

LEAD offering Para Prep Academy

Gov. Ned Lamont and state Education Commissioner Charlene M. Russell-Tucker announced that registration is open for the Connecticut State Department of Education's newly launched Paraeducator Preparation Academy.

This free, six-week program prepares aspiring paraeducators for the ParaPathways assessment required for employment in Connecticut by providing instruction from certified bilingual educators, covering the full cost of study materials and the exam, and offering Spanish-language support.

The inaugural pilot session will run from August 17 through Sept. 23 at the Leaders for Educational Advocacy and Diversity (LEAD) Center on Main Street here in East Hartford. Registration is open through the first day of class. Once the inaugural session reaches capacity, additional applicants will be placed on a wait list and notified of future academy offerings. Additional sessions at locations across Connecticut are planned to begin this fall.

"Paraeducators are essential members of our school communities, and Connecticut needs more talented people answering that call," Governor Lamont said. "This academy removes barriers, creates new opportunities, and helps build the strong special education workforce our students deserve. It is another example of

See **PARA PREP**, pg. 10

CORN IS IN SEASON!



AT HANDEL FAMILY FARM, 1441 Forbes Street, Becky and Bob Handel have been busy from morning until night keeping the stand loaded with fresh tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, lettuce, flowers - and especially - corn.



CAMPAIGN APPEARANCE - Governor Ned Lamont, center, came to East River Drive Monday to look over two development projects which will bring over 1,000 new 'market rate' apartments to the Riverfront. At left is Mayor Connor Martin, and at right is state House Majority Leader Jason Rojas.

Housing projects by river touted

by Bill Doak

1,000 units of "market rate" apartments are about to be built on the East Hartford Riverfront, a majority within a special Tax Incremental Financing district, or TIF, a new concept for the town which would establish a self-governing geographic area within which improvements that add to the grand list would be diverted to pay for the cost of development bonding.

The district would be governed by a stand-alone panel of five invested representatives of the project and requires approval by the state and local government. Mayor Connor Martin welcomed Gov. Ned Lamont and State House Majority Leader Jason Rojas to the construction site Monday as he explained how the TIF works, a plan he will present to the Town Council in September.

Martin said town development department staff is working with the group of investor-developers to hammer out the TIF as more state funding is being sought to convert the underutilized South Meadows redevelopment area into a new residential, office and recreational area which will be attractive as a place to live, work and play. Piles of dirt and broken concrete were all around the three leaders as they highlighted the vision.

The TIF is key as all new tax revenue will be funneled into

See **RIVERFRONT** pg. 10

AROUND TOWN

Governor Street detour announced Wednesday

Wonder why the traffic cones have been set up all week on Governor Street?

The road will be closed westbound between Prospect and the I-84 ramp until August 21 with traffic detoured southbound on Prospect St. to Connecticut Boulevard then down Thomas Street to the entrance ramps. The state DOT will be reconfiguring the abrupt radius of the exit ramp in preparation of the opening of the new Noble gas station.

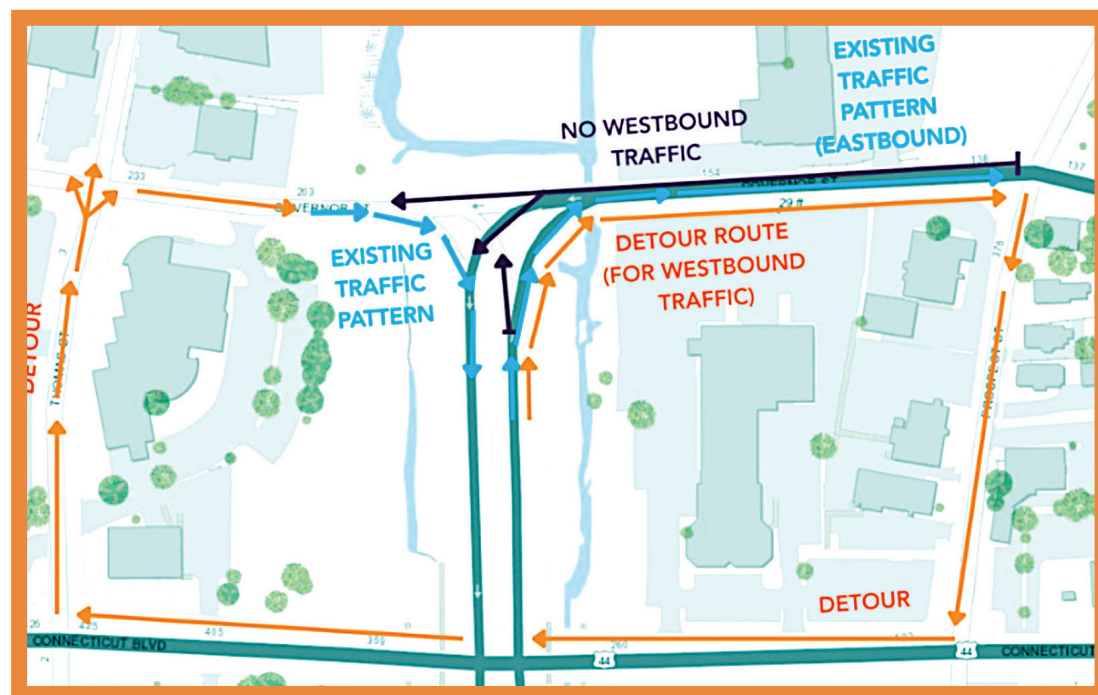
Left turns from the off ramp onto WESTBOUND Governor Street, and left turns from WESTBOUND Governor Street onto the on ramp will be prohibited.

For anyone traveling WESTBOUND on Governor Street from the off ramp, turn right onto Governor Street, right again on Prospect Street, right onto Connecticut Boulevard,

right onto Thomas Street.

If you are approaching the intersection from the East and need to get onto the on ramp, follow Prospect Street to Connecticut Boulevard, to Thomas Street, then turn right onto Governor Street, and right again onto the on ramp.

NEW TRAFFIC PATTERN REVEALED BY TOWN



Primary election Early Voting hours

Early voting for the Democratic Primary this August 11 takes place at East Hartford Town Hall Town Council Chambers, 740 Main St. on August 3, 5, 7, 8 and 9 from 10 a.m. to 6

p.m. Extended Days and hours will be Tuesday, August 4 and Thursday, August 6 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. No-excuse absentee ballot applications available at the Town Clerk's office.

National Night Out is August 4

East Hartford police will host its annual National Night Out event at Alumni Park Tuesday, August 4 from 5-8 P.M. A nationwide event, National Night Out is dedicated to help build strong relationships between local law enforcement and the communities they serve. This year's event will feature a wide range of activities for participants of all ages. Highlights will include a SWAT Team Display with equipment and vehicles, amazing K-9 demonstrations with the town's Police K-9 units, motorcycle and marine units and equipment.

Kid's activities include face painting and fun. Hot dogs and hamburgers will be served.

Officers and local partner organizations will offer information on crime prevention, emergency preparedness, and neighborhood watch programs and residents will have the opportunity to meet and interact with officers.

Mayor Connor Martin said, "National Night Out gives our residents a chance to connect with each other and with the officers who serve them. Events like this build the kind of trust that makes East Hartford stronger."

Joke of the Week

Steve next door stopped by and said, "So I heard you and your family had an amaing time seeing the ebras at the oo."

After he left, the wife asked her husband, "Who was that?"

The husband said, "Just our No-Z neighbor."



Need Help Accessing Your Polling Place?

Ask For: Curbside Voting



What is it? Curbside voting is an accessible, in-person, alternative to physically entering your polling place to vote.

Accommodates Voters With:

- Any temporary incapacity that prevents them from entering their polling place upon arrival.
- Effective 1/1/26, curbside voting is available to those with any incapacity.

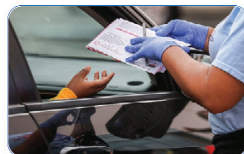
How Does it Work?

- Navigate to your polling place's designated curbside voting area.
- Notify the poll worker stationed by the curb or call the number posted to request someone to bring you your ballot.
- The Registrars of Voters (or their assistants) from opposing parties will facilitate the process.
- Show proper identification, mark your ballot, then place it in a privacy sleeve for your Registrars to deliver to the tabulator.
- You do not need to provide any proof of your incapacity.

Where is it Available? All polling places and early voting locations. You can help your town prepare by telling your Registrar in advance that you may want to use curbside voting.

How is my Vote Kept Private?

- While voting, your Registrars must remain in a location that prevents them from seeing your choices.
- After voting, place your ballot in the provided privacy sleeve for your Registrars to deliver for counting.
- No candidates or electioneering allowed in the curbside voting area.



Find Out More at myvote.ct.gov or Contact Your Town's Registrar of Voters

¿Necesita ayuda para acceder su lugar de votación?

Pida votación desde su vehículo



¿Qué es? La votación desde el vehículo es una opción accesible, en persona, que le permite votar sin tener que entrar físicamente a su lugar de votación.

Disponible para votantes con: Cualquier incapacidad temporal o permanente que les impida entrar a su lugar de votación al llegar.

¿Cómo funciona?

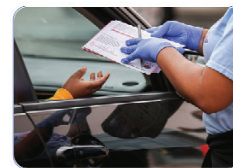
- Diríjase al área designada para la votación desde el vehículo en su lugar de votación.
- Notifique al trabajador electoral ubicado en la acera o llame al número publicado para solicitar que alguien le lleve su boleta.
- Los registradores de votantes (o sus asistentes) de ambos partidos facilitarán el proceso.
- Presente una identificación válida, marque su boleta y colóquela en una funda de privacidad para que sus registradores la entreguen al tabulador.
- No necesita presentar ninguna prueba de su incapacidad.

¿Dónde está Disponible? En todos los lugares de votación y de votación anticipada. Avise a su registrador de votantes con anticipación si planea usar la votación desde el vehículo.

¿Cómo se mantiene privado mi voto?

- Mientras vota, sus registradores deben permanecer en un lugar que les impida ver sus elecciones.
- Después de votar, coloque su boleta en la funda de privacidad provista para que sus registradores la entreguen para el conteo.
- No se permiten candidatos ni propaganda electoral en el área de votación desde el vehículo.

Más información en myvote.ct.gov o llame al registrador de su ciudad



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

DESDE LA ESQUINA

by Carmen Maldonado

Los refranes que ahora si entiendo

La vida tiene una forma muy curiosa de reírse de nosotros cuando crecemos. De niños, muchos de los refranes que escuchábamos parecían simples palabrerías sin sentido. Y, como ya he dicho en otras columnas, nuestros abuelos y nuestros padres tenían uno para absolutamente todo.

Si uno se levantaba tarde, salía un refrán. Si uno se caía, aparecía otro. Si lloraba por un amor de escuela, también había uno listo para la ocasión. Uno simplemente asentía con la cabeza por respeto, aunque por dentro se quedaba pensando: ¿Y eso qué tiene que ver con lo que me está pasando?

Pero pasan los años y, sin que nadie nos avise, la vida empieza a traducirnos todos esos refranes.

De repente, "No dejes para mañana lo que puedes hacer hoy" deja de ser la amenaza de mamá para que recojas el cuarto. Se convierte en esas cartas que llevas tres días sin mirar, en la factura que juraste pagar "más tarde" o en la ropa que olvidaste en la secadora hasta que terminó hecha una montaña de arrugas.

Y entonces aparece ese refrán que uno siempre pensó que era una exageración, "Más vale solo que mal acompañado." Cuando eres joven, crees que todo tiene solución, que las personas cambian y que con suficiente amor cualquier relación puede funcionar. Hasta que un día descubres que la paz mental vale mucho más que aferrarse a una compañía que solo trae preocupaciones.

Después llega "El que mucho abarca, poco aprieta." Antes uno hacía planes para conquistar el mundo en un solo día. Ahora el verdadero logro es terminar la lista de pendientes sin preguntarse, al final de la noche, en qué momento se fueron las horas.

Y ni hablar de "No todo lo que brilla es oro." Si nuestros abuelos vivieran pegados a las redes sociales como lo hacemos nosotros, probablemente ese sería su refrán favorito. Porque detrás de las fotos perfectas, los viajes de ensueño y las sonrisas impecables, todos sabemos que hay una historia que nunca cabe en una publicación.

Lo más curioso es que los refranes nunca cambiaron. Los que cambiamos fuimos nosotros. La vida, con sus alegrías, tropiezos, desilusiones y aprendizajes, fue dándole sentido a cada uno. Lo que antes sonaba como un sermón, hoy se siente más como el consejo de alguien que ya recorrió el camino y solo intentaba ahorrarnos unos cuantos golpes.

Ahora uno entiende por qué nuestros abuelos siempre tenían un refrán para todo. No era porque les gustara hablar en acertijos, sino porque habían aprendido que las lecciones más importantes de la vida podían resumirse en una sola oración.

Y aunque todavía hay algunos dichos que sigo escuchando sin entender, ya aprendí a no descartarlos tan rápido. Si algo me ha enseñado la adultez es que la vida siempre encuentra la manera de explicarlos... aunque, para ser sincera, a veces preferiría que no lo hiciera.

Eventos próximos que no te debes perder:

No te pierdas el Farmers Market. Esto será todos los martes de 12:00pm a 2:30pm en el Town Green, ubicado en el 1047 de Main Street. Se aceptan los beneficios de SNAP, WIC y Senior FMNP. No habrá mercado el 4 de agosto.

¿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. Habrá 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. Para más información accede a <https://www.easthartfordct.gov/visioninart>

Conecta conmigo: cmaldonado8816@icloud.com

Goodwin to launch 'First-Gen Collective'

Goodwin University was selected to the FirstGen Forward Class of 2026 and is now set to launch its own initiative, the First-Gen Collective.

Goodwin's designation as a FirstGen Forward university reflects the institution's ongoing commitment to supporting first-generation learners. During the 2025-2026 academic year, first-generation students accounted for 61% of the University's student population. This year, the University also launched the First-Gen Collective, an institu-

tional initiative focused on creating experiences and sharing stories that promote the success, inclusion, and visibility of first-generation students and graduates.

"We are honored to be awarded recognition by the FirstGen Forward Network," said Goodwin University Founder and President Mark E. Scheinberg. "First-generation students shape our community with their resilience, ambition, and dedication to breaking barriers. As an institution that

proudly serves nontraditional learners, our first-generation students and alumni demonstrate our mission in action."

Founded by The Suder Foundation and NASPA, FirstGen Forward promotes first-generation students. Goodwin's induction into the FirstGen Network places it among 470 institutions nationwide with the honor.

"We are excited to welcome Goodwin University to the FirstGen Forward Network," said Martina A. Martin, VP at FirstGen Forward.

BACK TO SCHOOL RALLY



AUGUST 5, 2026

Rain Date: August 6

3:30-6:30 PM

at McAuliffe Park / Norris School

30 Remington Road, East Hartford

FREE BACKPACK & SCHOOL SUPPLIES!



MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT

FOOD

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

The Gazette

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SPEAKING OUT!, LETTERS

Vote for anyone - except any incumbent

To the editor:

I don't often pick up a copy of the *Gazette* anymore because there is not very much positive to read in the weekly in many recent years.

I am a 66 year resident of East Hartford. I am a product of East Hartford public schools and know a bit about what East Hartford was growing up here. I know that when I grew up Pratt & Whitney was booming with three shifts and employing thousands in the Hartford region.

I know we had approximately eight supermarkets in town not including a few smaller specialty shops like Savage foods, the Butcher Boy in the south end, Meattown off Silver Lane, bakeries, Sunbeam, Tip Top, Wonder Bread! Not to exclude the many shops in what we called "the Center" East Hartford's Main Street area.

These things I know from memory.

East Hartford was a vibrant respected community. There are residents who lived here before I that told me many memorable

good stories about our community. That community is forever gone!

I realize that nothing stays the same and time progresses. The point of this letter is for the past 40 to 50 years the democrat party has controlled East Hartford & Connecticut.

I must be totally transparent I was a Democrat for many years and was active.

As time progressed, I came to the realization after many years that my values and beliefs are not theirs. I saw that the only consistency in electing the same people over and over was complacency. I am no longer a Democrat in registration or philosophy and values.

I read the letters of support for various candidates in the *Gazette* each week when I pick it up and the proclamations of the writers that the person I am supporting is the best.

I see in the First Congressional district race one Democrat proclaims another is too old while the other possesses the same values and beliefs!

Your choice is the lesser of

the two evils!

What I consistently hear is TDS proclamations as if President Trump is the cause of all the country's, state's and city's problems.

We know this isn't the case. Our state and community are the result of the failed policies of the Democrat party. I know many of them and believe they mean well however, consistently see no improvements.

What has become apparent with the present generation of Democrat politicians at the town, state and federal levels is that they have leaned progressively left and dangerously adopting Marxist and socialist policies and beliefs!

This is un-American!

America is a capitalist free market representative republic.

What I do know is that this November I will not be supporting any incumbent for public office.

As the good book says there is a season for everything a time to stay and a time to go!

Paul J. Sousa
East Hartford

'Angie knows her stuff'

To the Editor:

As a good friend of Angie Parkinson, I am urging the voters of the 4th, 5th and 6th voting districts in East Hartford to vote for Angie for State Representative in the Democratic Primary coming up on August 11, with early voting August 3 - August 9. I have not always known Angie. I grew up in the Forestville section of Bristol, and ended up in East Hartford in 1972 because I met my future husband at UConn and he was from East Hartford. Angie is originally from Indiana and Tennessee and she ended up in East Hartford because she became a teacher in Colchester and found a place in East Hartford that perfectly fit her needs.

Over the course of time, I have become someone who wishes that I had had Angie as a teacher. She has been all over the world with her students, showing them first-hand what the world holds, exposing them to other cultures, making them aware of the diverse nature of the people on this planet. She has mentored a Young Democrats club exposing students to

what they need to know to make a difference in their communities. I admire Angie.

Time has passed and Angie and I each became active in East Hartford politics, me because of my husband, and Angie, because of her admiration for people like Bernie Sanders who wants to be sure that all people have health care, that the people who have an abundance of wealth pay their fair share, that education is of high quality and available to all. The Presidential Election of 2016 underlined to Angie that in order to make a difference in your community, people like her need to become politically involved.

Angie does her homework. Seven years ago, when she ran for Town Council, she also joined the Historical Society of East Hartford of which I am a 50 year member. And I will highlight that, after joining, Angie did a plethora of research on East Hartford and its history which she shared with the Society Board. I wasn't surprised because I know as a history teacher Angie has a love for learning and her thirst for knowledge runs very deep.

I would put money on the fact that she knows more about East Hartford and its history than 99 percent of the town, including me. Knowing that, I know that she cares deeply about the town and we who live here, and that if she is elected as our 10th District State Representative to succeed Henry Genga who is fully behind her election as he knows the quality of her intellect and of her passion, she will always put the wishes of the people of East Hartford first.

I urge you to cast your ballot for Angie Parkinson.

Eileen Driscoll
East Hartford

Sen. Blumenthal questions testosterone screening of troops

Following Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth's bizarre video announcing mandatory annual testosterone screening for millions of servicemembers, U.S. Senators Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), Mazie Hirono (D-HI), Gary Peters (D-MI), Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), and Ruben Gallego (D-AZ) wrote Hegseth raising concerns about the new policy and seeking information about its medical justification. Fewer than six percent of men between 30 and 79 have testosterone deficiency.

"The Department has provided no evidence that this sweeping new policy will improve force readiness or health,

nor has it explained the scientific basis, costs, or risks associated with implementing it across the force," the senators wrote.

The senators wrote that the proposed policy "risks undermining years of work to ensure that women servicemembers are evaluated and valued based solely on their ability to perform the mission." The senators also noted that health programs that primarily impact women - like perimenopause and menopause - remain chronically underfunded and under resourced, emphasizing, "this stark disparity suggests that the Department's priorities are

being shaped less by an equitable assessment of force health than by the Secretary's preferred cultural narrative."

Secretary Hegseth, We write to express serious concerns regarding the Department of Defense's announcement that it will begin annual testosterone screening for millions of servicemembers despite longstanding medical guidance recommending against routine population-wide screening. The Department has provided no evidence that this sweeping new policy will improve force readiness or health, nor has it explained the scientific basis, costs, or risks associated with

implementing it across the force.

Routine population-wide screening for testosterone deficiency is not recommended by many major medical organizations because the benefits of screening asymptomatic individuals have not been established. Currently, less than six percent of men between 30 and 79 have testosterone deficiency. While testosterone replacement therapy is appropriate for certain patients with clinically confirmed hypogonadism, treatment carries known risks and requires careful diagnosis and long-term medical monitoring.

When it comes to East Hartford-Manchester line, starting points differed

Did you know the logical statement 'where you start determines where you end,' applies to East Hartford - Manchester history. For 100 years, the two municipalities argued, debated and fought over where they met.

In a nutshell, early 1700's East Hartford believed the boundary was a set of "surveyor ditches" near what is now Kenney Street. Settlers in Orford Parish believed it was along a line near Hillstown Road.

How this happened is well documented in both town histories. In general it deals with where you start measuring.

Is it eastward from the edge of the Connecticut River, or the middle, or the far side? (East Hartford's argument)

Do you start at the Bolton Town line and measure westward? (Orford Parish's argument)

Do you take away required acreage for town roads, schools and meetinghouses, or add that land back one to the end bound-

ary? (Both towns argued)

These were the questions which flew back and forth during that 100 years of disagreement.

Either way the official line was drawn in 1824 by the state assembly after all the fruitless negotiations so that Manchester could become an incorporated town.

So what effect did this disagreement have?

Then the location of the center of Orford Parish had to be surveyed three times before it was accepted as the top of the knoll of Main Street where Manchester's First Congregational Church stands today.

The second oldest burial ground in East Hartford - according to Goodwin - suddenly became the oldest cemetery in

DID YOU KNOW?

Looking back on our East Hartford

By Robert Kanehl

Manchester: Manchester's West or East Hartford's Hills Cemetery.

The Hill and Olcott families were among the first to settle in the area in dispute. In the early 1700's after another five-mile parcel of land joining the original three-mile parcel was purchased from the native tribe. Soon there was a small commu-

nity of farmers and grist or saw mills along the Hockanum River. From here settlers spread eastward into the Green area of Manchester, eventually pushing for a separate parish instead of having to attend weekly services in East Hartford.

The question then remains: Has that disputed tract of land benefited Manchester - to East Hartford's regret?

In the early 1800's it was the site of several paper mills which were destroyed in the 1869 flood and never rebuilt.

It has been the site of strong agricultural development until the late 1900's. The ancestral homes of several farming families are still visible in the area. The Wickhams lived within the tract as did a nice amusement park, Laurel Park, that once sat

on Laurel Lake which today is the wetland areas alongside the Hockanum River preserve. Highways and entrance ramps dot the area as do small commercial establishments. Behind the drive-thru lane of the old Starbucks on Spencer Street is a small marker few take notice of noting the location of the Second Congregational Church nearby, approximately where Hillstown Road meets Spencer.

Two definite pluses are the campus of the CT State community college, and the Pathways technology high school. Residents of East Hartford and Manchester can attend these institutions.

But of course, the area includes the Manchester landfill, now a transfer station but still rising with sludge the town accepts from neighboring communities.

Is good or bad to see what became of this once hotly-disputed tract of land now permanently a part of Manchester?

You decide.

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

SPEAKING OUT!, LETTERS

'Parkinson: The right choice'

To the Editor:

As a member of the East Hartford Board of Education, I enthusiastically endorse Angie Parkinson for the 10th Assembly District to represent my hometown of East Hartford. She is the best candidate whose whole existence is putting the community before herself.

I have been a resident of our beloved town for nearly 35 years. In that time I have seen several State Representatives come and go, several decent, upstanding Democrats who have worked tirelessly on behalf of us, the residents and taxpayers. Bringing grants and funds to rework our roads and modernize our schools. The dedication and energy our legislators put into advocating our town is demanding.

That's why the only person that I can see who can replace the East Hartford institution that is Representative Henry Genga is our very own Angie Parkinson.

Angie came to serving our town in 2016 as a bright new volunteer on the heels of the Bernie Sanders presidential campaign. Since then she has tirelessly knocked doors, made calls, and recruited a new gen-

eration of Democrats to replenish our retiring ranks. So few who live in our town for nearly twenty years have the impact Angie has, because she's dedicated to her adopted hometown!

Her work and openness as a Town Councilor she has pursued better working conditions at our Department of Public Works facilities. This is an example of how she always seeks to better the community rather than serve her own vanity or to seek power for the sake of having power.

Angie's goals as a candidate for the state legislature is a continuation of her proven record as an amazing Democrat of outstanding moral character and a dedication to Democratic values of fairness for all, dignity for the worker in their workplace, and the ability for the average Joe to have access to health care without the threat of bankruptcy. You won't find her campaigning for herself at community events or school basketball games, because she doesn't need to! She'll come to your door and talk with you, not at you, and earn your vote, not take it for granted.

Joshua F. Quintana
Board of Education

'Tyron Harris brings communities together'

To the Editor:

As an educator and principal, I am proud to support Tyron Harris for State Representative. I have seen firsthand the type of leadership he brings to our community - steady, service-driven, and deeply committed to children and families.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Tyron stepped up to lead Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Beta Sigma Lambda Chapter, helping connect Greater Hartford students and families with tutoring, meals, and enrichment opportunities through partnerships with Trinity Health, My People Clinical Services, the Town of East Hart-

ford, the Urban League of Greater Hartford, and East Hartford Public Schools.

His work reflected real leadership during a time of tremendous uncertainty and urgent need.

Tyron also understood the importance of bringing people together during a difficult time. He helped organize several free drive-in movie nights at the Showcase Cinemas plaza on Silver Lane throughout the pandemic, creating safe opportunities for families to reconnect, enjoy time together, and experience a sense of community when so many people were feeling isolated.

In education, we emphasize Preparedness, Respect, Integrity, Dedication, and Excellence - P.R.I.D.E. - along with the importance of unity among students, families, and the community. Tyron Harris embodies these values through his "whole family" approach to mentorship, service, and support.

He understands that when we invest in people and work together, our communities grow stronger.

I encourage voters to support proven, community-focused leadership.

Vote Row B, Tyron Harris.
Jesse White
Bloomfield

'Tierinni listened to neighborhood concerns'

To the Editor:

Chris Tierinni was a name, a person whom, in passing, I would nod to. All that has changed over the past few months.

While serving as the Republican alternate on the East Hartford Planning and Zoning Commission, Chris became an advocate for the residents of the Handel Road Cul-de-Sac.

At each meeting and public hearing involving the changes to

the Handel Road Cul-de-Sac, Chris would listen, ask questions, and make comments or suggestions.

So, thank you, Chris, for your due diligence in keeping the Handel Road cul-de-sac a permanent one.

I felt compelled to write this letter because I believe people should know when someone takes the time to truly listen and stand up for their community.

Chris didn't have to invest the time and effort that he did, but he cared about the people affected and the outcome.

In a time when genuine community involvement can be hard to find, I believe that kind of dedication deserves to be recognized.

Mary-Ann Bergeron
East Hartford

Ed. note: Chris Tierinni is a Republican running for the 10th Assembly District seat.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

SpongeBob ready to take your order for musical happiness

EHSYF show at EH Middle School July 31, August 1 & 2

By Robert Kanehl

This weekend East Hartford Middle School auditorium will be filled with corny jokes and a tidal wave of musical numbers as the East Hartford Summer Youth Festival presents SpongeBob Musical at the middle school Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

The ensemble of lead actors; SpongeBob SquarePants - Casey Reid, Sandy Cheeks - Zianna Miller, Patrick Star - El Roiz, Squidward Q. Tentacles - Tim McGrath, Eugene Krabs - North Ackley, Sheldon J. Plankton - Louis Haberlandt, and Karen the Computer - Locy Rae Alford all guarantee that "if you have never seen a SpongeBob cartoon, or not a fan of the character, you will enjoy this musical."

On the other hand, "if you are a SpongeBob fan," Haberlandt quickly added, "you will enjoy this musical also."

The leading cast members noted that most had never watched the cartoon either growing up, or now after being

cast in the play. The exception being Haberlandt who admits to being a cartoon fan.

Some admitted they did look at a few episodes to see the 'look of the character, and the voice,' but in general they had a blank slate in their head when preparing for the roles.

This blank slate approach casted away the pressure of providing an exact reproduction of the famed cartoon characters.

Reid playing SpongeBob SquarePants, explained they approached their characterization through with a free flow of ideas. She brought no preconceptions from the cartoon show, or other productions of the musical she had seen.

"Being a cartoon character allows you to exaggerate your movements, reactions and voice," Roiz playing Patrick Star, explained, "but you still must bring out a human side of your character."

McGrath as Squidward echoed the human side being needed, and that the characters in the play were "more in depth

and easy to humanize than presented in the cartoon show. Each has a human element to their actions and interactions." Like most of the others, he had not watched the cartoon as youngster, but has watched a couple episodes now to help with the role.

The only pressure the actors are feeling about bringing such internationally known characters to life, is the variety of action and musical numbers in the play. From tap dancing for the first time in many years to performing in 15 of the 20 musical numbers the ensemble of performers, are prepared and motivated to bring the best performance they can muster for their audience.

"The only pressure is to do it right," Reid summed up the sentiment of the acting troop.

Reid performing in her first major role for EHSYF, is excited by the fact that musical score was written by some of the top musicians of our time. She also noted that the script was so good she had laughed while watching it performed by other companies. This laughter came not by the same gags, but by how other actors presented the same material.

In general, the actors see the play as challenging and as much fun as anything else they have appeared in for the EHSYF.

The musical features over 60 cast members, ranging in age from 8 to 70+. It includes several family groups with both children and parents sharing



SPATULA AT THE READY: Casey Reid is SpongeBob Squarepants.

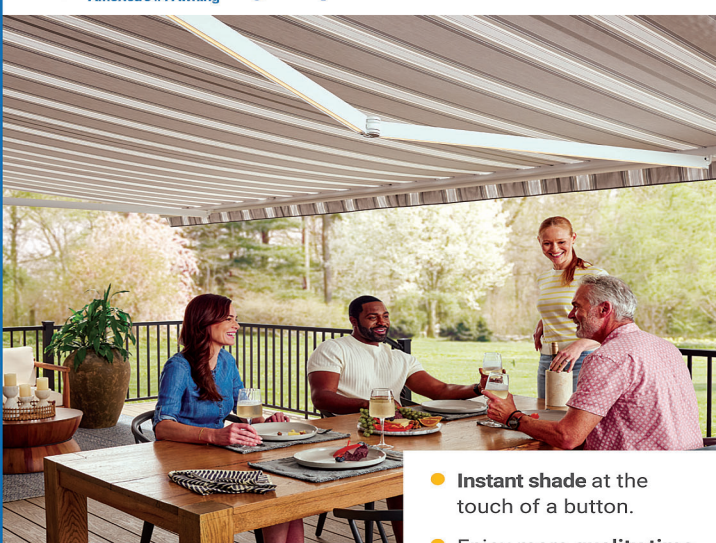
the sage.

Three performances will be offered at East Hartford Middle school located at 777 Burnside

Avune; Friday July 31, Saturday, August 1, and a matinee Sunday, August 2. Tickets available at www.ehsyf.org



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THE ART OF WELLNESS

InterCommunity Art of Wellness Day, a huge, free summer block party at 281 Main St. takes place August 6. All are invited starting at 11 a.m. until 7 p.m. for this community extravaganza featuring free health screenings, information from local organizations, live music, food, activities and a chance to view and purchase unique and affordable artwork from local artists. This will also be the debut of InterCommunity Gallery's "LIVE!" Exhibition. The day brings health, wellness and the healing power of art together for National Health Center Week! Sponsorship opportunities available with proceeds going to support high-quality, accessible care InterCommunity provides to all.

FMI: <https://tinyurl.com/IC-NHCW2026>

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 are going on every day through Thursday, August 13th.

The full list of programs is below. Note that some may require pre-registration, which



AT 88 WOODYCREST DRIVE Sunday mornings fans of AnnMarie Clarke's cottage bakery business line up for her sourdough baked goods, cookies, breads, bagels and other good stuff. Order ahead for best selection!



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.

For more information on these programs visit: www.easthartfordct.gov/home/news/summer-splash-and-play

SUMMER SPLASH AND PLAY in Martin Park

DAY	DATE	TIME	PROGRAM
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, Dance Party & 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

Penney High Class of '66 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 Demetron at penney-high60@gmail.com

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



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EAST HARTFORD SPORTS

World Cup, Open gave us thrills

Well, that was one heck of a weekend.

Soccer's World Cup came to a spectacular finish just hours after the 154th Open Championship kept viewers on the edges of their seats to the final stroke.

England's win over France in the World Cup third place game Saturday in Miami was more exciting than Sunday's championship game between Spain and Argentina in New York. It's not every day you see a 6-4 soccer game, particularly at the highest level of international competition, but that was the final as England claimed its highest World Cup

SCOTT GRAY on SPORTS

by Scott Gray



finish since I graduated from high school.

The next day, with most of the Soccer World rooting for soccer's GOAT, Argentina's Messi, to go out on top, the championship game was a cliffhanger that went two overtime halves before Spain pulled out a 1-0 win.

Mike Eruzione had U.S. fans believing in miracles, but it wasn't to be for the home team, not on the field. In the overall scheme of things, however, the U.S. was the big winner on the international stage as fans from all over the world spent the month carrying on a love affair with America after getting a first-hand look at us. Americans reciprocated with a love affair of their own, falling in love like never before with the sport that's number one in the rest of the world. MLS is likely to be one of the great beneficiaries of a tournament that generated more excitement than anyone predicted.

As for the Open Championship, what's more exciting than watching a half dozen of the world's greatest golfers, including world #1 Scottie Scheffler and hometown favorite Tommy Fleetwood, spend a Sunday at Royal Birkdale in Southampton, England chasing a number as the man who dictated the storyline of the final round didn't swing a club in the final two and a half hours? After bogeying the final hole Cam Young went to the clubhouse at nine under par. Whoever would have believed a bogey could create so much excitement, other than anyone who witnessed Jordan Spieth's 13th hole bogey in the same event, at the same venue, in 2017?

With all the contenders still on the front nine, Young could have had lunch and a nap before the last challengers came in. One by one, Scheffler, who stayed alive with a miracle birdie on 17, Fleetwood, who finished three strokes back, early final round leader Sam Burns, all failed to birdie 18, leaving Young still in the lead.

Ryan Fox, with a par on 17 went to 18 needing a par to force a playoff with Young, a birdie to end it in regulation. They were tied at nine under as Fox scoped an 11 foot birdie putt and faded it into the left side of the cup. For the only time since finishing two and a half hours earlier Young wasn't the leader. Ryan Fox became only the second New Zealander to win the Open Championship, but Cam Young dictated the story line from inside the clubhouse.

It's not often we get weekends like that.

Prospects for UConn in 2026

UConn continues to be a fascinating football program. It was a big deal in the Big East until 2012, moved into the American, and then in 2020 it went off on its own as an independent. But it's been hard to be nationally relevant without a conference.

UConn has revenue, it's coming off two nine-win seasons, and it was able to replace head coach Jim Mora (he left for Colorado State) with Jason Candle from Toledo. Now it's up to Candle to keep on winning at a place that turns most of the focus to the monster basketball teams. Football has held its own - UConn was top five in our annual Hoops and Helmets rankings - but this year won't be easy. Mora built this up, and then took it with him to Fort Collins. Candle brought Toledo with him to Storrs.

UConn Key 2025 Stats - Turnovers: Opponents 17, UConn 2; 1st Quarter Scoring: UConn 116, Opponents 54; Tackles For Loss: UConn 79 for 361 yards, Opponents 49 for 196 yards. On Offense - Everything about the UConn offense will be new. After winning big



P&W Stadium tickets go on sale.

by going safe and sane, here comes Nunzio Campanile in from Syracuse to be the new offensive coordinator, and out will pop the passing game.

Toledo will have a major influence, but there are transfers all across the board about to do big things.

At quarterback, Tucker McDonald is still around and looks good, but Toledo's Kalieb Osborne fits, and Tennessee's Jake Merklinger is a nice option. No

matter who the passer is, the stats will be there. Running backs should be one of the team's deepest areas early on. Kenji Christian was a strong back for Toledo, Cyncir Bowers is a quick option from West Virginia, and Trey Cornist is a tough runner from Central Michigan. The rotation will be terrific. Turnovers weren't a problem at Toledo. UConn lost one fumble and gave away one interception. This year's UConn team will probably give away that before the season gets started, but there will still be a big emphasis on ball control and not giving the ball away.

For all the good things UConn did, Toledo was far better at controlling the time of possession battle. With many transfers on the offensive line, Deron McLaughlin should be at center, and Ty Chan is back at right guard. Those two are good holdovers, but the other three spots have to be set right away.

Tackle Christian Richter saw plenty of time at Marshall, and Houston Christian's Ben Mullholland was a nice get for the inside. In all, though, six transfers will play roles.

Stadium gets ready for football

UConn football's promotional schedule includes a Community Day in September as the Huskies, under new head coach Jason Candle, host the University of Maryland Terrapins here in East Hartford.

Specifics of how the Huskies intend to involve the town were not disclosed to the *Gazette*, but in the past the games have included ticket giveaways and special activities around the stadium to appeal to residents.

The stadium, owned by the state and managed by the state Office of Policy and Management, has yet to put up a display sign along Silver Lane to alert local residents to stadium activity - but its only been 23 years, and although the roof and concrete needed repairs, more time may be necessary in order for state officials to realize that the facility sits in the center of a town of 51,000 residents who would appreciate knowing what is going on.

This football season the University of Connecticut is super excited to bring out the mascot and the marching band and recreate the excitement of division one football.

East Hartford will host 7 home games, highlighted by ACC opponents North Carolina and Syracuse as well as Maryland from the Big Ten.

The Huskies are still playing as an independent, like Notre Dame, keeping all its options open. The pressures of major conference rules and schedules don't enter into the picture for the team, which this season features nearly two dozen transfers from Toledo, the last collegiate program Coach Candle led.

But whatever happens following last years 9-4 season and Fenway Bowl appearance, the parking lots will be open to tailgating and fun at Pratt & Whitney Stadium at Rentschler Field off Silver Lane, East Hartford.

UConn football season tickets start at \$130 (plus fees), and parking admission is another \$140 for the 7 games.

Fans who purchase the three-game mini plan save off the single-game ticket prices. Unfortunately there is no box office here in East Hartford except on game days, so you will need to get your tickets in advance at the Hartford Civic Center. The three game plan includes two of games against either North Carolina, Syracuse or Maryland plus one additional game.

Single-game tickets are on sale beginning Friday, July 24 at 10 a.m.

Fans are encouraged to visit UConnHuskies.com/Football.

For personal service or questions call 1-877-AT-UCONN (288-2666), Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Press option 1 for Ticket Sales and Service or 2 for Ticket Operations.

OBITUARIES

Denise Senatore, 79

Denise Senatore, 79, loving wife, sister and aunt, passed away on July 11 surrounded by family in her home, after a long battle with pancreatic cancer.

Denise was born and raised in East Hartford, where she graduated from Penney High School in 1965. She attended Eastern



Denise Senatore

Connecticut State College and obtained a Bachelor's and a Master's Degree in Education. Denise went on to teach first grade and then kindergarten, spending her entire teaching career at Center Road School in Vernon, Connecticut. Denise was devoted to her teaching, loved children, and frequently talked about her interactions with them in a caring way. After retiring, she often encountered her former students, and was always remembered with a smile. She made many lifelong friends with staff at Center Road School and enjoyed getting together with her former colleagues throughout the years.

Denise was devoted to being physically active and enjoyed skiing, running, biking, playing tennis, and her daily visits to Big Sky gym. She maintained much of her remarkably active lifestyle throughout her cancer journey. Other passionate interests included Broadway musicals and UCONN basketball.

Denise and Gary were married for 33 years and lived in South Windsor. Establishing family traditions was always important to her. She loved decorating her home with seasonal items, and hosted many annual July 4th parties, using the occasion to recognize birthdays, anniversaries, and special events in others' lives. She loved celebrating holidays with family, especially hosting Thanksgiving each year. Denise was the family's social director. She planned and made each gathering more special with activities and games, providing

the family with many laughs and precious memories.

She made many happy memories traveling to Caribbean beach destinations, Florida, and Hawaii with her husband, as well as later trips to Greece and Italy. In recent years, Denise remarked how much she enjoyed the annual summer family beach vacation in Rhode Island, frequently biking on Block Island, a favorite place. She especially enjoyed her role as what Denise called "the cool aunt" to her niece and nephews throughout her life. Always stylish, friendly, and full of life, she will be greatly missed.

Denise is survived by her husband, Gary Newmaster, her sister, Patty DeCarli, and husband Pete DeCarli Jr., of Coventry CT.; her brother, Tony Senatore Jr., and husband Bob Lamy, of Ocala, FL.; her sister-in-law, Mary Senatore of Huntington, MA.; her niece Stacey Bell, her nephews, Ryan Bell, Joe Senatore, Michael Senatore, Jared Senatore, great nephews Evan and Parker Bell, and many cousins. She was predeceased by her brother Paul Senatore, and parents Anthony and Elizabeth Senatore.

At a future date, there will be a celebration of life for her many close friends and family.

The family would like to acknowledge the staff at Medical Oncology and Blood Disorders, a division of Regional Cancer care Associates LLC, for Denise's exceptional cancer care. Gifts in Denise's honor can be made to Pancreatic Cancer Action Network pancan.org

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

Eileen (Griffin) Dowd, 94

Eileen (Griffin) Dowd, 94, wife of the late Jeremiah Dowd, passed away peacefully on July 12, 2026, at Jefferson House in Newington, CT.

Born April 4, 1932, in Feohanagh, Dingle, Co. Kerry, Ireland, to Michael and Mary (Russell) Griffin, Eileen emigrated to the U.S. in 1950, arriving first in Hartford, and soon after moved to NYC, where in 1954, she married her beloved Jerh. They settled in the South End of Hartford for many years before moving to East Hartford in 1980. They raised nine children. Eileen was a very hard worker who was seldom found sitting down. In-home care assistance, Cretella's Bakery, Wethersfield Manor, and Generis Catering were just some of the places where that work ethic shined. She had a deep spiritual faith, and with great courage, she persevered through difficult times, including a childhood bout with polio, setting an example for her chil-



Eileen Dowd

dren every day, simply in the way she lived. Perhaps her greatest legacy was her dedication to her son, Michael, who was born with lifelong physical challenges. Eileen was a wonderful friend and neighbor, generous to a fault, who would share anything she had with anyone who needed it. She was an expert

knitter and enjoyed socializing at the East Hartford Senior Center and the Irish American Home in Glastonbury.

Eileen is survived by her children, Jim (Peg) of Coventry, Mary of Manchester, Madeline (Frank) LeBlanc of Glastonbury, Patrick of East Hartford, Michael of Hebron, Elizabeth of Wethersfield, Joan (Mark) Robichaud of Simsbury, Jeremiah (Stacey) of Granby, and Tom (Karolina) of West Hartford. She also leaves her beloved grandchildren, Heather, Sean (Kate), Eileen, Matt (Caroline), Lindsay (Paul), Conor (Alexa), Hannah, Abigail

(Ronak), Jeremiah, Laura, Jack, and Patrick. And great-grandchildren, Mae Frances, Quinn Margaret, Caleena, Conall, and Theo. She is survived by her two sisters, Siobhan Sullivan of West Hartford, Peig Conneely of Ireland, and a sister-in-law, Máiréad O'Dowd of Ireland.

She also leaves to mourn her passing two special godsons, Brendan Russell and Patrick Sullivan, along with many nieces and nephews.

In addition to her husband, parents, and many in-laws, Eileen was predeceased by her sisters, Mary Ellen Sullivan and Cáit O'Sullivan, and her brother, Thomas Griffin.

Mom, we will miss the simplest things the most, like seeing your crystal blue eyes and the sound of your voice speaking your beautiful Gaelic. Safe home, Mom. *Ar dheis Dé go raibh a hanam.*

No services are scheduled at this time. A memorial Mass will be scheduled at a later date.

Donations in her memory may be made to House of Bread, 27 Chestnut St. Hartford, CT 06120. Visit: www.FarleySullivan.com.

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Paraeducator Academy

From Page One

how we are investing in opportunity while strengthening public education across our state."

"Every student benefits from caring, well-prepared educators, and paraeducators are an indispensable part of that success," Commissioner Russell-Tucker said. "By eliminating the cost of training and exam fees, provid-

ing mentoring, and connecting participants with hiring school districts, the Paraeducator Preparation Academy creates new opportunities for aspiring paraeducators while strengthening Connecticut's educator workforce."

Delivered in partnership with Alliance School Districts, paraeducator unions, commu-

nity organizations, and Educational Testing Service, the academy connects participants who successfully complete the program and pass the ParaPathways assessment with districts seeking to hire paraeducators. Once employed, participants are paired with experienced mentor paraeducators as they begin their careers.

"The Paraeducator Preparation Academy is exactly what Connecticut needs—a powerful recruitment tool that makes clear this work is a profession, not a position," Tricia Santos, co-chair of the Paraeducator Advisory Council and staff representative for AFSCME Council 4, said. "Paraeducators are lifelines to our students, and this academy ensures every new para enters with real training, real mentorship, and real preparation to meet the moment."

"This innovative pilot program is an important investment in aspiring paraeducators, giving them the tools and support they need to help students succeed from day one," Shellye Davis, president of the Hartford Federation of Paraeducators Local 2221 and divisional vice president for Paraprofessional and School Related Personnel of AFT Connecticut, said. "When we invest in paraeducators, we invest in the future of every classroom."

Funding for the Paraeducator Preparation Academy is provided through the special education training, education, and testing competitive grant program, which is supported by a \$1 million state investment.

Riverfront apartments

From Page One

paying off the bonds to pay for the multi-project development. Along with the 1,000 apartments, retail and offices, recreational use by converting a section of East River Drive, working with the Army Corps of Engineers to put a plaza across the top of the levee system, and connecting to the existing trails and green spaces along the river will reimagine the sterile office park.

Mayor Martin said there will be public forums where residents could share their views and suggestions for the area's redevelopment.

Notably, however, none of the developers of the project have shown up for a single press conference at the site of

the proposed Port Eastside development. The investors have been quietly scooping up and acquiring parcels within the 30-acre site for years, and have evicted the remaining tenants of 111 Founders Plaza, the tallest non-sprinklered high-rise in the state. That building will be converted into 240 apartments and another \$9 million is needed to get it started.

East Hartford already received \$6.5 million in state grants to fund demolition of a roughly 150,000-square-foot building at 99 Founders Plaza that once hosted Bank of America check processing center and the parking garage. Preliminary plans call for a 300-unit low-rise apartment building there, the first of a planned 1,000 units.



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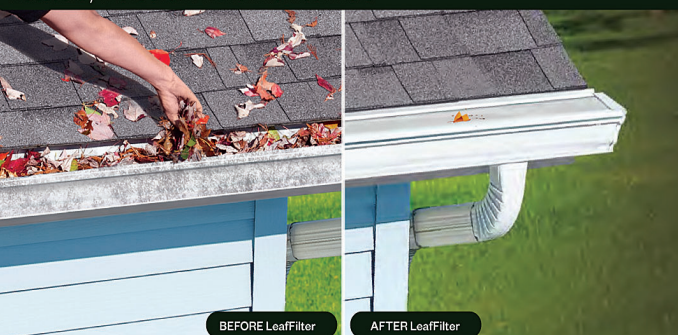
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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF
DIANE T. CARTIER
(26-00146)

The Hon. Richard P. Gentile, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of East Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated **July 16, 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:

Andre J. Santiago
c/o Stephen T. Penny,
Esquire; Stephen T. Penny,
202 West Center St.,
Manchester, CT 06040

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF
DONALD T. SCHWAGER,
AKA DONALD SCHWAGER
(26-00198)

The Hon. Richard P. Gentile, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of East Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated **July 15, 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:

Katherine LaRosa
c/o Catherine Mollie Baccaro,
Esquire; Reed Wilson Case,
330 South Main St.,
Middletown, CT 06457

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF
ANDREW ROBERT BARLES,
AKA ANDREW R. BARLES,
AKA ANDREW BARLES,
AKA ANDY ROBERT BARLES
(26-00256)

The Hon. Richard P. Gentile, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of East Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated **July 16, 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:

Daniel Lupacchino
c/o Jonathan Dickert
Donovan, Esquire; Vollono &
Donovan, LLC, 49 Broad St.,
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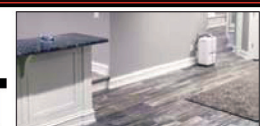
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WHERE THE ACTION IS!

BY CORINNE HORAN

BLOOD DRIVES IN EAST HARTFORD: 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 RedCross-Blood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767). As a thank-you, all who come to give July 13-31 receive a Fandango Movie Ticket by e-mail, a \$15 value.

JULY 23: SOUNDS OF SUMMER concert, 6 p.m., Great River Park. Tonight go hear **The Score**. Next Thursday **Soul Sound Review**. Bring the family, meet friends, bring a picnic basket. In case of inclement conditions the concerts move indoors to the auditorium of the Community Center at 50 Chapman Place.

JULY 25, 26: THE WORLD WAR II LEGACY FOUNDATION MUSEUM, 102 Pitkin St., Saturday, July 25 & Sunday, July 26: Open 3 until 6 p.m. Remember a World War II veteran with a July birthday, stop by to share your photos and memories. Saturday, August 1: Remember the loss of the USS Indianapolis (CA-35). Program features Michael Kiselica who will relate the experience of his father, Joe Kiselica, an East Hartford resident who endured five days in the open ocean before rescue. A documentary of the sinking will also be shown. 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 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 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 be-

fore July 25. FMI call 860-568-5150. Help us help DCF families shop with dignity.

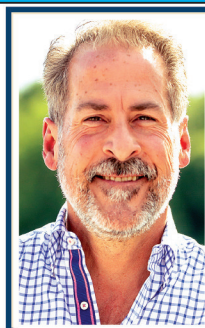
JULY 24: HIKE THROUGH HISTORY - Grab your walking shoes and go for a walk around one of Connecticut's historic locations. Sponsored by the Museum of Connecticut History within the State Library, museum curator Patrick Smith will lead a hike in Hartford July 24 to uncover the impact of the Revolution. 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.

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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 28: FARMER'S MARKET TUESDAY, 12-2:30 p.m. on the Town Green, 1047 Main St. SNAP, WIC, Senior FMNP accepted. Market location is subject to weather conditions. Call Parks and Rec.

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.

AUG 2: PANCAKE BREAKFAST at Hillstown Grange, 617 Hills St., 8:30 to 11 includes sausage, coffee, tea and juice for \$6; \$3 for kids under 14. Lemon pancakes with blueberry topping, or plain or chocolate chip options. Upstairs check out the book sale or relax with a book, puzzle or game. Grange entries from needlework, photography and craft contests are on display. Free seed packets.

AUGUST 4: NATIONAL NIGHT OUT at Alumni Park,

Main Street, from 5-8 p.m. Features fun and activities for all ages, including SWAT Team Display, K-9 Demonstrations, Motorcycle and Marine Units, face painting and kid-friendly activities, and hot dogs and hamburgers. Get advice on crime prevention, emergency preparedness, and neighborhood watch programs and meet your town's law enforcement professionals. Be part of this nationwide event.

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.