

A garden blooms at DePietro Park

By Robert Kanehl

One year after officially dedicating the Pollinator Garden at the Emma and Nicholas DePietro Park, at the corner of Forbes and Silver Lane, the International WeLoveU Foundation volunteers staged a community-oriented expo.

Held Sunday the event drew community members and officials to enjoy over 20 vendors ranging from children activities to crafts. Visitors enjoyed the park and the organizations effort to convert the old farm and nursery into a friendly environment for reflection. The pollinator expo was monitored by over 70 volunteer members of the WeLoveU Foundation.

It was not all fun and sales as several of the vendors were there to promote composting, gardening skills, and community-based environmental preservation efforts.

Besides the vendors, both Mayor Connor Martin and Congressman John Larson spoke, noting the accomplishments that the organization had made on the site over the past year.

South Church partnered with East Hartford Parks and Recreation to welcome everyone to paint inspirational messages on decorated rocks. A special space is being set aside which will feature the rocks painted with words of encouragement and hope by students from Sunset Ridge Middle School and all visitors to the

CELEBRATING 'MOM'S GARDEN'



SOUTH CHURCH set up a rock painting station at the Pollinators Expo at DePietro Park Saturday held to mark the one year anniversary of the opening of the pollinator garden by the volunteers of the We LoveU Foundation, East Hartford Parks and Recreation and the East Hartford Garden Club.



DEBATE IN HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY - Congressman John Larson is flanked by two of his three Democratic challengers Wednesday, Ruth Fortune, left, and Jillian Gilcrest, right.

Sparks fly in 1st District debates

A debate televised Tuesday incumbent U.S. Rep. John Larson defended his record of nearly three decades in Congress as three challengers sought to make the case for new leadership.

On Wednesday the four contenders for the Democratic primary August 11 met again at the Hartford Public Library in a less contentious forum hosted by the League of Women Voters.

Taped earlier Tuesday, the WTNH-TV, News 8 debate took place in New Haven, outside the 27-town district being contested. The session swung between attacks on Larson and on former Hartford Mayor Luke Bronin for their dependence on deep pools of campaign cash - nearly \$6 million in total being spent by the two men.

The first half of the debate focused on "one of the central questions of this election, which is whether there should be a new face of the 1st District." Bronin, the party-endorsed candidate, also took regular blows from Larson, West Hartford Rep. Jillian Gilcrest and Hartford Board of Education member Ruth Fortune. This was the first time they took part in a debate where they could directly respond to one another's claims and criticisms. Larson's rivals made the case that someone new should represent the 1st District, and vented frustration

AROUND TOWN

Public comments requested on police accreditation process

The East Hartford Police Department is an accredited law enforcement agency through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA®). The Department began pursuing accreditation in 2015, initiating a rigorous self-assessment process to meet the Commission's stringent law enforcement standards. After successfully achieving initial accredited status in 2019, the Department earned reaccreditation in 2023. CALEA is scheduled to evaluate the De-

partment's accredited status again in 2027.

CALEA accreditation evaluates agencies across a wide range of standard areas, including use of force, training and career development, criminal investigation, juvenile operations, critical incidents and homeland security, traffic, evidence control, and communications, among others.

The purpose of CALEA's accreditation process is to improve the delivery of public safety services by maintaining nationally recognized best-prac-

tice standards, developed by public safety professionals, and by recognizing agencies that meet a high level of professional excellence. Accreditation helps agencies strengthen crime prevention capabilities, formalize management procedures, ensure fair personnel practices, improve service delivery, and build community and staff confidence.

As part of this ongoing process, CALEA invites members of the public to submit comments, commendations, or other feedback regarding the

East Hartford Police Department's compliance with CALEA standards through the Commission's Accreditation Public Comment Portal.

Community members can access the portal at: <https://cimrs2.calea.org/827>

CALEA is not an investigatory body, and the portal should not be used to report incidents requiring investigation. Submissions will receive acknowledgment only, but all feedback will be reviewed for relevance to the Department's standards compliance.

For more information, visit <https://www.easthartfordct.gov/police-department/pages/calea-accreditation-public-comment-portal>.

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.

Chief Mack Hawkins said, "This is one of our favorite nights of the year. It's a chance for our officers to meet neighbors outside of a call for service, and for families to get an up-close look at the equipment and units that protect our community."

National Night Out will take place Tuesday, August 4, 2026, at Alumni Park in East Hartford (1021 Main Street) from 5 to 8 P.M. All residents are encouraged to attend.

Primary election Early Voting

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.

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

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



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MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT

FOOD

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Highway lights to be replaced

The Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) is announcing that replacement of roadway illumination on the I-84 and I-384 interchange in East Hartford and Manchester will be starting on Monday, July 27, 2026.

This project consists of the replacement of existing roadway lightings system on the I-84 and I-384 interchange in East Hartford and Manchester.

DOT Project No. 0171-0508/0515 was awarded to Superior Electric, LLC at a cost of \$8,972,815.00 on January 27, 2026, and is scheduled to be completed January 12, 2028. This project is administered by the Bureau of Engineering and Construction, Office of Construction, District One in Rocky Hill.

Motorists can expect lane closures on I-84 and I-384 in East Hartford and Manchester Monday through Friday between the hours of 6:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m., as well as Saturday and Sundays.

Motorists should be aware that modifications or extensions to this schedule may become necessary due to weather delays or other unforeseen conditions. Motorists are advised to maintain a safe speed when driving in this area.

PRIMARY ELECTION TUESDAY, AUGUST 11

EARLY VOTING AUGUST 3 - 9

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Angie
PARKINSON
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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Schools seek school supplies for Wednesday's Back to School Rally

As the East Hartford community gears up for the annual Back to School Rally on Wednesday, August 5, the school organizers have issued a last-minute appeal for donations of school supplies.

The rally will take place in a new location this year - McAuliffe Park. During this event, East Hartford families will receive school supplies and information on community resources that will be helpful throughout the upcoming school year.

Event Details:

- Date: Wednesday August 5 from 3:30 - 6:30 PM (Rain Date: August 6)

- Location: McAuliffe Park/Norris School, 30 Remington Road, East Hartford

It's not too late to support this event! East Hartford Public Schools is still collecting school supplies and donations from

the community to ensure we

EHPS Amazon Wish List:



can serve as many students and families as possible.

How to Donate:

Deliver In Person:

- Drop off school supplies to 50 Chapman Place, East Hartford, Lower-Level Room 3

Purchase and Ship via Amazon:

Scan the QR code at the left, or online visit:

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2ORF8U8T0RVGQ?ref=wl_share

All donations are welcome.

Join us in making a difference in the lives of our children. Your support is crucial and deeply appreciated! For more information, please contact:

Michelle Texidor

Family and Community Partnership Coordinator

East Hartford Public Schools

texidor-pham.ml@easthart-

ford.org

(860) 622-5157

The Gazette

Thursday, July 30, 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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Advertising: ads@ehgazette.com

SPEAKING OUT!, LETTERS

SEIU CT throws support to John Larson

SEIU Connecticut State Council, which includes the influential SEIU 4Cs (Congress of Connecticut Community Colleges, SEIU Local 1973) and CEUI SEIU (Connecticut Employees Union Independent) Local 511 among other influential affiliates, has endorsed John Larson for re-election. The announcement follows previous endorsements for Larson from affiliates SEIU 1199 and CSEA

SEIU Local 2001.

The SEIU State Council represents over 65,000 members across the state of Connecticut in both the public and private sectors, including healthcare providers, educators, janitors, security guards, state employees, and more.

"We are proud to endorse John Larson based on his years of holding the line on Social Security, working to ensure Con-

necticut workers have quality jobs, and his advocacy around making healthcare more affordable and accessible," said Corey Geisman, SEIU State Council Executive Director.

"I will always stand up for working people in Congress, whether it means taking on Donald Trump or the billionaire class," said Congressman Larson. "We're excited to have SEIU State Council on our side."

Supports Angie Parkinson

To the editor:

My name is Hassan Robinson. I have been an East Hartford resident for nearly 30 years and have worked as a public school educator and administrator for more than 25 years. My wife and children have all attended East Hartford Public Schools. I am writing to express my strong support for Angie Parkinson in her campaign for Connecticut State Representative.

I have known Angie for more than ten years through both education and public service, and throughout that time she has consistently demonstrated the qualities that make an effective leader and public servant. She is kind, thoughtful, collaborative, and genuinely committed to serving others. Most importantly, she deeply cares about the East Hartford community and the people who call it home.

As a 25-year educator and East Hartford Town Councilor, Angie has dedicated her career to helping others and creating opportunities for local families. Her experience in education and public service has given her a firsthand understanding of the challenges many residents face and the importance of working together to find practical solutions.

As an educator myself, I especially appreciate Angie's unwavering support for public schools, students, and the educators who serve them every day. She understands that strong schools are essential to strong communities, and she has consistently advocated for fair school funding and educational opportunities that help all students succeed.

Angie has been a strong advocate for working families, responsible economic development, and taxpayer re-

lief. Her priorities include supporting public education and fair school funding, increasing access to affordable housing, food, childcare, and energy, promoting quality healthcare, supporting workers and fair wages, and protecting civil rights and our democracy. These are issues that directly affect East Hartford residents every day.

What sets Angie apart is her willingness to listen. She values different perspectives, seeks collaboration, and approaches challenges with thoughtfulness and respect. Her campaign slogan, "Listens. Learns. Leads." accurately reflects the person I have come to know over the past decade.

East Hartford deserves a representative who is experienced, compassionate, and dedicated to moving our community forward. I believe Angie Parkinson is that leader, and I encourage voters to support her for State Representative.

Hassan Robinson
East Hartford
resident and educator

LETTER POLICY

The Gazette welcomes letters on subjects of interest to our readers. Please include a daytime phone number for verification.

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SPEAKING OUT!, LETTERS

Angie Parkinson will work for us in Hartford

By Rich Kehoe
TOWN COUNCIL CHAIR

I am strongly supporting Angie Parkinson for State Representative simply because she cares and works hard.

Angie has served on the Town Council for 7 years and during that time I have had the opportunity to get to know Angie as a person and a public official.

Angie is a high school teacher who goes the extra mile to ensure each of her students are better prepared for the real world and understand they can have a bright future.

On the Town Council, she – not surprisingly – does her homework. She is always prepared, having asked the tough questions before the council meeting begins.

She has advocated for programs to help East Hartford youth and adults get the skills



RICH KEHOE

to better their lives. She has supported programs to assist those in need of medical care and social services.

Often people come to the Town Council meetings looking for assistance. Angie's first question is always: how can we help?

It is precisely that work ethic and deep caring about East Hartford residents that make Angie the obvious choice in the upcoming primary election on August 11th for state representative.

She is the endorsed candidate – having won overwhelming support from the Democratic Town Committee along with many unions and other organizations supporting the working class.

Angie will bring this hard work and caring to the State Capitol and advocate for a minimum wage that people can live on; health insurance that is fair and affordable and lower electricity costs and more renewable energy.

On August 11th (or during early voting August 3 to August 9 at Town Hall) please vote for Angie Parkinson and send a strong working class advocate to the State Capitol to work for us!

John Larson stepped in to protect us from nuclear waste

To the Editor:

I grew up in East Hartford. After college, I began teaching at East Hartford High School. State representative Aloysius Ahearn was teaching there. Years later, Gary LeBeau, who was teaching at EHHS, served as a state representative. John Larson left teaching and coaching in East Hartford, a few years before I started.

My wife and I moved our young family to a new residential development in South Windsor in 1990. Like others, we were attracted to South Windsor for the exemplary reputation of the school system, the commitment to open space, and reasonable commute to work. We relocated to a town with a long history of farming. Since our arrival, the town has experienced remarkable growth in population and development; housing, business, medical services, retail, etc.

In the late 1990's the ball dropped. The State of Connecticut proposed storing its nuclear waste in South Windsor. To characterize the reaction to the proposal as 'a concern' would be a gross understatement. Opposition to the proposal focused on multiple issues. What might be the potential risk to the health/lives of the men, women, and children in South Windsor and in other towns? How would a nuclear waste storage facility

affect the town's plans for future development and growth? What would be the short and long-term financial impact on residents who had decided to live in South Windsor?

A meeting was scheduled by state officials to outline the proposal. There would be public participation. During that portion of the meeting, First District Congressman John Larson walked into the jam-packed auditorium. He took his place at a table, in front of a microphone. He carried with him and then laid out on the table a map from the US Geological Society.

The map indicated that South Windsor has an aquifer. There was water under that dirt. On one hand, the aquifer had contributed to the success of the farming community for years. On the other hand, the possibility of an accident with stored nuclear waste could lead to the contamination of water for South Windsor and for surrounding towns.

I believe the ill-advised proposal died, when Representative Larson stopped speaking. He had listened to the farmers, and what they shared with him became the crux of his testimony. He made the difference. The threat was gone. It was over. Just one of the many achievements of John Larson.

Aaron Silva
South Windsor

Angie a 'political insider'?

To the Editor:

It was with amusement when I read the mail piece from Angie Parkinson's 10th assembly opponent. Angie the insider? Really? As Bernie Sanders delegates to the 2016 Democratic Convention in Philadelphia never did we feel like insiders, just ask the Hillary folks. Angie is not the candidate working in a Town Hall office collecting a 6-figure salary.

As a member of the Town Council Angie collects only about \$4,000 yearly. A modest amount for the work she and her fellow councilors perform.

Angie's mail doesn't include pictures of our fine mayor. Nor does she pose for pictures with Governor Lamont. Who is the insider? Her opponent men-

tions that, like him, John Larson didn't win the Dems endorsement. True, but he won 100% of the delegates from East Hartford. Like John Larson, Angie won the majority of votes in town, picking up 77% (31-9) from the 10th Assembly district.

Folks that make up the Democrat and Republican town committees are your neighbors who give up their time because they want to be involved. They are not people who work in and depend on town government for their careers. Besides, Angie already has a career she loves as a teacher. Angie's running for state rep to make lives better for residents, not to further her career as a bureaucrat.

Dan Durso
East Hartford

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Curtain rising on SpongeBob the Musical Friday

East Hartford residents get \$2 off admission at the door with cash payment and their ID

On July 31, August 1 and 2, 2026, the East Hartford Summer Youth Festival (EHSYF) will present "The SpongeBob Musical" at East Hartford Middle School, 777 Burnside Avenue.

Showtimes are Friday and Saturday at 7:30 in the evening and Sunday at 2 o'clock in the

afternoon. Tickets are \$12 under age 13 and over age 61; \$15 everyone else, and can be purchased online at www.ehsyf.org or at the door.

SPECIAL this year! If you have proof you are an East Hartford resident **AND** pay cash at the door, you can get \$2 off your ticket...

Join us for some underwater fun! 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.



SpongeBob SquarePants will be performed by 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.

You need not be a dedicated watcher of the cartoon show to enjoy this show. But "if you are a SpongeBob fan," Haberlandt says, "you will enjoy this musical." From tap dancing to the many audience-friendly musical numbers, the ensemble has been preparing and are motivated to bring it with energy and fun for everyone.

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 the underwater drama in Bikini Bottom. As is the tradition with all EHSYF shows, the six weeks of rehearsals has bonded the performers, and given parents and kids, and brothers and sisters, plenty of time to laugh.

The SpongeBob Musical brings the world of Bikini Bottom to life with an original score, vibrant costumes, and high-energy choreography.

Volunteers are also needed to help run the concession stand. So its not too late for you to become part of the EHSYF production.

See the information on the EHSYF facebook page, or e-mail www.ehsyf.org.

East Hartford Summer Youth Festival, Inc. Presents

nickelodeon THE SPONGEBOB MUSICAL

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Book by Kyle Jarrow
Original Songs by

Yolanda Adams, Steven Tyler and Joe Perry of Aerosmith, Sara Bareilles, Jonathan Colton, Alex Ebert of Edward Sharpe & The Magnetic Zeros, The Flaming Lips, Lady A, Cyndi Lauper, John Legend, Panic! At the Disco, Plain White T's, They Might Be Giants, T.I.

And Songs By

David Bowie, Tom Kenny & Andy Paley

Additional Lyrics by

Jonathan Coulton

Additional Music by

Tom Kitt

Musical Production Conceived by Tina Landau

Presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals.



Friday, July 31 7:30pm
Saturday, August 1 7:30pm
Sunday, August 2 2:00pm

Tickets available online at www.ehsyf.org
and at the door

\$15 General Admission | \$12 Seniors/12 and under

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777 Burnside Avenue, East Hartford

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CALL FOR COMMUNITY ARTISTS



Elevate Here: VISIONS IN ART community banner project

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

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

Public unveiling during the annual Fall Fest!

► **learn more: easthartfordct.gov/visionsinart**



Submission Deadline:
August 14th, 2026 at 11:59 p.m.

CASH PRIZES FOR TOP 3 ARTISTS!

EAST HARTFORD SPORTS

‘Exceptional live pick-pocketing’

Are you ready for some football? Well, football is ready for you. By the time you read this NFL camps will be open and all four power college football conferences will have held their annual three day preseason media sessions. The Big 12 couldn't get out of the gate fast enough, holding its media days, usually held the first week of August, the first week of July. The ACC days were held this week. UConn, coming off a 9-4 season and a Wasabi Fenway Bowl loss to Army, with no conference affiliation, held its preseason media day in Storrs this Thursday morning.

SCOTT GRAY on SPORTS

by Scott Gray



The early starts are likely a reaction to the changing landscape in college sports where many of the athletes, primarily the premier talents, are now paid professionals who change teams as often as they change their underwear. The ink probably has yet to dry on many roster sheets as the turnstiles to the transfer portal keep spinning.

UConn isn't on the outside looking in. For the Huskies the portal has been an important element in retooling for this season with 56 transfers coming to Storrs. The biggest shoes to fill will be at quarterback, where Joe Fagnano put up a record season, earning him a three year contract with the Baltimore Ravens, who signed him as an undrafted free agent. Last week the Ravens pretty much secured his roster spot when they waived former Vanderbilt quarterback Diego Pavila. Rebuilding at UConn begins at the top where Jason Candle takes over as head coach, succeeding Jim Mora, who engineered one of the great rebuilding projects in Division One, leading the Huskies to two straight bowl games. Candle will have a pretty good handle on much of his talent. 19 of 56 transfers followed him over from Toledo.

Just as the new season sets to kick off there are some new contenders on the horizon. Hold onto your wallets. These contenders aren't on the field, they're coming after your money. The already crowded field of gambling partnerships with the major sports, pro and college, already including DraftKings, BET-MGM, FanDuel and Caesars, continues to swell.

The NCAA has signed a deal through 2032 with Genius Sports to license post season and championship data feeds to authorized sportsbooks. Another newcomer to the marriage of sports and gambling is Circa Sports, offering, "an extensive variety of bets". And the 'come on and bet' wording of their advertising is specifically designed to have inveterate gamblers frothing at the mouth and reaching for their cash stashes.

"Tight money line splits, lowest holds", and, my favorite, "Exceptional live customer service."

Let me translate that last one for you. They'll get your bets locked in as quickly as possible, wasting no time getting you on to your next bet and giving you no time to ask where the money for all of those expensive prime time TV ads comes from. I'll give you a hint. Those sportsbooks have one primary source of revenue: Losers.

PGA solidifies Travelers status

The PGA TOUR and the Travelers Championship announced today that the tournament will become part of the PGA TOUR Championship Series beginning in 2028, continuing a proud legacy of 75 years as the TOUR enters an exciting era with a new competitive model.

The full PGA TOUR schedule for 2028, when the PGA TOUR Championship Series debuts, will be announced at a later date.

"Our goal every year is for the Travelers Championship to be one of the best tournaments on the PGA TOUR, so being part of the upcoming PGA TOUR Championship Series is validation of the collective effort that Travelers, the tournament team, fans and volunteers have invested over the past two decades," said Andy Bessette, Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer at Travelers. "We thank the TOUR for this opportunity and are excited to partner with them on working hard to deliver a world-class experience."

Brian Rolapp, CEO of the PGA TOUR, held a press conference at the Travelers Championship this year, when he announced the PGA TOUR Championship Series will feature the PGA TOUR's top performers competing head-to-head across the season. There will be approximately 23-24 events, including THE PLAYERS Championship, major championships, postseason events and international team events (Presidents Cup, Ryder Cup), with the TOUR season running from February through August.

Asked during that press conference how the Travelers Championship might fit into the TOUR's new competitive model, Rolapp said, "This has been an extremely successful tournament by every metric. Our members love it. Travelers is an amazing partner. We obviously have an affinity for this course. ... They do a wonderful job. I think they do a lot of things that we're looking for in a Championship Series event."

The Travelers Championship has been held in Connecticut

every year since 1952 and contested at TPC River Highlands in Cromwell, Connecticut, annually since 1984. Travelers became the tournament's title sponsor in 2007 and is the longest-serving title in the event's history.

This year marked the fourth straight year of the tournament enjoying elevated status on the PGA TOUR schedule; it has been a Signature Event the past three years, and it was a Designated Event in 2023.

"This partnership with Travelers and with the PGA TOUR has taken the tournament to incredible new heights," said Travelers Championship Tournament Director Nathan Grube. "We're proud of the Travelers Championship, the economic impact it makes on our community and the state of Connecticut, and the hundreds of local charities that continue to benefit financially."

With Travelers as title sponsor, the tournament has generated more than \$40 million for over 1,000 charities. This year's Travelers Championship set records, generating more than \$5 million for over 270 charities. The event was won by Viktor Hovland on the first hole of a playoff.

Meyer hopes for Stafford 5K win

Chris Meyer will look for his third win of 2026 this Friday, July 31st. as Stafford's SK Modifieds®, SK Lights, Limited Late Models, and Street Stocks will all join the Late Model cars in feature action. Tickets for this Friday are available now on Stafford's website and fans can save \$5 by purchasing tickets in advance.

For more information, visit staffordspeedway.com, follow Stafford Speedway on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, or contact the track office at 860-684-2783.

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

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
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

OBITUARIES

Christina Leone

Christina Leone of East Hartford died Tuesday, July 21, 2026 at home. Born in Hartford on February 5, 1970 she was the oldest daughter of Beverly (Sogaro) Leone and the late William A. Leone. She was a graduate of Kingswood Oxford School, Gettysburg College, and Fordham University. During her years at Kingswood Oxford, she was actively involved both on and off the stage.

On stage, she participated in chorus and various theater productions. Off the stage, she took great pride in serving as manager of the girls' varsity basketball team. She also showcased her remarkable knowledge as a member of the 1988 As Schools Match Wits High School Bowl championship team.

Her love of learning remained a defining part of her life. An avid reader with a passion for trivia and word games, Christina achieved one of her proudest accomplishments in August 2021 when she appeared as a contestant on Jeopardy!, earning an impressive second-place finish.

Theater and music were among Christina's greatest joys. She cherished trips to Broadway and performances at The Bushnell, and was a passionate supporter of the local arts. She was formerly employed by The Hartford Stage Company and could often be found at the Little Theater of Manchester. In addition to being a devoted season ticket holder there, Christina generously volunteered in a number of ways, including acting as house manager, serving as an usher, preparing for their annual gala, and organizing their silent auction.

Christina was also an active participant in the East Hartford Summer Youth Festival, performing in more than a dozen productions and



Christina Leone

serving as a member on the Board of Directors. Professionally, Christina served with dedication in the Office of Advancement at Wesleyan University as Assistant Director of Engagement Operations. Beyond her career, she most enjoyed relaxing by the water along the

Connecticut shoreline with a good book, cheering enthusiastically for her six nieces and nephews at their sporting events, performances, and other activities, and gathering with family around the fire pit. In addition to her mother, Beverly, she is survived by her two sisters and their husbands, Melissa and Rick Delaney of Ellington, and Valerie and Dominick Calciano of Glastonbury; her nieces and nephews, Andrew, Ryan, and Kaitlyn Delaney, and Gianna, Dominick, and Liliana Calciano; her uncle, Rev. Bryan A. Leone, and his wife, Kay; her aunt, Luevelyn Rector; and her cousins, Kari Hagar and her husband, Sam, Dr. Timothy Leone and his wife, Jennifer, and Emily Leone, as well as many other cousins and extended family with whom she shared a special bond. She was predeceased by her father, William A. Leone; her uncle, Frank A. Leone; and her grandparents, Alvin and Rosemary Leone, and Dr. Louis and Evelyn Sogaro.

Services were held Tuesday, July 28 from D'Esopo's Family Chapel followed by Mass of Christian Burial Wednesday, July 29 at St. Patrick-St. Anthony Church, Hartford with burial at St. Mary's Cemetery (Section B), Burnside.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Little Theater of Manchester at Cheney Hall, 177 Hartford Road, Manchester, CT 06040. To share a memory of Christina, please visit www.desopoe.com

Virginia 'Ginny' (Lekouses) Mallon, 94

Virginia "Ginny" (Lekouses) Mallon, 94, of East Hartford, loving wife of the late William H. Mallon, passed away peacefully at home on July 28, 2026, embraced by her children. Ginny and Bill shared 50 years of marriage, creating a life of love and devotion to their family.

She was born in Hartford, CT on October 31, 1931, to Charles and Eva (Sypaila) Lekouses. She was predeceased by a sister. Virginia attended West Hartford Public Schools graduating from William H. Hall High School, Class of 1949. She then worked for several years at the Phoenix Life Insurance Co. in Hartford where she enjoyed duck-pin bowling work leagues and attending dances with her childhood friends which is where she met, Bill, the love of her life. They married and built their forever home in East Hartford where they raised their family. Virginia selflessly poured her heart into being a mother and creating a warm and nurturing environment. She prepared family dinners every night and made time to bake, sew and knit while also tenderly taking care of her parents who lived nearby.

Virginia was a devout Catholic and a long-time faithful communicant of St. Christopher's Parish in East Hartford. Sundays were extra special as they all attended morning Mass followed by dancing in the living room to Doris Day and then sharing the Sunday dinner. Virginia enjoyed family camping trips up and down the East Coast including Old Orchard Beach, Maine, where many of her relatives lived. In addition, they were active members at Glenbrooke Swim & Tennis Club where she loved to play tennis. Saturday nights were filled with cards and board games and of course, popcorn.

Virginia cherished her family's annual traditions of celebrating holidays, birthdays, baking Christmas cookies and their family vacation to Misquamicut Beach R.I. during the last week of July. As her adored family grew, she treas-



Virginia Mallon

ured her time spent with all. Her traditions will be part of her legacy, and the precious memories will be etched in her family forever.

Recently Virginia made her home with her daughter, Cheryl. They enjoyed taking many cruises, playing cards at the Glastonbury Senior Center and watching New York Yankees and UCONN women's basketball.

The most significant lesson that Virginia taught her family occurred in the final challenge of her life. Six weeks ago, surrounded by her children, she was told of her terminal illness by her doctor. Her faith, courage and strength held her steadfast as she replied that she was at peace and was ready to go home to Heaven to be with our Lord. Her only concern to the doctor was taking care of her children. Her soothing words, gentle voice and compassionate eyes gave a calming sense of peace to her children that only a mother's comfort could offer. Her deep, selfless love for her family will be felt forever.

Virginia is survived by her loving children, William "Bill" Mallon and his wife Kelly of Plantsville, Cheryl Mallon of East Hartford, Kathleen Matchett and her husband David of West Suffield, Deborah Henegar and her husband Dave of Seminole, FL, and

Lori Houston of Simsbury; her grandchildren Kristin Gillis and her husband Robert Jr., Dan Matchett and his wife Keegan, Kevin, Kelsey and Courtney Derohanian, Brianna and Jaci Houston; her great-grandchildren Robert III and Elliana Gillis, and Bennet Elizabeth Matchett; several nieces, nephews, cousins, and dear friends.

Funeral service will be Saturday (August 1st) with a Mass of Christian Burial celebrated at 10 am at St. Christopher Church of North American Martyrs Parish, 538 Brewer Street, East Hartford. Burial will follow at Silver Lane Cemetery, East Hartford. Everyone is asked to please go directly to the church on Saturday morning. Virginia's family will receive relatives and friends on Friday (July 31st) from 4 - 7 pm at the D'Esopo East Hartford Memorial Chapel, 30 Carter Street, East Hartford. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Virginia's name may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN, 38105 or to Boys Town, 200 Flanagan Blvd, P.O. Box 6000, Boys Town, NE 68010-9988. Virginia's family would like to extend their sincere gratitude and appreciation to Dr. Robert Sasse, and Amanda Pate, hospice nurse with Hartford Healthcare at Home for their professionalism, special care, love, and compassion given to Virginia and her entire family. On-line visit www.desopoe.com

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Carol A. Keena

Kristopher J. Keena

Kevin G. Keena

Garden party

From Page One

garden. Nearby, the patch of sunflowers planted by Handel Family Farm who guided the students of Sunset Ridge in planting is now in full bloom. The garden is still a work in progress and advances the vision of Maayor Martin as well as the Rotary Club and Garden Club who have long cared for the site around the park sign.

In the next pollinator garden area, visitors will be invited to take a rock, read a message, or leave one of their own to inspire someone else.

"As we continue bringing this project to life, we are grateful to everyone - young and old - who joined us to paint rocks and share affirmations. Every message of kindness helps grow a stronger, more connected community," said South Church representatives.

The International WeLoveU Foundation is a global non-profit organization focused on environmental protection, emergency relief, and commu-



nity welfare. Led by Chairwoman Zahng Gil-jah and associated with the United Nations, it mobilizes hundreds of thousands of volunteers to serve people in need.

"Key Focus Areas are environmental protection by holding clean-up campaigns, tree-planting projects like "Mom's Garden", and local bio-

diversity efforts; Community welfare & health: Organizes blood drives, supports student education with supplies, and helps low-income families; and Emergency relief by providing immediate aid and supplies to disaster victims globally."

Outside of her philanthropic work, Gil-Jah is the prominent spiritual leader of the World Mission Society Church of God. Within this religious movement, she is revered by her followers as "God the Mother" or "Heavenly Mother".

Zahng Gil-jah's approach to volunteerism is heavily anchored in what she calls a "Mother's Love". She advocates for global welfare by teaching that all humankind should be treated as one single interconnected family. Under her guidance, the WeLoveU Foundation has expanded its grassroots initiatives into over 50 countries, mobilizing hundreds of thousands of volunteers for local and international aid.

The World Mission Society Church of God believes in God the Mother, who is considered to be the female aspect of God, alongside God the Father.

1st Congressional debates

From Page One

with the Democratic Party for standing up, or not, to President Donald Trump.

Larson, who wouldn't say whether he was running for his last term, said his main focus is ultimately on Trump. He has sought to push back against criticism that he and other Democrats in Congress aren't doing enough to take on the administration. He noted the articles of impeachment he filed against Trump over his handling of the war in Iran.

"As I've said, many times, this seat will be open soon enough, but we're in the middle of a crisis," Larson said. "My quarrel is not with any of these candidates on the stage. My quarrel is with Donald Trump, and that's who I'm going to continue to take on." But he and the other candidates sparred on various issues and over how Democrats can take on the Trump administration over the course of the hour-long debate.

At times, it got personal.

Bronin criticized Larson for not being able to move the needle on his signature bill, the "Social Security 2100 Act," over the past decade since he introduced it. He noted that the bill didn't advance even when Democrats controlled all of Congress and the White House.

The former mayor also highlighted a bill that Larson voted against that raised Social Security benefits for tens of thousands of public service retirees and their families in Connecticut. Larson explained that he didn't support the bill because it wasn't paid for, but that his own legislation sought to repeal those provisions by having higher earners pay more.

"Well, first and foremost, Luke, I didn't hear you saying anything about that when we were delivering billions to your community, that you needed the bailout from the governor, when you needed the bailout from the General Assembly and from the United States Congress," Larson countered.

Bronin pushed back on Larson's claim that his Social Security bill will be a top priority in the first 100 days of the next Congress if Democrats win back the House.

"I think to say that it's going to become law in the first 100 days of the next Congress when Donald Trump is in the White House, I think is not being honest with voters," Bronin argued.

Bronin's own record came under scrutiny at various points. He defended his time as mayor of Hartford.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF
**JARED L. WHEELER,
AKA JARED WHEELER
(26-00288)**

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

Richard P. Gentile, Judge

The fiduciary is:

Meagan Lalumier
c/o Sydney T. Schulman,
Esquire; Schulman &
Associates, 10 Grand St., 2nd
Floor, Hartford, CT 06106

LOTTERY DRAW APPLICATION - APLICACION DE LOTERIA

ELDERLY (62 YEARS OLD & UP) LIPH 0 BEDROOM WAITING LIST

LISTA DE ESPERA PARA PERSONAS MAYORES (62 AÑOS EN ADELANTE) DE 0 DORMITORIO LIPH

EAST HARTFORD HOUSING AUTHORITY - AUTORIDAD DE VIVENDA DE EAST HARTFORD

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

300 applicants will be selected.

La Autoridad de Vivienda de East Hartford abrirá la lista de espera de viviendas públicas de un dormitorio destinadas a personas mayores de bajos ingresos. EHHA utilizará un sorteo aleatorio para determinar el orden de las solicitudes preliminares.

Se seleccionarán 300 solicitantes.

TO BE ACCEPTED, APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED ONLINE BETWEEN AUGUST 14, 2026, AND BY 11:59 PM AUGUST 30, 2026.

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

PARA SER ACEPTADAS, LAS SOLICITUDES DEBEN ENVIARSE EN LÍNEA ENTRE EL 14 DE AGUSTO DE 2026 Y ANTES DE LAS 11:59 PM DEL 30 DE AGUSTO DE 2026.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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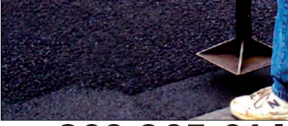



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WHERE THE ACTION IS!

BY CORINNE HORAN

BLOOD DRIVES IN EAST HARTFORD: August 5 – American Eagle Financial Credit Union; August 12 – Crossroads Community Cathedral. The American Red Cross has issued an emergency blood shortage, especially for platelets and types O positive and B negative. Book an appointment using the Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

JULY 30: SOUNDS OF SUMMER concert, 6 p.m., Great River Park. Tonight, **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 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.

AUG 4: 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.

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.

AUG 6: 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/ICNHCW2026>

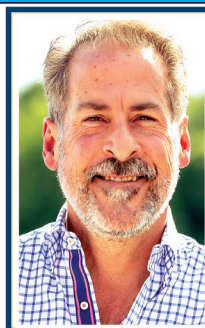
AUGUST EVENTS AT THE WORLD WAR II LEGACY FOUNDATION MUSEUM, 102 Pitkin St., Saturday, **August 1st:** Commemorating of the Final Mission of the USS Indianapolis (CA-35). The USS Indi-

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anapolis program, special guest speaker Michael Kiselica whose father was an East Hartford resident and survived the sinking. There will also be a showing of a documentary about the USS Indianapolis by Sara Vladic. Doors open at 2 pm, program starts at 3. Sunday, **August 2nd:** The museum will be open for visitors 2 - 6:00 pm. Saturday, **August 8th:** The museum will be open for visitors 9 - 11:00 am. Sunday, **August 9th:** The Foundation will be marching in the Victory over Japan, V-J DAY PARADE in Moosup, CT. This is one of the only V-J Day parades left in the country. It first started in 1961. Contact us for details. Saturday and Sunday, **August 15th - 16th:** Keep watching for more details on our upcoming programs for Victory Over Japan Day and the Navajo Code Talkers of World War II.

AUGUST 12 - WICKHAM DAY QUILTERS of East Hartford will meet from 1:30-3:30 pm at the Wickham Library meeting room at 656 Burnside Avenue in East Hartford. Like to sew? Interested in quilting? Not a fan of driving at night? Attend a meeting to see if you would like to join us. Any skill level welcome. We meet the second Wednesday of the month. Wickham Day Quilters is a chapter of the Greater Hartford Quilt Guild. The August program will consist of a video Textile Talks and members are asked to bring a hand sewing project to work on. Any questions? Email us at Wickhamdayquilters@gmail.com

AUGUST 15: SAZZY BRASS, 7 p.m. at South Congregational Church, 1301 Forbes St. Not just a band; it's a musical experience crafted for your ultimate enjoyment. Their main focus is Jazz infused standards with R&B Classics. Sazzy Brass features: Linda Ransom vocals, Bob DePalma saxophone, Chris Casey Piano, Tyler Sherman bass, Rose Roy trombone and Dawn Zukowski trumpet. Tickets: <https://www.mosaicsconcerts.com/event-details/sazzy-brass>

HISTORY TOURS: The East Hartford Historical Society at Martin Park is open from 1 to 4 pm Sundays for tours, 307 Burnside Avenue. The 1761 Makens Belmont 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 free, donations accepted. Call 860-528-0716 or visit www.historicalsociety-ofeasthartford.org

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.