

Muralist inspired by town

By Bill Doak

Artist Sophie Groenstein said her mural facing the parking lot of the Odessa Terry Pool she completed in October was inspired by the diversity of East Hartford and the fun of a watery environment.

Featuring jellyfish, sea turtles - and abstract and realistic portraits "it is about fun, water-based activities and representing the community."

Working with the CT Murals collective, which has been contracted by the town to install public murals at five outdoor spaces in town, the Windsor artist said she was left to follow her own imagination for the mural.

Her company, Sophie Groenstein, LLC, has designed and installed mural art and banners for Hartford's Southside Institution Neighborhood Alliance, Back East Brewing in Bloomfield, Lucky Dog Refuge CT in Stamford, Evergreen Walk in South Windsor, Dom's Broad Street Eatery in Windsor, and Harry's Pizza in West Hartford.

The Terry Pool mural was completed in just six days in October.

"The pickle ball players came over to watch me every day, offering suggestions," she related. "It was pretty much left to whatever comes to mind." The striking woman depicted is not anyone local, she said, just an image she found online.

Next she is painting the upper level of Hartford's Parkville Market, and murals at LesserEvil Snacks in Danbury



THE TOWN posted this arial photo of the work on the bridge over the Pewter Pot brook on Brewer Street. The project will not be finished until

Brewer street repairs delayed

by Bill Doak

Commuter headaches for residents in the neighborhoods west and off Brewer Street will continue until just before Memorial Day 2024.

Ekaterine Tchelidze, Mayor Connor Martin's Chief of Staff, issued an advisory that Brewer Street will remain closed to through traffic due to the closure of the asphalt plants December 1. The snag is the extensive utility line replacements on the bridge over the Pewterpot Brook, which carry a combination of gas and water pipes.

"Please be advised that the Brewer Street bridge over Pewterpot Brook will not reopen at the end of 2023, as originally anticipated. Work has

been suspended due to unanticipated delays related to the work by utilities on their infrastructure, recent low temperatures, and material (asphalt and concrete) temperature restrictions," stated Tchelidze's press announcement. "The best quality construction (and least cost to the town) will be ensured by resuming work in April 2024. The bridge site will be secured with fencing to restrict access to the unfinished bridge."

Workers from Pratt and Whitney have been using an access road off Main Street north of Augie & Ray's to get into work, but that is not an option for neighbors as Contractor's Road is a private roadway off Brewer.

The town noted the portion

See BRIDGE DELAY, pg. 10



THE COMPLETED MURAL BY WINDSOR'S SOPHIE GROESTEIN at Terry Pool was inspired by East Hartford's diversity, sea turtles and jellyfish.

Community Toy Drive gets underway

The town is conducting a community toy drive to help brighten the holiday season for children. Donations will be used to help the Youth and Social Services and Police Department fulfill their toys for kids programs here.

Drop off toys at the following locations: Cabela's - The boat garage at 186 Brewer St., Webster Bank - 1085 Main St., Dollar

General, 1380 Main St., Riverside Health Care - 745 Main St., Key Food Supermarket - 950 Main St., Raymond Library - 840 Main St., EH Senior Center, 15 Milwood Road, NEFCO - 411 Burnham St., EH Youth & Social Services - 50 Chapman Place, 1st Floor Rm 109, Parks and Recreation, Basement - 50 Chapman Place, Paul's Auto Repair - 422 Tolland St.

Drop off toys and gifts at D'Esopo's, Goodwin U

A toy and gift drive is taking place now through Dec. 6th at the D'Esopo East Hartford Memorial Chapel, 30 Carter St., and at Goodwin University's Funeral Services Program in the Main Campus Lobby, 1 Riverside Dr. Dubbed "Operation Elf" the effort is being coordinated by the CT Funeral Directors Association (CFDA). Toys and gift cards are targeted for military families and children receiving medical care. Donations collected go to the CT

National Guard's Operation ELF (Embracing Lonely Families) program and Yale New Haven Children's Toy Closet.

"The funeral directors and suppliers of the CT Funeral Directors Association have held our own charitable holiday collection efforts for 17 years, and this is the seventh year we also invite the public to bring donations of gift cards and unwrapped toys to local funeral homes," explained Lionel J. Lessard, Jr., CFSP, of D'Esopo

All donations of new toys should be unwrapped and suitable for children of any age. Additional options include hats, gloves, and scarves in children's sizes. To allow enough time to distribute the gifts, please deliver by Monday, Dec. 11. Monetary donations are also welcome. Online, go to <https://easthartfordct.portal.engov.com/categories/1088>

in East Hartford, president of the CT funeral directors group.

"By doing this, we supplement Operation ELF's and Yale New Haven Children's Hospital's Toy Closet Program's effort. Take a few minutes and come donate an item. It will mean so much to a family."

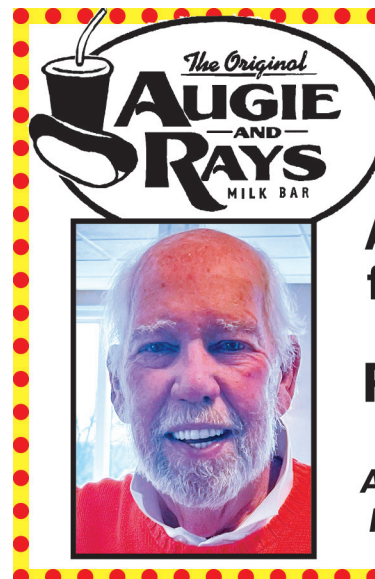
Gift cards of any dollar value, grocery or department store, home supply stores, gas station or pharmacy and new, unwrapped toys for kids of any age also may be dropped off.

Gifts sought for Riverside residents

The East Hartford Commission on Aging and Riverside Health and Rehabilitation Center invite all residents who are able to, to participate in our Christmas Tree Wish List program. The list will be updated automatically to avoid duplica-

tion. Your generosity of small donations will brighten their holiday season and earn their heartfelt thanks to you. To participate, please choose a person you would like to donate:

<https://volunteersignup.org/J4W8Q>.



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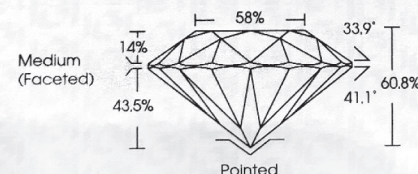
with purchase of **\$1,000** ring setting.



LABORATORY GROWN DIAMOND REPORT

July 25, 2023
IGI Report Number: LG591314815
Description: LABORATORY GROWN DIAMOND
Shape and Cutting Style: ROUND BRILLIANT
Measurements: 6.57 - 6.60 X 4.00 MM
GRADING RESULTS
Carat Weight: 1.05 CARAT
Color Grade: E

Clarity Grade: VS 2
Cut Grade: IDEAL



HOURS: Tues-Wed- Fri, 9:30-5:30; Thurs 9:30-7, Sat 9:30-5

The Gazette

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SPEAKING OUT!

O'Connell school students discuss service, sacrifice in meeting disabled veterans

To the Editor:

Each year on National Wreaths Across America Day, the mission to REMEMBER, HONOR and TEACH is carried out by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery, as well as more than 1,600 additional locations in all 50 states, at sea and abroad.

The Student Leadership Team at O'Connell Elementary School has proudly participated in the Wreaths Across America initiative since 2016. Each year, fifth grade students at O'Connell have raised over \$5,000 to purchase the wreaths to honor over 580 veterans laid to rest at Silver Lane Cemetery in East Hartford. O'Connell students have held many fund-raising events in order to financially support the purchasing of the wreaths for veterans at Silver

Lane Cemetery.

The entire O'Connell School community is deeply committed to continuing their support and participation of Wreaths Across America 2023 scheduled for Saturday December 16, 2023.

The students and faculty are kindly asking the East Hartford community to help us continue our participation in Wreaths Across America, 2023. O'Connell school is passionate to continue in our mission to respectfully honor those who honored America with their service and now are aid to rest here at Silver Lane Cemetery, their final home. Our goal is to raise \$5,500 to purchase wreaths for all veterans currently laid to rest at Silver Lane Cemetery.

We are reaching out to ask for your support of Wreaths Across America, 2023. Please



MEMBERS OF THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS UNKNOWN SOLDIER CHAPTER 12 listen to students from O'Connell Elementary School November 20, led by teacher Lia O'Connell, describe their school project to place a wreath on the grave marker of every veteran in Silver Lane Cemetery, part of the Wreaths Across America project on Saturday, December 16. Below, a poster shows the details of the effort.

consider donating, any amount, to support this important veterans project.

You can send your donations to: O'Connell School PTO, 301

May Road, East Hartford, CT 06118.

We are truly thankful to be a part of an amazing community!
Respectfully,

Greg Fox
Principal
O'Connell Elementary
School

Towns receive thousands from 'nickel per nip'

Connecticut's "nickel-per-nip" environmental stewardship program is helping clean up Connecticut, according to reports pouring in from all over the state on how cities and towns are spending the money generated by the sale of the 50ml "nip" containers of alcohol in their communities.

Upon the \$2.36 million being sent to cities and towns at the end of October, the two-year-old program has now generated \$8.9 million for Connecticut municipalities that sell nips. Under

the state law, proposed by Three Tiers for Connecticut and passed in 2021, a nickel surcharge is placed on the sale of each nip container at the point of sale.

Every April and October each municipality receives five cents for each nip sold within its borders during the preceding six months.

"In just two years, this groundbreaking program has generated \$8.9 million in litter-reduction funding that goes directly to cities and towns that

sell nips," said Lawrence F. Cafero, Jr., President and Treasurer of Three Tiers for Connecticut and Executive Director of Wine & Spirits Wholesalers of Connecticut, Inc. "After two years, we thought it was time to take stock in how those nickels are being put to work.

"Studies show that most litter from nips happens very close to where the containers are purchased," Cafero explained. "In just two years, this local solution has become a national model."





What's Your Post High School Game Plan?

- Morgan Tuck, NCAA & WNBA Champion



GEARUPCT



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GEAR UP CT is a 7-year, \$25.8 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education with three sites: East Hartford Public Schools/CT State Manchester; Meriden Public Schools/CT State Middlesex; and Waterbury Public Schools/CT State Naugatuck Valley.

Together, GEAR UP CT works to achieve a number of target goals and objectives.

The GEAR UP East Hartford - MCC team works with students on a post high school game plan, be it two or four year degrees or directly into the workforce.

GEAR UP East Hartford currently serves the Class of 2025 with 498 students enrolled in the program.

To learn more visit: GearUpEastHartford.com



This program is funded (in whole or in part) by a \$25.8 million Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) grant as implemented by the United States Department of Education.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

'American St. Nick' author at Raymond Library Saturday

In the midst of war and deprivation in Europe during World War II, a group of American GI's brought Christmas to a village they helped liberate in Luxemborg in 1944. Author Peter Lion will present the story and show a documentary film at the Raymond Library Saturday at 11 a.m. as part of East Hartford Holiday Fest. This heart-warming, true story about Christmas in the war-torn town of Wiltz is sponsored by the

East Hartford-based World War II Legacy Foundation. Peter's documentary describes in detail how the GI's pulled off Christmas and how the residents of Wiltz still celebrate the event 79 years later. Free in the conference room of the library at 11 a.m. Refreshments, displays, door prizes and also featuring a visit by St. Nick. Peter will have copies of his books available for signing. If questions, call Gary at 860-810-8736.

Carol Sing Friday on Town Green

East Hartford Holiday Fest'23 begins Friday night at 6 p.m. with Santa, carolling and hot chocolate on the Town Green Friday night at 6 p.m. Dec. 1. On Saturday at the East Hartford Senior Center, talented singer Kathy Gregory will give a performance of festive, holiday songs. On Saturday, it will be pancakes, gift wrapping, story walks and book sales again at both town libraries. The tempting Cookie Walk at South Church over on Forbes is a hit every year, then there is



the variety of gifts for sale and home-baked goods at the Christmas Fair at All Saints on Hills Street. The Christmas Boutique, Poinsettia Sale and a spaghetti supper are all at First Church, corner of Main Street and Connecticut Boulevard - you can't miss it. Don't forget to see an original Holiday play at EHCCC entitled "Midwinter Night And Dreams".

At East Hartford Middle School's pool you can get your wish to swim with Santa for two hours Saturday afternoon. In the afternoon at First Congregational Church, the superbly talented pianist Paul Bisaccia performs a two-hour grand piano holiday concert. An opportunity to hear this world-renowned (and East Hartford Penney High School graduate) is not one to pass up.

Ever wonder what Christmas was like in Victorian times? Drop by the Selden Brewer House at Main and Naubuc and see how as members of the East Hartford Historical Society have decorated the historic Selden Brewer House to welcome you. You also won't want to miss hearing the City Singers of Hartford performing at South Church on Forbes Street. Donation is \$20. Sunday's events start with a hearty Holiday Pan-

cake Breakfast at Hillstown Grange, 617 Hills St. - or go to the Holiday Brunch (\$28) served at One Wood Pub, 130 Long Hill St. (Reservations only; payment in advance by calling 860-416-8345.) Tour of the Historic Brewer House with refreshments. East Hartford Summer Youth Fest performers give an encore of their Holiday play at the EHCCC. Lastly, Holiday Fest 23 on Monday includes the lighting of the East Hartford Woman's Club "Tree of Lights" at Main and Connecticut Boulevard, and there is also an all-day Book Sale at the Raymond Library. You can honor someone in the Tree of Lights by filling out the coupon in the *Gazette* and mailing it to the EH Woman's Club. All proceeds also go to the East Hartford food pantries and the town's Human Needs Fund.

Everyone can enjoy the always-excellent musical program at Riverside HealthCare on Main St. And ongoing at both libraries will be an Indoor Story Walk. So come and join us for the 30th East Hartford Holiday Fest, Dec 1-4 and get your holiday spirit off on the right foot. Don't forget bringing along a non-perishable food item to each event. The East Hartford food banks are relying on you.

AMERICAN ST. NICK

ON DECEMBER 5, 1944, AMERICAN SOLDIERS BROUGHT CHRISTMAS TO THE WAR TORN TOWN OF WILTZ, LUXEMBOURG. THE TOWN NEVER FORGOT. THEY STILL CELEBRATE "THE AMERICAN ST. NICK" EVERY YEAR.



28th Infantry Division



AWARD WINNING AUTHOR, PETER LION, WILL PRESENT HIS STORY OF "AMERICAN ST. NICK", FOLLOWED BY A SHOWING OF THE DOCUMENTARY. PETER WILL BE SIGNING COPIES OF HIS BOOK AND OTHERS AVAILABLE.

EAST HARTFORD HOLIDAY FEST
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Society

See Selden Brewer House in Victorian holiday finest

East Hartford's historic Selden Brewer House, 165 Main St. at the corner of Naubuc Avenue, welcomes all to revisit a Victorian holiday tradition.

See the beautiful indoor decorations and get a personal tour of the house by Alan Brewer, grandson of Vincent and Buena Crawford Brewer. Tours take place Saturday, Dec. 2, from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. Harken back to another era and enjoy the simple elegance of this special, 1827 East Hartford home and find out why it is listed on the National Registry of Historic Sites. Free.

In conjunction with East Hartford Holiday Fest, the Historical Society of East Hartford also invites you to the Brewer House Sunday, Dec. 3, where you can enjoy the lovely Victorian holiday decorations and have some refreshments during an open house from 1 to 4 p.m. Find out why this is one of the town's historic, architectural treasures.

Then on Dec. 9th, the Histor-

Residents make East honors

East Hartford students who made the East Catholic's First Quarter Honor Roll were: Seniors Delaney Kowal, Petr Melnikov, Sweeden Patterson, Isabel Taclawan, Anjolie Truong and Phillip Truong, Honors With Distinction; Anna Chomick, Alyssa DeLeon, Dolton Harris, Gabriella Italia, Gianna McKeone, and Raymond Rodriguez, First Honors. Juniors Eleni Despotopoulos, Igor Rutkauski, and Liana Senel, Honors With Distinction; Ricardo Oquendo, Aaliyah Osorio, Sabrina Rothi, Emily Sienkiewicz and Shilon Williams, First Honors. Sophomores Renee Carras, Honors With Distinction and Kaylah Rodriguez, Jenna Strong and Caitlyn Tran, First Honors. Freshmen Raina Agyeman, Joshua Housley and Andrew Kyle, Honors With Distinction; and Mark Chomick, Ryan Hollis, Caleb Munoz, and Alina Rothi, First Honors.

ical Society of East Hartford has invited Mrs. Claus to the Selden Brewer House. She will be visiting from 1 to 3 p.m. to listen to all East Hartford boys and girls about what they are wishes are for the holiday. Mrs. Claus also has promised to give all good boys and girls a special treat, and you can take a picture with Mrs. Claus as a keepsake. Mrs. Claus has a copy of Santa's list and is looking forward to meeting children of East Hartford.

Cookie Walk, City Singers at South Church Saturday

South Congregational Church, 1301 Forbes St., invites the community to celebrate the holidays. The church is handicap accessible and parking is available behind the building.

Sat., Dec. 2, 9 a.m. noon. Cookie Walk. Dozens of homemade holiday cookies will be sold by the pound. Cookies sell quickly; you are encouraged to come early for the best selection.

Sat., Dec. 2, 4 p.m. CitySingers of Hartford concert "Impressions of Winter". An untraditional collection of sacred and secular pieces celebrating the nativity of Jesus and the joys and hardships of winter. Suggested donation is \$20 at the door.

Sun., Dec. 3, 4 p.m. Community Carol Sing and Lighting of the Creche. Prepare your hearts for the arrival of the Christ Child. Join us on the front lawn for this Advent celebration, then consider indulging in hot chocolate and holiday

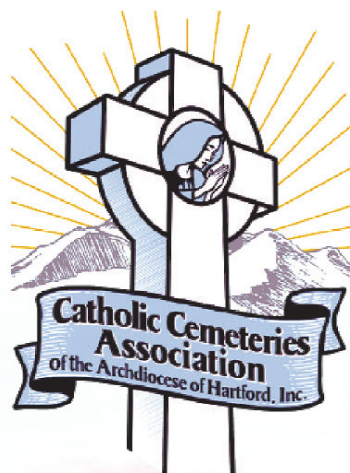
treats. Bring a pair of NEW men's, women's, or children's socks to be donated.

Thurs., Dec. 7, 5:30 - 7 p.m. A Quiet Space for Advent Centering. Step into the sanctuary and light a candle or say a prayer while listening to soft music. Your time to consider the gifts and lessons of the season. To maintain a contemplative atmosphere, enter and leave in silence.

Sat., Dec. 9, 4 p.m. A second performance of "Impressions of Winter" by the CitySingers of Hartford. Guest Conductor is Jeff Cregeur, Minister of Music at South. Suggested donation \$20.

Sun., Dec. 10, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. Come decorate cookies to take home, paint a wooden ornament for your tree, and design a luminaria for Christmas Eve display. All ages and abilities. Please call the church office at 860-568-5150, or email Lisa at cefe@southucc.org if interested.

END-OF-THE-YEAR HOLIDAY SPECIALS!



Catholic Cemeteries Association is making it easier than ever to pre-plan your cemetery arrangements in one of our 30 cemeteries.

Why pre-plan?

- It ensures your wishes are carried out
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Purchase any grave or mausoleum crypt and receive 0% financing, with no money down!

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Call one of our Family Service Advisors today for more details! Offer expires 12/31/2023

* Cannot be combined with any other offers. Special applies to Pre-Need sales only.

EAST HARTFORD SPORTS

Lanny Laranson, one of the best

New England lost a sportscasting legend last week. Lanny Lee Laranson, better known by his professional name, Tom Larson, succumbed to complications from cancer at the age of 84.

Larson's career in Boston broadcasting began in the mid '60's at WSBK Channel 38, where he served as public affairs director and talk show host, and spanned more than four decades. In 1981 he became the sports director at WHDH radio where, in 1983, he was named Boston's best sportscaster by Boston Magazine.

With the broadcast range of channel 38 and WHDH radio, Larson's celebrity

SCOTT GRAY on SPORTS

by Scott Gray



stretched well beyond Boston's city limits, spanning New England. His 'legacy moment' came in 1981 when he grew a beard and announced he wouldn't shave it off until the Bruins, who had last won a Stanley Cup in 1972, won another one. He couldn't have known at the time it would be thirty years before he would again appear clean shaven.

Growing up as a sports fan in New England I was well aware of Tom Larson, who'd transitioned from public affairs to sports through the late '60's and '70's. He was a consummate professional. I was always an admirer of his work and, as I began my own venture into the sportscasting world less than a decade after his arrival in Boston, I was envious of his position - understanding the hard work that goes into establishing a relationship with a market like the one he had in Boston.

I didn't know Tom Larson well. But in 1986 our careers paths crossed when we were both hired by the New England Sports Network, or NESN. It was the cable venture of the Boston Bruins and Red Sox that had just celebrated its second birthday, and just beginning to spread its wings on the way to becoming New England's premier sports media force.

Tom was hired as a full timer to specialize in pregame programming for Red Sox and Bruins games. Happy with my regular employment at WTIC radio, I signed with NESN as a "contract" player. As a result, Tom and I never worked together. But promo sessions and network Christmas parties gave us opportunities to share sports conversation and media philosophies. He was congenial, intelligent, committed to his profession and capable of quickly putting someone who admired him as much as I did at ease. He gave off the impression that, despite his lofty position in one of the most competitive sports media markets in the nation, he was just another guy who went to work at a job in which he took great pride.

It struck me that he never thought of himself as anyone special; as if he believed anyone could step in and do his job with similar competence. It was probably that aura that carved out such a special place for him among Boston sports fans.

He was honest. He looked them in the eyes and told them what he believed to be true. You can't ask for better than that. You can't ask for better than Tom Larson.

Mitchell having solid senior season for USJ Blue Jays

East Hartford's Tyree Mitchell is contributing to the University of Saint Joseph (USJ) men's basketball team as they held off visiting Nichols College Bison, 77-70, in the James A. Calhoun Gym in West Hartford Nov. 14.

With the triumph, the Blue Jays remained perfect at 3-0 on the season. After the visitors scored on their opening possession, the Blue Jays ripped off a quick 8-0 run featuring back-to-back three-pointers from sophomore guard Lence Altener (Everett, Mass.) and senior guard Chaylyn Martin (Hart-

ford, Conn.) and a steal and slam by sophomore Friedrich Feldrappe (Berlin, Germany) to put USJ up 8-2 three minutes in.

However, the Bison countered with a 15-4 run over the ensuing three minutes, fueled by a trio of three-pointers from senior guard Mykel Derring (Boston, Mass.), to retake the lead, 17-12.

Saint Joseph chipped away and eventually knotted the game at 19-all just over two minutes later thanks to Mitchell's three-pointer from the left wing. Mitchell's triple keyed a subse-



Tyree Mitchell

New mark for Ray Carothers Blood Drive

Runners, volunteers and friends of the Manchester Road Race rolled up their sleeves to donate a record 372 pints of blood Friday at the 37th Ray Crothers Blood Drive, sponsored by the MRR Committee and the American Red Cross, is

held the day after the race.

The 372 pints of blood collected will benefit 1,116 patients in need of blood, plasma and platelets, and surpassed last year's 364 pint collection record. A total of 8,258 pints of blood have been donated at the

MRR blood drive in 36 years.

"We were delighted with the turnout and are extremely pleased to partner in this life-saving effort with the Red Cross," said Lance Morgan a physician assistant and member of the MRR's committee.

Gyms available for free play, adult basketball

East Hartford Parks and Recreation is offering two fun programs: Open Gym for East Hartford residents in Grades 7 through 12 and Adult Drop-In Basketball.

FREE-PLAY BASKETBALL

Middle and High School students in grades 7 - 12

East Hartford residents or students attending East Hartford Middle or High School can participate in Basketball Open Gym on Mondays and Fridays. The program starts Monday, December 4th and runs through Friday, March 8th from 6:30 - 8:45pm at East Hartford Middle School. Grade 7 and 8 will be

in the Lower Gym and Grades 9 - 12 will be in the Upper Gym. The program is FREE, but all participants must be registered at www.ehparcs.org and have a Town ID or EHHS/EHMS ID at the program. There will be no program if there is no school or school is let out early due to inclement weather.

ADULT OPEN BASKETBALL

For adults ages 18 & up

East Hartford Parks and Recreation is offering Adult Open Basketball at Goodwin Elementary School. All participants must complete a registration form the first

evening they attend or register at www.ehparcs.org for a season membership. The program is Monday and Thursday nights starting Monday, December 4th and will run through Thursday, March 7th. Residents can purchase a season pass for \$20 or \$2 an evening. Non-residents can purchase a Season Pass for \$40 or \$4 an evening. The program time is 6:30 to 9:30 pm. Basketball sneakers are mandatory. There will be no program if there is no school or school is let out early due to inclement weather.

FMI call the Parks and Rec office at 860-291-7160.

Last opportunity for youth basketball sign ups

Parks and Recreation Youth Basketball registration is now open for the upcoming 2023-24 Boys and Girls hoop season.

Basketball in East Hartford is offered to youth from kindergarten through 8th Grade. Pre-season clinics have begun for boys and girls Grades 3 through 8, and next week Parks & Rec basketball conducts pre-season mandatory evaluations. Players

will then be placed on teams, with Parks & Rec League play starting Dec. 4. Instruction Basketball for younger players starts Sunday, Jan. 7. Whatever your basketball skills might be, the time to sign up is now, at www.ehparcs.org.

Skill clinics are \$15; cost for league play is \$55 per player, up to \$75 for the senior league teams. East Hartford's Parks &

Rec Hoop Season runs from Dec. 4 through March.

The registration deadline is Thursday, Nov. 30. If any player later qualifies for a school team there are no refunds.

To view the full schedule of all the town's Preseason Clinics, Evaluations, Regular Season, and Instruction Basketball go to www.easthartfordct.gov/parks-recreation. If questions, call

OBITUARIES

Rudolph 'Rudy' Tardiff

Rudolph "Rudy" Tardiff was a loving husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, brother, and friend. He entered into eternal life on Friday, November 17, 2023 at his home with his wife and daughters by his side. He was born to Joseph and Bernice (Belanger) Tardiff on March 31, 1930 in Van Buren, Maine. He grew up on the family farm with his eleven siblings until he married his high school sweetheart, Vivian on November 25, 1952 and moved to Connecticut. They shared a love of dancing, which their grandchildren enjoyed watching. They would have celebrated their 71st wedding anniversary this week. A faithful and an active participant of St. Christopher Church, Rudy worked for Pratt & Whitney for 33 years as a welder. He enjoyed fishing, hunting, and especially his vegetable garden, which took up most of his backyard. He was always handing out bags of vegetables. Besides his wife, he is survived by two daughters, Beverly Collins and Barbara Lynn Tardiff. He was predeceased by his daughter Deborah Fallacaro, son Mark Tardiff, and son-in-law Ronald Collins. He leaves behind six grandchildren, all of whom brought him much joy, Jessica & Patrick Lacasse, Gregory & Barbra Bottaro, Elizabeth & Kevin Klemonski, Danielle & Dave Brower, Eric Bottaro, Nicholas & Kristi Bottaro; and



Rudolph Tardiff

nineteen great grandchildren, Chase, Avery, Elijah, Francesca, Gabriel, Avila, Joseph, Petra, David, Ryan, Brielle, Cody, Jackson, Ethan, Lucas, Gemma, Jonathen, Anthony, and Giovanni; six siblings, Viola Sirois, Roderick Tardiff, Gene Tardiff, Dan Tardiff, Marie Bouchard, and Nancy Holibird; and was predeceased by five siblings, Muriel Lebel, Constance LaRosa, John Tardiff, Leo Tardiff, and Bill Tardiff. Funeral service took place Saturday, Nov. 25 with a Mass of Christian Burial at St. Christopher Church with burial at Hillside Cemetery. Memorial contributions in Rudy's name may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105. www.desopoe.com.

Betty Ann Flathers

Betty Ann Flathers, daughter of Arthur and Gertrude Powell Bradley, passed away peacefully on Oct 31, 2023 surrounded by her children. Born on July 7, 1941 Betty Ann grew up in Bridgeport and spent her early years in that area. She married Walter A. Flathers in 1975 and moved to East Hartford where she was a dedicated mother and homemaker while her children were young.

When she went back to work, she enjoyed an office setting using her excellent typing and organizational skills. She managed the office for a small insurance company before settling in as a loan processor at the American Eagle Credit Union for over 15 years. Betty Ann was an avid reader in retirement with over 400 books

in her digital library. She adored dramas like *Pride and Prejudice*, *Downton Abbey* and *Virgin River* and could often be found watching them over and over again.

Betty Ann is survived by her sister Carol Picheco of Oxford, her son Eric Flathers a world traveler, her daughter Laura Hutchinson and her husband Malcolm of Glastonbury, daughter Diane Freeman and her husband Robert of St. Augustine FL. Additionally she leaves seven grandchildren, Cory and Emma Holman, Mackenzie, Luke and Isabella Hutchinson, Beth Carter and Brad Freeman.

Funeral services took place Nov. 13 at the Mulryan Funeral Home, Glastonbury with burial at Green Cemetery.

Raymond 'Ray' Ramsey, 80

Raymond N. "Ray" Ramsey, 80, of Tolland and formerly of East Hartford, loving husband of 56 years of Margaret "Peg" (Grady) Ramsey, passed away peacefully at his home surrounded by his caring family on Wednesday, November 15, 2023. Born in Hartford on February 12, 1943, a son of the late Raymond E. and Doris (LaMarche) Ramsey, he had been a resident of East Hartford for over 50 years prior to moving to a home he built with his own hands with the help of friends and family in 1998. Ray was a graduate of East Hartford High School, class of 1961 and was on the planning committee for every class reunion. Ray worked for 39 years in the electrical utility industry, retiring from Northeast Utilities as a Supervisor in the Meter Service Division.

A devout Catholic, Ray was an active, faithful communicant of St. Patrick-St. Anthony Church in Hartford where he was an usher, and a former communicant of St. Rose Church in East Hartford. While at St. Rose, he co-chaired the church's annual carnival for several years. Ray believed in giving back to his community and volunteered for many years with the Nutmeg State Games. While an East Hartford resident, he was deeply involved in



Ray Ramsey

local politics and was a loyal campaign advisor and worker for Congressman John Larson throughout his long political career.

Ray, also known as Rammer to many of his friends, loved people and enjoyed life. He was a longtime member of the Volunteer Hose Co. #3 in East Hartford, a social member at Ellington Ridge Country Club, and always looked forward to the monthly Tuesday night F&L dinners with his friends. A talented woodworker and cook, Ray enjoyed entertaining friends and relatives, and making his annual Christmas ornaments, limoncello, hot peppers, and gorgonzola bread for everyone to enjoy. Always up for a

social gathering, he would show up in a brightly colored sweatshirt holding one of his culinary creations and throwing out a witty quip for those in attendance. Most of all, he was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather who loved supporting his grandchildren at all their sporting events and school activities.

Along with his beloved wife Peg, Ray is survived by his three cherished daughters, Noele Ramsey Kidney and her husband Brad of Ellington, Kelly Ramsey Fuhlbrigg and her husband Tom of Ellington, Melanie Irene Ramsey and her husband Christopher Stino of Tolland; and four adored grandchildren, Caroline Jennifer Kidney, Jack Bradford Kidney, Thomas Joseph Fuhlbrigg, and Tyler Andrew Fuhlbrigg all of Ellington. He also leaves his sister, Pamela Weaver of Murrell's Inlet, SC; a sister-in-law, Janet Grady of Boca Raton, FL; several nieces, nephews, cousins, and many dear friends.

Funeral service took place Monday, Nov. 20, with Mass of Christian Burial celebrated at St. Patrick-St. Anthony Church and burial at Silver Lane Cemetery. Gifts in Ray's name may be made to St. Anthony Bread for the Poor (Sandwich Program), 285 Church Street, Hartford, CT 06103. Visit www.desopoe.com.

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Mural at Terry Pool poolhouse latest in series of public art projects in town

From Page One

and inside Back East Brewing in Bloomfield.

Many of her clients discovered her work via word-of-mouth or viewed her art on social media. In late summer, she was contracted by a California muralist to assist her with a project in Milford, Conn. Sophie creates some of her murals inside her Windsor garage studio space, but paints most of her projects directly onto walls or other surfaces.

Although educated in traditional fine arts, she taught herself how to paint at a large scale and dove into a world of murals. At a young age, she was introduced to the Hartford art scene and incredible muralists who were developing vacant walls and turning them into an immersive, public space. Her very first mural was installed in Windsor's Sage Park Middle School in 2022, just months before graduating from the University of Hartford.

"Being able to express myself through murals influenced me to continuously learn about the history of a community through a new lens and perspective; uplifting the residents through respect and equity," explains Sophie. The multi-faceted creator's distinctive style emanates positivity and binds the dynamic spirit of the surrounding community so she can share their story, inspire reflection, and form connections. Her mission as a professional muralist is to empower those of all ages to find their inner artists and to represent communities of all backgrounds through her art.

In the last past year alone Sophie's paintings and illustrations have been displayed at a variety of exhibitions including The Gallery at WeHa Brewing & Roasting Co.'s "Monthly Artist Pop-Up" in West Hartford, Hartford Art Space Showcase in Hartford, Windsor's First Town Downtown's Monarch Festival Art Pop-Up, Gastro Park in West

Hartford, and Art for AIDS in Hartford.

A student in Hartford Public Schools from kindergarten through middle school, Sophie then attended and graduated from Windsor High School. Since her graduation from the Hartford Art School at the University of Hartford, she also has

Brewer Street to remain closed until May

From Page One

of Brewer between Glenn Road/Contractor Road and Mill Road (the closed portion of Brewer Street) will be paved to allow the town to plow and residents to access their driveways. The bridge and the portion of Brewer Street are being widened to accommodate firetrucks needing to access Main Street from the new Fire Station No. 3 on Brewer Street, relocated from Main Street in 2010.

The Brewer Street road closure came as a surprise to town

officials when the poor condition of the patchwork bridge was uncovered. Concrete portions were added onto a 1938 structure, and then utility companies told the contractor they wanted to upgrade the gas lines. So the project, originally slated to be completed this month, became much more complicated.

"A gas main, a water main, and several dozen communication conduits had to be relocated between the bridge beams as part of the project," explained Town Engineer, Douglas Wilson to the Hartford newspaper. Wilson said new bridge retaining walls and foundations were built, and the old utility lines, which hung just above the brook, were elevated in between the new bridge beams above the high water level. The concrete decking still

worked as an Adjunct Art Teacher in Community Mural Painting at both Connecticut's Southington Art Center and Massachusetts' Lighthouse Holyoke. As a teacher, she encourages students and mentees to foster teamwork, originality, and a sense of pride and to consider the impact of public art in communities. She inspires them to learn how murals can be created to promote cultural awareness, express community values, and beautify public spaces.

FMI about Sophie Groenstein, LLC and a gallery of her murals, paintings, drawings go to www.sophiegroenstein.com

needs to be poured. The new bridge will have a span of 24 feet. Wilson said cold temperatures have halted the construction.

"Asphalt plants also are closed for the winter and re-open in April," he added.

The reconstruction of Brewer Street is an \$8 million widening project from Main to Jefferson Lane and will include a new traffic signal at the intersection of Brewer and Contractors and Glenn roads, as well as an intersection change at Main and Brewer streets, where there will be new sidewalks, new storm drainage, and road reconstruction.

Wilson said that more than 90 percent of the funding for the project is from state and federal sources with the town's ongoing Road Improvement Program covering the rest.



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Extending Open Affordable Housing Waiting List For VETERANS TERRACE Apartments

Carabetta Management Co. will be extending the open waiting list for 2- and 3-bedroom apartments at Veterans Terrace located at 70 Columbus Circle, East Hartford, CT.

This list is open for Veterans Terrace I, II & III only.

OPEN AND CLOSING DATES: The Waiting List will be open, and applications will be accepted, from November 9, 2023, until 4:30 pm on December 9, 2023.

APPLICATIONS: Applications may be obtained at Carabetta's Hartford Leasing office located 1630 Main Street, Hartford, CT or by calling 860-246-3382 or by request submitted to VT.leasing@carabetta.com

UNIT TYPES: This Waiting List is open for 2- and 3-bedroom sized apartments in addition to several ADA-compliant, handicap accessible units.



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WHERE THE ACTION IS!

BY CORINNE HORAN

DEC. 2, 9 A.M. NOON. SOUTH CHURCH COOKIE WALK. Dozens of homemade holiday cookies will be sold by the pound. Cookies sell quickly; you are encouraged to come early for the best selection. Then at 4 p.m. **CITYSINGERS OF HARTFORD CONCERT "IMPRESSIONS OF WINTER"**. An untraditional collection of sacred and secular pieces. Guest conductor is Jeff Cregeur, Minister of Music at South Church. Suggested donation \$20 at the door, 1301 Forbes St.

DEC 1, 2: HOLIDAY FAIR at First Congregational Church of South Windsor, 993 Main St. Friday hours are 5 to 8 p.m.; Saturday hours are 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Greens, Boxwood trees, balery, ornaments and decorations, Treasure Trove, Jewelry, fudge and candy, handmade gifts for all ages, pet treats and more. Free admission. FMI go to firstchurchsw.org or call 860-528-7992.

DEC 2: ANNUAL CHRISTMAS FAIR at All Saints Church, 444 Hills St., Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Plenty of delicious baked goods, candy, jams, home-made pickles, sweet fudge. Selection of reasonably priced gifts and holiday goods, \$1 - \$5. Take part in the raffle, enjoy a container of tasty soup to go. Unique hand-crafter knits and crafts! Don't pass up our famous holiday waffles.

DEC 2: GLASTONBURY GRANGE #26 BAKE, CRAFT AND KNICK-NACK sale at Killam & Basset Farmstead, 1098 Main St., South Glastonbury, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Stop by and say 'hello'.

DEC 3: HOLIDAY PANCAKE BREAKFAST at Hillstown Grange Sunday, 8:30 until 11 a.m. Pancakes, sausage, coffee, tea, and juice, all for just \$6; \$3 for kids under 14. The Grange Holiday pancakes will be eggnog and hot chocolate, along with regular or chocolate chip. While you are there, go upstairs and see the Grange library and game room. Books are free or by donation to the Grange building fund. Browse, eat, or visit historic Hillstown Grange Hall at 617 Hills St. in the Hillstown corner of East Hartford, Glastonbury and Manchester since 1888. FMI call Frank at 860-690-2945 or e-mail hillstowngrange@aol.com.

DEC 3: PACK BOXES TO SHIP TO TROOPS - Support Our Soldiers/SOS-Connecticut is sponsoring a "Support our Troops" cookie collection and packing event Sunday afternoon at Hillstown Grange, 617 Hills St. Cookies will be collected from noon to 1 p.m.; packing should be completed by 3. This event is basically a 'cookie exchange' except all the cookies are sent to soldiers stationed around the world. The group is looking for donations of homemade or store-bought cookies. No 'store-brand' cookies please, go for the good stuff like Oreos. Popular are Christmas, New Years' and winter-theme drawings. Volunteers needed, starting at noon, to sort donations and pack boxes. Needed also are the names and addresses of any soldier stationed overseas. If you know one, let us know. Also,

postage for this event is about \$800 and donations are needed to cover that. Checks can be made out to SOS-Connecticut and mailed to SOS-CT c/o Frank Forrest, 165 Maple Street, East Hartford, CT 06118. This is a great event to support our Troops stationed away from home for the Holidays and organizations that are interested in helping, please contact us. FMI or to donate in advance, call Frank at 860-690-2845, or e-mail sosconnecticut@aol.com.

DEC 7: GLASTONBURY GRANGE #26 monthly meeting at Masonic Hall, 895 Main St., South Glastonbury, 6 p.m. Christmas Buffet follows at 6:30 p.m. Our Lecturer, Ann Gilnack will offer entertainment. The public is welcome. Should you wish to join us call Kay at 860-481-7007.

DEC 9: PUB NIGHT hosted by the East Hartford and Glastonbury St. Patrick's Day Parade committees, who this year are honoring Matthew

DEC 15: HOLIDAY HOUSE TOUR on South Windsor's Main Street, 6 until 10 p.m. as five historic homes, decorated for the holidays, will be open. This coincides with the Wood Library Gingerbread Festival and a live Nativity. The South Windsor Community Chorus will sing holiday carols at First Congregational Church. Tour the homes in any order, using your own vehicle. Tickets include a map of the home stops and the history of each house or building. If a major storm, ticket-holders are going to be notified of any alternate plan. Proceeds benefit maintenance and programming at the District 5 Schoolhouse. Tickets are \$35 and are available at Broad Brook Gardens, 978 Sullivan Avenue; Shea & Company, 49 Oakland Road; Perfect Piece Consignment, 1735 Ellington Road; Wood Memorial Library, 783 Main St. - and, if available the day of the tour, at Evergreen Masonic Lodge on Main Street.

DEC 17: WETHERSFIELD'S FIRST CHURCH CHOIR and Orchestra will present "Carols and Cantatas", a family-friendly concert in celebration of the Nativity, on Sunday, December 17 at 4:00 PM. First Church of Christ is located at 250 Main St., in Old Wethersfield. The concert will feature cantatas by Ralph Vaughan Williams and Gustav Holst that combine beloved carols from the English tradition. A third cantata, by Michael Haydn, is a charming little masterpiece from 18th century Salzburg. The program will also include favorite carols and carol arrangements by John Rutter and David Willcocks, as well as an audience sing-a-long. Concert admission is free, with a donation accepted at intermission. FMI e-mail seanm@firstchurch.org or call 203-219-8222.

FOSTER FAMILIES are needed for children in DCF care in every town in CT. Join a no obligation two-hour Zoom session to learn more.

For more information or to register for a meeting, contact Annie C Courtney Foundation at 475-235-2184. Annie C works in partnership with the Department of Children and Families to find foster parents for over 3,000 children in foster care. More information on foster care and adoption is on the Annie C website, www.anniec.org.

VETERANS COFFEE HOUR at the Senior Center, 15 Milwood Dr., 10 a.m. third Tuesday of the month, 10 a.m. Veterans, do drop in!

PROJECT LINUS delivers blankets to local hospitals. We are always looking for people to donate their hand-made quilts or afghans. These blankets need not be fancy just colorful and washable, any size from receiving to twin. To arrange to donate call 860-649-5513.

MY SISTERS' PLACE: Help My Sisters' Place provide affordable housing and services for families in need by sending a donation to: Community Housing Advocates, 221 Main St., 4th Floor, Hartford, CT 06106. FMI call 860-808-2048.

Holiday Fair

Fri., Dec. 1, 2023 – 5 pm - 8 pm

Sat. Dec. 2, 2023 – 9 am – 2 pm



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Corey as Parade Marshal, Cephus Nolan as Parade Honoree for the town of East Hartford; and Kristen Sikes as parade Marshal and Rob Green as parade Honoree for the town of Glastonbury. Held at the One Wood Pub, cost is \$20 which includes food and live music by Gerry Feeny, starting at 7 p.m. One Wood Pub is located at 130 Long Hill St. Guinness special! Purchase a pint, and keep the glass!

DEC 10: "LET'S CLEAN OUR PARKS & STREETS" cleanup Dec. 10, Sunday, from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Founders Bridge mini-Garden on East River Drive. Before the cold winter sneaks in we will be planting mixed color tulip bulbs to prepare for spring at the Founders Bridge mini-garden. Please join with us to clean up and beautify our parks and streets. Wear proper attire for the weather, and bring gloves, outdoor brooms, rakes, hoes, shears, etc. The cleanup is sponsored by the US & Japan Society of CT. FMI call Steve Long at 860-250-8626 (e-mail sjlbenriya@earthlink.net) or Toshiko Uchino, 860-290-9414 (e-mail t.uchino7@icloud.com).
