



Another forecasting tool is scrapped

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Why Plainfield spent 287% more on elections this year

Connor Linskey
Norwich Bulletin
USA TODAY NETWORK

Plainfield residents paid nearly \$9,500 more to set this year’s town budget than they did in 2024. The town had four budget votes this year because all three questions failed on the first two attempts and the capital improvement plan was rejected on the third try. Voters needed to pass all three to adopt the town, education and capital

improvement plans. When the budget process concluded with the last vote on June 30, the town had spent approximately \$9,500 more than in 2024. Plainfield spent \$12,768 this year, which is an increase of \$9,468 from the \$3,300 they spent for the referendum and town meeting in 2024. Plainfield had four budget referendums this year, while last year there were two budget votes. Last year, the budget process concluded when all three questions were passed at the town budget

meeting. This came after the education budget failed at the referendum. **Why Plainfield had more referendums this year than in the past** Plainfield’s budget vote process this year differs from the one last year because the town’s charter was updated. **See ELECTIONS, Page 2A**



A sign in front of the Plainfield Senior Center encouraging residents to vote in the capital improvement plan referendum June 30. The plan passed at its fourth referendum June 30. CONNOR LINSKEY/NORWICH BULLETIN



The Otis Library has celebrated its 175th anniversary with events and activities throughout the year. MATT GRAHN/NORWICH BULLETIN

Otis Library marks 175th anniversary

Matt Grahn
Norwich Bulletin | USA TODAY NETWORK

Throughout 2025, Otis Library is celebrating its 175th anniversary. Celebrations include the painting and scattering of kindness rocks around Norwich, creating a time capsule, and library staff volunteering in the community. There will also be a Lego model of Otis Library displayed in the fall, Executive Director Cathy Special said. “The community has been with us for 175 years, which is just insane,” she said. “So, we want to acknowledge it, appreciate it, give a little back when we can, and make it fun.” Plus, throughout the year, if anyone donates \$100 or more to Otis Library then they will receive a customized wooden bookmark from John McQueen of McQueen Woodcrafts. Otis Library is aiming to raise at least \$17,500 this way. As of July 3, the library only needed 54 more donations to reach the goal, Special said.

What is the history of the Norwich library that is being celebrated

The Otis Library’s original building, across from Norwich City Hall, was constructed in 1849, and the library’s board first met in 1850, according to the library’s website. It is now the home of La Stella Pizzeria. The library was in debt by 1856. At that time Otis Library was funded by subscription and the library

only had around 600 hundred patrons out of a city of then around 25,000, a July 1 blog post from History Librarian Steve Fithian states. In 1870, the library closed for almost one year for financial reasons, according to the library’s website. In 1891, the library became a free library, causing usership to increase 10-fold, from 400 to 4,000. A state law passed in 1893 required municipalities to financially support at least one free library in town, which benefited Otis Library, Fithian wrote. The library outgrew its original buildign, and moved to 261 Main Street. When that building was outgrown, it was torn down, and the library’s current building has operated since 2007, according to the library’s website. Fithian also assembled a gallery of historic photos on Otis Library’s Flickr page.

How the library finds its place in an increasingly digital world

The library still has books, plus there’s a wide range of services the Otis Library provides today, from job assistance and technology access to cultural and community events. The Otis Library increasingly fills the role of a community center, as people want to learn and connect with each other, and people want options for entertainment and activities at no cost, Special said. **See ANNIVERSARY, Page 2A**

Trump, Putin bromance flowered, soured

U.S. president appears to be shifting his thinking

Kim Hjelmgaard,
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USA TODAY

President Donald Trump said he would end the war in Ukraine within his first 24 hours in office. But now, more than 4,000 hours in, Trump’s patience with Russian President Vladimir Putin, whom the U.S. president in June called “very kind,” appears to be wearing thin. Relations have hit a wall as Russia’s leader has pushed forward with intensifying drone and missile attacks on Ukrainian cities while appearing to repeatedly rebuff Trump’s attempts to broker a ceasefire. “We get a lot of (expletive) thrown at us by Putin, if you want to know the truth,” Trump told reporters on July 9, summing up what Ukrainians and other seasoned Russia watchers have been saying for two decades. “He’s very nice to us all the time, but it turns out to be meaningless.” Trump initiated direct talks with Putin shortly after taking office, saying

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President Donald Trump, right, has spent years praising and appearing to carefully avoid criticizing Russian President Vladimir Putin. MARCOS BRINDICCI/REUTERS

