

The Gazette

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Thursday, April 3, 2025

Crafted from the finest local ingredients since 1885

1406 Main Street, East Hartford, Connecticut 06108

860-289-6468

editor@ehgazette.com

website: ehgazette.com

WingSpot new roost

Saturday hundreds lined up to sample fried chicken, the dream of an extended family and the first new business attracted by the mayor's push to revitalize Main Street.

"This is what I imagined happening here when I pledged to bring new life to Main Street," said Mayor Connor Martin before cutting the ribbon at WingSpot at 1014 Main St. Saturday. There was cake, balloons and a ribbon cutting for the business which boasts fresh, never frozen chicken wings, sandwiches, baskets of chicken and delicately-seasoned French fries.

The new owners were delighted by the support as customers lined up and placed their orders. WingSpot is open until midnight every day. Call 860-977-9878 to order.

Five years after COVID, Riverside breathes easier

Five years to the month after the COVID-19 pandemic hit, Riverside Health and Rehabilitation Center (Riverside), an affiliate of National Health Care Associates (NHCA), cut a ribbon to mark the opening of a new Pulmonary Ventilator Unit.

In 2020 Riverside experienced dozens of fatalities, among both patients and staff as Covid swept through the community. Inadequate supplies, lack of response from the town's public health officials located directly across the street at Town Hall, and failure to grasp the full scope and seriousness of the emergency also played a part. At one point Riverside experienced more deaths from Covid than any other health care facility in Connecticut - 89 - then served to



house those recovering from Covid 19 who were transferred elsewhere to East Hartford on a designated floor.

Five years to the day after directives in March, 2020 isolated patients from relatives and everyone in the community - especially those with breathing problems - Riverside reopened a specialized breathing unit, a significant milestone to what the center says is its commitment to enhancing care.

Riverside's Pulmonary Ventilator Unit provides advanced respiratory support for those who need long-term ventilator therapy.

This state-of-the-art unit is equipped with modern ventilators, trained staff, and a multi-disciplinary team dedicated to ensuring the best possible out-



JOINING THE LEADERSHIP OF RIVERSIDE'S RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY MARCH 20 ARE, from left, Marvin Ostreicher, President, NHCA; Maggie Roane, Director of Admissions and Marketing, NHCA, Kevin Prisco, Director of Operations, NHCA; Mayor Connor Martin, East Hartford; Rosemary Beaudoin, Administrator of Riverside; Dr. Michael Perkins, Riverside Vent Unit Co-Director; Dr. Patrick Troy, Riverside Vent Unit Co-Director; Councilor Awet Tsegai, East Hartford; Natasha Dymnicki, Regional Director of Marketing and Business, NHCA)

comes for patients with chronic pulmonary conditions, including respiratory failure.

One of only three skilled

nursing ventilator units in Connecticut, Riverside can accommodate up to 20 individuals with pulmonary disorders in

private, dedicated ventilator rooms.

See **RIVERSIDE**, pg 10

Going round & round

by Bill Doak

Residents got a preview of eight locations where traffic roundabouts are being planned March 26 at Town Hall.

Some are closer to becoming a reality with two likely to see construction first: The intersection of Burnham Street and Sherwood Drive, and the intersection of Chester and Forbes streets.

Intended to reduce accidents and save lives, the one being built first is not located at one of the identified accident hot spots, but is designed to re-

SEE **ROUNDABOUTS**, page 10

AROUND TOWN

Goodwin to create state-of-the-art Nursing Sim Center

The "Four Spheres of Care" outlined by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing are: Patient Sphere, Nursing Sphere, Systems Sphere and the Community Sphere.

Goodwin University will address all four - but especially the role of the university in the community - as it builds a new Nursing Simulation Center on its campus to better train the next generation of healthcare professionals.

Construction of the university's Nursing Simulation Center launches April 28 with a ceremonial "wall-breaking" event at noon at One Riverside Drive.

The center will feature a hospital-like environment for teaching LPNs, RNs, BSNs, and MSN programs.

The construction launch will include remarks from Goodwin President Mark Scheinberg, Dr. Vivienne Friday, Dean of the School of Nursing and Health Professions, and Janice Watts, RN, founding director of Goodwin's Nursing program.

Faculty, staff, current students, and nursing alumni will also attend.

The "wall-breaking" will be through one of the existing classrooms at Goodwin, the first step of construction.

East Hartford-based Capital Studio Architects, LLC came up with the design concept for the center. Architect David Holmes' firm on Main Street here designed many of the distinctive buildings on the riverfront campus here in East Hartford.

Located on the fifth floor of One Riverside Drive, the new nursing teaching lab will include a simulated hospital room and virtual reality nursing training systems. The goal is to create an immersive environment to better reflect a real-life hospital.

Construction is expected to be completed by this fall.

GOODWIN'S NEW NURSING CENTER



Capital Studio Architects rendering of Goodwin University's new Nursing Simulation Center.

Groups, sponsors welcome to take part in Memorial Day

East Hartford's Veterans Commission announced that the Memorial Day parade and more events will take place Monday, May 26, at 10 a.m. on Riverside Drive.

The event will consist of three parts, including a parade, program at the Fallen Star Memorial and celebration of East Hartford. The parade kicks off promptly at 10 a.m., proceeding from 9 Riverside Drive to the Fallen Star Memorial located at Goodwin University. The parade will be followed by a program at the Fallen Star

Memorial and a family-friendly celebration of East Hartford with food trucks, music and activities. Those who would like to march or help volunteer in the Memorial Day Parade are asked to register by Monday, May 5.

To make the event possible, sponsorship opportunities are open for all local businesses and organizations. Those who wish to sponsor the event or offer in-kind services, please fill out the electronic form below by Monday, April 14, 2025.

If interested in being a vendor at the 2025 Memorial Day

Parade, please register by Monday, May 5. To receive the latest updates on the Town's news and events, visit www.easthartford.com.

CLASSIFIEDS

DID YOU DRIVE A SCHOOL BUS in Glastonbury in the 1980s? We're looking to interview former drivers for a short film about childhood and memory. Earn a \$20 Stop & Shop gift card for approximately one hour of your time. If interested, please contact Meredith at meredithmillerphoto@gmail.com.

LAW FIRM HELP WANTED

Growing EH office seeks f/t legal assistant for e-filing/legal processing. Starts at \$19-\$20/hour. Contact Adam Olshan at aolshan@rubinrothman.com

FREE TO A GOOD HOME:

Two parakeets w/ cage. 1 blue male, 6 yrs old, 1 yellow female, 3 years old. Call 860-289-2859.

SALES POSITION - PERFECT POSITION FOR SEMI-RETIRES at Maple & Main Liquors, East Hartford. Register, inventory, cleaning. 25-35 hours per week. Call 860-881-7479

LOST DOG? ITEM FOR SALE? - A \$12 ad in the *Gazette* makes more sense than spending for markers, staplers, etc to place ugly signs on telephone poles.

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DESDE LA ESQUINA

by Carmen Maldonado

¡Primavera es sinónimo de limpieza!

Llegó la primavera, y con ella, ese impulso de darle una buena limpieza a la casa o apartamento. Yo no crecí con estaciones bien marcadas, pero sí con limpiezas profundas de esas que comienzan el sábado a las 7:00 a. m. y terminan cuando tu mamá dice: "Vete a jugar." Creo que esto me da permiso para darte par de "ideas inspiracionales" para que te motives a desempolvar la casa y le des vida y frescura a tus días.

Sé que lo primero que dan ganas de hacer cuando hablamos de limpieza es deshacerse de todo, especialmente del clóset. Pero piénsalo dos veces: la moda es cíclica, y si ya no te sirve, al menos dónalo.

Lo mismo aplica a los muebles. No te deshagas de ellos solo para comprar nuevos. Busca formas de darles una nueva vida o encuéntrales un nuevo hogar, pero evita tirarlos a la basura. Recuerda que hay muchas personas que los necesitan, y en tiempos difíciles, ahorrar siempre es una buena idea.

Después de despejar el área, es hora de hacer una limpieza profunda. Pasa un mazo con agua y jabón por el piso, usa el vacuum en las alfombras, sacude bien los muebles, lava las cortinas y aspira los colchones para un resultado impecable (Recuerda los detalles que no me caben aquí).

Después de todo eso dale un toquecito final con velas aromáticas o incienso. Busca aromas que te relajen y que tengan temas de primavera como la lavanda.

La limpieza de primavera no solo es para el hogar, sino también para nosotros mismos. desecha todo lo que no te suma, ya sean objetos, pensamientos negativos o costumbres que no te ayudan.

Es un buen momento para renovar la mente y el espíritu, así que respira hondo, pon tu música favorita y disfruta de ese nuevo aire en tu casa y en tu vida que el mundo ya está bastante algarete y hace falta tener un lugar de paz.

¡Llegó la búsqueda anual de huevos de pascua a East Hartford!

Ven y disfruta en familia el 5 de abril desde la 1:00pm en McAuliffe Park (30 Remington Road). Habrá dulces, sorpresitas, y huevos de plástico con premios adentro. Mientras los niños esperan su turno, podrán disfrutar de manualidades gratis. Este evento es para niños de 10 años o menos, y los participantes serán divididos por edades.

El evento está diseñado para niños de hasta 10 años, quienes serán divididos en grupos según su edad:

Niños de 1 a 3 años: de 1:00 p. m. a 1:20 p. m. Niños de 4 a 5 años: de 1:30 p. m. a 1:50 p. m. Niños de 6 a 10 años: de 2:00 p. m. a 2:20 p. m.

Es importante recordar que cada niño debe estar acompañado por un adulto durante el evento.

Para obtener más información, puedes visitar la página de Facebook del Departamento de Parques y Recreación de East Hartford en www.facebook.com/ehparks o acceder a la web oficial en

<https://www.easthartfordct.gov/home/news/east-hartford-parks-and-recreation-egg-hunt>. También puedes comunicarte directamente llamando al 860-291-7160.

Próximo: Únete al 'Japan Society' de Connecticut y participa con la siembra de 40 árboles. El evento se llevará a cabo el 12 de abril desde las 9:00am hasta las 12:00pm en Rentschler Field. Para más información comunícate al (860) 290-9414 t.uchino7@icloud.com

cmaldonado8816@gmail.com

Donate your cans

The East Hartford Lions Club will hold a townwide can and Bottle Drive Saturday, April 26 from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. at D'addarios Auto Service, 117 Burnside Avenue. Only plastic bottles and aluminum cans redeemable in Connecticut will be collected. No glass bottles, please. This collection supports East Hartford Lions projects providing scholarships, eye screenings for children, food baskets delivered to families in need, the Lions QUEST drug prevention program and many other civic programs.

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Selection 2) Impatiens Basket	_____	X \$22	_____
Selection 3) Trailing Petunia	_____	X \$22	_____
Selection 4) Calibrachoa Basket	_____	X \$22	_____

TOTAL:

Mail this form with a check payable to:

East Hartford Lions Foundation, Inc.

P.O. Box 380765

East Hartford, CT 06138-0765



Questions? contact Lion David at 860-944-5498 or Lion Roberta - 860-212-3229

All Funds raised go back to the East Hartford Community.

NAME: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Notes: _____

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SPEAKING OUT!, LETTERS

America's Constitutional Crisis? He's probably busy tweeting

To the editor:

According to the president and CEO of the National Constitution Center, Jeffrey Rosen, a constitutional crisis occurs "if a President refuses to carry out an authoritative opinion of the Supreme Court."

Adam Liptak provides a more expansive view, defining a constitutional crisis as "generally the product of Presidential defiance of laws and judicial rulings. It is not binary: It is a slope, not a switch. It can be cumulative, and once one starts, it can get much worse." (*New York Times*, 2-12-2025).

Consider President Donald J. Trump's response to Federal Judge James Boasberg who temporarily blocked the removal by the Trump administration of Venezuelan migrants under the Alien and Sedition Act of 1798, which his administration is stonewalling. In Trump's eloquent phrasing, the judge is a "Radical Left Lunatic" who should be impeached (*Huffington Post*, 5-20, 2025). This evoked a response from Chief Justice John Roberts that "for more than two centuries, it has been established that impeachment is not an appropriate response to disagreement concerning a judicial decision."

The deeper problem is that Trump dismisses the significance of the constitutional checks and balances built into the operating relationship be-

tween the three branches of government. He contends, in effect, that the sole power to govern resides in the executive branch, based, typically, on some fabricated emergency, in which, according to his own, sloganeering, "Trump was [and is] right about everything." In the process, he is violating the foundational ethos of the constitution which is rooted in the civic values that the framers built into this nation's founding documents, which are based on an interacting distribution of power between the three branches of government and other critical sectors, including the fourth estate, that is, the press.

In our current situation, the critical question remains whether events surrounding the Trump administration, in their totality, represent a constitutional crisis based on the broader definition of what this means.

Drawing on Liptak's definition, it would incorporate any severe threat to the nation stimulated or directed by the usurpation of power by the President that remains largely unchecked by other sources of constitutional legitimacy. Trump's assertion that "he who saves his Country does not violate any Law," is precisely that which the founders rejected, which when acted upon with serious intent, represents a

threat of major proportions.

The problem is "we the people" elected Donald J. Trump as President in 2024 even though he is a convicted felon and sought to overturn the 2020 election through a combination of legal and, reasonably argued, illegal means that resulted in a federal and state indictment that by all rights should have gone to trial.

A thread of illegality, dubious constitutional practices, and demagogic conspiracy mongering has underpinned Trump's views since he entered national politics. In 2024, a declared law breaker, has become the nation's chief law enforcer. This did not necessarily need to lead to a constitutional crisis, but, Trump, acting out of his more pernicious impulses—seeking to govern through dominance and political intimidation—has evoked a variety of constitutional crises in his daily operation of the presidency, as many astute commentators have pointed out.

The tragedy is that if Trump truly sought the greatness he claims to already possess, he could draw on the profusion of resources that are abundantly available throughout this country. This would require honoring past and current achievements of others in taking on the hard work needed to make the United States a first-rate nation. This would include

diligently seeking to create greater abundance and justice for all, as well as the development of a first-rate workforce and educational system. It would also include constructively working with other nations and alliances in gaining the true stature of recognition as the preeminent global leader of the world.

The cost of attaining such greatness would require an abandonment of the President's polarized world view, in which anything that does not fit into his stultifying concept of what comprises the national interest needs to be eradicated from the public arena. Without such a shift in mindset in his perpetual hunting out of enemies, the con-

flicts that follow him in whatever he does can only continue to haunt him, as well as us. This is so because, in the final analysis, his vision for the nation, the world, and his own self-image is much too small, and frankly mean spirited to meet the myriads of challenges the role bestowed upon him requires.

The fact that this person is the President of the United States, is itself a constitutional crisis. It is one that "we the people" have brought upon ourselves and will require a "we the people" resolution if we are ever to get beyond the conundrum that is the result of our own doing.

George Demetrior
East Hartford

STAFF SERGEANT FRANK J TEDONE FUNERAL



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23, 2025

Everly Wheatley Funeral Home
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VIEWING 3pm – 5 pm – THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 2025

Funeral Services: Old Post Chapel, 204 Arlington Avenue
Fort Myer, VA 22211 - 10:45 am

You must arrive at the Chapel at 10 am. From the Chapel we proceed to Arlington Cemetery for the burial.

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

Did you know there were two companies that came to town in May, 1929?

Did you know there were two companies that came to town in May 1929 that set the aviation world a fire? The two combined identities becoming the kernel of the aircraft industry.

This year marks 100 years of Pratt & Whitney, but few people remember that the Vought Company also came with P & W in 1929 to create the large United Aircraft and Transportation Corporation which anchored East Hartford location on the globe.

The May 17, 1929 edition of the Weekly Gazette ran a banner head line, "Big Airplane Works To Employ 3,000 Men To Be Located Here."

The story tells about how 600 acres in Willow Brook had

been obtained through about \$700,000 being spent on 59 parcels of land where the factory and complex now stands. Overall, the two companies were going to invest \$2,000,000 on land and buildings. It did note that this funding did not include the cost of a proposed airplane proving ground and hangers.

P & W planned to move its staff and facilities across the river from Hartford, while its partner the Vought Company moved here from Long Island. The move was to help both companies expand out of their limited space. They would construct a 400,000 square foot facility which could house all their needs under one roof.

The article explained, "This

DID YOU KNOW?

*Looking back
at East Hartford
by Rob Kanehl*

big new industry will, it is claimed, eventually employ about 3,000 men. It will establish East Hartford as an aviation center. Pratt & Whitney employ about 1,290 hands and the Vought Company 800 and neither concern has room enough at present to meet the requirements."

Chance Vought was an air-

plane designer, and a sounding board for Fred Rentschler during the early years of P & W.

Vought's designs centered around the U. S. Navy's need for planes to be catapulted from battleships. Frank Kingbaum, my cousin, was one of these daring young pilots of early aviation shot off a ship, to fly reconnaissance. Kingbaum eventually worked of P & W.

What made Vought's planes important to East Hartford was that they all included the Wasp engine developed by P & W. They were the first military planes to use the air-cooled engine.

His first navy aircraft was the Vought-Corsair O2U. This biplane model would undergo many changes, but keep the

name Corsair. By the 1940s, the Corsair had its famous inverted gull wings, and home on navy carriers. The plane served throughout WW2 and Korea.

Some of us remember it as the star of TV's "Black Sheep Squadron."

The Vought Company moved away from East Hartford in the 1940s to work with Sikorsky.

The 1929 article appears cautiously optimistic of the new industry coming, hoping that the Willow Brook development would prove beneficial to East Hartford. History knows the truth, over the past 96 years, the industrial complex remodeled the tobacco and agricultural fields of East Hartford and flew into its bright future.

Ignite a spark: Volunteer

By Disabled American Veterans National Voluntary Services Director John Kleindienst

My personal journey into volunteering began in 2013 when I flew home to Texas to be by my grandpa's side before he died.

Grandpa was an Army veteran of the Korean and Vietnam wars and was forever changed by service. His kidneys and liver were shutting down because of the effects of toxic exposure. He knew his time was short, and wanted to spend his remaining time at home, not in a hospital.

We set him up with home hospice care. He died peacefully not long after. It was then, sitting by his side, that I realized how meaningful it is to be with people during their final moments. After he passed, I began volunteering in a hospice facility to sit with veterans who faced dying alone.

That sparked my passion to find more ways to help veterans in my personal life. I didn't have to look far. In my hometown, I found motorized scooter batteries in need of changing, dangerous tree limbs to cut, and overgrown lawns to trim before residents faced eviction. Although these were simple tasks, they meant the world to the veterans who couldn't do these things on their own.

Realizing that just an hour of my time really could make a difference in a veteran's life, and feeling good about giving back, I knew I wanted to give that gift to others. Luckily, I can do that

in my role as the national voluntary services director for DAV (Disabled American Veterans). DAV is a nonprofit that provides a lifetime of support to veterans of all generations and their families at no-cost.

DAV Community Impact Day is that opportunity to give back. On Saturday, April 5, we invite folks to give an hour of their time helping a veteran in the local community. Folks can pledge their time at communityimpactday.org.

April is National Volunteer Month, so for folks who are not able to participate on April 5, can still make the pledge and give back at a different time. On the website, interested volunteers can also find resources and ideas on how to volunteer for veterans in their community and how to get connected with local DAV Chapter events.

As I've learned, giving back doesn't have to be complicated or time-consuming. It could include mowing a lawn, driving a veteran to a medical appointment, going grocery shopping or writing letters thanking veterans for their service.

At DAV, we know the most valuable gift you can give someone is your time. Regardless of how a person decides to give back, research shows—and I learned firsthand—that the physical and mental benefits are as valuable for the volunteer as they are for the recipient. And who knows, perhaps this will be your spark to do even more, like my Grandpa was for me.

Support town's school backpack program

To the Editor:

Please join J J & C Contractors LLC in supporting New Covenant United Methodist/Sodexo-Backpackers Program. We are deeply committed to ensuring that every child has access to nutritious meals, recognizing that their needs extend beyond the school day.

We are in need of:

Oatmeal, cereal, granola bars
Mac & Cheese, Canned Chicken or Tuna, Peanut Butter & Jelly (NO GLASS), Ind. Fruit Cups or Applesauce, Ramen Noodles or Individual Heat Meals.

Amazon link: https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2QNF-CFPBELUVP?ref_=wl_share

Check donations can be sent to: **New Covenant United Methodist/Sodexo-Backpackers Program, 16 Church St, East Hartford, CT 06108-3722**
Attn: Rosemary

Reach out to Ashley with any questions:
Ashley.tierinni4454@hotmail.com

The D'Esopo East Hartford Memorial Chapel HELP OUR EAST HARTFORD COMMUNITY FOOD BANKS FOOD DRIVE

**SATURDAY, APRIL 12
9 A.M. TO 12 P.M.
30 CARTER STREET
EAST HARTFORD**

NEEDED: Cake mixes, frosting, candles (to celebrate birthdays), dried milk, condiments, olive oil and condiments, toiletries, cleaning supplies, baby supplies, paper goods, and as always, canned goods, peanut butter, jelly, cereal, pet food, Easter baskets or anything else that you can think of that a needy family would need or appreciate.



For monetary donations, please make checks out to: 'East Hartford Food Bank' Call us at 860-568-9420 if questions.

D'Esopo East Hartford Memorial Chapel
CARING FOR FAMILIES SINCE 1905



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Poet Laureate Nadia Sims reads at Goodwin Humanities Fest April 10

Manchester Poet Laureate Nadia Sims will be the keynote presenter at Goodwin University's day long Humanities Festival being held Thursday, April 10 on its main campus at One Riverside Drive.

The theme of the 2025 festival is "The Future of the Humanities: Truth, Justice, and a Better Tomorrow." Events get underway at 9 a.m. with Poet Sims beginning her reading at 12:30 p.m. in Goodwin's Community Room. She will deliver an original poem, "Good Times," commissioned by Goodwin University President Mark Sheinberg to celebrate the resilience and experience of Goodwin students. The reading will be followed by a discussion.



Poet Nadia Sims

A Princeton graduate, Sims message of grace and self-giveness ties into the festival's goal of how the humanities

teaches us ways to foster empathy and justice. The annual Humanities Festival includes many activities and events. These include a presentation about accessible design, a theater workshop, an exploration of music, a look into heroes, a workshop on intercultural competence and a reflection on the loss of indigenous cultures. Student presentations as well as those of alumni, and faculty creative works, will be on display. The free festival is open to all members of the community. Come and experience this uniquely East Hartford event.

Please register by going to https://padlet.com/humanities18/the_future_of_the_humanities.

Noted gardener speaking May 15

The CT Horticultural Society continues its 2024-2025 season of speaker meetings Thursday, May 15 at 7 p.m. with "Crevice Gardening: Even More Than It's Cracked Up To Be," featuring Panayoti Kelaidis.

The meeting will be held at CNTR, 725 Main St., Middletown. The discussion will also be broadcast via Zoom and followed with a Q&A.

Crevice gardens have become an exciting new way to grow all manner of plants, from challenging alpine, to woodlanders and even cacti and succulents. This talk will show the enormous scope and variety of the modern crevice garden as it's being practiced around the world—especially in New England where spectacular examples exist.

Kelaidis is a plant explorer, gardener and public garden administrator with Denver Botanic Gardens and designed the Rock Alpine Garden.

He has introduced hundreds of native ornamentals of the



Panayoti Kelaidis

Western United States into general horticulture.

Panayoti takes particular pride in sharing his knowledge of plants and has lectured in nearly 150 cities in nine countries. He was inducted into the Colorado Nursery and Greenhouse Growers Hall of Fame in 2000, and received the Arthur Hoyt Scott Medal from the Scott Arboretum at Swarthmore and received the National Garden Clubs Medal of Honor.

The talk is free for members and \$10 for non-members. FMI go to cthorthort.org.



KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

OPEN NOW!

Your child must turn 5 on or before September 1, 2025 to start kindergarten.

Children who turn 5 between September 2 and September 30, 2025 must apply for a waiver by March 30, 2025.

Children will be given an assessment to determine kindergarten readiness.

¡ABIERTA AHORA!

Su hijo(a) debe cumplir 5 años el 1 de septiembre de 2025 o antes para comenzar el Kindergarten.

Los niños que cumplan 5 años entre el 2 y el 30 de septiembre de 2025, deben solicitar una exoneración antes del 30 de marzo de 2025. Los niños recibirán una evaluación para determinar si están preparados para el Kindergarten.



SCAN THE QR CODE FOR MORE INFORMATION & TO BEGIN THE REGISTRATION PROCESS

ESCANEE EL CÓDIGO QR A CONTINUACIÓN PARA OBTENER MÁS INFORMACIÓN Y COMENZAR EL PROCESO DE REGISTRO

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- ☐ Patios

- ☐ Walks installed
- ☐ Koi ponds
- ☐ Grading
- ☐ Excavating
- ☐ Stumps removed
- ☐ Clearing
- ☐ Demolition work
- ☐ Mailbox posts
- ☐ Fencing of all types
- ☐ Firepits

'When landscaping, think Peter's'

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Society

AT THE LIBRARY

The East Hartford Public Library has announced an exciting lineup of programs scheduled for **spring vacation**.

LEGO Play Days - Saturday, April 12, 11 AM - 1 PM; Sunday, April 13, 2 - 4 PM. Use your imagination to build and create with LEGOS! Pick a design challenge card out of the bowl or make a creation of your own. Completed LEGO masterpieces will stay on display at the library for the month. For all ages. Duplo blocks will be available for young builders. Register for a reminder on our online calendar of events.

Pratt & Whitney Hangar Museum Tour - Tuesday, April 15, 10 AM - noon. Join us as our celebration of the Pratt & Whitney Engines' 100th Anniversary continues with this special guided tour of the Pratt & Whitney Hangar Museum, 423 Airport Avenue, East Hartford. We'll follow the course of P&W aviation achievements with retired engineers and NEAM volunteers Carl Cruff and Keith Lindstrom from Hartford's Capitol Avenue to the former East Hartford tobacco fields and beyond, examining P&W engines, aircraft and more. For all ages (children must be accompanied by an adult). Registration required. Directions to the P & W Hangar Museum campus will be e-mailed to registrants. Please note the day and time will depend on P&W business needs, and may be changed. Registered participants receive updates.

Wickham Program: Family Cooking - Tuesday, April 15, 2 - 3 PM. Join us for a family cooking program offered by Lindsey Kent, RD, retail dietician at the ShopRite of East Hartford & Manchester. She will teach us how to prepare a

delicious and healthy snack. Recommended for children ages 5 and up, accompanied by caregivers. Registration required.

Family Art Night - Wednesday, April 16, 6 - 7 PM. Come visit the library to create your own art. We'll try a different material or technique each month. Please wear clothes you don't mind getting a little messy, just in case. Best suited for pre-K though early elementary ages, siblings are welcome to join in! Families with young children will work together. Registration required.

Family Movie: Mufasa, the Lion King (PG, 1 hour 58 minutes) - Thursday, April 17, 2 - 4 PM - Mufasa, a cub lost and alone, meets a sympathetic lion named Taka, the heir to a royal bloodline. The chance meeting sets in motion an expansive journey of a group of misfits searching for their destiny. Popcorn provided! For all ages, register for a reminder.

Makerspace Program: DIY Jibbitz in TinkerCAD (3D Printing) - Thursday, April 17, 6 - 7 PM. Come to the Makerspace and learn how to design 3D prints. Make your own custom Jibbitz for your Crocs that we will print and have available for you to pick up. Ages 10 and up. Registration required.

Wickham Program: Pajama Storytime - Thursday, April 17, 6 - 6:45 PM. Join us at Wickham Library for a special evening storytime!

EHWC AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS, GIFT CARDS



THE EAST HARTFORD WOMAN'S CLUB, General Federation of Women's Clubs, presented 2025 club scholarships at their April 1 meeting held at St. Edmund Campion Hall. Each scholarship was for \$1,500. From left, Emmanuel Frimpong, holding his own scholarship award as well as that of his twin sister, Emmanuella Frimpong who was not able to attend, both Frimpongs are in the 2025 graduating class at Pathways Academy of Technology and Design; Sabrina Rothi - Class of 2025 East Catholic; Israela Anane - East Hartford High School senior, Savannah Hayes, Connecticut IB Academy senior; and EHWC Scholarship Chair Sandra Gingras.

Below, the East Hartford Woman's Club presented \$50 gift cards to students from Sunset Ridge School who wrote what were considered to be the best essays about a woman who was inspirational to them. Pictured from left, is Kylie Sheehan, 8th Grade; Myra Balderama, 7th Grade; Clayton Clark, 8th Grade; Timothy Cao, 6th Grade; and Lyla Adams, 6th Grade. At right is Linda Chamberlain, Co-President of EHWC and Essay Coordinator. Missing from picture is another 7th Grade winner, Jackson Booth.

PHOTOS BY EILEEN DRISCOLL



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St. Jude Novena

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world now and forever, amen. Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, helper of the hopeless, pray for us. Say this prayer 9 times a day. By the 8th day, your prayer will be answered. It has never been known to fail.

(Publication must be promised.)
Thank You St. Jude.

J.B.

EAST HARTFORD SPORTS

UConn Women favorite 2 seed

The hits keep on coming, and they're all solid gold.

Twenty five years after claiming their first national championship UConn continues to be the gold standard in women's college basketball. After clinching a record 24th final four appearance with a 78-64 elite eight win over regional top seed Southern Cal the second seed Huskies will head for Tampa where they'll pursue a record 12th national championship, attempting to add to their own record. Its UConn's 16th final four in 17 years.

UConn's win over Southern Cal Monday night in Spokane, Washington didn't

SCOTT GRAY on SPORTS

by Scott Gray



come easy, despite the Trojans being without national Player of the Year candidate JuJu Watkins who suffered a torn ACL in the regional semi-final. After UConn took an early 5-1 lead, USC went on a 10-0 run. UConn responded with a 9-0 charge of their own before jumping to a 14-point halftime lead behind a combined 28 points from Paige Bueckers and Sarah Strong - three more points than the entire USC team. The 14 points was the largest deficit the Trojans faced in two seasons.

It was a motivated USC team that came out of the locker room. Behind a scrambling defense, USC cut the deficit to five early in the fourth quarter. Bueckers took control the rest of the way with late game help from Azzi Fudd who overcame a three-quarter scoring drought with two big treys to extend UConn leads. Bueckers finished with 31 - three rebounds and six assists. She has 105 points in her last three games, an NCAA tournament record. Strong, the presumptive national Freshman of the Year, turned in an eye-popping effort with 20 points and 17 rebounds. Graduate student Kaitlyn Chen was a solidifying force for UConn with 15 points and two assists. She made two huge jumpers down the stretch to silence the throng of Trojan fans in the crowd. Coach Geno Auriemma knew what Chen was capable of when she passed through the portal from Princeton where she was a three time All Ivy first teamer and the 2023 Ivy League Player of the Year. Fudd finished with eight points, all in the fourth quarter, after missing her first nine shots.

The UConn defense was tenacious, allowing more than 10 points to just one player: Rayah Marshall who had 23. The Huskies held USC leader KiKi Iriafen to 10 while giving her few good looks. Iriafen was expected to pick up most of the slack with the loss of Watkins.

The Huskies face UCLA in the second game in Tampa Friday night. Texas and South Carolina meet in the opener with the championship game on Sunday. In a rare occurrence a #2 seed goes to the final four as the favorite over three #1s, and I have a question for the writer who had UConn seeded fourth among the #2 seeds.

Really, you thought there were seven better teams in the nation? Did you forget that they're the gold standard?

P.S. Congratulations to the UConn hockey team. They lost a classic overtime to Penn State Sunday to fall one win short of the "Frozen Four".

Goats opener Friday

When the Hartford Yard Goats open their season Friday they will be bringing a cast of up and coming baseball talent to the city.

The Goats, Double-A Eastern League affiliate of the Colorado Rockies, announced its roster Monday at the conclusion of spring training in Arizona.

The league maximum of 28 players will consist of 15 pitchers and 13 position players assigned to play in Dunkin' which will be in the middle of a construction site in Hartford as the old surface parking areas right across from the stadium are becoming luxury apartments and a new parking garage to serve them.

Handicapped parking will be problematic as the nearest lot is located down the hill and on the opposite corner of the box office location, and there is no entry on the north side of the stadium.

The Goats will have two first round picks on its roster: Outfielder Benny Montgomery (8th overall in 2021) and RHP Gabriel Hughes (10th overall in 2022).

Montgomery is ranked fifteenth in the organization's prospects while Hughes is listed as #16 by MLB.com.

Fifteen players will return to Hartford joined by 13 newcomers.

The Yard Goats finished 34-50 last season, fifth in their di-

97 YEARS OF LEGION BALL



AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL in the Department of Connecticut is preparing to open its centennial season in 2028. No state has sent more teams to the American Legion World Series without a title than Connecticut. American Legion World Series appearances (23): Berlin, 2009; Branford, 2005, 2007, 2010, 2013; Bristol, 1974, 1984, 1997, 2008; Cromwell, 2014, 2015; East Hartford, 1991, 1992; Meriden, 1981; Milford, 2012; Naugatuck, 1969; New London, 1985, 1986; North Haven, 1972; Trumbull, 1977; West Hartford, 1959, 1961, 1973.

vision. But it's not about making the playoffs, it's about player development. And on that score the Yard Goats have had success seeing players advance to the major league roster.

This season the team boasts 16 Rockies draft picks, 6 International Free Agents, 3 MiLB Free Agents, two players acquired in trades, and one player selected in the most recent Rule 5 Draft. The Yard Goats are coming off their first ever playoff season in 2024.

Headlining the prospect list is the Rockies #3 overall prospect, outfielder Cole Carrigg (2nd round pick in 2023).

Carrigg led the High-A Northwest League in home runs last year, was named a Baseball America High Class A All-Star, NWL All-Star, and selected as player of the week three times. #21 Prospect Kyle Karros, son of former 14-year MLB veteran Eric Karros (Dodgers, Cubs, Athletics), will play third base for the Yard Goats. Karros was named Most Valuable Player in the Northwest League in 2024, while leading the league in batting (.311), RBI (78), OBP (.390), SLG (.485), hits (147), 2B (33), XBH (50), and total bases (229). Right-handed pitcher Jack Mahoney (3rd round pick in 2023)

Indiana-UConn game scheduled for 2026 off

Indiana football and the University of Connecticut will no longer play in a previously scheduled nonconference game during the 2026 season, an Indiana Athletics spokesperson confirmed to the Indiana Daily Student on Wednesday.

No information regarding a replacement game was provided.

The Hoosiers and Huskies

were originally supposed to face off for the second time Sept. 26, 2020, at Pratt & Whitney Stadium at Rentschler Field here in East Hartford to complete an agreed-to home-and-home series.

But due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which caused UConn to cancel its season, the two schools rescheduled the game for Sept. 26, 2026.

Indiana won the first meeting 38-3 on Sept. 21, 2019.

Both teams are led by different head coaches than the ones who agreed to the series. Indiana fired Tom Allen and replaced him with Curt Cignetti following the 2023 season, while UConn's Randy Edsall retired during the 2021 season. Jim Mora now coaches the Huskies.

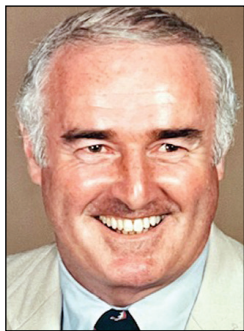
OBITUARIES

John 'Jack' Sullivan, 86; in Florida

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of John "Jack" R. Sullivan, who peacefully left us on March 20, 2025, at the age of 86.

Born on March 6, 1939, in Hartford, Jack was a standout athlete at East Hartford High School, excelling in both football and basketball. Voted "Friendliest" in 1958, he continued his basketball passion at Quincy University. Unfortunately, a knee injury ultimately prevented him from continuing in collegiate athletics.

After graduating from college, Jack spent over 40 years in the insurance industry and found great joy in coaching youth sports for his children. A devoted father, he instilled in his children the values of hard work, compassion, competitiveness, and a strong Christian



Jack Sullivan

faith. He cherished spending time with loved ones—whether playing, watching, or discussing the latest game, sharing meals, or enjoying card games. Jack and his wife of 32 years, Claudette, spent 14 wonderful years in their beloved home in Mount Dora, FL, where they embraced the community, enjoyed bike rides, and shared time with family and friends.

Jack is survived by his devoted wife, Claudette; sons Michael (Candi), Kevin (Jennifer), and Brian Sullivan; daughter Sharon Milo (Jonathan); grandchildren Caleb, Samuel, Nathaniel Milo, Lily, Connor, Elle, and Ava Sullivan; stepchildren Rich Foley (Susan) and Laura Hodgson (James); and step-grandchildren AJ, Stephanie, and Jessica. He is also survived

John R. Anderson, Jr., 63

John R. Anderson Jr., 63, passed away peacefully with his loving family by his side on March 29, 2025. He was the beloved husband of Marybeth (Tavernier) Anderson for 39 wonderful years. Born in Manchester, CT, he was the son of Ann Marie 'Nancy' (Walsh) Anderson and the late John R. 'Jack' Anderson.

John is also survived by his daughter Brianna Seaback and her husband Jarred, and his son Jack Anderson. He was the adoring Papa to Julian, Colin, and Chloe Seaback. He was the brother of Lisa LeBlanc and her husband John, and Kristen Richardson and her late husband Scott. John also leaves behind many in-laws, nieces, and nephews. He was blessed to know so many; each was loved and appreciated.

John was raised in East Hartford, attended Bryant College in Smithfield, RI where he met Marybeth. After graduating he decided to put down

roots in Rhode Island and has lived in the Warwick area for the past 40 years. John spent most of his career in the restaurant industry where he was a district manager for Ponderosa Steakhouses and later made a career change to real estate. Most recently he was a commercial property inspector for Strategic Asset Services.

John had a zest for life and many interests, hobbies, and activities. Whether he was on the boat, his motorcycle, or walking his dog Alice in the neighborhood, anyone he crossed paths with will remember his kind, compassionate, and outgoing personality.

Family and friends are invited to a Mass of Christian Burial at 11 a.m. Saturday April 5 at St. Gregory the Great Church, 360 Cowesett Road, Warwick.

Visitation is Friday from 4 - 7 p.m. at the Carpenter Jenks Funeral Home, 659 East Greenwich Avenue, West Warwick.

by his sister Alice Benjamin (Ron); brothers Brian Sullivan (Carol), Jim Sullivan; and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents and brothers Kevin and Francis.

Jack's love for his family and his infectious warmth will be deeply missed. Known for his generosity, sense of humor, and laughter, he was a man of deep faith who volunteered at St. Jude's Hospital, helping those in need. His legacy of love, faith, and dedication to family and community will live on in the hearts of all who were blessed to know him.

Funeral Services: A Catholic funeral mass will be held at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Mount Dora, FL at 9 a.m. April 9, 2025 to celebrate Jack's life.

In the words of an Irish blessing:

"May the road rise to meet you,

May the wind be always at your back,

May the sun shine warm upon your face,

And rains fall soft upon your fields.

And until we meet again,

May God hold you in the palm of His hand."

Leonard 'Lenny' Furbush; in SC

Leonard Joseph Furbush, 73, of Summerville, SC - formerly of East Hartford - passed away February 22, 2025.

Lenny was the son of Lewis and Thelma Furbush. He was a graduate of East Hartford High School, Class of 1970 and served in the US Navy.

He met the love of his life, Elynor Joy, in 1976 and finally married her 30 years later! The joy of his life was the family Ely brought into it.

Lenny is survived by Jimmy (Susi) Houghtaling, Cindy (Jeff) Rose, Patty Gilbert, Bill (Sandi) Houghtaling, John (Beth) Houghtaling, 18 grandchildren, 15 great grandcM6*fen, and 5 great great grandchildren; his siblings, Lewis (Pat) Furbush, Robert (Bernie) Furbush, Raymond (Caryn) Furbush, Lois Furbush, Carol (Pete) Meskill, Barbara Furbush, Marylou (Jeff) LaRose and many nieces and nephews.

Lenny was a rabid fan of the



Leonard Furbush

Boston Red Sox, New England Patriots and UConn Huskies.

He was employed by Generis Caterers and the Coca-Cola Co. He collected way too much Coke memorabilia.

He was a loyal member and officer of the Moose and Moose Heart Children's City and School was a favorite charity.

Lenny volunteered many hours at local food banks here in Connecticut and in South Carolina. He will long be remembered for his story telling, wise advice and friendly nature. Lenny had many years of sobriety but was most proud of his family and never failed to talk of his love for all of them. He was preceded in death by his parents, wife Elynor, daughters Karen Cohen and Lynita Wilson, brother Ted and sister Joyce. He will be laid to rest beside his wife in Norwich, NY. Arrangements will be made to celebrate his life at a later date.

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

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Carol A. Keena

Kristopher J. Keena

Kevin G. Keena

Riverside boasts new pulmonary care center

From Page One

The unit is co-directed by Drs. Patrick Troy and Michael Perkins, both specialists in pulmonary, critical care, and sleep medicine affiliated with Hartford Healthcare.

Together with Riverside's in-house clinical team, they develop individualized care plans for each resident.

The aim is not only to rebuild the residents' physical abilities and independence but also to assist those recovering from severe pulmonary illnesses.

"We are proud to introduce our new ventilator unit at Riverside, which allows us to meet a critical need in our community," said Riverside's Administrator Rosemary Beaudoin, LNHA.

"Our goal is to provide exceptional care and improve the quality of life for patients requiring specialized respiratory support."

At the ribbon-cutting were local officials, healthcare partners, members of the Chamber of Commerce and staff.

Attendees had the opportunity to tour the new facility, meet the care team, and learn about the cutting-edge technologies used to support patient recovery.

Riverside is a skilled nursing facility operated under the guidance of National Health Care Associates (NHCA). The center adopts a comprehensive approach designed to cater to everyone's unique needs and offers a variety of medical services, including short-term rehabilitation, long-term skilled nursing, respiratory and pulmonary rehabilitation services and other advanced capabilities and programs.

For more information about Riverside, NHCA, and its affiliate centers, visit www.NHCA.com.

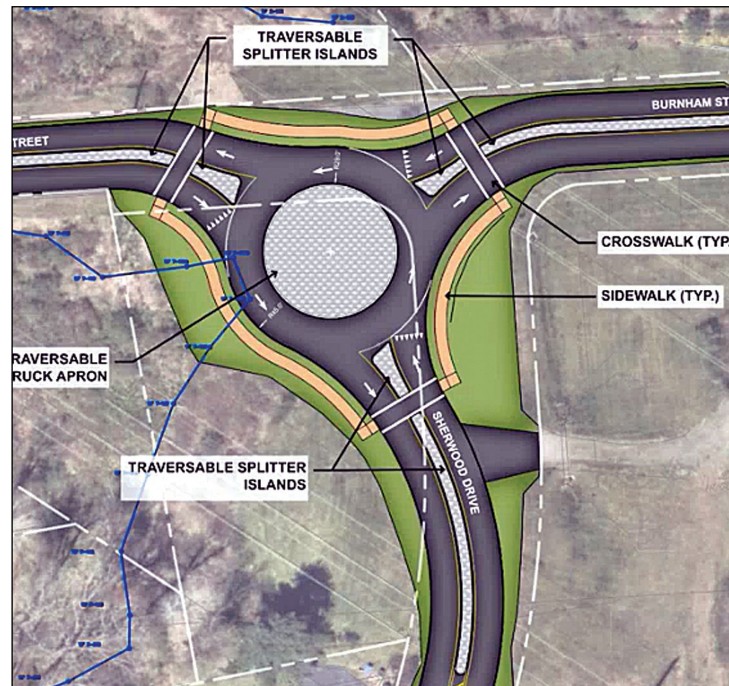
Roundabouts

From Page One

duce speeds and make things safer for pedestrians and bicyclists. Drivers using Burnham street to get to the Buckland Mall and businesses in South Windsor "has made it become a real cut-through," said town engineer Doug Wilson. "We need to do something. This is the solution that will help with that."

The previously planned roundabout at Chester and Forbes promoted some questions, and Wilson clarified the rationale for selecting that street. There have been 56 accidents there over a 7-year span. The road intersection also will be lowered to make the roundabout function properly, he said. The town is waiting for \$3 million in funding for the project to be released.

Another proposed roundabout may be at Larabee and Burnside Avenue across from the entrance to East Hartford Middle School. That location must be staffed with a police officer when school gets out due to the combination of speeding traffic, randomly parked cars,



THE PLANNED BURNHAM AND SHERWOOD DRIVE ROUNDABOUT.

and students crossing the road.

"People are picking up and dropping off at random spots. So it is a safety issue," Wilson noted. With a roundabout, "somebody couldn't speed through this school zone."

At Ellington Road and Goodwin Street where there was a fatal accident when someone drove out of the gas station to attempt to cross Main Street to Goodwin. They were killed when broadsided by a fast-moving vehicle.

"We don't want to see that happen again," he said. With a

roundabout at that intersection "we can shape that driver behavior, something with staticly built into the environment, something that is not electronically controlled can shape behavior."

There are related traffic issues as well that the traffic engineers want to address.

"We may expand our efforts we still have some non-compliance with stop sign at Great Hill Road and Chester. A Table top intersection you have to slow down would make a difference there."

TOWN OF EAST HARTFORD

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APRIL 10, 2025 | 12:00 PM

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WHERE THE ACTION IS!

BY CORINNE HORAN

APRIL 5: BREAKFAST WITH THE BUNNY, 9 a.m. until noon at East Hartford High School cafeteria! \$5 per child to enter, includes breakfast and crafts, photos with E. Bunny and participation in an Egg Hunt at 11 a.m.! Sponsored by the EHHS Student Council.

APRIL 5: HOP ON DOWN TO MCAULIFFE PARK for the annual Parks and Recreation Egg Hunt! Free! Includes craft tables with activities for kids age 10 and younger. The big egg hunt starts: For ages 3 and under (with an adult), 1 p.m.; ages 4-5 1:30 p.m. (no adults); ages 6-10 (no adults), 2 p.m. Bring your own bag or basket and meet the Big Bun! Residents only. FMI, 860-291-7160. Check Parks & Rec Facebook page in event of inclement weather.

APRIL 3, 10, 17: U.S. POP MUSIC MINI-COURSE

Have you ever thought about how race and place have shaped the pop music you love? Delve into how the divergent geography, exceptional mixture of people, and even performance locales have birthed dozens of pop music genres in the 20th century. Thursdays, April 3, 10, 17; 3-4:30 p.m. One of many courses & lectures for adults at the Presidents' College Lifelong Learning Program at the University of Hartford. Email pcollege@hartford.edu to get on the mailing list.

APRIL 5: CELEBRATE SPRING with a stack of pancakes at Hillstown Grange starting at 8:30 a.m., 617 Hills St. This "Spring Break Pancake Breakfast" includes sausage, coffee, tea and juice for \$6; children under 14 \$3. Regular and special "kid-cakes" with chocolate chips. Featured pancake for April will be an "April Fools Surprise" pancake served until 11 a.m. Free garden and flower seeds will be offered upstairs. The Grange just received 800 packets of seeds from UConn's Master Gardeners.

APRIL 8 - TUESDAY NIGHT TUNES concert starting at 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium of the East Hartford Community Cultural Center (EHCCC), 50 Chapman Place. **Hosmer Mountain Boys** brings rollicking Bluegrass music. Sponsored by Parks and Rec. FMI and weather alerts call 860-291-7160.

APRIL 9 - WICKHAM DAY QUILTERS of East Hartford from 1:30-3:30 pm at the Wickham Library meeting room at 656 Burnside Avenue in East Hartford. Like to sew? Interested in quilting? Not a fan of driving at night? Attend a meeting to see if you would like to join us. Any skill level welcome. We meet the second Wednesday of the month. Wickham Day Quilters is a chapter of the Greater Hartford Quilt Guild. Any questions? Email us at Wickhamdayquilters@gmail.com

NATIONAL DONATE LIFE MONTH will be marked on Thursday, April 10, at noon in front of Town Hall, 740 Main St. Hosted this year by New England Donor Services (NEDS), the East Hartford flag-raising is one of several statewide during National Do-

nate Life Month. Ceremony will feature speeches by Mayor Connor Martin and those who provided, and received, the gift of life: Organ donation.

TROOP 1'S CAN AND BOTTLE DRIVE is Saturday, April 12 in the parking lot of First Congregational Church, 837 Main St., from 8 until 11 a.m. Proceeds support Scouting America Troop 1, the oldest troop in the land.

APRIL 12: MONTE CARLO WHIST, FUN, GAMES AND SUPPER - The Ladies Guild of SS. Cyril and Methodius Church is hosting a Monte Carlo Whist on Saturday, April 12, 2025 in the Lower Church Hall at 63 Popielusko Court in Hartford. The Whist will start at 6:00 p.m. and be conducted in both English and Polish. An optional light supper will be available for purchase beginning at 5:00 p.m. Supper choices

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are: Potato Pancakes - Hot Dog with Chili - Chicken Cutlet Sandwich with Coleslaw. Admission for the Whist is \$5.00. Tickets will be sold at the door. Beginners welcome. Come for the supper, even if you don't play cards! Handicap accessible. Bring your friends. Proceeds will benefit the Guild's Scholarship Fund. Information: 860-659-0356.

APRIL 13: EASTER BUNNY BREAKFAST, 8:30 a.m. until noon at the Kinghts of Columbus Hall, 1831 Main St. Advance tickets \$15, kids under 10 \$5; tickets at the door day of the event, \$17. Includes delicious buffet breakfast, egg hunt at 11:30, Bounce House (weather permitting). There will also be raffle prizes. Proceeds go to support Special Olympics and the 1831 Building Association fund. See you there!

APRIL 13: DO SOME EGG COLORING Sunday from 11 a.m. until noon, South Congregational Church, 1301 Forbes St. Meet Beacon, East Hartford Police Dept's comfort dog and his partner, Officer Marc Caruso. Free eggs, dog hugs. Let Lisa know if you plan to attend so she can get enough supplies: 860-568-5150, or email cefe@southucc.org. Limit of three eggs per person - or bring your own!

APRIL 24: EAST HARTFORD SCHOOLS ALL-TOWN STRINGS CONCERT, 7 p.m., auditorium of EHHS.

SOCIAL DANCE TUESDAYS AT FIRST CHURCH: Gentlemen, It's Time to Become James Bond! Imagine walking into a room with confidence, charm and style - just like James Bond. What's his secret? Presence. Poise. And the ability to sweep a lady off her feet. Tuesday Nights, First Congregational Church, 837 Main, Lessons 7 and 8, dance 9 p.m.

APRIL 16, 27: SHAKESPEARE'S THE TEMPEST. Take your enjoyment of Shakespeare up a notch with The Hartt School's production of The Tempest. Delve behind the scenes as director Robert Davis and composer Kathryn Swanson discuss their collaboration on the original musical score and dramatic sound design on April 16. Attend the production April 27. Lecture: Wednesday, April 16, 2-3:30 p.m. Performance: Sunday, April 27, 2 p.m. at UHart. Register at Presidents' College Lifelong Learning at the University of Hartford. hartford.edu/pc. Email pcollege@hartford.edu to be added to the mailing list.

APRIL 26: The East Hartford Lions Club will hold a townwide **CAN AND BOTTLE DRIVE** Saturday, April 26 from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. at D'addarios Auto Service, 117 Burnside Avenue. Only plastic bottles and aluminum cans redeemable in Connecticut will be collected. No glass bottles, please. This collection supports East Hartford Lions projects. FMI, or to learn more about how to become a Lion, e-mail lionseasthartford@gmail.com, or call Lion Steve Crecco at 860-515-1551.

MAY 22: CONNECTIKIDS "BOTANICAL BALL"

Thursday, May 22 at 6:30 p.m. at the Pond House in Elizabeth Park, West Hartford. Dinner, dancing and fun. Tickets \$100 at givebutter.com/CTKBall or contact Kaleitha Brown at 860-522-8710 x12. FMI visit www.ct-kids.org

KNOW A WORLD WAR II VETERAN? State officials are seeking help from residents throughout the state in finding living World War II veterans, so that they can be recognized for their service on the 80th anniversary of the end of the war. Complete the form online. Lt. Gov. Susan Bysiewicz will host a ceremony to recognize all living World War II veterans who served from December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946. Ceremony takes place May 19 at 11 a.m. at the State Armory, 360 Broad St., Hartford.

JUNE 7: AN EVENING OF WORSHIP, STORIES & SONGS WITH DAVE PETTIGREW at Burnside United Methodist Church, 16 Church St., 7 p.m. Free. An offering will be taken. A graduate of Berklee College of Music in Boston, with majors in music business and arranging, Dave uses music as a vehicle to speak on behalf of the poorest of the poor, each of his shows gives his audience the ability to sponsor a child and save a life. Join the "There Is Hope" movement. FMI go to dave@davepettigrew.net