

## Class of 2026 embraces future

By Bill Doak

East Hartford High School's Class of 2026 rode out of their high school years with the navigation arrow pointed straight to the future and a full tank of hopes and dreams.

Quoting the lyrics of Bad Bunny in Spanish, Salutatorian Daneelia Edwards sampled the diversity of her classmates, representing many nationalities but linked by their shared experience. "in life there is one true thing that never changes - the good."

Valedictorian Farah Shahab used a term from her chemistry classes - entropy - to describe the random energy of her school years: Chaos and unpredictability. Those moments shape who we are." But chaos was not all bad as "unexpected circumstances shape who we are. It's not a system falling

apart but reorganizing itself to reshape our lives."

Of the 422 members of the graduating class, 83 percent will go on to attend either a 2 or 4-year school, 7 percent a vocational school, 6 percent into

the workforce and 4 percent in the military, noted Principal Matthew Ryan who boomed out the name of each graduate across the football field, even

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## Enjoying the quiet at Fairfield Inn & Suites

By Bill Doak

The 145-room Fairfield Inn and Towne Place Suites on Roberts Street opened June 4, and they picked a good weekend: All of Downtown Hartford's hotel rooms were apparently booked, and as a result visitors discovered the region has a new, comfortable

option for an overnight stay.

Front desk manager Jennifer Vitello and hotel asset manager Gary Patel were busy balancing the opening glitches and last-minute construction details of a booked, five-story building where posts are still being cut into the parking lot and painters were touching up the

See INN OPENS, pg. 10

At left, visiting from South Korea are engineers M.C. Hong, Jaeyoung Cha and J. Y. Son. At right, Laura Tremko, design director for Infinity Group. Guests filled the 145 rooms of the 5-floor Fairfield Inn and Towne Place Suites at 363 Roberts Street less than a week after opening June 4.



# AROUND TOWN

## River Conservancy cruises

The Ct River Conservancy will conduct a River Cruise and Annual Meeting at Goodwin University Saturday, June 13 from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m.

The public is welcome to join CRC to enjoy a scenic cruise along the Connecticut River, but there is a registration requirement. Guest speaker is Leila Phillip, author of *Beaverland* followed by the annual meeting and awards presentation.

Tickets are limited and the cruises will sell out. Order today! Each narrated cruise will take approximately 1 hour and will run upstream and back on the Connecticut River. The cruise will be approximately 60 minutes aboard the R.V. Goodwin Navigator. Phillip is an award-winning author whose

most recent book, *Beaverland*, is a Times Editor's Choice, New York Times Best Seller and NPR Science Friday Book Club selection which *The Wall Street Journal* called "as full of charm and wonder as its beguiling protagonist." A Guggenheim Fellow, Philip has also been awarded fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities. She was a popular contributing columnist at the *Boston Globe* and teaches in the Environmental Studies Program at the College of the Holy Cross where she holds the Brooks distinguished Chair in the Humanities.

Contact the Conservancy to register at [ctriver.org/event-details/2026-annual-meeting](http://ctriver.org/event-details/2026-annual-meeting)

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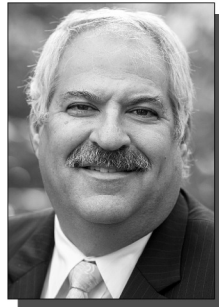
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## TOWN SALUTES NATION'S 250<sup>TH</sup>



AT THE JUNE 2 TOWN COUNCIL MEETING, Mayor Connor S. Martin issued a proclamation in honor of the 250th Anniversary of American Independence, held above by East Hartford America250 coordinator Jana Colacino at the Raymond Library. The proclamation notes that "preserving, studying, and enjoying our Nation's and State's history strengthens communities, builds pride and forges bonds between Connecticut residents." It further encourages residents "to fully engage with our past" and "to work together in addressing the challenges of the 21st century."

## Housing trends to be discussed June 24 by P&Z

The town is conducting a "Public Information Session on Housing Trends" in collaboration with Goman + York, part of the Planning and Zoning meeting Wednesday, June 24 at 6:30 p.m. at Town Council Chambers, 740 Main St. The session is open to the public. Goman + York principal Mike Goman will direct the presentation about state housing market conditions, development feasibility, and the relationship between housing and economic growth.

There will be an opportunity for questions following the presentation. Based in East Hartford, Goman + York is a real estate firm specializing in providing municipalities, organizations and educational institutions with research-driven guidance on enhancing their real estate development opportunities.

## Joke of the Week

Why does Sherlock Holmes love Mexican restaurants?

Because they give him case ideas!



## CLASSIFIEDS

**FT AGING MENTAL HEALTH THERAPIST** (Bristol, CT) Counsel/ advise indiv/ groups to promote optimum mental/emot health, with emph on prevention. May help indiv deal w/ broad range mental health issues (ex: addictions, subst abuse, family, parent, marital, stress mngmt, self-esteem, aging). Req: BA/ BS clinical psych or rel field + 24 mo rel exp. \$40,830 - \$40,900. Resume: Golden Years Homemakers & Companions, Inc, Attn: Miledy Marmol, 124 Main Street, Bristol, CT 06010 or [miledymarmol@yahoo.com](mailto:miledymarmol@yahoo.com) w/ ref to job title in subj line.

**LANDSCAPING** - weekly mowings (\$45-\$55) spring cleanup, mulching, bush and hedge trimming, etc... call (860)985-6361 for a quote.

**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

## Juneteenth, y libertad para todos

Este 19 de junio venimos celebrando Juneteenth y vengo trayéndote un poquito de historia.

Te cuento que esta celebración no es solo una celebración de la libertad, también es un recordatorio de que la justicia no siempre llega al mismo tiempo para todo el mundo.

En esa fecha pero para el 1865, las tropas de la Unión llegaron a Galveston, Texas, para anunciar que las personas esclavizadas finalmente eran libres.

Aunque la Proclamación de Emancipación había sido firmada por el presidente Abraham Lincoln más de dos años antes, la noticia no llegó de inmediato a todos los rincones del país. Muchas personas continuaron viviendo en esclavitud hasta que esa libertad les fue comunicada.

Esta fecha nos invita a reflexionar sobre nuestras propias historias. Muchos de nuestros padres, abuelos y familiares llegaron a este país buscando oportunidades, estabilidad y una mejor calidad de vida. Sabemos lo que es abrirse camino, trabajar duro y luchar por ser tratados con respeto y dignidad.

Aunque nuestras experiencias son distintas, hay lecciones que nos unen. La historia de Juneteenth nos recuerda la importancia de defender los derechos humanos, rechazar la discriminación y seguir construyendo comunidades donde todas las personas tengan las mismas oportunidades de echar pa'lante.

Hoy en día, Juneteenth se celebra con festivales, actividades culturales, música, educación y encuentros comunitarios. Es un momento para aprender, recordar y reconocer las enormes contribuciones de la comunidad afroamericana a la historia, la cultura y el desarrollo de este país.

Más que una fecha en el calendario, Juneteenth es una invitación a reflexionar sobre el valor de la libertad y sobre la responsabilidad que todos compartimos de crear comunidades más justas, inclusivas y solidarias. La cosa esta un poquito apretada para todos, pero esto no significa que hay que quedarse sin hacer nada este verano.

**Eventos próximos** que no te debes perder:

La Sociedad Histórica de East Hartford, estará ofreciendo recorridos libres de costo por la casa Selden Brewer, ubicada en el 167 de Main Street. Esto será los sábados. Sumergete en un poco de historia. Este evento comienza a las 11:00am hasta las 2:00pm.

No te pierdas del Festival de la fresa en el South Congregational Church ubicada en 1301 Forbes Street, de 10:00am a 2:00pm. Disfruta de artesanías, venta de repostería, plantas y mucha diversión. Para más información, llame al 860-568-5150.

East Hartford estará celebrando Juneteenth en ambos lados del río, Great River Park and Mortensen Riverfront Plaza, el 20 de junio comenzando a las 11:45am. Disfrute de música en vivo, DJs, food trucks, actividades para toda la familia y mucho más.

El departamento de Parks and Recreations ya anuncio su temporada de campamentos de verano 2026, comenzando el lunes 22 de junio hasta el viernes 7 de agosto. Estos programas son exclusivos para residentes de East Hartford, y están diseñados para niños y jóvenes desde primer grado hasta noveno, incluyendo también participantes con necesidades especiales entre las edades de 6 a 21 años. Para más información accede a EHParks.org

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Conecta conmigo: [cmaldonado8816@icloud.com](mailto:cmaldonado8816@icloud.com)

# YW Tech Lab offers women new skills

The Liberty Bank Foundation awarded \$10,000 to the YWCA Hartford Region in support of the YW Tech Lab, a free career training program that equips adults with digital skills.

The YW Tech Lab offers free instruction, both online and at YWCA Hartford Region's 135 Broad St., Hartford headquarters to adults with a high school diploma or GED to compete in today's highly-skilled office environment.

Through a three-month certification process, participants receive coding, cyber-security, web design and other high-demand digital skills, mentorship from industry experts, and job placement support.

This YW Tech Lab is a new offering for the YWCA Hartford Region's broader YW Career Women initiative combining career coaching, wellness support, and post-secondary pathways for women to help them build lasting economic independence.

Liberty Bank Foundation awards grants to nonprofits throughout Liberty Bank's market area, investing in three key areas: education and training, affordable housing and food.


"Liberty is pleased to partner with YWCA Hartford Region," said David W. Glidden, Liberty Bank President and CEO and President of the Liberty Bank Foundation.

"The more who have the digital skills necessary to be competitive in today's job market, the better. By partnering with YWCA and creating a unique opportunity for our neighbors, we are living our brand prom-

ise. We are being 'Community Kind.'"

Participants completing the YW Tech Lab receive industry-recognized certifications and benefit from the program's network of employer connections. The program is open to adults 18 and older, with no cost to participants.

Registration for the YW Tech Lab is available at [ywcahartford.org](http://ywcahartford.org).



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CLASS 4	Men over 40	3:45 - 4:30pm



**Simply scan the QR code to register.**

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# The Gazette

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## SPEAKING OUT!, LETTERS

### Harris reaches signature goal

Board of Education Chairman Tyron Harris announced Tuesday that his campaign submitted more than 600 signatures to the East Hartford Registrar of Voters, surpassing the number required to be on the ballot for a Democratic primary in the 10th State Assembly District. Verification is still underway, but the campaign has verified nearly 450 registered Democrats, roughly 10% of active voters in the district.

"I am grateful beyond words to the small army of supporters who helped us get this done," said Tyron Harris. "In less than two weeks, our campaign knocked over 4,000 doors. Getting the petition signatures was important, but more important were the thousands of conversations we had with residents

since this campaign began. Voters want to see leaders who understand the challenges regular people face, and the people want candidates who belong to the communities they seek to represent. I grew up here. I'm from here. And I'm raising my family here. After decades of service to East Hartford, I'm grateful for the trust people have placed in me."

Chair of the Board of Education, he has worked to strengthen schools, support teachers, and ensure students have resources they need to succeed. As the town's Human Resources Director, he helps support employees who keep the town running. His focus is on fairness, professionalism, and building strong teams that serve residents effectively.



TYRON HARRIS, fifth from left, with backers of his campaign for state representative in the 10th District.

## Have a great summer - and congratulations to the Class of 2026!

Dear Friends,

Next week we will finish another successful school year full of excitement, achievement and tremendous progress. From our youngest learners at the Early Childhood Learning Center to our graduating seniors, our students have made our community proud through their engagement in school and their growth as individuals.

Thanks to their hard work and our quality team of educators, East Hartford recently received national recognition from researchers at Harvard and Stanford Universities in their Education Scorecard. EHPS was named a District on the Rise, one of 100 districts recognized out of thousands of districts across the country, for our academic progress outpacing similar districts. East Hartford stood out for growth in both math and reading. This recognition is a true community celebration as it reflects our collective focus and efforts to continue pushing forward.

Congratulations to the Class of 2026! This week we are honoring East Hartford's graduates from our Adult Education program, Synergy Alternative High School, Woodland School, the Connecticut IB Academy, and East Hartford High School. This is a very impressive group of students who have big plans for the future from higher education to military service and job placements. They've been accepted to more than 95 colleges and universities across the country, including highly selective and competitive schools such as Yale,

### WHAT'S WELL FROM WELLS HALL



Thomas Anderson  
Superintendent of Schools



Tyron Harris  
Chair, EH Board of Education

Cornell, Brown, MIT, Middlebury, Johns Hopkins, Purdue, Howard, and more. Collectively, they've earned more than \$11 million in college scholarships. They have worked tremendously hard to earn their credits and reach this milestone. We can't wait to see what

they accomplish and we know they will continue to make East Hartford proud.

As we send off our Class of 2026 graduates, we are ready to welcome our incoming kindergarteners, the Class of 2040! If you or someone you know has a child turning 5 on or before September 1, it's time for kindergarten registration. June is a great time to register so you have the entire summer to prepare for the start of school. Our registration process begins online. Please visit [www.easthartford.org/kindergarten](http://www.easthartford.org/kindergarten) for more information and details.

**Looking ahead, save the date for our annual Back to School Rally on Wednesday, August 5 at McAuliffe Park.** Mark your calendars for the first day of the 2026-2027 school year: Wednesday, August 26.

We hope you all have a great summer! As always, thank you for supporting our students and schools. 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](mailto:superintendent@easthartford.org) or Mr. Harris at 860-622-5017 or [harris.tv@easthartford.org](http://harris.tv@easthartford.org).  
With East Hartford Pride!

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

# East Hartford welcomed the Duke of Windsor - twice

Did you know the Duke of Windsor came to East Hartford - twice? Lee Paquette's town history states the Duke was in town in 1941. The Duke came to Pratt & Whitney inspecting planes for England, but he also came to town in 1970.

His October 1941, visit was so quick and focused, the editor of the *Gazette* only noted it in his 'Here's The Lowdown' - "The Duke of Windsor came to East Hartford, but he didn't see our streets or the people."

In a closed-door visit, Windsor, hosted by P & W executives, never ventured outside the company's campus. He toured the plant and investigated aircraft parts being purchased by the British in its efforts against the Germans during World War Two.

This trip was just two months before the Americans joined the war, after the December attack on Pearl Harbor.

The second trip was more of a personal visit when the Duke came to East Hartford during

peacetime to donate a statue.

This second trip rated a front page (below the fold) story in the May 7, 1970 *Gazette*.

Though not on an official government visit, his presence still drew a crowd of spectators and press, according to the paper's write-up. The article actually focuses on the reporter's efforts to interview the Royal. The headline is true to the local flavor of the paper "Our Walt Brown Meets The Duke of Windsor."

Windsor was here to help dedicate a statue at the Fuller Brush Factory on Long Hill Street. This time the Royal traveled through the town by car seeing the local attractions on his way to the site.

At Fuller Brush, a tent luncheon was served, and the guests were treated to music by the Governor's Foot Guard Band.

What drew him to East Hartford?

His long-time friend, Nathan Cummings, was Chairman of

## DID YOU KNOW?

*Looking back on our East Hartford*

**By Robert Kanehl**

Consolidated Foods Inc, which owned Fuller Brush Company. The local company became a subsidiary in 1968. Cummings was a patron of the arts, contributing works and funds to New York, Chicago, and Montreal museums among others.

In honor of his friend, Windsor unveiled the statue "Embryonoire" by French Sculptor Antoine Poncet. The piece of art rested on the lawn of the Fuller Brush Company, until the company left town. The Peoria



**ANTOINE PONCET'S** marble sculpture 'Embryonoire' once rested at the Fuller Brush factory on Long Hill Steet. It now can be found in the Riverfront Sculpture Park in Peoria, Illinois. Based on Poncet's other forms, the editor thinks it once stood upright but was damaged in the move.

Riverfront Museum in Illinois now displays it. Cummings donated it there in the 1980s.

Walt Brown wrote of Windsor's sense of humor several times in his article, including the Duke's claim he had spent so much time in America he was "very familiar with the Fuller Brush Man," famous for its door-to-door sales approach.

Brown even joked that he ob-

tained an interview with Windsor by showing him pictures of Brown with the Prime Minister of England, and the Governor of Bermuda, to which the Duke replied Brown could have the interview because he also knew both these men "very well."

After the unveiling, lunch and a tour of Fuller Brush, Windsor returned to his busy schedule, away from town.

## SPEAKING OUT!, LETTERS

### Are Republicans feeling 'buyer's remorse'?

#### To the Editor:

Are many Republican Americans caught up in a personality cult? In today's news, many mainstream Republicans have suddenly woken up after all of these years and are now saying out loud that President Trump is a very bad man.

I wrote an op-ed in 2018 concerning how people in the Republican Party may have been caught up in a cult-like admiration for President Donald Trump. At this time in 2018, I was studying Christian cults in America. I began to notice many basic similarities between President Trump's behavior and that of many historical cult leaders who have used manipulation to control people.

1. A cult leader has severe Narcissism: They have a profound need for admiration and do not truly have empathy for others.

2. A cult leader seeks to play mind control games with their members to control them: Mr. Trump uses constant tweets with his agenda, which consumes his followers' thinking continuously. The game is simply pitting one group of people against another, and frequently playing the race card! Mr.

Trump has found religion and patriotism to be a great game to play to control people's minds. It's always them against us, in the mind of a cult leader.

3. A cult leader isolates their members to keep them stuck in the cult: Mr. Trump controls his people by giving them a common enemy, so that his followers think he is fighting for them! This line of thinking can lead to isolation from people who do not think like you do, sometimes even from your friends and family.

4. The laws that apply to the cult do not apply to the leader: The President of the United States of America wants constant glorification and total loyalty from everyone around him, but is not loyal to anyone. President Trump believes that he is above the law and never thinks he is doing anything wrong and will never apologize.

Democrats have tried for years to brand President Trump as a bad guy, but this has never worked because he seemed to be fighting for everyday Americans, and big business is on his side for big tax breaks. Our Republican brothers and sisters know deep down inside that he is a bad man with terrible

moral judgment. However, they will always look the other way because he was telling them things they wanted to hear, and they believe he had deep concerns about them.

Democrats need to start embracing some of the issues from the other side of the aisle that are important to all Americans, such as safe borders and tight but fair immigration laws.

Many of the current administration's ideas still need to be implemented - but in a more moral, compassionate manner. In the next administration, the President must work hard for all the people and there should be no such thing as a blue or red state. We are all Americans.

Our next President should be concerned about healing America and repairing our global reputation. We must greet our Republican brothers and sisters with love and a willingness to get America back on track together after this dark period in America is over, and not with an 'I told you so' attitude.

We only need to look to past world history because most cults of personality never end well!

**Melvin Douglas Wilson**  
Manchester

### Parkinson bridges cultures

#### To the Editor,

As an ESL teacher at East Hartford High School, I see every day what makes our town special: the incredible diversity of our students, families, languages, and cultures. East Hartford is a community made stronger by people from all over the world, and the town needs leaders who truly understand that reality - not just politically, but personally and educationally. That is why I am proud to support Angie Parkinson for State Representative.

Long before I became a teacher myself, Angie was my own teacher. I grew up in a small, predominantly white town with very little exposure to cultures beyond my own. Angie changed that. She didn't simply teach history from a textbook; she taught cultural understanding from the heart. She encouraged students to see the humanity, complexity, and value in people whose experiences were different from their own. She opened the world to her students in ways that went far beyond the classroom. I was fortunate enough to travel with her on a student trip to France, and she later led adult educational trips to India, Vietnam,

and Cambodia. Those experiences shaped how I see the world and directly influenced the kind of educator I became. I can better connect with the students in my classroom because of the experiences I had with her.

Today, working with multilingual learners, I understand even more deeply how important cultural understanding and representation are. Our students deserve leaders who value every language, every family, and every community that calls East Hartford home. Angie has dedicated her life to that kind of understanding and advocacy.

In addition to her deep commitment to multicultural education and inclusion, Angie is fighting for reforms that support working families - the very families who make up the backbone of our community. Her recent endorsement from the Democratic Town Council reflects the trust people have in her leadership and vision.

East Hartford needs a representative who listens, learns, and leads with empathy and knowledge. I truly believe Angie is that person.

**Lisa Merrill**  
Manchester

# EHHS CLASS OF 2026 HEADS OUT



# Society

## GARDEN CLUB PRESENTS SCHOLARSHIP, INSTALLS OFFICERS FOR 2026-2028



**THE EAST HARTFORD GARDEN CLUB** presented a scholarship and installed new officers for 2026-2028 June 1 at OSCARS Restaurant in South Windsor. Above, from left: Jeanne Rinaldo, Lori Macri, Kate Forbes, scholarship recipient Mason Orr, Mary Clark, and Harriet Dunne. At right, from left, standing is Jeanne Rinaldo, Treasurer; Vicki Hart, Secretary; Chris-



tine Dolinski, Vice President; and Gail Carvey, President. Seated is Sue Kies and Lori Macri, Directors. The East Hartford Garden Club originated in 1956 and will be celebrating its 70th anniversary. The club meets the fourth Monday of the month and welcomes all interested in gardening in our community. If you would like further information call 860-528-4589.

## Art in the Park Sunday

The 51st Annual Art in the Park festival takes place this Sunday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. featuring dozens of local artists from throughout the region for a day of astounding creativity, music and food choices. Focused around Center Park alongside the historic Cheney Library, some 200 artists, crafters, performers and food trucks are anticipated. As this is also Flag Day, and the 250th anniversary of the Nation, all participating artists and crafters have been asked to create a piece on the red, white & blue, stars & stripes, theme. Where might we be in the future? Judges will award prizes in a variety of categories.

East Hartford artists include the following:

**Dan Thompson and the Guinea Pigs** - Folk Rock Band performing regularly since 2007. A good stage/music participant that's been doing it for years and volunteering as well.

**David Weinberg**, *Old Fezziwig Press*, Book signing of Rom-com Novel entitled "Scrooge's Folly - Saving Jacob Marley". He joins over a dozen local authors in the Book Nook area.

**Refugee Women's Center**, Hand-sewn items by local refugees, cozies, hot pads, makeup bags, wallets, coin purses, wristlets, scrunchies etc. They set up an impressive amount of items for sale and raise money for their organization.

**Rishi Bhoddram**, SketchPadCreations, Digital art of pop culture characters on posters, prints, small cards and stickers.

And there's **Ned Lomerson of Positive Battery** who is always generously giving his own and his employees volunteer hours and providing manpower and a van for transportation!

AITP is a part of Artists in Real Time, Inc. a non-profit organization that is responsible for events such as Open Studio Hartford, the Capitol City's "arts extravaganza" and providing local artists with other opportunities to promote and sell their work. All media and genres will be represented including traditional art alongside cutting edge work in painting, sculpture, photography, digital, jewelry, ceramics, fiber arts and more. In addition, there will be a variety of crafts, handmade goods, art-related products and more. Families, children and adults can join in on creative, interactive community projects.

Celebrate *Manchester*



Flag Day ★ Rain or Shine!

Sunday **June 14<sup>th</sup>**

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**Art**  
ARTISTS IN REAL TIME

# WHERE THE ACTION IS!

BY CORINNE HORAN

**SATURDAYS:** The Historical Society of East Hartford offers free tours of the Selden Brewer House, 167 Main St. Furnishings and photographs from the 1860s to the 1930s adorn the home. Free tours begin at 11 a.m. Saturdays until 2 p.m. Donations accepted. Learn more about your home.

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**JUNE 12: GOODWIN UNIVERSITY'S 12TH ANNUAL SUMMER CLAMBAKE AND AUCTION**, Friday at 6:30 p.m. Lobster, clam chowder and raw bar with meat and veggie options. Music, silent auction. Tickets are \$175; (\$160 per person until June 1) at [www.goodwin.edu/foundation/events](http://www.goodwin.edu/foundation/events)

\*\*\*

**JUNE 13: CT OPEN HOUSE DAY** at the World War II Legacy Museum, 102 Pitkin St. 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. visit and tour the museum and get a free bumper sticker! Veterans receive a military pin. Free, donations gratefully accepted. **June 14: Celebrate Flag Day!** Take part in helping display our large 48-star American flag 35 years after it was first done by the Iwo Jima Survivors. Be part of history! 3 p.m. All welcome! FMI: 860-810-8736.

\*\*\*

**JUNE 13: PAPPY'S CAFE COOKOUT**, 37 Burnside Ave., 11 a.m. until 8 p.m. All welcome.

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**JUNE 13:** All Saints Church, 444 Hills St., Annual **COMMUNITY TAG SALE** Saturday, 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. Please join this fun event with a variety of vendors, service organizations and groups that quietly provide support to our neighbors. To reserve a free 10' x 10' space please call or text 860-490-3270.

\*\*\*

**JUNE 13, 14: MUD GIRL RUN** Saturday and Sunday at Rentschler Field, 9:30am-2:30pm on both days. Details on Rentschler Field website

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**JUNE 13 - STRAWBERRY FEST** at South Congregational Church, 1301 Forbes St., 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Crafts, bake sale, houseplants in the tent, and raffles. Stop by the Chuck Wagon for a sandwich, hot-dog, or hamburger. Outdoor games for kids, delicious strawberry shortcake with whipped cream, eat-in or take some to go. FMI call 860-568-5150. See you at the Fair!

\*\*\*

**JUNE 13: HELP CLEAN OUR PARKS & STREETS** Saturday, 10 a.m. to noon at the mini-garden alongside the steps to the Founders Bridge on East River Drive, East Hartford (by the Racial Equity Mural) and at the pollinator garden of the Manchester Land Conservation Trust nearby, 237 East River Drive. Sponsored by the US & Japan Society of CT.

\*\*\*

**JUNE 13:** Two of East Hartford's Historic Homes will be open for visitors on **Connecticut's Open House Day**, Saturday, June 13, from 1 to 4 p.m. The Huguenot House (1761), more formally known as the Makens Bemont House, at the entrance to Martin Park, and the Selden Brewer House (1827), 167 Main St. at the corner of Naubuc Avenue, are landmarks you may have driven by hundreds of times and wondered, "What does that building look like

inside?" Here is your opportunity to find out! No charge to visit! These building are both listed on the National Register of Historic Places and cared for by the Historical Society of East Hartford. Hope to see you on June 13!

\*\*\*

**SATURDAY, JUNE 13 THE WWII LEGACY FOUNDATION MUSEUM**, 102 Pitkin St. will be open from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. during CT Open House Day. All visitors receive a free bumper sticker. Then on Flag Day, Sunday, June 14 join us in being part of our display of a large 48-star flag 35 years after it was first done by Iwo Jima battle survivors. 3 p.m. Free.

**The Spring Market  
is now blooming!  
Is this the right  
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**bhhsNEproperties.com**



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**JUNE 14 - 51ST ANNUAL ART IN THE PARK** Manchester, Sunday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.

\*\*\*

**JUNE 17:** Wednesday, 1 until 2:15 p.m. at the East Hartford Senior Center, **MUSICAL TRIBUTE TO THE HIT SONGS OF THE 1970'S**. Color, costume, lights AND free raffle for 15 chicken dinners from Pop-eye's. FREE to all EH Seniors. Stay cool, be cool and come see the show! East Hartford Senior Center is open to residents 55 and older. Located at 15 Milbrook Drive the center offers a variety of activities.

\*\*\*

**JUNE 20: JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION**, East Hartford and Hartford's riverfronts will be the venues for this first-ever combined celebration of freedom across the Founders Bridge. Day of music, entertainment, food and reflection starts at noon until 5 p.m.

\*\*\*

**JUNE 20: MANCHESTER LIONS CLUB ANNUAL DUCK RACE** fundraiser Saturday at Charter Oak Park, 50 Charter Oak St. in Manchester. At 2 p.m., hundreds of rubber ducks will be released to race down Birch Mountain Brook through the park. The family-friendly event will be held rain or shine. Tickets are \$5 for one or more ducks, and ducks can be purchased race day or at <https://www.manchesterlionsclub.org/duck-race> or contact David DuBaldoat 860-250-1500 or 860-645-1500.

\*\*\*

**JUNE 20, AMY GALLATIN AND STILLWATERS** per-

forms at South Church, 1301 Forbes St. at 7 p.m. as part of the MOSAICS series of concerts. Gallatin returns for another rollicking evening of bluegrass. Admission \$20 at the door. Her Stillwaters band includes guitar, mandolin, fiddle, and banjo, and blends seamlessly with Amy's heartfelt vocals, creating a unique style of country and bluegrass music. Admission \$20 at the door. See you there!

\*\*\*

**JUNE 22: POST MALONE & JELLY ROLL** concert, 7 p.m. at P&W Stadium at Rentschler Field.

\*\*\*

**JUNE 28: MEET ELIZABETH THOMAS, EAST HARTFORD'S POET LAUREATE** June 28 from 2 until 4 p.m. at the Wickham Memorial Library The East Hartford Public Library and the East Hartford Commission on Culture and Fine Arts have selected Elizabeth Thomas as the inaugural Poet Laureate of East Hartford. If so inclined, bring a short (one page or less) poem to possibly share. Five readers will be randomly drawn from a hat throughout the event. Light refreshments. 656 Burnside Avenue.

\*\*\*

**THURSDAYS - SOLDIERS & SAILORS MEMORIAL ARCH TOURS**, Bushnell Park. noon until 1:30 p.m. The Arch is open for FREE tours on Thursdays from 12-1:30 pm, May through October. Volunteer Arch Guides share the history behind the design and construction of the monument, along with the meaning behind its symbolic carvings and statuary. Tours last approximately 15-30 minutes, no pre-registration is required. Only have a few minutes? Climb the 96 steps to the top for beautiful views of Bushnell Park and the State Capitol.

\*\*\*

**GET A FREE CHECKUP** - The Malta House mobile health care van parks on the 2nd and 4th Monday mornings at St. Mary's Church.

\*\*\*

**VISITING NURSE AND HOME HEALTH SERVICES** are looking for Hospice volunteers to provide companionship and support. If interested, please contact John Roush at [jroush@ech.org](mailto:jroush@ech.org) or 860-682-3405.

\*\*\*

**MY SISTERS' PLACE:** Help provide affordable housing and services for families. Mail donations to Community Housing Advocates, 221 Main St., 4th Floor, Hartford, CT 06106. FMI call 860-808-2048.

\*\*\*

**FOSTER FAMILIES** needed for children in DCF care in every town. FMI or to register for a meeting, contact Annie C Courtney Foundation at 475-235-2184. Annie C works with the Dept. of Children and Families to find foster parents for over 3,000 children. FMI see [www.anniec.org](http://www.anniec.org)

\*\*\*

**INTERVAL HOUSE** helps victims of domestic violence, advocacy, legal rights. 860-527-0550.

\*\*\*

**PROJECT LINUS** delivers blankets to local hospitals. We are always looking for people to donate handmade quilts or afghans. Blankets need not be fancy, just colorful and washable, any size. To donate call 860-649-5513.

# OBITUARIES

## Robin Schultz LaRosa; in North Carolina

Robin Schultz LaRosa, wife of the late Robert LaRosa, passed away May 31, 2026 in Richlands, North Carolina.

Born April 23, 1954, Robin was the daughter of the late Robert H. and Lois (Mulcahy) Schultz. A longtime resident of East Hartford, Robin attended McCartin School where she was a DAR recipient.

She was also a graduate of Penney High School and was involved in 4-H, riding her show ponies in Hartford County events.



Robin LaRosa

At Goodwin Park, Robin was an avid athlete competing passionately in swimming and diving meets as well as at softball and basketball games. She was also quite talented musically, attending Laurel Music Camp in Winsted and Hartt School of Music where her passion for performance truly flourished.

Robin was an exceptional badminton player, winning many tournaments throughout the Northeast. A graduate of Russel Sage College; she taught

## Lynn (Roberts) Martin, 70

Lynn Ann (Roberts) Martin, 70, of East Hartford, entered into eternal life on Friday, May 15, 2026 surrounded by her caring family at Hartford Hospital after a brief illness.

Born in Hartford July 13, 1955 she was a daughter of the late Raymond and Virginia Roberts. A life-long resident of East Hartford, Lynn attended East Hartford schools through high school.

Lynn was a talented crocheter, who loved making blankets, Afghans, scarfs and other clothing for her family to enjoy. She was an avid reader who also liked solving crossword puzzles and word-search games.

Lynn loved watching You Tube and looked forward to camping, especially at the beach with her family. She was a loyal fan of the New York Yankees, and took pride in her cats and dogs. Most of all, Lynn was a devoted mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister and aunt who cherished every moment spent with her family.

Lynn is survived by daugh-



Lynn Martin

ters Kelly Ann Consolini and her husband Joe of Enfield; and Lisa Marie Spragg of East Hartford with whom she made her home; three special grandchildren - Kelsey Light and her husband Richard "Bing" of East Hartford, Tyler Roman and his wife Damari of Manchester, Freya Consolini of Enfield - and two adored great-grandchildren: Dean Light and Alia Roman.

She also leaves two brothers, Martin Roberts of West Hartford and Richard Roberts and his wife Melanie of Wilmington, DE; a sister Ruth Saur and her husband Heinz of East Hartford; a son-in-law William "Bill" Spragg of Hebron; a former son-in-law, Jose Roman and his wife Jaime Robinson and their two sons Nate and Caleb of Manchester; her former husband and father of Kelly and Lisa, Louis Martin of East Hartford; several nieces, nephews, cousins, and dear friends.

Lynn's family received relatives and friends at the D'Esopo East Hartford

at schools in CT as a substitute teacher until moving to NC.

She leaves to mourn her sons, Marc, Nathan and Matthew LaRosa; and step-children Robert Jr. and Stacy. She was predeceased by her daughter Roberta, stepson Maurice, and her sister Lucy.

She also leaves her brother Robert (Debra) and sisters Rhonda (Tony) Avila and Billie-Jo (John Patry) Schultz and brother-in-law Jeff Tisdale.

She will be lovingly remembered and sadly missed by her Schultz and LaRosa families, as well as Mike Berton and family in Texas.

All services were held privately in North Carolina.

Memorial Chapel, Sunday, June 7 with a service celebrating Lynn's life. Burial will be at the convenience of the family at Center Cemetery at a later time.

Gifts in Lynn's name may be made to Operation Smile U.S.A., P.O. Box 758588, Topeka, KS 66675. Online, please visit [www.desopoeh.com](http://www.desopoeh.com)

## Kenneth Weiss, electrician

Kenneth "Kenny" Weiss, 79, of East Hartford passed away peacefully Wednesday, June 3, 2026.

Born in Hartford, Kenny spent most of his life in East Hartford where he became known as a hardworking, dependable, and talented Master Electrician.

Over his career, he worked on countless homes, businesses, and projects throughout Connecticut, including many years at Aetna in Hartford. Kenny loved working with his hands and could often be found building, repairing, or improving something around the house.

He enjoyed spending time with family, sharing stories, making people laugh and caring for the many dogs he loved throughout his life.

He was also a Mason and enjoyed daily research on Masonic history, often sharing what he learned with his two Masonic brothers-in-law.

Kenny is survived by his lov-



Kenneth Weiss

ing wife of nearly 53 years, Ellen Berson Weiss; his son, Dr. Kevin Reese; his nieces and nephews, including Lisa Larensen and Brad Spencer; and many extended family members, friends, neighbors and colleagues whose lives he touched throughout the years.

He was predeceased by his parents, William and Myra Weiss, and his sister, Linda Larensen.

Kenny had a special place in his heart for dogs throughout his life, including Coco, Annie, Mookie and Cooper who brought him years of companionship and joy.

Kenny will be remembered for his strong work ethic, sharp sense of humor, generosity, loyalty to family, and the lasting impact he made on those who knew him.

To honor Kenny's love of dogs, the family welcomes memorial donations to your local Humane Society in memory of Kenneth Weiss.

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

Prearrangement doesn't have to cost anything.

What many people don't know is that you need not prepay when you prearrange. We're happy to record your wishes and hold them on file at no charge. Call our funeral home for details.



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Carol A. Keena

Kristopher J. Keena

Kevin G. Keena

# Fairfield Inn opens

From Page One

hallway ceiling.

The property is divided between 65 regular overnight rooms and 80 suites with kitchenettes, hence the Towne Place Suites brand. Work on an assortment of shared office spaces is underway, and Patel is working on finding an appropriate tenant for the restaurant/coffee shop space next door after a reported Starbucks franchise pulled out.

That decision is hard to understand considering the steady stream of traffic whizzing by right outside the windows of the pool and gym area. But Patel, a 26-year veteran of the industry, takes everything in stride.

"We are actively looking for a tenant. It will be a fine dining restaurant, a café, or a coffee shop." He related that several have come to look at the space,



but have "not materialized yet."

As electricians work on the lights, and televisions are connected, guests enjoy coffee, a light breakfast and charge off to meetings. Three engineers from South Korea were on their way over to nearby Pratt & Whitney having come down from the Boston area the night before.

Their rooms were quiet, but the hot water in the shower was slow. All in all they liked the hotel.

Laura Tremko, an interior designer from Sarasota with the Infinity Group discovered there were no rooms in Hartford and stumbled on the Fairfield Inn. She was pleased she did. "It is

quiet, clean. She admired the mosaic tile mural of Hartford which was created from a photograph Patel provided, one of two such mosaic tile murals in the lobby.

Patel said the creation of the detailed mosaics took two and a half months to create and 10 days to install. But they give the hotel a unique feature, one that reflects the area.

Another unique feature will be two golf simulator areas, not up and running as yet. The hotel offers a room which is set up as a classroom for 50 people, and another smaller room that accommodates 15-20 people. Food options on-site include hamburgers, pizza and wings and there is a full bar. Food can also be brought in by local caterers to accommodate small parties and celebrations in the meeting rooms, Patel added.

Renovating the existing hotel came with many challenges, and everything had to be custom designed to bring the building up to par with what travelers expect. Finishes are all quality materials, bookshelves line the suites which have dishwashers and large bathrooms. The windows are well insulated to keep out the nearby noise from I-84.

A formal grand opening will take place soon, but right now

the main focus is getting all the start-up details completed, Patel said. Hiring staff is ongoing, and Patel is satisfied with the quality of employees who have come in so far. "I look for the right work ethic. This is not just a place to have a job. We want people who are looking out for our guests."

The cost to stay at the hotel and suites is not fixed but a process of "yield management" dependent on the demand. Rooms rent from \$200 to \$700 per night. That sort of flexible pricing is not uncommon in the hotel industry; call the main number for rates 860-291-2000.



## Springtime Bouquet for Mom



The East Hartford Woman's Club - GFWC/CT along with the East Hartford Fire Department is sponsoring a Springtime Bouquet "In Memory Of", or "In Honor Of", our mothers and other important women in our lives. As Mother's Day approaches, we remember those women who have impacted our lives. For the cost of \$5 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 East Hartford fire apparatus and are available to any town resident by contacting the Fire Marshal's Office at 860-291-7405. The names will be published in a June issue of the *Gazette*.



Please make checks payable to: **EHWC/GFWC/CT**  
Donations will be accepted through June 15, 2026

Please print first and last names.

IN MEMORY OF

IN HONOR OF


SPONSOR'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_ AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete the above form and mail it along with your check to:

East Hartford Woman's Club, P.O. Box 380401, East Hartford, CT 06138-0401

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# Class of 2026 heads out

From Page One

over the sound of the occasional air horn. As they rose the senior house team gave each a high-five or a hug as they proceeded up the sideline to receive their diploma, then get their tassel moved to the right side before the official photos were taken, then back out onto the football field to enjoy the warm June evening air.

Board of Education Chairman Tyron Harris and Superintendent of Schools Thomas Anderson addressed the graduates, Anderson recalling how he walked from nearby Wakefield Circle up the path at the end of Penney Drive where his high school days were shaped by the friends he encountered in the hallways of the nearby high school.

"These halls are part of your story now. These moments shaped who you are today."

Class President Peace Udom said one of her proudest accomplishments was experiencing many firsts as a student. One of those was helping to found the Black Student Union, which continues to motivate and support dozens of her fellow students.

"What real success looks like is not perfection but persistence." The Class of 2026 graduated 99 students who were awarded the Seal of Biliteracy, and some \$11 million in scholarships were received.

Senior band members performed a hip-hop tribute written before they were born back in 2002: "Still Fly" by Big Tymers.

Parents and classmates lingered in the setting sun, posing for pictures, with family and friends as teachers and staff congratulated the students. The evening wound down reluctantly for everyone as they wanted the shared moment to endure.

## PRELIMINARY LOTTERY DRAW APPLICATION - APLICACION DE LOTERIA PRELIMINARIA

### ELDERLY (62 YEARS OLD & UP) LIPH 1 BEDROOM WAITING LIST

### LISTA DE ESPERA PARA PERSONAS MAYORES (62 ANOS EN ADELANTE) DE 1 DORMITORIO LIPH

## EAST HARTFORD HOUSING AUTHORITY - AUTORIDAD DE VIVENDA DE EAST HARTFORD

The East Hartford Housing Authority will open its One Bedroom Elderly Low Income Public Housing Waiting List. EHHA will use a random-draw lottery to determine the order of each preliminary application for the waiting list.

**500 applicants will be selected.**

La Autoridad de Vivienda de East Hartford abrirá su Lista de Espera de Viviendas Públicas de 1 Dormitorio para Personas de Bajos Ingresos. EHHA utilizará un sorteo aleatorio para determinar el orden de las solicitudes preliminares.

**Se seleccionarán 500 solicitantes.**

**TO BE ACCEPTED, APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED ONLINE BETWEEN JUNE 12, 2026 AND BY 11:59 PM JULY 7, 2026.**

**APPLICATIONS CAN BE SUBMITTED AT <https://ehhousing.myhousing.com>**

**PARA SER ACEPTADAS, LAS SOLICITUDES DEBEN ENVIARSE EN LÍNEA ENTRE EL 12 DE JUNIO DE 2026**

**Y ANTES DE LAS 11:59 PM DEL 7 DE JULIO DE 2026.**

**LAS SOLICITUDES SE PUEDEN ENVIAR EN <https://ehhousing.myhousing.com>**

**Current HUD Income Limits for Hartford, West Hartford, East Hartford Apply**

**Se aplican los límites de ingresos actuales de HUD para Hartford, West Hartford, East Hartford**

Once the Random Draw Lottery is held, which will be used to determine the order of the waiting list, applicants who have made the waitlist will be notified in writing on their status on the waitlist.

Una vez que se lleve a cabo el Sorteo Aleatorio, que se utilizará para determinar el orden de la lista de espera, los solicitantes que hayan entrado en la lista de espera serán notificados por escrito sobre su estado en la lista de espera.

**No Hand-Delivered applications will be accepted/ No se aceptarán solicitudes entregadas a mano.**

- All preliminary applications must be signed and dated by the Head of Household or it will be treated as incomplete
- Todas las solicitudes preliminares deberán ser firmadas por el jefe de familia o serán tratadas como incompletas
- Only **ONE** preliminary application per household/address - no exceptions
- Solo **UNA** solicitud preliminar por hogar/dirección- sin excepciones



EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY/Igualdad de Oportunidades de Vivienda



## PRELIMINARY LOTTERY DRAW APPLICATION - APLICACION DE LOTERIA PRELIMINARIA

### LIPH 4 BEDROOM WAITING LIST/LISTA DE ESPERA DE 4 DORMITORIOS LIPH

## EAST HARTFORD HOUSING AUTHORITY - AUTORIDAD DE VIVENDA DE EAST HARTFORD

The East Hartford Housing Authority will open its Four Bedroom Low Income Public Housing Waiting List. EHHA will use a random-draw lottery to determine the order of each preliminary application for the waiting list. **100 applicants will be selected.**

La Autoridad de Vivienda de East Hartford abrirá su lista de espera de cuatro (4) habitaciones para viviendas públicas de bajos ingresos. EHHA utilizará una lotería de sorteo al azar para determinar el orden de cada solicitud preliminar para la lista de espera. **Se seleccionarán 100 solicitantes.**

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 750 ml  
**\$36.99**

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 750 ml  
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**WOODBIDGE ASSORTED WINES**  
 750 ml  
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**COUNTERWEIGHT HEADWAY IPA**  
 4 PACKS  
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**DEWAR'S WHITE LABEL SCOTCH**  
 1.75 Liter  
**\$29.99**

**HENNESSY VS COGNAC**  
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**-196 VODKA SELTZER**  
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**\$16.99**

**CORONA PREMIER**  
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**\$12.99**  
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**MIONETTO PROSECCO BRUT**  
 750 ml  
**\$15.54**

**BAREFOOT ASSORTED WINES**  
 750 ml  
**\$5.00**

**SAMUEL ADAMS ASSORTED**  
 12 PACKS  
 12 oz. Cans  
**\$15.99**  
 Plus Dep.

**HIGH NOON ASSORTED**  
 12 PACKS  
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**\$27.99**

**CORONA ASSORTED**  
 12 PACKS  
 12 oz. Cans  
**\$15.99**  
 Plus Dep.

**PATRÓN SILVER TEQUILA**  
 750 ml  
**\$39.99**

**CASAMIGOS BLANCO TEQUILA**  
 750 ml  
**\$39.99**

**WOODBIDGE ASSORTED WINES**  
 1.5 Liter  
**\$10.99**

**WENTE MORNING FOG CHARDONNAY**  
 750 ml  
**\$9.99**  
 Rebate \$36 OFF 12 Bottles net price \$6.99/btl.

**LUNETTA PROSECCO**  
 750 ml  
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**FISHERS ISLAND LEMONADE**  
 4 PACKS  
 Assorted  
**\$13.99**

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**\$11.99**

**BROKEN SHED VODKA**  
 1.75 Liter  
**\$29.99**  
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**CHATEAU STE. MICHELLE CHARDONNAY**  
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