The Gazette

VOLUME 141, NO. 47 — Thursday, November 26, 2026

Devoted to Local Interests — 1406 Main Street, East Hartford, Connecticut 06108 — 860-289-6468 — editor@ehgazette.com — ehgazette.com

Fresh Start Worx opens

By Robert Kanehl

The nonprofit training facility Fresh Start Worx has set up its base shop here in East Hartford. The organization which started in 2015 was sharing a location on Sergeant Street in Hartford, before moving to town.

Its new facility allows the organization to continue and explain its education program as well as its custom woodworking production.

The organization, started by Pastor Rick Kremer in the back of Grace Lutheran Church in Hartford trains clients in basic woodworking skills. These skills are then transferable into employment on the construction site, or possibly in Fresh Start Worx' own carpentry shop.

This shop produces a wide array of wood products like benches, chairs, arbors; and high-quality restoration work products such as crown molding for period houses.

According to President and CEO Jenna Columbus, the location in East Hartford will provide the organization a chance to tap into the East of the River market while also allowing it to

See **FRESH START,** p 10

NEW HOLIDAY DECOR ON GREEN



NEW HOLIDAY DECORATIONS have been set up on the Town Green and Main Street, already attracting families to take selfies and stroll through the lights. Only a little bit of snow will help create the perfect postcard. Above, Mayra and her sister, Adrianna, stopped by Monday to enjoy hot chocolate with little Scarlett, Elder and Ivan. There is a snowman and a big lighted picture frame for picture-taking. East Hartford Holiday Fest kicks off Friday, December 4 with a Tree Lighting and sing-a-long with the combined high school and middle school choruses at 6 p.m. after Santa arrives by firetruck.



Holiday Fest '26

The 2026 Holiday Fest is right around the corner! You are invited to join in this annual holiday tradition starting Friday, Dec. 4 through Monday, Dec. 7.

A complete schedule of events is in the center of this week's Gazette, page 6 & 7.

The four-day event consists of a wide variety of fun events, starting with a long-awaited Christmas Tree lighting and a visit from Santa himself and continuing with craft and book sales, carol signing, breakfast with Santa and so much more, held throughout the town. The events cater to all ages, children and adults alike. Most activities are free. Please remember to bring a donation of a non-perishable food item

See HOLIDAY FEST, p 10

EAST HARTFORD HOLIDAY FEST 2026



Wishing You the Magic of the Holiday Season

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4 THRU MONDAY, DECEMBER 7

FOUR DAYS OF SPECIAL EVENTS

SPONSORED BY THE EAST HARTFORD BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION AND PARKS AND REC. DEPARTMENT

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AROUND TOWN

Dementia, homelessness linked

State Sen. Saud Anwar, co-chair of the legislature's Public Health Committee, was joined by state Deputy Housing Commissioner Julian Pierce, Kara Capone, CEO of Community Housing Advocates, and Katie Jennings, campaign director of the CT Coalition to End Homelessness to present data on the impact of dementia on seniors experiencing homelessness.

Screening 72 homeless individuals between 53 and 78 years of age, 82 percent showed some level of cognitive impairment. In those over age 62, 94 percent were likely to have at least some level of cognitive impairment.

Cognitive impairment can impact memory, decision-making and medication management as well as seniors' ability to navigate complicated aid systems.

The senator pointed out more focus on this would help meet the needs of the increasing numbers of residents who are aging.

"Our healthcare system has weaknesses," said Sen. Anwar. "Our ability to identify patients with challenges is not strong enough, and as a result, individuals going through issues may not receive the support they need. It could be as simple as early dementia or diabetes not being controlled, resulting in memory loss of medications used with side effects of memory loss. The sad part is, in ideal circumstances, that individual would be able to get the care and safe environment they need. If a person does not have a stable home, their health can deteriorate rapidly. If this increases, are we collectively ready as a state? Have we invested enough to support those in need? The answer is no, and this study is telling us we need to do what needs to be done to support those at risk."

"When we specifically looked

HAMDEN NAMES BUILDING AFTER COOK



HONORED BY HAMDEN HOUSING AUTHORITY - Hazelann Cook of East Hartford was honored by the Hamden Housing Authority by having their administration building named in her honor. Cook, who also serves on the East Hartford Housing Authority, has spent 40 years with the Hamden Authority as Executive Director. In appreciation and respect they names their office after her.

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'When landscaping, think Peter's'
FOUNDED IN 1980 - EST. 1981 - 40 YEARS OF SERVICE

No trash pickup on Thanksgiving

In observance of Thanksgiving Day, trash, recycling and leaf pickup will be delayed by one day in East Hartford. All Town offices, including the East Hartford Transfer Station will be closed on Thursday, November 26 in observance of Thanksgiving Day. All Town offices will reopen on Friday, November 27, for regularly scheduled hours of operation.

CLASSIFIEDS

ONCE-FIRED DOUBLE-A HULLS
860-649-9340

Free firewood. Leave message.
860-649-9340

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.

TIFFANY'S TEENY TOTS
HOME DAYCARE AGES 0-5
ENROLL TODAY
860-519-1098

GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS GET RESULTS

DESDE LA ESQUINA

by Carmen Maldonado

Hay más que pavo en Acción de Gracias

Estamos en esos días friítos, pero curiosamente cálidos, en los que la familia se siente cerquita, aunque esté lejos. Días en los que se extraña un poquito más a quienes ya no están y en los que nos abacoran los antojos de esas comidas que no solemos disfrutar durante el resto del año.

Exacto, llegó la semana de Acción de Gracias para unos y, para otros, la semana de comer pavo.

Esta es una de esas celebraciones que nos invitan a reunirnos, compartir una buena comida y, por supuesto, repetir el plato. Y ni hablar del postre, porque para eso siempre aparece espacio.

El Día de Acción de Gracias, conocido en inglés como Thanksgiving day, se celebra el cuarto jueves de nov., Este año nos toca celebrarlo el 26 de nov., una fecha que para muchas familias representa la oportunidad de hacer una pausa, compartir con sus seres queridos y agradecer lo que tenemos y quienes tenemos a nuestro alrededor.

Aunque tradicionalmente asociamos esta celebración con el famoso pavo, en muchas de nuestras mesas tampoco pueden faltar el arroz con gandules, el pernil, los pasteles y, dependiendo de quién esté cocinando, hasta un buen flan de queso. Porque, como buenos latinos, tenemos esa bonita costumbre de ponerle nuestro propio toque a las celebraciones.

Al final, más allá de seguir un menú tradicional, se trata de disfrutar de esas comidas que nos recuerdan a nuestra familia, nuestras raíces y hasta uno que otro momento de nuestra niñez.

Pero ¿qué pasa si este año queremos celebrar de una manera diferente? ¿tal vez este lejos de tu familia? ¿tal vez simplemente, quieres cambiar las cosas? Pues fíjate que te tengo opciones.

Una bonita alternativa es organizar una cena entre amigos, conocida popularmente como Friendsgiving. Cada invitado puede traer su plato favorito, compartir alguna tradición familiar y disfrutar de una noche llena de conversaciones, risas y, seguramente, uno que otro cuento que ya hemos escuchado veinte veces, pero que nos sigue causando gracia.

También podemos aprovechar la ocasión para involucrar a los más pequeños de la familia. Una actividad sencilla es crear un frasco de agradecimientos, en el que cada persona escriba algo por lo que se siente agradecida. Al finalizar la cena, pueden leer los mensajes juntos. Quién sabe, quizás descubramos que son precisamente esas pequeñas cosas que muchas veces damos por sentado las que más valor tienen.

Otra manera de celebrar es compartiendo con nuestra comunidad. Durante esta temporada, diferentes organizaciones realizan colectas de alimentos y actividades para apoyar a familias que necesitan una mano amiga. Donar productos no perecederos, colaborar con un banco de alimentos o dedicar unas horas al voluntariado son iniciativas que pueden convertirse en bonitas tradiciones familiares.

Y ojo, que tampoco necesitamos una mesa llena de invitados para celebrar. Si este año nos toca pasar Acción de Gracias solos, podemos preparar nuestra comida favorita, disfrutar de una buena película, llamar a alguien especial o, sencillamente, aprovechar el día para descansar. Después de todo, también es importante regalarnos un poquito de tranquilidad.

Por supuesto, no todos vivimos esta fecha de la misma manera. Para algunos puede ser un día lleno de alegría, mientras que para otros puede despertar cierta nostalgia. Hay años en los que nos sobran las razones para celebrar y otros en los que encontrar motivos para agradecer nos cuesta un poquito más. Y es que la gratitud no significa que todo nos haya salido bien, sino que, aun en medio de las dificultades, podemos reconocer y apreciar esos pequeños momentos que nos han hecho bien.

Así que, este Día de Acción de Gracias, ya sea con pavo, pernil, arroz con gandules o hasta una pizza porque nadie se animó a cocinar, recordemos que no existe una sola manera de celebrar. Al final del día, lo importante no es cuánto tenemos sobre la mesa, sino cuánto valoramos aquello que forma parte de nuestras vidas.

Eventos próximos que no te debes perder:

Youth Taskfroce del Departamento de Policía de East Hartford invita a toda la comunidad a participar en su tradicional colecta navideña de juguetes. El evento se llevará a cabo el 27 de nov, de 10:00am a 2:00pm en la tienda de TJ Maxx, ubicada en el 5 de Main Street, en East Hartford. Favor traer regalos sin envolver.

Conecta conmigo: cmaldonado8816@gmail.com

States protest HUD housing rule change

Attorney General William Tong joined 21 other states in challenging a new U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) rule that would strip federal housing assistance from mixed-status families.

Under the new rule, any household with at least one member who is not a U.S. citizen or eligible immigrant would be cut off from HUD assistance entirely, even though federal subsidies are already prorated to only include eligible individuals. The rule would require all U.S. citizens in federal housing programs to prove their citizenship or risk eviction.

"We have a full-blown housing affordability crisis in this country right now. Trump's response? Let's throw entire families on the street if a single person doesn't have their papers in order. This is a cruel and unlawful attempt to weaponize housing assistance for vulnerable, mixed-status families. We're suing to protect Connecticut families and to ensure Trump cannot ignore the law in order to advance his extreme immigration agenda," said Tong.

For nearly 30 years, federal programs have provided housing assistance to low-income families even if not every household member is eligible. Under this system, known as proration, HUD reduces the family's subsidy so it covers only eligible household members.



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EDITORIAL

Who puts the giving in your Thanksgiving, East Hartford?

Once again we are called upon to humble ourselves, for this is the season of Thanksgiving.

It is a holiday which is central to the United States for it is a day brought forth from a time of need to a time of abundance. As such, *The Gazette* would like to thank you, our readers, for your continued loyalty as we begin our 141st year of serving our town of East Hartford.

The lessons of thanks are evident to us each year for each year tests our mettle, reminds us how many others we rely on. Once again we cannot forget the top of the list as far as this endeavor is concerned: Our advertisers, the press operators and mailroom crew at the *Springfield Republican* where the neat bundles of *Gazettes* are printed and stacked; my sister Patricia Little who delivers the paper and brings it to carriers, local stores, coffee shops, car washes and pizza places.

A newspaper is a printed product, something manufactured, crafted, and produced with the same care as the jet engines and aircraft parts, tinkered with and repaired with the same knowledgeable hands as those that fix your vehicle, overseen with diligence by the men and women wearing a uniform to work and ready to take on any emergency or action. To all those dedicated folks, we give our thanks, in print, words on paper but powerful words if they managed to make you think about those who watch over us all.

We give thanks AI has not replaced our turkey and cranberries. And we give thanks for what people around us do. For without each of our citizens not only would there be no point to a newspaper, all the social organizations keeping our town, state and nation strong and alive would not exist.

So, to each and every one I have the luxury of conveying these multiple newspaper printed 'thanks' for all that you do. It is my pleasure to be associated with you all, to have seen your work and shared in the sincerity of your effort. To each I would like to wish a pleasant and joyous Thanksgiving holiday.

This year there are many reasons to be thankful in East Hartford, and if you can't think of a good one, you are not trying. As editor for going on four decades now I am happy to report that, in general, our East Hartford community may not always express it, but is appreciative and thankful for their many blessings. East Hartford may not have a dog wash along the highway, but our dogs have not written to this newspaper to complain. We are not Paris, yet, voila! - the same beauty is here as the sunset over the Seine. Students are learning at the growing university on the Connecticut River, a new high school opening in 2027 may show exactly how to grow potatoes on the surface of Mars.

East Hartford is a town where neighbors eagerly blow their leaves to the curb, fire up their snowblowers to do more than just their sidewalks. Go over to help when they see a car stall in the road. Other towns must be similarly populated by kind folks. We hope so. East Hartford, in our experience, has more than an average number. Yes, we also have potholes. But were elevating and rising up, and we have confidence we will rise to the top.

Let us be thankful also for the leaders who were just elected. They know who they are even if the majority did not. East Hartford has long held a tradition of political involvement; back in the 1960 election some 19,000 voters in East Hartford cast a ballot during the presidential election with nearly 13,000 voting for Kennedy. It is unfair to compare a presidential election year to a municipal election year, but the town in 1960 was much younger and only had a population of 44,000. Let us be thankful that the elections are over, but return that spirit of 66 years ago. Both the Democrats and the Republicans want you. Go join them.

President George Washington declared the country's first Thanksgiving in 1789 - six years after East Hartford came into existence. Washington's proclamation of October 3, 1789 called for "a day of Public Thanksgiving and Prayer to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many and signal favors of Almighty God."

So enjoy your Thanksgiving Thursday. And remember to put thanks into action all year long.

Dad's out in the barn now

DID YOU KNOW?
Looking back on our East Hartford
By Robert Kanehl

Did you know it is not always fun living in the family homestead? It has nothing to do with sisters coming and saying, "that couch was not over there, or where is the faded musty smell of old people and things?"

No living in a homestead has the extra burden of what to do with the 'treasures' our parents, have saved as important and valuable. You know, like the old Class A army uniform the author will never again be able to fit into. He has not been able to fit into that uniform since he was married over forty years ago.

Oh - what people save!

There are the wooden Dutch shoes, found upstairs in the barn, and the metal Rolodex address flipper found in the office. How about the box of grandmother's clothing, still with price tags, from her house, sold in 1975. And the broken 1,000-pound concrete-lined metal safe.

Why do we do this?

For some it is an inability to part with the past, others because them just can't allow their memories to fade away. But for my father, it was because he was a pack rat, who lived by the motto, 'can't throw it out, I'll need it someday.' So, I have shelves upon shelves of hardware from nuts and bolts to door hinges which do not fit any door in the house.

Of course, these 'treasures' are great for the historical societies. Someday they will find boxes and boxes of these mementos like the 1960s book covers put out by Bergen Dairy used by local kids, because schools mandated all textbooks be covered. So, we did – generally with brown paper bags.

One of the most interesting finds was my 'Dad' in the attic. Yes, my father died in 2020, but 'Dad' was in the attic. Really, I'm not being morbid here, his likeness was in the attic. Well actually his baptismal likeness, sitting in the handmade highchair my grandfather constructed, was found by my wife in the attic.

'Dad' had been there my whole life. I had forgotten. It was there, alongside the 20-plus suitcases my parents had collected.

Known as a "baptismal doll", the porcelain headed, stuffed likeness was wearing what remained of my father's clothing for the 1928 event held in a German Lutheran Church.

Over the years his white lace dress (yes, in 1928 they dressed boys in dresses) has yellowed and tattered away. The cracked porcelain head has been patched a number of times. But it's creepy smile and starring eyes remained freaking my wife out. "You have to get it out of this house," she demanded, afraid to remove it herself. "It's not my father."

I can live with explaining why we remodeled the kitchen from its 1950s appearance, and why the old furniture has been replaced. I can even justify opening the windows to air out the house.

But how can I say dad's now out in the barn when my sisters ask "What did you do with Dad?"

TO THE EDITOR

Sieze the day - the GOP way

To the Editor:

Ever wanted to tell the government to "Do this!" Or even "Don't do this!?"

You may even think "they will not listen to me, so why bother?"

Besides, you don't even know anybody that is involved in government. So getting involved would be a time-consuming effort that you don't want!

"Who has the time to give like that?"

Guess what?

There is a way!

And it is an easy way. And you might actually find it enjoyable!

How about once a month a relaxed group of your neighbors and mine meet at a local library, or other easily accessible place, and talk about what's happening in town government, and actually invite, and listen to, your thoughts?

Yes, your neighbors are doing that. And you could easily be part of this group – if you are a registered Republican. (I'm told another group is doing the same thing elsewhere – Democrats.)

I happen to know about the Republicans because I am one, and I am at that meeting most times.

And you want to know who else is there?

The Republican Town Council members as well as the Republican members of many East Hartford boards and commissions, including the Board of Education, that govern East Hartford by law.

Yes, we are inviting you to join the committee and the discussions.

We'd love to hear what you think about so many things! So please share!

Contact me, Esther Clarke, at 860-568-7820 to learn more about the next RTC meeting.

Esther Clarke
East Hartford

Give to the Giving Tree

To the Editor:

At InterCommunity Health Care, our dedicated staff makes every effort to create a warm, caring, and supportive environment for our residential clients; but we know the holidays can still feel like a lonely time for those spending the season away from their families and loved ones, while navigating some of the most difficult health challenges of their lives. That's why we've launched the "Holiday of Hope Giving Tree."

It's an easy way to make a big impact this giving season.

Through this initiative, we're collecting monetary and physical donations (a mix of everyday essentials and fun!) to create gift bags for our residential clients to open for the holidays. More than just gifts, we want these bags to serve as a reminder that our clients are not alone; they are seen, valued, appreciated, and thought-of during the season.

Our goal is to be able to assemble 100 gift bags to ensure every client in our residential recovery programs receives a gift this year.

And if we surpass that goal? Even better! Our recovery programs serve new individuals year-round, so any additional contributions will help us build a reserve to ensure we can continue spreading holiday cheer to clients for seasons to come.??

Please help us make the holidays a bit brighter for our residential clients!

Please visit **https://icgivingtree.givesmart.com/** to donate and for more information about monetary and physical donations.

We hope you'll join us in bringing a little extra joy, comfort, and holiday cheer to those working so diligently on their recovery journeys.

Let's come together to make sure our clients know they are remembered, valued, and supported during a time when that reminder can mean so much.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and please don't hesitate to contact us at development@intercommunityct.org if you have questions or if you would like to discuss further!

With gratitude,
InterCommunity Health Care Development Team
East Hartford

LETTERS: *editor@ehgazette.com*

Members of the public are invited to

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

CTDOT CONNECTICUT TRANSPORTATION

GREATER HARTFORD MOBILITY PROGRAM

OPEN HOUSE AND WORKSHOP

State Project No. 63-744
River Gateway Study

Hartford Public Library – Main Branch
Travelers Center for Arts & Culture Room
500 Main Street, Hartford, CT 06103

Monday December 7, 2026, 3:00–7:00 p.m.

Attend & Learn More: portal.ct.gov/RiverGateway

The Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) invites community members and stakeholders to an open house and workshop for the River Gateway Study.

River Gateway is a core component of the Greater Hartford Mobility Program (GHMP). The goal of this study is to improve Hartford's connections to the Connecticut River and East Hartford, reconnect downtown to surrounding neighborhoods, and address traffic operational deficiencies on I-91 and the Whitehead Highway. The study will evaluate potential improvements to connections across I-91, the Whitehead Highway, local and regional transportation networks, and a potential new local bridge across the Connecticut River.

The project team will introduce the study, share information on existing conditions, and gather input on transportation needs, constraints, opportunities, and desired connections within the study area. Participants will be able to review materials, ask questions, and provide comments in an interactive, station-based format. This is a drop-in style, in-person workshop, and will not have a virtual component.

Members of the public can submit comments and questions following the meeting. Please submit comments and questions to **DOTProject63-744@ct.gov** or 860-594-2020. Please reference Project No. 0063-0744 in the email or voicemail.

ACCESSIBILITY

The meeting location is ADA accessible.

Project information can be mailed within one week by contacting Kevin Burnham at **kevin.burnham@ct.gov** or 860-594-3485.

Individuals with hearing/speech disabilities can dial 711 for Telecommunications Relay Services (TRS). Request language assistance from CTDOT's Language Assistance at (860) 594-2109 at least five business days before meeting.

East Hartford Holida

TREE OF LIGHTS 2026

THE EAST HARTFORD WOMAN'S CLUB/GFWC celebrates each Holiday Fest season with the Town of East Hartford by sharing our feelings for those we cherish, and supporting the work of our local churches and synagogues.

FOR THE COST OF $5.00 PER NAME, you may honor or memorialize your loved one(s) and know that your donation will help with the needs and well-being of others, because all the proceeds collected from the Tree of Lights go to the East Hartford Outreach Partners for the Human Needs Fund.

WE WILL OBSERVE THIS YEAR'S LIGHTING OF THE TREE OF LIGHTS at the tree which will be lit in front of Town Hall, 740 Main Street, MONDAY DECEMBER 7TH AT 5:30 P.M. Come join us as we celebrate with music & light, honoring loved one(s), deceased or living.

We Thank You for Your Generosity in Giving to the Tree of Lights!

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: ***THE EAST HARTFORD WOMAN'S CLUB (EHWC/GFWC/CT)***

Donations will be accepted through December 31, 2026

Please print first and last names

IN MEMORY OF	IN HONOR OF

SPONSOR'S NAME _____ PHONE # _____ AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____.

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

East Hartford Woman's Club, PO Box 380401, East Hartford, CT 06138-0401

2026 SCHEDULE OF EVENT

Events listed at EHCC will be held at the East Hartford Community Center at 50 Chapman Place.
Raymond Library: 840 Main Street
Wickham Library: 656 Burnside Avenue

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4

1:00 PM: CHRISTMAS SING-A-LONG WITH OUR PIANO MAN CLYDE PROCH ❄
Join us for a Christmas sing-a-long while enjoying a mug of hot cocoa. Sheet music will be provided. Seating limited. Register early. Sponsored by and held at the East Hartford Senior Center, 15 Millbrook Drive.

6:00 PM: TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY AND SING-A-LONG ON THE TOWN GREEN ❄
Sponsored by the Beautification Commission and Parks & Recreation Department. The EH High & Middle School Chorus will be on hand. Featuring visits from Frosty, Rudolph and, of course, Santa. Pictures can be taken with Santa after the Tree Lighting.

8:30 PM: "CROOKED STREET" BAND AT CARMINE'S
Come enjoy some music while you order food and drink. Requests encouraged for holiday songs. Sponsored and held at Carmine's at 389 Main Street.

SATURD DECEMB

8:00-10:30 AM: PANCA VISIT WITH SANTA
Cost is $5.00 and $3.00 f Santa. Held at First Cong Street.
Proceeds to benefit East H Christmas. No reservation

8:00-10:30 AM & 4:00- BOUTIQUE
Hand crafted ornaments, baskets and candy. Spons Congregational Church, 8

8:00-10:30 AM: POINS
Purchase beautiful Holida Sponsored by the East Ha at First Congregational Ch

9:00 AM-NOON: COOKI
Dozens of different variet choose from. Priced per p held at South Congregati Street.

11:00 AM-2:00 PM: SE OPEN HOUSE TOUR
Come see the beautiful V decorations.Sponsored by East Hartford and held at

12:30 PM: "IT'S A CHR
A Holiday musical by John Emerson performed by El olds. This show is a remir to get into the Holiday sp and held at the EH Comm Place.







Fest - Dec. 4, 5, 6, 7

Help us help others! Please bring a non-perishable food item for the East Harford Food Pantry to each event.

1:00-5:00 PM: THE WORLD WAR II LEGACY FOUNDATION MUSEUM
The World War II Legacy Foundation Museum will be open for viewing of the displays. Create your own tree decoration. Enjoy raffles and sample refreshments. $5 per person. Sponsored by and held at the World War II Legacy Foundation Museum, 102 Pitkin Street.

2:00-4:00 PM: "HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS IN EAST HARTFORD"
A Holiday piano concert presented by East Harford's Paul Bisaccia, celebrated world renowned pianist. Sponsored by East Hartford Commission on Culture and Fine Arts and held at First Congregational Church, 837 Main Street.

2:30-4:30 PM: SWIM WITH SANTA ❄
Get out of the cold and take a dip in the pool with Santa. Open to families and includes an underwater photo with Santa in his scuba gear! Pre-registration is required at ehparks.org. Admission is free with a new, unwrapped toy. Sponsored by the East Hartford Parks and Recreation and held at the East Hartford Middle School, 777 Burnside Avenue (Scotland Road entrance).

4:00-6:30 PM: SPAGHETTI SUPPER
Continuous serving $15 per person, $10 seniors, $8 children 5-13. Children under 5 are free. Proceeds benefit the East Hartford Food Banks. Sponsored by Scouting America Troop 1 and held at First Congregational Church, 837 Main Street.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6

8:30-11:00 AM: HOLIDAY PANCAKE BREAKFAST AND BOOK SALE
Come and enjoy a breakfast of special Holiday pancakes featuring syrups, sausages, as well as plain and chocolate chip pancakes. Coffee, tea and juice are included. Price is $6 for adults and $3 for kids under 14. The book sale will be upstairs. Sponsored by and held at the Historic 137 year old Hillstown Grange, 617 Hills Street.

11:00 AM-NOON: COOKIES WITH SANTA
Includes a Holiday Carol Sing, face-painting and crafts for all ages. Sponsored by and held at South Congregational Church, 1301 Forbes Street.

11:30 AM: HOLIDAY BRUNCH
$35 per person. Advance purchase only. Call for reservations at (860) 416-8345 by December 1. Sponsored by the Democratic Women's Club of East Hartford and held at Square Peg Pizza Restaurant at the EH Golf Club, 130 Longhill Street.

1:00-4:00 PM: CHRISTMAS AT THE 1830 BREWER HOUSE
You are cordially invited to enjoy Victorian Christmas decorations. Refreshments will be served. Sponsored by the Historical Society of East Hartford and held at the Brewer House, 167 Main Street.

2:00-4:00 PM: GIFT BAZAAR FOR KIDS AND TEENS ❄
Looking for a way to give a gift to someone you care about? We've got options! Make gifts at our craft stations, and/or "shop" from our table of gift items. For ages 8-18. While supplies last. No registration is required. Location: Raymond Library, 840 Main Street, second floor.

4:00 PM: THE MIGHTY CHAMBER PLAYERS
A cello concert under the direction of Maestro Yun-Yang Lin will perform a variety of classic, modern and seasonal favorites. The musicians are beginning, intermediates and advanced cellists. Held at First Congregational Church, 837 Main Street.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 7

5:30 PM: Lighting of the Tree of Lights
Held on the lawn of East Hartford Town Hall, 740 Main Street.
Benefits East Hartford Outreach Program for the Human Needs Fund.
Purchase a light in honor or in memory of a friend or loved one for $5.00. Contact: (860) 966-6446.
Sponsored by the East Hartford Woman's Club.

7:00 PM: Musical Fest
A musical celebration by members of the community. Sponsored by and held at Riverside Health and Rehabilitation Center, 745 Main Street.

ONGOING EVENTS AT THE LIBRARY: ❄

Boxes and Bows
Stop by the Raymond or Wickham Libraries during open hours to pick up a kit to learn how to make bows from recycled books and magazines; and small gift boxes, perfect for tiny treasures too! For ages 8 – adult. While supplies last. No registraton is required.

Drop-in Card-Making Table
Visit our drop-in card-making table to design and craft your own holiday or winter-themed cards. Whether you're making a heartfelt message for a loved one or just want to explore your artistic side, we will have all the supplies you need. Stop by during library open hours at both branches. No registration is required.

Holiday Photo Booth
Gather your family and friends to capture a memory of the holiday season or for your holiday cards! Over the Holiday Fest weekend, schedule an appointment with our staff at Raymond Library (840 Main Street) to assist with taking a few photographs. Beyond Holiday Fest, the photo backdrop will remain up to provide a festive setting for family photos and selfies. To register, visit easthartford.events.mylibrary.digital or call (860) 290-4330.

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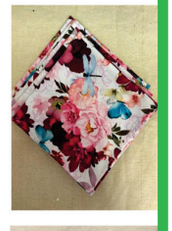



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Sunday, Dec. 6, 2026
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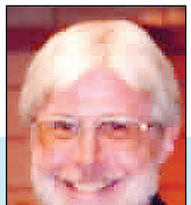
EAST HARTFORD SPORTS

UConn eligible; Pete Rose too?



SCOTT GRAY on SPORTS

by Scott Gray

First things first. The UConn football team has earned bowl eligibility for the third straight year. The Huskies rebounded from back to back losses to the Air Force and North Carolina with back to back wins over James Madison and Old Dominion to go to 6-5 with one game to play, Saturday at Wyoming.

While three straight Bowl appearances would give UConn an air of consistency as they're being evaluated by existing conferences they'd look much better at 7-5 than 6-6 and Wyoming, out there, is by no stretch a walkover. The Cowboys are 7-4, 6-2 in league play, with some substantial wins on their record. They're currently ranked 48th among the 138 division one NCAA teams. The Huskies are ranked at number 70. A win over Wyoming would solidly entrench them in the top half of the national rankings while they await a bowl invitation.

Second thing. The question I've been getting most since last Thursday is, how does President Trump's pardon of Pete Rose effect his Hall of Fame eligibility? The answer: "It doesn't." A year and a half ago Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred removed the names of deceased players from the "permanently ineligible list", including those of the two highest profile banned players, Pete Rose, baseball's all-time hit leader, and 1919 Chicago "Black Sox" star "Shoeless Joe" Jackson. The Hall of Fame operates separately of Major League Baseball in that it has no say in who earns induction. That consideration belongs to the various election committees beginning with the writers vote in a players first 15 years of eligibility. Failure to earn induction in that time turns consideration over to various committees. Rose's fate now lies in the hands of the "Classic Baseball Committee", which meets in December of next year to evaluate potential 2028 inductees. Rose needs 12 of 16 votes.

President Trump only has the power to pardon federal crimes for which Rose was convicted. He has no jurisdiction over Major League Baseball or Rose's admission to betting on baseball. His action was likely intended to turn the conversation Rose's way as committee members consider his fate.

Baseball fans should be more concerned about next Tuesday, December 1st, the day the Collective Bargaining agreement expires. The owners are threatening a lockout, which would bar players from taking part in any team activities or having any contact with team officials, while also barring them from all team facilities. It would also put a halt to all forty man roster moves, free agent negotiations and trades until there's a new CBA.

The union isn't looking favorably at an owner offer to make a cap more palatable by installing a million dollar minimum salary and automatic 5% increases for players in arbitration. To counter a cap the union is proposing that all thirty teams share equally in all media revenues.

In the final analysis, they're miles apart. When the clock strikes midnight next Tuesday they'll be two and a half months from spring training with no immediate interest in getting closer together.

In other words, get ready for a long haul.

Happy Thanksgiving.

Hornets can't hold Hawks

The Manchester Red Hawks bested the Hornets, 25-20, on their home turf Friday night.

The Red Hawks completed a 38-yard pass to midfield, setting up their first score, a 6-yard touchdown run to the left, dragging two Hornet defenders across the goal line.

On the ensuing kickoff, East Hartford fielded a bouncing ball on the 14, then dashed left behind Hornet blockers and entirely through the Red Hawk defenders for a touchdown to tie the game. The conversion try failed.

East Hartford then tried to take the lead with a field goal try which hit the linemen. Manchester then took the ball and marched down the field, and with under a minute in the half, the Red Hawks QB handed the ball off right for the score. The extra point gave Manchester a 13-6 lead, and the half might have ended that way but East Hartford managed to capitalize on their next possession.

With 26 seconds remaining before halftime, the Hornets pulled within one, 13-12 on a rushing score. The Hornets continued the offensive attack in the third quarter to go ahead, 18-13, thanks to a 17-yard catch and run play across the middle.

Manchester was not done. With 20 second left in the quarter, #4 ran it up the gut from 7 years out to give the Red Hawks a 19-18 advantage.

The Red Hawks and Hornets battled in the fourth until the home team broke through with a 17-yard TD with 4:52 left to make the score 25-18, and that's where it remained as the Red Hawks concluded their season with their third win on the year.

The Friday night contest replaced the traditional Thanksgiving Day football game. It had been held the day before Thanksgiving for several years but is now on the Friday night ahead of the holiday.

Schools are closed Thanksgiving and the Manchester Road Race has evolved into a week-long affair expected to attract 12,000 runners this week.

The Red Hawks and Hornets - under first year coach Ty Outlaw - both experienced tough seasons. But the record does not tell the story of the 2026 East Hartford football team. Coach Outlaw is to be congratulated for the fight and competitiveness the Hornets showed on the field. Won-loss record is important. Hast Hartford played with pride throughout the football season. With time and talent, it is just a matter of time before wins will come.

BANTAMS ADVANCE TO FIRST NCAA TOURNEY



For the first time in program history, the Trinity College Football team will advance to the NCAA Division III National Championship after winning the tie-breaker draw with Amherst and Wesleyan. The Bantams fell to the Cardinals, 27-20, in the regular season finale at Jessee/Miller Field Saturday to move to 8-1 on the season. Trinity will be the first program to earn the New England Small College Athletic Conference (NESCAC) automatic qualifying bid to the tournament. Trinity claimed their 13th NESCAC Football Championship, sharing the title with Wesleyan and Amherst.

Luke Ventura got the Bantams defense off to a good start, ending the Cardinals opening two drives with a pair of third-down sacks. Midway through the first quarter, Trinity ripped off a quick five-play, 39-yard drive, capped by a 17-yard catch-and-run touchdown from Darison Hooper, giving the Bantams a 7-0 lead.

The Cardinals responded with an eight-play, 77-yard drive, fueled by a 66-yard run by Angelo LaRose, but the Bantams defense halted the Wesleyan offense at the six-yard line, forcing a 24-yard field goal from Gage Hammond to trim the deficit to 7-3.

Trinity answered on the following drive as Hooper pulled in a trio of passes for 49 yards to move the Bantams into the Cardinals redzone.

OBITUARIES

Leo Tyborowski, 105; fought in Battle of the Bulge



Leo Tyborowski

Leo Tyborowski was reunited with his cherished wife, Frances (Tajmajer), on November 22, 2026. Son of the late George Tyborowski and Mary (Taraska), Leo was born July 29, 1921 in Southampton, N.Y.

He lived a storied life growing up during the great depression in rural Long Island with two sisters and two brothers. He worked as a golf caddie at a young age, taking pride in contributing to his family budget. A lifelong baseball fan, he played on his high school team and advanced to semi-pro ball with future MLB Players. Leo was honored by both the Mets and Yankees as a "Veteran of the Game".

Leo was drafted in 1943, serving in France, Belgium and Germany and was awarded a Purple Heart and Bronze Star having fought in the Battle of the Bulge.

Soon after the war he moved to New Britain where he landed a date with Frances Tajmajer. From the start they were inseparable. They moved to East Hartford where they raised three daughters and they were married for 62 years until Frances' death in 2009.

Leo worked as an upholsterer and enjoyed bowling, golfing and following the Yankees. He and family members took many trips to Atlantic City.

Leo enjoyed simple pleasures. He cherished visits from his grandchildren. Always an optimist, he never gave up on hitting a jackpot at the casino. A perfect afternoon would consist of sitting on his front porch smoking a cigar and quenching his thirst with a cold beer while listening to the ballgame on the radio. He enjoyed the company of friends and family and lived independently up to age 102 in his own house in East Hartford.

Music was a constant in his life and he wasn't shy about singing Frank Sinatra's "New York, New York" for one person or for a crowded room. He did it his way.

Heartfelt thanks to the dedicated staff of Curtis Home in Meriden and Brighton Hospice who treated Leo with love, dignity and respect. Also, many thanks to his friends who stayed in touch and brought him so much joy, Audrey and Richard, Bernie, Tracy, Peter and Barbara, Michelle, Susan, Fred, Bill (Alison), Doc Richard, Jerilyn and Shirley and George.

Leo is survived by his daughters Laura Spencer and her husband Stephen, Frances Moura and her husband Anthony, Janice Tyborowski, his three grandchildren, Emily, Alex and Cameron, and his special nephew Leo and his wife Elaine.

A funeral service will be held on Monday, November 30, 2026, at 11 AM at Shaker-Hill Funeral Home, 764 Farmington Ave., New Britain. Family and friends may call from 10 AM to 11 AM just prior to the service. Final resting place and committal will be in Sacred Heart Cemetery, 662 Burritt St., New Britain.

Andre Maurice Slater, 55


Andre Slater

Andre Maurice Slater, 55, passed away on November 11, 2026, after a brief battle with cancer.

Born in Hartford on August 31, 1971, he was the son of the late Sharon Slater and Lemon Coleman. Andre graduated from East Hartford High School in 1991.

Andre will be lovingly remembered by his wife of 21 years, Melinda Slater, and his three children, Jasmine Renee, Deondre Maurice, and Aniyah Monet.

He also leaves his sister, Sherron, his brother, Antwone (Niasha), and his goddaughter, Mia Perry, along with many aunts, cousins, nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, and friends who will miss him dearly.

Besides his parents, Andre was predeceased by his cousin, Tyron.

A Celebration of Andre's Life will be held on Tuesday, November 24, 2026, with visitation starting at 11 AM and the funeral service following at 1 PM at the Shaker-Hill Funeral Home, 764 Farmington Ave, New Britain.

To share a memory of Andre or to express condolences to the Slater Family, please visit www.shakerfuneralhome.com

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The Gazette publishes East Hartford obituaries free

Robert Pranitis, Sr., 74


Robert Pranitis, Sr.

Robert Edward Pranitis, Sr., 74, of East Hartford, passed away on November 16, 2026, he passed peacefully outdoors doing what he loved. He was born in New Britain on August 14, 1952, son of the late Edward W. and Stella (Ogentas) Pranitis. Robert grew up in Newington and graduated from Newington High School, Class of 1970 where he was a standout football player. He went on to earn his Bachelor's degree from Southern CT State University. Robert retired as a Manager at Mosey's Meat plant, in Bloomfield. In retirement, he worked as a landscaper. Robert was an avid fan of the UConn men's and women's basketball teams, the NY Knicks, and most importantly, the NY Giants. Robert loved his family and his grandchildren held a special place in his heart, they often affectionately referred to him as Grandpa or Papa Bob. Robert is survived by his sons Robert Pranitis, Jr., and Eric Pranitis and his wife Rachel; his grandchildren Angelina Pranitis, Quentin Lefebvre, Kylie and Nyla Tolo, and Damon and Evia Pranitis; and his former wife Lucille Pranitis. He is also survived by his brothers Vincent Pranitis and his wife Linda, and Jonathan Pranitis and his wife Maria, nieces and nephews Caitlin Pranitis, and Christian and Lia Pranitis; and cousin Randy Spitko. Relatives and friends are invited to visit with Robert's family on Sunday, Nov. 29 from noon to 2 p.m. at the Duksa Family Funeral Home at Newington Memorial, 20 Bonair Ave., Newington. Gifts in Robert's name may be made to the American Kidney Fund at www.kidneyfund.org.

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



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STUDENTS AT THE RICHARD P. GARMANY FRESH START ACADEMY inspect the gluing of their first project. Fresh Start Worx provides basic carpentary training for clients, giving them an employable skill. Below, Academy Director Ricardo Santiago demonstrates use of a belt sander.

Fresh Start Worx opens

From Page One

continue working with its contacts across the river. "It is also located on a bus line, and allows easy transportation for our clients and students."

The Richard P. Garmany Fresh Start Worx Academy, located at the site centers its instruction on people looking for a second chance to succeed, whether they are coming from the recovery, poverty, or incarceration worlds, the organization offers training to break out of that circle.

Classes are small, about 10 clients per-unit, and run for ten weeks, at which time the students are skilled in basic carpentry, and employable. Cost for the class in $600, but a number of sponsors may help in covering that cost. Anyone interested in apply for a class or to review what products are available for purchase should go to the Fresh Start Worx website www.fsworx.org or write to info@fsworx.org.



Holiday Fest 2026 features four days of fun

From Page One

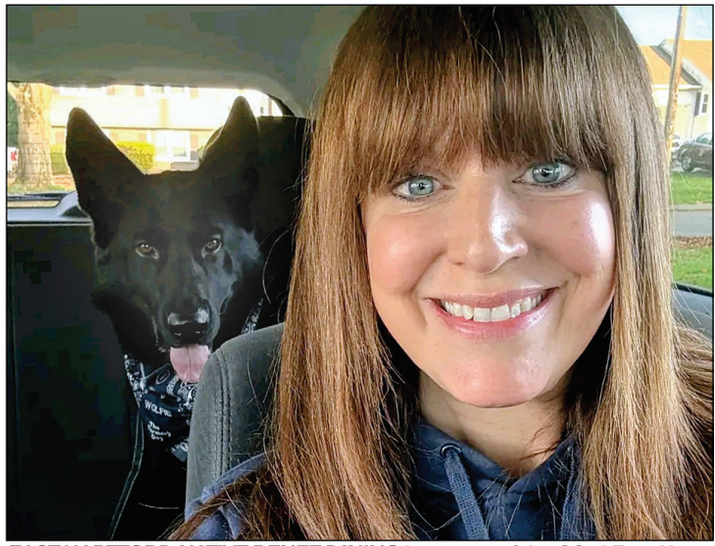
for the town Food Pantry.

Holiday Fest is annually organized by the East Hartford Beautification Commission and supported by East Hartford Parks and Recreation, the East Hartford Police Department, the East Hartford Fire Department as well as dozens of town civic and community organizations.

Below are some highlights of Holiday Fest 2026:

Friday, DEC. 4, 6 p.m. - Tree Lighting & Carol Sing Friday on the Town Green, Main Street. Join with your neighbors and celebrate the season of peace and good will as we gather in song led by the young voices of the East Hartford High School & Middle School choruses. Santa Claus arrives on a fire engine where he will greet his elves and special guests, one with a very well-known red nose! Cookies and hot cocoa will keep you warm, kids can take part in reindeer games.

Saturday, DEC 5 begins with a hearty pancake breakfast at the Grange Hall, 617 Hills St., the Christmas Boutique, Poinsettia Sale and a spaghetti supper at First Congregational Church, Cookie Walk 9 to noon at South Church, and a Holiday play at the EHCC titled "It's A Christmas Carol" presented by EHSYF. In the afternoon at First Congregational Church, Paul Bisaccia performs in concert. At the Brewer House at Naubuc and Main enjoy period Christmas decorations and the World War II Museum at 102 Pitkin will remember veterans with luminaries. From 2:30 - 4:30 p.m. at East Hartford Middle School pool sign up to Swim with Santa! This unique East Hartford happening should not be missed! Get out of the cold, and come take a dip underwater with Santa. Families only. Includes underwater photo with Santa in scuba gear, the perfect seasonal insta! To register, which is required, simply go to ehparks.org now. Free with a new, unwrapped toy. Use the pool entrance off Scotland Road. Sponsored by Parks and Rec.



EAST HARTFORD NATIVE RENEE DININO is emcee of the 33rd East Hartford Holiday Fest Tree Lighting ceremony Friday, Dec. 3 at 6 p.m.

DEC 6: Sunday, a Gift Bazaar for Kids and Teens at the Raymond Library from 2 until 4 p.m. What's a gift bazzar? If you need to give a gift, and you are a teenager, don't make excuses. There are options for you at your local library! Make gifts at our craft stations, and/or "shop" from a table of giftable items. Ages 8 – 18 only while supplies last. No need to register. Second floor of the Raymond Library.

Monday's events will feature the East Hartford Woman's Club "Tree of Lights" at the at Town Hall. There will be a Musical program at Riverside HealthCare.

Ongoing at the library:

Boxes and Bows - Stop by the Raymond or Wickham Libraries during open hours to pick up a kit to learn how to make bows from recycled books and magazines, and small gift boxes, perfect for tiny treasures too! For ages 8 – adult. While supplies last. No registration is required.

Drop-in Card-Making - Visit the card-making table to design and craft your unique holiday or winter-themed card. Whether you're making a heartfelt message for a loved one or just want to explore your artistic side, there will be all the supplies you need. Held during library open hours at both branches. No registration necessary.

Photo Booth - Gather the family, or friends, and make a memory! Perfect for your holiday cards! You may schedule an appointment with librarians at Raymond Library, 840 Main St., and they will assist with taking a few photographs. Beyond Holiday Fest, the special photo backdrop will remain up to provide a festive setting for family photos and selfies. Free. Reserve time by registering at visit easthartford.events.mylibrary.digital or call 860-290-4330.

Join in the joy at these and many more events happening during the four days of Holiday Fest!

https://www.easthartfordct.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlif9241/f/uploads/2026_holiday_fest_brochure.pdf



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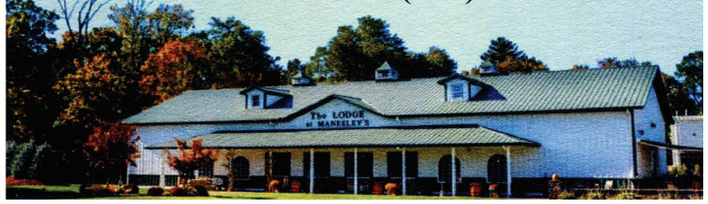

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SE HABLA ESPAÑOL

WHERE THE ACTION IS!

BY CORINNE HORAN

TOY DRIVE: Please join D'Esopo East Hartford Memorial Chapel and the Connecticut Funeral Directors' Association in making a child's Christmas bright. We will be collecting gift cards and toys for the Connecticut National Guard's Operation E.L.F. The Yale New Haven Children's Hospital Toy Closet program and the Connecticut Children's Medical Center. Drop off Gift Cards and Toys to D'Esopo East Hartford Memorial Chapel, 30 Carter St., East Hartford. Donations will be colllected until December 2!

***

NOV 27: HELP "STUFF A CRUISER" for the East Hartford Police Holiday Toy Drive, 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. outside the TJ Maxx store located at 5 Main St. To benefit the EHPD's Youth Taskforce, all are invited to donate an unwrapped, new toy or item of clothing to local police officers who will be stationed outside the store on the day after Thanksgiving. Donated gifts will then be hand-delivered by a special caravan of cruisers to local families with children in need this holiday season. Make life a little brighter this December for East Hartford families. You can help. Giving from the heart puts the holiday spirit into action.

***

NOV. 27-28: CHRISTKINDLMARKT (Christmas Market)at the Hartford Saengerbund German American club, 719 No. Mountain Road, Newington, open 10 a.m. until 7 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday. Come shopping for imported German goods and enjoy German food and beer as well as the hot mulled holiday wine, Glühwein. Plenty of homemade cakes and other desserts as well. St. Nikolaus and his alter-ego, Krampus, will make an appearance, and enjoy singing and dancing performances also. Each day kicks off with an opening ceremony led by the Christkind, or Christmas Angel. Admission $3. FMI call 860-953-8967, visit hartfordsaengerbund.org, or check out their Facebook page. Hartford Saengerbund was established in 1858 as a singing society and social club. It is the oldest German American club in New England. Its motto is "Treu dem deutschen Lied" or "True to the German Song."

***

DEC. 1: MINI-COURSE: THE CHANGING BROADWAY. Tuesdays, Dec. 1, 8, 12:30-2 p.m. at the University of Hartford's President's Lifelong Learning program. Broadway is a-changin.' A slew of wild new shows and radically reimagined classics are revitalizing Broadway this season. From Cats: The Jellicle Ball and Oh, Mary! to Titanique, Schmigadoon!, and The Rocky Horror Show, these high-energy productions are drawing lively audiences looking for a party. Join longtime Variety theater critic Frank Rizzo for a two-session deep dive into Broadway's boldest new hits—including local connection highlights like the Hartt School faculty member who won a Tony for Schmigadoon!. Discover what's driving this theatrical revolution and get an insider look at upcoming tours headed to Hartford. Sponsored by President's College Lifelong Learning at the University of Hartford. Hartford.edu/pc. Questions? Email pcollege@hartford.edu or call 860.768.4495.

***

DEC 3: WINE, WOMEN & WISDOM WOMEN'S CONFERENCE Thursday, December 3 from 5 to 8:30 p.m. at Little Theatre of Manchester at Cheney Hall, 177 Hartford Road, Manchester. Hosted by the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce, Sharonda Carlos, Commissioner of the CT Dept. of Correction, will deliver the keynote address. "Giving back" is the theme of the event. Guests are encouraged to bring women's personal-care and toiletry items to support women preparing for a new chapter in their lives. Tickets, $75, and the event features restaurant tastings, wine and specialty beverages, networking, vendors. To register - https://business.manchesterchamber.com/ap/Events/Register/xRFRgbkSMCYC7

***

DEC. 4 - 7: EAST HARTFORD HOLIDAY FEST sponsored by the East Hartford Beautification Commission, four days of events begins with a Friday tree lighting on eh Town Green. Concerts, church fairs and other Holiday events. Look for the guide around town beginning Nov. 16 as well as in the Gazette. Bring a non-perishable food item to each event for the East Hartford Food Pantry.

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***

DEC 5: COOKIE WALK, South Congregational Church, 1301 Forbes St., 9 a.m. until noon. Dozens of varieties of homemade cookies to choose from. Priced by the pound. Come early for best selection.

***

DEC 6: HOLIDAY FUN, South Church, 1301 Forbes St. Cookies with Santa, holiday carols, luminaria decorating, face painting and crafts. For kids of all ages. Please consider bringing a new pair of socks to be distributed to our Food Bank patrons.

***

DEC 6: EGGNOG AND GINGERBREAD PANCAKES - As part of East Hartford Holidayfest Hillstown Grange #87 is hosting a **PANCAKE BREAKFAST** Sunday morning from 8:30 until 11 a.m., 617 Hills St. Come enjoy a stack of pancakes, sausage, coffee, tea and juice for $6, $3 kids under 14.
Chose from the Holiday favorites, eggnog or gingerbread, or just plain or chocolate chip. Also, in memory of Frank Forrest, the Grange is collecting cookies and other items to pack up for soldiers overseas through the SOS CT packing event Sunday afternoon that same day at the Grange Hall starting at 1 p.m. Donations sought are "Holidays and New Year" themes - any types of cookies, holiday cards and pictures. Packaged snacks, dental or hygiene products welcome. Don't forget to go upstairsat the Grange hall which is filled with books for sale.
Relax in the library and read, do puzzles, play games, or just visit with friends. Hillstown is the neighborhood where East Hartford, Glastonbury, and Manchester meet. Since 1888 the Grange has been here, one of the oldest agricultural and service groups in the town as well as the United States. FMI call Michelle at 860-558-4688 or e-mail kma.dedominicis@gmail.com. FMI go to http://www.HillstownGrange.org%20/www.HillstownGrange.org. FMI on state Granges go to www.CTStateGrange.org

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DEC 6: SUPPORT OUR SOLDIERS will be packing gift boxes at the Hillstown Grange Hall, 617 Hills St. for our troops deployed overseas. The theme is Christmas/Winter. Donations of homemade or store-bought cookies, holiday drawings, and Christmas cards needed. The late, legendary Frank Forrest called the December SOS packing event like a "cookie exchange, except cookies go to our soldiers stationed around the world away from home for the holidays." Donations may be dropped off at the Grange Hall between 1 and 2:30 p.m. the day of the event. Volunteers always needed to sort and pack the day of. Monetary donations vital asa well to pay for postage. Please contact Michelle for more info or to make a donation: 860-558-4688 or e-mail kma.dedominicis@gmail.com; also Jen Marinko, 860-558-5897.

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DEC. 9 WICKHAM DAY QUILTERS of East Hartford meets from 1:30 until 3:30 p.m. at the Wickham Library meeting room, 656 Burnside Avenue. Like to sew? Interested in quilting? Not a fan of driving at night? Come and see if you would like to join us. Any skill level welcome. Wickham Day Quilters is a chapter of the Greater Hartford Quilt Guild. The December program will be a Zoom presentation by Mary O. Gregg on exploring 3D art quilts. Refreshments will be English High Tea. Questions? E-mail Wickhamdayquilters@gmail.com.

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DEC 21: LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE, 7 p.m. South Congregational Church, 1301 Forbes St. South Church invites the community to its first Longest Night Service in the church's sanctuary.
Held on the Winter Solstice, the candlelight service offers a quiet place for anyone who finds the holidays difficult, whether they are grieving, living with illness, feeling alone, or facing a difficult challenge. Music, scripture, prayer and quiet reflection.
Those who wish may light a candle in honor or in memory of a loved one.
Everyone welcome to come as they are, on their own, or with a friend. If Christmas feels heavy this year, you are welcome to spend a quiet evening with us. There's room here for whatever you're carrying.