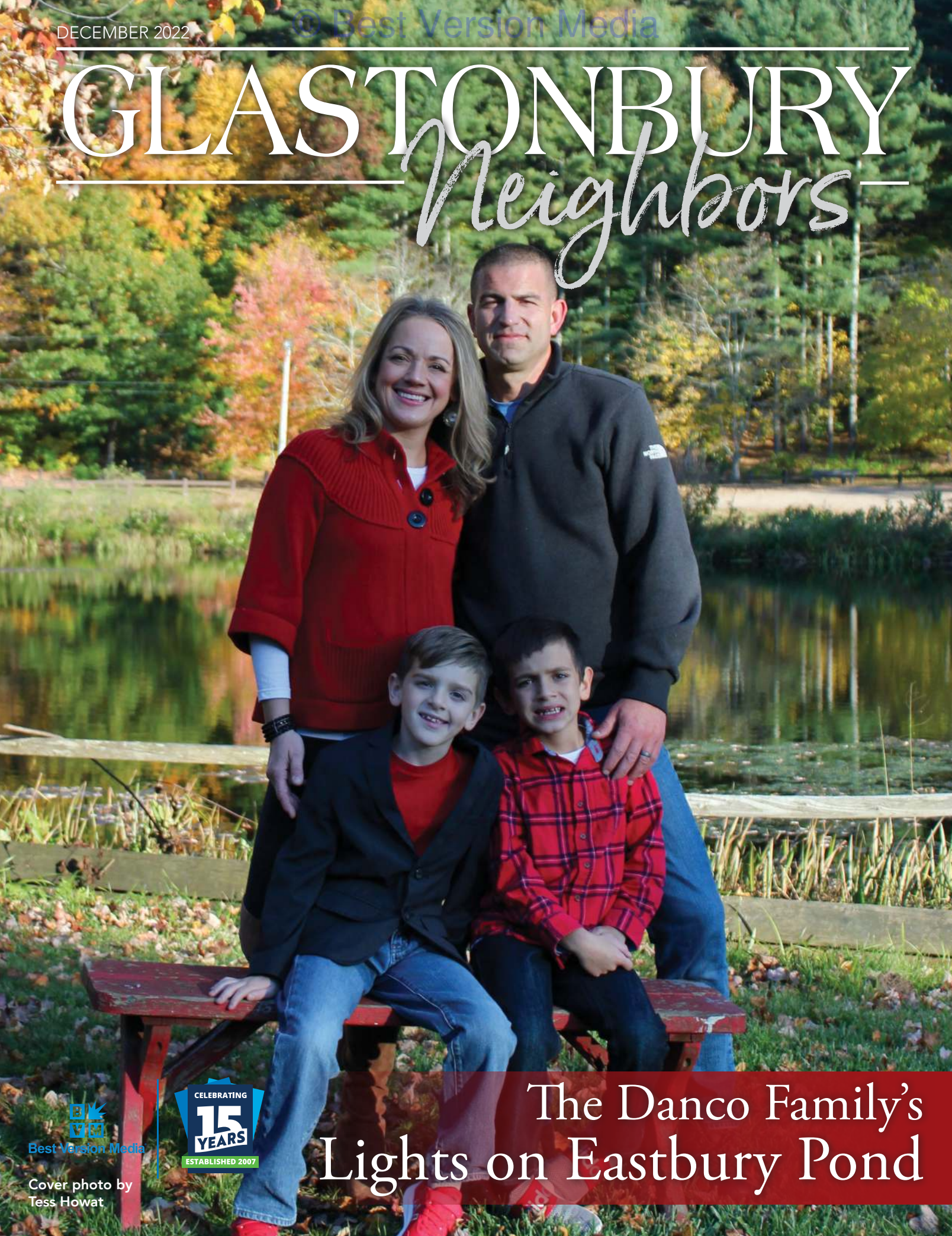


DECEMBER 2022

© Best Version Media

GLASTONBURY

Neighbors




Best Version Media

Cover photo by
Tess Howat

CELEBRATING
15
YEARS
ESTABLISHED 2007

The Danco Family's
Lights on Eastbury Pond

EXPERT CONTRIBUTORS



ESTATE PLANNING

Thomas Kane
Kane, Hartley, & Kane
860-633-3651
www.glastonburylaw.com



LANDSCAPING

Ron & Kim Poulin
Picture Perfect Landscaping
860-228-3915
www.perfectscapes.com

Your Logo
Here

Is your business missing out on educating *Glastonbury Neighbors* readers? *Become an exclusive Expert Contributor.*

To learn more about becoming an Expert Contributor, contact lthomas@bestversionmedia.com.

Offering a Full Range of Services

860-633-0011

www.scottsorchardandnursery.com



1838 New London Tpk. Glastonbury, CT 06033

Designs – Large and Small;
Installed by Us or Do-It-Yourself

Planting – One Tree or a Whole Yard

Clean-Ups – Spring and Fall

Stonework – Walkways, Walls, Patios

Mulching



Experience
a Taste of
HarborChase



THE GRILL ROOM

FIVE-COURSE,
PRIX FIXE FINE DINING

One Special Seating
Every Friday and Saturday Night
~Reservations Required~



HARBORCHASE OF EVERGREEN WALK
860.936.9407

PUBLICATION TEAM:

PUBLISHER: Lindsey Thomas
CONTENT COORDINATOR: Tess Howat
DESIGNER: Kelly Fochs

ADVERTISING:

Lindsey Thomas | Phone: 414-982-3929
Email: lthomas@bestversionmedia.com

FEEDBACK/IDEAS/SUBMISSIONS

Have feedback, ideas, or submissions? We are always happy to hear from you! Deadlines for submissions are the 27th of each month. Go to www.bestversionmedia.com and click "Submit Content." Or, simply email your submission, comments, and suggestions to us at thowat@bestversionmedia.com.

HOA SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Are you on the association board for your subdivision? Contact us for the information on how you can submit articles, updates, reminders, events and more to the residents. We create customized Homeowners Association sections at no cost to the HOA or the residents.

CONTENT SUBMISSION DEADLINES

CONTENT DUE:	EDITION DATE:
November 27	January
December 27	February
January 27	March
February 27	April
March 27	May
April 27	June
May 27	July
June 27	August
July 27	September
August 27	October
September 27	November
October 27	December



Any content, resident submissions, guest columns, advertisements and advertorials are not necessarily endorsed by or represent the views of Best Version Media (BVM) or any municipality, homeowners associations, businesses or organizations that this publication serves. BVM is not responsible for the reliability, suitability or timeliness of any content submitted. All content submitted is done so at the sole discretion of the submitting party. © 2022 Best Version Media. All rights reserved.

Dear Glastonbury RESIDENTS,

Happy Holiday Season!

This is truly the most wonderful time of the year, and in Glastonbury, the joy is contagious. With each holiday light and candle in the window, we're reminded of all there is to celebrate, including the community that makes this season so special for us all, regardless of what we celebrate.

With this last issue of the year, we'd like to introduce you to the Danco family behind the iconic Lights on Fisher Hill. They've moved locations slightly, so read on to learn how you can view their reimagined "Lights on Eastbury Pond". We've also included a packed calendar of holiday events, a feature on an inspiring local charity, festive book recommendations from Welles Turner, and a glimpse into the holiday season in Glastonbury circa the 19th and early 20th century.

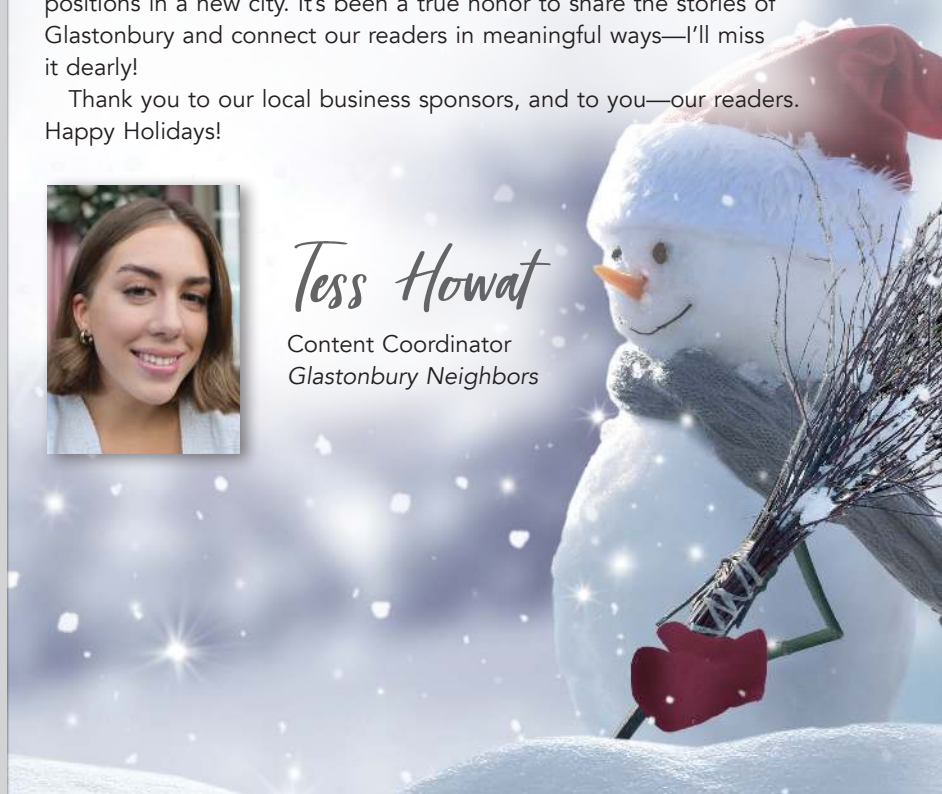
This will sadly be my last issue as Content Coordinator of Glastonbury Neighbors, as I'm soon graduating from UConn and will be seeking positions in a new city. It's been a true honor to share the stories of Glastonbury and connect our readers in meaningful ways—I'll miss it dearly!

Thank you to our local business sponsors, and to you—our readers. Happy Holidays!



Tess Howat

Content Coordinator
Glastonbury Neighbors





By Picture Perfect Landscape
Glastonbury, CT



We Do It All For You!

Enjoy the Holidays! Leave the Decorating to Us!

We provide the Lights, Décor, Installation, Maintenance During Season, Removal & Storage

Share the Gift of Lights this Season with Family and Friends

- *LED Lights for Roof and Paths
- *Mini Lights for Trees and shrubs
- *Commercial Quality Wreaths and Garland (with or without Lights)
- *Bows, and Specialty Daytime Enhancements for a Hassel Free Holiday

Over 20 years of Full Service Holiday Lighting & Decorating

Call today for free estimate and current availability



(860)228-3915

For some holiday inspiration, more details, & to get an estimate: www.perfectscapes.com

DO I NEED A TRUST?

By Thomas Kane of Kane, Hartley & Kane, P.C.



Thomas Kane

It's a question we hear quite often. The answer is "it depends". In general, Trusts serve two purposes: The first is to help avoid, or at least minimize, the

amount of tax your estate will need to pay by segregating assets and leaving them to your children, which are to be held in trust for use by your spouse during their life. This minimizes the stacking of assets on one spouse, which can lead to estate taxes. Currently, only estates in excess of \$9.1m will generate a state tax, and estates in excess of \$12.06m will generate a federal tax. However, those numbers are currently set to drop to \$5.5m in 2026 (adjusted for inflation since 2018), which is estimated to be about \$6.5m. The lower number means many more people will need to plan to avoid an unpleasant surprise for their loved ones.

The second reason for Trusts is to protect the assets from something. The "something" can be divorce, creditors, Medicaid, special needs, etc. If you're concerned about the ability of a beneficiary to manage the inheritance, a spouse of the beneficiary taking the inheritance, or a loved one with specialized needs who is (or may be) receiving state assistance, a Trust can make sure you leave something to them

while keeping the assets safe from others.

The most frequent reason why people want Trusts, though mostly ineffective in Connecticut, is to avoid probate. In Connecticut, Revocable Living Trusts will not allow you to completely avoid

value and the 706 is usually filed with the Probate Court. So even with a Revocable Trust, you must still deal with, in a reduced fashion, the Probate Court. However, the cost of the Trust usually exceeds the cost savings from avoiding



probate. There are two parts to probate: The first (and most familiar) part is asset distribution, which a Trust can address and avoid. The second is Estate Tax collection. As part of probate, a 706 tax form must be filed, establishing the value of the estate and whether any taxes are due or not. Assets in a Revocable Trust are not excluded from the estate

the asset distribution part of Probate Court.

Trusts do have some ancillary benefits, such as privacy. If this is a concern, that's something to discuss with your estate planning professional.

Most people do not need Trusts. For most, a Will can achieve the majority of their goals and wishes.



The *Smart Choice* for **Estate Planning** and **Real Estate** Lawyers in Glastonbury.

For more than 35 years the real estate and estate planning lawyers at Kane, Hartley & Kane have been helping people buy and sell real estate and, through estate planning, provide for their families needs.



THOMAS KANE
 tbkane@glastonburylaw.com
860.633.3651
 www.glastonburylaw.com



Gold for the Holidays

LUX BOND & GREEN

JEWELERS SINCE 1898

140 GLASTONBURY BLVD. GLASTONBURY 860.659.8510
MOHEGAN SUN WEST HARTFORD WESTPORT WELLESLEY

LBGreen.com

EVERY BOX



HAS A STORY

800.524.7336





The Danco Family's Lights on Eastbury Pond

Article and Photos by Tess Howat

The Lights on Fisher Hill have been a staple of the holiday season in Glastonbury for over a decade. The display has sparkled brilliantly since 2011, when Steve Danco began lighting up his family's backyard to spread Christmas joy. And behind this holiday treat we've come to love is a family just as special. Janna and Steve Danco, with the recent help of their third-grade twins Sam and Grey, cherish their role as bringers of the holiday spirit, decking out their yard

for our community every year. Janna describes it as "spending a month in Whoville!" But this year, they moved into the larger home next door, which means a slightly relocated and smaller display as they design and plan to accommodate their new property layout. The Dancos will be shining their new **Lights on Eastbury Pond** daily from 4:45pm to 10:30pm until New Year's Day.

Janna has been a proud Glastonbury resident since 2005, now working as a Healthtrax fitness instructor and Communications Director for Corpus

Christi. Raised in East Hampton, she purchased her home on Fisher Hill Road at 25. At the time, her future husband Steve was living in Cromwell where he was raised and working at Cigna, where he's been in the IT department for 23 years. The pair met on a double blind date in 2007, arranged by mutual friends. Both arriving early, they bonded over their shared punctuality, secretly hoping they were each other's date. They weren't, but the couples ended up swapping partners and both getting married! Steve and Janna were wed in 2011, enjoying a



small ceremony at Gillette Castle. It's only fitting that Steve proposed with Christmas lights, setting a trend with local lovebirds. The Dancos have gone on to facilitate multiple proposals in their backyard, Steve hand-crafting "Marry Me" signs for each couple.

Steve moved into Janna's home in 2011, where they've lived up until this year when they bought the neighboring homestead. Previously belonging to the well-known Cofield family of East Glastonbury for over 100 years, their new home is a much-needed expansion to

accommodate their growing family. The Cofields adored the lights and were happy to pass their home on to the Dancos, calling them "the right family for the house." Steve and Janna have two sons, twins Sam and Grey, who share a love for the holiday lights that they say serve as a nightlight from outside their window. Sam loves P.E. class and has taken up a building hobby, recently crafting a wooden workbench with his dad. He enjoys mystery writing while his brother Greyson is passionate about nonfiction and historical writing, especially about

the Titanic. The Dancos take care of three beloved cats: Taco, Biggie Smalls, and Daisy, who they adopted as their own when she was abandoned at the lights show a few years ago.

When they moved in this past June, they also gained a barn optimal for housing lights and props. With limited storage in their previous home, the neighbors showed their appreciation for the lights show by offering up any empty storage space to house the display in the off-season.

The legacy of the Lights on Eastbury Pond was born in 2011. A life-long enthusiast of all things Christmas and the strong arm behind the operation, Steve started small by wrapping a single tree, which turned into six or seven in 2012, and he's added at least five trees every year since. His inspiration took off like wildfire from there, building grand archways, snowmen, stars and more from PVC pipe. Luckily, the Dancos have had help setting up the display over the years. John Danco, Steve's father, has helped with just about everything from electrical work to building the display elements, and close family friend William Bouchard is who they consider Steve's Right Hand Man!

Steve is often asked what it takes to build and maintain the display. While many assume their electric bill must be a fortune, their entire operation is powered by LED lights which use about 75% less energy than traditional incandescent lights, so the Dancos only pay around \$150 more during months of operation—a small price to pay for holiday joy! The display is powered by a relay box where all the lights converge and come to life with the tick of a timer. Sometimes when Steve sees families waiting in the parking lot for the lights to come on, he approaches them—occasionally in a grinch costume—and lets the kids flip the master switch with the tap of his phone screen.

Despite the workload of planning, building, and maintaining the show, the Dancos are always astonished at how the community rallies around the lights, which inspires them to keep it up year after year. They're honored to contribute to the small-town holiday feel of Eastbury Village, where the display



A glimpse at the new display in early October, still in the planning stages.



A previous display.

has connected them to their neighbors for over a decade. The interest from the community drives Steve to improve the show each year, buying additional lights in January to add to the display when he starts building in October. With this year's change of scenery, he'll be doing some serious reinvention with the help of his family. While the display may be smaller than usual, the Dancos ensure me

the show will be as big and bright as you remember in no time!

The display used to be primarily on 35 Fisher Hill Rd, visible from Manchester Road and as you turned onto Fisher Hill. But with their new property layout, though the lights will still be visible from Manchester Road, the Dancos ask that folks **avoid walking or slowing down to view from the main road**, as they're



Steve in his Grinch costume for a Boy Scout Fundraiser to benefit homeless veterans, 2021.

situated on a particularly dangerous bend. **Instead, they encourage onlookers to park at Eastbury Pond** and take in the view from their cars or enjoy the walking paths through and around the pond, where you'll have an unobstructed view of the lights shimmering on the water.

They're so grateful to the residents of Glastonbury for showing them kindness over the years, and they hope you stop by this year's Lights on Eastbury Pond. The Dancos, along with our team at Glastonbury Neighbors, wish you a joyful December and a Happy New Year!

Welles-Turner's Fresh Picks

Holiday Edition

Selected by Hilary Mauro, Renee Pease, Tonia Branson and Megan Campbell

The staff at Welles-Turner Memorial Library have hand-selected this list of holiday book recommendations, all of which pair nicely with hot cocoa and a warm fire.

The Matzah Ball

JEAN MELTZER

Romance

A winter love story that is full of holiday fun! This rivals-turned-lovers romance is a witty and entertaining romp that celebrates the magic of Hanukah.

The Bear and the Nightingale

KATHERINE ARDEN

Fantasy

Join Vasya on her quest to save her family as she embraces her inner magic. This fantasy book comes to life with lyrical writing, a snowy setting in the Russian wilderness, and a highly immersive story inspired by folklore. The ultimate cozy winter read!

Snowflake Bentley

JACQUELINE BRIGGS MARTIN; ILL. MARY AZARIAN

Children's Nonfiction

Wilson Bentley was fascinated by the beauty and individuality of snowflakes. At sixteen, his parents gifted him a special

camera which he used to take the first photos of these amazing snowflakes to share with the world and prove no two are alike.

Twelve Dinging Doorbells

TAMEKA FRYER BROWN; ILL. EBONY GLENN

Children's Picture Book

This twist on a classic carol with bright, colorful paper collage illustrations evokes all the joy of a big family gathering. Whatever you celebrate, it'll put you in the holiday spirit!

Dash & Lily's Book of Dares

RACHEL COHN & DAVID LEVITHAN

Teen Fiction

Sixteen-year-old Lily has left a red notebook full of dares in a NYC bookstore, just waiting for the right guy to come along to accept the challenge. When Dash finds it, he and Lily begin an epic wintry scavenger hunt. A perfect Christmas love story.

December 2022

Fri., Nov 25 – Tue., Dec 20

HOLIDAY LETTER PROGRAM

Drop off Letters @ Riverfront main entrance, in the holiday box at the Parks & Rec entrance of the Academy Building, or by mail to Parks & Rec.

Glastonbury Children are encouraged to write a letter with their holiday wishes to Santa, the Reindeer, the Mensch on the Bench, Frosty the Snowman, or any holiday figure they choose! Accepting letters between Nov 25th and Dec 20th. Kids will receive a letter back via USPS!

Fridays, Dec 2, 9 & 16

DROP & SHOP

@ Lutz Children's Museum, Manchester Parents can drop their kids off at the museum and enjoy a date night, shopping trip, or just relax on their own. Call the museum at 860-643-0949 for details and to pre-register your kids.

Sun., Dec 4 (Snow Date: Sun., Dec 11)

SANTA'S RUN

@ Glastonbury High School

Time: 12pm

Register online or in-person for \$25. Come dressed in costume! For more info and/or to register as a volunteer, visit Glastonbury-ct.gov/santasrun.

Wed., Dec 7 – Thur., Dec 22

FESTIVE DRIVING TOUR AND SCAVENGER HUNT

Drive around town and complete the scavenger hunt for a chance to win a \$30 credit off a Glastonbury Parks & Rec Program! Maps and details available at Glastonburyct.gov starting Dec 7, competition closes Dec 22.

Fri., Dec 9

FAMILY PAINT NIGHT

@ The Academy Building Cafeteria

Time: 6:30pm-8:30pm

Cost: \$30/person

Sat., Dec 10

MOXIE LOCAL ARTISAN MARKET

@ Congregational Church in South

Glastonbury

Time: 10am-3pm

Sat., Dec 10 – Sun., Dec 11

CONNECTICUT BALLET'S THE NUTCRACKER

@ The Bushnell Performing Arts Center, Hartford

Time: two shows daily at 1pm and 5pm.

Visit Bushnell.org for tickets.

Thur., Dec 15 – Fri., Dec 23

40TH ANNUAL SANTA'S WORKSHOP

@ Wickham Park, Manchester

Time: Mon-Fri, 3pm-6pm | Sat/Sun, 1pm-5pm

More info at Wickhampark.org.

Fri., Dec 16

FESTIVE FAMILY BIKE & SKATE WITH SANTA (AGES 5+)

Presented by Glastonbury Parks & Rec and the Glastonbury Police Department, join Santa in shredding pipe in the skate park and practicing safe cycling in the Academy parking lot. Plus, food, music, raffle prizes and more!

Time: 5pm-7pm

Fri., Dec 16

CHARLIE BROWN HOLIDAY JAZZ WITH THE ERIC MINTEL QUARTET

@ Cheney Hall Auditorium

Time: 7pm

Cost: General Section: \$26/Adults (VIP \$35), \$24/seniors, students and military (VIP \$33).

Sat., Dec 17

HARTFORD UGLY SWEATER BAR CRAWL

@ Russian Lady, Hartford

Time: 1pm-8pm

Reserve your spot at Eventbrite.com.

Sat., Dec 17

FAMILY HOLIDAY JUKEBOX BINGO NIGHT

@ Online – Zoom

Time: 5:30pm-6:30pm

Reserve your spot in advance at Glastonburyct.myrec.com.

Sun., Dec 18

THE FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS AT WADSWORTH

@ Wadsworth Museum, Hartford

Celebrate the start of Hanukkah with art making, music, and much more. In collaboration with the Mandell Jewish Community Center and PJ Library of Greater Hartford.

Time: 12pm-2pm

Cost: Free with museum admission.

 **State Farm**



**Coe Bancroft
CPCU, Agent**

*Call us today
for all your
needs in
Insurance
and Financial
Services.*

We're in Melzen's Plaza

103 New London Turnpike
Glastonbury, CT

Bus: 860-633-3736

coe@coebancroft.com

State Farm, Bloomington, IL
1211999

Carry My Brother, Inc.

By Tess Howat and Joseph P. Jaconetta

This month, we're shining a spotlight on local nonprofit Carry My Brother, Inc. Founded in 2017 by current President Joseph P. Jaconetta, Esquire, Carry My Brother's mission is to provide financial support for disadvantaged youth to promote education and allow kids to participate in athletics and other activities. This organization firmly believes in the power of team sports to develop skills in children that will help them achieve excellence in academics and life.

Many physical education programs in public schools are being eliminated and increasingly, children have to "pay to play" sports and other activities. Carry My Brother donates to local sports organizations so that children can afford to stay active and learn the lessons of teamwork and sportsmanship.

Once a year, Carry My Brother hosts a dinner with prominent guest speakers who deliver their message of how participating in sports helped them lead a successful life. The organization charges a fee for attendance at the dinner, offers sponsorships to local businesses, and holds a silent auction. The money they raise is contributed to local organizations that serve disadvantaged youth. In the past, they have contributed to

Hartford North End Little League, Compass Youth Collaborative of Hartford, Girls

Carry My Brother's donation to Girls on the Run.



on the Run, the Hartford Marathon Foundation's Fit Kids in School Program, and East Hartford Little League.

Carry My brother sees firsthand the enormous difference they make in the lives of others. "Seeing the excitement and joy on the faces of the kids that participate in the organizations we contribute to is what we love most about the work that we do," says Joe. "To them, their participation in organized team activities is the first thing they've ever done that leads them to believe they're capable human beings, that they can channel their energies to produce a positive result, that so much more can be accomplished when you're a part of a team rather than going it alone."

The Board of Directors at Carry My Brother consists of twelve local leaders, many of whom are former athletes. President Joe Jaconetta also serves as Chairman of the Wellness Council of the Connecticut River Valley Chamber of Commerce and is the recipient of the Glastonbury Rotary Club Paul Harris Award for lifetime achievement, the Glastonbury Chamber of Commerce Businessperson of the Year and the Town of Glastonbury Outstanding Community Service Award.

Carry My Brother donates 100% of their profits to organizations in the greater Hartford area, and they're always seeking contributions. They accept cash, sports equipment that can be passed on to local organizations, and donations for their silent auction. In addition, they're always looking for professional athletes and coaches who would be willing to donate their time as a guest speaker for one of our events.

Visit to find out more about the next event, donate, or learn how to get involved. And if you know of a youth sports organization that serves disadvantaged youth in our area, please contact Carry My Brother so they can reach out and provide assistance if needed.



Carry My Brother's donation to the Hartford Marathon Kids Program.

Winter in Glastonbury

Courtesy of Diane Hoover with The Historical Society of Glastonbury

Glastonbury's winter woes, wonders, and fun during the late 19th and early 20th Century.



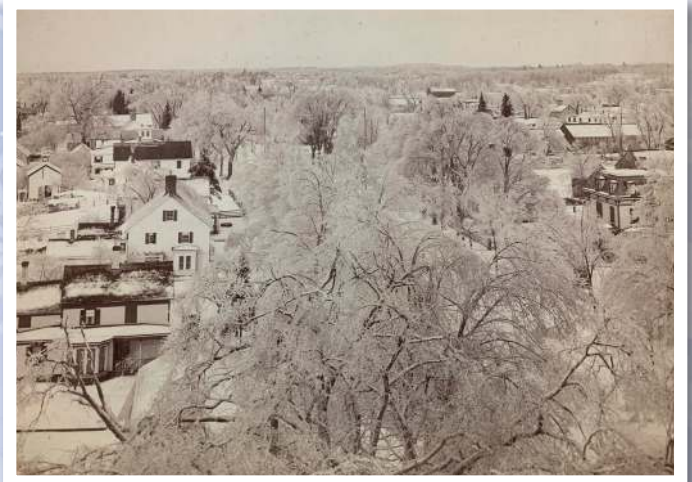
Ice hockey, 1938.



Sleigh ride, 1915.



Ice storm of 1890.



Ice Storm of 1890, town view from the steeple of First Church.



Great Pond Skating, 1907.



Snow storm of January 1948, Main St. near Naubuc Ave.



The town built a dam on the Goodrich property so there could be a skating pond, 1946.



Lots of snow! 1920.



Old Cider Mill skating rink.

860-368-0136

We are Local

JUNK REMOVAL

What Junk Do We Remove?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Furniture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mattresses	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hot Tubs
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Appliances	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Treadmills	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Electronics
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Construction Debris	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sheds	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Junk Piles
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Garage Junk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carpets	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> & Much More

JUNK REMOVAL \$20 OFF
SERVICES BOOKED ONLINE
You must mention this promotion in the job description to receive discount.

JUNK BEAR
FULLY INSURED WWW.JUNK-BEAR.COM

As Estate Organizers, we assist in all aspects of your life move transition.

- Full Service Downsizing
- Whole House Clear-Outs
- Move Management
- Sales of Unwanted Items

For more information please contact our team at 860.467.4880 or email info@LotusTransitions.us
Visit our website www.LotusTransitions.us

NO JOB TOO SMALL

FREE Estimates

ALLSTARS 10 DockereI Road • Vernon, CT 06066
OFFICE: 860-872-3180
ELECTRICAL, LLC. FAX: 860-812-2191
Professional Electrical Services allstarelectricllc@yahoo.com

SEASONS GREETINGS!

Submitted by the Community

Enjoy these Glastonbury pals all dressed up in their holiday best, enjoying the snow and festivities.



Lula, 6



Sammy, 7



Doofie, 15



Zoe, 8



Roxie, 1.5



Riley, 5



Todd, Allen and Luna, all 6



Indi, 15



Daisy, 12

10% OFF
All Online Orders
Use Code: **LUNA10**

LUNA PIZZA
Glastonbury

**SAVE TIME
ORDER ONLINE**

www.LunaGlastonbury.com
88 Hebron Ave, Glastonbury CT | 860.659.2135

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Town Hall: 860.652.7710
 Welles-Turner Memorial Library:..... 860.652.7719
 Parks and Rec: 860.652.7679


Connecticut Poison Control Center:.....800.222.1222 *
 National Suicide Prevention Lifeline:..... 1.800.273.8255 **

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS:

Police Department:..... 911
 Fire Department: 911

*Available 24 hours every day

**Provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.



Featured Article

Swimmer with no legs and one arm asks, "What's your reason to quit?"

By Zaakirah Mujid,
BVM Sports Journalist

Gabe Marsh is an 18-year-old swimmer who was born without legs and one arm. What makes Marsh more extraordinary is that he's training to qualify for the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games and he's changing the lives of others through his story of perseverance. At 5 years old, Marsh started getting coaching lessons from his mom so that he could begin competing. All these years later, Marsh hasn't used prosthetics. In fact, he doesn't even use his wheelchair unless he's at work... Scan to continue reading.






Image Courtesy: Gabe Marsh

BVM SPORTS



bvmsports.com

 @BVMSports @bvm.sports