraciones cambian, pero el cariño sigue igual. No importa si tienes el dinero para regalar algo o no. No importa si tienes a tu madre contigo físicamente o no. Lo importante es hacerla sentir especial, de cualquier forma, posible.

Y ¿sabes qué? Hay formas de hacerlo sin vaciar tus bolsillos.

Primero: las flores siempre son una buena opción. Yo no soy madre, pero flores... all day, everyday. Si puedes, busca unas que se puedan sembrar en el jardín o en un tiesto, para que le duren más tiempo.

Personalmente, no soy fanática de las tarjetas de regalo, pero sé que a muchas personas les encantan. Solo te digo: acompaña la con una carta bonita. Escríbele algo desde el corazón, cuéntale cuánto la aprecias.

Si es una madre retirada, piensa en regalarle una clase de algo que le guste: cocina, manualidades o cualquier actividad que le entusiasme.

Si solo te da para una sola cosa, llévala a comer o cócnale. En el día de las madres no hagas que esa madre especial cocine o tenga que comprar comida.

El regalo perfecto para mamá no es complicado. Ellas siempre, de una forma u otra, te dicen lo que quieren o necesitan. Solo hay que prestar atención.

¡Felicidades a todas las madres y en especial a la mía!

Próximo:

¡Farmers Market el 15 de Mayo! en Hillstown Grange #87, 617 Hills St. De 4:00pm a 7:00pm Artesanos, jardineros y vendedores locales. Para mas información comunícate al 860-690-2845 o escribe a hillstowngrange@aol.com.

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 Conmigo: cmaldonado8816@gmail.com

Place flags May 17

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.

CHARLIE'S PIZZA

Let us do the cooking tonight!

TWO PASTA DINNERS: \$25.95

Chose any two of these Baked Pasta pleasures:

- ♦ Pasta Marinara with Meatballs or Sausage
- ♦ Baked Manicotti
- ♦ Chicken Parmesan
- ♦ Baked Ziti or Eggplant
- ♦ Cheese Ravioli

Includes soup or salad, bread & butter

DELICIOUS CHARLIE'S SPECIALS DAILY!

Fiddle Music - 2nd and 4th Wednesdays @6

Dine-in only. Must present coupon, valid thru May 25, 2025

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Fri: 9:30-5:30; Sat. 9:30-5

The Gazette

Thursday, May 8, 2025

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SPEAKING OUT!, LETTERS

Support the arts in our community

By Paul Wilusz

Art is everywhere—on the walls of our neighborhoods, in the rhythm of our music, on stage in school plays, and in the stories we read.

From painting and poetry to theater and dance, the arts are how we express ourselves, share culture, and make sense of the world around us.

Yet, in many communities, more importantly the federal government is cutting arts from National Endowment of the Arts and Art and the Humanities local arts even at opening night play in Oregon, arts programs are the first to face budget cuts. That's a mistake we can't afford. Funding the arts isn't just about supporting beauty—it's about supporting

people. Research shows that students involved in the arts perform better academically and develop stronger communication and problem-solving skills. Arts education builds creativity, confidence, and critical thinking—skills needed in any career. The Arts in Action: Quick Facts: Students involved in the arts are 4x more likely to be recognized for academic achievement. Arts and culture contribute over \$900 billion annually to the U.S. economy.

Every \$1 invested in non-profit arts generates up to \$9 in community revenue, and Arts education has been linked to higher critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

"Art helped me find my voice when I didn't know how to speak up." — A local student

The impact doesn't stop at the school doors. Local theaters, music venues, and galleries fuel small businesses, attract tourism, and create jobs. Arts festivals, performances, and community murals bring neighbors together and breathe life into our towns and cities.

Public funding ensures that everyone—not just the wealthy—can access, create, and benefit from the arts. When we fund the arts, we fund education, economy, empathy, and expression. Supporting the arts is not an expense—it's an investment in our shared humanity.

Let's keep the arts alive—for our children, our culture, and our future.

Paul Wilusz is chair of the East Hartford Fine Arts and Cultural Commission.

AG Tong appeals to law firms

Attorney General William Tong joined an open letter to the legal community that expresses support for law firms that have fought back against President Trump's unconstitutional attempts to target law firms for advocacy the Trump Administration disfavours, and that expresses the coalition's profound disappointment that several of the country's largest law firms have capitulated in the face of these dangerous attacks on the rule of law.

The open letter to the legal community comes as President Trump has issued unconstitutional executive orders targeting several law firms for their advocacy, and as some of the nation's largest law firms have struck "deals" with the President and his Administration

that commit the firms to provide free legal services to support the Trump Administration's priorities.

"Donald Trump's attempts to bully the legal profession into silence and submission leave no choice but to fight back. He relentlessly targets attorneys to exact political revenge on those who defended the integrity of our elections. He arrests and perp-walks a sitting judge on the thinnest of charges. He mocks and defies court orders. These are foundational attacks on not just our legal profession—but on the rule of law itself. I do not minimize for one second just how hard this is, but we must never surrender, never quit and never back down," said Attorney General Tong.

Celebrating East Hartford students and teachers

Dear Friends,

This week we celebrate National Teacher Appreciation Week and recognize the amazing commitment, efforts, and expertise our teachers and staff bring to work every day. Though we appreciate them all year long, we welcome this time of celebration and our school teams have fun events and activities planned throughout the week. We encourage you to send a note or a ParentSquare message to your child's teacher expressing your appreciation. It means more than you know!

There are many other reasons to celebrate this May. We congratulate the East Hartford High School engineering students whose electric vehicle recently earned a first place title at the CT Electrathon event. We're proud of our Connecticut IB Academy students studying Chinese who were invited to speak and perform at Chinese Language Day hosted by the Chinese Consulate General in New York City. And we're excited for Josie Tedesco, a 5th grade student at O'Connell, who is a top 5 national finalist for the Sodexo Future Chefs Challenge! Be sure to cast your vote for Josie at <https://futurechefschallenge.com/> through May 9.

Later this month, we'll announce and celebrate our District Teacher of the Year representing the very best of East Hartford Public Schools. We will also honor all of our teachers of the year at a special luncheon. Those teachers of the year are: Angela Petano (ECLC), Kimberly Pedneault (Goodwin), Michele Pepin (Langford),

WHAT'S WELL FROM WELLS HALL



Thomas Anderson
Superintendent of Schools



Tyron Harris
Chair, EH Board of Education

Nicole Cook (Mayberry), Kayla Minaya (Norris), Lauren Tierinni (O'Brien), Drew Dunnack (O'Connell), Alexis St. Croix (Pitkin), Madeline Strasser (Silver Lane), Erin Sobolewski (EHMS), Amanda Cooper (Sunset Ridge), Yan "Angela" Chen (CIBA), Rebecca

Cutkomp (EHHS), Zachary Lawrence (Synergy) and Amy Balda (Woodland).

Finally, we will celebrate our Class of 2025 who have worked hard to get to the finish line. They are making plans for their futures, whether that's entering the workforce, military or continuing their education at 2- or 4-year colleges. This year our students have been accepted into over 80 colleges and universities across the country including Brown, Cornell, University of Pennsylvania, Pomona College, Berklee College of Music, Howard University, Duke University, Lehigh University, and Smith College. Plus, they've been accepted to excellent schools here in Connecticut like UConn, Quinnipiac, University of Hartford, Eastern, Southern, Western and Central Connecticut State Universities. We are proud of all they have accomplished and look forward to watching them cross the stage and receive their high school diplomas in June.

As always, thank you for supporting our students and schools! If you have any questions or feedback regarding our district offerings or if we can be of service to you, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Anderson's office at 860-622-5107 or superintendent@easthartford.org or Mr. Harris at 860-622-5017 or harris.tv@easthartford.org.

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

Did You Know newspaper advertising reflects cultural climate of the times?

Did you know old newspaper ads reflect cultural change? Looking at old *Gazettes* exposes humorous and forgotten culture once in the town.

For instance, in a 1912 *Gazette*, you would have found out that "German Lovers are the Best."

The actual advertisement has a picture of a man smoking a cigar, and a wife figure smiling over at him. The wording states: "Soby's German Lovers are the Best at home most ladies love the smell of rich, fragrant cigars. Try a German Lover there, it is just the place

for a test. Box of 12 for \$1.00; 25 for \$1.90; 50 for \$3.50."

Many cigar producers populated here because the tasteless Connecticut River Valley broadleaf was considered the world's best wrapper.

Soby Cigar Store manufactured cigars on Main Street, Hartford from 1872 to 1917.

Owner Charles Soby was not just a cigar producer. His interests ran the gamut.

The store started a minor league baseball team, The Senators, in 1902. This team would be one of the dominant semi-professional teams representing

DID YOU KNOW?

Looking back at East Hartford

by Rob Kanehl

Hartford until 1934. Soby's ownership lasted a year but the store's sponsorship ended in 1915. They offered a collection of trading cards featuring these ballplayers, several who became Major League legends.

Soby ventured into using trucks instead of horse drawn wagons to deliver his product. He was an executive with the Connecticut Tobacco Company. This company hired African-Americans and migrants to pick tobacco.

Eventually they also transported Southern girls north to work the fields; one of these in the 1940s was my mother.

When Soby sold to a New Haven producer in 1917, he turned his energies to producing and selling telephone booths world-wide. When was the last time you used a phone booth?

Another 1912 ad for the J. A. Whitney Funeral Home lists J. A. Whitney as a funeral director and Ambalmer.

What's the difference between an ambalmer and an embalmer? I'm hoping someone will enlighten me.

Dictionary.Com does not recognize ambalmer as a word. In other newspapers of the late 1800s and early 1900s ambalmer appears often with the title of funeral director. After World War One, however, embalmer becomes the more prominent term.

Whitney's 1912 ad also has two offices listed, one at 175 Main Street, Hartford and another at 768 Main Street, East Hartford. Both had different phone numbers at a time when

telephones were still novelties.

Interestingly the ad also mentions there was a "Lady Assistant" on site. Could this be for the time period's modesty? "Night calls" were "promptly answered," the ad declares.

By 1940 the Main Street Newkirk and Whitney Funeral Home was proud to note it was "completely air-conditioned."

Also in a 1940 *Gazette* ad, E. D. Hays, is credited as a "finishing undertaker and embalmer." His main office was in East Hartford (but no address given) only a phone number. He added however, "Residence, Glastonbury Station," using the trolley stop location like we would use a street name and number. I guess you had to know which house to drop in.

Not-so-handy event parking

To the Editor:

I went to the swap meet at Rentschler Field this past Sunday. Being as I am fighting prostate cancer, I was given a handicapped parking sticker to make it easier to get in and out of buildings with handicapped parking spaces.

When I showed it on Sunday in an attempt to use it, parking attendants at Rentschler Field informed me that there was no handicapped parking. So I was forced to park in the area near Silver Lane.

When I exited my vehicle I spotted a sign near where I parked that said "handicapped parking." I pointed this out to the attendants, but I was ignored. The placement of the sign was right where we parked. Go figure.

I have a scooter that made it a little easier to traverse that area to reach the vending area of the car show. After looking over the first section, I happened to look up and see people being allowed to park, without handicapped stickers, in the stadium's handicapped parking spots. I understand that these non-handicapped vehicles were parked directly adjacent to the vending area which was less than 50 yards near a 'cars for sale' area.

But, needless to say, I was not happy to see this.

Are designated handicapped parking areas in this state-run facility only temporary, or are they permanent? Does state law permit waiver of handicapped parking areas for special events if they move the handicapped parking around the stadium all the way over to Silver Lane?

I made my feelings know to a few parking attendants. They said they would pass it along. I hope so.

Secondly, I was going to attempt to purchase some fried dough and a soft drink. I was dismayed to see the price has jumped \$3.00 from last year.

When I asked why, I was informed the increase was due to "Trump's tariffs."

Like Trump or not, I fee it is inexcusable that everyone under the sun seems to be doing this. In my opinion it is just an excuse to make a bigger profit. Next time I attend this event will bring my own refreshments.

And, since the concept of tariffs have caused so much displeasure in this country, the best thing we can also do is to refuse to buy when things are over priced. From cars to food, if it sits on the shelf long enough, prices will come down!

Call me fickle, but that's my opinion.

Peter J. Tierinni
Vernon



BRUCE MANEELEY

65 Rye Street
South Windsor, CT 06074

**Call 860-52-PARTY
(860)-527-2789**



Plant Sale!

EAST HARTFORD SALE & COMMUNITY GARDEN EVENT

WHEN: WEDNESDAY, MAY 14TH 3-6PM

**WHERE: GOODWIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GARDEN
1235 FORBES ST, EAST HARTFORD**

RAIN DATE: THURSDAY, MAY 15TH 3-6 PM

\$5 PER PLANT OR 3 FOR \$10

Come and help us support local & your community!

- Free Face Painting!
- Visit local community partner tables for giveaways
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Seedlings for planting or Pre-planted seedlings in buckets will be available

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For questions, contact:
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Have something to get off your chest?

The *Gazette* welcomes signed letters on subjects of interest. Include your phone number, and e-mail to:
editor@ehgazette.com

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Paul Bisaccia performs May 18

The East Hartford Commission on Culture and Fine Arts presents homegrown pianist Paul Bisaccia in a free concert, "Moonlight Sonata - The Romantic Piano", on Sunday, May 18 at 2 p.m. at First Congregational Church, 837 Main St.

The "Moonlight" Sonata is a Beethoven favorite. In many ways Beethoven can be considered the first Romantic pianist. He broke all the rules in the name of expression and in doing so changed forever the way pianists conceive of the piano. Here is a concert of music from the golden age of Romantic piano composers. Along with Beethoven's "Moonlight" Sonata, Paul will play Liszt and some glittering Chopin Waltzes.

Paul, a Penney High School



graduate, Class of 1973, has enjoyed an illustrious career as a professional pianist. He has recorded numerous albums and performed internationally as well as on television broadcasts. He also was a guest lecturer at Harvard. As extraordinary as his playing is, it is Paul's persona which adds to the music, making each performance a

memorable lesson both in music and its history. Paul adds humor and anecdotes to his playing that makes each composer come alive for an afternoon.

Paul will also bring his projector so everyone can see his hands close-up as he performs.

The second half of the concert will include everyone's favorite - Gershwin. George Gershwin himself was a fine pianist who could dazzle with arrangements of "I Got Rhythm", "S Wonderful" and more which gave musical life to film and stage. Paul will play Gershwin's original piano arrangements of his greatest hits.

The concert ends with a fire-breathing performance of The Ritual Fire Dance.

EH SCHOOL STUDENT ART SHOWCASE



STUDENT ART SHOW - at the Community Cultural Center display the work of talented students in the school system. Above, David Brownell, an East Hartford native and Art Teacher at Synergy School stands by some of the works of his students. The EHPS Fine and Performing Arts Showcase kicked off with an opening reception featuring performances by the Tri-M National Music Honor Society, EHMS Global Jazz Band and EHHS Jazz Band. Art by students in grades K-12 was display through Sunday.

Saturday night film May 17 at Community Cultural Center

The film "Banel & Adama" will be screened free of charge at 7 p.m. Saturday, May 17 in the auditorium of the East Hartford Community Cultural Center, 50 Chapman Place.

Set in Senegal, a young married couple lives in a remote village where duty dictates that Adama accept the role of chief. When Adama refuses, something changes. Rains do not come, cattle begin to die, and the Adama's decision and sense

of duty drives Banel into a feverish, mystical chaos.

The movie is part of the 14th annual Commission on Culture & Fine Arts foreign film series. Members of the East Hartford Summer Youth Festival will sell concessions, including popcorn, to support their summer show.

Reviewer Glenn Kenny of rogerebert.com said "this is one of those pictures to which the phrase 'every frame a painting' might apply."

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=7ioYiaUBHvUzn3jtnsF9WS0PQ2Rw.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

Folklore pageant a success

By Cathy Maldonado

Elegance, culture and community pride were on full display last weekend at Goodwin University as the 2nd Annual Folklore USA Coronation event welcomed one and all to join in a celebration of heritage, identity and empowerment.

Hosted by Shakira Acevedo, National Director of Folklore USA, the event crowned nine young women as official USA Ambassadors who will go on to represent the country in the Mr. & Ms. Folklore World Cultural & Beauty Pageant this summer in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic. Rain outside didn't stop the excitement indoors. From the moment the doors open, the energy was palpable. Families, friends, and supporters came all dressed up to cheer for the young ladies. From the start, the event was an afternoon filled with culture, performance and heartfelt moments of recognition. The coronation was not only a pageant it was also an



explosion of talent and cultural pride.

Audiences were treated to stirring performances by Movimiento Cultural, La Raza Folklore Colombiano, and Dominican Folklore Ballet Inc.

Each group brought the rich traditions of their countries to life through music and movement, reminding everyone of the vibrant diversity that

shapes the Latino and multicultural experience in the US.

The event ended with the coronation of the young ladies and distribution of prizes.

The crown and sashes they now will wear is more than a symbol of beauty - it represents commitment to community, cultural preservation and personal growth that comes from the act of embracing one's heritage.

Contestants celebrate their achievements at the 2025 Folklore USA.

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9:am - 1:pm

(rain or shine)

Sunset Ridge School

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EAST HARTFORD SPORTS

EHILL OPENS 75TH SEASON

Never mind Scottie - Jordan's hot

The PGA Tour season, just over six weeks from the Travelers, took an exciting turn at last week's CJ Cup Byron Nelson. It almost went unnoticed. Not that anyone ignored Scottie Scheffler's victory, tying the 72-hole Tour record for low score to par. The golf world had been holding its breath, waiting for Scheffler, a 7-time winner last year and a top-five finisher in just about every outing this season, to finally put up his first win of 2025. With the PGA Championship just a week away, the world's #1 golfer is ready.

There was some feeling the PGA would be anticlimactic after Rory McIl-

SCOTT GRAY on SPORTS

by Scott Gray



roy ended an 11-year drought in the majors by capping a career Grand Slam with a thrilling win at the Masters.

Most eyes focus on Scheffler heading to the next major. He had the Nelson sewed up after three rounds. But there's another element of excitement heading to Quail Hollow that went virtually unnoticed: Jordan Spieth had surgery on a broken wrist last fall and has been battling back, showing improvement every week, turning in some brilliant rounds and four top ten finishes while regaining his once-championship form. Not that anyone cared.

Every weekend TV directors treat Spieth like he's a practice range ball boy, turning their attention to winless lesser lights regardless of their - or Spieth's - position in the field. Last weekend the screen froze as Spieth struck a putt for eagle. We didn't learn until more than 10 minutes later that he missed the eagle but made the bird. The final round network switch from Golf Channel to CBS came just as Spieth lined up a birdie putt. Another 10-minute wait ensued while CBS took the handoff and set the scene. It's typical treatment for Spieth, who regularly gets less airtime than an SST.

Heading into Sunday's round the *New York Post* agate page posted a leaderboard that omitted Spieth entirely. He was eight shots behind Scheffler but just five strokes off the position everyone else was playing for, second place. Spieth put it on himself to attract attention by shooting the round of the weekend: a nine-under 62 to finish in fourth place, his most-consistent performance of the season. And he's had some good ones.

While the focus and excitement surrounding the Masters centered on McIlroy's Grand Slam pursuit, Spieth has given the second major, the PGA Championship, a similar aura after a weekend in Dallas when he showed he's ready to take his shot at the Slam while hardly anybody seems to be watching.

RIP Jim Dent, one of the great pioneers of the first era of African American golfers on the PGA Tour. After qualifying at Q-School in 1970, the former Augusta National caddie spent 16 years on Tour averaging more than 22 events a year. He died Friday at age 85.

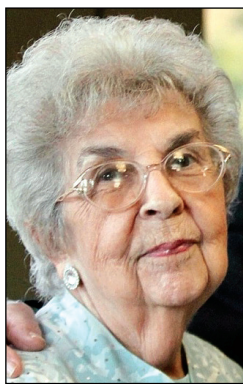
How proud am I? My nine year old grandson, Leo Storaie, very capably manned the P.A. mic last Saturday for a Rocky Hill T-Ball game featuring his younger brother Owen. Not far from the tree, as they say.



OBITUARIES

Camille (Begin) Leonard, 90

Camille (Begin) Leonard, 90, of East Hartford passed away peacefully on Sunday, May 4, 2025, after a short illness. She was the daughter of the late Roland and Alice (Tremblay) Begin. Camille was predeceased by Larry, her husband of 65 years, in 2024. She leaves behind their children Linda Futtner and husband



Camille Leonard

Henry of East Hartford, Catherine Hogan and husband Matthew of Newport, NH and Joseph Leonard and wife Valetta of Brighton, MI; fourteen grandchildren, Bridget Sielicki (Gabe), Mary Pollock (Matt), Kelly Kehoe, Anne Hogan, Monica Smith (Adam), Allison Jones (Kiefer), Brendan Hogan, Brian Futtner (Stephanie), Thomas Hogan

(Brigid), John Hogan (Gaby), Jacinta Hogan, Nicholas Hogan, Peter Hogan and Joseph Hogan; and thirteen great-grandchildren, Dominic, Clare, Bernadette and Luke Sielicki, Maggie, Caleb and Matthew Pollock, Declan and Nora Kehoe, Martin and James Hogan, and

Elizabeth and Jeremiah Hogan. She also leaves her beloved sister Elaine Gilbert (Tom) of East Hartford; her brother Roland Begin (Barbara) of Glastonbury; sisters-in-law, Elta Leonard and Connie Leonard; and many special nieces, nephews and godchildren. She was predeceased by sister Janet Risley and nephews, Timothy Gilbert and James

Joseph 'Joe' LaRosa, councilman

Joseph "Joe" LaRosa, aged 81, of South Glastonbury passed away unexpectedly on April 9, 2025. Born on August 8, 1943 and raised in the Flatbush area of Brooklyn, New York, Joe was a cherished and loving man who adored his family.

Joe leaves behind his beloved wife of 57 years, Joan, and their children, Gina Rivera



Joe LaRosa

(Charles), Michael LaRosa (Shirley), and Christina Jarboe (James). His legacy continues through his grandchildren, Brianna (Anthony), Annalyse (William), AJ, Jayce, Liz, Charlie, Jack, Daniel, Jillian, Audrey, Madelyn, Jacob, and Ava, as well as his great-grandchildren, Liam, Kaiden, Genevieve, and Haylie. Joe is also survived by his brother, Peter LaRosa (Lucy), sister, Mary Lederer (Jeff), as well as many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, John and Mary LaRosa, and his sisters, Nancy LaRosa and Frances Kopito.

Joe graduated from St. Augustine High School in 1961, then earned a B.S. in Aerospace Engineering (1965), an M.S. in Applied Mechanics

(1968), and completed two years of Ph.D. studies in Engineering at the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn. In 1972, he moved from New York to Connecticut to begin his career as an aeronautical engineer at Pratt & Whitney. Joe had a profound passion for life, which was

evident in his diverse hobbies. He found joy in spending time with his family, playing piano, and indulging in jazz music. He also loved playing piano with The Screamin' Eagles Jazz Band. Joe served over ten years on the East Hartford Town Council as minority leader and supporting his children's school as PTA president. Joe touched the lives of everyone he met. Full of knowledge and wisdom, he always seemed to have the right answers, no matter the situation. He will be deeply missed. Gifts may be made to The UConn Foundation or the Save the Music Foundation, honoring Joe's love of knowledge, education, and music.

Services took place April 26 at Farley-Sullivan Funeral Home. Visit FarleySullivan.com.

Begin.

Camille was proud of her French heritage and began her life in a tight knit French speaking community in Lawrence, Massachusetts. She moved to East Hartford as a child and formed many lifelong friendships. She was a devoted wife and mother, and her Catholic faith was the basis for everything she did in life. She loved her extended family as if they were her own and was a kind and generous woman devoting many hours helping in various parishes where she resided and providing rides to elderly neighbors. She will be greatly missed.

A calling hour will be held Monday, May 12, 2025 at 9 a.m. at the D'Esopo East Hartford Memorial Chapel, 30 Carter St. with a Mass of Christian Burial at 10:30 a.m. at St. Christopher Church of North American Martyrs Parish, 538 Brewer St. followed by burial at the State Veterans' Cemetery, Bow Lane, Middletown.

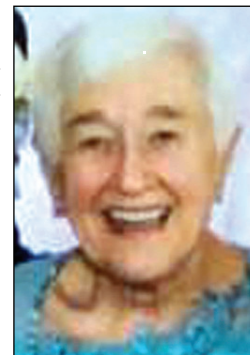
Contributions in Camille's name may be made to a favorite charity. Online, visit www.desopoe.com

Jeanette Bradley, 90

Jeanette Bradley, 90, of East Hartford, passed away surrounded by her loving family on May 1, 2025. Born in Hartford on June 4, 1934, she was the daughter of the late Wallace Sr. and Marie (Busque) Talbot. She graduated from Hartford Public High School, Class of 1953.

She settled down in East Hartford with her late husband of 63 years, Robert Bradley. Jeanette spent her career raising her family which was most important to her. In her free time Jeanette enjoyed Yahtzee and playing cards. Jeanette will be remembered as a devoted mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister, and dear friend.

Jeanette is survived by her five children: James Bradley and his significant other Margarita Diaz, John Bradley, Linda Poirier, Carolyn Miller and husband Gary, and Jeanne Bellucci; her five adored grandchildren, Brett Poirier and his wife Jaclyn, Brian Miller and



Jeanette Bradley

his wife Lucena, Julianne Beimler and her husband Matthew, Adam Bell and Ashleigh Gentile, two great-grandchildren Devika Miller and Arietta Miller; her three brothers Wallace Talbot Jr, Robert Talbot, Ronald Talbot and his wife Char, and

one brother-in-law James Bradley; and a close friend Richard Letourneau. Along with her husband, Jeanette is predeceased by George Bell, Roger Poirier, Christine, JoAnne, and Toots.

Jeanette's family and friends may call at the D'Esopo East Hartford Memorial Chapel, 30 Carter St., Friday, May 9, from 10 until 11:30 a.m. Burial will follow at Saint Mary's Cemetery, Burnside. Jeanette's family wishes to thank her caregiver Natalie, the 5th floor nurses at Riverside Health and Rehab, and Constellation Hospice for their compassionate care. On-line please visit www.desopoe.com

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Contracts, policies at BoE Machinists walking picket lines at P&W

From Page One

tutes for the District for 19 years.

The Board was informed by Finance Director Tea Culani that as of the end of Quarter Three, it appears that the District will finish the year with a surplus of around \$346,000. This surplus is largely due to the budget's staffing section which remains over enough to offset shortages in legal fees, Special Education fundings, and tuitions. It was noted that the District was still waiting for pre-school funding of about \$150,000 that the federal government froze. If this funding is not released by the federal government, then it will have to be covered by the town, and the surplus will be less.

Changes to 28 policies were adopted by the Board these changes were requested to bring the current regulations into compliance with state requirements. These changes had been open for review and public comment over the past 30 days.

The only item which caused some discussion was the policy concerning meeting time and

place. The original change would have allowed the Board to schedule meetings starting at no earlier than 6 p.m. This change was to permit the earlier meetings when meeting in the local schools in the District. A number of Board members, stressed that the 7 p.m. starting time was more convenient for working families. It was agreed to reword the proposal, to allow meetings to start no sooner than 7 p.m.

The Board also heard that the District is about complete with revising its "Vision of a Graduate." This Vision, is the skills and knowledge the district wants all graduates to obtain while at East Hartford Schools. The Vision has not been updated in ten years, and a committee of educators, administrators, students and community members are reviewing similar statements from other school districts, university and college needs, as well as career requirements.

Finally, the Board urged residents to vote in support of O'Connell's Josie Tedesco as she competes in the Future Chef National Challenge. Public voting runs until May 9.

From Page One

voted to go on strike.

"I stand with the more than 3,000 workers standing up for better wages, benefits, and job protections in East Hartford and Middletown," said Larson. "Each and every day, they build, maintain, and test the most capable engines in the world, including the F135. Record company profits and an increasing market demand for these engines are a testament to the hard work of our region's machinists and engineers. When RTX employees in Florida are being offered larger raises, the skilled and reliable workforce with a long history of making the best engines in the world here in Connecticut should be treated equally for their labor. They deserve a fair contract from their employer that recog-

nizes these contributions and provides the job security they have earned and deserve."

Mayor Connor S. Martin stated Monday after the vote to strike: "Pratt and Whitney has long been a cornerstone of East Hartford's and the entire state's economy, and a recognized leader in manufacturing thanks to the dedication and skill of its workforce. The employees are the driving force behind the company's success and play a vital role in our community and the broader future of Connecticut manufacturing. I hope both company leadership and the union representing these hard-working individuals can return to the negotiating table and work toward a fair and equitable resolution."

While Lockheed Martin met its delivery goal of 110 F-35s in

2024, deliveries of the F135 engine to Lockheed Martin have historically lagged their scheduled due date. In 2023, Pratt & Whitney did not deliver any F135 engines on time, with schedules slipping from the one-month average delay seen in 2022 to about two months, the Government Accountability Office said in a May 2024 report. The company also lost money that year.

"Pratt & Whitney's offer competitively compensates our workforce while ensuring P&W can grow in an increasingly competitive marketplace, creating ongoing economic opportunity in the state of Connecticut," the company stated. "Our message to union leaders...is simple: higher pay, better retirement savings, more days off and more flexibility."

Healthy Connections at Early Childhood LC

From Page One

providers together in a fun, supportive environment.

Organizers emphasized the vital connection between nutrition and student success. "We know that secure access to healthy food greatly impacts a child's ability to thrive, especially in the classroom," said Tricia Orozco, Vice President of Implementation at InterCommunity Health Care. "Not having enough to eat takes a toll on a growing child physically and

mentally and can have long-term impacts."

The event focused on helping families connect with local partners who can support both mental and physical wellness throughout the year.

EHPs Superintendent Thomas Anderson highlighted the broader purpose of the event. "It's more than just an opportunity to receive free bags of food," he said. "It's a celebration of connection, care, and the power of coming together to nourish both hearts and homes

of the community."

Jessica Russell, Practice Manager of the East Hartford SBHCs, added, "We're excited to serve even more families at this year's event and look forward to continuing to support our community."

The Healthy Community Connections initiative reflects InterCommunity's broader mission of promoting accessible, comprehensive care.

For more information, visit intercommunityct.org/school-based-health-centers.

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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF
SHIRLEY DAMIATA,
AKA SHIRLEY MAE DAMIATA
(25-00153)

The Hon. Richard P. Gentile, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of East Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated **April 24, 2025**, 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:

James Damiata, 46 Robin Brook Drive, Newington, CT 06111

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF
STEPHEN CARL JONES
(25-00159)

The Hon. Richard P. Gentile, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of East Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated **April 28, 2025**, 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:

Heather Schofner
c/o Lucas E. Lalonde, Esquire; Goetz Law LLC, 43 N Main St., West Hartford, CT 06107

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF
ELLEN V. MORROW
(25-00151)

The Hon. Richard P. Gentile, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of East Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated **May 5, 2025**, 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:

Jeffrey C. Morrow, 28 Iroquois Way, Enfield, CT 06082

WHERE THE ACTION IS!

BY CORINNE HORAN

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

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.

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.

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-easthartford-community-cleanup-day-registration> Lunch will be provided following the cleanup.

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 car seat safety checks and car seat installations. 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.

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. Cedar Hill Cemetery is located at 453 Fairfield Avenue, Hartford. The walking tour begins at the flagpole at the end of the entrance drive.

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

call 860-565-6236.

MAY 22: IRON HORNET obstacle course, East Hartford High School, 2 to 4 p.m. All are welcome to watch this spectacle of student competition which supports Chapter 12 of the Disabled American Veterans of Greater Hartford. Donations welcome.

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.

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.

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.

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.

JUNE 14: COMMUNITY TAG SALE: All Saints Church, 444 Hills St., Annual Community Tag Sale takes place June 14 from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. This is a great way to meet your East Hartford neighbors while clearing out your home of unwanted, unnecessary or surplus possessions. There is no charge to vendors to set up a table or two in a 10-foot by 10-foot space. Parking is free, and - best of all - delicious lunch is available for nominal fee or to take home. Come and enjoy a wonderful Flag Day with us! Rain date is June 21. To reserve a free space, text or call 860-490-3270 and leave a message.

JUNE 14: THROUGH THE GARDEN GATE TOUR - Grab your hat and join Perennial Planters Garden Club of Manchester for their biennial garden tour. See six diverse, beautifully designed and landscaped private sanctuaries, pocket-sized gems to large, manicured plantings. Visit an inspiring vegetable garden and meditation garden, fairy garden, beach glass stream. \$25 in advance. https://www.manchester-gardenclubs.org/perennial_planters.htm

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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.

MAY 19: HARTFORD BLOOMS presents an evening of jazz legends with Nat Reeves and his MNN Trio at the Parkville Market, 6 to 9 p.m. with Rodney Jones. Jam session at 8:15. \$20 tickets includes one drink. Advance tickets: 860-422-7937. Supports Hartford Blooms bringing the beauty of gardens to the city of Hartford since 1989.

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