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Colchester residents Janet Peck, left, and Carol Conklin can now legally marry, thanks to a decision made by the state Supreme Court last week. Peck and Conklin were one of eight same-sex couples that had sued the state for their right to marry. *Photo by Glenn Koetzner.*

After 33 Years, Colchester Couple Can Finally Marry

by Hannah Charry

After a 33-year wait, Janet Peck and Carol Conklin can now legally marry – thanks to a new state law they helped fight for.

Last Friday, Oct. 13, the state Supreme Court voted 4-3 to give same-sex couples the right to marry. Connecticut became just the third state in the union to pass such a law, joining Connecticut and Massachusetts. Published reports have said that last week's Supreme Court decision is likely to take effect on Oct. 28.

Peck and Conklin were one of 16 people (eight couples) whose cases were made through Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAD). The legal group was founded in 1978 and seeks cases that will win equal rights under law throughout New England.

It wasn't any one incident that prompted Peck and Conklin to join the seven other same-sex couples that sued for marriage rights; rather, it was a series of incidents. Peck said she and Conklin have lived together in town for 27 years, and said they have faced discrimination in many forms. Their lowest moment occurred 12 years ago when Conklin was denied visitation rights in an area hospital. Peck was in the intensive care unit to have tumors removed

from her liver.

"It was major, life-threatening surgery," Peck said, "and when Carol came the surgeons said she could see me in my room. When the staff nurse asked her who she was, which is often a routine question, Carol said she was my partner, at which point the women asked what that meant. That word means so many different things, so Carol said that we're life partners, and the nurse said that only members of the family were allowed in."

Conklin said she was "frustrated and upset" after the incident. "It was very difficult when we were expecting to go in there and be together and then I was locked out," she said. "It was probably one of the worst moments of my entire life."

Other problems occurred when the two moved in together. They were not able to combine their salaries on tax returns, which would have lessened their tax burden. Conklin has been self-employed as an electrical contractor for 15 years and Peck owns her own mental health counseling service.

"Marriage just permeates everything in our society. There are so many rights and protections also with health insurance," Peck said. "I don't want to make this about

money but it has been a big hurdle, especially when we applied for a home construction loan and couldn't combine our incomes [to be approved] for the loan. Most couples need both incomes to qualify. Those kinds of things have happened throughout our life together."

The two were born and raised in Manchester. They first met while attending Manchester High School. But they didn't start a relationship until several years later in college, when they attended a dinner party with friends.

"We're thrilled with this decision," Peck said.

Peck said the couple first heard of the decision last Friday morning, when a reporter called and asked for a reaction to it.

"I didn't quite know what she was talking about," Peck said.

The reporter told them that official online notification was coming at 11:30 a.m. "I called Carol, who was at work, and she said she'd leave at 11. This was at 8:45 and she just couldn't wait, so she rushed home," Peck said. "I was so nervous and anxious. We sat in front of our computer and hit the refresh button [of the ct.gov website, where the official notification was

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due to be posted] 100 times over again. Of course, we're not lawyers so reading and making sense of the statement when it finally came out was the next challenge.

"We got more and more excited by the minute when we thought we won," Peck continued. "We scrolled quickly to the last paragraph so at that time we were jumping up and down and crying and laughing. It was an amazing moment."

Anne Stanback, the executive director of the organization Love Makes a Family, is happy to see the end of a hard-fought battle. She started the Connecticut-based Love Makes a Family in her kitchen, but now employs eight staff members and cites nearly 25,000 people on the mailing list.

"It was an historic day and one that will be embraced by citizens in the state," Stanback said. "While I think that some people have a lot of fear that this will negatively impact the institution of marriage, in reality I think we'll find that it makes marriage a more equitable

and more inclusive institution."

Stanbeck has been with her partner for 25 years and is expecting to get married after Election Day.

"I feel confident that we can protect our win and hold off some attempts that will be made to reverse the decision," Stanback said.

The state has been known for a more liberal stance on gay, lesbian and transgender issues. In October 2000, a second parent adoption law was passed that effectively allowed for same-sex couples to adopt their partners' children.

"We're thrilled that the court now recognizes that our 33-year-long love and commitment is worthy," Peck said.

"I'm absolutely looking forward to the day that I can take her hand and pledge our love to her in a way that has tremendous personal meaning to us that is recognized to the rest of the world," she said. "We're thrilled for all the other full and equal opportunities we will now be afforded."

Marlborough Superintendent, Principal Thrilled with School Honor

by Hannah Charry

Superintendent of Schools Salvatore Menzo called the recent honor bestowed upon the Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall Elementary School "a great tribute for the entire Marlborough community."

The school was named the Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS) Elementary School of the Year for 2008-09 last Tuesday, Oct. 7.

"This is a great honor for the whole community, not just our staff," Menzo said. "Being in a district where there is just one school, this isn't just praise for us but all students, parents, teachers and board members. Everyone has contributed."

Principal Lorraine Giannini said the entire school has been celebrating since the announcement was made.

"We feel really privileged to be chosen," she said. "You know when you get an award like this that you're representing so many other schools in Connecticut. It's wonderful that CAS provides this opportunity for [schools] to reflect on their practice and meeting the needs of all children. It's a challenge."

CAS uses a multi-tiered system for critique. The evaluation committee consisted of six education professionals, some of whom are teachers and others from administrative backgrounds.

Menzo said the evaluation committee looked for evidence of consistent improvement over time that meets the needs of all students. According to Board of Education budget reports, over the past three years the school has updated math textbooks, created a second computer lab in the Media Center, completed renovation projects, installed a wireless network and implemented a recycling and composting program.

Menzo started his position in February 2005, during a period of rampant restructuring. "I was very fortunate to come to a school that had many things going on in the developmental stage," he said. "This included analysis of student data and professional developmental models that were being modified at that time."

For the 2008-09 fiscal year the Marlborough Board of Education approved a 5.44 percent budget increase, or \$374,405, to further the momentum made with improvements.

"We want to educate the whole child the way we always have, focusing on making sure that

we're tapping their talents beyond the academic because it makes a huge difference," Giannini said.

Menzo has worked especially hard with staff to reach out to community members. They have included recent programs that are beneficial to senior citizens and the disadvantaged.

"We've really tried to engage more with the senior citizens, getting them in the school to have lunch with our students, putting our science projects on display for presentations, and even walking our building in the afternoons for weekly exercise," Menzo said.

The school has an annual outreach project called the Town Services Fair, which is held in the Community Room and represents local organizations to help newcomers and long-time citizens alike become better acquainted with Marlborough.

"We work closely with the Park and Recreation Department and the library," Menzo said. "Over the past two years we've held a fine art auction. It's important that people involved in different groups have opportunities to talk with one another in different settings."

Last year, for example, school staff worked closely with a food bank to determine needs and held a "Stuff-A-Bus" event. They rented one from the Nichols Bus Service Inc. in East Hampton and stuffed a bus twice with donations.

Global connections have even made through a partnership with the Huiquan Primary School in the Shandong province of China. Giannini visited the school for five days this past April with Menzo to observe classes and create a pen pal exchange. They are planning to send a Marlborough teacher to visit the Primary School this spring to continue building relations.

"You and your staff richly deserve the recognition and accolades that will soon befall you for your excellence, enthusiasm and concern for your students," wrote Loretta Rubin, chair of the Elementary School division of CAS.

A formal celebration of the award will be given during the Elementary Program Recognition Banquet on Nov. 24 at the Aquaturf in Southington. All are welcome to attend and are encouraged to contact the school in advance for tickets. For more information, call 295-6220.

From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

"It breaks your heart. It is designed to break your heart. The game begins in the spring, when everything else begins again, and it blossoms in the summer, filling the afternoons and evenings, and then as soon as the chill rains come, it stops and leaves you to face the fall alone."

That's a quote from the late A. Bartlett Giamatti, the former baseball commissioner. He was talking, of course, about baseball. It's a great quote, and one that perfectly describes the beauty and, yes, the sadness of the game. When Giamatti first said those words in 1977, baseball didn't run quite as long into fall as it does now. With an extra round of playoffs (the Division Series wasn't added until the mid-90s) as well as an extra day off during both the League Championship Series and the World Series, it's now nearly November when baseball finally wraps, and most of us have been facing the fall for weeks.

One thing hasn't changed about fall baseball: it's always fun to watch. This year has been no different. While I couldn't watch much of the Division Series games – they just came too soon after the Mets' season came to an unfortunate end, and it was a little difficult for me to watch the games – enough time had passed for me to get back into the joy of baseball for the League Championship Series. The Boston-Tampa Bay matchup has been great. Boston won the opening game 2-0, and I was riveted for every inning, since, with a score that close, you know anything can happen. But I was a little unfamiliar with just how tremendous a pitcher Daisuke Matsuzaka was. Tampa Bay threatened several times during that game, but Matsuzaka never lost his cool. The more trouble he was in, the more runners there were on base, the better he performed. He seemed to go about his business effortlessly.

Game Two of the series, on Saturday night, was kind of the polar opposite of the previous game. Both teams slugged away, with neither starting pitcher (Josh Beckett for the Red Sox, Scott Kazmir for the Rays) making it past the fifth inning. The Rays' bullpen faltered a little bit and the Sox tied the score 8-8, and the game went into extra innings before Tampa Bay won it in the bottom of the 11th, on a very exciting sacrifice fly. (Yes, sac flies can be exciting, particularly when the ball is only hit to shallow right field, as was the case Saturday night.)

Monday's and Tuesday's games this week were Tampa Bay blowouts, leaving them with a 3-1 series lead. While I realize all this might not be terribly thrilling to the many Red Sox fans in the area, I am, as I've said here before, something of a Tampa Bay Rays fan. They're a terrific story. By the time you read this Friday, the Rays will either be American League champions, or they'll be up three games to two over the Sox. (I hope it's the former; as both 2004 and 2007 taught us, the Red Sox can be quite the force to be reckoned with if you let them back into the LCS.)

The Phillies-Dodgers series hasn't been quite as much fun for me. Oh, I've enjoyed watching the games, particularly the ones in Los Angeles (it's been kind of fun spotting the celebrities in the stands), but, as a Mets fan, I can't really take much joy in the Phillies' success. Sure, before Wednesday, they hadn't won a pennant since 1993. And despite being around more than 100 years, they've only won one World Series title (in 1980). So I guess one

could take some joy in their victory. Not me, though. In fact, I hope whoever winds up winning the AL, be it the Rays or the Red Sox, trounces the Phillies in the World Series.

At this point, I'm guessing Fox is hoping Boston just makes it into the World Series. Because a Tampa Bay-Philadelphia World Series might not translate into big ratings. Fox was probably desiring a Dodgers-Red Sox Series, as Los Angeles and Boston are two of the biggest markets in the country. Philly's big too, but it's not on the same scale as those two. And Tampa Bay...well, Tampa Bay's not even close. While I've found the Rays' Cinderella story fascinating to watch, there are a lot of casual fans out there who might not feel the same way. If the World Series winds up getting beaten in the ratings by *Two and a Half Men* reruns, that'll be disappointing.

While I've been captivated by postseason baseball, I've managed to carve out some time to follow the Presidential race. And I watched a good portion of Wednesday's debate, until I finally had to shut it off, as I had begun yelling at the TV. And specifically, John McCain. I'm glad NBC (and presumably the other networks showing the debate, as I believe they all work from the same master feed in these debates) employed a split-screen technique during the debate, as it really highlighted some differences between McCain and Obama, differences that I'd noticed before, during prior debates.

When McCain would speak, Obama would sit there, look at him, occasionally jot notes down, and, far more often than not, patiently wait his turn until it was time for him to speak. But when Obama would speak, McCain would barely look at him. Instead he'd sit there, look around the auditorium, plaster that uncomfortable-looking smile on his face.....and interrupt Obama. Constantly. At least Wednesday night I didn't hear McCain call Obama "that one" like he did in the prior debate. So I'll say that for him. But he still came across as dismissive, condescending and just plain disrespectful.

I've noticed that McCain seems to have stepped up the negativity in recent weeks. Perhaps that's a result of his poll numbers starting to slide, and he's feeling a little desperate. But while nastiness has worked for the Republicans before (just ask John Kerry), it might not this time. America's in a big huge financial crisis right now, the worst one we've seen in decades. People want a reason to hope things will be brighter, if not soon than at least eventually. Because it looks pretty grim out there. And spending your time dealing with Obama's tenuous-at-best connections to a former hippie radical (Obama and David Ayers served together on a board! Nearly a decade ago! We're doomed! Doooooomed!) might not be what the public wants to see.

* * *

Finally, the *Riverast* welcomes a new reporter this week, Hannah Charry, who will be covering Colchester and Marlborough. And she's starting off with a couple of big stories: the cover story this week dealing with the Colchester couple that sued the state in 2004 for their right to marry and finally – thanks to the state Supreme Court's big decision last week – will be able to, and another story of hers this week deals with Marlborough Elementary School being named the top elementary school in the state. Congratulations, Marlborough.

Details of Relationship Between RHAM Teacher and Student Revealed

by Sarah McCoy

The former RHAM High School teacher charged with having online sexual interactions with his female student sent the girl nude photographs of himself and requested she do the same, according to a recently-unsealed court affidavit.

The affidavit was unsealed last week at Rockville Superior Court.

According to the court documents, Bryan Moore, 25, of East Hartford, began as a student teacher in the social studies department at RHAM High School in 2006. During the school year he met the then-15-year old female student. Moore and the student began communicating via e-mail and online instant messaging during her sophomore year.

State police began an investigation into the matter after a referral came from the state Department of Children and Families (DCF) notifying them of a potentially illicit relationship. On Sept. 22, Moore was arrested and charged with risk of injury to a minor and enticing a minor.

In the summer of 2007, between the student's sophomore and junior years, the student's mother reportedly saw her daughter e-mailing Moore, according to the court documents. The mother would later describe the conversations to police as "benign" and "simple chit chat." Still, she told her daughter to stop e-mailing her teacher. The mother also e-mailed Moore and asked him to do the same, according to court documents.

But neither heeded the warning and conversations soon became sexual in nature, according to the court documents.

According to the court documents, the female student told police that over the summer of 2007 Moore sent her photographs of himself masturbating and performing sexual acts with other females he identified as ex-girlfriends. She said he also sent web cam videos of himself performing sexual acts. The student reported that Moore asked her to send photographs of herself, which she did.

Moore admitted to these actions in an interview with state police on Sept. 18 of this

year, according to the court documents.

Also, according to the court documents, the student told state police that the initial conversations between she and Moore were normal, but, as time progressed, she told police, "things began to get crazy and escalate." According to the affidavit, the girl told police that Moore said that he wanted to have her urinate on him and that he fantasized having sex with her and others, including the girl's mother and stepfather.

Both the student and Moore told police they never had sex or physically touched, the court documents said.

The girl told police she began to develop a crush on Moore during her sophomore year because of the attention he gave her, the court documents said. At the time, the girl reported, she was struggling with anorexia and had begun to see a counselor to help deal with her emotions, according to the court documents.

Communication between Moore and the female student continued until December 2007. According to the female student, Moore tried to reconnect last summer via a text message to her cell phone but she rebuffed his advances, writing back to him, "I don't want to talk to you, you're sick, you need help," and even telling the teacher to "go to hell."

This fall the student told of her relationship with Moore to her counselor, Laurie Landry. Landry, who practices in Rocky Hill, reported the incident to DCF. As a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, Landry is a mandated reporter, meaning that she is mandated by law to report suspected child abuse.

Through the state police investigation, Moore confirmed some parts of the girl's story but denied some aspects. He said he knew his actions were wrong from the start.

Moore was initially placed on paid administrative leave from his position at RHAM High School. He has since resigned, though his teaching certification is valid until Sept. 9, 2010.

Moore is free on \$25,000 bail and is due back in court on Nov. 4.

Hebron Gives Money to AHM

by Sarah McCoy

Hebron town officials have recommended a supplemental appropriation to assist AHM Youth and Family Services.

With costs rising and grants and donations down, the tri-town youth bureau, which serves residents of Andover, Hebron and Marlborough, is facing an uphill battle this year. Executive Director Joel Rosenberg estimates that AHM is already \$45,000 in the hole.

Noticing the bureau's financial struggles, officials from the three AHM towns approached Rosenberg as to possible solutions for the current 2008-09 fiscal year. The group came up with a list of short and large term solutions with the short-term fix being supplemental appropriations from the three towns to cover the expected \$45,000 shortfall.

Hebron's share of this comes to \$21,150.

At its last meeting, the Hebron Board of Selectmen (BOS) voted to approve this appropriation when the AHM Oversight Committee alerts the town of its need.

The money will be used from Hebron's undesignated fund balance and then reimbursed by the expected surplus from the RHAM Board of Education. According to RHAM Superintendent of Schools Robert Siminski, the three towns can expect approximately \$140,000 to be returned after the regional school district conducts its annual audit. In past instances of a surplus checks have been dispersed to the towns in January.

"In essence RHAM is helping makeup a deficit that's attributable to the services it receives," Hebron Town Manager Jared Clark said at the Oct. 2 BOS meeting.

At that meeting, each of the selectmen expressed appreciation and understanding for the services that AHM provides. "Nobody asks to lose a parent at the age of 6 but those types of unfortunate events occur," Clark said. "AHM provides a variety of services kids potentially need."

Hebron BOS vice chair Mark Stuart agreed. "I don't want programs to be cut because of a cash flow problem," he said. "I want to provide the maximum amount of support to AHM within our ability."

Rosenberg said it was town leaders who approached him regarding AHM's financial situation. "That really shows how the towns do care," he said. "They do respect and appreciate our services and they understand our value both financially and from a human standpoint."

With more funding cuts announced last week by the state government and donations down because of the economic climate, Rosenberg said it was the towns that were going to have to step up if they didn't want to see programs cuts.

"We can't do it alone," he said. "We need more municipal support."

As of press time, neither Andover nor Marlborough had taken action on the proposal to fund the \$45,000 shortfall. This would equate to \$16,200 for Marlborough and \$7,650 for Andover based on the current percentages of distribution.

At its Oct. 2 meeting, the Hebron selectmen did briefly discuss loaning AHM the funds to cover the other two towns but, in the end, opted not to. "I'm not about to fund other towns' unwillingness to step up," Mal Leichter, Board of Finance member, and that board's liaison to the BOS, said at the meeting.

In hopes that the supplemental appropriation isn't needed, Rosenberg reported that AHM continues to search for grant opportunities and will hold its scheduled fundraisers. The next fundraiser will be the Goods and Services Auction tomorrow, Saturday, Oct. 18, at the AHM offices at 25 Pendleton Dr., Hebron. The auction will begin with a preview at 6 p.m. Live bidding starts at 7 p.m.

Renaissance Faire Wraps Up Hebron Stay This Weekend

by Sarah McCoy

The Renaissance Faire will wrap up its month-long run at the Lions Fairgrounds on Route 85 this weekend. The medieval experience beckons visitors not just to see what life was like but to actually be a part of it.

You can take axe-throwing lessons, learn the basics of sword fighting, or take in a jousting competition. The Renaissance Faire doesn't stop with violence though. There's the largest medieval marketplace in New England, traditional medieval musicians, food everywhere you turn and period costumes that transport visitors back in time. There are so many in costumes it's often difficult to tell whose part of the show and who just likes to dress up.

And the participants in the show aren't just individuals in costume. These actors and actresses live and breathe their roles, refusing to come out of character. Don't be surprised if King Arthur asks you if you've seen his daughter Guinevere or if an artist asks where the best location is to paint the jousting competition. When you walk through the gates of the fairgrounds, you become part of the show.

While you take in the history, visitors can see traditional art work from the medieval time period, enjoys magic shows and have a good laugh at the Merriment Stage.

The Renaissance Faire is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year. This is its third year in Hebron, and it is the largest version of the festival yet.

Lucien Formichella, 11, of Redding, spent this past Monday (the fair is normally open only on weekends, but it was also open Monday due to the Columbus Day holiday) battling a knight

in a swordfight. He and his family came to the Renaissance Faire after seeing the event advertised in the paper. It's a field trip for the Formichellas, who home school their children. "It's just a great opportunity for hands-on learning," Lucien's mother, Anita, said.

Sandra Stepanian of Plainfield echoed her thoughts. "My sons love watching The History Channel," he said. "Now they can do what they've seen on TV and learn different things about history."

Heather Guay and Dave Lanier, both originally from Hebron but now residents of Manchester, had come to the Renaissance Faire twice before and loved the experience. This year, not only did they attend, they also got married at the fair. "I knew I wanted a medieval-themed wedding but didn't know how to make it happen," Guay said.

After searching online and making a few phone calls, the RHAM High School graduates officially booked the Renaissance Faire site. They tied the knot last Saturday, Oct. 11, and learned a few things in the process.

For example, in medieval times when an important transaction was taking place, the two sides would exchange sandals as a sign of a strong commitment. This was later adapted to the wedding tradition of tying shoes to the rear of the newlyweds' car.

The Renaissance Faire will open its gates for the last time in 2008 this weekend, Oct. 18 and 19. The fair will be open from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. both Saturday and Sunday. Tickets are \$16 for adults, \$7 for children under 12, and free for children under the age of 5. Free parking is available both days.



Hunter Stepanian, age 9, of Plainfield, practices his form at the Sword Fighting School at the Renaissance Faire last Monday. The Faire features a variety of medieval activities and will run for one more weekend in Hebron.



The volunteer board members of Colchester Land Trust thank their fellow residents for their continued support. Board members from left front are Andy George, Chuck Toal, Pete Dane, Cathy Shea, Lisa Hageman, Cindy Praisner and Helene Hochholzer. In the back is Marty Podskoch, Barry Ford, Leslie Curtis and Will Hochholzer. The future Trust member in front is Lea Hochholzer.

Land Trust's Annual Membership Campaign

The Colchester Land Trust (CLT) has launched its annual membership and fund raising campaign. Residents are asked to watch for a town wide mailing due within the coming week that asks residents to renew their membership or join for the first time. Currently, there are over 200 members of the trust, which increased by over 40 percent from last year.

"It is important that we show there is wide support for maintaining the rural quality of Colchester," Lisa Hageman, President of the Trust, said. "The more members, the stronger our voice becomes for conservation, stabilizing taxes and land values. A basic family membership means so much to us."

The CLT's accomplishments over the past few years include: acquiring (and paying for) 18 acres along the Airline Trail; aiding in the negotiations for an additional 14 acres purchased by the state DEP adjacent to the trust's land; being named as secondary stewards for the Cato Corner Farm easements; and receiving an additional 25 acres as a part of the Whispering Winds development on Usher Swamp Road and a 67-acre easement on River Road last December. To date, the CLT has had a hand in preserving over 200 acres of land during its five-year existence.

"As a volunteer group, the Colchester Land Trust does more than just save land," board member Andy George said. "We work closely with our schools, showing students the value of conservation and community planning. Forty

seven Bacon Academy students assisted the trust in a biological survey and helped establish a forestry management plan.

"We have taken an active roll with our scouts, where Eagle Scout candidate, Kevin McCormick, created an environmental baseline analysis and marked a 67-acre easement on River Road," George continued. "This becomes a permanent record of the trust as well as an invaluable learning opportunity for our young adults. We could not have accomplished all of this without their help"

The CLT supports other efforts, like co-sponsoring the recent Agricultural Viability study and monthly "Discover Colchester" hikes. "We estimate almost 1,000 hikers have discovered our community over the past three years," board member Chuck Toal said. Toal will conduct a hike on the Airline Trail on Dec. 14.

"We are making a difference, but we can't do it without the wide support of our residents and businesses," Toal said. "We are offering our businesses an opportunity to support CLT's Colchester phone directory. Merchants can get valuable advertising in return for their donation. Everyone benefits by supporting our trust; it's the right thing to do." Merchants may call Tim Curtis at 537-8208 for details.

Residents can watch for their letter in the mail, or visit the CLT's website, www.colchesterlandtrust.org and become a member using a credit card on line.



Hebron resident Stephanie Custance recently returned from an artist residency in Germany and will be featured in the Artists Create exhibition in town next month. The event is sponsored by the 300th Celebration Committee and is the last event of the year.

Hebron Native Returns Home for Art Show

by Sarah McCoy

After years of being away, Hebron resident Stephanie Custance is looking forward to getting back to her roots. The 2004 RHAM High School graduate recently returned to her hometown and will be a featured artist in the Artist Create exhibition next month.

Custance's artistic inklings began the same place most children's do – with coloring books. "My family still jokes that my career was a result of being dragged around to baseball and softball games," Custance said. "I always had a coloring book."

The Custance name may be familiar to those who follow RHAM High School sports. Matt, the eldest, was a standout baseball player and wrestler. He went on to the U.S. Naval Academy and currently lives in Washington, D.C. Kim (Custance) Hills was a varsity soccer, basketball and softball player for the Sachems. She went to the University of Rhode Island on a softball scholarship and now teaches physical education at RHAM High School.

Stephanie Custance also played sports growing up but traded her time on the field for time in the studio once she got to high school. She took private lessons and classes at the University of Hartford in both painting and drawing.

Custance went onto the Massachusetts College of Art in Boston where she double majored in Fine Art and Art History. After graduating in May, Custance took her work abroad, landing a residency with Takt Kunstprojektraum in Berlin, Germany. Having just arrived back in the states, Custance said she is looking forward to the hometown show.

"There is a certain type of person that's attracted to gallery or museum shows," she explained. "I'm looking forward to the opportunity to get feedback in a casual setting."

Custance said she plans on bringing about 50 pieces of her work to display at Artists Create. In addition she will also be taking portrait commissions for those interested in being drawn. While Custance wouldn't mind selling some of her art, it's the audience that attracted her to the show. "It'll be nice to have so many people walk through, each attracted to the show

for different reasons," she said. "There should be plenty of people who I can talk about my work with."

Custance specializes in two-dimensional work, varying between painting and drawing. She keeps a sketch book on her at all times to jot down any inspirations. While she may begin a piece with an idea of what it might look like, Custance said her work "reveals itself" through her artistic process. "A piece might change a million times before it's done," she said.

For instance, a charcoal drawing that measures about five feet long was supposed to be a quick week-long project for Custance. However, it was only two weeks later that the piece felt complete.

With ideas constantly swirling in her head, Custance said she has at least two projects going at a time. Once she has an idea, she'll create a large-scale drawing to visualize the concept. From there Custance chooses a medium. She has used, among other things, linen, wood, and paper.

For the time being, Custance has returned home to Hebron with a studio in Willimantic. Her hope is to return to Berlin in February for another extended stay in the increasingly bohemian city. "It's a wonderful place for art," she explained. "Because of its history there are so many abandoned buildings and empty spaces that have been converted to alternative galleries."

As an added bonus, Berlin is a fairly inexpensive city, allowing Custance to spend more time in the studio and less time with, what she calls, "a real job."

The Artists Create exhibition will take place Saturday, Nov. 1, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Artists will have booths in Douglas Library and Old Town Hall in addition to a select number of open studios throughout town.

Maps of the event will be available at both the library and Old Town Hall the day of the show.

The event is sponsored by the Hebron 300th Celebration Committee and marks the culminating event for the town's tricentennial.

Record-Breaking Attendance for Portland Fair

by Michael McCoy

The three-day Portland Agricultural Fair, held last weekend, was a record-breaking affair.

Portland Fair Association Treasurer Bill Thompson estimated Monday that gate receipts exceeded \$60,000, and figured some 20,000 people attended from Friday to Sunday. This marks a 30 percent bump from last year's impressive attendance, and a 40 percent increase in gate revenue.

"I was surprised," Thompson said, "because I kind of budgeted my numbers on the last few years."

Once other revenue, such as that from various booths and vendors, is added in, Thompson said the fair brought in about \$100,000. Half of this came on Saturday alone.

Thompson based this success on three factors, the illustrious weather being the most obvious. He also said that in past years the fair was held on the same weekend as the Apple Festival in Glastonbury. However, this year the latter will be held this weekend, Oct. 18 and 19, so the crowds did not have to choose one or the other.

Thompson also figured that the misfortune of fairs earlier in the season, which were plagued with less than favorable weather, worked in Portland's favor. (Last weekend, by the way, brought warm, sunny skies for the fair.)

Association Vice President John Dillon said that when the fair restarted in 2000 after a decade-long layoff, the idea was to raise money for charitable organizations. However, as a result of the dismal numbers from past years, Dillon lamented, "We've always been digging out of a hole." But after this year, he figured, "We can probably get out of the red and take a couple steps into the black."

The "Village Meeting Place" at the fair featured not just various local organizations sharing organizations, but several goats and sheep as well. Included among these was Kaleidoscope, from Other Side of the Fence Farms in Moodus, who was donned the fair's grand champion of all showing goats. Though she has racked up several awards throughout the season, this was her first Best in Show victory.

The fair also offered lots of edibles, catering to nearly every taste. Food being sold included kettle corn, Italian sausage sandwiches, cheesesteaks, pizza, curly and sweet potato fries, loaded baked potatoes and more. Some slightly unusual fair fare was also featured, including homemade Polish pierogies, seafood and lobster bisque.

One booth offered up a host of everything fried, including Oreos, onion rings, mushrooms, Buffalo wings, peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, clams, shrimp and a heaping plate full of assorted fried vegetables.

Sweets were also in no short supply, as cotton candy, caramel and candy apples, sno cones, apple fritters, homemade fudge and fried dough were all available throughout the weekend. Also, the United Methodist Church offered their homemade apple pie with choice of ice cream or cheddar cheese. Finally, hot doughnuts served as the perfect complement to the gourmet coffee booth, for when things cooled down in the evening.

As in past years, Coleman Brothers provided the amusements. In addition to a slew of games manned by fast-talking attendants, the rides, which went for two or three dollars a piece, included a roller coaster, giant slide, 1001 Nights, and the more kid-oriented Pumpkin Patch and Clowny Jail fun house. Thrills were also provided in the form of helicopter rides, which sustained steady lines.

Boston Red Sox mascot Wally the Green Monster circled the grounds Saturday afternoon, escorted by Dillon. "We would go to a spot and he would just be swamped" with kids, Dillon said. He added that, while in transit at one point, Dillon looked back. "There must have been 30 to 40 kids following [Wally]. It was like the Pied Piper of the fair."

Dillon also said, "All the entertainment was great," making special note of Nifty Fifties Band, whose Saturday night set included a '50s dance contest. According to Dillon, small children and people well into their 70s were shaking a tailfeather, packing the dance floor. Dillon even talked to one woman who had danced with her husband during the contest. Even his emphysema could not keep his feet quiet. The contest ended up being won by three girls who ranged in age from 6-11.

It seemed the Fair Association tried their best to make the event accommodating to those with disabilities. In addition to the handicapped parking available on the fairgrounds, a handicapped shuttle circled the grounds ready to transport disabled fairgoers to various hot spots.

The exhibition tent, which held baked and canned goods, needlepoint, photography, and even giant pumpkins, all judged for prizes. In the collections category, for example, Ruth Cuicias' entry entitled "My Mother's Recipes" (which was exactly what it sounds like), took home the blue ribbon.

Another popular spot was the beer tent, which this year was located right next to one of the pull rings. So, while drinkers could not take beer or wine outside of the designated area, they could watch some of the pulls from a roped off section just outside of the tent. The entrance to the tent was guarded at all times by a Portland Police officer, said Officer Gary Jarzabek, who kept watch Saturday afternoon. He also said that another officer simultaneously patrolled the rest of grounds, cracking down on unauthorized alcohol consumption.

The Junior's Women's Club Talent Show drew a crowd of at least 100, gathered to watch 24 acts split into three groups. Out of contestants in Grades 1-3, Colby Townsend took third for his rendition of "God Bless the U.S.A.," second place went to Elena Uradnik, who sang "Here I Am," and Katie Rea and Raychel Rasciani took home the top prize for dancing to the "Time Warp."

In the Grades 4-5 category, Max D'Amore and Tyler Ghent made the girls swoon with their performance of The Jonas Brothers' "Burnin' Up," even going so far as to dress like the famous teen rockers. Ashley Cappello, singing "Jesus Take the Wheel," received second prize, and Ella Santos placed first with her rendition of "R-E-S-P-E-C-T."

Finally, in the Grade 6-8 division, The



Ultimate, born Aug. 15, takes a lunch break last Saturday afternoon at the Portland Fair. He and his mother, Sensation, both hail from TFA Farms in Moodus.

McQuade sisters (Nancy, Julia, and Caitlin) got third prize after singing "Colors of the Wind" from *Pocahontas*. Second place went to Adam Harris, who juggled to Fog Hat's "Slow Ride," and Emily Pemrusse took first with an a capella rendition of Kelly Clarkson's "Because of You."

The four judges this year were Junior Women's Club members Jodi Riccio and Jennifer Renk, Youth Services Prevention Coordinator Peggy Chesaneck and First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield.

This was the fourth year for the talent show. Phyllis Prokop, one of the event coordinators, said, "This year was really exceptional" and added that the kids are "getting better and better."

As for the weather, "The fair gods were shining on us," Dillon said. "I don't think anybody else all fair season had three beautiful days like we did."

Dillon also commented, "We had a perfectly balanced fair this year, figuring there was something for everyone." Most events were quite well-attended, he said, with attendance distributed pretty evenly among the attractions.

It seems the vendors fared just as well. Calling the three days "one of the first dry weekends of the season," Dillon said, "A lot of the vendors said this was an opportunity to recover from some of the previous fairs."

Parking was again located behind the town garage on Route 17, but it's not clear how much longer this will be the case. Oakwood Soccer Club owns the fields behind the garage, and has proposed constructing a soccer complex on the

land. That matter is currently before the Planning and Zoning Commission. Dillon said that while Fair Association member have "explored all options" for permanent parking, they are not "at this point" close to finding a solution.

Dillon said he's "always amazed at the small group of people that put" on the Portland Fair. About a dozen Fair Association members helped out, he said, and there were also many volunteers from outside of the organization.

Once again Nichols Bus Company provided its buses as shuttles from the parking area to the fairgrounds. Dillon said all the drivers donated their time. Also, Vinal Technical High School student Matt Kimble led the trash pickup effort, while Portland High School student Matt Ziegler coordinated parking. Both young men enlisted the help of other area teenagers.

Many volunteers stuck around until about 9 p.m. Monday, packing up the fair. By Tuesday morning, Dillon said, "You'd be hard pressed to know there was a fair there."

"We're never going to be huge," Dillon admitted, adding that the Durham Fair and Hebron Harvest Fair will always dwarf them in size. "We have to do the best with the size that we have." But, he said, "I think we put on one hell of a fair."

And one elderly fair attendee, Dillon said, said the event was "just a great little fair."

The Portland Fair Association meets the first Wednesday of every month in the Hemlock Grange Hall, located at 17 Sage Hollow Rd., just off of Route 17. Meetings start at 7 p.m., and all are welcome to attend and get involved with planning the next fair.

Skatepark Again Debated at East Hampton Council Meeting

by Michael McCoy

The issues surrounding a potential skatepark in town again took center stage at Tuesday night's East Hampton Town Council meeting.

Resident Gary Smith led off the first public comment portion of the night, saying, "The people in charge of getting a skatepark had two tries at it. . . These children showed little respect for anyone or anything.

"Bad behavior should not be rewarded," Smith added.

What Smith was referring to is the town's not altogether pleasant history with a public skatepark. Such a park had been located behind the Co. 1 Firehouse in the village center. But, as a result of vandalism, the park became not only insufficient but unsafe, and the town closed it in 2006.

Resident Kimberley Fontaine was outspoken in the need for closing the old park. However, several months after the park's shuttering, a Skatepark Committee, facilitated by Fontaine and composed of youth in town enthusiastic about skateboarding, became a regular presence at council meetings, lobbying for a skatepark in town, as legally, there was no place in town to skate.

Recently, Fontaine, though still quite involved with the effort, handed over the role of facilitator to parents Kim Page and Dave Schuler. (Fontaine herself has no children on the committee.)

In May, the Town Council unanimously voted to make the basketball court at what is referred to as the Bevin Property (located immediately north of Center School) into a temporary skatepark. The park was removed for the better part of a week during Old Home Days and permanently removed on Labor Day, as per the arrangement. But this left skateboarders again with no place to go.

And at the Town Council's Sept. 23 meeting, a large group of residents from Bevin Boulevard and the surrounding area indicated that the teenage frequenters of the summer skatepark weren't very well behaved. According to the residents, the teens were often guilty of littering, using profanity, making excessive noise, defiantly standing in the road when cars are passing through, setting off firecrackers, smoking, making out, even public urination. And, the residents said, the teens often acted disrespectfully when confronted on these issues.

The residents at the Sept. 23 meeting seemed

to agree that these incidents did not exclusively involve skateboarders; however, at least one resident made special note that she saw some of the offenders with skateboards. Furthermore, the residents said, while things might have slowed since Labor Day, incidents still take place. East Hampton Police Chief Matthew Reimondo said the department had received about 20 calls related to the park, most in July and August, and no citations had been issued.

Fontaine seemed quite concerned by the complaints expressed at the Sept. 23 meeting, but doubted that the kids from the skatepark committee were involved. And this notion seemed to be the consensus at Tuesday's meeting.

The Town Council at its Sept. 9 meeting had directed Town Manager Jeffery O'Keefe to ask the town engineer to perform a physical assessment to find an appropriate spot for a permanent park. And, after the Sept. 23 meeting, council chair Melissa Engel said, "In my mind, the only location that's viable is Sears Park." (Engel has also said she envisions the funds for a skatepark to be primarily raised by the Skatepark Committee, as opposed to coming from taxpayers.)

But residents at this past Tuesday's meeting were less-than-thrilled about the Sears Park possibility. Rich Norkun, who is on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and a resident of Sears Place, said he was against a skatepark being placed at Sears Park, calling it "a quiet, tranquil place" and adding that the park is only two-and-a-half acres in size. He did however, say, "I'm not saying they don't need a skatepark."

Resident Tom Wells, who said he has "lived up the street from the park for 57 years," said something similar: "I've always known it as. . . a quiet place, a friendly place." He said a skatepark there might compromise "the essence of the park." However, he seemed to not envy the position the council was in, recognizing the issue was multi-dimensional. "I think activities for young people are important," he commented. "I can see how this is a tough nut to crack."

While no cost has been revealed for a potential skatepark, resident Mark Vickery wondered if the project would be "fiscally responsible for a dozen kids."

Resident Art Marsden said there are "two groups of skateboarders in this community," and that while one was "very well behaved," the

other was not. "This is the group we have to address," he said of the latter. "Let's start finding the people who are responsible and make an example out of them," added Marsden.

Dave Schuler, whose son used the summer skatepark, said of the kids, "If you treat them with respect, you get respect in return." As for the Bevin Property site, Schuler said, "As far as I saw, it worked out perfect for it."

Skateboarder Dalton Paige suggested "kids from other towns" will use the skatepark, not just local youth, he figured, "The bad kids'll go too," but he added that those with the park's best interests in mind would "kick them out." Paige continued, "We'll do whatever we can, and we wouldn't do anything to mess it up."

Fontaine spoke up as well. "I absolutely support the residents of Bevin Boulevard," she said, adding that the kids in question were not the ones on the committee, the ones responsible for making the temporary park happen.

"We've been working at this for two years," Fontaine said, and, speaking about the kids, added, "I dare say they've been at a lot more town council meetings than many people in this room."

According to Fontaine, the temporary skatepark drew 30-40 kids per day over the summer. "That's 30-40 kids not smoking pot, 30-40 kids not drinking beer, 30-40 kids not breaking into homes," she said. She also noted that the Youth Jam, held at the park this summer, drew 400 kids; skateboarding is "a bona fide sport," Fontaine said.

Fontaine admitted that "It seems to me we may need some sort of recording or surveillance equipment." Fontaine offered to research such products and suggested it could be supplemented by the kids themselves keeping police apprized of any wrongdoing. She pledged, "I guarantee the kids would be 100 percent behind that."

Smith spoke again later, reporting, "I've seen kids walkin' up the street, smokin' pot. Walkin up the street!" He also reported seeing kids rolling cigarettes and exchanging them for money "on top of the monkey bars."

However, he also acknowledged that the worst-behaved kids gave the rest a bad name. Addressing the council, he added, "I never ever wanted you to believe that all these kids were bad. . . It's just a group of 'em there nobody can control."

Paul Peszynski said, "I sympathize with the

people on [Bevin Boulevard], and I don't think it should have been put there." Though not a resident of that street, he said that he and his girlfriend regularly walk that street. "It was noticeable, once the park was first started, that litter was everywhere," he said.

Later in the meeting, Reimondo said, "The skateboarders weren't the problem. It was the element that it attracted."

O'Keefe reported that he, Parks and Recreation Director Ruth Plummer, and Tom Cummings of CLA looked at eight potential sights for the park. These eight were narrowed down to Memorial School and Sears Park. He said sentiments leaned toward Sears Park, since other plans for the Memorial School property were also being explored.

The town manager also pointed out that several residents showed up at the last meeting to protest a permanent park by Center School. This week several spoke against it being at Sears Park. O'Keefe figured that if he suggested putting the park at another specified location, residents would show up protesting it at the next meeting.

He also commented, "I do think the town is ready for a more global Parks and Recreation master plan," and added, "There's lots of other things that need to happen at Sears Park as well."

Two years from now, 2010, will be the 100th anniversary of Sears Park. In hopes of holding events to celebrate this milestone, O'Keefe proposed that the town spend no more than \$15,000 to hire a Parks and Recreation design and planning firm to prepare a Sears Park Master Improvement Plan.

Members of the council made it clear that this plan would not focus solely on putting a skatepark in Sears Park, but rather a comprehensive analysis, yielding the best direction for the nearly century-old park. The council voted 6-0 to take this measure. (The cost of hiring the design firm is not an additional expenditure, but comes from money found in the existing Parks and Recreation budget.)

O'Keefe also endorsed the idea of, down the road, looking into a full Parks and Recreation study, to which he said, "It's gonna be a much more costly plan."

But all of this doesn't mean the skatepark will be pushed into the background. "The Parks and Recreation Department has never lost sight of these skateboarders," Plummer said.

Protestors Speak Out Against Proposed Linwood Avenue Bank in Colchester

by Hannah Charry

A Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) meeting this past Wednesday, Oct. 15, drew nearly 50 residents – and even a news crew from NBC 30.

They were all there for a public hearing to discuss possible construction of a 4,656-square-foot Bank of America on 71 and 79 Linwood Ave. This was the fourth public hearing on the matter.

Windsor-based developer Colvest Group has applied to demolish two properties that are located within a Historic Preservation Overlay Zone. But developers have met contention from citizens who are opposed to demolition of the former Stebbins residence and H.I. Stebbins carriage house located at 71 and 79 Linwood, respectively.

A rally was held Wednesday at 6 p.m., just before the start of the public hearing. Twenty citizens walked down a portion of Norwich Avenue, to the outside of Town Hall, in an effort to raise awareness of the issue and advocate adaptive reuse of the structures, in harmony with changes that have already been made to the properties. The carriage house was renovated a few years ago to hold a cell-phone store and dry-cleaner.

Colchester Historical Society president Joann Ridell said that members of the society have been to a few of the previous PZC meetings and didn't feel that their opinions had been properly voiced, which is why she organized the rally.

"I know that there is a large group that is opposed to the bank being built where it is planned," Ridell said. "I think the bank is welcome in town but not the tearing down of a historical building."

"We are preservationists for the next generation," Arthur Liverant said. Liverant is an art historian and antique show owner, who has been a member of the Colchester Historical Society since 1971.

"Colvest wants to rebuild a modern brick façade that wouldn't fit with the current architecture of the town," Liverant said. "The Stebbins residence is a very old building from circa 1870. It is a classic Federal style home with a Victorian porch. The carriage house sent carriages throughout New England. Those houses are scarce."

Approximately 20 citizens and members of the Historical Society carried signs at the Wednesday night rally that read "Save Our Past," "Reuse Don't Abuse," and "Respect Our Roots." As town officials entered Town Hall, protestors yelled, "Shame on Bank of America."

"We're interested in growth of our town but not at that price," resident Jean Smith said. "We don't think Bank of America should take this opportunity. I'd rather have them located somewhere else. These are thriving community properties. I don't want to see them ripped down. That's not growth."

Oscar Wanboldt's family moved to Colchester in 1914. He came to the rally be-

cause he is worried that the integrity of the town would be compromised.

"If you want to live in Glastonbury, please move there. Why ruin a small town and make it into a city?" he said. "There is a lot of undeveloped land here."

First Selectman Linda Hodge said Thursday morning, "I think it's great that citizens came out to voice their opinions. It makes for better government. I love stuff like [Wednesday] night because you get to hear direct reactions. We cannot govern and make decisions in a vacuum. I haven't seen a protest outside the building [before]."

Traffic and environmental concerns were also expressed during Wednesday's meeting, both by citizens and board members. Some residents are especially worried after the proposal of a new Dunkin' Donuts on 164 Linwood Ave. was passed in August.

"I'm afraid people will get killed by all of the changes in traffic," Wanboldt said.

Colvest reported that they have not held a recent sit-down meeting with the Department of Transportation, but had corresponded over the phone to address some of the traffic concerns.

On Wednesday, a team of Colvest attorneys and engineers presented a new design plan that would include a right-turn in, right-turn out to attempt to direct the flow of traffic. But, Lester Boyd, principal architect of the plan, said, "I'm certainly not going to stand here and say that someone isn't going to try" making a left-turn

at the location.

Gary Davis, of the commercial real-estate firm CB Richard Ellis, said that he helped develop documents to examine the architectural character of the town and "incorporate a mix of old and new."

Davis said that the current theme of the town appeared to be Greek revival, so, "Those aspects were incorporated in the new design. We were asked to think out of the box and we've done that to bring it more in conformance to the character of Colchester." Davis presented changes to the proposed bank's original design. The changes called for such elements as red brick, projecting eaves and halo backlighting for signage.

"Try for a second and imagine a white picket fence," Liverant said, while reading his own letter to the board during the public comment section of the meeting. "When you start to tear down pickets, that fence begins to look pretty shabby. If you take down enough pickets, the fence falls apart. The Stebbins home is a classic example of period architecture, and although it is not a gem, it's one of the many pickets that make our town. That's what makes our center, and without it we lose the integrity of our town."

After deliberation, PZC members concluded that they did not have enough information to reach a final decision whether to accept or deny Colvest's application. The public hearing was closed, and PZC is due to act on the application at its Nov. 5 meeting.

Hebron Selectmen Give Town Manager Pay Raise

by Sarah McCoy

The Board of Selectmen (BOS) awarded Town Manager Jared Clark a salary increase after conducting its annual review of the town leader.

Clark received a 3.1 percent salary increase, slightly below the 3.5 percent raise most town employees received. This brings his annual compensation from \$101,920 to \$105,080. The increase was applied retroactively to July 1, the start of the fiscal year.

The raise comes after the selectmen reviewed Clark's performance, which they dubbed "satisfactory."

Ideally, Clark said, his review should be conducted in January or February, in order to prepare for a potential salary adjustment prior to the budget referendum. This year, however, the review was pushed back in order to allow the new members of the BOS to get up to speed with their positions.

Four of the five BOS members are in their first year of serving on the board. The other, Mark Stuart, was elected in 2005.

Clark first came to Hebron in 2005, as an interim Town Manager. He was hired on a permanent basis in 2006.

Last year the BOS conducted its first review of Clark, giving him "satisfactory" marks of 3.5 out of 5. He scored high with personal characteristics, but low marks for overall job performance and presentation of new personnel policies and procedures.

This year, the board gave Clark an overall rating of 3. "I don't know if we could have expected any higher," Watt said of the results.

Because Clark is new to the Town Manager role and new to Hebron, Watt said both sides are still in an adjustment period. "We're working on communicating our expectations to Jared and expect continued development," he said.

"It's about conveying the expectations of what the people of Hebron are looking for and having Jared manage the town in a way that works for our residents."

Watt said the review was conducted by comparing the objectives set by Clark and the previous BOS to what Clark had accomplished by last January, when the review should have been conducted. Afterwards, the selectmen took time to update themselves with Clark's progress up to now in order to prepare for the next review in January 2009.

Clark is currently developing a classification and compensation study for all municipal positions in Hebron. This will be used to create standards for employee evaluations and a pay range for employees as opposed to a single dollar amount, as is the case now.

Also, for the past two years, Clark has been developing an operational strategic plan for the town. He and the BOS will hold a workshop to go through the document in the near future.

Clark said he will take the review as constructive advice for his role in Hebron. "I'm pleased to be satisfactory," he said. "Every employee should be satisfactory."

Last fall, the BOS conducted its review, at Clark's request, in an open forum. With so many new faces on the BOS, chair Jeff Watt opted to handle the procedure in executive session this year. He feels that holding the review behind closed doors allows for each selectman to speak any personal concerns or ask clarifying questions. "It gives us a forum to reach a consensus," Watt said. "When we're done, I think it's more than fair to make the information public."

A list of the objectives Clark was measured against is available in the Town Manager's office in the Town Office Building, 15 Gilead St.

Colchester Police News

10/3-Marie Einsiedel, 31, of 121 Snipsic Lake Rd., Ellington, was charged with DUI and failure to drive right, State Police said.

10/3-Elise Carola, 18, of 871 Old Hartford Rd., was charged with DUI and failure to drive right, State Police said.

10/5-Paul Lachance, 38, of 441 S. Main St., Apt. 79, Manchester, was charged with failure to appear, State Police said.

10/6-Stephen Downing, 32, of 803 Norwich Ave., was charged with disorderly conduct and second-degree harassment, State Police said.

10/7-Erin Sherman, 23, of 34 Courtland St., Manchester, turned herself into state police at Troop K and charged with violation of probation, State Police said.

10/7-John Sciremammano, 49, of Halls Hill Rd., was charged with second-degree threatening and breach of peace, State Police said.

10/10-Edward Cook, 41, who police provided no address for, was charged with second-degree failure to appear, State Police said.

10/12-Heather Kinney, 44, of 124 Westerly Ter., Colchester, was charged with DUI and improper turning, State Police say.

10/14-Josepheny Robinson, 24, of 777 Farmington Ave., Apt. 3, West Hartford, was charged with DUI, operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license and possession of marijuana, State Police said.

Marlborough Police News

10/7-John Olenick, 42, of 192 Hebron Rd., was charged with failure to appear, State Police said.

10/9-Michael Pagone, 29, of 60 Eastham Bridge Rd., East Hampton, was charged with DUI and speeding, State Police said.

Hebron Police News

10/4-Anthony Robbins, 18, of 69 Lake Ridge Rd., Marlborough, was charged with third-degree assault and disorderly conduct after shooting his younger brother multiple times with a paint ball gun, State Police said.

10/5-Joseph Gesualdi, 25, of 160 Deepwood Dr., was charged with failure to appear, State Police said.

10/5-Tyler Wilson, 18, of 44 Jan Dr., was charged with possession of marijuana and second degree failure to appear, State Police said.

10/8-Richard Heil, 46, of 125 N. Pond Rd., was charged with third-degree assault and disorderly conduct, State Police said.

Obituaries

East Hampton

Frances Clark

Frances (Masse) Clark, 88, beloved wife of the late Byron M. Clark, died Tuesday, Oct. 14, at Middlesex Hospital. Born Jan. 28, 1918, in Quebec, Canada, she was the daughter of the late Joseph and Delana Masse. She had lived in East Hampton since 1942. Frances was a communicant of St. Patrick Church in East Hampton.

She is survived by her two sons, Gary and Helen Clark of Portland and Donald Clark of Cummington, MA and Joan Clark; a sister, Georgette Masse of Rocky Hill; her grandchildren Ian and Nikki, Jessica, James, Jacob and Rebecca; and her great-grandchildren Ben, James, Hannah and Emma.

A Funeral Liturgy was celebrated Thursday, Oct. 16, in St. Patrick Church, East Hampton. Burial followed in Rose Hill Cemetery in Rocky Hill.

The Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, has care of the arrangements. To leave online condolences, visit www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com

East Hampton

Robert Lewis Mack

Robert Lewis Mack, 90, beloved husband of Jane (Goodale) Mack, died Tuesday, Oct. 13, at Middlesex Hospital. Born May 7, 1918 in East Hampton, he was the son of the late Antonio and Annie (Gombs) Mack.

Robert was a lifelong resident of East Hampton and had served his country in the U.S. Navy during WWII. He was a member of the Eat Hampton Senior Citizens, Portland AARP, VFW Fowler-Dix-Park Post 5095. Robert was a caring and loving husband and friend who loved history and music, especially playing in his band Prickley Heat.

Besides his wife he is survived by his nieces Dolores Tyner and Mary Buccelli and nephew Henry Goodale. Jane would like to thank them all for their love and support during Robert's illness. She would especially like to thank Dr. Bentley and the staff at Hospice and Cobalt Lodge for the wonderful care they provided.

Robert was predeceased by his two brothers, George and Joseph Mack, and a sister, Olive Lynch.

Funeral services will be Saturday, Oct. 18, at 10 a.m. in the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton.

Burial will follow in the Connecticut State Veterans Cemetery in Middletown. Friends may call at the funeral home on Saturday morning from 9 a.m. until the time of the service.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the charity of the donors choice.

To leave online condolences or for directions, visit www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

East Hampton

Thomas G. Burns Jr.

Thomas G. Burns Jr., 56, of East Hampton, formerly of East Granby, passed away Thursday, Oct. 9, at Middlesex Memorial Hospital. Born in New York City, NY, he was the son of Thomas G. Burns Sr. and Janice (Baker) Burns, of East Granby.

Thomas grew up in East Granby and graduated from East Granby High School in 1969. After high school, he rode his bike from the East Coast to the West Coast, camping and working his way across the country. Thomas was employed for the past 18 years as a diesel mechanic at Walker Crane Company in Plainville. An avid photographer, he enjoyed photographing old buildings, landscapes and nature scenes. He also enjoyed planting and working in his vegetable garden.

Besides his parents, he is survived by two brothers, John Burns and his wife, Suzanne of Winchester, VA, and Brian Burns of Avon, CO; four sisters, Laura and her husband, Tom Thompson of Blandford, MA, Christine Burns of East Granby, Grace Burns of Eugene, OR and Claire Burns-Higgins and her husband, Shaun Higgins of Tampa, FL; five nephews; two nieces; and many aunts, uncles and cousins.

A funeral service was held Wednesday, Oct. 15, from the Hayes-Huling & Carmon Funeral Home, 364 Salmon Brook St., Granby, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at St. Bernard Church, Tariffville. Burial was in St. Bernard Cemetery. His family received friends Monday, Oct. 14, and Tuesday, Oct. 15, at the funeral home.

Tom's family would like to thank his neighbors, Mr. and Mrs. Brooks, and his fellow workers at Walker Crane Co., especially Ed Roy and Andrea for their help and sympathy. We would also like to thank his social worker, Jan Clark, his home care nurse, Peg Culbert, and the doctors, nurses, and hospital staff at Middlesex Memorial Hospital Hospice.

Memorial donations may be made to the East Granby Ambulance Fund, PO Box 100, East Granby, CT 06026 or St. Bernard Church, PO Box 85, Tariffville, CT 06081. For online condolences, visit www.carmonfuneralhome.com.

East Hampton

Phyllis S. Hansen

Phyllis S. Hansen, beloved wife of Frederick P. Hansen of Middle Haddam, died Thursday, Oct. 9, at her home. Phyllis was born March 25, 1925, in Wakefield, RI, the daughter of the late Oliver Hazard and Marjorie (Clarke) Stedman.

Phyllis will best be remembered for her great appreciation of beauty and harmony in all things. No one enjoyed flowers, a walk in a garden and birds at the feeders more than her. She loved a good book, playing her piano, and sharing a laugh and a story with her family and friends. We will miss her, and remember her spirit and her love of life. Phyllis attended school in Wakefield, before going on to the University of Rhode Island graduating in three years in 1946, with a Bachelor of Science degree. She was a member of Delta Zeta sorority at the University of Rhode Island. She taught school in Wakefield, RI for six years. She taught one year in Miami, FL before coming to Portland, where she taught English at the Portland Junior High School for 23 years before retiring as chairman of the English department in 1978.

She was a member of the board of directors of the Middletown RSVP group. She also spent many hours as a volunteer at the Westbrook Tourist Information Center with her husband. She was a member of the Middle Haddam Garden Club for many years serving terms as secretary and President. She was awarded life membership in the Garden Clubs of Connecticut. She served on the Middle Haddam library board for a number of years, including terms as president of the library board, and was a director emeritus.

Phyllis was a member of the Republican Town Committee serving as treasurer for several years. She belonged to the Belfry Club of Middle Haddam having served as its president for two years. She was an active member of the Brownstone Chapter 7980 of AARP serving as its president for two terms. Phyllis was a member of The Second Congregational Church of Middle Haddam where she taught Sunday school for a number of years and ran a vacation bible school for several years. Phyllis had also served two terms as a Justice of the Peace for the town of East Hampton.

Besides her husband of 30 years, Frederick P. Hansen, she leaves a sister, Sallie and her husband John Hoyle; a son, Clifton Paul Whaley; two grandchildren, Jonathan P. Whaley and his wife Theresa, and Llewellyne Beth Whaley; five great-grandchildren, Cellan, Alexandra, and Leighton Whaley, Tobin and Hazel Arden. Also, her step-daughters, Lois and her husband Kurt Neumann, Margaret and her husband Ken Cooley; five step-grandchildren: Sara and her husband Gary Eggers, Jennifer and her husband Troy Zanelli, Carly and Amy Neumann and Benjamin Cooley; and six step-great-grandchildren: Murielle, Amy and Danielle Eggers and Rebekah, Caden and Kenna Zanelli. She also leaves several nieces and a nephew.

She was predeceased by a brother, Oliver Hazard Stedman II.

A memorial service was held Wednesday, Oct. 15, in the Second Congregational Church in Middle Haddam, with the Rev. Lois Kennedy officiating. Burial followed in Union Hill Cemetery in Middle Haddam. There were no calling hours. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Second Congregational Church Elevator Fund, P.O. Box 206, Middle Haddam, CT 06456. To leave online condolences, visit www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Colchester

Louise Smith Barton

Louise Marie (Johnson) Smith Barton, 66, of Colchester, passed away Saturday, Oct. 11. Born Oct. 22, 1941, in Middletown, she is the daughter of the late Burton F. Johnson Sr. and Josephine (Lefreniere) Johnson.

Louise leaves behind her husband David, her children Edward L. Smith Jr. and his wife Laura of Old Saybrook; Louise Winger of Madison; Robert Smith of Deep River; Janet Smith of Centerbrook and Jacqueline Root and her husband Norman Jr. of Old Saybrook; two step-daughters Jessica Kirsch and Amanda Major, 14 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. She also leaves behind her brothers Robert, Burton Jr., Phillip and William Johnson, and her sisters Eileen Jackson and Linda Smith.

Besides her parents, Louise is also predeceased by her sister Etta Walden.

She was employed at Whelen in Chester for over 13 years.

Family and friends gathered at the Riverside Cemetery in Old Saybrook Thursday, Oct. 16. Swan Funeral Home has charge of arrangements.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Middlesex Hospital c/o Middlesex Hospice 28 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457.

Colchester

L. Reed Phillips

L. Reed Phillips, 90, loving husband and father, passed away Oct. 10 at Fairview in Groton. He was born April 11, 1918, the son of Ross and Ida (Moeller) Phillips.

He lived for many years in the New Haven area, and retired to Colchester in 1984. Reed was a veteran of the Coast Guard and served in WWII.

He leaves his wife of 67 years, Elsie (Holdt) Phillips of Mystic; his son, Reed and wife Jane (Farley) of East Granby; his daughter, Nancy Lauman of Groton; two granddaughters, Kristin Lauman of Chicago and Karen Williams of Manchester.

He was predeceased by a brother, Ross Phillips, and a sister, Ruth Bernard.

Services will be private. Memorial donations may be sent to the Fairview Home Residents' Fund, 235 Lestertown Road, Groton, CT 06340.