

Mural artist Micaela Levesque see story page 4

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QUOTE OF NOTE:

"My message is to basically tell a story – tell individual stories – while creating a place where beauty exists. The story here is about individuals that have come from Glastonbury in the past. It inspires future generations as well." - Micaela Levesque

See story page 4

ON THE COVER

Micaela Levesque takes a break from painting the mural on Glastonbury Town Hall.

Photo by Peter Marteka See story page 4

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A wall mural comes to life

A two-year process ends with a mural at Town Hall honoring Martin Luther King, Jr.

By Peter Marteka

Editor

n Micaela
Levesque's website,
she says her goal
whenever she paints
is to "aim to capture
the essence of my
subjects with bold strokes, smooth
blends, and intricate details. With
each mural, I hope to create a sense
of harmony and excitement through
my work, transforming an ordinary
space into a visual oasis for the world
to see."

Mission accomplished at Town Hall where Levesque completed a prominent mural next to the main entrance featuring individuals and images significant to Glastonbury's history, with an emphasis on those who furthered the cause of civil rights.

"My message is to basically tell a story – tell individual stories – while creating a place where beauty exists," she said. "The story here is about individuals that have come from Glastonbury in the past. It inspires future generations as well. It's a combination of inspiring leaders and interesting facts."

Individuals and images in the mural:

Sarah Wumpane, a Wangunk community leader, along with a canoe, representing the Native American history of the land that is now Glastonbury and its surrounding towns. Wumpane was a Wangunk Native American who, along with her father and sister, conveyed hundreds of acres known as the "Eastbury Deed" to Wethersfield in 1673.

Powder horn of Prince Simbo, an enslaved African American man who fought in the American Revolution and was subsequently emancipated. Simbo fought as part of the 7th Connecticut Regiment. Before marching into Valley Forge, Simbo carved a cow horn used to carry gun powder. The horn is in the Smithsonian Institute's National Museum of African American History.

Silver buckle and the signature of Mary Syphax, an enslaved woman who was eventually emancipated along with her husband Syphax after his service in the American Revolution.

Flag representing the 29th Regiment Connecticut Volunteers, an African American regiment in which Glastonbury residents enlisted to fight in the Civil War. Ten of the 13 black men from Glastonbury known to have fought in the Civil War were part of the regiment.

Abby and Julia Smith, from the notable local Smith Family (after which Smith Middle School is named), who fought for abolition and women's suffrage. A non-conforming and affluent family comprised of the parents and five daughters were active and influential in both the abolitionist and suffragette movements. "Glastonbury was put on the map as a result of the advocacy of two elderly sisters fighting for the right of all women to vote."

Zandra Flemister, a Glastonbury High School graduate who went on to become the first female African American to serve in the United States Secret Service in 1974. She protected two Presidential daughters – Susan Ford and Amy Carter.

Kirby Edmonds, another Glastonbury High School graduate who became a modern civil rights "My message is to basically tell a story – tell individual stories – while creating a place where beauty exists."

- Mural artist Micaela Levesque

activist. The Glastonbury High School graduate's life work revolved around helping those who were marginalized in the greater Ithaca area. "He considered himself to be a community organizer and used his skill in various jobs to advocate against racism and to champion human rights."

Old Cider Mill, hills, and orchards, representing the generations of farmers and farming tradition in Glastonbury that continue proudly to this day.

The Connecticut River, which was significant to the indigenous, colonial, farming, and industrial history of Glastonbury. The river continues to inspire as a landmark today, reflecting an excerpt from Kirby Edmonds' obituary: "Kirby was a mighty river that flowed through our community and far beyond, watering the positive seeds of possibility."

Quote from Martin Luther King, Jr.: "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice."

"I focused on two things, communicating a message about the MLK Civil Rights theme and keeping it aesthetically beautiful," she said. "There's so much to work with in Glastonbury already, being a farming community and having picturesque landscaping all around. So, I kind of blended my subject matter with what I think looks beautiful and attractive."

A collaborative effort between the town and RiseUP for Arts, organizers said the mural seeks to honor local history, foster dialogue on civil



Micaela Levesque and her early work on the mural. Photos by Peter Marteka



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Ruth Bader Ginsburg Women's Empowerment Center mural on the CRT building on Market Street in Hartford was painted by Levesque. Submitted

rights and equality, and promote diversity and inclusion through public art. Created through community input, donations, and volunteerism over the course of nearly two years, the mural "reflects Glastonbury's commitment to human rights, justice and equality."

The mural is the town's addition to the MLK39 Racial Equity Mural Tour, a project of RiseUP for Arts. The goal is to partner with 39 communities across Connecticut to create 39 murals for each year of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s life. The purpose of the effort is creating murals that "depict the mes-

sage and symbols of the world King spoke about and highlighting other local and national Civil Rights leaders."

Levesque, who is from East Hartford, has painted the portraits of Ruth Bader Ginsburg, First Lady Michelle Obama, Supreme Court Justice Sonia





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DEDICATION OF GLASTONBURY'S MLK39 Mural Project

Saturday, September 14 **Glastonbury Town Hall** 2155 Main Street 2:00 - 4:00 pm

A collaborative effort of local residents, the Town of Glastonbury, CT-based artist Micaela Levesque, CT-based nonprofit RiseUP for Arts, **Glastonbury MLK Community Initiative,** Sustainable CT, and SunLife.





In case of rain, the event will be moved inside.







Sotomayor, former Connecticut Gov. Ella Grasso and Vice President Kamala Harris on the wall of the Women's Empowerment Center in Hartford.

She also did a mural in Bristol honoring Martin Luther King, Jr., Poet Maya Angelou and Barbara Hudson, a nationally regarded expert on African American art and a Bristol native. She has done more than 20 other murals and paintings across Connecticut and in Mexico and Columbia. Visit www.micaelalevesque.com/murals to see more of her work.

"That's the one I'm most known for," she said of the Women's Empowerment Center's mural. "I've been painting full time since then. I think it's a challenge every time and something I could grow infinitely from."

Levesque said she has been drawing all her life and tried to study it in college. She dropped out and got a degree in psychology instead. She said psychology helps portray what a viewer can take out of it and whether or not it is giving enough emotion. Her next stop? Painting the history of coffee in Bridgeport.



Artist Micaela Levesque takes a break to talk to a friend. Photos by Peter Marteka





Earlier this year, the mural's crowdfunding campaign raised nearly \$10,000 from 88 donors, which supplanted by a generous \$7,500 match from Sustainable CT's Community Match Fund. Other major sponsors include the Glastonbury MLK Community Initiative, Sun Life U.S. (a global company with a presence in Hartford, CT, and across the U.S.), and a generous anonymous donor.

The content of the mural was developed through an inclusive process from the fall of 2023 through the spring of 2024, including a community survey, historical research provided by representatives of the Historical Society of Glastonbury, monthly meetings of the Glastonbury MLK39 Community Advocate Group that included two members of the Glastonbury Town Council, and conversations with the town council. The resulting design by Levesque was approved by the council at its meeting in April.

A mural dedication event is scheduled for Sept. 14 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on the green behind Glastonbury Town Hall at 2155 Main St. In case of rain, the event will be moved inside to the Academy Building (at 2143 Main St.). The dedication will be an all-ages celebratory event featuring performances from diverse cultures, creative activities, and an opportunity to meet Levesque and local project stakeholders. More details about the dedication event will be provided on the town's website www.glastonburyct.gov.

"I'm looking forward to the event and seeing everyone coming out for it and being together," Levesque said. **GL**







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Searching for ways to reopen Cotton Hollow Preserve Town Council seeking to tweak rules, place police officers at the preserve

By Peter Marteka

Editor

ates, police officers and new rules and signs are some of the solutions the town council is pondering as it looks to eventually reopen the popular Cotton Hollow Preserve in South Glastonbury later this fall.

The preserve has been closed since July 16 due to safety concerns by the council, area residents and town officials. The concerns included smoking marijuana, alcohol use, illegal fires, playing loud music and littering at the 80-acre preserve.

"Town staff is of the opinion that several things must be done to achieve significant safety improvements," Town Manager Jonathan K. Luiz said.

Luiz presented a five-pronged plan that included amending the town ordinance that regulates the preserve; make improvements to the infrastructure; add more funding to the park ranger program; increase police presence; and increase education through social media to "clarify what is permitted and prohibited within the preserve."

Some changes to the ordinance include making the rules clearer. For example:

- The diving or jumping from any rock, boulders, cliffs and/or outcroppings into any spring, stream or pond is strictly prohibited.
- · Playing of music is not allowed in a preserve.



Roaring Brook flows through Cotton Hollow Preserve. Photos by Peter Marteka



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The trash throughout the preserve, including the same ravine, has been removed after a clean-up by volunteers from an area company.

· Swimming, bathing or wading in any stream in Cotton Hollow Preserve is prohibited.



Underwear, nip bottles, soda and alcohol cans and other trash litter this ravine in Cotton Hollow earlier in July.

- · No food may be brought into a pre-
- · Picnicking, cookouts, alcohol, smok-

ing, camping or any type of outside fires are not permitted in a preserve. · No person shall climb any tree or walk, stand or sit on monuments, rocks, boulders, cliffs or outcroppings.

But some of those rules may be too restrictive since visitors have to sometimes climb over fallen trees and trails traverse over boulders and rock outcroppings and cliffs.

"Just be careful in the language we are using in what we are actually going to prohibit here to preserve people's safety and the beauty of the area," Town Councilman Jacob McChesney said.

Ruiz said tree work needs to be performed by a licensed contractor as broken treetops and downed trees "pose safety threats."

"I like the preserve as a preserve," Town Councilman John Cavanna said. "I don't know how I feel about driving vehicles down there to

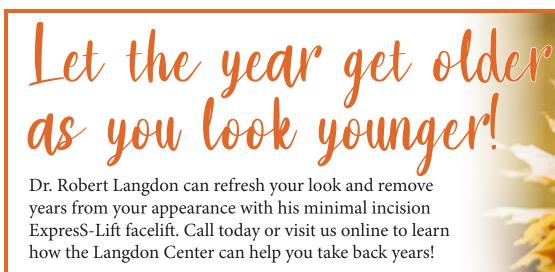
remove trees or logs."

"Those are safety issues we need to address," Ruiz said.

New signs would be placed at the **Grange Pool entrance and Cotton** Hollow Kitchen entrance as well as inside the preserve noting the new rules and regulations.

The Hopewell Road lot would be paved and visitors turned away if the parking lot is full. Gates would be installed at the lot, at the emergency access area to the west, the Grange Pool and Matson Hill Open Space lots. Town staff would open the gates in the morning and close them an hour before sunset. Video systems would record activities at both the Grange Pool lot and Cotton Hollow

Although the parks and recreation department occasionally have park rangers at the parking lot making sure the rules are obeyed, they



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FAMILY FUN EVERY SATURDAY! have no enforcement powers. Ruiz said additional funding would ensure a park ranger is stationed at Cotton Hollow eight hours a day during peak times in the summer.

"They are the education," Ruiz

said of the rangers. "They are also the ears and eyes of what is going on at the Hollow...We do need to have more enforcement."

Town Councilman Kurt P. Cavanaugh said he commended the



Signs, horses and a chain have blocked the entrance to the parking area for Cotton Hollow Preserve since it was closed July 16. Photos by Peter Marteka

park ranger program.

"I think it's been very successful," he said. "But apparently, they are being ignored. I don't know how we are going to enforce the ordinance or new ordinances without having an officer there. I think an officer should be there regardless...It should be part of a sign-up sheet. Frankly if no one signs up, I think [Police Chief Marshall Porter] should order someone to be down there. There's no way this is going to be enforced by a civil-

Luiz said more dedicated police enforcement is "vital."

"Visitors have grown accustomed to ignoring rules displayed on signs and rules communicated verbally by park rangers," he said.

"As I saw very clearly for a month going down there, folks don't listen to the park attendants," Cavanna added. "I watched them tell individuals stuff

and the individuals laughed at them and walked right by them."

The council's policy and ordinance review subcommittee met to review potential changes and will present their findings at the Sept. 10 council meeting. During the meeting, the council will vote to send the changes on to a public hearing at the Sept. 24 council meeting.

Improvements are expected to cost approximately \$100,000, Luiz estimated. The board of finance is expected to vote on a supplemental appropriation at its Sept. 18 meeting. If the new rules are passed at the council meeting, signs, gates and video cameras will be ordered. Once everything is installed, the preserve will be re-opened.

"This is conceptual and I'm sure it will change over time," Town Council Chairman Thomas P. Gullotta said. GL

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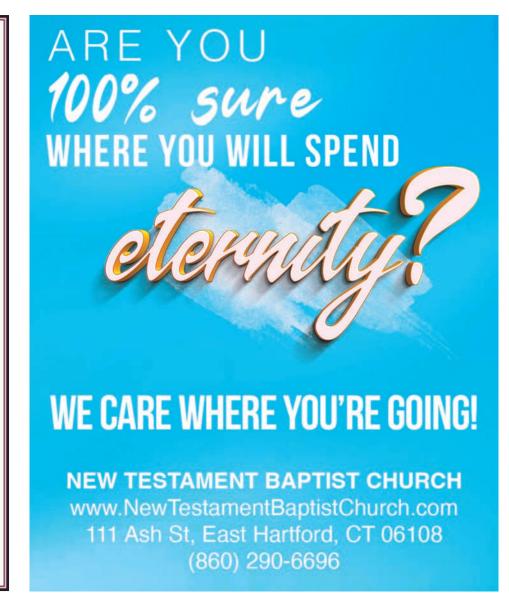


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Top: The docks at Riverfront Park are a good place to watch summer float past.

Middle row: The top of the **boathouse at Riverfront Park** is a great day to chat as the Connecticut River flows past.

After seeing only a few peaches last season due to a late season cold snap, this summer's fruit have been bountiful.

An old tractor sits in front of a tobacco shed at the Horton Farm.

Bottom row: Late summer offerings at Belltown Hill Orchards in South Glastonbury. Boys fish off the dock at **Riverfront Park.**









Top row: A woman picks blueberries at Belltown Hill Orchards.

A class on the sport of pickleball is taught at Riverfront Park.

Middle row: A group of seniors play Bocce during the annual Senior Picnic.

The Rocky Hill-Glastonbury ferry is operating in its 369th season.

Bottom row: A pair of woman play a round of croquet at the annual Senior Picnic.

Workers harvest tobacco leaves at the Horton Farm in South Glastonbury.









People notes

Priscilla Herrera, Nabila Algadumi, Olivia Bogdan, Emma Cegielski, Warren Channing, Shannon Cody, Sara Green, Jaren Haddock, Ryan Heffernan, Andreas Karamanos, Emily Korper, Connor Landon, Abigail Lee, Jordan Parsons, Anabelle Periche, Thomas Stone and Anna Szydlo were named to the dean's list at Eastern Connecticut State University for the spring 2024 semester.

Derek DiTomasso received a BFA in creative writing after graduating from Emerson College.

Nat Bushley graduated from Bates College with a major in biology and a minor in history.

Adam Copeland graduated from Vermont State University.

Makenzie Hurt, Charlotte Mysliwiec Andrew Parkany and Imran Qureshi were named to the dean's list at Hofstra University for the spring 2024 semester.

Delina Chavez, Roberto Correa, Kathleen Morgan, Jonathan Pantojas, and Victoria Serrambana were named to the dean's list at Worcester Polytechnic Institute for the spring 2024 semester.

Gabriella Canihuante, Sarah Lavoie, William Remkiewicz, Megan Sevigny and Juliana Tierinni were named to the president's list at Bryant University for the spring 2024 semester.

Grace Bryant, Gabriella Canihuante, Hannah Coppola, Kathryn DeSousa, Connor Emery, Sarah Lavoie, Ryan Murphy, Daniel Pellegatto, William Remkiewicz, Cameron Reynolds, Megan Sevigny and Juliana Tierinni were named to the 2024 spring dean's list at Bryant University.

Grace Carducci was named to University of Alabama's spring 2024 president's list.

Madelyn Bergin and Anna Gifford were named to the dean's list at the College of Charleston for the spring 2024 semester.

Glastonbury police cadets attended the Cadet Police Academy hosted at Westfield State University. Six Glastonbury cadets attended this year's academy. Four cadets enrolled in the basic program were awarded third place in top academics by post. The department said it is very proud of the cadets for their resilience and effort at the academy.

Derek Thomas was named to the dean's list at Plymouth State University for the spring 2024 semester.

Sean Sawyers-Abbott and Ian Sullivan were named to the dean's list at Champlain College for the spring 2024 semester.

Christopher Moriarty graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in accounting from Elms College.

Evelyn Lopez has been promoted as the outreach social work supervisor to lead the town's social work staff. She takes over for Kathy Carfi, who retired. Lopez has been in town since 2017 and has implemented effective social service programs. She is fluent in Spanish and holds a master's degree in social work from the University of Saint Joseph and is state licensed master's level social worker.

Victoria Johnson, Caroline Mahon, Megan Whittles, Olivia Dumeer, Joshua Bell, Claire Scalise and Marissa Piteo graduated from the University of Rhode Island.

Brad Schlauder graduated from Rochester Institute of Technology with a BS and MS in cybersecurity.

Shane Ward was one of 255 Alvernia winter and spring student-athletes named to the MAC academic honor roll as a member of the men's ice hockey team.

Daniel Beagle and Jacob Taylor were named to the dean's list at Muhlenberg College for the spring semester.

Matthew DiBacco graduated from The University of Tampa with a Bachelor of Science in finance. Emily Lynch Abrahamson graduated from Western New England University with a BA in elementary education/ psychology and Brandon Jeffery Myers graduated Cum Laude with a BSBA in finance.

Allison Berger graduated from Alvernia University with a bachelor of social work degree.

The following students graduated from Eastern Connecticut State University: Sara Green with a Bachelor of Arts in english; Jaren Haddock with a Bachelor of Science in health sciences: Priscilla Herrera with a Bachelor of Science in elementary education and Spanish; **Andreas Karamanos** with a Bachelor of Science in sport and leisure management; Anabelle Periche with a Bachelor of Science in accounting; Thomas Stone with a Bachelor of Science in finance and Erin Walsh with a Bachelor of Science in business administration.

Trisha Musall graduated Summa Cum Laude with a degree in physics (BS) from Tufts University. GL

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ABC celebrates 50 years

Giving minority students A Better Chance

By Peter Marteka

Editor

ver its 50-year history, graduates of Glastonbury A Better Chance in Glastonbury have gone on to become doctors, corporate leaders, entrepreneurs, lawyers and actors. On Sept. 21, the program will celebrate a half-century of giving minority students A Better Chance.

"From the very beginning, it became clear that Glastonbury A Better Chance was not just about helping kids get a good education - it was about building a community," said Dick Watson, founder of GABC. "The people of Glastonbury and the ABC scholars pulled together against steep odds - racism, skepticism, a small budget, a decrepit building, a vicious dog - and found that their community had been incredibly enriched by the students who had come to share their hometown.

"People opened their homes, donated money, time, and material, and found themselves all the richer for it," he added. "I hope that prospective students see that choosing GABC isn't just choosing a school, it is choosing a community, a hometown."







Photos of three current students (left to right) Tayvon Zazwell, Brian Ramos and Nana Yeboah. Submitted by Glastonbury ABC

The program's mission is "to offer young men of demonstrated ability, good character and need, the opportunity to obtain an excellent education at a top-rated high school while residing in a home in Glastonbury at virtually no cost." Over its existence, the program has been home to nearly 100 students who "have continued to make an impact both inside and outside of the classroom."

The first floor of the home on

New London Turnpike has a living room, study area, kitchen and laundry room along with two resident director apartments. The second floor includes four bedrooms for scholars and three bathrooms.

Three to eight minority students call the Glastonbury ABC House home each year. The school system provides a free, four-year high school education to all GABC scholars. The program notes that almost without

exception, all have graduated from Glastonbury High School and have gone on to further their education.

Rhonda Rawlins, board president of GABC said on a Facebook post that the program has "provided educational opportunities for scholars from underserved communities."

"The quality of your education should not depend on your zip code," she said. "This program supports our scholars and they in turn enrich all of

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BACK to SCHOOL



Glastonbury ABC - Students gather in front of the Glastonbury ABC sign. Submitted by Glastonbury ABC

us who have had the privilege to know them. We have seen the growth in confidence and optimism as they apply to colleges, knowing they are well prepared for future opportuni-

"We are humbled by the trust placed in us by their parents to care for their sons and prepare and guide them for a future of possibilities, of which they are so deserving," she added. "Their experience does not end when these scholars graduate from Glastonbury High School. They go forward as positive examples of hard work and determination. They each are an example of what is possible when given a fair chance at a quality educa-

GABC noted that since 1963, A Better Chance program has been the preeminent resource for identifying, recruiting and developing leaders among under represented young people of color throughout the United States. The oldest and only national organization of







BACK to SCHOOL

GLASTONBURY A BETTER CHANCE 1974

Top row (L-R): Alan Wells (Pittsburgh, PA), Richard "Richie" Spann (Pittsburgh, PA), Dwayne Sheppard (Blaine, Minnesota), Raymond "Ray" Blackwell (Broadnax, VA), Darryl "Snakeman" Youngblood (Roxbury, MA)

Bottom row (L-R): Richard "Richie" Lang (Queens, NY), Jeffrey "Joey" Rodriguez (Bronx, NY), Marvin Marks (Cleveland, OH), Roy "Pretty Boy" Feliciano (Manhattan, NY)

Not pictured: Orlando "Andy" Montalvo (Bronx, NY)

The original members of Glastonbury A Better Chance. Ssubmitted by Glastonbury ABC

its kind, the ABC program selects, prepares, places, and supports high-performing middle and high school students of color in some of the most rigorous and prestigious independent day schools, boarding schools, and public schools in the country.

"Its overriding purpose is to increase substantially the number of well-educated young people of color who are capable of assuming positions of responsibility and leadership in American society," ABC noted. In its 60-year history, 18,000 alumni and their families have benefitted from the A Better Chance

experience.

As an organization committed to advancing diversity, equity and inclusion, A Better Chance has been working to be among the solutions to the persistent racial injustices in our country for nearly six decades. In that time, ABC noted they have worked with young people coast-to-coast in partnership with more than 200 of the nation's best schools.

"Our scholars achieve a nearly 100 percent college enrollment rate with 85 percent going on to complete their degrees within four years," ABC noted. "And we have an











BACK to SCHOOL

alumni community that is now more than 18,000 strong, with many enjoying successful careers and lives of leadership. We are pursuing new opportunities to advance our mission and to augment our relationships with our partners to accelerate progress."

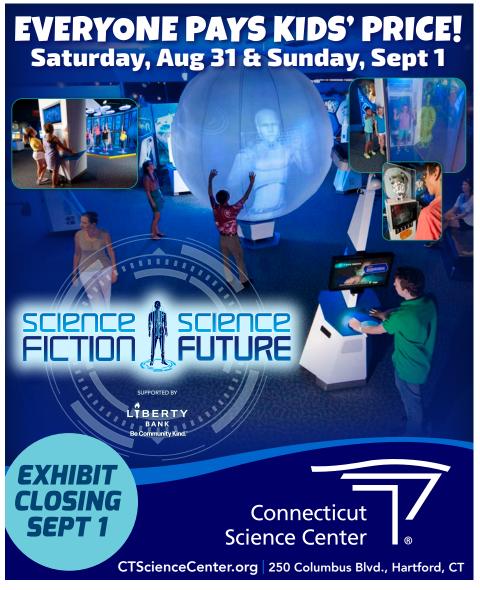
Programmatic offerings are adjusted to ensure that ABC is providing vital support to scholars and young alumni at critical junctures in their journey, including creating a more robust platform for college and career exploration. The non-profit organization based in New York, provides promising, academically-oriented minority students with an education alternative.

ABC National identifies, recruits, and refers qualified, highly motivated students to outstanding secondary schools, both public and private, in order to provide them with the opportunity to obtain a high-quality integrated high school education, to attend college, and eventually go on to assume positions of leadership and responsibility. The program's overriding goal is to increase the number of minority professionals and community

The fundraising gala and anniversary celebration will be held Sept. 21 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Irish American Home, 132 Commerce St. The celebration will feature food by Chef Jordan Patrick, an open bar, dessert from Ginger & Pickles Baking Co., a silent auction as well as a few live auction items. Master of Ceremonies will be channel 8's Joe Furey. Visit www.givebutter.com/GABC50 or contact info@glastonburyabc.org if you want to be a sponsor or donate an auction item or have any questions. GL

"From the very beginning, it became clear that Glastonbury A Better Chance was not just about helping kids get a good education - it was about building a community."

- Dick Watson, founder of GABC



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Poetry, art are show highlights

Glastonbury Arts "On The Green" to be held Sept. 7, 8 with fine art and crafts

By Peter Marteka

Editor

he 62nd annual Glastonbury
Arts' "On the Green" Fine Art &
Craft Show will be held Sept. 7
and 8 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The
show, which draws thousands of
visitors and more than 100
exhibitors, includes original fine art and handmade craft. The show is held on Hubbard Green
at the corner of Main Street and Hubbard
Street.

The green is "transformed into a bustling marketplace" where visitors can browse and buy original fine art and handmade craft along with enjoying live music, poetry readings, and the food court. Food trucks include: Gramma

Lil's All-American Cuisine; Los Mariachis Mexican Flavors; and Lemonates Delicious Fruit Drinks and Teas.

Glastonbury's newest Poet Laureate, Victoria Nordlund, will present Poetry Inspired by Art on Sept. 8 at 3 p.m. at the Monument Plaza on the Hubbard Green. Nordlund will be joined Connecticut Poet Laureate Antoinette Brim-Bell and nine other distinguished poets. Each poet will present their original poetry inspired by the artwork of Glastonbury Arts member artists.

Artists

Joseph Courchaine has been painting for more than 20 years. "Whether I am painting in my studio or en plein air, my goal is always to pres-



Artwork by Carolyn Currie.

Theater Veck October 1st October 14th



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THEATER WITH RESERVE







Theater Week is designed to engage and unite the community through the enchanting world of live theater. From October 1st to October 14th, immerse yourself in performances by five award-winning theatre companies. Learn more at letsgoarts.org.

FALL Arts

ent a narrative that will create an emotive response from the viewer." Through composition, palette choice and painting style, he creates paintings that engage the viewer.

Lynn A. Damon, a nationally renowned professional photographer, is a three-time president of the Connecticut Professional Photographers Association, specializing in portraits of children, families and animals on location.

Linda Gotta has been painting in pastels for more than 20 years. She seeks to capture the energy and inti-

macy of the beauty all around us: flowers, beaches, woodlands, animals, birds. Attracted by light and shadow, her work is characterized by her use of vibrant color and values with soft

Bennewitz Quartet

Arsentiy Kharitonov



Arsentiv Kharitonov Sun, Nov 17, 3 pm (\$37-40)

Bennewitz Quartet & Arsentiy Kharitonov Fri, Nov 22, 8 pm (\$37-40)

Holiday Pops Keith Lockhart, conductor Sat, Dec 7, 8 pm (\$76-96)

Samara Joy "A Joyful Holiday" with the McLenden Family Sat, Dec 14, 8 pm (\$35-60)



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FALL Arts

impressionistic edges.

Linda S. Miller has displayed work in numerous juried shows both local and national over her nearly three-decade career. She is a former president of Quiet Corner Artists in Connecticut. She has been a member of several art organizations in New England, Texas, and New Mexico and her artwork is included in collections across the country.

Elizabeth Sennett is equally adept in executing an oil painting or a watercolor. For 40 years she has been painting her world; her flower gardens, the New England landscape, still lifes, and the people she knows. She is one of the founders of the East Hampton Art Association.

Katherine Simmons is known for her sensuous landscapes, but also enjoys painting still lifes. "Still life paintings are like quiet conversations, each object reflecting light off another, subtly altering the other."

Diane Stone is best known for her luminous pastels which she uses to create luscious and velvety textures. She is a member of the Connecticut Pastel Society and exhibits widely across the region.

Poets

Antoinette Brim-Bell, Connecticut's State Poet Laureate, is the author of three poetry collections: "These Women You Gave Me", "Icarus in Love", and "Psalm of the Sunflower."

Victoria Nordlund, Glastonbury Poet Laureate, authored "Wine-Dark Sea" and "Binge Watching Winter on Mute." She is an adjunct professor at UConn, and lead master teaching artist, The Nook Farm Writers Collaborative at The Mark Twain House & Museum.

Daniel Donaghy authored "Somerset," co-winner of the 2019 Paterson Poetry Prize and Tulsa Triptych, winning the Auburn Witness Poetry Prize. He is Professor of English at Eastern Connecticut State University and is the Poet Laureate of Windham.

Sean Frederick Forbes is Associate Professorin-Residence of English and is director of the creative writing program at UConn and instructs the Yale University Young Writers' Workshop. He is a founding member and poetry editor of The Sancho Panza Literary Society.



The town's newest poet laureate Victoria Nordlund.

Pegi Deitz Shea is the author of more than 500 works of poetry and prose. Pegi has taught creative writing at UConn, the Mark Twain House, and the



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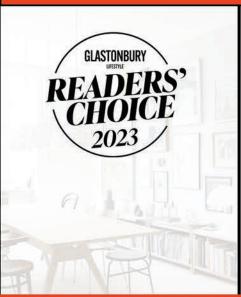


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Institute of Children's Literature. She was the Poet Laureate of Vernon and is currently president of the Connecticut Council of Poets Laureate.

Karen Warinsky was a finalist in the Montreal International Poetry Contest and her work appears in several anthologies including Nuclear Impact: Broken Atoms in Our Hands, the 2023 Mizmor Anthology, and the 2024 National and International Goddess Anthology.

Iris Hida is an apprentice at the Nook Farm Writers Collaborative and a mentee in the Adroit Journal Summer Mentorship program. Iris was a semi-finalist in the Smith College Poetry Prize and Finalist for the Sunken Garden Fresh Voices Poetry Competition.

Athena Lavigne is an apprentice at the Nook Farm Writers

Collaborative and was honored to be a state Youth Poet Laureate finalist and an American Voices Nominee in



Carolyn MacKenzie is a designer and leather artisan handcrafting original work from responsibly-sourced Italian leathers and made in her Avon studio.

the Scholastic Art and Writing com-

Nadia Sims is the newly appoint-



A painting by Katherine Simmons.

ed Poet Laureate for Manchester. A Princeton graduate, she is the proud author of "A Soft Place to Land" and "We Know the Dark." Her spoken word album, The Weight of Grace, is available on many online platforms.

John L. Stanizzi is a prolific author whose poems appeared in Rattle, The Prairie Schooner, Cortland Review and others. He has been honored as Weslevan University Etherington Scholar, New England Poet of the Year, and Poet-in-Residence at Manchester Community College.

T'challa Williams is executive co-founder of Hartford's L.I.T. that hosts the Hartford Book Festival. Recognized with numerous awards, her work is featured in the anthology "Heavy is the Crown." Her collection, "Captured Thoughts," is dedicated to her great-grandmother.

Free parking is available at Glastonbury High School on Hubbard Street with shuttle bus service to and from show. Free parking is also located at the soccer field off Main Street within easy walking distance. GL



A Medley of Verse Poems by Glastonbury Poet Laureate Emeritus Dr. Michael F. Lepore

eptember has something for everyone: the last days of summer and the first days of fall. It is a time to gather up the rest of the harvest and prepare for the winter months ahead. This is done in grand style among the many exciting activities during this magical season in New England called Autumn.

Not everyone has the opportunity to experience this special season. Our world is knee-deep in the psychological strain of war. Veterans and first responders are subjected to an unprecedented degree of trauma, many of whom will suffer symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder the rest of their lives. The public perception of PTSD is still rooted in the past, and some of the problems discovered during World War I regarding trauma have not yet been answered.

If we are to learn lessons from war and understand the sacrifices of those who served, we must acknowledge the impact of psychological trauma, both then and now.

Field of Lost Dreams

Morning arrives with a somber sun. melts away phosphorus clouds of shot and shell revealing a field of dead and dying warriors, friend and foe, too numerous

to count, in distorted positions moaning, crying for deliverance.

Ground littered with once enthusiastic young soldiers who joined to be part of the most glorious conflict since the Napoleonic Wars. Within a short time, the excitement and glory gave way to the horrors of war.

Victims of poorly advised frontal attacks and charges where new machine guns

laid waste to advancing troops turning fields of honor into corpse-choked death zones - shell-holes filled with fragments of uniforms, weapons, and dead bodies.

Just mere boys, straight of limb, eyes true and bright. Staunch to the end, they fell with their faces to the enemy. They sit no more at familiar tables of home nor mingle with laughing comrades. They died for liberties they never enjoyed.

No words of gratitude, no prayers nor bells for their final farewell. No music from a choir, save the demented shrill of wailing shells. In the eyes of these boys shine the silent glimmer of goodbye.



Gassed

In a war-torn Belgium field at the northern end of the Western front. a colonial French division struggles through annoying muck, some without boots or jackets, fighting fatigue.

The trenches in their front offer a well-deserved respite from their combat labors. Once ensconced

Doughboy

Recent high school graduate, with visions of glory and belief he could make a difference, joined General John Pershing's American Expeditionary Force to aid war weary armies fighting on the Western front.

An average student who pursued some form of sports activity. Never cared much for work, would rather wax his own used Tin Lizzy than wash his father's new roadster.

in the mud-filled protective ditches they give in to exhaustion.

An eerie stillness is broken by the soft hissing from cylinders embedded in ground behind the line. GAS! Weary eyes guickly come to attention. Not much time before the coughing and gagging.

FALL Arts

Panic stricken, they fumble to untangle their clumsy masks as the thick green cloud

Has a steady girlfriend who either broke up with him when he left, or swears to be waiting when he returns from half a world away. He listens to big band sounds, jazz or swing, as well as a 155 mm howitzer. He obeys orders without hesitation, but not without spirit or dignity. He owns two sets of fatigues: washes one and wears the other. Sometimes forgets to brush his teeth, but never to clean his rifle.

invades their space. Some not quick enough! Their youthful faces turn gray, eyeballs protrude as they struggle to gasp for breath sans choking.

Some, hearing angry blood gurgling from their throat, begin to run to outrace death's final blow, drop to the earth, lying with limbs convulsing, lifeless bodies distorted. This was not what was expected when they donned their country's uniform.

He has seen more suffering and death than he should have in his short lifetime. Has wept unashamed in public and private for buddies who have fallen in combat. He feels every note of the National Anthem vibrate through his body as he stands at rigid

attention, while tempering the burning desire to square away those around him who haven't bother to stand, or remove their hats, or even stop talking. In an odd twist, day in and day out, he defends their right to be disrespectful, paying the price that has kept this country free for some hundred and fifty years.

GOODSPEED MUSICALS







Art: Lawrence Preston (oil), Suzanne Aberg (ceramic), Carolyn Mackenzie (leather), Lauren Mullaney (jewelry), Lori Warner (acrylic), Tom Dugdale (wood),

62nd Annual "On the Green"

Business notes

The Margaret Wilcox Team of William Raveis Real Estate

recently presented the 12th annual Glastonbury High School scholarships to two seniors. Ahmed



Al-Kawaz will attend Carnegie Mellon University where he will study technology. Devin Cross will major in computer engineering at Boston University. The Margaret

Wilcox Team is located at 218 New London Turnpike in Glastonbury and was recently named the number one team for Connecticut by Real Trends.

Left to right Taheera Pinto, Devin Cross and Margaret Wilcox



Left to right:
Jonathan
Archer,
Margaret
Wilcox,
Ahmed AlKawaz and
Taheera Pinto.

The Connecticut River Valley Chamber recently welcomed

Glastonbury Dental Services to the Chamber. According to the chamber, Glastonbury Dental Care is a welcoming dental practice dedicated to providing exceptional and compassionate care. Their experienced team offers comprehensive dental services, including cleanings, exams, dental implants, root canals, extractions, TMJ treatments, veneers, dentures,

crowns, Invisalign, and cosmetic dentistry. They focus on patient comfort, aiming to alleviate dental anxiety and ensure a positive experience.

Conveniently located at 1420 Main St., they accept new patients and prioritize personalized, high-quality dental care to help you achieve and maintain a healthy, beautiful smile. **GL**



The Middle East Conflict

Militant Islam, Islamic Terrorism,
Iran, Iraq, HAMAS —All in pursuit of
their goals of "Death to America!",
the destruction of Israel, an Islamic
empire, etc.



SUCH IS HAPPENING: We have given a **green light** to Iran for its continued aggression and nuclear armament with no strings attached. False hope is given to overcome the threats and peril. Our foundational documents (Declaration of Independence and Constitution) are facing an organized destruction of our unique American way. We have been removed from the playing field to the bench or even to the stands to watch how our country is being taken down and removed from being a good influence among the nations. **Before World War II**, Great Britain and France yielded to Hitler and Mussolini to do what they wished to do, being terrified of confrontation and caught up in economic concerns. So now the western world sits making concessions and **hoping** that Russia, Iran, Iraq, HAMAS, the migration to Europe, etc. will not trouble them. "If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?" (Psalm 11:3). "Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain" (Psalm 127:1).

SUCH IS A CONCERN: Oil, money, arms, aggression, peace, possession, feuding, taking, talking, planning, pressuring, waiting, watching. Who will do WHAT, WHEN, WHY? This is not new and this is not through.

"Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, the prophets say unto them, ye shall not see the sword, neither shall ye have famine, but I will give you assured peace in this place. Then the LORD said unto me, The prophets prophesy lies in my name: I sent them not" (Jeremiah 14:13-14)

"For they have healed the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying, **Peace, peace; when there is no peace... We looked for peace,** but no good came; and for a time of health, and **behold trouble!**" (Jeremiah 8:11,15)

"And ye shall hear of WARS and rumors of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet? (Matthew 24:6)

"For I [the LORD] will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle, and the city shall be taken... THEN SHALL THE LORD GO FORTH, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle." (Zechariah 14:2,3)

SUCH IS HOPEFUL: These are days of very great and important changes which God in His Word, the Bible, said would take place. The pages of history, secular and especially Sacred, abound in making known the only God - His LOVE and MERCY, His Righteous Judgment, His KNOWING and CARING, His glorious design, His wondrous purpose. Our HOPE is to be found and fixed in His most TRUSTWORTHY PERSON and His changeless, SURE WORD:

"Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like Me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure... yea, I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also do it" (Isaiah 46:9-11).

"There is no God else beside Me; a just God and a SAVIOUR; there is none beside Me. LOOK UNTO ME, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: **for I am God, and there is none else.** I have sworn by Myself, the Word is gone out of My mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, That unto Me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear" (Isaiah 45:21-23).

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth My WORD, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto LIFE." (John 5:24)

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Calendar

3 Fiber Arts Friends Meetup, noon at Welles-Turner Memorial Library. No charge; reservations are not required.

ESL Conversation Club, 6:30 p.m. at Welles-Turner Memorial Library. No charge; reservations are not required.

4 Connecticut 169 Club: Your Passport and Guide to Connecticut, 6:30 p.m. at Welles-Turner Memorial Library. No charge, but reservations are required at 860-652-7720 or wtmlib.info.

Riverfront Music Series - Shaded Soul. 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Riverfront Community Center and Fairgrounds, 300 Welles St. Free parking and shuttle service will be available at 180 & 200 Glastonbury Boulevard, which is adjacent to Somerset Square.

Celebrate Glastonbury's Poet Laureates Past and Present. 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the Glastonbury Room and Patio at the Welles-Turner Memorial Library. Glastonbury poet laureates emeriti - Alexandrina Sergio, Dr. Michael Lepore and Andrea Barton will be honored and the new-

est poet laureate, Victoria Nordlund will be introduced. There will be poetry, music provided by Daniel Coggeshall and refreshments provided by The Second Century Fund.

6 First Friday Films: Sunset Boulevard, 2 p.m. at Welles-Turner Memorial Library. No charge and reservations are not required.

Friends of the Library Book Sale "Preview Event" from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Academy Building, 2143 Main St. This is a new location for the sale and will allow for a multi-day indoor sale. The fee for each adult entering will be \$10. Children will be free. Patrons will have the chance to shop early and find treasures before the big sale Sept. 7, 8.

7 Friends of the Library Book **Sale,** 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Academy Building, 2143 Main St.

8 Friends of the Library Book

Sale, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Academy Building, 2143 Main St. From 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., patrons will be able to fill a bag (provided by the Friends) with all the books it will hold Cost for each bag will be \$10.

9 True Crime: Murder and Mayhem in CT, 6:30 p.m. at Welles-Turner Memorial Library. No charge, but reservations are required at 860-652-7720 or wtmlib.info.

10 Fiber Arts Friends Meetup, noon at Welles-Turner Memorial Library. No charge; reservations are not required.

Second Tuesday Book Club: "The Boys in the Boat." 2 p.m. at Welles-Turner Memorial Library. No charge; reservations are not required.

Computer Basics, 4 p.m. at Welles-Turner Memorial Library. No charge, but reservations are required at 860-652-7720 or wtmlib.info.

11 Chapter Chasers: A Walking Book Club, 9 a.m. at Riverfront Community Center. No charge, but reservations are required at 860-652-7638.

Tech Help, 4 p.m. at Welles-Turner Memorial Library. No charge, but reservations are required at 860-652-7720 or wtmlib.info.

12 Thursday Night Book Club: "The Power." 6:30 p.m. at Welles-Turner Memorial Library. No charge; reservations are not required.

13 The Historical Society of **Glastonbury will host "Harvest**

Time" from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Welles-Shipman-Ward property at 972 Main St. in South Glastonbury. Experience life for the early colonists and the Native Americans who lived in this area. Watch historic demonstrations, help harvest the colonial garden, watch the flint knapper and colonial woodworker at work, try your hand using a prehistoric atlatl, visit and enjoy a treat at the colonial chocolate maker's post. A "Hands-on-History" table will allow you to examine furs, tools, and other objects used by the Indigenous Peoples, as well as a display of objects traded by 18th-century Indigenous traders. Games, toys, crafts, music, stilts, and Native American storytelling, as well as tours of the house and property. Admission is \$10 for those over 10-years-old. Free to members. Parking: follow the signs to St. Augustine Church and then follow the wooded path.

14 Community members are invited to attend a dedication event of Glastonbury's MLK39 Mural Project from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Glastonbury Town Hall. In the event of inclement weather, the celebration will be moved inside to the Academy



Read all our publications online at: LIFEpublications.com



Building at 2143 Main St.

Cookbook Club: Tapas: and other Spanish plates to share, 6 p.m. at Welles-Turner Memorial Library. No charge; reservations are not required. Prepared dish required for entry.

7 Fiber Arts Friends Meetup. Noon at Welles-Turner Memorial Library. No charge; reservations are not required.

The Historical Society of Glastonbury presents a talk by the State Archaeologist Sarah Sportman on the famous Hollister site in South **Glastonbury.** 7 p.m. at the Museum on the Green on the corner of Hubbard Street and Main Street. Sportman will share information and artifacts found at the 17th- century site, which many consider one of the most valuable sites in the state. Selected artifacts will be on exhibit in the

museum for the month of September.

Virtual Lunch & Learn: Creating a Strong Estate Plan, 12:30 p.m. on Zoom. No charge, but reservations are required to receive the meeting link. Call 860-652-7720 or visit wtmlib.info.

Women & Money Roundtable, 1 p.m. on Zoom. No charge, but reservations are required to receive the meeting link. Call 860-652-7720 or visit wtmlib.

Household Hazardous Waste **Collection Day** at the Manchester Transfer Station, 321 Olcott St. from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Safe disposal of paints and stains, acids, insecticides, herbicides, fertilizers, chemicals, household cleaning products and other hazardous materials which may have accumulated at your home. Leave all materials in original containers.

Appointments required by calling 860-647-5278.

23 The Thin Blue Lie: An Honest Cop vs. the FBI, 6:30 p.m. at Welles-Turner Memorial Library. No charge, but reservations are required at 860-652-7720 or wtmlib.info.

24 Fiber Arts Friends Meetup, 12 p.m. at Welles-Turner Memorial Library. No charge; reservations are not required.

Readers & Writers Book Club, 6:30 p.m. at Welles-Turner Memorial Library. No charge, but reservations are required at 860-652-7720 or wtmlib.info.

25 Career Navigation for Job Seekers with American Job Center, 3 p.m. at Welles-Turner Memorial Library. No charge; reservations are not required.

27 The Historical Society of Glastonbury will once again hold **The** Tag Sale at the Welles-Shipman-Ward property, 972 Main St. in South Glastonbury. Early bird 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. for a \$10 fee. Free admission from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Donations accepted Mondays from 8 a.m. through noon through Sept. 16; Sept. 5 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.; and Sept. 14 from 8 a.m. to noon.

28 The Historical Society of Glastonbury tag sale at the Welles-Shipman-Ward property, 972 Main St. in South Glastonbury. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free. Also Sept. 29.

30 Behind the Scenes at the **Bushnell**, 6:30 p.m. at Welles-Turner Memorial Library. No charge, but reservations are required at 860-652-7720 or wtmlib.info. GL







glastonbury

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News roundup



Salmon River watershed volunteers needed

The Salmon River Watershed group is hosting a training program for volunteers on biological stream assessments. Learn how to collect and identify stream insects, which are good indicators of water quality and stream health. The program will include an indoor workshop followed by field training.

The training program will be held on Sept. 7 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (including field time). The indoor workshop will be held at

Burnham Brook Preserve, 2 Dolbia Hill Rd.-East in East Haddam, starting at 9 a.m. After the classroom portion, participants will head to Devil's Hopyard State Park in East Haddam for fieldwork.

Registration is limited to 20 participants. This program is appropriate for high school-age and above. To register or for any questions, contact Pat Young at info@eightmileriver.org or salmonriverct@att.net.

Collectively, the Eightmile and Salmon River watersheds

cover more than 200 square miles and include the towns of East Haddam, Lyme, Salem, Colchester, East Lyme, Bolton, Columbia, East Hampton, Glastonbury, Haddam, Hebron, Lebanon and Marlborough.

Chorus seeking singers

The Glastonbury Chorus is looking to grow its membership. Do you love to sing? They want you! No auditions, no experience required. The ability to read music or learn by ear is a plus. The Glastonbury Chorus is a four-part, adult vocal ensemble that serves the greater Glastonbury community with

Their mission is to bring people together who love to sing all types of music for the purpose of providing concerts in town. The chorus performs a winter and spring concert annually, and at various senior living residences and town events throughout the year.

Rehearsals are held every Wednesday from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the Smith Middle School chorus room. The fall semester and registration will begin on Sept. 4 in preparation for the holiday concert held on Dec. 15. Dues are \$75 dollars per semester. Music is provided on loan.



Online practice files are available for each part.

For more info, contact glastonburychorusmembers@gmail.com or visit www.facebook.com/GlastonburyChorus.

Sidewalk grant

The state has awarded a \$796,700 Community Connectivity grant to the town. The funding will be used to construct 2,500 linear feet of concrete sidewalk along portions of Manchester Road (Route 83) and Hebron Avenue (Route 94) near the intersection of these roads.

Parks & recreation partnerships

Glastonbury Parks & Recreation is seeking partners to support special programming scheduled for the fall season. Partnership packages are available for individuals and businesses to support community events and they are designed to help you build relationships, increase brand visibility and promote healthy lifestyles. To view available opportunities, visit www.glastonburyct.gov/partner. If you would like to become a proud partner, or learn more about the packages, email partner@glastonburyct.gov.

Community survey on town forests

The town has begun a comprehensive inventory of town-owned forests and open spaces. This town-wide research and mapping project is intended to inform the development of a forest management plan, which will guide future decisions regarding how to protect, sustain, and utilize forest resources.

Through September, Mosaic Eco-Solutions will perform field work to assess the composition and health of approximately 1,500 acres of open spaces. This project is supported by a \$30,000 grant awarded through the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's Urban and Community Forestry program.

A community survey is taking place to determine and prioritize the use of townowned lands and forests. Data collected through this process will help inform future actions and may support additional grant funding. The survey asks citizens to indicate how they use and value our forests and provides an opportunity to express concerns and desires regarding forest management.

Residents are encouraged to submit their feedback electronically by visiting www. glastonburyct.gov/forestry. Survey responses will be accepted through the end of September to coincide with the conclusion of the forest inventory. **GL**

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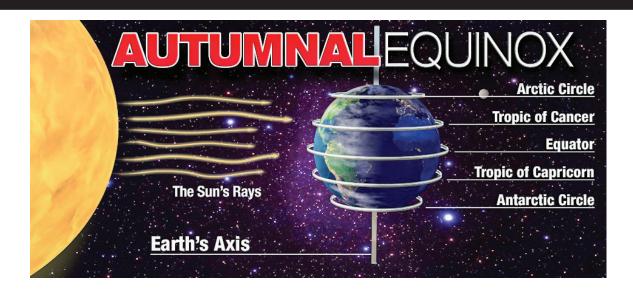
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BY MARK DIXON WFSB METEOROLOGIST[AMS]



Goodbye Summer, Hello Autumn!

his month we transition to the Fall season. A welcome change for those who are not a fan of our heat and humidity packed summer. As we head forward in time, we'll transition to cooler, shorter days. The Autumnal Equinox occurs this year on the 22nd of this month, at 8:43 am.

Now the term "equinox" is Latin, referring to the days of the year when there is nearly equal day and

night – when the Earth's axis is not tilting in either direction toward or away from the Sun (also occurring in March with the transition from winter to spring). However, the exact timing is more of an approximate – on the 22nd we will actually have 12 hours and 8 minutes of possible daylight (sunrise 6:39a, sunset 6:47p). Also, it is important to point out, regarding sunrise/set, these times are relative to when the upper edge of the Sun crosses the horizon

(not the center).

To go more in-depth, the equinox occurs when the Sun crosses the celestial equator, from north to south – when the Sun is at the halfway point, between summer and winter. Of course, this is relevant only to the Northern Hemisphere. In the Southern Hemisphere, it would be the opposite; meaning, those south of the equator will be saying goodbye to winter and hello to spring. **GL**









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