

# The Gazette

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Thursday, February 1, 2024

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EAST HARTFORD'S OWN CONGRESSMAN, John B. Larson, listens to a question at the EH Senior Center Friday.

## Larson outlines plan to save Social Security

by Bill Doak

For more than two decades in Washington, D.C. East Hartford Congressman John B. Larson has been harping on the need to protect the Social Security system, or as he likes to say, America's best insurance policy.

On Friday at the East Hartford Senior Center, facing down a lineup of senior citizens, one might think he was preaching to the choir.

But the mostly friendly and receptive group was peppered with disgruntled elders.

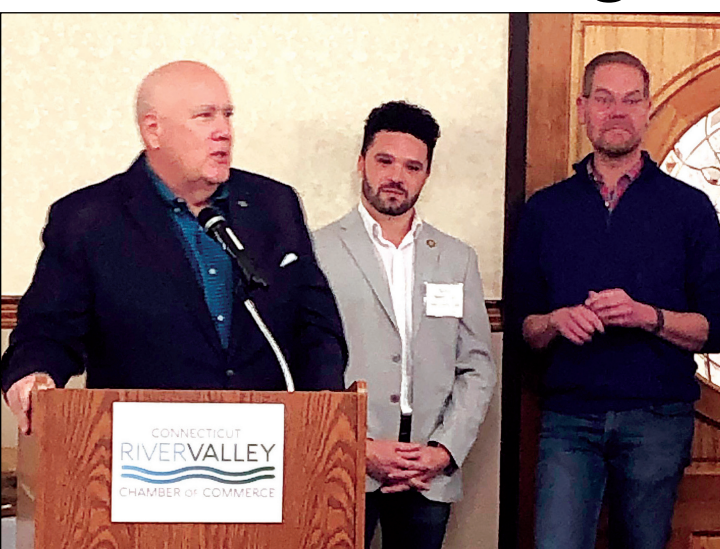
"What about reducing welfare? Illegal's pouring into the country?", grouched one man

who leafed through a boating catalogue as Larson explained his bill, Social Security 2100, legislation he has tried to hammer through his colleagues for the paast two decades.

The latest iteration calls for taking the cap off paying into Social Security for anyone earning more than \$400,000, "the six-tenths of one percent" which would ensure Social Security could remain solvent through the year 2066. Larson claims President Biden is on board with the plan, but Republicans insist on a story called the "Deficit Reduction Study Act". The study panel would be made up of 12 appointed con-

See **SOCIAL SECURITY**, pg. 10

## At annual meeting, Chamber honors Walsh, Summerer



Former Mayor Mike Walsh, left, with Mayor Connor Martin and State Representative Jeff Currey. Walsh was given the Melody Currey Award.

By Robert Kanehl

Meeting at the Villa Louisa in Bolton the night of January 24th, the Connecticut River Valley Chamber of Commerce (CTRVCC) held its annual awards dinner.

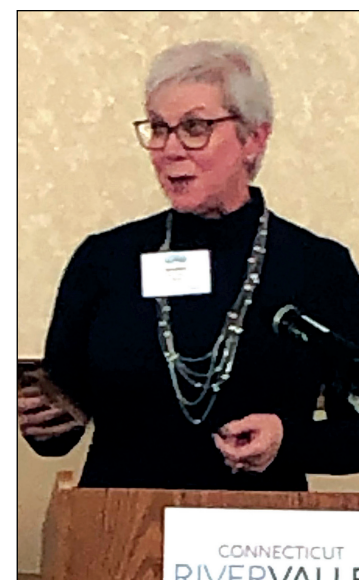
East Hartford individuals were singled out for honors. Former mayor Mike Walsh and RTX's (Pratt & Whitney) community liaison Heather Summerer were presented with chamber awards for their local community leadership.

East Hartford resident Walsh was selected as this year's Melody Currey Community Leadership Award winner. Until he stepped aside in November, Walsh implemented a complete shakeup of town government,

setting an ambitious "Control Tower" agenda of some 40 projects. He pushed for the purchase of the Church Corners Inn and the former J.M. Fields department store, relocated Town Hall operations in order to upgrade the 88-year-old structure, and opened up his office to the residents by holding weekly 'Ask the Mayor' video sessions. Walsh declined a second term to devote his time to bring about the ambitious "Port Eastside" initiative, a plan to bring more office and residential development to the East Hartford Riverfront.

Before serving as mayor Walsh worked for the state Office of Policy and Management,

See **CHAMBER**, page 10



Heather Summerer



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# MDC ALERTS

## NOTIFICATION SIGN UP

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## AROUND TOWN

## DOT to light Bulkeley Bridge

The Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) will conduct a virtual public information meeting concerning installing aesthetic lighting on the Bulkeley Bridge between Hartford and East Hartford over the Connecticut River on Tuesday, February 13, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

The virtual public information meeting is being held to provide the public and local community the opportunity to offer comments or ask questions regarding the proposed project. The meeting will take place on Zoom, and registration is required. A question and answer (Q&A) session will immediately follow the presentation, which will be recorded. For instructions on accessing the meeting and ways to provide comments and ask questions, please visit <http://portal.ct.gov/DOT Hartford63-728>.

"This project will highlight the beautiful stone details of one of Connecticut's landmark bridges, providing a critical connection between communities in Hartford and East Hartford," said Connecticut Department of Transportation Project Manager

Tracey Brais. "We encourage the public to attend this meeting to share their feedback with the CTDOT project team to incorporate into the design."

Construction is anticipated to begin in fall 2024 based on the availability of funding, acquisition of rights of way, and approval of permits. The estimated construction cost for this project is approximately \$1.2 million. This project is anticipated to be undertaken with 100% percent state funds. Right-of-way impacts associated with the proposed project are not anticipated.

Individuals with limited internet access can listen to the meeting by calling (877) 853-5257 and enter Meeting ID 836 6443 7905. Individuals with hearing and/or speech disabilities may dial 711 for Telecommunications Relay Services (TRS). Individuals with limited internet access may also request that project information be mailed to them within one week by contacting Tracey Brais at DOTProject0063-0728@ct.gov or (860) 594-3171.

Language assistance may be requested.

## CARABETTA MANAGEMENT CO.

## Extending Open Affordable Housing Waiting List For VETERANS TERRACE Apartments

Carabetta Management Co. will be opening the waiting list for 1, 2, 3 and 4-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 January 31, 2024 until 4:30 pm on February 15, 2024.

**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](mailto:VT.leasing@carabetta.com)

**UNIT TYPES:** This Waiting List is open for 1, 2, 3 and 4-bedroom sized apartments in addition to several ADA-compliant, handicap accessible units.



## New officer joins force

The East Hartford Police Department announced the newest addition to the department Monday in a press release.

Officer Nicholas Sevetz, formerly an officer in New Haven who was hired in November, 2022, will join the department and is completing field training.

Officer Marc Caruso, in making the announcement, stated that Sevetz "embodies the values of integrity, professionalism, and community engagement that are central to the mission of the East Hartford Police Department."

East Hartford Mayor Connor Martin also expressed how pleased he was to welcome Officer Sevetz, and wished him "the best of luck as he enters this new chapter of his career."

"As a CALEA accredited law enforcement agency, East Hartford is proud to provide our new officers with the highest quality training that help them become valuable assets to our community," stated Mayor Martin in the announcement.

Chief Mack Hawkins also welcomed Officer Sevetz. He expressed confidence in Officer Sevetz's abilities and highlighted the importance of his role in advancing the department's com-



Chief Mack Hawkins, Officer Nicholas Sevetz and Mayor Connor Martin.

mitment to public safety. In the announcement Chief Hawkins "emphasized Officer Sevetz's dedication to serving with honor and compassion, traits that are essential to building trust and fostering positive relationships with the residents of East Hartford."

The department extended its warmest congratulations and support for a successful and rewarding career ahead.

## GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS

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# Gov. suggests lifting nurse licensure fees

Governor Ned Lamont proposed adjustments to the state's fiscal year 2025 budget recommending licensure application fees required for workers to obtain certain jobs in the education, childcare, and healthcare fields be eliminated.

The governor said that he is proposing the change in an effort to encourage workers looking for employment to seek jobs in fields in which there is a significant need to fill available openings. The proposal will save these workers about \$3.5 million annually.

"Right now, there are many job openings in essential fields that employers need to fill, and by eliminating these licensure application fees we can help encourage those who are seeking employment to consider entering a career in these sectors,"

## CT State offering accelerated courses

CT State Community College will offer accelerated courses throughout spring semester at its campuses statewide, with start dates in February and March.

Students may earn up to four credits and take classes online or on-campus. Accelerated classes include the same amount of course work as a 15-week semester course, condensed into fewer sessions.

Accelerated classes can help round out a class schedule or help a student complete their degree faster. Visiting students are welcome and can check with their home college about transferring credits.

View the course schedule at <https://ctstate.edu/course-search>.

Financial aid and payment plans are available for full- and part-time credit students who qualify, and eligible students can use veterans benefits. For new students who wish to register for a class, the first step is to fill out a free online application at [www.ctstate.edu/apply](http://www.ctstate.edu/apply).

CT State Community College enrolls more than 70,000 students. Campuses include Capital in Hartford and the former Manchester Community College.

Governor Lamont said. "I am hopeful that legislators will agree and vote to approve these fee reductions."

In particular, the governor is proposing:

Eliminate the initial application fee for educator certificates. Administered by the State Department of Education, this fee costs \$200 and generates about \$1,000,000 in annual revenue.

Eliminate the initial application fee for home childcare licenses. Administered by the Office of Early Childhood, the home childcare license fee costs \$40 and the initial application fee for staff costs \$15. Combined, they generate about

\$20,000 in annual revenue.

Eliminate the initial application fee for registered nurse licenses. Administered by the Department of Public Health, this fee costs \$180 and generates about \$2,005,000 in annual revenue.

Eliminate the initial application fee for practical nurse licenses. Administered by the Department of Public Health, this fee costs \$150 and generates about \$174,300 in annual revenue.

Eliminate the initial application fee for advanced practice registered nurse licenses. Administered by the Department of Public Health, this fee costs \$200.

## Mayor Martin Town Hall meeting tonight at EHCCC

Mayor Connor Martin will hold a Town Hall Meeting tonight, Feb. 1, at 6:30 p.m. at the East Hartford Community Cultural Center, 50 Chapman Place.

The mayor said he will present his vision for the community, and an update on "all the exciting initiatives that are in the works", according to the press release issues by his office Friday.

The meeting will be broadcast on Channel 5 as well as on Facebook Live.

Along with a presentation on "an extensive list of projects and objectives covering several areas of operation that are designed to move East Hartford forward", attendees will get the chance to meet the mayor's directors of town departments, and "get to know their local government." Opportunity to ask questions will follow.



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# The Gazette

Thursday, February 1, 2024

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## SPEAKING OUT & LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Blumenthal questions Zuckerberg's 'constitutional right' to lie to Congress

Connecticut U. S. Senator Richard Blumenthal, lead sponsor of the bipartisan Kids Online Safety Act, questioned Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg at the Senate Judiciary Committee's hearing with Big Tech CEOs on his failures to make its platforms safe for young people.

Blumenthal pressed Zuckerberg about a recent lawsuit brought by parents of kids who have been harmed on Meta platforms, in which attorneys representing Zuckerberg argue that he has a constitutionally protected right to lie to Congress. Parents have brought this lawsuit against Zuckerberg based on what they allege are fraudulent and misleading claims

Zuckerberg has made in regards to kids safety, including statements he made to Congress. In his defense, Zuckerberg's lawyers argue that the First Amendment provides him with constitutional protections against any liability for his statements to Congress about kids online safety, even if his statements are false.

The filings from the lawsuit can be found here, here, here, and here.

Blumenthal: Mr. Zuckerberg, do you believe that you have a constitutional right to lie to Congress?

Zuckerberg: Senator, no, but...

Blumenthal: Let me clarify

### East Hartford shows its heart

#### To the editor:

Running a little late on Saturday morning my children and I were driving, hustling into Hartford. I turn from Main Street/route 5 onto Prospect street and traffic is stopped. I don't mean going slowly, I mean stopped. I can see what appears to be a work truck stopped on the other side of the road. They are not pulled over to the side, just stopped in the road. They have their Hazards on, but with cars in front of me I can't fully see what has made this road impassable.

I see a woman dressed in business clothes jogging quickly from Main Street toward the scene. As she is passing cars as she jogs down the other side of the road, the man gets out of the truck. He walks slowly across the street. As the woman and the man get to the sidewalk at the same time they have a very young child. I'm not sure what age children learn to operate locks and doors, but clearly he was that age. This child who couldn't be more than

3 years old got his coat and hat on and walked outside. He then wandered into the street.

As the child was no longer in the street cars began moving again. My car slowly crept forward, and as we passed the scene. A mother came frantically out of her apartment clearly scared to death, and found her child safe.

When we arrived at our activity all of the rush was gone. I had to stop and hug my children a little tighter than they wanted.

I don't have a great gift for words that can help others feel what I felt on Saturday. I do want to say thank you to the woman and man who helped this child safely to his mother. I appreciate all the other drivers who stopped and made sure that Saturday was not a tragedy. Most of all I appreciate East Hartford, because our community once again shines through as "Salt of the earth"

Patrick Biggins  
East Hartford

for you. In a lawsuit brought by hundreds of parents, some in this very room, alleging that you made false and misleading statements concerning the safety of your platform for children, you argue in not just one pleading, but twice, in December and then in January, that you have a constitutional right to lie to Congress. Do you disavow that filing in court?

Zuckerberg: Senator, I don't know what filing you are talking about, but I testify honestly and truthfully.

Blumenthal questioned Zuckerberg about the previous testimony of Meta's Global Head of Safety Antigone Davis before the Senate Commerce Subcommittee on Consumer Protection in September 2021, which Blumenthal chaired at the time. Blumenthal juxtaposed Davis' statements to newly available internal company emails reflecting Meta's lack of investments in kids' online safety and Zuckerberg's personal opposition to his advisors' requests for more resources in this space.

The new documents, produced in response to the letter that Senator Blumenthal and his colleagues sent to Meta in November, are available here.

Blumenthal: [Davis] told us, and I'm quoting, "Facebook is committed to building better products for young people, and to doing everything we can to protect their privacy, safety, and well-being on our platforms." And she also said, "Kids' safety is an area where 'we are investing heavily.'"

We now know that statement was untrue. We know it from an internal email that we have received. It's an email written by Nick Clegg- You know who he is, correct? He was Meta's President of Global Affairs, and he wrote a memo to you, which you received. Correct? It was

written to you.

Zuckerberg: I can't see the email, but sure I'll assume that you got that correct.

Blumenthal: And he summarized Facebook's problems. He said, "We are not on track to succeed for our core well-being topics- problematic use, bullying and harassment, connections, and SSI," meaning suicidal self-injury.

He said also, in another memo, "We need to do more, and we are being held back by a lack of investment." This memo has the date of August 28th, just weeks before that testimony from Antigone Davis. Correct?

Zuckerberg: Sir, Senator, I am not sure what the date of the testimony was.

Blumenthal: Well, those are the dates on the emails. Nick Clegg was asking you, pleading with you, for resources to back up the narrative, to fulfill the commitments. In effect, Antigone Davis was making promises that Nick Clegg was trying to fulfill, and you rejected that request for 45 to 84 engineers to do well-being or safety.

We know that you rejected it from another memo. Nick Clegg's assistant [X] said, "Nick did email Mark," referring to that earlier email, "to emphasize his support for the package, but it lost out to the various other pressures and priorities."

We have done a calculation that those potentially 84 engineers would have cost Meta about \$50 million in a quarter when it earned \$9.2 billion. And yet it failed to make that commitment in real terms, and you rejected that request because of other pressures and priorities.

That is an example, from your own internal document, of failing to act, and it is the reason why we can no longer trust Meta, and frankly any of the

other social media, to, in effect, grade their own homework. The public, and particularly the parents in this room, know that we can no longer rely on social media to provide the kind of safeguards that children and parents deserve, and that is the reason why passing the Kids Online Safety Act is so critically important.

Support for the Kids Online Safety Act

Blumenthal demanded each of the testifying CEOs to go on the record and declare their support for the Kids Online Safety Act, with Snap and X stating their support of the legislation, and Meta, Discord, and TikTok failing to commit.

Blumenthal concluded, stating: "Unfortunately, I don't think we can count on social media as a group, or Big Tech, to support this measure, and in the past, we know it has been opposed by armies of lawyers and lobbyists. We are prepared for this fight, but I am very, very glad that we have parents here. Because tomorrow, we are going to have an advocacy day, and the folks who really count, the people in this room who support this measure, are going to be going to their representatives and their senators, and their voices and faces are going to make a difference. Senator Schumer has committed that he will work with me to bring this bill to a vote. And then, we will have real protection for children and parents online."

The video of Blumenthal's questions at today's hearing is available on his website, and the full transcript is available upon request.

The bipartisan Kids Online Safety Act, led by U.S. Senators Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) and Marsha Blackburn (R-TN), would provide kids and parents with tools to protect them.



# Dr. Franklin H. Mayberry, more than just a local doctor

by Robert Kanehl

Did you know Franklin Mayberry was more than just a local doctor? In a file at the *Gazette*, we found this 1960s student packet from Mayberry Elementary School. Inside was a student's report on the name-sake of the school.

"Franklin Holden Mayberry was born on April 9, 1859 in the state of Maine. He was a descendant of Captain Richard Mayberry, who was an officer in the Revolutionary War.

He came to Hartford, and for five years

was an assistant physician at the Retreat for the Insane. In 1890 he moved to Burnside as a general practitioner. About twelve years later he moved to 921 Main St, East Hartford. He was especially successful in treating cases of typhoid and pneumonia. Mr. Mayberry was also town health officer, trustee of the Norwich Hospital, and examining physician for several insurance companies. He attended the Congregational Church.

In politics, Mr. Mayberry was a Republican. He was twice a representative and once a senator. He was also commissioner of the Connecticut River Bridge and Highway District. He was on the school board for twenty-one years. On May 19, 1890 he married Elizabeth Meagher."

The interesting report leaves out the rumor of the community leader's death at 67 on July 21, 1926. According to myth, the doctor was killed by a train after visiting a patient.

That rumor is partially true. According to this obituary which ran in the Hartford area papers at the time:

"Hartford Ct - July 21 (AP) Dr. Franklin Holden Mayberry,

whose skull was fractured and leg broken last Monday when he stepped from his automobile into the path of a trolley car in from of the home of a patient at South Windsor, died this morning at the Hartford hospital. He was 67 years old and had been a general practitioner in Hartford and vicinity for 36 years.

A descendant of old colonial stock, he was born in Casco,

Maine, April 9, 1859. He fitted for college at Bridgeton Academy, Bridgeton, Maine and was graduated from the University of Vermont in 1885, after which he came to Hartford and

was assistant physician at the Retreat for the Insane from five years. In 1890 he moved to Burnside to take up general practice and about 12 years later moved to 921 Main Street, East Hartford, where he had lived since."

Reviewing the records, it appears that Mayberry only suffered for two days after being hit by the trolley. At the time he was representing the area in the state legislature as well as serving on the local board of education. His grave is located within Center Cemetery, where his wife Elizabeth Meagher joined him in 1958.

The well respected doctor is remembered today not for that death, but through the prevalence of his name in the Burnside area of town. The school and the whole Mayberry Village recalls to mind the spirit of the community leader and physician.

The Mayberry area of town continues to produce community leaders. U.S. Representative John Larson talks with pride of his youth in Mayberry Village and its effect on his future career.

## DID YOU KNOW?

*Looking back  
at East Hartford*

**LETTERS.POLICY:** The *Gazette* welcomes signed letters on subjects of interest to our readers. Remember to also provide a daytime phone number. Mail to: **The Gazette, 1406 Main St., EH, CT 06108** or e-mail to **editor@ehgazette.com**

*Members of the public are invited to*

## CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### VIRTUAL PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

State Project No. 0063-0728 Bulkeley Bridge Aesthetic Lighting

City of Hartford and Town of East Hartford

Tuesday, February 13, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Register: <http://portal.ct.gov/DOT Hartford63-728>

YouTube Livestream: <https://portal.ct.gov/ctdotvpimarchive>

The purpose of this meeting is to provide the community an opportunity to learn about the proposed project and allow an open discussion of any views and comments concerning the proposed improvements. A Question and Answer (Q&A) session will immediately follow the presentation.

The purpose of the project is to install a cost-effective lighting system on the bridge that highlights the unique features of the structure. Installation of LED light fixtures and conduit is proposed along the north and south elevations of the bridge with the light directed toward the stone pier noses. A new electrical service cabinet on the East Hartford side of the river is proposed to provide the power to the lighting system.

Right-of-way impacts associated with the proposed project are not anticipated.

Construction is anticipated to begin fall 2024 based on the availability of funding, acquisition of rights of way, and approval of permit(s). The estimated construction cost for this project is approximately \$1,200,000. This project is anticipated to be undertaken with zero percent Federal funds and 100 percent State funds.

Please register for the virtual public information meeting at <http://portal.ct.gov/DOT Hartford63-728>. Registration is required to participate. Once registered, you will receive a confirmation email with a link to access the meeting.

Members of the public can submit comments and questions during the two-week public comment period following the meeting. Please direct comments and questions by February 27, 2024 to [DOTProject0063-0728@ct.gov](mailto:DOTProject0063-0728@ct.gov) and (860) 594-2020.

### ACCESSIBILITY

This meeting will also be livestreamed on YouTube, and closed captioning will be available. Non-English translation options will be available on Zoom and YouTube. The recording will also be available on CTDOT's YouTube Virtual Public Information Meeting playlist:

<https://portal.ct.gov/ctdotvpimarchive>

Persons with limited internet access, use the call-in number 877-853-5257 and enter Meeting ID 836 6443 7905. Persons with limited internet access may also request that project information be mailed to them within one week by contacting Tracey Brais at [DOTProject0063-0728@ct.gov](mailto:DOTProject0063-0728@ct.gov) and 860-594-2020.

Persons with hearing and/or speech disabilities may dial 711 for Telecommunications Relay Services (TRS).

Language assistance may be requested by contacting CTDOT's Language Assistance Call Line (860) 594-2109. Requests should be made at least five business days prior to the meeting. Language assistance is provided at no cost to the public and efforts will be made to respond to timely requests for assistance.



# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## Tuskegee exhibit: Service, sacrifice

By John Karas

When Bill Costen, a member of the New England Air Museum board of directors met fellow board member Lemuel Custis for the first time, he was told that Custis was a "Tuskegee Airman."

"What's a Tuskegee Airman," Costen, an African American aviator asked? Custis, who was the first African American police officer in Hartford and one of the first airmen to win their wings with the famed unit was not impressed. As Costen told later the story with a laugh,

Custis punched him and said "What do you mean, what's a Tuskegee? How did you not know that?"

The two became close friends, and Costen found out first hand who exactly the Tuskegee Airmen were, and what difference their heroism made in the war against the Nazis in Europe, but also in the "second war" back home, against racism, bigotry and discrimination. Now, more than 70 years after the famous Red Tails chased Messerschmitts in the skies over Italy, the New Eng-

land Air Museum offers an exhibit that truly does honor to the unit and to the heroes who in 2007 were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal for their feats.

Located in the museum's 58th Bomb Wing Memorial Hangar, "The Tuskegee Airmen: Their Untold Stories" uses original artifacts, but also immersive audio and video to pay tribute to this trailblazing group of men and women.

"What makes this exhibit different than Tuskegee exhibits in other museums is that we told the story through the airmen themselves, through their children, through their families, and through their friends," explains NEAM President and CEO Stephanie Abrams. "So it's more of a walk in the issues and seeing what this was like. Through what they did, they changed the world. And our hope is that by keeping their story alive, keeping their legacy alive, that they will continue to do so."

The exhibit contains many original artifacts, and there's a theater area, where a video that gives an overview of the story is shown.

"And then there's another area. Again, there are a lot of artifacts, and the exhibit is very detailed, but then there's also a video on what it was like to be black in America pre-World War II and the challenges the Tuskegee airmen faced getting into the service and then getting washed out, even though it wasn't because of a lack of talent. Then there's another video which tells the story of what it was like to be in battle and what they faced and the racism they faced."

Among the stories the visitors can appreciate is the story of Major Lemuel - Lem - Custis himself, the Tuskegee Airman who later served as Board President of the museum.

Lem Custis lived a life of firsts. Before ever joining the military, he had broken racial barriers to become the first African American police officer in Hartford. After Pearl Harbor, he applied for flight training and in March 1942 was one of the first five pilots of the Tuskegee Airmen to earn their



wings. Custis flew more than 90 combat missions with the 99th Fighter Squadron in North Africa, Sicily, and Italy, where he was one of the first Tuskegee Airmen to shoot down an enemy plane. After the war, he took a job in state government and also served on the Board of Directors at the New England Air Museum.

His uniform, his helmet and glasses, and the Colt 45 he carried with him when he was flying his Mustang P-51 are proudly displayed at the NEAM exhibit. There is the other side of the Tuskegee airmen experience.

"The last video is about what they faced when they got back," Abrams says. "These were pilots. Some of them won the gunnery, which was the first Top Gun competition. This is a competition between the best of the best. And they won. Yet they were turned down for jobs as pi-

lots by the commercial airlines. And it was clearly stated in the letter, "We do not hire Negroes. Regardless of your flight hours."

These are stories of truly heroic Americans, Abrams points out, and the tragic is that they are still not known by the public as much as they should be.

"If you stop on a street corner and ask people who the Tuskegee Airmen were, they kind of know, but they don't," she points out. "A lot of companies are bringing their employees to NEAM for DEI training. We had a group from Travelers, and it was a very mixed crowd. And the people of color who were brought in from Hartford said that they never learned about the Tuskegee Airmen in school. And that was shocking."

To learn more about the Tuskegee Airmen visit [neam.org](http://neam.org)

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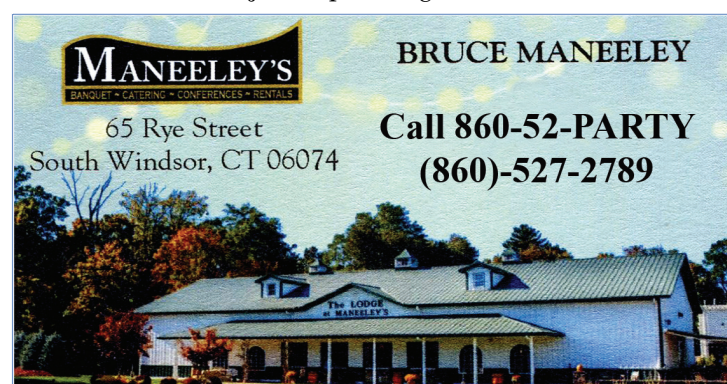
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# Society

## Windsor Black Inventors exhibit

In celebration of Black History Month the Windsor Freedom Trail Committee brings the 27th Annual Black Inventions Exhibit (BIE) tour to Windsor in collaboration with the Sage Park Middle School and Archer Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church. The event will be held at the Sage Park Middle School, 25 Sage Park Road, Windsor, CT. The exhibit is free and open to the general public on Thursday, February 1st from 5:00pm – 8:00pm. The exhibit will be visited exclusively by approximately 700 Sage Park Middle School students during school hours on February 1st & 2nd.

This multimedia presentation is a tribute to the unsung heroes, Black inventors and innovators internationally. BIE will travel to over 100 cities throughout the United States and abroad to Canada, the Caribbean, Africa and the United Kingdom.

Many of the things people use daily are the brainchild of a Black inventor. The golf tee, automatic traffic light, cellular phone and dustpan all were created by Blacks. The mail box, pencil sharpener, super Soaker water gun (that

gross over \$1 billion dollars) and the world's fastest computer-peaking at 3.1 billion calculations per second—were created by the minds and hands of Black inventors. The traveling museum reveals many surprising facts, and highlights the accomplishments of Blacks in the fields of science, aerospace communication, health care, agriculture, transportation and engineering. The aim of BIE is not only to give credit to the inventors, but to inspire others to believe that anything is possible. Over 150 authentic artifacts are represented in the collection and include: Patent designs, personal letters, rare photographs and brief biographies of Black American inventors.

“Our mission is to develop racial pride, promote racial understanding and provide a new motivation for learning. BIE is for everyone – all age groups and ethnicity. The museum graciously compliments all science and American history curricula, while promoting positive images in those who seek to learn about the discoveries and challenges of these great men and women”, Exhibit Curator, Dr. James Ince stated.

## Lions Club scholarships available

The East Hartford Lions Club announced that applications are available for the 2024 Lions Scholarships.

These scholarships are given to East Hartford residents currently graduating from East Hartford High School, Synergy High School, Connecticut International Baccalaureate Academy, East Catholic High School, Great Path Academy, Connecticut River Academy or Howell Cheney Technical High School, who are planning to attend either a 2- or 4-year College or an Occupational/Trade School. This scholarship has particular emphasis on community service in East Hartford. The awarded scholarships will be forwarded towards the first year of

higher education.

Applications are available in the guidance offices of East Hartford High, Synergy, CT IB Academy, East Catholic and Howell Cheney Tech.

Completed applications are due by April 1 and can be mailed directly to the East Hartford Lions Scholarship Committee at P.O. Box 380765, East Hartford, CT 06138, or sent to the guidance offices. Scholarship winners will be announced at the Senior Scholarship Award Ceremony at the high schools this spring.

If questions call Jill Gauthier, Lions Club Scholarship Committee Chairman, at 860-569-0718.

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# EAST HARTFORD SPORTS

## February comes, and defines field

Now we know.

Five months after the season opening kickoff we now know who the combatants will be in Super Bowl LVIII. I'm not a betting man, and far be it from me to ever suggest to anyone that they should bet on the Super Bowl (or any other sporting event), or even offer an opinion as to which team to bet on, but if I were I know who I'd be inclined to favor, because I know which team the NFL wants to win. It has something to do with maximizing the focus of fifty million fans of a certain pop star.



### SCOTT GRAY on SPORTS

by Scott Gray

Now we know.

We know how good the UCONN men's basketball team is without sophomore center and Player of the Year candidate Donovan Clingan. The Huskies went undefeated for nearly a month while Clingan sat out with an ankle injury. We know how good they are with him. After being nursed back into the lineup Clingan played 19 minutes against Xavier on Sunday, scoring 18 points, hauling down eight rebounds and dishing off two assists to lead the Huskies to a win that upped their record to 18-2.

I mentioned last week that the most recent projections for the Men's NCAA tournament had UCONN, ranked #1 in the nation, seeded second behind Purdue, ranked #2 in the nation, based on strength of schedule and strength of conference. On Sunday UCONN and Purdue played similar conference matchups, the Boilermakers against Rutgers in the Big Ten, UConn and Xavier in the Big East. Purdue and UCONN top their conferences, Rutgers and Xavier wallow in the lower half of the leagues, each with ten wins on the season.

Rutgers, coached by Steve Pikiell, who co-captained UCONN's 1991 "Dream Team", drove Purdue to the limit, within two points with less than five minutes to play, six with 30 seconds left as Purdue held on to win by single digits, the same day UCONN clipped Xavier by 43 points. Just some new data for those seeding speculators to feed into their computers.

Last weekend was women's basketball Alumni Weekend in Storrs. Among the former UCONN stars spotted on campus was Breanna Stewart, perhaps the greatest women's college basketball player of all time and a two time WNBA MVP, seen picking at a bowl of fruit for Sunday breakfast at the Graduate Hotel, accompanied by several members of her family.

I see where construction of the Gordie Howe International Bridge over the Detroit River, linking Detroit to Windsor, Ontario, Canada, is now about ten months behind schedule for its original November 2024 opening date and 700 million dollars over its original 5.7 billion budget. No one is panicking, all parties blaming the pandemic for creating a situation that made it difficult to come in on time and on cost. The bridge will open in September 2025.

Speaking of the great Gordie Howe. Here's a little known fact. He and I dated the same girl. She married me. That's a whole other story.

## Snow-dusts Aselton Snow Dash

Results of the Officer Brain A. Aselton Memorial Snow Dash Sunday, January 28 were released. A surprise outburst of heavy snow before the race starting time infused the spirit of winter running fun into the event. There were 218 registered runners with about 150 venturing out to support the run.

Top Male: 1. Dylan Shusta 2. Geoffrey Nooney 3. Steven Shive 4. Phil Roucoulet 5. William Theinert. Top Female: 1. Melissa Stellato 2. Alyssa Natario 3. Carolyn Klei 4. Kristin Vaughan 5. Briana Belekewicz.



PLC	Name	A/S	DIV	CITY	TIME	PACE	PLC/TOT	BIB
1	Melissa Stellato	42F	F4049	South Windsor CT	18:59	6:06	1/12	1
2	Dylan Shusta	29M	M1829	Old Lyme CT	19:08	6:09	1/3	779
3	Alyssa Natario	32F	F3039	Glastonbury CT	19:10	6:10	1/18	106
4	Geoffrey Nooney	37M	M3039	SouthwickSouthwick MA	19:21	6:13	1/9	772
5	Steven Shive	42M	M4049	Greenwich CT	19:28	6:16	1/14	776
6	Phil Roucoulet	51M	M5059	Simsbury CT	19:37	6:18	1/17	137
7	William Theinert	39M	M3039	Glastonbury CT	20:39	6:38	2/9	780
8	Richard Lindahl	44M	M4049	Vernon Rockville CT	20:58	6:45	2/14	83
9	Jensen Hurd	12M	M0017	Vernon Rockville CT	21:05	6:47	1/5	64
10	Michael Vaughan	49M	M4049	East Hartford CT	21:30	6:55	3/14	165
11	Sean Houlihan	41M	M4049	Wallingford CT	22:00	7:04	4/14	62
12	Rich Federico	46M	M4049	Madison CT	22:17	7:10	5/14	44
13	Brian O'Hanlon	41M	M4049	Lebanon CT	22:26	7:13	6/14	183
14	Carolyn Klei	34F	F3039	East Hartford CT	22:49	7:20	2/18	77
15	Eric WATTERS	58M	M5059	East Haddam CT	23:00	7:24	2/17	169
16	Scott Olmo	15M	M0017	East Hartford CT	23:06	7:26	2/5	116
17	Jonathan Reik	71M	M7079	Farmington CT	23:30	7:33	1/9	127
18	Kristin Vaughan	39F	F3039	East Hartford CT	23:40	7:37	3/18	164
19	Briana Belekewicz	24F	F1829	Oakdale CT	23:50	7:40	1/9	10
20	Devin Gilnite	26M	M1829	Hartford CT	23:55	7:41	2/3	51
21	George O'Donnell	38M	M3039	Middletown CT	24:06	7:45	3/9	114
22	Eric Larson	49M	M4049	Manchester CT	24:08	7:46	7/14	182
23	Shannon Bowen-Kievmann	50F	F5059	Manchester CT	24:09	7:46	1/20	184
24	Debra Kubas	39F	F3039	Wallingford CT	24:13	7:47	4/18	78
25	William Clark	61M	M6069	Thomaston CT	24:14	7:47	1/13	25
26	Gerard Roeder	55M	M5059	East Longmeadow MA	24:20	7:49	3/17	195
27	Matt Kenyon	31M	M3039	East Hartford CT	24:31	7:53	4/9	73
28	Kevin Tranberg	55M	M5059	Wethersfield CT	24:43	7:57	4/17	161
29	Carly Pitruzzello	20F	F1829	South Windsor CT	24:45	7:57	2/9	121
30	Richard Daly	34M	M3039	Manchester CT	24:47	7:58	5/9	33
31	Nancy Theinert	34F	F3039	Glastonbury CT	24:51	7:59	5/18	781
32	Justin Merrill	62M	M6069	GLASTONBURY CT	24:52	8:00	2/13	98
33	Michael Miller	62M	M6069	South Windsor CT	24:54	8:00	3/13	770
34	Erik Bartlett	48M	M4049	Middletown CT	25:16	8:08	8/14	7
35	Brian Meacham	48M	M4049	Woodbridge CT	25:26	8:11	9/14	185
36	Marissa Litwin	14F	F0017	East Hartford CT	25:31	8:12	1/3	84
37	Brian Maclean	70M	M7079	Vernon Rockville CT	25:38	8:15	2/9	89
38	Chris Slappy	54M	M5059	East Hartford CT	25:44	8:17	5/17	145
39	Liz Mazany	24F	F1829	Middletown CT	25:44	8:17	3/9	95
40	Tracey Clark	52F	F5059	North Stonington CT	25:54	8:20	2/20	24
41	James Riley	15M	M0017	Torrington CT	25:58	8:21	3/5	128
42	Chris Vann	61M	M6069	East Hartford CT	26:12	8:26	4/13	163
43	Amy Bigelow	40F	F4049	Colchester CT	26:19	8:28	2/12	11
44	Brent Stratton	67M	M6069	Middletown CT	26:22	8:29	5/13	155
45	Lani Ralston	52F	F5059	Farmington CT	26:34	8:33	3/20	125
46	Bob Dacey	74M	M7079	Vernon CT	26:37	8:34	3/9	32
47	Lindsay Morgan	39F	F3039	East Granby CT	26:38	8:34	6/18	104
48	Zara DeLuca	35F	F3039	Berlin CT	26:55	8:39	7/18	774
49	Katie Fontaine	39F	F3039	Manchester CT	26:59	8:41	8/18	47
50	Renee Robichaud	51F	F5059	Waterbury CT	27:13	8:45	4/20	131
51	Daniel Smith	31M	M3039	Manchester CT	27:33	8:52	6/9	771
52	Lindsey Montminy	24F	F1829	Hartford CT	27:35	8:52	4/9	102
53	Kun Liu	31M	M3039	West Hartford CT	27:37	8:53	7/9	85
54	David Eager	47M	M4049	Vernon Rockville CT	27:43	8:55	10/14	199
55	Sheri Wilson	56F	F5059	Vernon Rockville CT	27:50	8:57	5/20	174
56	Katherine Swierk	27F	F1829	Saugus MA	28:05	9:02	5/9	156
57	Tom Walsh	68M	M6069	Rocky Hill CT	28:05	9:02	6/13	168
58	Michelle Reardon	39F	F3039	Middletown CT	28:07	9:02	9/18	126
59	Susan Sacco	65F	F6069	Glastonbury CT	28:12	9:04	1/8	773
60	Jean Moore	54F	F5059	East Hartford CT	28:14	9:05	6/20	103
61	Margaret Cartolano	55F	F5059	New York NY	28:16	9:05	7/20	23



# OBITUARIES

## Ralph Wesley Robar, 90; Army veteran

Ralph Wesley Robar, 90, of East Hartford, loving husband of 63 years of Claudette T. (Trottier) Robar, peacefully passed away on Thursday, January 25, 2024 at his home surrounded by his caring family. Born in Brentwood, NH on May 2, 1933, a son of the late Charles E. and Ethel (Merrill) Robar, he had resided in East Hartford for the past 64 years. Ralph was a proud veteran of the U.S. Army during the Korean War. Prior to his retirement, he was employed as a Custodian by the town of East Hartford Board of Education for 17 years. He was a talented woodworker and gardener who took pride in his yard. He was an avid fan of the Boston Red Sox and UConn Women's basketball team. He also was a fan and a supporter of East Hartford youth sports and Windsor youth sports. Most of all, Ralph was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather who cherished his time spent with his entire family, especially



Ralph Robar

ly his grandchildren at their sporting events and school activities.

Along with his beloved wife Claudette, Ralph is survived by his five children, Kevin M. Robar and his wife Rachel of East Hartford, Leonard P. Robar and his wife Lori of Spencer, MA, Raymond M. Robar and his wife Eva of

Windsor, Corinne A. Robar and her spouse Todd Tofil of East Hartford, Matthew C. Robar and his spouse Amanda Mills of Hampton Bays, NY; nine special grandchildren, Krista Stratton, David Robar, Kayli Jost, Jared Tofil, Jason Robar, Peter Robar, Elijah Murzin-Robar, Lucas Tofil, Jacob Robar; and one adored great-granddaughter, Raelynn Stratton. And several nieces, nephews, cousins, and dear friends. Besides his parents, Ralph was predeceased by all of his siblings, Ann Coco, Arnold Robar, Joseph Robar, Mildred McGuirk, and Jessie Flanders.

Funeral Service took place Wednesday, January 31 at the D'Esopo East Hartford Memorial Chapel, 30 Carter St. with burial with military honors following at Silver Lane Cemetery, (Section G). Gifts in Ralph's name may be made to the American Heart Association, P.O. Box 840692, Dallas, TX 75284 or the American Kidney Fund, 11921 Rockville Pike, Suite 300, Rockville, MD 20852. Online, visit [www.desopoeh.com](http://www.desopoeh.com).

## Kia Thi Nguyen, 87

Kia Thi Nguyen, 87, beloved wife of Thanh Cong Phan of East Hartford, passed away Friday January 26, 2024 peacefully surrounded by her family at home. Born in Quang Nam, Vietnam, daughter of the late Bang Nguyen and Huynh Thi Pham, she came to the United States with her family in 1995.

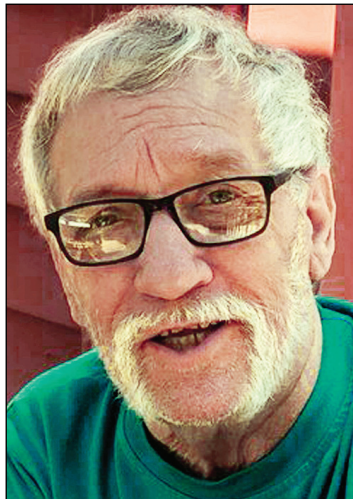
Besides her husband she leaves her children, their spouses, and their grandchildren: Nhan Cong Phan (son); Dong-Nguyet Thi Phan (daughter), Nguyen Van Nguyen (son-in-law), Thi-Nga Thi Nguyen (granddaughter) Thi-Ngoc Thi Nguyen (granddaughter), Thi-Ngan Thi Nguyen (granddaughter), Thu-Nguyet Thi Phan (daughter) Phuc Thanh Nguyen (son-in-law), Ivy Nguyen (granddaughter), Jason Thanh Nguyen (grandson); Linh Cong Phan (son) Hoang-Lan Tran

(daughter-in-law); Liam Cong-Lam Phan (grandson), Levi Cong-Long Phan (grandson); Luan Cong Phan (son) Minh-Hang Nguyen (daughter-in-law); Anh-Minh Cong Phan (granddaughter), Tramy Cong Phan (granddaughter); Nhu-Nguyet Thi Phan (daughter) Michael Chan-Nam Su (son-in-law); Emaline Phuong-An Su (granddaughter), Madeline Phuong-Uyen Su (granddaughter), and Oliver Phuong-Vinh Su (grandson).

Her family will receive friends beginning at 10:00 AM Sunday, February 4, 2024, at the Carmon Windsor Funeral Home, 807 Bloomfield Avenue, Windsor concluding with Services until 1:30 PM. Cremation will follow in Mt. Laurel Crematory at the Carmon Windsor Funeral Home at 2 p.m.

## Vincent Gatto, 77

Vincent Gatto, 77, passed away December 21, 2023 surrounded by the love of family. Vincent was born in Hartford August 18, 1946 to the late Frank M. and Rita (LaBelle) Gatto. He was a graduate of East Hartford High School. He furthered his education as a welder, becoming a skilled sheet metal fabricator and HVAC foreman. For many years he was a "tin knocker" for Berkshire Heating and Air Conditioning, retiring as a proud member of the Sheet Metal Workers Union Local 63. He grew up in East Hartford and spent many years in the Enfield area before eventually moving to Monson, Mass which became home. He enjoyed weekends at Westview Farms and Monson Pizza, and could be found starting conversations daily at Woodbines, Adams, Monson Savings and the post office where he made many friends. He loved watching New England sports teams, cooking, cartoons, crosswords and classic rock. In his younger years, he spent time saltwater fishing, small game hunting, riding motorcycles and sitting on the beach. Vincent leaves behind his daughters, Jennifer Gioiosi



Vincent Gatto

and her husband Nick of East Longmeadow, with whom he lived, Meagan Gatto of Bondsville; a son, Jason Gatto of Enfield; his beloved grandchildren, Tyler Gatto, Briley LaBossiere, Brodie LaBossiere, Taleiya Pena, Sophie Pena and Lincoln Gioiosi. He was predeceased by his son, Christopher Gatto. Services were held Thursday, December 28, 2023. Consider a memorial contribution to the American Heart Assoc. or Muscular Dystrophy Assoc.

[lombardfuneralhome.com](http://lombardfuneralhome.com).

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# Connecticut River Valley Chamber of Commerce honors Summerer, Walsh

From Page One

and before that was East Hartford's finance director for 23 years. Chamber presenters noted his community service dates back decades.

In thanking the chamber - and State Rep. Jeff Currey - for the award, Walsh tied his efforts in town to his mentor, Jeff's mom, the former mayor and state representative and DAS commissioner, Melody Currey. He said the former mayor provided him with an example, and

an excellent education in the key role government could have at both the local and state levels. Walsh credited his apprenticeship under the late mayor for making him into the leader he became for East Hartford.

Walsh thanked the Currey family, and challenged the chamber to continue to support grassroots leaders such as Melody Currey in every town the CTRVCC serves.

That may be one more town as the CTRVCC continues to expand. First formed as a merger

of the local chambers of commerce in East Hartford, Glastonbury and Marlborough - now the third largest chamber in the state with nearly 600 members - the regional chamber will soon add the members of the Hebron Chamber of Commerce, which wishes to merge with the group.

Dozens of East Hartford businesses have directly experienced the benefits of CTRVCC membership. Over the past year, CTRVCC oversaw distribution of nearly \$2.1 million to small businesses in town. Applications for another \$2 million

from the American Rescue Plan Funding are being reviewed, by the East Hartford Development Department and chamber staff, before distribution is approved to town small businesses. Notable projects funded by the program included the façade improvements to Town Hall Hardware and C-Town.

Heather Summerer, an executive at RTX, received the Chamber's President's Award. Chamber leaders cited her efforts to promote the chamber, its members, and expand the organization.

Summerer heads RTX's pub-

lic affairs division, and has over 27 years working for Pratt & Whitney. Her efforts in town were highlighted, including her establishment of East Hartford's Trunk or Treat event held on the former runways at Rentschler Field.

In her thanks to the chamber, Summerer explained that her efforts at promoting the organization were made easier by the fact that the members themselves were often willing to provide locations and products that helped with gatherings and other events.

## LEGAL NOTICES

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF PATRICIA M. DONOFRIO (24-00024)

The Hon. Richard P. Gentile, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of East Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated **January 29, 2024**, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Matthew E. Cella, Clerk

The fiduciary is:

Suzanne Bronson  
c/o Michael John Bonanno, Esquire; Tavano, McCuin & Bonanno, LLC, 140 Glastonbury Blvd, Suite 29, Glastonbury, CT 06033

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF DORIS J. GERES (24-00039)

The Hon. Richard P. Gentile, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of East Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated **January 30, 2024**, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Matthew E. Cella, Clerk

The fiduciary is:

Michael Geres  
c/o Eric S. Parker, Esquire; Romano Parker & Associates Law Offices, 41 New Britain Avenue, Rocky Hill, CT 06067

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF MARC FORSCHINO, AKA MARC M. FORSCHINO (24-00037)

The Hon. Richard P. Gentile, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of East Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated **January 25, 2024**, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciaries at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Matthew E. Cella, Clerk

The fiduciaries are:

Barbara Forschino  
c/o Kevin McCann, Esquire; Kahan, Kerensky & Capossela, LLP, 45 Hartford Turnpike, P.O. Box 3811, Vernon, CT 06066  
and  
Jeanne Forschino  
c/o Kevin McCann, Esquire; Kahan, Kerensky & Capossela, LLP, 45 Hartford Turnpike, P.O. Box 3811, Vernon, CT 06066

### ORDER OF NOTICE

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
FAMILY COURT  
THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
ADNA SCOTT V. HENRY LEE SCOTT  
2023-DR-31-0140

**TO: HENRY LEE SCOTT; YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED** and required to answer the Complaint in this action, a copy of which is herewith served upon you, and to serve a copy of your Answer to the Complaint on the attorney for the Plaintiff, Paul L. Held, at his office, 136 North Main Street, Sumter, South Carolina 29150, within thirty (30) days after service hereof, exclusive of the day of such service; and if you fail to answer the Complaint within the time aforesaid, the Plaintiff in this action will apply to the Court for the relief demanded in the Complaint. Please take notice that the Summons and Complaint were filed in the Office of the Clerk of Court for Lee County, South Carolina.

From Page One

gressmen - three from each party in the Senate, and three from each party in the House of Representatives, plus three non-voting government officials, who would meet behind closed doors and vote out a majority Social Security reform bill that would be non-amendable on the House or Senate floor.

"It comes down to giving 7 members - out of the 535 that make up Congress - the power to change Social Security for everyone," Larson, who sits as chairman of the House Social Security subcommittee explained. "That goes against open government, and frankly it is unconstitutional."

The audience who was gathered at the East Hartford Senior Center suggested congress stop taxing their benefits, complaining that inflation has eroded what little payments Social Security provides at the grocery store and elsewhere.

"Food costs are going up and up," one older woman complained. "The small amount that I am eligible for disappears quick."

Larson was sympathetic. He noted that all Connecticut's elected representatives in Washington support his Social Security reform bill, but Republicans want the study to hide their effort to raise the retirement age to 70, which would save 20 percent of the cost for the program which has not seen any changes since the Nixon administration in 1971.

"President Biden called it a death panel, and I agree. It is a proposal designed to protect anyone from taking the blame for cutting Social Security benefits. Everyone wants to say they

are there to protect Social Security and this gets them to vote to reduce it while saying there is nothing they can do, it was the study>

Larson gave credit to Donald Trump.

"In his remarks about Nicky Haley Trump said he would never cut Social Security. He pointed out that she is in favor of this study panel."

The Social Security 2100 bill also would end a municipal and public employee exclusion from the system, put a minimum threshold on on Social Security of 125 percent of the poverty line.

"I was in insurance. Aetna taught us that there are three legs of retirement: Income, assets and Social Security. Well, two of those three legs can go away, but Social Security has never missed a payment."

The seniors gathered still wondered what Larson will do about it, even after his explanation. And the congressman, who also was a high school history teacher, patiently explained his plan and efforts.

Larson sees it as his charge in Congress to protect Social Security, and enhance the benefits of President Roosevelt's program.

"Social Security is the best anti-poverty program there is," he explained. "Without it, what happens to the elderly? For forty percent, this is their only income. What happens to children? FDIC is an insurance program, it is not welfare. Eisenhower and Nixon both agreed that it ought to be funded. If Social Security goes away, more would be on welfare."

With Rep. Larson's support, Congress passed the Inflation

Reduction Act to strengthen Medicare and lower prescription drug costs.

Last year, Larson reintroduced the Social Security 2100 Act with nearly 200 of his Democratic colleagues to extend the program's solvency and increase benefits across-the-board.

Nearly every House Republican recently offered a budget plan to raise the retirement age to 69 and voted to cut Social Security Administration funding by 30% and create a closed-door, fast-track commission designed to slash Social Security benefits.

This week, on Wednesday, Larson voted against Republican legislation that claims to address border security and improve Social Security.

"The biggest fraud with regard to Social Security is the fact Congress has not taken any action to enhance the program in more than 50 years," said Larson. "With 10,000 baby boomers a day becoming eligible, there is a glaring need to extend the program's solvency and improve benefits. Democrats have put forward real solutions in our Social Security 2100 Act to extend solvency and enhance benefits, yet my Republican colleagues refuse to hold a vote and are instead advancing a fast-track commission to cut benefits behind closed doors. The facts are clear: undocumented immigrants are not currently eligible for Social Security benefits, and it is already a deportable offense for a non-citizen to commit Social Security fraud. We should be acting on Social Security, rather than passing redundant messaging bills that fail to address the issues they claim to solve."

## Congressman Larson rallies district to SS fight



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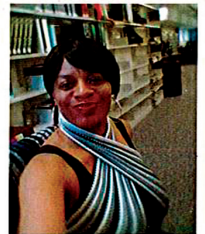
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# WHERE THE ACTION IS!

BY CORINNE HORAN

## FEB 1: FREE SEED NIGHT AT HILLSTOWN

**GRANGE** Doors open at 6 p.m., ends around 7:30. Refreshments available for a donation to the Grange Gardening Education projects. The Grange Agricultural Committee will announce this year's gardening contests for the annual Agricultural Fair in September. Loads of free seeds. If you have some saved seeds, please bring some to share along with your favorite seed catalogs. Great for novice or first-time gardeners to learn from old pros. The Grange Gardeners will be available to answer any garden question. In about a month we can plant our peas! Hillstown Grange is located at 617 Hills St. Free. Spend some time with fellow gardeners. FMI call Frank at 860-690-2845 or e-mail: hillstowngrange@aol.com.

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**FEB 1: GLASTONBURY GRANGE #26** meets at 7:30 p.m. at the Masonic Hall, 895 Main St., South Glastonbury. Lecturers program is entitled "Hearts Signify LOVE". Refreshments follow. Rehearsal for Obligation Ceremony at 7.

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## FEB. 2, 4, & 9: BEHIND THE SCENES OF FUN THEATER!

Ever leave a play thinking you'd appreciate it more if you had additional background? We've got the solution. Playhouse on Park's *Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson* – Apt. 2B. It's an irreverent, modern take on Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's famous sleuth and sidekick. Join Presidents' College Lifelong Learning at the University of Hartford to discuss the production Friday, Feb. 9, attend a performance with talk-back on Sunday, Feb. 4, and then dissect what we saw on Fri., Feb. 9. Attend the lectures and the performance with us – or attend just the lectures and see the play now thru Feb. 18 on your own. Lectures: Fridays, Feb. 2 & 9, 12:30-2 p.m. Performance: Sun., Feb. 4. 2 p.m. with talk-back. Lecture only: \$40. Lectures & performance: \$80. Visit [hartford.edu/pc](http://hartford.edu/pc) for more information.

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## FEB 3: CABIN FEVER PANCAKE BREAKFAST

at the Hillstown Grange, 617 Hills St. beginning at 8:30 a.m. Saturday morning until 11. Enjoy steaming hot, fresh pancakes with side of sausage, coffee, tea and juice, all for just \$6; \$3 for kids 14 and under. This month's special pancake is a Valentine special: cherries jubilee! Regular and chocolate chip pancakes, with free refills, also on the menu. Visit the upstairs hall with its library and reading room, or play a game or just visit. Books available for a donation to our building fund. Note: Free garden and flower seeds will be available as part of the Grange gardening program. Hillstown is the neighborhood where East Hartford, Glastonbury and Manchester meet. Grange has been here since 1888. FMI call Frank at 860-690-2845 or e-mail [hillstowngrange@aol.com](mailto:hillstowngrange@aol.com). FMI on Hillstown Grange, visit [www.HillstownGrange.org](http://www.HillstownGrange.org). FMI on granges across Connecticut, [www.CTStateGrange.org](http://www.CTStateGrange.org).

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## FEB. 6 & 11: THE MAKING OF A CLASSICAL MU-

**SICIAN** - Hear from cellist and concert producer Laura Metcalf about her musical development and career. Her father, Steve Metcalf, music critic and WNPR commentator, leads the interview. The father/daughter duo will spice up the presentation with a few short musical selections. Then attend Laura's performance at the Hartford Symphony Orchestra with "Boyd Meets Girl", her duo with her husband, classical guitarist Rupert Boyd. Attend both the Tues, Feb. 6 lecture at 4 p.m. and Sun., Feb. 11 performance at 3 p.m., or just the lecture. Lecture-only attendees will receive a discount code to buy tickets to see Metcalf in her two other Feb. HSO performances. Visit [hartford.edu/pc](http://hartford.edu/pc) for more information.

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**FEB 8: BUFFALO SOLDIERS:** The rich contributions of African Americans to the country's military history is the topic of a free talk by Robert

well. Sponsored by Presidents' College Lifelong Learning at the University of Hartford. Tuesdays, Feb. 20 & 27, 12:30-2 p.m. Visit [hartford.edu/pc](http://hartford.edu/pc) for more information.

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**FEB 21:** Already Itching for Spring and Baseball? You can't "fast-forward" the calendar, but you can cozy up to some fascinating baseball history with Presidents' College Lifelong Learning. University of Hartford President Emeritus Walter Harrison, with his encyclopedic knowledge of baseball, and legal scholar and Professor David Goldenberg will team up to discuss the "Reserve Clause," which locked a player into one team. Get the play-by-play on how Curt Flood, a Black St. Louis Cardinals All-Star, challenged the status quo right up to the Supreme Court, leading to the advent of free agency. Wednesdays, Feb. 21 & 28, 12:30-2 p.m. at the University of Hartford. Visit [hartford.edu/pc](http://hartford.edu/pc) for more info.

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**FEB 24: SERENITY HIKE** at Bush Hill, Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon. Bring an open mind and your curiosity to a special walk combining meditation and connecting to nature. Shinrin-yoku is a Japanese tradition that can be translated as Forest Bathing. The free walk includes meditation breaks and taking in the healing qualities of nature. All are welcome – singles, adults, families, children age 10 and up. Manchester Land Conservation Trust member Dan Boughton will lead the walk, starting at 330 Bush Hill Road, Manchester. Please wear sturdy shoes that can handle some wet conditions. Rain or snow date: Sunday, Feb. 25. Check the MLCT website and Facebook page for updates the night before the walk. For this experience, RSVP to [info@manchesterlandtrust.org](mailto:info@manchesterlandtrust.org) as the event is limited to 8 people. Please, no dogs. Guests will be asked to silence their cell phones.

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**MARCH 3:** The East Hartford St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee hosts Sunday Brunch at 11 a.m. at the One Wood Pub, 130 Long Hill St., to honor the town's St. Patrick's Day parade marshal and town honoree, who will lead the town's contingent in the March 18 parade in Downtown Hartford. This year's honorees are Matthew Corey, Town Marshal, and Cephus Nolen, Town Honoree. Ticket donations are \$25 which includes food. Cash bar. For tickets call Sana Hart at 860-558-6261 - or ask one of the honorees.

\*\*\*

**PERRONE'S PALS** is offering many day trips this year both self-drive and taking a bus. The first coming up is "Celtic Angels" at the Aqua Turf Club on Monday, March 11. Contact them by e-mail to [Craftyjoanperr@gmail.com](mailto:Craftyjoanperr@gmail.com) or call 860-568-6229 for more about these trips. FYI, the Celtic Angels fills up very quickly!

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

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Harris to be given Thursday, Feb. 8 at 6:30 p.m. at the South Windsor Public Library, sponsored by the South Windsor Historical Society. Harris is the author of a book "Historical Moments: Military Contributions of African Americans." The book is result of Harris's research that began with the story of the Buffalo Soldiers. Copies of the book will be available for purchase and to be signed by the author. There is no admission fee.

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**FEB 15: GLASTONBURY GRANGE 3rd Social Event,** invites the public to attend. Free Bingo Night, beginning at 7 p.m. at the Masonic Hall, 895 Main St., South Glastonbury. Refreshments and beverage available. Hope to see you there.

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**FEB 20:** Can We Save Connecticut (and Regional) Theater? Look back at our state's regional theater, its evolution to the present, and learn about where it may be headed. Join Frank Rizzo, theater critic for Variety and former arts/theater writer for the Hartford Courant for 33 years. He'll discuss some of the challenges faced by, not only Connecticut's Tony Award-winning stages, but others across the country as