

The Gazette

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Thursday, June 4, 2026

Crafted from the finest local ingredients since 1885

1406 Main Street, East Hartford, Connecticut 06108

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Honors end year for Board

By Robert Kanehl

The Board of Education finished off the year with an evening of honors. Among the first honored was the whole school department for its effort to communicate with the parents of the district. For at least four years, CABE presented the Board with its communication awards, one for the district's newsletter and the other for the Superintendent's monthly shared Spotlight on Educators.

The Board then honored the following volunteers of the year:

CT IB ACADEMY: Volunteer of the Year: Miriam Kaul - Parent Advisory Council Chair; Melissa Combs

EAST HARTFORD HIGH SCHOOL: PTO President: Becky Johansen - Volunteer of the Year: Mary Ann Condon

EAST HARTFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL: Volunteer of the Year: Ebony McMillan

SUNSET RIDGE MS: PTO President: Amy Soto - Volunteer of the Year: Linda Chamberlain

WOODLAND SCHOOL: Volunteer of the Year: Meredith McKenna & Oakley

EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING CENTER: Volunteer of the Year: Crystal Carzello

Elementary Schools: GOODWIN: PTO: President: Katie McLarney - Volunteer of the Year: Eric Feder

LANGFORD: Volunteer of the Year: Joan Craig, Our Savior Lutheran Church

MAYBERRY: PTO President: Sade Smith - Volunteer of the

See **BOARD OF ED**, pg. 10

LIONS TREAT CHALLENGERS



THE EAST HARTFORD LIONS CHALLENGERS Little League Baseball team took on the Wallingford Gaylord squad Wednesday at Gorman Park. Both teams are coached by East Hartford parent volunteers, and all were treated to mini-cupcakes and popsicles by the sponsor, the East Hartford Lions Club.

DISAPPEARING ACT FOR 99 FOUNDERS PLAZA



JUST A SMALL SECTION of the brutalist-style architecture office building at 99 Fonders Plaza remains. The \$6.5 state funded demolition prepares the site for construction of Port Eastside, a multi-use development.

Larson stands against Iranian warfare

Wednesday Rep. John B. Larson voted for a war powers resolution to end what he and fellow Democrats term "Trump's illegal war in Iran".

Four Republicans voted with Democrats. The rebuke of the President's use of military force is largely symbolic however it marked the first time since 2020 that the House of Representatives passed a war powers resolution.

Larson, who has previously filed articles of impeachment against President Trump and U.S. Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth for waging war in Iran, linked the military action ordered by the President to the high cost of gasoline.

"Trump's illegal war in Iran is leading to skyrocketing gas prices, squeezing families' wallets and making it more difficult for them to make ends meet," stated Larson.

"President Trump may view the Constitution as a suggestion, but that does not change the facts, nor does it change the responsibility of the Congress to keep him in check. By refusing to come before us for approval to wage war in Iran, as he is required to under the War Powers Act, he has failed his oath of office. I was glad to see a handful of my Republican colleagues finally join Democrats to stand up. This president is

See **'WAR MUST END'**, pg. 10

AROUND TOWN

START YOUR QUACKERS

Lions Duck Race June 20th

The Manchester Lion Club is gearing up for its 17th annual Duck Race Fundraiser to be held on Saturday, June 20 at Charter Oak Park at 50 Charter Oak St. in Manchester, Conn. 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 apiece for one or more ducks, and ducks can be purchased now in advance AND on site on race day. Cash prizes will be awarded for the first five ducks to cross the finish line: \$1,000 for the first-place winning duck; \$500 for second place; \$250 for third place; \$150 for fourth place;

and \$100 for fifth place. Duck ticketholders do not need to be present at the event to win.

\$5 per duck tickets can be purchased at the following locations: DuBaldo Security Systems at 164 East Center St. in Manchester; Highland Park Market at 317 Highland St. in Manchester; DuBaldo Music Center at 881 Main St. in Manchester; The Manchester Lions Club's booth at "Art in the Park" (in Center Park on Main St.) on June 14.

Tickets can also be purchased online at <https://www.manchesterlionclub.org/duck-race> or contact David DuBaldo for tickets and event details at 860-250-1500 or 860-645-1500

STUDENT AMBASSADORS AT SUNSET RIDGE



SUNSET RIDGE STUDENT AMBASSADORS relax after making serious presentations for all 7th grade classes. Workshops included information and concerns around important topics: Mental health awareness, depression, suicide, vaping, addiction, E-Cig, alcohol and tobacco dangers. Standing at back of the ambassadors are, from left: Dan Catlin Sunset Ridge School Principal, guest speakers EH Police Officer Mark Caruso, Ms. Chamberlain, SA Advisor, Ms. Mauer EH Health Educator and East Hartford Police Officer Young.

June 13 - Connecticut Open House Day attractions

Two of East Hartford's Historic Homes will be open for visitors on Connecticut's Open House Day, Saturday, June 13, from 1pm to 4pm. 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

Street 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 buildings are both listed on the National Register of Historic Places and cared for by

the Historical Society of East Hartford.

And on Saturday, June 13th: Connecticut Open House Day the World War II Legacy Museum, 102 Pitkinn St., will be open from 10 am until 6 pm.

Come visit and tour the museum during this statewide event. All visitors receive a free bumper sticker. On Sunday, June 14: Flag Day. View the museum's display of a large 48-star American flag 35 years after it was first done by the Iwo Jima Survivors. 3 pm. Free.

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LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
 Court of Probate, District of East Hartford Probate Court
NOTICE OF HEARING
 ESTATE OF MICHAEL ARCARI, deceased (26-00212)

Pursuant to an order of the Court dated June 2, 2026, a hearing will be held on an application for Custody of Remains as in said application on file more fully appears, at the East Hartford Court of Probate, 740 Main Street, East Hartford on June 16, 2026 at 4:00 PM.

By Order of the Court,
 Tobi Dolan, Assistant Clerk

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 w/ ref to job title in subj lline.

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.

GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS GET RESULTS

DESDE LA ESQUINA

by Carmen Maldonado

Siendo ricos sin dinero

Si nos dejamos llevar por las redes sociales, parecería que para tener un verano inolvidable, hace falta un presupuesto de crucero, una cuenta de Instagram impecable y por lo menos tres viajes fuera del estado.

Pero sabemos que la realidad es otra, muchos tuvimos algunos de los mejores veranos de nuestra vida con cuentas negativas y sin saberlo.

Vamos a ser sinceros, hay veranos en nuestra infancia que no incluían vuelos, ni hoteles cinco estrellas, eran veranos bastante sencillos. Vivimos los mejores veranos de nuestra vida sin gastar una fortuna.

A veces significaban pasar semanas en casa de abuelos, dormir donde apareciera un espacio disponible y compartir con primos, los cuales cada vez que llegaba una visita parecía que la diversión se multiplicaba. Nadie tenía un itinerario preparado y, sin embargo, siempre había algo que hacer.

Una manguera en el patio se convertía en un parque acuático. Un balcón era suficiente para pasar horas hablando. Una caja de dominó podía entretener a media familia durante toda una tarde. Y si aparecía alguien con una piragua, una limber o una bolsa de hielo con sirope, aquello era motivo de celebración.

Los juegos tampoco necesitaban Wi-Fi ni aplicaciones. Estaban el escondite, la peregrina, las carreras en bicicleta, el quemao y cualquier ocurrencia que surgiera porque alguien dijo: "Vamos a inventarnos algo". Y de alguna manera siempre funcionaba.

Con el costo de la vida como está hoy, es fácil pensar que crear recuerdos bonitos requiere mucho dinero. Pero si algo nos enseñaron aquellos veranos es que las mejores memorias casi nunca dependen de cuánto se gastó.

Acá hay opciones para disfrutar sin tener que vaciar la cartera. Las playas estatales, los parques, los festivales comunitarios, los conciertos al aire libre, las actividades en las bibliotecas y muchos eventos locales ofrecen oportunidades para pasar tiempo en familia sin tener que planificar unas vacaciones de película.

Y sabes que, también podemos rescatar algunas costumbres de antes. Un picnic en el parque. Una tarde de juegos de mesa. Una caminata en familia. Una tarde grilling improvisada en el patio. Preparar piraguas caseras para los muchachos o simplemente sentarse a conversar mientras cae la tarde. Cosas sencillas que muchas veces terminan siendo las que más se recuerdan.

Porque cuando pasan los años, uno rara vez habla de cuánto costó una actividad. Lo que se queda es la gente que estuvo allí. Las risas. Los cuentos que se contaron alrededor de la mesa. Las fotos borrosas. Los primos corriendo por todos lados. La abuela preguntando cada veinte minutos si alguien tenía hambre, como si la respuesta fuera a cambiar.

Tal vez este verano no haga falta gastar más. Tal vez lo que hace falta es volver un poquito a lo que ya sabíamos hacer: compartir, disfrutar lo simple y crear momentos con la gente que queremos.

Después de todo, muchos de nosotros crecimos teniendo veranos inolvidables cuando no teníamos mucho dinero. Y mira que la pasábamos brutal.

Eventos próximos que no te debes perder:

No te pierdas un Clambake y la subasta anual de verano de Goodwin University este 12 de junio a las 6:30pm. Boletos tienen un costo de \$175 por persona.

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. Para más información accede a EHParks.org

Conecta conmigo: cmaldonado8816@icloud.com

Sen. Saud Anwar qualifies for funding

State Senator Saud Anwar qualified for public grant payments to conduct his reelection campaign under the Citizens' Election Program ("CEP"), the State Elections Enforcement Commission announced following its June 3 meeting.

Candidates in the August 11, 2026 primary and November 3, 2026 general election can apply for Connecticut's public financing program by proving they have substantial local support by raising small-dollar contributions from individuals.

Candidates for state representative accomplish this by raising \$6,700 with at least 150 coming from individuals in their districts.

Candidates for state senate must raise \$20,100 in contributions from individuals, with at least 300 individuals in their districts donating to their campaign.

Candidates for Attorney General, Secretary of the State, State Comptroller, and State Treasurer must raise \$100,700 in small dollar contributions of which \$90,600 must come from in-state contributors.

Participating candidates may

only accept small dollar contributions from certain individuals—the maximum contribution is \$340—and no contributions from state contractors or PACs.

Once qualified, candidates may no longer fundraise but are eligible for CEP grants of up to \$38,575 for state representative candidates and up to \$131,155 for state senate.

For statewide candidates (other than governor) up to

\$562,875 for primaries and up to \$1,125,750 for the general election.

CEP "continues to provide a seawall against the rising tide of dark money in Connecticut elections and a critical, ongoing effort to restore the public's trust in the institutions of democratic governance," according to Joshua Foley, Senior Counsel for the State Elections Enforcement Commission.

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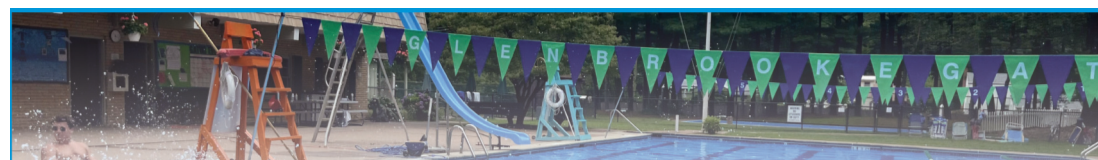
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CLASS 2	Women over 40	3:00 - 3:45pm
CLASS 3	Men ages 19-40	3:45 - 4:30pm
CLASS 4	Men over 40	3:45 - 4:30pm



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SPEAKING OUT!, LETTERS

Small businesses cut health care plans due to rising costs of medications

By Karen Kerrigan

Small business owners are struggling to keep up with the rising cost of health care. Nearly a third have stopped offering health benefits as premiums continue to climb.

It is critical that lawmakers understand the reasons for rising costs and begin to address them - or small businesses will continue to drop health coverage due to unsustainable costs. One of these reasons is hospitals' exploitation of a little-known federal charity program. Without reforms, that program will continue to drive up costs for small businesses and the self-employed.

Three decades ago, Congress established the 340B Drug Pricing Program, which allows safety-net hospitals and clinics to purchase discounted drugs. In theory, that allows these providers to use the savings to

provide more charity care to poor patients.

Unfortunately, the program has expanded far beyond Congress's original intentions - and is driving health costs up, not down.

Lawmakers originally expected about 90 hospitals to participate in the 340B program. But today over 2,600 hospitals have enrolled. In fact, the majority of hospitals nationwide now qualify for the program.

And because Congress failed to stipulate that savings must go to patients, participating hospitals are extracting as much money as possible from the program. These providers often acquire discounted drugs, only to resell them at a steep markup to insured patients - sometimes 10 times as much as they originally paid.

When patients with employer-sponsored insurance re-

ceive a drug that a hospital purchased through 340B, the employer-sponsored health plan doesn't receive the manufacturer rebates that it normally would. As a result, employers of all sizes end up paying higher net drug prices, which leads to higher premiums.

Hospital executives have realized they can further increase their profits by acquiring independent physician practices - which don't qualify for 340B - and bring those patients under the control of the hospitals that do qualify for the discounted pricing.

That kind of consolidation drives the price of surgeries, tests, and procedures higher. Independent physician practices tend to provide lower-cost care or refer patients to lower-cost facilities; meanwhile, hospital-affiliated doctors often refer patients to specialists within the broader hospital network.

Not only do small businesses have less negotiating power than large corporations to mitigate these expenses, but they have less visibility into these cost-drivers in the first place. That leaves entrepreneurs operating blind as they try to structure their benefits.

Fortunately, some business advocates are attempting to shed light on how 340B affects small firms. A new 340B Employer Cost Impact Calculator, for example, allows entrepreneurs to input information about the size and demographics of their workforce and estimate how much the program is costing them.

Due to 340B, the average small business owner in New York, for instance, pays about \$285 extra for every person it covers under its health plan each year. Small businesses spend an extra \$287 per covered person in Arkansas, \$279

in Colorado, and \$301 in Oregon. Nationwide, the 340B program costs employers \$36 billion a year.

These kinds of tools are helping employers understand their rising costs. But visibility into the burden doesn't stop it from growing heavier year after year. Ultimately, Congress needs to reform the program to ensure that hospitals pass on savings to patients and employers.

Small businesses already face tight margins and high healthcare costs. Those costs will grow, unless Congress revamps a program that was supposed to make healthcare more affordable, but is driving up spending by billions of dollars instead.

Karen Kerrigan is president and CEO of the Small Business and Entrepreneurship Council in Washington.

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East Hartford fighter pilot, shot down off Chichi-Jima, spared atrocities

Did you know there may have been another disturbing death suffered by a town World War Two flyer? In August 1944 the *Gazette* ran a front-page story that Ensign Joseph Rohde was missing in action as part of the Marianas fight.

Rohde was the son of Charles and Margret Rohde of Pratt Street, and a 1940 graduate of East Hartford High School. When the war started, he was working at a woodworking company, and would marry Barbara Cottrill. The paper notes he was a member of the 'Hartford Hornets' which joined the service in October 1942.

A daughter was a little over one, when the status of his fate was officially changed to killed in action.

His name appears in the

Gazette a few times after the front-page story. Once with the surrender of Germany, listing him still as missing; the listing of his reclassification; the mention of his name on the Martin Park town war memorial and the honor of naming Rohde Road for him.

Rohde's fate may have been hidden for nearly 60 years.

In 2003 James Bradley authored the book *Flyboys*. It was the first public account of a war crime concerning cannibalism which occurred on the island of Chichi-Jima in the Marianas.

Bradley's book, tells the tale of a group of flyers shot down in July 1944. Among the pilots who flew this mission was the future President George Bush. He fortunately crashed over the water, and was picked up by

DID YOU KNOW?

Looking back on our East Hartford

By Robert Kanehl

submarine. But the pilots who landed on the island were treated to torture, imprisonment and death.

Twenty years ago, many read this book to see the exploits of the last American President

who served his county in combat. Bush understood the lesson - the good of the many outweighs that of the few. He also understood that despite his father prestige or family money he had a duty to serve, even if his life could easily be taken.

Though there is no mention of East Hartford in the text, the book dedication hints at a mystery.

"To - Jimmy Dye; Glenn Frazier; Floyd Hall; Marve Mer-shon; Warren Earl Vaughn; Dick Woellhof; Grady York; The Unidentified Airman and to all Others."

Could Bradley's unidentified airman be East Hartford's Rohde?

St. Mary's Cemetery has the Rohde family marker, including a military marker which carries

the inscription 'killed in action July 15, 1944.'

His name is recorded at Arlington National Cemetery, and the Punch Bowl Cemetery in Hawaii for the Pacific's missing in action.

An online search reveals "Ensign Joseph Rohde was a navy fighter pilot flying the F6F Hellcat off the carrier USS Yorktown and was reported missing over Chichi-Jima on July 15, 1944, officially declared Killed In Action July 16, 1945."

Most of the same facts applied to Ensign Bush who flew that same day.

But Bradley's research and interviews attest that the unknown airman was a bomber crewman not a fighter pilot. Though all war is horrible East Hartford is spared this atrocity.

SPEAKING OUT!, LETTERS

Put Angie Parkinson to work for you

Dear Editor,

I have read many letters in the East Hartford Gazette in support of Angie Parkinson. Many supporters have highlighted Angie's values, accomplishments, and commitment to working families, all of which I strongly share and admire. They have shared personal stories of how Angie connects with them not as a politician, but as a neighbor, a colleague, a friend, a human.

Therefore, rather than repeat what has already been said so well, I want to focus on one of the primary reasons I am voting for her: her sense of urgency.

We have to admit, too often, people enter politics full of energy and purpose but eventually become absorbed into a political culture that prioritizes caution, tradition, and maintaining the status quo. Even when their intentions remain good, their politics become disconnected from the urgency that working families feel every day.

I have seen many Democratic politicians support the right ideas on paper while continuing to operate within the same political playbook that has failed working families for decades. They eventually start

treating change as something to cautiously manage instead of something people urgently need. Progress then becomes slow, diluted, and difficult for ordinary people to actually feel in their daily lives, while families continue struggling with rising costs, housing insecurity, healthcare burdens, and economic instability year after year.

To me, politics starts to feel less like a tool for meaningful change and more like a system designed to endlessly delay it.

Angie is different.

What stands out to me most about Angie is that, after years of political engagement, which began with a commitment to helping working families rather than building a political career, she has remained grounded in her convictions.

What began as a spark—a passion to make a difference—has, eleven years later, not only continued burning but has grown into a roaring fire. She truly believes deeply in progressive change and understands that supporting the right ideas on paper means very little without the willingness to fight for them effectively. Angie has remained connected to the ur-

gency that ordinary people feel every day because she is one of those ordinary people. She understands that people are tired of symbolic support and slow incremental change.

She is not afraid to call out ineffective policy, leaders, and systems that continue untouched. She approaches the needs of the people with the seriousness and urgency that working families deserve.

I want Connecticut to be part of this growing wave of progressive leaders who unapologetically put working families first and are willing to challenge the status quo instead of accommodating it.

I believe Angie Parkinson represents that same kind of politics and would be a strong addition to this growing movement of progressive leaders fighting for working families and bringing the Democratic party back to the people.

That, along with the many reasons already shared by her supporters, is why I am supporting Angie Parkinson.

Evie Cartagena
East Hartford

Cub Scout Pack 61 thanks supporters of 'Touch a Truck'

To the Editor:

Please publish this 'thank you' in the Gazette for us:

Pack 61 would like to thank everyone who attended our Touch-a-Truck on May 17th. It was a beautiful day and despite the intense heat mother nature brought for us, there was a still a great turnout.

We would like to thank the following businesses and departments for their support for our event:

Town of East Hartford
East Hartford Public Schools
East Hartford Public Library
East Hartford Police Department
East Hartford Fire Department
East Hartford Department of Public Works
Dude's Donuts
Giovanni's Pizza
Handel Family Farm
Bonavita Portable Solutions
Ambulance Service of Manchester
J J & C Contractors
Governors Auto Body & Towing
Connecticut Army National Guard
Freightliner of Hartford
AND
The Gazette.

If anyone would like to make a donation or find out more about Scouting America, Pack 61, or our next Touch-A-Truck, please email the Pack leadership at Pack61EastHartford@gmail.com

Thank you
Chris Basler
SCOUTMASTER

*The Cub Scout follows Akela.
The Cub Scout helps the pack grow.
The pack helps the Cub Scout grow.
The Cub Scout gives goodwill.*

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

ARTS & EVENTS

Holy Ghost Society Feast



THE EAST HARTFORD HOLY GHOST PORTUGUESE SOCIETY held its 50th annual Feast memorial Day weekend at their club off Forest Street. At top left, Laudalina and John Freitas who served as emperors for the annual festivities that took place at the Holy Ghost Society home. Above, one of the displays of the festival. At left, the traditional serving of the bread. Top, Zélia Melo and Carmen Sousa enjoy musical celebration.

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Society

July events highlight of state's 250th party

CT250, Connecticut's commemoration of the 250th anniversary of American independence, will bring communities in each of Connecticut's 169 municipalities together. State officials have put together a calendar of 250th events, immersive experiences, educational programs and community celebrations for all to attend, reflect on and learn more about the occasion.

East Hartford has been holding special 250th-themed programs at the Raymond Library as well as tours of Main Street and Center Cemetery which dates back to before the American Revolution.

The state's program capitalizes on Connecticut - and East Hartford, home to the last Colonial Governor, William Pitkin, "The Great Compromiser" and a leading voice in the state constitution here in Connecticut, which was known as The Constitution State decades before basketball and pizza became a focus, played a pivotal role in the nation's founding.

Connecticut was also designated as the "Provision State" for supplying vast quantities of food, munitions, and other critical supplies to the Continental Army under the leadership of Gov. Jonathan Trumbull - the

only incumbent colonial governor to openly support the Patriot cause. Connecticut sent tens of thousands of troops, with an estimated 40,000 men serving overall, representing roughly one-fifth of the state's total population.

The CT250 highlights: Nationwide Bell Ringing - July 4, 2 p.m. statewide: Churches, historic sites, and residents across all 169 municipalities are invited to toll bells 13 times to join a synchronized national moment of celebration.

Recommitment Ceremony - July 4, Hartford: A statewide gathering at the State Capitol and Connecticut State Library featuring a public reading of the Declaration of Independence and participation from all 169 municipalities.

Hartford Bonanza at Bushnell Park - July 4, Hartford: A full-day celebration expected to draw more than 50,000 attendees, featuring a headline commemorative concert by the Hartford Symphony Orchestra, a vibrant Civic Marketplace, and the region's largest traditional fireworks display.

Greenwich Celebrates America's 250th - June 28, Greenwich: A 160-foot Dutch tall ship, the Oosterschelde, arrives in Greenwich Harbor alongside a

large-scale Colonial village, reenactments, and public tours.

Deep River Muster - July 18, Deep River: Widely hailed as the largest gathering of fife and drum corps, with more than 250 groups participating in a tradition that dates back generations.

CT Maritime Heritage Festival - September 12-13, Fort Trumbull State Park and New London Waterfront Park: A waterfront celebration of Connecticut's maritime legacy, featuring military and private vessels, a Coast Guard search and rescue demonstration, and Flock Theatre's "Burning of Benedict Arnold," alongside hands-on kids programming, live music, and local vendors.

Durham Revolutionary War Encampment - October 17, An immersive history experience .

FORTES MARKING 73 YEARS



East Hartford residents and World War II Veteran, Mario Forte and his wife Irene are having their 73rd Wedding Anniversary this Saturday at the WWII Museum at 102 Pitkin Street. They were married on June 6th 1953 and are looking forward to their anniversary day. All welcome.

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.

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EAST HARTFORD SPORTS

Pretenders and contenders

This column's a week late. Memorial Day is customarily considered the first mile marker of the Major League Baseball season, a chance to identify the contenders and pretenders with a focus on where the local favorites fit in.

On Memorial Day the locals were a long way from distinguishing themselves. The Mets and Red Sox were both double digits back in the loss columns of their divisions while the Yankees were five games behind the Rays in the American League East. While five games is far from insurmountable with four

SCOTT GRAY on SPORTS

by Scott Gray



months to go the Yankees had, and still have, a signature that makes it difficult to rise to the top over a long season. They're streaky. Maybe too streaky. They'll have a 10-game stretch during which they look to be unbeatable, then slide into a 10-game stretch in which they look like they'll never win another game; like they've forgotten how to win. The Yankees always seem to find their way to the post season, but streaky doesn't win divisions. And while going from one streak to another may win one playoff series, a lack of sustainability won't carry a team through the World Series.

So, here we are in the first week of June. The Yankees have found one of those streaks that has them back within a game-and-a-half of the Rays, who ran red hot through May but may have begun to cool as we take aim at the next milestone: Independence Day. The Rays and Yanks have the top-two records in the American League, both in the top-five in the majors. The returns of Garret Cole and Carlos Rodon to anchor a rotation that was just short of splendid without them may give the Yankees a new edge in the A.L. East.

You could call the other American League local favorite "Team Chaos". The Red Sox were, after all, the first team to jettison their manager this season. They entered the campaign with high hopes after several of their players put in stellar performances in the World Baseball Classic. They reached the first of June in the same situation they were in on Memorial Day, 13 games back in the loss column. While bigger deficits have been overcome in much less time it doesn't help that the Sox are in last place, with three teams between them and the Rays.

The Mets are a mirror image of the Red Sox in the N.L. East, 13 games behind Atlanta in the loss column and faced with the same reality: That the biggest deficits are overcome when there's no one between you and the first place team.

Rays, Guardians and Mariners - just two games over .500 in the West - are the first milestone winners in the American League. Braves, Brewers and Dodgers - all over .600 - in the National.

The Yanks are legitimate contenders. The Sox and Mets are 'pretenders' for whom pretending will be their reality if they don't improve their positions by the next milestone. See you on the 4th of July. And next week.

Stewart close to NCAA finals

Despite a strong showing on the national stage, Morgan State sophomore Keira Stewart saw her postseason run come to a close Thursday afternoon at the NCAA Outdoor Track & Field East Region First Round at the UK Track & Field Complex on the campus of the University of Kentucky.

Stewart, who entered the competition ranked No. 39 in the East Region, recorded a jump of 19-9 (6.02m) to finish 22nd overall among the region's top 47 long jump competitors, narrowly missing qualification for the NCAA Outdoor Championships at historic Hayward Field.

The East Hartford native wrapped up a standout outdoor campaign for Morgan State University. Stewart captured gold in the long jump at the MSU Legacy Meet with a leap of 6.08m before earning a third-

HAS 6.22M 'PERSONAL BEST'



MORGAN STATE'S KEIRA STEWART - finished the season strong.

place finish at the world-renowned Penn Relays with a mark of 6.04m.

At the 2026 MEAC Outdoor Track & Field Championships, Stewart posted a personal-best jump of 6.22m to secure the silver medal and solidify herself as one of the conference's premier field athletes.

The NCAA East First Rounds serve as the prelimi-

nary qualifying meet for the 2026 NCAA Division I Outdoor Track & Field Championships which take place June 10-13 at Hayward Field in Eugene, Oregon.

The top 12 finishers in each event, along with the top 12 relay teams from both the East and West regional sites, advance to the national championships.

East Hartford youth can golf for \$5

East Hartford kids ages 6 through 18 may play a round of golf at the town's golf course for just \$5 thanks to a grant from Bank of America.

The business has teamed up with Youth on Course for the second year in a row to offer free, one-year memberships to all kids in greater Hartford who register before June 15.

Don't want to play at the East Hartford Golf Course at 130 Long Hill St.? Other courses kids can take advantage of this offer in the area include: Goodwin Park Golf Course; 1130 Maple Avenue, Hartford; Hawk's Landing Country Club; 201 Pattonwood Drive, Southington; Timberlin Golf Club; 330 Southington Road, Berlin; Keney Park Golf Course; 171 Windsor Ave, Windsor; Stanley Golf Course, 245 Hartford Road,

New Britain; Copper Hill Golf Club; 20 Copper Hill Road, East Granby; Portland Golf Course; 169 Bartlett Street, Portland; Tallwood Golf Course; 91 North Street, Hebron.

Bank of America launched Golf with Us in partnership

with Youth on Course to expand affordable access to golf nationwide.

Go to BofA.com/GolfwithUs to register. Golf with Us includes access for kids for \$5 or less per round.



EAST HARTFORD LITTLE LEAGUE

SUMMER 2026



BASEBALL
AGES 6 - 16



SOFTBALL
AGES 6 - 18





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OBITUARIES

Margaret 'Peg' (Shea) Viola, 94

Margaret "Peg" (Shea) Viola, 94, of South Windsor and formerly of East Hartford, peacefully entered into eternal life on Thursday, May 28, 2026, at her home with her loving daughter by her side. She now joins her beloved husband of 66 years, Ralph J. Viola, Jr., in eternal peace.



Margaret Viola

Born in Hartford on October 23, 1931, Peg was the oldest daughter of the late Patrick and Bridget (Cronin) Shea. She grew up in Hartford and graduated from Hartford Public High School with the Class of 1949, where she met the love of her life, Ralph. Peg remained devoted to her classmates and proudly stayed active in her class reunion committee for nearly 70 years.

Peg and Ralph made their home on Deepwood Drive in East Hartford, where they raised their three daughters and built a life filled with love, friendship, and family traditions for 63 years before they moved to South Windsor five years ago.

Her Catholic faith was a guiding force throughout her life. Peg was a former communicant of St. Patrick-St. Anthony Church in Hartford and of St. Christopher Church in East Hartford. In recent years, she faithfully looked forward each morning to watching the daily Mass on television.

Peg began her professional career as an administrative assistant at Aetna Life Insurance Company in Hartford. After dedicating herself to raising her three daughters, she later returned to work as an administrative assistant for the State of Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, where she retired after years of dedicated service.

She was a woman who believed deeply in giving back to others. Peg was a longtime member of the East Hartford Women's Club and proudly served on its scholarship committee. She also enjoyed many happy years as an active mem-

ber of the Glenbrook Swim and Tennis Club, where she loved playing tennis, spending summer days by the pool with lifelong friends, and proudly cheering on her daughters at their many swim meets.

Peg treasured returning to Hartford with her children and family, sharing stories and memories from her childhood while visiting the city's historic landmarks and beloved neighborhoods. She was an avid reader, loved to travel, and enthusiastically cheered for the UConn Men's and Women's basketball teams.

Above all else, Peg will be remembered for her extraordinary kindness, warmth, and unwavering devotion to her family. She was thoughtful, gracious, and endlessly supportive, with a gentle strength and a sharp sense of conviction that made her opinions and advice meaningful and memorable to those who loved her. Selfless to the very end, Peg put the well-being of others before her own and was constantly thinking of how she could care for and support those around her. Peg was always proudly supporting her daughters and grandchildren in every sport, activity, and milestone. Her loving presence was a constant source of comfort and was deeply felt by all who knew her.

Peg is survived by her loving daughters Rosemary Viola Rainville of Manchester, Kathleen Viola of Delray Beach, Florida, and Claire Viola Egan and her husband Jay of Norwalk. She also leaves her cherished grandchildren Christina McDonnell and her husband Bobby, Catherine Jones, Colin Jones, Cara Freer and her husband Colin, Jenna Egan, Meghan Egan, Lily Rainville and her husband Brian, and Theodore "Teddy" Rainville, along with her adored great grandson Weston. She is also survived by her sister Kathleen Hurley of Newington, as well as many nieces, nephews, cousins, and dear friends. In addition to her husband and parents, Peg was

predeceased by her sister Sheila Hanley, sisters-in-law Philomena Martino, Cynthia Gramegna, and Ann Marie Viola.

Family and friends may gather on Friday, June 5, 2026, from 4 to 7 p.m. at the D'Esopo East Hartford Memorial Chapel, 30 Carter Street, East Hartford. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Saturday, June 6, 2026, at 10 a.m. at St. Patrick-St. Anthony Church, 285 Church Street, Hartford. Burial will follow at St. Mary's Cemetery in East Hartford. Peg's family kindly asks that guests go directly to the church on Saturday morning.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in Peg's memory may be made to the Office of Radio and Television for the Archdiocese of Hartford, 15 Peach Orchard Road, Prospect, CT 06712.

For online expressions of sympathy, please visit www.desopoe.com.

James 'Jim' Sullivan, 74

James "Jim" M. Sullivan, 74, of Hartford and formerly of East Hartford, peacefully entered eternal life on Monday, May 25, 2026, at St. Francis Hospital in Hartford. Born in Hartford on January 10, 1952, a son of the late John and Mary (Jordan) Sullivan, he had been a resident of the East



James Sullivan

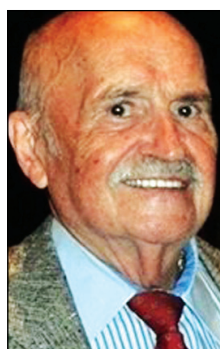
Hartford/Hartford area for most of his life. Jim was a graduate of East Catholic High School in Manchester, class of 1970 where he excelled on the boys' basketball team that made it to the state championship final. He then went on to earn his associate degree from Manchester Community College. Jim was a well-liked sales representative for food and chip companies in the greater Hartford area. Jim was an avid loyal fan of all UConn sports. Jim is survived by his brother, Brian Sullivan and his

wife Carol of Lancaster, SC; his sister, Alice Benjamin and her husband Ron of Fort Lauderdale, FL; one granddaughter, Catriona; his former wife, Laura Gorski of East Hartford; several nieces, nephews, cousins, former customers, and dear friends. In addition to his beloved par-

ents, Jim was predeceased by a son, John Sullivan, and a daughter, Tammy Sullivan. A memorial Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated Wednesday, June 10, 2026, at 10 a.m. at St. Christopher Church of North American Martyrs Parish, 538 Brewer St. Burial will follow at St. Mary's Cemetery, Burnside. There are no calling hours. Contributions in Jim's name may be made to the American Kidney Fund, 11921 Rockville Pike, Suite 300, Rockville, MD 20852. On-line www.desopoe.com

Giovanni 'John' Vecchiarino, 87; tailor

Giovanni "John" B. Vecchiarino, 87, of Wethersfield, loving husband for 64 years of the late Maria (Pirruccio) Vecchiarino, passed away peacefully with his family by his side on Thursday, May 28, 2026 and is now reunited with his beloved wife Maria. Born in Saint Pietro, Infine, province of Caserta, Italy on March 18, 1939, he was the son of the late Giuseppe and Gemma (Corteliessa) Vecchiarino. After immigrating to the United States at age 16, he started tailoring at G. Fox & Co., Sage Allen and DeGemmis Clothing. He then owned a dry-cleaning store on Main Street in East Hartford before he and his wife Maria opened their landmark, "John the Tailor" on Hebron Avenue in Glastonbury, which they lovingly operated together for over 50 years. They took great pride in providing custom tailoring that brought joy to their loyal customers.



Giovanni Vecchiarino

In his early years, John played soccer and was an ama-

teur boxer. He was an avid soccer fan of A.S. Roma Professional Soccer Team in Rome, Italy. He was a duckpin bowler who bowled in the Tricolore Men's Bowling League in Newington. He was a member of the Italian American Society who liked playing cards with his friends. He also enjoyed socializing and going to dances with his wife. John always looked forward to going to his beach house at Giant's Neck Beach in Niantic, where he could be found tinkering around his yard. More than anything, John was strong willed, very generous and a devoted family man who always looked forward to family dinners and celebrations.

A loving father, nonno and bisnonno, John will be forever missed by his three sons, Joseph Vecchiarino of Glastonbury, Claudio Vecchiarino and his wife Amy, of Hebron, and John B. Vecchiarino Jr. of East Hartford; his four adored

grandchildren who loved their nonno, Ariana Marie Grant and husband William, Jr. of Marlborough, Ciara Elise Vendrillo and husband Cody of Glastonbury, Gemma Leigh Vecchiarino of Glastonbury and Giovanni Claudio Vecchiarino of Hebron and his cherished great-granddaughter, Vanessa Marie Grant of Marlborough. He is also survived by his sister-in-law, Adelina Ferla and husband Paolo of Wethersfield, as well as several nieces, nephews, extended family members and dear friends. In addition to his wife and parents, John was predeceased by his brother, Pasquale Vecchiarino of Italy and his daughter-in-law, Pamela Leigh Vecchiarino, whose memory remained close to his heart.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Thursday, June 4 at 10 a.m. at Incarnation Church of Christ the King Parish, 544 Prospect St., Wethersfield. Burial will follow in Holy Cross Cemetery, Glastonbury. The family will receive relatives and friends Wednesday, 4-7 p.m. at D'Esopo Funeral Chapel, 277 Folly Brook Boulevard, Wethersfield. www.desopofuneralchapel.com

Larson: 'End war'

From Page One

not fit for office—his illegal war must come to an end. We cannot stand by and let our troops become entangled in another forever war in the Middle East."

Last month Larson slammed his fellow Congressional Republicans for pulling the war powers resolution from the House floor. Larson voted three times this year to withdraw forces from Iran.

Board of Ed recognizes school leadership, PTO volunteers

From Page One

Year: Karimah Lovejoy
NORRIS: Volunteer of the Year: Olivia Carranza

O'BRIEN: PTO President: Ashley Ryea - Volunteer of the Year: Nancy Pacht

O'CONNELL: PTO President: Christina Maya - Volunteer of the Year: Sue Wilkos

PITKIN: PTO Co-President: Natalie Fairbanks, Sharelle Smith - Volunteer of the Year: Amanda Collin

SILVER LANE: Volunteer of

the Year: Justyna Dabrowski

In a procedure vote, the Board of Education accepted as complete the middle school roof project. This project was completed in October of 2025, and the step is required for the town to receive the state reimbursement. In this case the amount is expected to be: \$2,558,425.00.

The Board approved the grant application for the Head Start project at the Hockanum Early Learning Center. Annually the program is required to

apply for the 12-month grant. The time frame of this grant is July of this year to June of next year.

For the year 2027, Head Start will serve 162 preschool children; 126 federally-funded and 36 state-funded. The program proposes to operate with mixed funding, servicing 18 classrooms mixed with School Readiness, Smart Start and Head Start children. The Office of Head Start identifies the funding allocation at \$2,003,139.00. Funding is di-

vided as follows; salaries: \$1,758,479.00; Payroll Taxes: \$67,589.00; Fringe Benefits: \$123,402.00; Operations: \$34,366.00; Training & Technical Assistance: \$19,303.

The Board also awarded the five-year out-of-district transportation contract to Ambassador Wheelchair Services of Rocky Hill. This company is the current vendor. It is fully prepared and equipped to continue meeting the needs of the public schools.

OBITUARIES

David Alexander, 71

David Charles Alexander, 71, of Naples, FL, passed away on February 22, 2026, following a brief illness. He leaves behind a legacy of adventure, quiet generosity, and a collection of stories that will be cherished for generations.

Born on February 2, 1955, in Hartford, David was the son of the late Ed-

mond J. and Jane (Cook) Alexander. After graduating from East Hartford High School he earned his business degree from Bentley University. He began his career at Stanley Hardware before following his entrepreneurial spirit to found his own importing business. His career became a passport to the world, taking him on over 120 trips to China, alongside frequent travels to Vietnam, Germany and England.

To know Dave was to be greeted with a wide smile and a ready joke. An avid and skilled golfer, he maintained a 4 handicap and loved playing beautiful courses worldwide. His ultimate golfing highlight occurred during a business trip to Chicago where he played a round with Michael Jordan - and won. Dave loved showing friends and family the photo on his phone of he and Michael and the historic game became a favorite, lighthearted legend among those who loved him.

While Dave traveled the world, his heart was always at home. His greatest devotion was reserved for his family and he treasured every moment



Dave Alexander

spent together, whether hosting large family gatherings or sharing quiet time at home with his family and beloved dogs. He was a proud, dedicated husband and father, and his extended family meant the world to him. He was also a talented handyman who loved tackling projects to help out those he cared about.

Quietly, yet fiercely generous, Dave was always the first to offer a hand to anyone in need.

David was predeceased by his parents and his brother, Edmond J. Alexander, Jr. He is survived by his loving wife, Donna; his daughter, Elizabeth; and his sister, Marilyn, and her husband Charles Lauf. He also leaves behind a large, devoted family including his nieces and nephews, Donna and James Kervin, Charles Lauf Jr., Lori Lynn, Michael and Rachel Alexander; his brothers- and sisters-in-law, William and Susan Nebiolo, Colleen and Ed Fleeton, Kevin and Tina Nebiolo, and Brian Nebiolo; as well as many great-nieces, great-nephews, and a beloved extended family in Minnesota.

A Funeral Mass will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday, June 10 at Saint Dominic Church, Southington followed by burial at St. Thomas Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Cancer Society or a charity of your choice. Online visit www.plantsvillefuneralhome.com.

Andrew 'Bob' Robert Barles, 92; Marine

Andrew Robert Barles, 92, passed away peacefully on Friday, May 15, 2026 at Manchester Memorial Hospital, surrounded by family. Very rarely called Andrew, he was better known as "Bob" among the family and "Andy" among his friends and hunting buddies. Andy was predeceased by his wife of 72 years, Margaret "Peg" Barles, who passed earlier this year.

Born in Hartford, Andy attended Bulkeley High School before enlisting in the United States Marine Corps in 1952, where he completed his GED in active service. He was dispatched to California during the Korean War and served in the Marines for 3 years, concluding his service in May 1955. During his time in the USMC, Andy achieved the rank of Master Sergeant and received a National Defense Service Medal and a Good Conduct Medal.

Andy married Peg in August 1953 and she joined him in California for the completion of his service. While on the west coast, they welcomed their first daughter. The family returned to Connecticut in 1955, first in Hartford and then in Vernon, where they welcomed their second daughter. Ultimately, the family settled in East Hartford where Andy and Peg resided for almost 65 years.

Following his service, Andy co-owned The Silver Bar in Hartford with his father, Andrew "Scotty" Barles. He then launched a heating and plumbing business, which he owned and operated for over 20 years.



Andrew Barles

Later, Andy served as the Building Official for the Town of East Hartford from 1984 until retiring in 1999. It took a while for Andy to fully retire as he continued teaching night courses on heating and plumbing code at A.I. Prince

Technical High School, a position he held for more than 20 years.

Andy loved the outdoors. A hunter, fisherman, and excellent marksman, he could often be found in the woods or out on the lake with his boat, on which he later took the grandchildren out for water tubing. Andy was a Lifetime Member of the Rockville Fish and Game Club where he held awards in skeet and trap shooting, and a Lifetime Member of the East Windsor Sportsman's Club. He also belonged to the Northeast Combat Pistol League/International Defensive Pistol Association.

The ever "Mr. Fixit," Andy could often be found rewiring a lamp, fixing a leaky pipe, or performing the annual boiler clean out at the homes of his friends and family. He will be remembered for his profound dedication to his family, his devotion to and ongoing support for his grandchildren, his silly dad jokes, his love of nature, and his appreciation for Scotch whisky.

Andy is survived by his daughters, Robin Lupacchino of East Hartford, and Anita Deprey and her husband, Mark

Deprey, of Greenwood, SC. He is also survived by his four grandchildren, Alexis Deprey and her husband, Scott DaRos, of Roxbury, NY; Michael Lupacchino of Moraga, CA; Daniel Lupacchino of Hartford; and Mitchel Deprey and his wife, Rachel Deprey, of Andover, as well as his three great-grandchildren, Jaxon, Makenna, and Hudson Deprey of Andover.

A joint celebration of life for Andy and Peg will be held on Saturday, June 13 at 2:00 p.m. at South Congregational Church, 277 Main Street, Hartford, CT 06106. Per the request of Peg—as this is a celebration of life, after all—we encourage those attending to dress in warm or bright colors so we can joyfully commemorate the lives of our beloved Andy and Peg.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF
ROBERT L. SPEAR, III
(26-00175)

The Hon. Richard P. Gentile, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of East Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated **May 26, 2026**, 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.

Tobi Dolan, Assistant Clerk

The fiduciary is:

Sarah Dagon, 105 Woodmont Drive, East Hartford, CT 06118


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WHERE THE ACTION IS!

BY CORINNE HORAN

SATURDAY, JUNE 6: WWII LEGACY FOUNDATION MUSEUM open 2 - 6 p.m., 102 Pitkin St. June 6: 82nd Anniversary of D-Day, the Museum presents "D-Day and the Bedford Boys" at 2 p.m. Learn about the Bedford Boys of Virginia who participated in the D-Day invasion. Photos and video will be shown about the largest Allied Invasion in history. Immediately following this, join us in wishing WWII Veteran, Mario, and his wife a Happy 73rd Wedding Anniversary. Admission free, donations welcome.

HUGE TAG SALE AT THE CIDER BARN: Friday, June 5 through Saturday, June 13, 10 to 3 each day, 330 Bush Hill Road, Manchester.

JUNE 5, 6, 7: HARTFORD TASTE Street Festival on Pratt and Trumbull streets.

JUNE 6: LUNG FORCE WALK 9 a.m. until noon along the river at Great River Park.

JUNE 6: INTERNATIONAL SOCCER at P&W Stadium at Rentschler Field as Cape Verde and Bermuda go head to head. 2 p.m. Tickets \$51 to \$84, plus \$25 for parking.

JUNE 6: CLASSICAL MUSIC CONCERT, South Congregational Church, 1301 Forbes St., for its fifth season of MOSAICS music presentations. "A Journey Through Cello" at 4 p.m. features cellist Jihyeon "Celina" Berman accompanied by pianist Dr. Minjoo Choo in an afternoon of classical works by Tchaikovsky, Max Bruch and Gabriel Faure. Come enjoy music in the air-conditioned sanctuary. Admission \$20.

CONNECTICUT TRAILS DAY HIKES: Saturday, June 6 at 1 p.m. Center Springs Park, Manchester. 1.25-mile walk, exploring this 55-acre urban park. Learn some of the history of the park, and view interesting rock formations and a gorge. Sponsored by the Connecticut Forest and Park Association. **Sunday, June 7** at 1 p.m. Moderately paced one-mile scenic walk on the loop trail at our 13-acre Salter's Pond property, starting at the parking lot of Salter's pool, 123 Lydall St. Takes 1 hour.

June 7: Historic tour of Main Street, Hartford, Sunday, 10 a.m. - noon. Take an easy 1.5-mile walking tour along Hartford's historic Main Street, from the Butler-McCook House & Garden to the G. Fox Building, and explore the city's Colonial roots and evolving history. This walk includes a portion of the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route.

JUNE 7: CT TRAILS DAY HIKE in East Hartford - 3 p.m. starting at Bicentennial Square embark on an educational, one mile walk along the Hockanum River Trail, and learn about its history. Starts at monuments by Hudson Street. Free. Sponsored by the East Hartford Historical Society.

JUNE 7 - BRIDGING THE GAPS, poetry at the Mark Twain House, Hartford, 3 to 5 p.m. Does the generation we're born into shape how we see the world. . . or are we more alike than we think? This dy-

namic reading brings together poets from across Connecticut, each representing a different decade, for an afternoon of raw, resonant stories. From childhood to caregiving, joy to upheaval, these poems trace the moments that define a life. Hosted by Victoria Nordlund and Karen Warinsky, featuring poets Sean F. Forbes, Iris Hida, Joyce Hida, Emily Hockaday, Tom Lagasse, Steven Straight, and **East Hartford Poet Laureate Elizabeth Thomas** and T'challa Williams. Admission is by a "choose your own ticket price" policy: \$5, \$10, \$25, or free. Proceeds support the Nook Farm Writers summer collaborative for teens. FMI call 860-247-

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

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

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

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: 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 buildings 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.

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

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, AMY GALLATIN AND STILLWATERS performs 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.

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JUNE 10 - WICKHAM DAY QUILTERS of East Hartford will meet from 1:30-3:30 pm at the Wickham Library meeting room at 656 Burnside Avenue. Interested in quilting? 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 June program will consist of members showing the projects they have completed in the past year. Light refreshments will be provided. Any questions? Email us at Wickhamdayquilters@gmail.com

MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH CAN AND BOTTLE DRIVE: The World War II Legacy Foundation Museum is holding a can and bottle drive. Drop off empties at 61 Matthew Road, East Hartford. Call Gary at 860-810-8736 if questions or to arrange any large donations to this non-profit museum.

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.

JUNE 12: GOODWIN UNIVERSITY'S 12TH ANNUAL SUMMER CLAMBAKE AND AUCTION, Friday at 6:30