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website: ehgazette.com

Council adopts \$204M budget; mill rate at 41

By Bill Doak

After tweaking spending and simplifying the mil rate the Town Council by and large left Mayor Mike Walsh's recommended 2022-2023 spending plan intact Monday.

The budget calls for spending \$204,432,077 in revenue, however the town has other pockets of money that were not part of the plan – and more funding

Real Estate

values level

off in area

According to the Greater

Hartford Association of REAL-

TORS® (GHAR), the median

sales price of single-family

homes in Greater Hartford re-

mained unchanged from Febru-

ary of last year (\$280,000).

Closed sales dropped 12.1 per-

cent (from 379 to 333) and

pending sales rose 9.2 percent

(from 381 to 416). New listings

decreased 8.0 percent (from 460

to 423) and inventory dropped

36.8 percent (from 1018 to 643)

over February of 2021. The av-

erage days on market until sale

decreased 35.2 percent (from 54

over year, new listings are down

7.8 percent (from 868 to 800).

Pending sales increased 4.9 per-

cent (from 809 to 849) and

closed sales decreased 10.1 per-

cent (from 828 to 744). The me-

dian sales price remained

See REAL ESTATE VALUES, pg. 10

In year-to-date statistics, year

to 35).

could be coming the town's way if estimates of state municipal aid are accurate.

The largest impact for the town was revaluation, the first year of new values coming off one of the largest increases in residential real estate in state history. The valuations, on average, saw real estate values increase 27 percent overall while the total grand list rose 24 percent. An increase in used cars also swelled the values of motor vehicles by 25 percent in town giving the town a taxable base of \$3.5 billion.

Commercial values and personal property also rose, but not to the extent as residential real estate resulting in a shift in the tax burden from those categories to homeowners. Town Councilman Richard Kehoe noted that the town's largest taxpayer, Raytheon/Pratt & Whitney Aircraft, will pay \$1.6 million less in taxes under the budget, and Mayor Mike Walsh also observed the average small to medium sized business will see their taxes go down in their July 1 tax bill.

According to state biannual budgeting estimates and Education Cost Sharing formulas, East Hartford is projected to receive an 11.5 percent increase in state grant funds. In fiscal year 2021 the town received \$64.6 million in state aid, in Fiscal year 2022 \$70.44 million, and in fiscal year 2023 the town is to get \$78.56 million.

Mayor Walsh said some of that funding may be set aside for the Board of Education and part of the federal American Rescue Plan Act funding earmarked separately from the budget process. According to the announcement by Congressman John Larson last summer, East Hartford was going to receive a total of \$38 million in ARPA monies with \$14 million for educational programs. Those funds are restricted to new programs and non-pension items, however, which created unique challenges into how they can be spent. The Town Council already passed a spending plan for some \$24 million in ARPA funds it is supposed to receive, mostly for infrastructure improvements and fire apparatus.

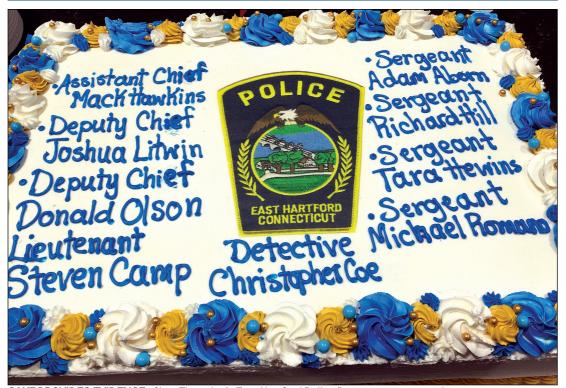
Education spending in FY 2022-23 is what the Board of Education requested, \$95,993,863. The town side of the spending plan adopted by the Council is \$98,197,367. Debt service payments will decline slightly to \$8,105,180 and some \$2,135,667 is set aside for capital improvements.

One of the biggest capital spending plans will be the renovation of Town Hall which will be closed off as the electric, heating and cooling, elevators and asbestos abatement work will now be the scope of the fix. During that time, all town departments will be relocated to other buildings.

SEE BUDGET ADOPTED, pg. 10



EAST HARTFORD POLICE PROMOTE NINE



CAKE PROVIDES EVIDENCE of last Thursday's East Hartford Police Deptartment promotion ceremony overseen by Mayor Mike Walsh with the families of the officers to celebrate 9 advancements within the department to sergeants, lieutenant, assistant chiefs and detective. Advancing were Assistant Chief Mack Hawkins, Deputy Chief Joshua Litwin, Deputy Chief Donald Olson, Lieutenant Steven Camp, Sergeant Adam Aborn, Sergeant Richard Hill, Sergeant Tara Hewins, Sergeant Michael Romano and to Detective Christopher Coe.



Houses are selling at peak value now. Don't wait. Maximize your investment by just giving me a call.

THE GAZETTE AROUND TOWN

'Prevention Idol' contest returns with prizes, fun

Prevention Idol, after a twoyear hiatus, is back! Sponsored by the town's Prevention Council, Prevention Idol is also being supported by the Youth Services Department. All young people and their families are invited to show off their talent! Singing, dancing, dramatic reading, or magic tricks - they want to see it. Organizers are eager to show everyone what our town is capable of. Participants also will highlight the benefits of living substance-free, and asked why they choose to be drug free in a workshop that is required for participation.

This year, virtual submissions will be accepted in the following five categories: family act, dramatic reading/poetry, dance, vocals, and instrumental (and other specialty acts).

Registration is open now through April 1 and contestants will be asked to submit a video in MP4 format, no longer than 5 minutes and under 1 GB in size. If you need help recording your performance, Youth Services staff are able! Call 860-291-7179 to ask for assistance.

If your talent is something that is not traditionally recorded live, we encourage you to find a creative way to showcase your talent in video format. For example, artists can create a time-lapse of them creating their work or create a presentation about their artistic process.

Submissions end April 1 at midnight. A panel of judges will select five finalists in each category. Once the finalists are selected, the public will choose the winner by taking a survey that will be available in the end of April. Winners will receive a seasonal pass to Six Flags, a night out (dinner & movies), passes to Flight Adventure Park, an East Hartford Youth Services Swag Bag.

FMI go to www.easthartfordct.gov/youth-services or call Youth Services at 860-291-7179.



CDM SMITH OF EAST HARTFORD earned a National Recognition Award for exemplary engineering achievement in the American Council of Engineering Companies' (ACEC) 55th annual Engineering Excellence Awards (EEA) for the West Hartford "Accelerated Water Main Replacement" project. The project team developed a successful strategy to replace 140year-old water main with a new 24-inch pipeline in the densely developed commercial area of West Hartford. Speed was of the essence as the town wanted to avoid construction-related interference with the 2021 outdoor dining in West Hartford Center. The project team also had to weave the new pipeline through a web of underground utilities, not all of which were fully documented. Begun in October 2020, the project required nighttime work along the busier stretches of the water main route to maintain traffic flow and prevent disruption to businesses, completed on time and more than 25 percent under the \$5.8 million budget.

LEGAL NOTICE

ADOPTION OF THE 2022-2023 BUDGET

This is to certify that the East Hartford Town Council, in session on March 14, 2022, voted in accordance with Section 6.4(b) of the Town Charter to adopt the Mayor's Budget as amended:

. , , ,	
Town Government	\$98,197,367
Board of Education	\$95,993,863
Debt Services	\$8,105,180
Capital Improvement	\$2,135,667
For a total budget of	<u>\$204,432,077</u>
Tax Collection Rate	97.31%
Mill Rates of:	
Real Estate and Personal Property	41.00
Motor Vehicles	41.00
Generating taxes of:	
Real Estate and Personal Property	\$124,056,449
Motor Vehicles	\$14,738,247
Local Elderly, Veteran's, and	
Leased Engines - Tax Relief	(\$520,000)
Other Receipts	\$66,157,381
Total Revenue	<u>\$204,432,077</u>

Attest Michael P. Walsh, Mayor Date signed: 3/15/2022

Parks & Rec Egg Hunt at McAuliffe Park April 9th

Parks and Recreation invites residents to participate in the annual egg hunt at McAuliffe Park, 30 Remington Road, Saturday, April 9 at noon. Thousands of chocolates and stuffed plastic eggs for children ages 10 and younger (with accompanying parent/guardian). Participants will be grouped by age and directed to designated areas. Each child should bring their own bag or basket to collect eggs and candy.

In case of inclement weather, the egg hunt will be postponed to the following Saturday, April 16th. Check www.easthartfordct.gov/parks-recreation and Facebook at @EHParks for updates. This event is FREE.

FMI call 860-291-7160.

GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE: Zakarian indoor grill, new, \$40, Antique oak bureau, \$60. Snow boots, new, size 7 \$25. Car phone holder, \$20. Call 860-633-4694 or 860-836-0593.

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Rojas working for housing reforms

By Sten Spinella THE NEW LONDON DAY

The General Assembly's Housing Committee sent a diverse package of bills to the floor or to other committees with joint favorable reports Tuesday afternoon in Hartford.

Renter and landlord issues, housing affordability and availability and an act establishing a right to housing, among other related measures, are covered in the legislation that made it out of the Housing Committee. Included among the proposed measures which passed out of committee Tuesday is "A Needs Assessment and Fair Share Plans for Municipalities to Increase Affordable Housing."

The bill would "require (1) an assessment of the state-wide need for affordable housing and an allocation of such need to planning regions and municipalities, (2) the creation of affordable housing plans for each municipality, and (3) a study concerning the municipalities' performance in meeting the requirements of such plans," according to its summary. Opponents of the bill, including municipal interests such as CCM and Republican members of the committee, expressed concerns that the legislation would put an undue burden on municipalities.

"I'm past the point of trying to convince people that we have to do something about affordable housing in the state," Sen. Gary Winfield, D-New Haven, said Tuesday, referencing past debates between Republicans and Democrats on the topic of affordable housing.

House Majority Leader Jason Rojas, D-9th Assembly District, is a co-sponsor of the bill. Rojas said in his testimony that the bill "allows Connecticut to ad-

LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE 87 Church Street, East Hartford, CT 06108

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS.

TITLE 18, SUBSECTION 4.38 related to an application for hydroelectric exemption, Burnside Hydro LLC will be holding a joint

agency meeting on March 24, 2022 with officials from the

Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration, and US Fish and

Wildlife Services. The discussion will focus on Burnside Hydro's intent to pursue a 10-MW exemption for its hydroelectric facility

using the dam near the property. Members of the public are wel-

come to join the meeting and raise any concerns. The meeting will be from 11:15 am to 2:00 pm at 87 Church Street, East Hartford,

Connecticut in the 206 Great Hall Room.

dress its affordable housing and housing segregation crises all while ensuring that individual towns remain in the driver's seat when it comes to how and where they build more housing."

Sure to spark debate in Hartford is the "right to housing" bill which seeks to "establish a right to housing for all residents of the state and a right to housing committee," according to its summary. "It shall be the goal of this state to implement policies that will respect, protect and fulfill a right to affordable, decent, safe and stable housing for every resident of this state, the proposed bill language reads. State agencies would be compelled to "consider the right to housing" when implementing policies and to "give priority to assisting families of low and moderate income."

In public testimony for the bill, Evonne Klein, the CEO of the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness, said that in Connecticut "we believe that housing is a human right."

"Today, we have the opportunity as a state to codify those words and those beliefs in S.B. 168," Klein said in her testimony. "Ensuring the right not to be evicted unfairly, the right to safe and decent housing, the right to live in communities with good schools, and supports for health and safety, the right to equal access regardless of race, gender, disability or other status."

Lobbyists for CCM said the bill "would require municipalities to consider the right to housing and the components established under the bill."

"Some of these components include the right to 1) protection from housing loss, 2) safe housing that meets basic needs, 3) housing affordability, 4) rehousing assistance for those who have become homeless and 5) the recognition of special circumstances," the CCM wrote, adding that it supports providing affordable housing and combatting homelessness.

THE GAZETTE

"With that being said, the bill as currently drafted is vague and potentially opens the door to burdensome unfunded mandates," the CCM added in its testimony. "The financial commitments regarding the components listed are unknown."

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Selection 4)

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Telephone: _____

Notes:

The Gazette

Thursday, March 17, 2022

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OPINIONS - LETTERS - SPEAKING OUT! Honoring K-9 teams for all they do for our community

by Henry Genga STATE REP., (D) 10TH ASSEMBLY DIST.

March 13th marked our celebration of K-9 Veterans Day in our community. This will be the sixth time we recognize this occasion. In 2017, I sponsored a bill to recognize K-9 veterans annually for their great military work - they are usually some of the first feet, or paws, on the ground in hostile situations.

According to the U.S. Military History Institute, dogs have been a part of the United States Army since the beginning. They officially became members on March 13, 1942, which is why we celebrate K-9 Veterans Day on that date. Prior to that, the military considered them equipment.

There have been many decorated dogs throughout American military history. Sergeant Stubby of New Haven was a very important four-legged soldier in World War I. He participated in 17 battles, captured a German soldier, and was wounded. He was recognized for his heroism by President Wilson in the White House.

Today, these animals provide faithful protection for our military soldiers and police here in our communities. We take time to reflect upon the tremendous work and sacrifices of both those who train and work with these dogs as well as the canines themselves who serve our community.

In particular, I think always of Sergeant Rambo, a 3-legged K-9 officer who traveled from his home in Texas along with his handler, Lisa Phillips, to testify in 2017 to support K-9 Veterans Day. Lisa, an East Hartford native, was a military veterinary technician who took care of K-9 vets. Now, she has a foundation to help pay for medical treatment after their military service.

I think of all the K-9 officers working in East Hartford where they help their fellow police officer. These K-9 officers have been deployed over 300 times in our community – one of their primary duties include searching for shell casings after a shooting. K-9 officers also participate in food and toy drives for local children.

You can learn more about these amazing members of our community through their Instagram page @easthartfordpdk9 where you can also support the unit in their community events. These K-9 officers are dedi-

These K-9 officers are deal-

cated to keeping our community safe. It is a shame that we do not often take a moment to recognize their sacrifice and hard work, but let March 13th be an opportunity to thank them for their selfless dedication throughout the year.

At right, East Hartford Police Officer Steve Grossi and his K-9 partner, Hades.

Officer Grossi has been a police officer for 23 years, a K9 handler for 18 years, and a operator/ team leader and assistant team leader of the East Hartford Police Department SWAT Team for 12 years.

Officer Grossi has had 2 police dogs during his career. His first was K9 Odin who was a German Shepherd and his second being K9 Hades, a Belgian Malinois. K9 Hades worked from 2010 - 2021. He had over 20-plus criminal apprehensions and numerous tracking finds

K9 Hades battled cancer for a little over a year and worked during his chemotherapy treatments, having conducted tracks right up to his last week of life. K9 Hades died November 18, 2021 and was the first K9 at The East Hartford Police Department to pass as an active member without retiring.

This Saturday East Hart-



ford's K-9 teams will be rightfully honored for their service and dedication to the public in Hartford's St. Patricks Day Parade. It seems fitting to have our K-9 teams front and center to allow everyone to applaud their service and devotion to all.

Drivers need to pull over and let all emergency vehicles pass by

To the Editor:

It is 1:55 p.m. on Friday. We just had a snowstorm and the roads are slippery and bad outside as I write this letter.

As I look out my window here on Connecticut Boulevard hearing all the emergency sirens going off and the fire trucks and police cars going by, I am bothered by something.

Vehicles are not pulling over and stopping for the emergency vehicles. I am perplexed by this, and I wish I could say it is not the usual driver behavior. Perhaps drivers forgot that the law says yield to emergency traffic with lights flashing and sirens sounding. Come on, people of East Hartford! Pull over and stop.

We have great emergency response teams in East Hartford. Show them the respect they deserve as they rush to possibly rescue someone you might know in an emergency. Help them do their job safely so they can get to their destination, and then get home to their families at the end of the shift.

East Hartford drivers - and all other drivers who might be reading this and driving on our roads: Please yield for all emergency vehicles. Pull over and stop. It is the right thing to do, and it is easy to do.

We all count on these men

and women doing their job on our behalf. And they are counting on us to do the right thing and pull to the side when they sound the lights and sirens to keep them as safe as possible. Thank you all,

Gail Farnham East Hartford 101 Connecticut Boluevard

LETTERS POLICY: The Gazette welcomes signed letters on subjects of interest to our readers. Mail to: The Gazette, 1406 Main St., EH, CT 06108 or e-mail to editor@ehgazette.com **OPINIONS - LETTERS - SPEAKING OUT!** Mayor Walsh response to critic: 'Doing nothing is not an option'

To the Editor:

I'd like to take some time to unpack the comments provided to the community in last week's *Gazette* by resident Donald Carvey (March 10, 2022 issue).

As to the Project Control Tower that he laments, it's both a communication tool and a strategic planning document so the community understands our priorities.

Mr. Carvey's critique of two elements of the Showcase Cinema development project to bring amenity rich apartments to East Hartford was limited to the sale of the property to the developer for \$1 and to the tax setting agreement. Both items enabled this project to become a reality.

To Mr. Carvey, it's math. The Town can have a blighted, dormant parcel of land and over the next 27 years collect \$3.5 million dollars in taxes or the Town can allow the developer to use the land sold for \$1 as collateral to secure the bank financing for this \$81 million project while collecting \$27.5 million over the next 27 years. \$3.5 million or \$27.5 million.

Wanting Walmart, Target, IKEA, or Kohl's to move to that site was a nonstarter because the economic math doesn't work for them. Adding \$15 million in new disposable income from the new tenants also begins to stimulate the Silver Lane Corridor making it more attractive to retail, which is what we desire.

As to American Rescue Funding, it can't be used to lower taxes. That's the law and I can't change that.

As I have reminded anyone who will listen, citing our mill rate as high is a meaningless statistic because real estate values in town are low, so to provide the wealth of services our budget provides, our mill rate is high.

Alternatively, the single statistic to focus on is per capita tax burden and East Hartford has a \$2,686 tax burden ranking us 109 out of 169 towns, the bottom third. That's not a license to raise taxes, but simply a need to unpack the writer's comments.

As to the Fiber Project, utilities belong in the ground in order to be best fortified. When this project was designed, the State prohibited fiber of this sort from going onto telephone poles. The fastest fiber in the nation, if installed, will make East Hartford an attractive place to do business which will allow development to happen with less effort and investment – isn't that the idea as a strategic plan? As to my finance director selection, I have hired what I believe to be the most talented and gifted candidate available to East Hartford and my choice in her was solely based on her track record of achievement and results that I witnessed firsthand.

In closing, Mr. Carvey and I share a strong desire to make East Hartford a better place to live and work. Understand that all decisions made by me as your Mayor are based on that desire because doing nothing is not an option and hope is not a plan.

> Mike Walsh Mayor

Updating all on East Hartford Public Schools' five-year 'Pride in 5' plans

Dear Friends,

We are marching through March and pleased with the continual progress we are making in our schools across our district. It's hard to believe we are at that point of the year where we start looking forward to spring, baseball, concerts and dare we mention, graduations. Good things ahead!

As we look forward to warm, we wanted to take a brief moment to keep you updated as a community on our progress aligned to our annual district improvement plan. For our faithful readers, you are aware that EHPS is guided by the five-year visionary plan called Pride in 5. If you are interested, take a look at our website at www.easthartford.org. Underneath Pride in 5, we develop an annual improvement plan that set up the major projects we plan to accomplish each year. Approximately every six months we return to this plan (also located on the website) and update our Board of Education on our progress. To put it simple, we are obsessed with getting better—our kids deserve it!

We presented the mid-year report to the East Hartford Board of Education on February 7th. If you would like to see this presentation, we taped our meeting. You can watch it in full on East Hartford Community Television at www.ehct.viebit.com under the Board of Education tab. This month, we wanted to provide some bullets that capture major accomplishments to date.

Priority: Accelerate Academic Achievement for Every Child

• Over the past six months, the district has been hard at work building leader and teacher capacity to implement the principles of Universal Design for Learning (UDL). UDL blends previous district efforts to help our teachers facilitate student-centered instruction using culturally-responsive teaching practices. We want our classrooms to be places where kids "own their learning," are interested, celebrated and engaged by relevant content.

Priority: Weave Webs of Caring and Empowering Supports

• One of our key projects this year is the transformation of Woodland School. With the addition of a new principal and assigned special education supervisor, there is a new vision and energy focused on



Nathan D. Quesnel Superintendent of Schools

WHAT'S WELL FROM WELLS HALL

Tyron Harris

Chair, EH Board of Education

both supporting the behavioral needs of every child and academic learning. To accomplish this goal, we are enhancing our current staffing to include additional expertise that can better meet student needs. In addition, we are actively working to find new partners, construct a School Based Health Center and strengthen our relationships with surrounding school districts.

Priority: Transform Structures and Systems

• Using funding made available through federal COVID relief grants (ESSER2/ARP), we have launched a comprehensive Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) project for our school buildings. In this project we are working to design solutions for all schools using full window systems and mechanical upgrades. For all designs, IAQ will be of primary concern, with a target of having schools in compliance with national standards and best practices. To date we have completed a request for proposal for the design process of six elementary schools to have a complete window wall redesign as well as a comprehensive solution providing air conditioning/ventilation for over 250 classrooms. We hope to complete this design process with construction phased over the next two years.

Priority: Diversify EHPS teacher, administrator and employee workforce

• Building on our track record of racially diversifying our workforce, we maintain our long-term commitment to identify, recruit and hire diverse and talented candidates across all district systems. This year these efforts have included work across our Human Resource department to refine and expand recruitment practices as well as broadening the "net" by expanding university partnerships. In addition, we have launched new pre-service engagement with both Central Connecticut State University and the University of Saint Joseph.

Priority: Expand Opportunities for Success

• As a district, we are committed to expanding the definition and pathway to post-secondary success for all students. We think that the notion that all students should go to a four-year university after high school is disingenuous and fails to recognize the success opportunities of career or military service. We have partnered with the Town of East Hartford to develop several pathway programs at Synergy and East Hartford High School focusing on workplace learning experiences in the sectors of public safety, health care and manufacturing. In addition, we are working to increase the number of work-based learning opportunities (e.g. job shadowing and internships) for students to have while they are in high school.

Thanks for your interest in the success of our students as we work to accomplish big things. We look forward to taking the next step with all these projects and reporting back in June.

If we can be of service to you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact us at your convenience (Mr. Harris - 860-622-5017

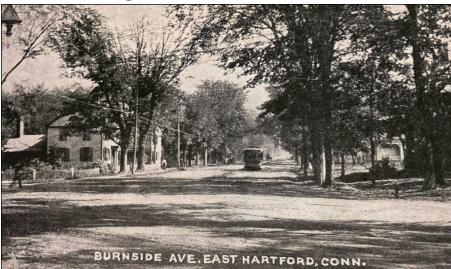
harris.tv@easthartford.org, Mr. Quesnel - 860-622-5107 quesnel.nd@easthartford.org.

With great East Hartford Pride,

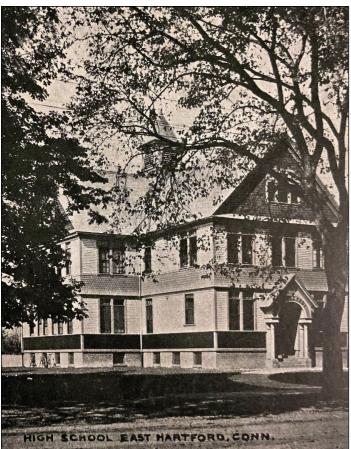
Tyron V. Harris, Chairman Nathan Quesnel, Superintendent East Hartford Public Schools THE GAZETTE

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Looking Back... Our town's Main Street before the Great War



Celene Clemens Zaczynski of Winsdor shared these postcards views of East Hartford she came across recently. Judging from the view of East Hartford High School below before it burned down, they date from 1915. On Main Street, right, is Wells Hall, Town Hall at the time, today the Board of Education offices. The corner of Burnside and Main shows buildings to the right that served as a funeral home, then where CVS is today. Post Office square, top right, just north of Center Cemetery, had a pass-through alley in the center of the wood building. The offices of the Gazette were on the second floor. Stately elm trees formed a towering leafy archway above Main, which, at 76-feet wide was considered one of the most beautiful in Connecticut back then. Less recognizable today is the railroad crossing (where Torpey Bridge is today); the road was lowered after a tragic accident in 1916.









East Hartford summer camp scholarships are offered by Glastonbury law firm

Connecticut Trial Firm with offices on Naubuc Avenue in Glastonbury is sending two kids to East Hartford Parks & Rec camp this summer for free! The local personal injury firm would like to give back to the community and reward children with some needed sunshine after the long school year. To learn more about the camp and to submit your ballot for selection, visit their event page by May 31st.

https://cttrialfirm.com/2022summer-camp-initiative/

REUNIONS

The East Hartford High School Class of 1972 will celebrate its 50th year reunion Saturday, June 4, 2022 at the Maple Café, 781 Hopmeadow St., Simsbury. Join us for a festive evening of food, fun, and music. Reservation forms will be forthcoming. Informal Meet and Greet is Friday night, June 3, at Carmine's Bar and Grill, 389 Main St., East Hartford.

If questions contact Andrea (Garabedian) Karanian at 860-985-3177; Jackie (Emmons) Paquin (860-573-4454); Nancy (Barone) Walsh (860-882-7926); or Leslie Davis (860-569-4969). Like us on FB "EHHS Class of 1972" or e-mail EHHS Class of 1972@gmail.com. See you there! Committee: Frank Mazzarella, Bob Ryan, Frank Macchi, Leslie, Nancy, Jackie and Andrea.

REUNION: EHHS Class of 1971 - Celebrating 50+ years! June 4, 2022 from 6 to 10 p.m. at the Manchester Country Club, 305 South Main Street, Manchester. Dance to East Hartford's own "Cover to Cover" from 7-10. \$65 per person includes dinner and band. Make checks payable to EHHS Class of 1971 and mail by April 21 to Terri Fedor-Francis. 53Rollingview Drive, Vernon, CT 06066.

East Hartford's Saunders is Parade Grand Marshal

Society

East Hartford resident Elizabeth (Liz) Lynch Saunders is being honored as the Parade Grand Marshal in this weekend's St. Patrick's Day Parade in Hartford. The event was postponed from lasst weekend due to inclement weather, and kicks off at 11 a.m. this Saturday at the State Capitol building on Capitol Avenue.

Saunders, for many years one of the organizers of the annual celebration of Irish culture and traditions, is a first generation Irish American with both her parents hailing from Ireland. Her father's family is from Athy, Co. Kildare while her mother's side is from Tarbert, Co. Kerry, Ireland. She is the daughter of Margaret (Foley) and Anthony (Jimmy) Lynch.

Liz has been a member of the Irish American Home Society for more than four decades. During that time she held the positions of Financial Secretary and Recording Secretary for over 20 years.

In addition, she was a bartender for 15 years, Feis Chairperson for numerous years as well as an active volunteer for over 30 years in the Glastonbury club, the area's heart of all things Irish.

She served as the former Co-Chair

□ Mowings

□ Clean-ups

□ Overseeding

□ Hydro-seeding

□ Rolling of lawns

□ Low-voltage lighting

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Patios



Elizabeth 'Liz' Saunders 2022 Hartford St. Patrick's Day Grand Marshal

of the East Hartford Parade Commit tee and is General Chair of the Central CT Celtic Cultural Committee a position she has held for 14 years.

Liz grew up in Hartford, along with her siblings Jimmy, Mary, and Barbara. She was an active member of St. Lawrence O'Toole Church where she taught CCD and was the coach of the girls CYO Softball team. In addition, she taught CCD at St. Christopher's Church here and coached girl's softball in East Hartford. She has been married to Terry Saunders for 38 years and they have three daughters - Kaitlyn, Kristen, and Kellie - three grandchildren: Brody, Theodore and Charlotte, and a new addition due in August.

Liz worked at the Hartford Courant for over 30 years and currently works as the Executive Assistant to the President/CEO of Capital Workforce Partners the regional Workforce Development Board for North Central Conneecticut.

The Central Connecticut Celtic Cultural Committee is incredibly pleased to honor Liz as the 2022 Parade Grand Marshal for all that she has contributed to her hometown and to the community at large.

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EAST HARTFORD SPORTS

Tournament seeding fair to UConn

They got what they deserved.

Both UCONN teams were properly positioned when the NCAA tournament brackets were announced Sunday night.

The UCONN men had little argument for being seeded higher than #5 in the West region. In weighing UCONN's seeding the selection committee may have discussed a sixth seed but, in all likelihood, nothing higher than fifth. The Huskies lost two of their last four games but the committee took into consideration that those losses were to

SCOTT GRAY on SPORTS

by Scott Gray

the two Big East Tournament finalists, Villanova and Creighton, which carries a lot of weight because the league as a whole was shown considerable respect, with six selections, second only to the Big 10, with nine. The Big 12 and SEC also earned six tournament slots.

Despite the respect the committee showed UCONN and the Big East they also did the Huskies no favors, putting them in what may be the toughest region, with the tournament's overall number one seed, Gonzaga. UCONN opens Thursday night in Buffalo against New Mexico State in what is commonly referred to as the "Upset Bracket", for good reason. In the 42 years since the tournament expanded to 64 teams (now 68) the 12th seed has won the first round game one third of the time. #5 seeds are the only ones in the top half of the bracket to never win the tournament. It's not an easy assignment, but the Huskies played at the end of the season like they're up to the challenge. I expect them to go deep.

Baylor in the East, Kansas in the Midwest and Arizona in the South join Gonzaga as #1 seeds.

Based on their health and the way they played at the end of the season, including a no-nonsense run through the Big East Tournament, the UCONN women might have argued for a higher seed, but why bother? The committee showed them due respect by seeding them second in the Bridgeport region, behind North Carolina State. In the last regular season selection "reveal" UCONN, playing without four starter caliber players, was seeded third in the Spokane region, where Stanford's the top seed, and ticketed for an opener in Iowa. The second seed gives the Huskies four games in Connecticut, if they go that far, two in Storrs, beginning Saturday against Mercer. They ride in on a ten game winning streak. Their last loss was to Villanova, by three, with those four players sidelined.

South Carolina, #1 in the Greensboro region, is the top overall seed with Louisville the fourth top seed, in the Wichita region. Because UCONN played all but the last two weeks of the season shorthanded no #1 seed has seen a team of their current caliber this season. I expect the Huskies to be measuring their ring sizes when all is said and done.

P.S. Major League Baseball returned to reality just as I warned that greed was about to cost them three generations of fans. They announced a resolution to the lockout the day last week's column hit the streets. Opening day, April seventh. The nick of time.

Hornet Girls in state final

By The Middletown Press

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Beckoned by a raucous and ecstatic student section, the East Hartford girls basketball team made its way to the top of the bleachers and down again at New Britain High School. The players mixed easily with the fans for high-fives and hugs.

Soon after, coach Jonathan Myette did the same and got the same kudos reaction. If next weekend at Mohegan Sun works out in their favor, the Hornets might get to do it all over again.

No. 2 seed East Hartford advanced to its first state championship game after a dominant 67-38 win over No. 3 Middletown in the CIAC Class LL semifinals on Friday night. Seton Hall-bound senior guard Shailyn Pinkney scored 29 points and the Hornets, playing at a high level throughout at both ends of the floor, turned a 16-point halftime lead into a rout by the midpoint of the third quarter.

"The crowd, the cheerleaders, the community and parents, everyone is behind them. This is what they've wanted from the start and it feels great to accomplish everything we've wanted," Myette said, before pausing. "At this point," he added. "Don't get me wrong. We've still got one more game to go. But this team has brought the community together and these girls deserve it. We've talked about being humble. Now we're hungry. The goal's in sight and we're going to go for it all."

The Hornets face No. 12 seed Wilton Sunday for the title game at 6:30 in Mohegan Sun Arena.

Myette said he'd been inspired watching "Survive and Advance," the ESPN Films' "30 for 30" entry about the underdog North Carolina Wolfpack's trek to the 1983 NCAA championship under Jim Valvano.

"This is a team of destiny," he said, referring to his Hornets. "It's a special group. They've been counted out from the start and this is just the start (for them)."

Pinkney, who said she battles nerves before every game, scored 14 points in the first half to set the tone. Kayla Henry chipped in with nine points and Nia Edens and Zoe Mercado added eight for the Hornets.

"I always have butterflies," said Pinkney, "but I just know I can play and once I get on that court, they all go away. I really feel like we can win the championship. I'm just ready for that ring and to make history."

Like East Hartford, Middletown was making its first appearance in a state semifinal and finished its best season in 35 years with a 20-4 record. Senior Tyah Pettaway, the team's leading scorer, led the Blue Dragons with 16 points.

Middletown led just once on Friday, at 3-2 when Pettaway swished a 3-pointer from the corner. From there, the Hornets raced to a 10-5 lead behind five points from Pinkney and a 3pointer from Edens with 2:01 left in the first quarter.

The Blue Dragons were dealt a significant blow on their next trip down the floor when sophomore playmaker Shalyn Smith turned her right ankle underneath the basket with 1:48 to go. She went to the bench and didn't return for the remainder of the half. Smith's absence seemed to give the Hornets an opening and they took it, scoring seven of the next eight points in that final stretch to grab a 17-6 lead heading to the second quarter.

"We were excited for the game," Middletown coach Rob Smernoff said. "The kids worked hard the last few days in practice and it's just like, when you play a big game and if the other team comes out early and hits a few shots, it's like taking the air out of a balloon. And I thought it really hurt us when Shalyn went down. It took a little wind out of the sails. You hope it's not going to happen, but you understand when it does."

East Hartford's man-to-man defense kept Pettaway, senior Shadae Bushay (two points) and the Blue Dragons' transition game in check, and the Hornets' length denied Middletown second-chance scoring opportunities.

Middletown made a brief run with five straight points in the first 2:12 of the second quarter to trim its deficit to 17-11, but the Hornets shut out the Dragons the rest of the way while adding 10 points to their lead. The final five came from Mercado, a freshman, on a jump shot with 30 seconds left and a 3-pointer from the corner with 1.7 to go.

"That was definitely our spark for the second half," Henry said. "That's our freshman and she's been doing great this season. Just to see her be confident and actually shoot the shot was a big spark for us. That just kind of clicked for us to move on to the second half."

East Hartford opened the second half with a 10-2, the only points for Middletown coming from two free throws by senior Alexa DeSena. Pettaway gave the Dragons their first field goal of the half on a drive to the hoop with 5:59 left, but it turned out to be a blip. Soon after, Smith returned to the floor but only for a short stretch.

The Hornets scored 26 points in the quarter, 13 by Pinkney, and led 53-36 heading to the fourth.



MIDDLETOWN (38): Shalyn Smith 0 0-0 0, Tyah Pettaway 7 1-2 16, Alexa DeSena 2 2-2 6, Jada Bryant 3 1-2 7, Shadae Bushay 1 0-0 2, Ava Studinski 1 0-0 3, Jahnae Carrenard 1 0-0 2, Tajahnae Brock 1 0-0 2. Totals: 16 4-6 38.

EAST HARTFORD (67): Zoe Mercado 3 0-0 8, Kayla Henry 4 0-0 9, Victoria Silva-Soto 3 0-0 6, Shailyn Pinkney 12 3-5 29, Nia Edens 3 1-4 8, Comfort Boateng 0 1-2 1, Savannah Morgan 1 0-0 2, Elizabeth Kawkira 1 0-0 2, Janiya Henry 1 0-0 3. Totals: 28 5-11 67. 3-pointers: Middletown—Pettaway 1, Studinski 1; East Hartford— Pinkney 2, Mercado 2, K. Henry 1, Edens 1, J. Henry 1.

RECORDS: MIDDLETOWN 20-4; EAST HARTFORD 24-2.

Douglas C. Repoli, 61 of East Hampton, beloved father of Mikala and Kristen, passed away unexpectedly on March 1, 2022 at his home. Born in Hartford on March 29, 1960 to the late Francis and Dorothy (Pelletier) Repoli. Doug grew up and lived in Newington before moving to East Hampton. He always loved sports and was very athletic. He played on the baseball, basketball and football teams as a child and in college. Doug attended UCONN and graduated in 1982 with a degree in Economics. He was a lifelong UCONN sports fan, he also loved the Boston Celtics and Boston Red Sox. He worked doing carpentry and in the last 23 years as a manager at his family's restaurant, Mickey's Oceanic Grill on Pitkin Street. Everyone knew Doug at Mickey's, and could count on a cheerful greeting and a proud update on his daughter's lives.

He is survived by his daughters Mikala alongside her fiancé (Sal Esposito) and Kristen Repoli, his brothers and sister, Dennis and Pamela Repoli of South Glastonbury, Anne and Kurt Nyman of South Glastonbury, Daniel and Mary



Douglas 'Doug' Repoli

Ann Repoli of Glastonbury, and David Repoli of Tenafly, NJ, several nieces, nephews, cousins and many friends. The wake at Spencer Funeral Home, East Hampton, is Sunday, March 20 at 10 a.m. with funeral at noon. All are welcome. Wear a pop of color to honor Doug's personality. Gifts may be made to the National Police Dog Foundation www.nationalpolicedogfoundation.org/donations.

Ann Elizabeth Killian, 69

Ann Elizabeth Killian, 69, of East Hartford, peacefully passed away on Tuesday, March 8, 2022 with her beloved family by her side at St. Francis Hospital in Hartford. Born in Hartford on May 21, 1952, a daughter of the late David J. and Theresa "Terry" (O'Brien) Killian, she had been a lifelong resident of East Hartford.

OBITUARIES

Ann was a graduate of East Hartford High School, class of 1970. During her professional career, Ann worked over 25 The Hartford at vears Insurance Company in their Law Department. She later worked for the East Hartford Chamber of Commerce for several years prior to working for the town of East Hartford where she retired in 2018 as an Administrative Assistant.

Ann enjoyed cooking and baking (especially impressive delicious cakes) for her family and friends. She was also an avid reader and loyal fan of the UConn Women's basketball team.

Most of all, Ann loved being a grandmother by spending time, caring and supporting all four of them.

Ann is survived by her daughter, Raechel K. Lallier and her husband, Dan, of Wethersfield; three brothers,



Ann Killian

David J. Killian and his wife, Irene, of Glastonbury, John O. Killian and his wife, Donna Ericson, of West Hartford, Brian E. Killian of East Hartford; four cherished grandchildren, Kaeleigh Rakus, Emma Rakus, Olivia Lallier, and Daniel Lallier all of Wethersfield; two adored greatgrandchildren, Colton Carilli and Jameson Carilli both of Wethersfield; several cousins, nieces, nephews, and dear friends.

Besides her parents, Ann was predeceased by a brother, William A. Killian of East Hartford; and a sister, Claudia R. Killian of East Hartford with whom she lived with.

Funeral service celebrating Ann's life will be Saturday, March 19, at 10 a.m. at the D'Esopo East Hartford Memorial Chapel, 30 Carter St., with burial to follow at Mount Saint Benedict Cemetery, (Section W), Bloomfield.

Ann's family will receive relatives and friends Friday, March 18, from 4-7 p.m. at the funeral home chapel. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made to the American Lung Association, 45 Ash St., East Hartford, CT 06108.

On-line visit www.desopoeh.com.

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Clare E. Scanlon, 32

Clare E. Scanlon, 32, of East Hartford passed away suddenly at Hartford Hospital on March 12, 2022.

Clare was the daughter of Diane Roohr Cummings and her husband, David, of Norwich, and John Scanlon, III of East Hartford.

Clare graduated from Synergy Alternative High School/Life Program. She was self-employed at "Hair by Clare". At the age of 12, after watching a friend's mother braiding, she decided she wanted to learn to braid. She started out teaching herself, then with some help from her friend's mother, she became the excellent braider that she was.

Clare will be most remembered for her loving nature and sense of humor.

In addition to her parents, she is survived and will be dearly missed by her aunts and uncles; Joanne Sava (Godmother) and her husband Bryan of Texas, Lawrence Roohr (Godfather) of Colorado; Thomas Roohr and his wife Joanne of Florida and Matthew Roohr and his wife Robin of Connecticut.

She will also be missed by her many special cousins whom she dearly loved, her huge extended family and her friends all of whom she loved so much.

She was predeceased by her grandparents; George and Ruth Roohr and John and Dorothy Scanlon.

Calling hours for Clare will be held Saturday, March 26, 2022 from 2 to 5 p.m. at Benjamin J. Callahan Funeral Home, 318 Burnside Avenue.

In lieu of flowers please make a donation in Clare's memory to the American Diabetes Association, diabetes.org, or by mail P.O. Box 7023 Merrifield, VA 22116.

Online, visit www.CallahanFuneral.com

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From Page One

unchanged at \$285,000 and the average days spent on market decreased 29.2 percent (from 48 to 34 days), during this same year to date, year over year, timeframe.

The median sales price of condominiums increased 0.1 percent (from \$172,750 to \$173,000) over last year. Closed sales increased 9.6 percent (from 94 to 103) and pending sales increased 15.0 percent (from 107 to 123) over February of 2021. Inventory dropped 52.3 percent (from 329 to 157), when compared to this month last year. The average days on market until sale decreased 32.1 percent (from 56 to 38). and new listings decreased 21.3 percent (from 141 to 111).

"A leveling off of prices is a good sign but until inventory opens up, the spring market could continue to be a challenge for buyers," said GHAR CEO, Holly Callanan.

In the national outlook, Lawrence Yun, National Association of REALTORS® chief economist stated: "The inventory of homes on the market remains woefully depleted, and in fact is currently at an all-time low."

According to Yun, homes priced at \$500,000 and below are disappearing, while supply has risen at the higher price range. He noted that such increases will continue to shift the mix of buyers toward highincome consumers.

J.MELLINGTON

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From Page One

The mill rate was set at 41. however the state is deliberating Gov. Ned Lamont's proposal to set a uniform mill rate of 29 for every municipality, meaning the average homeowner with two cars could see a tax reduction on their East Hartford motor vehicle taxes. That will offset the slight increase in property taxes post reval, Mayor Walsh explained.

"There are two important things to remember. Number one, this is a zero tax increase by and large. We are raising the same revenues as last year -\$136.1 million. However reval is the bigger story. If you had a 30 percent or less increase in the value of your home, you are OK. If your house increased by 40 percent, you will see a tax increase. The real question is what kind of cars to you own? Review your escrow payments and if you had a big valuation increase I would use caution to make sure enough is being taken out at the bank."

The Town Council also is weighing an increase in the local option for homeowners age 65 and the 100 percent disabled from \$700 to \$1,000. Pending approval residents will have until May 15th to apply for the local option. To qualify their income has to be \$57,400 or below for a couple, \$49,100 for a single homeowner. On top of that the town offers the elderly circuit breaker program. By law residents must apply for those every two years, a process that was suspended during the pandemic by the governor's executive orders which have expired.

East Hartford set aside \$520,000 for the elderly tax relief program. The mayor pointed out the town is more generous with that program than other towns. "Income limits are much higher for those on Social Security incomes allowing more to qualify," he observes.

"Overall, I'm a happy guy," said Mayor Mike. After working on the budget for 23 years, this year the budget was completed by Mike Lupkas who was acting finance director. Linda Tretziak, former finance director, retired in November.

The collection rate was set lower than last year's, at 97.31.

"It was good to have a different set of eyes on the budget this year," said the mayor.

Beatles tribute at ToM

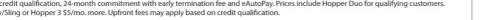
Trinity-on-Main at 69 Main Street in New Britain is pleased to welcome back "Ticket to Ride," Connecticut's premier Beatles tribute band on Saturday, March 19, 2022 from 7:30 -9:30pm. Doors open at 6:30pm This is to make up for this concert being cancelled twice this year. Ticket To Ride showcases 4 Beatles tribute artists: Tom Raider as John Lennon - guitars, Tommy Falzone as Paul McCartney - bass, Ron Cataldi as Ringo Starr - drums and Mike Montinola as George Harrison - guitars & kevs.

All songs are performed with the precision of the studio matched with the energy of the live environment to give the audience the best of both worlds. Shows feature authentic costumes and instruments and the audience is encouraged to sing, clap, and join in on hitting all the high notes. The music takes the audience on an enjoyable and energetic Musical History Tour touching on hit songs and album tracks alike, pleasing Beatles fans of all tastes! For tickets go to https://tickettorideusa.com/ticket-to-ride-usa

Come and join us for an evening of fun and great Beatles music. Yeah! Yeah! Yeah! Tickets are \$20.00, in Advance. \$25.00 at the door on the night of the show. Trinity-on-Main offers a cash bar, concessions and FREE parking - in designated areas on surrounding streets or in the garage on Chestnut Street.



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THE GAZETTE

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THE GAZETTE

WHERE THE ACTION IS!

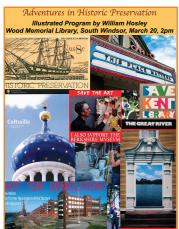
BY CORINNE HORAN

HARTFORD ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE is **March 19** in the capitol city. Postponed from last weekend, the parade begins at 11 a.m. by the State Capitol building and wends its way through Downtown Hartford, finishing at the Soldier & Sailors Memorial Arch.

MARCH 20: "Adventures in Historic Preservation with William Hosley" Sunday at 2p.m. at the Wood Memorial Library, South Windsor. Hosley will discuss his passion for history and historic preservation. A

student of local history, architectural history, art and artifacts Hosley is a historian,

preservationist, writer, and photographer. He was formerly director of the New Haven Museum and Connecticut Landmarks where he cared for a chain of house museums. Prior to that, as a curator and exhibition developer at Wadsworth Atheneum, Bill or-



ganized The Great River: Art & Society of the Connecticut Valley, The Japan Idea: Art and Life in Victorian America, and Sam & Elizabeth: Legend and Legacy of Colt's Empire, a project that spawned the Coltsville National Park. Bill is writing a book about the public work of local history and how it restores public spirit, one great place at a time. preservationist, museologist, photographer and storyteller. Learn about our cultural heritage and what historic preservation is about - there isn't one answer. \$7 admission, \$5 for members. FMI

www.woodmemoriallibrary.org. Wood Memorial Library is at 783 Main St., South Windsor.

MARCH 22: During National Credit Education Month, American Eagle Credit Union of East hartford will host an online seminar, "Understanding and Building Credit", Tuesday from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Learn all about the importance of good credit, credit scores and reports, creating a budget, healthy spending habits and debt management. Featuring Patricia Mason, Vice President of Residential Lending at American Eagle, and Cheryl Ross, American Eagle Branch Manager and a Certified Credit Union Financial Counselor (CCUFC). Advanced registration required. Go to the event page on *americaneagle.org* Click on the "Learn" tab and then "Events."

MARCH 23, March 30, and April 6: Soup & Stations at Saint Edmund Campion Parish. Join parishioners for a sharing of soup and bread at 5:30 p.m. in the Saint Christopher campus church hall (538 Brewer St.) on the following Wednesdays during Lent: March 23, March 30, and April 6. Stations of the Cross begins at 6:30 p.m. in the church. The young people from our religious education program will lead us in the Stations. Volunteers are needed to prepare soup and/or bring bread for each Wednesday.

MARCH 31: Hillstown Grange workshop, "Raising Chickens", Thursday from 7 to 8:30 p.m. As many places have their spring sales on baby chickens and ducks, this workshop will discuss the raising and

keeping of chickens, how to find out about your local ordinances. You will learn how to determine the amount of space you need along with other basic requirements, common problems you may encounter, while passing on Tips and Tricks for dealing with and preventing predators and diseases. The Workshop is open to all and is free. The Hillstown Grange Hall is located at 617 Hills St. - the Hillstown corner of East Hartford, Glastonbury, and Manchester, since 1888. The Grange is one of the oldest Agricultural groups in the United States. Any questions or further information contact Frank Forrest; hillstowngrange@aol.com or Dan Gallagher; daninct@yahoo.com

APRIL 3: TOY AND TRAIN SHOW Sunday at Warsaw Park, 125 Pulaski Highway, Route 243, Ansonia, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Admission \$6. Vintage toys, old and new trains of all gauges, railroad art, and paper artifacts from actual rail lines. Railroad clubs will display running train layouts in HO, N, S, and O gauges. Children 15 and under are free when accompanied by an adult. For details visit www.Classicshowsllc.com.

Joan and Frank Perrone are offering the following **multi-day bus trips** under the name "**Perrone's Pals":** Lancaster, PA June 7-9,2022 - Includes attending the play "DAVID" at the Sights and Sounds Theater, 2 nights at the Bird in Hand Resort, 2 breakfast buffets, Shady Maple Smorgasbord, a family style dinner in an Amish home; a guided Amish farmland tour, pretzel and homemade root beer stand visit, Kitchen Kettle Village, chalk talk with Elva Hurst, and a casino visit. (\$469 per person, double occupancy.) *Atlantic City, New Jersey October 25-27,2022* - Includes two nights at Caesars World Class Hotel, \$50 in slot bonus, \$50 in food coupons, 2 fantastic shows - one mystery show and the other, a tribute to ABBA. (\$280 per person, double occupancy.) All trips include bus driver tips, meal taxes and gratuities, and motor coach. A copy of your vaccine card must accompany your \$75 deposit. For more information, please call Joan Perrone at 860-568-6229.

MAY 1: PASSPORT TO HEALTH & WELLNESS

EXPO 10am to 4pm at The Bristol DoubleTree by Hilton. Presented by the Holistic Community Professionals, will feature speakers on the half hour and a KEYNOTE at 2PM with more than 75 vendors and readers, free raffles all day and a grand prize of a Hilton overnight stay with breakfast for two, as well as a free drum healing closing ceremony on the patio. Attendees will have the opportunity to interact with vendors and exhibitors as they learn about available resources to help promote healthy living and overall well-being. The Passport to Health & Wellness Expo is free with any door proceeds donated to the CT Children's Medical Center (ConnecticutChildrens.org) and Hartford Hospitals Integrative Medicine Debbie Bator Memorial Fund. FMI call Shirley Bloethe at 860-989-0033, email YourHolisticEvents@gmail.com or visit PassItOnLLC.com. Location: Bristol DoubleTree, 42 Century Dr, Bristol.

