

The Gazette

VOLUME 141, NO. 28

Thursday, July 16, 2026

Crafted from the finest local ingredients since 1885

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Bronin, Larson on track to spend \$5M

The top two contenders for the First Congressional District declared their campaign war chests leading up to the August 11th Democratic primary have each surpassed \$2.5 million with the party-endorsed nominee, Luke Bronin, garnering another \$1 million on top of the \$1.8 million raised already, and the incumbent, John Larson, netting \$500,000 to boost his war chest above the \$2.5 million mark.

Larson for Congress announced the \$500,000 fundraising haul for the second quarter as evidence of his "deep, sustained support for Congressman Larson and his record standing with working families and fighting for a progressive agenda. It cements his momentum heading into the final stretch of the primary."

Bronin received \$1 million in ad buy money for a commercial campaign, which Larson said was from "a super PAC funded by corporate billionaires and a dark-money net-

work" and called Bronin "a corporate Democrat." The congressman said "a dark-money network working to elect corporate Democrats (is) trying to take down John Larson. All of these entities are funded by the same billionaires maxing out to Bronin's campaign, some of whom even put him on their payroll."

He added that another recent ad campaign came from a super PAC that gets millions from the Bezos family.

Larson said he is "hellbent on making the billionaire class pay their fair share, and no amount of corporate dark money spending will make him back down." The campaign has made him declare that he is now "fighting for Medicare for All" and has "spent his career fighting for working families over CEOs."

Lack of campaign finance reforms has opened the doors to a torrent of funding, which Larson said he has always opposed

See **SPENDING**, pg. 10

BOBCAT ON HILLS



PHOTO BY LILKA VALLE

THIS HEALTHY-LOOKING YOUNG BOBCAT was photographed in Lilka Valle's Hills Street yard. Valle kept her distance and was inside her house.

Engineer careers 'top town'? EHartford

by Bill Doak

Livability, publishers of the "Top 100 Best Places to Live" rankings, just named East Hartford as one of the top three "opportunity" cities for engineers looking to grow their careers.

The ranking is largely owing to aerospace giant Pratt & Whitney, an RTX subsidiary.

But also came as a result of the town being one of the most affordable municipalities in which to live.

"East Hartford offers strong, steady employment opportunities and career stability for me-

See **ENGINEER TOWN** pg. 10

LIVABILITY

Murals OK'd by Town Council for Golf Club

The RiseUp Group was awarded a \$15,000 no-bid contract by the Town Council Tuesday night to paint murals on the sides of the East Hartford Golf Course and Square Peg pizza, the franchisee which operates the restaurant in the building.

The murals are intended to beautify the building exterior as well as market the offerings at the Golf Course, including the restaurant. The RiseUp Group is responsible for managing the entire project, recruiting the

artist, resident Haley Jones, who did the mural on Bissell Street. The \$15,000 cost is being appropriated from National Development Community Impact fund which was to lessen the impact of truck traffic from the two warehouses at Rentschler Field.

The bid waiver was requested "as it is in the best interest of the town as it will improve the exterior of the Golf Course building and market the offerings of the Golf Course and

See **MURALS** pg. 10



THE PROPOSED MURAL on the Long Hill Street side of the building. Another mural will face the parking lot.

AROUND TOWN

Banner art contest on Green

East Hartford invites community artists of all ages and experience levels to submit artwork for a community banner project celebrating East Hartford.

This community banner project is a direct outcome from a 2025 Downtown Main Street Arts and Business Survey conducted by the Department of Business and Community Development in partnership with Connecticut Main Street Center. 177 survey responses were received. Financial support for the program comes from a \$5,000 Accelerator Grant from Connecticut Main Street Center, with additional support from American Rescue Plan Act funding.

Selected designs will be reproduced on light pole banners along the Town Green, creating a vibrant visual connection throughout the community.

There will be a public unveiling and celebration during the East Hartford annual Fall Fest event on Saturday, October 3rd, 2026.

The banner project is open to East Hartford residents of all ages and artists are encouraged to submit work inspired by one more of the following themes: The Connecticut River, aviation and innovation, ethnic and cultural heritage, or education.

"As we continue to uplift the new brand promise of East Hartford, investing in arts, culture, and community placemaking are a significant priority," said Mayor Connor Martin.

"I encourage residents of all ages who have an interest in celebrating our community to submit their entry and I look forward to vibrancy and community pride these banners will bring to the Town Green."

FMI see this link: easthartfordct.gov/visionsinart.

BORN ON ROUTE 2



CARLO CORSINI DOYLE

A baby boy couldn't wait to make his arrival Friday, born on the side of Route 2 in East Hartford before emergency responders could get there.

Carlo Corsini Doyle was delivered by his father, Archie, while the family was on their way to Hartford Hospital. Connecticut State Police troopers responded to Route 2 at 9:57 a.m. for a report of a woman in active labor.

When troopers arrived, the baby had already been delivered. EMS arrived shortly after and transported the mother and newborn to Hartford Hospital.

Carlo weighed 10 pounds, 1 ounce. Hartford HealthCare said both mother and baby are healthy.

The family credited the East Hartford Fire Department for their response.

Martin Park water fun starts Monday

The East Hartford Parks and Recreation Department is launching four weeks full of activities to help offset the impact of the currently closed Martin Park Pool.

Summer Splash and Play will feature four weeks of drop-in programming, with water-based activities featured every day. Activities will run Monday through Thursday from Monday July 20th through Thursday, August 13th, with the exception of Tuesday August 4th and Wednesday August 5th, when the town hosts its annual National Night Out and Back to School Rally, respectively.

The schedule is posted on the town website. Some programming may require pre-registration. Children ages 11 and under must be accompanied by an adult age 16 or older.

"Since 1939, Martin Park Pool has served the needs of the Burnside community and Town of East Hartford, providing the residents a place to bring together friends, family, and community." Said Sean Dwyer, Assistant Director of East Hartford Parks and Recreation. "With the spirit of the what the pool and the park itself has represented, these programs will allow for residents to cool off on the hot summer days, an opportunity for the youth the play, families to enjoy the park, and bring our community together."

Joke of the Week

What do you call a paper-airplane that doesn't fly?
Stationary.



CLASSIFIEDS

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

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MAYOR

KRISTY L. HAFNER
COLLECTOR OF REVENUE

Phone: (860) 291-7250
Email: tax@easthartfordct.gov

All persons liable to pay taxes in the Town of East Hartford are hereby notified the Town of East Hartford has a bill and warrant to collect a town tax of 47.24 mills on a dollar for Real Estate and Personal Property and 32.46 mills on the dollar for Motor Vehicles on the Grand List of October 1, 2025.

REAL ESTATE, MOTOR VEHICLE AND PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX BILLS SINGLE AND 1ST INSTALLMENTS DUE JULY 1, 2026

The last day to pay taxes is August 3, 2026, thereafter is subject to an interest charge of 1½% per month from the DUE DATE of July 1, 2026. Minimum interest is \$2.00 (*Section 12-146, Connecticut General Statutes*).

Failure to receive a tax bill shall not invalidate the tax or penalties added (*Sec. 12-130, CGS*). Payments mailed must be US Post Marked on or before August 3, 2026 to be considered on time.

If a receipt is requested, please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope.

FOR ACH AND CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS, VISIT:

www.easthartfordct.gov "online bill pay" (there is a fee for these services).

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS REGARDING VEHICLES WHICH WERE SOLD, STOLEN OR DESTROYED, PLEASE CONTACT THE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE AT 860-291-7260.

For the business hours of the Collector's Office please visit the town of East Hartford website www.easthartfordct.gov

DESDE LA ESQUINA

by Carmen Maldonado

¿A qué hora le caigo?

Hace poco recibí un mensaje invitándome a un party, mientras lo leía, me encontré haciendo esos cálculos mentales que muchos hacemos sin darnos cuenta.

La invitación decía que todo comenzaba a las 3:00 de la tarde. Pero yo, por acá pensando: "Si llego puntual, me toca ayudar a decorar. Si llego más tarde, voy a tener que saludar a todo el mundo y, como se me quede uno sin abrazo, después se enchisman. ¿Qué hago?"

Suena a chiste, pero pasa. Y no es porque uno quiera llegar tarde. Es que uno ya conoce el libreto.

A esa hora probablemente todavía alguien está terminando de sazonar la carne, otro anda de camino al supermercado porque se quedó sin hielo y siempre hay un tío peleando con la bocina mientras asegura: "Ya mismo empieza la música." Y no, eso no significa que la fiesta esté desorganizada. Significa que la fiesta ya empezó.

Con el verano en pleno apogeo y las reuniones familiares, los bbqs' y los festivales llenando los fines de semana en East Hartford, pensé que era buen momento para compartir un pequeño manual de supervivencia para cualquier fiesta latina. Si usted creció en una de ellas, seguramente se va a identificar. Y si alguna vez ha sido invitado a una, considérela un servicio comunitario.

Regla número uno: no sea el primero en llegar.

Si llega exactamente a la hora indicada, lo más probable es que termine acomodando sillas, llenando neveritas con hielo o picando tomates para la ensalada. En cuestión de minutos pasó de invitado a miembro oficial del comité organizador. Después no diga que no se lo advertí.

Regla número dos: llegue con hambre. Mucha hambre.

No caiga en el error de comerse "alguito" antes de salir.

En un party latino la comida nunca falta. Hay suficiente para alimentar a medio vecindario: arroz, carne, ensalada de papa, pinchos, pastelillos, pan y una mesa de postres que parece no tener fin. Y cuando ya usted está convencido de que no le cabe un bocado más, alguien sale de la cocina diciendo: "Espera, todavía falta sacar lo que está en el horno."

Regla número tres: acepte que va a repetir.

Puede decir "ya comí" todas las veces que quiera. No importa. Nadie le va a creer. Siempre habrá una mamá, una abuela, una tía o esa vecina que ya lo adoptó como de la familia preguntándole si no le gustó la comida. Rechazar un segundo plato es casi un acto de rebeldía.

Y, ¿sabe qué? Qué bueno que nuestra cultura sea así.

Nos gusta asegurarnos de que nadie se vaya con hambre, que siempre haya una silla más en la mesa y que todo el mundo se sienta bienvenido. A veces bromeamos con las preguntas incómodas, con los abrazos interminables o con la insistencia de servir otro plato, pero detrás de todo eso hay algo muy bonito: una manera de demostrar cariño sin tener que decir muchas palabras.

En tiempos donde muchas personas viven con prisa y apenas conocen a sus vecinos, nuestras reuniones siguen siendo un recordatorio de que compartir una comida, reírnos juntos y hacer espacio para uno más sigue siendo una de las mejores formas de construir comunidad.

Así que, la próxima vez que reciba una invitación y se pregunte: "¿A qué hora le caigo?", recuerde que realmente no importa tanto la hora. Lo importante es llegar con ganas de compartir, porque en una fiesta latina siempre habrá alguien esperando para decirle: "Pasa, que aquí todavía hay comida... y también hay espacio para ti."

Eventos próximos: ¿Eres Artista? ¿Te gusta el arte?

East Hartford abrió la convocatoria "Elevate Here: Visions in Art", un proyecto comunitario que invita a residentes de todas las edades y niveles de experiencia a presentar una obra de arte inspirada en la identidad del pueblo.

Los diseños seleccionados serán expuestos en el Town Green y se presentarán oficialmente durante el Fall Fest, el próximo 3 de oct. Cada participante podrá enviar una sola obra original; no se aceptarán imágenes creadas con inteligencia artificial.

Habrán categorías para menores de 18 años, jóvenes, adultos y adultos mayores, además de premios en efectivo para los tres mejores diseños. La fecha límite para participar es el 14 de agosto de 2026.

Eversource files for \$727M rate increase

Attorney General William Tong vowed to scrutinize utility company Eversource request for a \$727 million rate increase after the region's utility monopoly filed the request with the state's Public Utilities Regulatory Authority Tuesday.

If approved, Tong stated, the average Eversource residential customer would see rates rise by 18 percent.

"Another tone-deaf insult to Connecticut families facing

surging energy costs in the midst of a sweltering summer. We're going to scrutinize every padded profit, every bonus and every expense to fight for every penny of savings for Connecticut families," said Tong.

Since taking office, the attorney general has appeared at every major proceeding before PURA, blocking upwards of \$700 million dollars in requested rate hikes from gas, electric and water companies owned by both Eversource and United Illuminating.

Included in this filing are the storm-related costs from 2018-2023, preliminarily authorized by PURA in a draft decision issued last month. PURA has preliminarily approved \$933

million in storm costs, but in its draft decision sided with the Office of the Attorney General, Office of Consumer Counsel, PURA's Office of Education Outreach and Enforcement and the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection in rejecting the company's attempt to make Connecticut ratepayers shoulder over \$300 million in unjustified interest. Additional storm costs for 2024 and 2025 will be considered as part of this latest rate case. Approved storm costs will be securitized.

If one removes the 2018-2025 storm costs from the request, Eversource is seeking a \$451 million rate increase, resulting in an 11 percent increase for residential bills.

Penney High Class of '66 invites all classmates to 60th Reunion

George J. Penney High School Class of 1966 – 60th Reunion

The Penney High School Class of 1966 will be holding its 60th Reunion on **October 9, 2026** at the Manchester Country Club from 12:00-4:00. The cost is \$65.00 per person and guests are welcome. This will be an excellent opportunity to reconnect with former classmates for an afternoon of conversation, shared memories, and a luncheon marking this milestone year.

To receive a formal invitation or additional information, please contact George Demettrion at penney-high60@gmail.com

Penney High School 60th Reunion Committee: Dianne Chauvin, Tom Chauvin, Barbara Vendetta Daly, George Demettrion, Patti Hanson Fiori, Karen Del Maestro Hurley, George Neary, Carol Bonk Smith, Sharon Young

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Thursday, July 16, 2026

PUBLISHED BY ACORN MEDIA SERVICES LLC
1406 Main Street, East Hartford, Connecticut 06108
Office: 860-289-6468 ♦ Fax: 888-809-3026

Founded October, 1885 by Henry Bidwell Hale
www.EHGazette.com
'Devoted to Local Interests'

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SPEAKING OUT!, LETTERS

Tyron Harris has proven he's a leader

To the Editor:

I write to offer my formal endorsement of Tyron Harris for State Representative, grounded in both my professional experience in public health and my commitment to advancing equitable, community centered systems of care. As Senior Project Manager for the Ryan White Care and HIV Prevention Division at the City of Hartford, I oversee a regional system of prevention and care services spanning Hartford, Tolland, and Middlesex counties.

Across more than 20 years in public health practice including work in quality improvement, systems change, and implementation science I have observed that effective leadership requires the capacity to align cross-sector stakeholders, center lived experience, and advance sustainable, equity-driven outcomes. Tyron Harris consistently demonstrates these competencies.

On a personal level, Tyron has also served as a mentor to my son, an East Hartford resident, providing guidance, con-

sistency, and serving as a strong, positive role model. His ability to connect with young people in meaningful ways reflects a leadership style grounded in trust, accountability, and authentic community engagement. Professionally, we have collaborated on community service initiatives focused on men's health and mental health areas that remain critical yet often under-addressed in public health discourse. These efforts reflect a shared commitment to advancing culturally responsive, community informed approaches that meet individuals where they are.

A particular passion of mine is HIV and STD awareness and prevention. Tyron has demonstrated an understanding of the importance of these issues and the need for continued investment in prevention, education, and access to care. His support for policies that strengthen public health infrastructure such as expanding access to preventative services, supporting community-based health initiatives, and advancing legislation aimed

at improving health equity aligns with evidence-based strategies that improve long-term population health outcomes. Importantly, Mr. Harris brings a "whole family" orientation to his work, recognizing that health outcomes are shaped by interconnected systems including education, economic stability, and community environment. His leadership reflects a commitment to collaboration, culturally responsive engagement, and data-informed decision-making.

At a time when public health challenges require coordinated and multidisciplinary solutions, Tyron Harris brings a leadership model that is both practical and forward-thinking. His ability to translate community needs into actionable strategies positions him to be an effective advocate for policies that improve both individual and population-level outcomes. I am pleased to support his candidacy. Vote Row B, Tyron Harris.

Peta-Gaye K. Nembhard-Tomlinson
East Hartford

Senators block Trump's jet

U.S. Senators Chris Murphy and Richard Blumenthal introduced a bill that would block President Trump from taking the luxury jumbo jet gifted by the Qatari government with him for his own personal use after he leaves office.

The Luxury Jet Ethics and Transparency Act would bar Trump from transferring the jet away from the U.S. Air Force and into the former President's personal control and use.

"It's hard to decide what's worse: accepting a \$400 million bribe from a foreign government or spending a billion dollars in American taxpayer money to put gold plating on that bribe," said Murphy. "For Donald Trump, it's not enough to sell our national security to enrich himself. He also has to steal from American taxpayers."

Murphy has led the charge in the Senate to call out the naked corruption of Trump accepting the Qatari jet.

This month he sent a letter to the Secretary of the U.S. Air Force and a key government contractor to demand basic details about the jet's costs to tax-

payers, national security risks, and the questionable process the Trump administration pursued to upgrade the plane.

When the Qatari gift was initially announced in June 2025, Murphy pushed Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth, Secretary of State Marco Rubio, and Secretary Meink to explain how much it would cost to retrofit the plane and why taxpayers should have to pay for the refurbishment if Trump plans to take the plane with him after he leaves office.

Later that month, Murphy led his Senate Democratic colleagues in standing up against the corruption of our foreign policy by forcing a vote to block arms sales to Qatar.

In July 2025, he introduced an amendment to the FY26 Defense Appropriations Bill to prevent the luxury jet from being transferred to the Trump presidential library after the president leaves office. The amendment was defeated in a party-line vote with every Republican voting to defeat the amendment and allow the transfer.

Congressman Larson has delivered the goods, not just the rhetoric

To the editor:

To follow up on a previous letter, what makes John Larson's reelection to the House of Representatives so vital is his seasoned experience in providing needed oversight, particularly in his passionate commitment to protect and expand social security benefits for millions of seniors and upcoming generations in his Social Security 2100 Act.

Through his role on the Ways and Means Committee, Larson has also had a formative influence in shaping economic policy and healthcare advocacy and has been a resolute supporter for manufacturing revi-

talization and strengthening the economy of this district. Luke Bronin states that he supports the same initiatives that Larson has worked so tirelessly to procure, including safeguarding social security against the Republican juggernaut, especially, if—by crook—the GOP should win the majority in the House.

Yet, it is Larson who has produced the goods, whose proven track record and congressional clout are things we can rely on in these perilous times. This contrasts with Bronin's unsubstantiated assertion that he "is the New Leader We Need to Stop Trump." To borrow a line

from a previous Democratic primary race, "where's the beef."

Throughout his career, Larson has remained true to his working-class roots in Mayberry Village and his dedication to community, to which many of us who know him can personally attest.

In Congress, these commitments have played out in his steadfast advocacy of an updated New Deal/Great Society agenda, which I have discussed in other letters. Suffice it to say that the priorities Larson has so passionately promoted have been vital to working and middle-class individuals and families as well as to the future of

the United States for the next 20 years.

That these core values are so currently threatened by Trump's fanatical demonization and professed hatred of the Democratic Party should be evident to those who have eyes to see and ears to hear. Mayor Bronin may have much to offer as a public servant, though the substance of his campaign leaves much to be desired.

Notwithstanding the glossy brochures, "time for a change" and the need for "new energy" to combat Trump—as they stand—are just slogans. By contrast, John Larson brings a proven track record and a great

deal of substance in meeting the challenges of our time, which, as a congressional novice, Bronin simply will not have.

In observing him in congress and in town, I believe John Larson will rise to the occasion in meeting the challenges of the next two years, as he has throughout his career. In terms of experience, influence, in-depth knowledge, and especially character, I believe John Larson is the right person for this time to represent the CT House of Representative's First District. In John Larson, we have a man of true grit.

George Demetrior
East Hartford

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Cast runs through paces readying SpongeBob Musical

East Hartford Summer Youth Festival production at EHMS July 31, August 1, & August 2 matinee

On the stage and in the auditorium of the East Hartford Middle School the 60 members of this year's East Hartford Summer Youth Festival (EHSYF) production of The SpongeBob Musical are having a ball in Bikini Bottom.

The 60-person cast, ranging in age from 8 to 70+, includes several parent-and-children groups and numerous sibling sets performing side by side.

Among this summer's cast: the McGrath family of Manchester (dad and 3 kids), the Adams family of East Hartford (mom and 3 kids) as well as multiple sibling sets.

For many of these families, EHSYF has become a shared tradition and a rare chance for parents and kids, or brothers and sisters, to rehearse, laugh and perform together.

The SpongeBob Musical brings the world of Bikini Bottom to life with an original score, vibrant costumes, and



high-energy choreography. The EHSYF production leans into that same sense of togetherness both on stage and off, with cast families helping run everything

from costuming to concessions to set construction. Three performances are scheduled: July 31, August 1 and a Sunday matinee August 2 at East Hartford

Middle School, 777 Burnside Avenue. Tickets are available now at www.ehsyf.org.



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Society

Martin Park Summer Splash

Parks and Recreation plans four weeks of cooling water activities to help offset the closure of Martin Park Pool. Wear your bathing suit and bring a towel because water-based activities will be going on every day starting on Monday July 20th through Thursday, August 13th. The full list of programs is below. Note that some may require pre-registration, which will be indicated on the Town website, as it becomes available. Children ages 11 and under

must be accompanied by an adult age 16 or older. Children 12 and older may attend the programming independently.

Sean Dwyer, Assistant Director of East Hartford Parks and Recreation says: "With the spirit of the what the pool and the park itself has represented, these programs will allow for residents to cool off on the hot summer days, an opportunity for the youth the play, families to enjoy the park, and bring our community together."

Summer Splash and Play in Martin Park

<u>DAY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>
Monday	20-Jul	9 to Noon	Water Activities
Tuesday	21-Jul	5 to 7 pm	Water Activities featuring Party People Water Slides
Wednesday	22-Jul	5 to 7 pm	Water Activities
Thursday	23-Jul	9 to noon	Water Activities
Monday	27-Jul	9 to Noon	Water Activities and Big Daddy Game Trailer and Yard Games
Tuesday	28-Jul	5 to 7 pm	Water Activities and Flag Foot ball with The Missing Piece
Wednesday	29-Jul	5 to 7 pm	Water Activities with EH Fire Department
Thursday	30-Jul	9 to noon	Water Activities and Arts and Crafts and Tie Dye with EH Youth Services
Monday	3-Aug	9 to noon	Water Activities and Dance and Games - Next Level Gaming
Tuesday	4-Aug		EH Police National Night Out
Wednesday	5-Aug		Back to School Rally
Thursday	6-Aug	9 to Noon	Water Activities
Monday	10-Aug	9 to Noon	Water Activities with Library and Police Department activities
Tuesday	11-Aug	5 to 7 pm	Water Activities and music by Alvin Carter Band and Friends
Wednesday	12-Aug	5 to 7 pm	Water Activities featuring Party People Water Slides
Thursday	13-Aug	9 to noon	Water Activities and Sports Day EH Crisis Intervention Team

ROTARY CLUB SERVES SENIORS LUNCH



EAST HARTFORD ROTARY SERVES LUNCH - Rotarian Bob Buettner and his fellow Rotary Club members cooked and served a delicious Independence Day Senior Lunch last week at the East Hartford Senior Center.

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EAST HARTFORD SPORTS

Taking stock at All-Star break

Here we are. The traditional midway point of the Major League Baseball season: the All-Star Break.

And, in the nick of time, baseball reclaims center stage as the sport that's held so much of our attention for the last six weeks exits the spotlight. On the same day Major League Baseball teams wrap up their first post All-Star series, the Championship game of soccer's World Cup tournament will be played in Miami.

Now baseball's first order of business is to assess second half prospects.

Teams have less than two weeks to determine their situations. Buyers or sellers as the trade deadline approaches?

SCOTT GRAY on SPORTS

by Scott Gray



The area teams face a mixed bag.

Of 30 teams in the National League, only three entered the break with worse records than the Mets. After two straight years of declaring themselves pre-season free agent market winners because they lured high priced talent away from the Yankees, the Mets only prospects for this season are to become sellers, and to look to next year. This year's hopes are already dashed. Their supposed big 'free agent victories' are part of their problem. Those financial soirees have left them so high above the second Luxury Tax Cap they dropped 10 notches in last week's free agent draft. That's the fourth year in a row this has occurred when preseason overspending hurt them in the draft.

The White Sox, who lead the AL Central and certainly don't need as much help as the Mets, had the top pick. And they selected UCLA shortstop Roch Cholewsky.

As recently as a week ago the Red Sox, despite showing signs of heating up, looked like sure sellers at the deadline. Next season looked more appealing than this one. After all, they sat 13 games back in the American League East. But that was before they embarked on a 9-game winning streak. Sorry for Mets fans but that streak concluded with a sweep of your team. The Sox slip into the All Star break just 10 games back of Tampa Bay. They don't have to declare themselves as either buyers or sellers. With Cy Young candidate Sonny Gray leading the way, the Sox look like a team that has the right pieces. And those pieces found a good time of the season to mature and come together.

The Yankees may be the streakiest team in baseball. They were an unbeatable juggernaut for two weeks, then fell into a two week slump in which they look like they might never win again. Still, they survived a first half with three of their top pitchers on the injured list well into June. And it's been a month without Aaron Judge in the lineup. To get to the break just three games behind the Rays is something they will take.

Methinks these Yanks and Sox should take some paraphrased advice from Hamlet. Neither a buyer nor a seller be. Both can enhance their status simply by filling the right holes, pick spots in the lineup that need attention, and be wise about tending to those.

Let's face it, baseball's never better than when the Red Sox and Yankees are both in contention in the American League East. This could be one of those seasons.

Mets fans? Enjoy the World Cup.

Silky smooth at Stafford Speedway

The Monaco Modified Tri-Track Series came to Stafford Motor Speedway on Wednesday, July 15th for the 80-lap GAF Roofing Modified Masters feature event. Ron Silk led early and then retook the lead after a mid-race pit stop and dominated the GAF Roofing Modified Masters 80-lap feature event at Stafford Speedway to take the checkered flag and the \$10,000 winner's check. Silk's win was his second win in the last three years in the GAF Roofing Modified Masters.

With 20 laps complete, Silk was leading McKennedy with Williams, Justin Bonsignore, Joey Cipriano, Tyler Chapman, Hodgdon, DiMatteo, Noah Korner, and Kyle Bonsignore making up the top-10. As the race hit the halfway point, it was still Silk leading McKennedy with Williams, Justin Bonsignore, Cipriano, Tyler Chapman, Hodgdon, Austin Beers, Kyle Bonsignore, and Ryan Newman making up the top-10. hind him. Williams restarted in fourth place with McKennedy and Justin Bonsignore making up the third row. Williams then took second place from Preece on lap-46 and set his sights on DiMatteo, who had taken the lead from Preece on the prior lap. The caution came out with 46 laps complete for a spin in turn 2 by Beers. Preece relinquished third place by coming back to pit road under the caution period.

The restart saw Cipriano spin through the backstretch grass after climbing up and over the left front of Pitkat, which brought the caution flag right back out. DiMatteo took the lead on the restart with Williams moving into second. McKennedy took third with Silk fourth and Justin Bonsignore fifth. Williams took the lead from DiMatteo on lap-48 and that opened the door for McKennedy to take second and

WINNERS CIRCLE



MONACO MODIFIED \$10,000 WINNER - Ron Silk captured Wednesday's 80-lap Masters feature race at the Stafford Speedway.

Silk third as DiMatteo fell back to fourth place just in front of Justin Bonsignore.

Silk was starting to apply heavy pressure to McKennedy for second and he made his move on lap-54 to take second with a pass in turn 4. Silk applied some heavy pressure to Williams and he retook the lead on lap-57 with a pass coming out of turn 4.

Cipriano, Korner, and Chris Pasteryak all took a trip through the frontstretch grass with Korner coming to a stop in turn 2 to bring the caution flag back out with 63 laps complete.

Silk took the lead back under green with Williams right behind him in second. Justin Bonsignore took third with Newman up to fourth and McKennedy was fifth. Gallo and Steven Chapman both went around in turn 4 to bring the caution flag back out with 64 laps complete.

Silk charged back into the lead on the restart with Justin Bonsignore taking second. Williams was third with Newman fourth and McKennedy fifth. Teddy Hodgdon took fourth place from Newman on lap-72 while Silk was slowly pulling away from Williams and Justin Bonsignore. The caution flag came back out with 74 laps complete for a spin in turn 2 by Tom Sekulski.

Silk took the lead on the restart with Tyler Chapman looking to take second. He pulled to the inside of Williams and they raced wheel to wheel

with Hodgdon and Newman lined up behind them. Williams finally got clear into second after two laps of side by side racing but the caution came back out for a spin at the entrance of turn 3 by Cipriano.

Silk took the lead again on the restart with Williams getting into second. Justin Bonsignore was third with Hodgdon fourth and Newman fifth. Williams couldn't catch Silk who took the checkered flag. Williams finished second with Justin Bonsignore, Hodgdon, and Newman rounding out the top-5.

GAF ROOFING MODIFIED MASTERS MODIFIEDS (80)

- 1) Ron Silk, Norwalk
- 2) Ronnie Williams, Lebanon
- 3) Justin Bonsignore, Holtsville, NY
- 4) Teddy Hodgdon, Danbury
- 5) Ryan Newman, South Bend, IN
- 6) George Bessette, Jr., Danbury
- 7) Tyler Chapman, Ellington
- 8) Chris Pasteryak, Moosup
- 9) Kyle Bonsignore, Mooserville, NC
- 10) Cory DiMatteo, Farmington
- 11) Ryan Preece, Kannapolis, NC
- 12) Matt Gallo, Berlin
- 13) Andrew Moller, Shelton
- 14) Joey Cipriano, Plymouth
- 15) Jon Puleo, Branford
- 16) Matt Swanson, Harvard
- 17) Keith Rocco, Berlin
- 18) Jacob Perry, Kannapolis, NC
- 19) Jon McKennedy, Chelmsford, MA
- 20) Tom Sekulski, Nesconset, NY
- 21) Steven Chapman, Ellington
- 22) Patrick Emerling, Orchard Park, NY
- 23) Noah Korner, Canton
- 24) Austin Beers, Northampton, PA
- 25) Brett Meservey, Brewster, MA
- 26) David Arute, Stafford Springs
- 27) Woody Pitkat, Bellingham, MA
- DNS - Eric Goodale, Riverhead, NY

OBITUARIES

Nancy Michaud, 56

Nancy Michaud, age 56, passed away on June 30, 2026. Born on January 22, 1970, Nancy was born in New Britain, Connecticut, and grew up in East Hartford, where she attended local schools.

She was a devoted presence in the lives of those who knew her, remembered with deep respect and gratitude.

Nancy lived in East Hartford and was known for the steady dedication she brought to everyday life.

In the ways she showed up for others—through care, consideration, and quiet strength—Nancy reflected a loyal spirit and a compassionate heart that left a lasting impression on

family, friends, and all who crossed her path.

For many years, Nancy worked at Red Lobster in Rocky Hill. Through her long service there, she built countless friendships and became a familiar, trusted part of the community.

Nancy took pride in her work, cooking many meals and making sure customers were well-fed with delicious food—an everyday expression of her thoughtfulness and kindness, offered consistently



Nancy Michaud

and without fanfare.

Nancy is survived by her cherished daughter, Tina; her brother Kevin Michaud and his wife Rachel of East Hampton; her brother Dennis Michaud and his wife Ann, of East Hartford; nieces Sarina and Sadie, and numerous cousins and family in Canada.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Nancy's memory to the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 6704, Hagerstown, MD 21741 or at <https://donate.cancer.org>

Lois M. Furbush

Lois M. Furbush of East Hartford passed away April 26, 2026 in Newington.

Born in Hartford on November 28, 1952 to Lewis and Thelma Furbush, Lois went to East Hartford schools and was graduated from East Hartford High School in the Class of 1970.

Lois worked as a telephone operator for her siblings Lewis, Robert, Hartford Hospital and the Raymond, Carol, Barbara and Southern New England Marylou. Telephone Co. for many years.



Lois Furbush

She loved the Boston Red Sox and UConn women's basketball.

Although Lois never had children of her own, she was very dear to all her nieces and nephews, and they meant the world to her.

Lois was predeceased by her parents and siblings Ted, Joyce and Leonard. She leaves behind to cherish her memory her siblings Lewis, Robert, Raymond, Carol, Barbara and Marylou.

Paul Collazo, 55

Paul Collazo, 55, of Berlin and her husband William G. Aloisa of East Hartford; many aunts, uncles, cousins, and dear friends. Paul was predeceased by his father, Evangelio Collazo, Sr.; and his brother, Evangelio "Nun" "Evan" Collazo, Jr. of Newington.

Funeral services took place July 1 2026 at D'Esopo East Hartford Memorial Chapel with burial following at Mount Saint Benedict Cemetery, (Section 22 - Crucifixion), Cottage Grove Road, Bloomfield. For on-line expressions of sympathy to the family, please visit www.desopoeh.com



Paul Collazo

Edmund Cook Holcombe, Jr.; Army veteran

Edmund Cook Holcombe Jr. of East Hartford passed away peacefully on Wednesday, July 17, 2026, at the age of 97. Edmund was born on December 18, 1928, in Westfield, Massachusetts, to Edmund and Julia (Powers) Holcombe.

Edmund grew up in Simsbury and graduated from Simsbury High School in 1946. In 1949 he graduated from the University of Connecticut, Ratcliffe Hicks School of Agriculture with a degree in Floriculture. He enjoyed working with plants, cut flowers, landscapes and the family garden. Which served him well in the early years while working in several greenhouse nurseries around



Edmund Holcombe, Jr.

Simsbury. Edmund was also a longtime member of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society.

Edmund had a passion for music. He was an accomplished drummer since high school. While joining the Army from February 1951 to February 1953 he played in the 31st Infantry (Dixie)

Division Band out of Camp Atterbury, Indiana. Afterwards he went on to play for the Farmington Valley Band in Collinsville, Connecticut and the Shriners.

He was a member of the Masonic fraternity for over 50 years. A current member with the Simsbury Valley Lodge #36.

Joseph Peter Christensen, 56

Joseph Peter Christensen 56, passed suddenly on July 13, 2026. He was born on April 19, 1970, in Hartford, CT a son of the late Frederick and Thelma (Bora) Christensen.

Joe enjoyed being a tow truck driver for Dave's Service in East Hartford. He was a good brother, uncle and friend

who will be forever loved and missed.

Joe is survived by five siblings and their families; Ruth (Walter) Borst of Coventry, Peter Christensen of Middletown, Barbara (Gary) Martin of East Hartford, Christopher Christensen of East Hartford and Thelma

(Mario) Deryniowski of Florida as well as several nieces, nephews and extended family.

A Celebration of Joe's life will take place at a future time.

Funeral services are incomplete at this time; please check back with the members of his family periodically.

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Murals

From Page One

Square Peg restaurant.

The design reflects the outcome of several meetings to evaluate design options and renditions.

RiseUp Group serves as a statewide nonprofit producing community-driven public art, with over 300 murals created in more than 50 towns and cities.

"In addition, a bid waiver was requested due to the specialized nature of the community public art that RiseUp Group provides as the mural will serve the best interests of the Town. The total cost of \$15,000 exceeds the \$10,000 threshold requiring three quotes per the East Hartford Code of Ordinances, Section 10-7(c).

Tuesday night the Town Council also approved a bid waiver for a three-year contract to continue the My East Hartford app, a reporting system which tracks complaints and issues around town. The provider will be paid \$78,000 for the three years of the contract, a 6 percent annual increase while a consultant hired by the town evaluates the overall IT capabilities of the town noted Ken Sayers, the town's IT director.

Bronin, Larson funding

From Page One

as it "silences voters' voices."

"These are funds that could be used to flip battleground districts blue. But they're throwing millions into this district to unseat a progressive, pro-labor champion because they know he can't be bought. They want to move our party toward a corporate agenda that benefits billionaire AI executives, private equity, and Silicon Valley over everyday working people." Over 65% of individual donors were first-time donors as Larson's quarter-by-quarter fundraising totals continue to grow. The most common donation amount was just \$15, highlighting a campaign fueled by thousands of small-dollar contributions rather than billionaire donors and corporate interests.

Backed by a powerful coalition of working families, organized labor, and progressive advocates, this haul ensures the Larson campaign has the resources it needs to communicate its message and win the primary.

"These numbers send a clear message: people are fired up to re-elect progressive champion John Larson because of his

fight for working people, and they do not want a corporate Democrat propped up by billionaire dark money," said campaign spokesperson Bee Ungar. "This district knows that Congressman Larson has spent his career fighting for working families, standing up to Trump, Musk, DOGE, and ICE, and delivering real results. This support gives us more than enough resources to get our message out, mobilize voters, and win, which we fully expect to do."

"Congressman Larson's campaign continues to build a massive wall of support, earning endorsements from the Working Families Party, national leaders, over three dozen labor unions, state and local officials, and progressive advocacy groups," it declared.

Town tops for engineers

From Page One

chanical and aerospace engineers. Residents benefit from a highly affordable cost of living compared to the region, along with convenient access to major cities."

In listing the "Best Cities for Engineers: The Top Regional Hubs for Career Growth" the three top northeast regional engineering hubs were Nashua, New Hampshire, Waltham and Framingham, Mass.

Followed by East Hartford, Cambridge and Lynn, Mass.

"Looking to fast-track your engineering career without sacrificing your lifestyle? We partnered with labor market experts to uncover 15 mid-sized cities where engineering salaries stretch the furthest - without sacrificing quality of

life or career momentum.

"Finding a place to live that supports both your personal and professional aspirations is more important than ever. For engineering professionals, choosing where to call home is all about work-life balance - you want a place to live that offers an exceptional quality of life and where you can build a thriving career. Coming up with 15 cities nationwide for places where engineering innovation is cultivated, Livability partnered with labor market data experts at Chmura Economics & Analytics to analyze relevant nationwide data. The raking list is geared for both recent graduates looking to stay close to places of higher education as well as seasoned professionals. The top-tier engineering hubs' number one data point was opportunity - where the jobs are. Next was earnings, growth and demand and career acceleration. East Hartford ranked fourth in the region in the opportunity category, which looked at how specialized the area is in engineering jobs, and compared active openings to overall employment to gauge hiring activity.

The Northeast was judged to be one of the top robotics corridors for engineers and East Hartford among the most affordable communities based on pay and how far that money will actually go when factoring in the local cost of living.

Livability also looked closely at the future of engineering hubs in highlighting which cities are growing the fastest, show steady hiring trends, and are actively attracting new talent.

Career acceleration looked at long-term upward mobility, the potential to climb the ladder, land raises or switch industries without having to relocate.

Top-ranked Nashua, NH "has it all - career momentum and endless amounts of New England charm," states the Livability analysis. "Ranking highly in the Growth & Demand."

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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF
**ROLANDE J. CHASSE, AKA
ROLANDE JEAN CHASSE
(26-00196)**

The Hon. Richard P. Gentile, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of East Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated **July 14, 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:

Michael B. Chasse
c/o Natalie J. Real, Esquire;
Real Strategic Collaborations,
LLC, 310 Hartford Avenue,
Wethersfield, CT 06109

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF
**FRANCIS A. LEONE, AKA
FRANK A. LEONE, AKA
FRANCIS ANTHONY LEONE
(26-00248)**

The Hon. Richard P. Gentile, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of East Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated **July 14, 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.

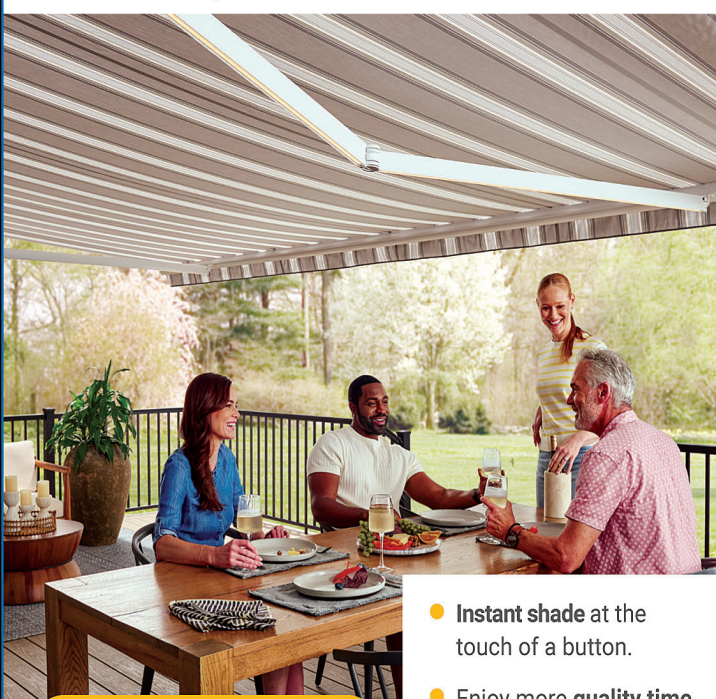
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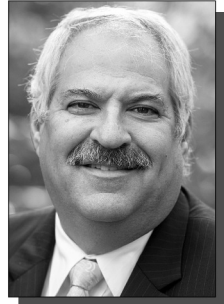


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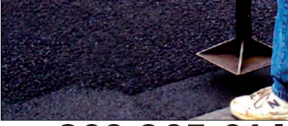
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BLOOD DRIVES IN EAST HARTFORD: 7/16/2026: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., St. Christopher Church, 538 Brewer St.; 7/23/2026: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., Goodwin College Riverside, One Riverside Drive; August 5, 2026 - American Eagle Financial Credit Union; August 12, 2026 - Crossroads Community Cathedral. The American Red Cross has issued an emergency blood shortage as the blood supply fell nearly 25% in June. The shortage is especially serious for platelets and types O positive and B negative blood. Book an appointment using the Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767). As a thank-you, all who come to give July 13-31, 2026, will receive a Fandango Movie Ticket by e-mail, a \$15 value.

JULY 16: SOUNDS OF SUMMER concert, 6 p.m., Great River Park. This week, the ever-popular group **Cover 2 Cover** performs. In case of inclement conditions the concerts move indoors to the auditorium of the Community Center at 50 Chapman Place. July 23's concert is **The Score** followed by the **Soul Sound Review** on July 30. Bring the family, meet friends, bring a picnic basket.

JULY 18- BUBBLE RUN HARTFORD at Rentschler Field beginning at 7 a.m. with a pre-run party. 5K for fun in and around Rentschler Field. Register and for more info go to bubblerun.com/locations/bubble-run/hartford. Fees to take part and parking is \$20. Tee-shirts and swag for sale.

JULY 18: KITE FESTIVAL, Rentschler Field, noon until 4. This event listed by the town but no information seems to be posted about it anywhere. Good luck!

JULY 18: SIMON BROGIE AND THE XLT'S at South Congregational Church, 1301 Forbes St. Traditional bluegrass band. \$20 at the door or in advance at mosaicconcerts.com.

JULY 19: THE WORLD WAR II LEGACY FOUNDATION MUSEUM, 102 Pitkin St., is closed this Saturday but will be open Sunday from 4 until 7 p.m. The museum will also be remembering World War II veterans born in the month of July by commemorating their Heavenly Birthdays. Stop by to share your photos and memories. UPCOMING: Weekend of August 1st/2nd: Remembering the Tragedy of the USS Indianapolis (CA-35). Details to be announced soon. Donations gratefully acknowledged and appreciated. FMI call Gary, 860-810-8736.

HISTORY TOURS: The East Hartford Historical Society at Martin Park is open during July and August from 1 to 4 pm on Sunday afternoons for museum tours. The Park is located at 307 Burnside Avenue. The 1761 Makens Bemont House, also known as the Huguenot House, is restored to its original 18th century appearance with period furnishings. Also open is the 1821 Goodwin Schoolhouse and the 1850 Burnham Blacksmith Shop. Tours are free, donations are accepted. Call 860-528-0716 or visit www.historicalsocietyofeasthartford.org

JULY 21: FARMER'S MARKET TUESDAY, 12-2:30 p.m. at the front of the Town Green, 1047 Main St. SNAP, WIC, Senior FMNP accepted. www.easthartfordct.gov/farmers-market for info.

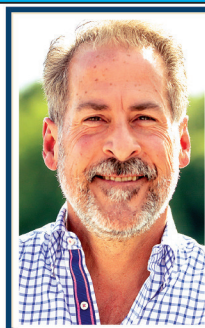
JULY 25: CHIRSTMAS IN JULY at South Congregational Church, 1301 Forbes St., a Community Toy Challenge to support The Olive Branch from 10 a.m. until noon in the church parking lot. Drive-thru event. The Olive Branch is a community resource hosted through the Dept. of Children and Families (DCF) in Glastonbury providing new toys and other

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items to children, teens and families connected to DCF. Families are invited to shop for birthdays, holidays, and other special events at The Olive Branch outlet which is open year-round. Suggested donations: hula hoops, jump ropes, teen craft kits and sports equipment. Their "wish list" is on the church website - southucc.org. All donations must be new. If you would like to participate but cannot make the event, drop off donations at the church Tuesday - Friday, 8:30 am - 2:30 pm, or Sunday mornings before July 25. FMI call 860-568-5150. Help us help DCF families shop with dignity.

JULY 24: HIKE THROUGH HISTORY - Grab your walking shoes and go for a walk around one of Connecticut's historic locations. Sponsored by the Museum of Connecticut History within the State Library, museum curator Patrick Smith will lead a hike in Hartford July 24 to uncover the impact of the Revolution. This will include a visit to the museum exhibit commemorating the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Hiking Through History walks begin at 10 a.m. and last two hours. Free, but registration is required as space is limited. Upon registration, additional information will be shared about each hike. Most hikes are designed for a leisurely to moderate walking pace. Sign up at Patrick.j.smith@ct.gov or call 860-757-6534.

JULY 31, AUGUST 1, 2: THE SPONGEBOB MUSICAL at East Hartford Middle School's C. Howard Goding

auditorium for three performances only! Don't miss the song and fun at Bikini Bottom with original score, vibrant costumes, and high-energy choreography by the East Hartford Summer Youth Festival! Showtimes are July 31, August 1 at 7, and Sunday matinee August 2 at EHMS, 777 Burnside Avenue. Tickets at the door or now at www.ehsyf.org.

AUGUST 5: EAST HARTFORD BACK TO SCHOOL RALLY Wednesday at a new location this year: **McAuliffe Park**. Mark your calendars for the first day of the 2026-2027 school year, which will be **Wednesday, August 26**. Register your child for school if you have not already done so.

AUGUST 15: The International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) of Connecticut announces the **Hare Krishna Chariot Festival** is coming to Riverfront Park in Glastonbury on Saturday August 15 from 11:45 a.m. to 5 p.m.

AUG 16: BUTTERFLIES WITH LEPIDOPTERIST VICTOR DEMASI Sunday, 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the Bush Hill Preserve, 871 Hillstown Road, Manchester. Join Victor DeMasi of the Peabody Museum of Natural History and Land Heritage Coalition of Glastonbury on a walk through Manchester Land Conservation Trust's Bush Hill Preserve, to observe butterflies and learn about their ecology and conservation. Interested children are welcome! Wear sturdy shoes and long pants. Tick repellent is recommend. The field walk will start promptly at 10 a.m.

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 the view.

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 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, 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