

NEWS AROUND TOWN

FARMINGTON VALLEY

Fundraiser To Help Canton League Of Women Voters Is Planned

CANTON — A fundraiser to benefit the League of Women Voters of Canton will be on Sept. 15 at the Flatbread Company restaurant, the league has announced.

According to the announcement, a portion of sales from dining in or taking out that day from 5 p.m. on will go to the league for its work in the community. Candidates running for local office this fall have also been invited to the event so they can meet people and the league will raffle off gift baskets as well to raise more money.

People who want more information about the fundraiser or want to donate a gift basket should contact league member Carlene Rhea at 860-693-6938. The Flatbread Company is in the Shoppes at Farmington Valley.

— Ken Byron

Avon Library Hosts Presentation On ISIS And Islam

AVON — The Avon Free Public Library has announced that it will host a presentation next month on the radical Islamist group ISIS. Three speakers who will talk about whether or not ISIS fairly represents Islam and other Muslims will there, according to the announcement.

The presentation is free and will be on Sept. 19 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the library. Speakers include Sammy Aziz, a student of Muslim-Christian relations at Hartford Seminary and a member of the Bloomfield Muslim Community Center; Vjosa Aziz, who works for the Madina Academy Islamic School in Windsor and is a member of Bloomfield Muslim Community Center along with John Parent, a student of transformative leadership and spirituality at Hartford Seminary.

ISIS, which stands for the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, has taken over parts of both countries. The speakers at the upcoming event will discuss ISIS's claims about Islam and the Quran, which is the Muslim holy book, and aspects of the religion that contradict what the group says, according to an announcement of the presentation.

TEEING OFF IN AVON

ASHLAN RAMSEY watches a tee shot at the Connecticut Women's Open at the Golf Club of Avon on Aug. 19. Ramsey, a pro, finished second but won the top prize money because the winner, Megan Khang, is an amateur.



JOHN WOIKE | JWIKE@COURANT.COM

A reading list on Islam will be provided during the event.

— Ken Byron

Farmington Libraries To Host State Bird Lecture

FARMINGTON — Farmington Libraries will host a lecture on Connecticut's native bird population on Sept. 8.

The free event will take place at 7 p.m. at the Main Library, located at 6 Monteith Drive.

Author and columnist Robert Tougas will lead the discussions about the natural history, conservation and population trends of the region's wild birds, according to a press release.

Tougas, of Colchester, wrote "Birding Western Massachusetts: A Habitat Approach," and has a regular column in The New London Day.

Advanced registration is required

from the program. Those who wish to register can call 860-673-6791 or visit the library's website at www.farmingtonlibraries.org.

— Kristin Stoller

Registration Open For Farmington Rotary 5K

FARMINGTON — Registration is now open for the eighth annual Farmington Rotary 5K, in conjunction with the Unionville Festival.

The race, open to all ages, will begin and end at the gazebo in front of the Union Elementary School at 1 p.m. on Sept. 27. Check in will start at 11 a.m. at the gazebo in Unionville, according to a press release.

Registration before Sept. 10 is \$30 and after that date is \$35. All pre-registered runners are guaranteed a microfiber race t-shirt, according to the release. Money raised from the event

will support the Rotary Club's high school scholarship fund and its other local and international charitable projects.

Awards will be given to the top male and female winners and medals will be awarded to the top three male and female finishers in each of the four age categories, according to the release.

To register, participants can visit www.RotaryRoadRace.org.

— Kristin Stoller

Farmington Republican Council Chairwoman Likely To Be Unopposed

FARMINGTON — Republican council Chairwoman Nancy Nickerson is likely to be unopposed in November's election.

Ned Statchen was selected, at the Democratic town committee's July 28 caucus, as a placeholder candidate for town council chairman. He said the committee was still in discussion with people who were considering running. Statchen dropped out and no other candidates stepped forward.

Nickerson, a lifelong resident, is running for her second term.

"I'm delighted to be able to have the opportunity to continue representing the people in Farmington," Nickerson said. "We will all be working very hard to get the message out of what we stand for and what we've done, with or without an opponent."

Statchen, a member of the Democratic nominations committee and a town committee officer, said that election rules allow for filling a vacancy on a slate only if a person has been nominated at the caucus, which is why he was initially nominated.

"Unfortunately the people we were in discussion with have decided against a running, so at this time it looks like Nancy will be running unopposed," Statchen said in an email Thursday.

Nickerson took the helm of the town council with an almost 2-1 majority of votes in the November 2013 election.

Mike Clark, the Republican town committee chairman, said the situation shows what a great job Nickerson has done as council chairwoman and how connected she is to the community.

— Kristin Stoller