

# Journal Inquirer

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## HELPING HAND FOR VETERANS



Skyler Frazer / Journal Inquirer

Volunteers at the Manchester Elks Lodge 1893 prepare lasagna meals on Thursday for veterans. For the fifth consecutive year, the Elks and Johnson Brunetti, a local retirement and investment firm, teamed up to provide warm meals and clothing to veterans in the area. Clothing was donated by Zahner's Clothiers. **See story, Page 4.**

## \$5.3M bond for man who returned GPS bracelet

Weapons were found at his home

By Journal Inquirer Staff

A Bolton man with 20 cases pending in Superior Court and who led police to a weapons stockpile on his property in February was arrested Thursday afternoon after police said he violated the conditions of his release on bond, namely by removing his court-ordered GPS

bracelet and mailing it to the Office of Probation.

The man, Michael Gramegna, 43, was arrested around 1 p.m. in Manchester, according to state police. He was charged with 11 counts of failure to appear and one count of violation of a protective order.

Gramegna was held in lieu of \$5.3 million bond until his arraignment in Vernon Superior

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## First vaccines could be given by mid-month

Shots would be free to all residents

By Eric Bedner

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### PRIORITY

**WHEN:** Tens of thousands of doses of the vaccine are expected to arrive in the state beginning Dec. 14.

**WHO IS FIRST:** Frontline health care workers, nursing home residents, and medical first responders.

**WHO IS SECOND:** Those whose work requires face-to-face interactions with the public, including day care workers, food service employees, and teachers, would be next in line from the middle of January through late May, as would those in congregate settings, people older than 65, and those who are considered high-risk.

**WHO IS THIRD:** Anyone younger than 18 and those not covered under the first two groups would begin immunizations in early June.

pital and nursing home staff — nursing home residents, and medical first responders.

State officials are expecting 176,000 first doses to be administered by Dec. 28 and a total of 380,000 first doses by

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The state plans to roll out coronavirus vaccines beginning with the most vulnerable residents in about two weeks, but it is expected to be months before everyone will have access to the shot as questions still remain about how many people are willing to get immunized.

Anticipating the vaccine's approval by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, 31,000 doses of the Pfizer vaccine are scheduled to be shipped to Connecticut by Dec. 14. The Moderna vaccine also is expected to be approved and 63,000 doses are slated to reach Connecticut by Dec. 21, Gov. Ned Lamont said during a briefing for reporters Thursday.

The governor did note that the timing could change if federal approvals are delayed. Both vaccines require two doses to be effective.

As part of Phase 1a, when vaccines first arrive in the state, the first to receive doses would be frontline health care workers — which include hos-

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Subscriber **Nancy Bullock** of Ellington, 23-plus years

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Goodwin to move on UB purchase

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Trump keeps losing election lawsuits

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### SPORTS

UConn men hold on to beat USC

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Chris Terry from the Manchester Elks, at left, puts away a tray of prepared lasagna meals Thursday before they're set to go out to veterans later in the day. Each veteran visited Thursday was also delivered a bag containing a coat, gloves, hat, and socks, above, donated courtesy Scott Zahner of Zahner's Clothiers in Vernon.

Skyler Frazer  
Journal Inquirer

# Serving those who've served

## Manchester Elks, business partners host veterans dinner

By Skyler Frazer  
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MANCHESTER — Though this year looked different than the past four, the Manchester Elks Lodge once again served more than 100 veterans hot meals this week while also making sure they're prepared for cold winter months.

For the fifth consecutive year Thursday, the Manchester Elks Lodge 1893 and Johnson Brunetti, a local retirement and investment firm, teamed up to provide warm meals and clothing to veterans in the area. Normally around this time of the year, the Elks pack 30 Bissell St. headquarters with veterans and their families, but COVID-19 forced this year to

be a little different.

Rather than the big annual feast, volunteers from the Elks and Johnson Brunetti spent Thursday morning preparing warm holiday meals consisting of turkey, all the trimmings, and lasagna, and packing up bags filled with new hats, gloves, socks, and winter jackets. In total, 111 veterans were delivered meals and clothing Thursday across several Chrysalis Center housing site and several Veterans Support Foundations locations across the state.

"With so many of the support services being cut off to veterans in need, particularly the ones that have some different issues, we're hoping that this can be a moral boost to get them

through the holidays," said Gerry Gallo, lodge veteran chairman and a veteran himself. "We want to remind them that we're behind them, we're all in this together, and they're not forgotten."

The annual event is truly a community collaboration. Scott Zahner of Zahner's Clothiers in Vernon donated all the new hats and clothing items after using some of his business connections to buy wholesale.

"We're a 70-year-old business; we're part of the community," Zahner said Thursday. "Anything we can do to support the community, we do."

That's also how Johnson Brunetti got involved. Years ago some of the partners were brainstorming how they could give

### VETERANS

**WHAT:** 111 veterans were given a hot meal and new clothing during fifth annual holiday feast

**WHO:** Manchester Elks Club, staff from Johnson Brunetti, and Zahner's Clothiers

**NO PARTY:** Instead of the usual get-together at the Elks lodge, meals and clothing donations were delivered

back at a local level to veterans, and partnering with the Elks was a natural step for that.

"We just really wanted to give back. Our veterans have done so much for all of us," said Eric Hogarth, a partner at Johnson Brunetti.

Hogarth said this year was even more important than previous given the current state of the world. Some veterans have had their housing or financial situations change in recent months due to the coronavirus or issues related to that, so support is crucial, Hogarth explained.

"As long as this event exists, we'll sponsor it and our staff will be here," Hogarth said.

In years' past, the annual veterans lunch was sometimes themed. Last year's event was themed around the 75th anniversary of D-Day and the liberation of Europe. Veterans going back as far as World War II have attended the annual tradition, and organizers hope things are back to normal in time for next year's meal.