

Insulin pen shortage hits the state

Demand strains supply of Lantus SoloStar

By Liese Klein
STAFF WRITER

Thousands of Connecticut patients who rely on certain types of insulin are facing intermittent shortages caused by surging demand and manufacturing disruptions, according to drugmakers, pharmacists and diabetes advocates.

The shortages are affecting Lantus SoloStar, a long-acting insulin pen manufactured by Sanofi after several competing manufacturers exited the mar-

ket, driving up demand for the product, according to the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists.

Sanofi confirmed the supply problems.

“Sanofi is experiencing a period of intermittent supply in the U.S. for Lantus (insulin glargine injection) SoloStar pens due to increased demand,” a company spokesperson said. “We understand the critical role Lantus plays in the lives of people with diabetes and remain committed to supporting the patients who

rely on this important medicine.”

The shortages have also affected pharmacies, including CVS, which operates about 170 locations in Connecticut.

“We’ve been experiencing intermittent supply challenges with Lantus over the last several months,” said Amy Thibault, executive director of corporate communications for CVS Health. “When manufacturer supply interruptions like this occur, our pharmacy teams make every effort to ensure patients have access to the medi-

Insulin continues on A4



Paul Chinn/The Chronicle

Several insulin manufacturers have exited the insulin pen market.



Steven Goode/Hearst Connecticut Media

Portland officials are considering a ban on new gas station applications.

Portland could ban new gas stations

Restriction to be considered along with plans for town’s ninth fuel retailer

By Steven Goode
STAFF WRITER

PORTLAND — Portland could soon become the latest Connecticut town to decide it has enough gas stations.

The Planning and Zoning Commission is scheduled to consider a proposal Aug. 6 to remove gas stations as a permitted use under the town’s zoning regulations, joining a small but growing number of municipalities that have moved to limit additional fuel retailers.

“The commission felt the town has too many gas stations. People don’t want a 10th.”

Portland Town Planner Dan Bourret

The proposal comes with a twist. At the same meeting, the commission is also expected to continue reviewing an application for what would become Portland’s ninth gas station — all but one of them located along the Route 66 corridor.

There are seven gas stations operating on Route 66. One is

under construction.

“The commission felt the town has too many gas stations,” Portland Town Planner Dan Bourret said Monday. “People don’t want a 10th.”

If approved, the zoning amendment would not affect the pending application, Bourret said. Because it was sub-

mitted under existing regulations, the proposal for a gas station and convenience store at 1361 and 1373 Portland-Cobalt Road would continue to be reviewed under the existing rules.

The application calls for a 3,750-square-foot convenience store with fuel pumps, a separate 4,000-square-foot retail building and 40 parking spaces on a 2.2-acre site.

Portland would follow the lead of Old Lyme, whose Planning Commission voted in July

Ban continues on A4

Keep the hated car tax — for economic fairness

Stories over the last couple of weeks by my colleagues at CT Insider have shown just how deeply Connecticut hates the local property tax on motor vehicles.



Dan Haar

COMMENTARY

INSIDE

Where drivers live shapes car tax bills. A3

higher local tax rates — including most of the places where lower-income people live.

The exact same vehicle that

Haar continues on A4

East Hampton man killed in crash

By Jessica Bravo
STAFF WRITER

MARLBOROUGH — A 39-year-old man was killed in a motorcycle crash involving a pickup truck Monday on Route 66, according to police.

John Russell Forbes IV, of East Hampton, was identified as the person who died in the crash near the intersection with Saner Road just before 6 p.m. Monday, Connecticut State Police said.

Forbes was traveling east on Route 66 on a Harley Davidson

Crash continues on A4

Connecticut begins \$1.6 billion rail project to speed train trips

By Brianna Gurciullo
STAFF WRITER

Imagine a train picking up riders in New Haven and arriving in New York City about 25 minutes faster than it does today.

A \$1.6 billion project that broke ground in Stratford on Monday will help the state eventually achieve a goal of shaving that much time off the train trip between the two cities, Connecticut officials said.

But it will take about nine years to complete the three-phase project, which includes upgrades to the tracks and over-

head wiring on a 3-mile stretch between Stratford and Bridgeport.

“Infrastructure takes a long time,” state Department of Transportation Commissioner Garrett Eucalitto during a press conference at Stratford’s train station. “Especially on the railroad, because unlike the highway, where you can have detours, the railroad, there is no detour. There’s no other way to get around the Northeast Corridor, so we have to do the work while the trains are moving.”

Come 2035, Amtrak and Metro-North trains will be able to travel as fast as 90 mph in some

spots, officials said. Currently, the maximum speed in the area is 70 mph.

To get those “long-term improvements in speeds,” Eucalitto said riders will have to endure the “short-term pain” of trains slowing down in certain areas while work is underway on that section of the New Haven Line.

Phase 1, which is expected to cost more than \$340 million, includes installing new overhead wiring, replacing a bridge over the tracks in Stratford and upgrading the signals and tracks.

The Federal Railroad Administration is providing \$184 million

Project continues on A6



Hearst Connecticut Media file photo

A Metro-North train pulls into the Stratford rail station in 2021. On Monday, state officials announced the start of a \$1.6 billion project on a 3-mile stretch near the station to speed up trains on the New Haven Line.

