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Sisters Madison, left, and Reghan McGinnis of Colchester stand with their award-winning pooch, Phoebe Boofae, a Bull Mastif, at last weekend's Pumpkins 'n' Pooches festival. Phoebe was dressed as a "funky supergirl," and was voted cutest and best in show.

Colchester Goes to the Dogs

by Katy Nally

It was all about man's slobbery best friend Sunday, Oct. 4, at the 11th annual Pumpkins 'n' Pooches Fest in Colchester. Hundreds of dogs strutted their stuff, showing off their best attire to a panel of four judges.

The event was sponsored by the Colchester Lions Club and held on the town green. "It was phenomenal," organizer of the fest and Lions Club member, Charlene Picard, said. "People came out because they love their dogs. They love showing them off." And the dogs seemed to enjoy the event as well.

There were pooches everywhere. There were small ones, tall ones, shaggy ones, fuzzy ones and many in adorable costumes. It was actually difficult to walk near the judging circle without getting tangled in a few leashes.

A big attraction was the costume and "silly dog" contests. Owners paraded their pooches around the lawn in front of the judging panel, hoping to secure a winning doggie treat. There were five costume categories: funniest, cutest, scariest, best ensemble and most original, with a best in show finale where the five winners went head-to-head.

First-time competitor Phoebe Boofae, a bull mastiff, won the cutest contest and best in show. Phoebe sported a flashy, pink sequin top with a black, tulle ballerina skirt, which looked curiously like an old dance costume. She wore matching pink goggles and a tres-chic pink headband with a flower to match. Owners Madison and Reghan McGinnis of Colchester said Phoebe was dressed as a "funky super-girl." The

sisters walked Phoebe around the ring and judges were impressed.

The judging panel included veterinarian Rob McLaughlin, First Selectman Linda Hodge, Colchester Police Officer Rob Suchecki and Lions Club District Governor Keith Lemere.

The winner of the funniest costume, Peeves the pit bull, could have won a look-alike contest too. He was dressed as Mr. T, wearing a neck full of gold beads, red armbands and a tank top that read "I pity the fool." However, Peeves did suffer from a wardrobe malfunction when his stick-on Mowhawk fell off as owner Liz Culver walked him in front of the judges. But he still made off with the blue ribbon and two large Milk-Bones to devour.

Peeves was no novice competitor. Culver said he won best kisser two years ago and this year was the "kiss off" between Peeves and his sister, who was also a previous year champ.

There were many memorable pups at Pumpkins 'n' Pooches. Picard said one of her favorites was the second-place winner of the best ensemble category. Bentley the basset hound and his owner (who was not much taller than the dog) were both dressed as Elvis. Winner of the best ensemble contest was Kayla McAuliffe who was dressed as a bride and her Jack Russell terrier, Pickles, was the groom.

The dog contests were open to all for a small donation. For \$3, the pups were entered into two contests; after that it was only \$1 per entry. All proceeds from the fest will go to sev-

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Proposed Sunset Clause Deemed 'Slap in the Face'

by Katy Nally

At Tuesday's meeting of the Marlborough Board of Selectmen (BOS), board members voted to include a controversial "sunset clause" in an ordinance draft that would exempt a local veteran from paying his property taxes.

The selectmen agreed this was a useful addition to the ordinance because it would give board members the chance to modify it every two years. However, others in town said they viewed it as yet another "slap in the face."

In a separate clause, the draft also excludes the surviving spouse from receiving the tax exemption in the event of the veteran's death.

Like the past BOS meetings where the veterans' tax exemption was discussed, many veterans came from neighboring towns to show their support. However, all of them left after the public comment section and did not hear about the sunset clause and the spouse exclusion.

This clause was a new concept for many who attended Tuesday's meeting. A sunset clause, First Selectman Bill Black said, requires the board to renew the ordinance, in this case, every two years. The tax exemption coincides with the Oct. 1, 2009, grand list and runs until Oct. 1, 2011. "It links it to this board for applica-

tion," essentially giving it a "drop dead date," Black said. If the board does not "expressly extend" this ordinance "by law" on Oct. 1, 2011 it will dissolve.

The ordinance is the result of a five-month battle between the BOS and Willie and Robin Hodge. Willie Hodge, 59, is a disabled veteran who recently received a special adaptive housing grant from the federal government. Hodge is entitled to be property tax exempt as per state statute 12-81 section 21(C) because of this grant and his disability. (He is paralyzed from the waist down.) The statute exempts Hodge from his local property tax assessment up to \$10,000; however, the "legislative body of the municipality" can decide to make him 100 percent tax exempt.

This is where the BOS and the Hodges' attorney, Pasquale Amodeo, disagree. Amodeo cites the town's charter, section 7.1.1, which states, "The legislative powers of the Town shall be vested in the Town Meeting and in the Board or Selectmen." But Black said at Tuesday's meeting that "the legislative body is interpreted as being the Board of Selectmen."

The discussion about a veterans' tax exemption has been going on since this summer. It

first appeared on the BOS agenda on June 2 and on Sept. 15 the board members agreed to seek counsel to draft an ordinance.

However, at the Sept. 15 BOS meeting, Amodeo and Hodge were not hoping for an ordinance; they wanted a resolution (a motion made by the board) to pass that night, which would immediately exempt Hodge from property taxes. The city of Hartford adopted the same state statute through a resolution on June 8, 2009. However, other towns, including East Hartford and Hebron, drafted an ordinance.

However, the ordinances of these two towns do not exclude a surviving spouse from tax exemption. The East Hartford ordinance does not mention carrying on the benefits for the spouse, but since there is no specific clause excluding the tax exemption, East Hartford Tax Assessor Brian Smith said it would continue after the veteran dies. "I feel very sad about the issue of not extending the exemption to the spouse," said State Representative Pam Sawyer, who was present at the Sept. 15 BOS meeting where the issue was discussed.

On Sept. 15, Sawyer and Black discussed how this statute can be considered "feel-good legislation," which the state writes but towns

fund. At Tuesday's meeting Black called the ordinance an "unfunded mandate." He said "we need some commitment or latitude" from the state "on what we can afford, and the only option that's in there is survival of the spouse." However, when spread out across the town, this tax exemption works out to about 42 cents per person per year, according to Marlborough's tax assessor, Marie Hall. The Hodges' property tax is \$4,416 and there are roughly 10,000 taxpayer accounts in Marlborough.

See Clause on Page 2

New Word Limit

Due to space constraints, starting next week – the issue of Oct. 16 – all letters to the editor must be 300 words or less. No exceptions will be made.

Also, due to the volume of election-related letters the *RiverEast* is receiving, we cannot guarantee every letter will be published. Brevity will work in your favor.



Sunday's festival was filled with, well, pumpkins and pooches. Pictured above left are some of the pumpkins entered in a pumpkin decorating contest. Show at center are Joyce Schwartz of Salem and her dog Tess walking happily out of the judging circle after winning second place for funniest costume. Pictured at right are the winners of best ensemble, Kayla McAuliffe of Colchester and Pickles the Jack Russell terrier, dressed as a bride and groom.

Dogs cont. from Front Page

Fidelco Guide Dog Foundation and the Colchester Land Trust. There is a complete list of charities on the Lions Club website, www.colchesterlions.org. Picard said many of these organizations support programs for the blind and the visually impaired.

And where there were pooches, there were pumpkins. Michelle Wyatt, a Lions Club member, directed the pumpkin contests that began earlier in the day. For a \$1 donation, anyone could decorate a pumpkin. Wyatt said there was a total of 35 entries, which was more than last year. Picard said many local companies, including Wendy's, donated \$1 coupons for prizes. Although not everyone received winning ribbons, Picard said "all the kids got something," thanks to donations from businesses.

Other demonstrations were also provided free of charge. Ed Jakubowski and his talented Australian Shepherds gave a Frisbee demonstration and Top Hat and Tails also worked the crowd.

In its 11th year, Pumpkins 'n' Pooches has gained a much larger following than when it first began. Picard said there were 99 vendors

this year, and, although there is no way of tracking attendance because there is no admission fee, she said there were about 3,000 people who came out.

Pumpkins 'n' Pooches debuted in 1999, when Picard first came up with the idea. It has largely remained the same, she said, but now there are more activities revolving around the dogs, because people love to show off their pets.

The new addition this year was the online photo contest. Photos of the precious pooches were uploaded to an online site and people could cast unlimited votes for their favorite dog. The top eight finalists went on to Pumpkins 'n' Pooches where people could vote for the top dog with \$1 per vote and the final three were awarded prizes. Picard said this event alone raise \$139 for the charities.

Picard said this year's event was a huge success because "it was a lot of fun." She added, "It was so much work, but when we walk around the green and see people laughing, smiling, eating and running in to people they haven't seen in a long time, you see what we've accomplished and see how much fun we've had."



Three veterans and State Representative Pam Sawyer came out to the Sept. 15 Marlborough Board of Selectmen's meeting to show their support for Willie Hodge, a disabled veteran who lives in town. The BOS discussed a draft of an ordinance that would make Hodge property tax exempt on Tuesday. Pictured is Sawyer with, from left, veterans, Sam Ranno, Mike Gilbert and Howard Vallier.

Clause cont. from Front Page

The board also discussed the next steps for instating the ordinance. They agreed to hold a public hearing on Oct. 27 where residents could weigh in on the ordinance, but not vote on it. Amodeo made the point that this is not the same as a town meeting, which the charter designates as part of the legislative body.

A veteran from East Hampton asked Black if he was welcome at the Oct. 27 hearing and Black was hesitant to give permission. He said the hearing is really only open to people who pay Marlborough taxes but exceptions can be made for "subject matter experts." However, when pressed he said "anybody's welcome to attend."

After the Oct. 27 hearing, Black said the selectmen would take into account everyone's sentiments and perhaps modify the ordinance accordingly. He said the purpose of the hearing is to "get input on the ordinance."

Once a final ordinance is drafted, the selectmen will adopt or reject it. Black said if residents are still unhappy with the outcome, they are welcome to petition to have it placed on a referendum ballot. "This is the process we believe is the correct process," Black said.

There are 19 other veterans in Connecticut who are 100 percent property tax exempt, Robin Hodge said. "It's something he's entitled to," she said about her husband. "It's just getting

really frustrating and I'm starting to think it's personal."

Robin Hodge added Thursday that the sunset clause "was definitely, definitely a slap in the face, because we've been arguing for [the tax exemption] since the end of May."

This ordinance is the result of many board meetings and several tenacious veterans who have adamantly attended for an opportunity to show their support. Like the past BOS meetings, the veterans lined up on the back wall, refusing to sit down. Their presence was omnipotent even throughout the usual board proceedings.

At Tuesday's meeting, Howard Vallier, a veteran of East Hartford, brought a small American flag (something that was notably missing at the Sept. 15 meeting) and an impromptu pledge of allegiance began.

The veterans expressed the same dismay that was heard at past meetings. Comments like Sam Ranno's about how another disabled veteran in East Hartford received his property tax exemption without the hassle that Willie Hodge has gone through. Ranno was once again frustrated with the board, saying, "I'm going to keep coming here, and coming here, and coming here and we're [the number of vets] going to get bigger and bigger and bigger."

Colchester Looks to Become Certified Wildlife Habitat

by Katy Nally

Colchester is poised to become the first certified wildlife habitat community in Connecticut – just 38 more houses or businesses are needed for the town to receive the designation.

A certified wildlife habitat community is a place that has enough resources for native wildlife to thrive and where people strive to educate residents about the importance of nature.

The certification is determined by the National Wildlife Federation (NWF). According to the federation's website, www.nwf.org, there are two aspects of a certified wildlife habitat community. First, Colchester residents must "make it a priority to provide habitat for wildlife by providing the four basic elements that all wildlife need: food, water, cover and places to raise young." Then, the town must educate its residents about "sustainable gardening practices."

Those four essentials for wildlife are very easy to set up at home, Katherine Kosiba, co-chair of the Certified Wildlife Habitat Community of Colchester initiative, said. Providing food can be as simple as having acorns or sap on the property, water can be a bird bath, a pond or a butterfly puddling area, cover can be a wooded area or a bramble patch and a place to raise young can be a nesting box or a meadow. There is a complete list of these essentials on the NWF website.

"It's a whole lot easier than people think," First Selectman Linda Hodge said at last Thursday's meeting of the Board of Selectmen, where Kosiba gave a presentation about the initiative. Hodge said she recently had her property certified after she made a few simple changes. She added some more bird houses, native plants to attract humming birds and a butterfly puddling area (which is a small plate with very little water and some soil). With the addition of Hodge's home, the certification initiative is one point closer to achieving its goal, Kosiba said.

The certification system is based on points.

According to the NWF, because Colchester has about 15,000 residents, the town must earn a total of 400 points, with 200 coming from residences, businesses and schools. The initiative already received the first 200 through educating residents and holding public workshops about wildlife.

Through nature hikes hosted by the Colchester Land Trust, the initiative was awarded several points, Kosiba said. Cragin Memorial Library raked in more points with the speakers it invited. This past spring, several speakers dropped by to discuss such topics as gardening for butterflies and native birds. Ellen Falbowski, co-chair with Kosiba on the initiative, said the library was a "big help."

The Green Team also helped through its gardening program. Every year, seniors and youths get together and build a vegetable and an herb garden, and then they hold a block party with food made from their produce.

"I'm really impressed with Colchester," Falbowski said, "with the number of activities that are going on in a town that is really not very large."

Falbowski first approached Kosiba with the idea of community certification in the summer of 2008. For her, the certification would mean the preservation of a habitat for one, small, local bird: the Song Thrush. A small song bird, the Song Thrush lives in wooded areas, but its numbers have been on the slide since the 1960s due to habitat destruction and acid rain.

Falbowski said she grew up listening to her mother's stories about the bird's flute-like song, but never had the pleasure of hearing one – until she moved to Colchester. She said a recognizable "ee-oh-lay" came from the woods in her yard in 2005. She identified the song after listening to it on the Internet. "It really was the most beautiful song you've ever heard," she said.

After learning about the certification program, Falbowski said she realized it would be one more way to help the Song Thrush. She



First Selectman Linda Hodge and her husband Bob sit in their backyard in Colchester. Their yard was recently certified as a wildlife habitat, getting the town one step closer to a community-wide certification from the National Wildlife Federation.

has other, less local reasons for heading the initiative. She said after reading more about global warming, she thought to herself, "OK, I'm going to do what I can to help." The community certification was one more way to do her part.

For Kosiba, the initiative is really about educating youngsters on the importance of nature, she said. As of late, more children are spending their afternoons inside rather than exploring the outdoors. "There's a big disconnect be-

tween children's health and wellbeing and nature," she said. The town's recognition would possibly call attention to this issue, she said.

The initiative is in its second year and both Kosiba and Falbowski hope to receive the recognition soon. Hodge said one goal was to be certified by the third week in October of this year. So keep an eye out for the first selectman if you haven't certified your property yet, because, Hodge said, "If I have to go door to door to get the last 38, I will."

Hebron Resident Opens Counseling Center

by Sarah McCoy

Steve Haley will be the first to admit that he's not your typical therapist.

He didn't finish college until he was an adult and even then didn't know what he wanted to do. "I had a friend ask me what I was good at," Haley recalled earlier this week. "As a joke, I told him I was good at manipulating people and getting them to do things. He said I should be a therapist."

That was just the push Haley needed.

He enrolled at Southern Connecticut State University and, in 2000, received a master's degree in social work. Since that time, Haley has worked in the Department of Children and Families for two years and then another two and a half years with highly traumatized children at the Waterford Country School.

For the past two years, Haley has worked for Connecticut Behavioral Health in New London. While he enjoyed what he was doing, Haley said he was looking to work for himself at a spot closer to his Hebron home.

Both of those desires will become a reality when Haley Counseling Center LLC opens next week.

Haley, a licensed clinical social worker, will begin seeing individuals over the age of 7, families and couples at his Main Street office. "It's exciting but I'd be lying if I said I wasn't nervous," he said this week.

Starting a business in the current economy, Haley admits, might be a difficult undertaking. But, he doesn't believe in coincidences. "Too many things lined up for me to ignore," Haley said, who just signed a lease on the building in August. "I feel like I'm right where I'm supposed to be."

Physically, that place is 17 Main St., just a few miles from where Haley lives with his wife and two sons.

Emotionally, that place is reaching out and helping those individuals in need. He doesn't care if it's an adolescent with severe behavioral issues or a couple whose marriage is on the rocks. "For people who have been stuck or struggling with something, therapy is worth a



Hebron resident Steve Haley will offer individual, family and couples therapy at Haley Counseling Center LLC which opens next Thursday, Oct. 15.

shot," he said. "If you've tried to get un-stuck on your own and it hasn't worked out, come in and we'll talk about it."

Haley doesn't see his business as a place for clients to just come in and vent. "I've seen people in therapy for two, three, four, five years without progress," he said. "I'm about finding the problem, finding a solution and working on that."

Perhaps it's no surprise, then, that Haley favors solution-focused and cognitive behavioral therapy techniques. The son of a truck driver, Haley said he figures himself to be a "working class guy" – a title that fits with his type of active therapy that challenges clients to change patterns that aren't working for them.

Sessions are typically held weekly for 45 minutes. Though, Haley said, this can be changed based on the needs of the client.

Haley Counseling Center LLC will open Thursday, Oct. 15. To make an appointment with Haley, call 860-337-7171. More information about Haley and his practice can be found at www.haleycc.com.

At the present time Haley Counseling Center LLC accepts Anthem, Aetna and all state insurance carriers.

Colchester Selectmen, Finance Boards Agree to MacDonald Road Purchase

by Katy Nally

The acquisition of land on MacDonald Road took a big step forward at Monday night's joint meeting of the boards of selectmen and finance, as this time officials went by the book – literally, as a big green binder of ordinances was read from.

There was even applause from members of both boards, as the ordinance that outlines acquiring open space was read aloud and every motion was double checked.

However, the purchase is ultimately up to the voters. The Board of Selectmen (BOS) agreed to hold a town meeting on Oct. 15, where residents can decide on the purchase of the land as well as several other matters, including the right to farm ordinance.

The exhaustive double-checking of the open space ordinance, and the jubilation of the board members Monday night, was because the process of acquiring the land has taken longer than anticipated, after officials discovered it was carried out incorrectly in June.

Instead of following an ordinance that was passed in 2003, First Selectman Linda Hodge just followed charter procedure for purchasing the 31 acres. She proposed it a June BOS meeting, and then a town meeting was held, where voters approved it. Hodge said Tuesday that about 40 people came out in June to approve the open space purchase.

However, according to the 2003 ordinance, the Conservation Commission recommends a parcel of land for "open space purposes," then the BOS approves the recommendation and forwards it to the Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) and the Board of Finance (BOF). Then, a final action is taken by the selectmen. According to the charter, the purchase must then go to a town meeting for approval.

BOF Chairman Bruce Hayn said last month

he became suspicious about the purchase over the summer, when his board was not asked to approve it. He said after his "own investigation" he brought the matter to the BOS in August, and the process to purchase the land was restarted on Sept. 3. PZC okayed the purchase at a Sept. 16 meeting.

At Monday's joint meeting of the BOS and BOF, the process went according to the ordinance. Both boards agreed to purchase the land for \$182,250, with \$140,000 coming from the town and \$42,250 from the Colchester Land Trust (CLT). The \$140,000 will come from two accounts: the open space account and the land acquisition account. The CLT plans to borrow \$42,250 from the Norcross Wildlife Foundation, Hodge said Tuesday.

Hodge said the meeting "went smoothly and the outcome was good." Hayn agreed.

Now it's once again up to Colchester residents to vote on the purchase of the MacDonald Road land. The BOS agreed to hold a special town meeting Thursday, Oct. 15, at 7:30 p.m., at Town Hall, 127 Norwich Ave., for people to vote on the purchase. Residents will also vote on three other proposals, including a leash law in the new dog park, which would allow dogs to be off their leashes in the park; the right to farm ordinance, which mandates certain laws that protect farmers; and the return of open space to a developer who is looking to develop a site in the Westchester area.

Hodge said she hopes people approve the MacDonald Road purchase because, "it's a good investment for the town." According to the BOF, the land is about three lot sizes, but no development will take place, as it is designated for open space. The land is next to the Ruby Cohen property.

Hebron Public Hearing Slated on Village Green Project

by Sarah McCoy

A vote to send a proposed agreement between the town and property owners has all parties involved hopeful that the Village Green District will soon become more than just a roadway.

At Wednesday's special meeting, the Board of Selectmen (BOS) unanimously supported the scheduling of a public hearing on Thursday, Oct. 22. At this public hearing, taxpayers will have an opportunity to voice their opinions on a proposed ordinance involving the development of the 140-acre plot located on Main Street (Route 66), across from the Ted's Plaza.

This land, primarily owned by Horton Brothers, LLC, has been slated for a mixed-use development called the Village Green District since 2000. However, due to the disagreement of the installation of a traffic light and other utilities as well as the present economic climate, neither the town nor the landowners have been able to move forward on developing the land.

A master plan for the parcel was approved in 2004 and, in 2007, the town received a Small Towns Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grant to cover the majority of costs associated with installing a roadway into the property. Since then, the property has sat dormant.

Lew Hinman, chair of the Planning and Zoning Commission, has been serving on a separate committee charged with making infrastructure recommendations regarding the property. The committee, which was formed in July, con-

sisted of BOS Chair Jeff Watt, Board of Finance (BOF) Chair Mike Hazel and Economic Development Commission member Vicki Avelis.

"Basically, we wanted to see how we could get this Village Green development going," Hinman said Wednesday.

Hinman said the ordinance recommended by the Infrastructure Committee would have the town front the money necessary to get the project going with a separate tax district set up in order for the town to recoup the money over the following five years.

It will cost an estimated \$281,000 to carry utility lines into the property and install a traffic light at the intersection of Rte. 66 and John E. Horton Blvd. According to the ordinance, the town would pay these costs upfront. Additionally, three representatives from the town and two representatives from the property owners would comprise a board of commissioners for the Village Green District who would oversee the levy calculation and repayment of the \$281,000 over the course of five years.

According to initial estimates, levy repayments would be around \$2,061 per acre. That comes to \$412 a year for five years.

In approaching the development this way, Hazel said, the committee was hoping to alleviate the barriers to development while "protecting the interests of the town."

Hazel said that, from the BOF's perspective, it's important for the town to maintain an

undesigned fund balance of at least 7.5 percent of the town's operating budget. Even with fronting the \$281,000 needed to get the project started, the fund balance would still remain above 8 percent, Hazel reported.

He added that by creating this separate tax district the repayment of the \$281,000 would come as a tax assessment. This means the town would be first in line to collect any money owed to them if the development doesn't pan out.

The proposed agreement has received the support of Hebron Director of Finance Jim Day as well as the town's auditors.

After Wednesday's meeting, James Horton, one of the three Horton brothers comprising Horton Brothers LLC, said he's been pleased with the level of cooperation with the town of Hebron and looks forward to moving the project forward.

The Horton family has owned the land in question for over 150 years, James Horton said. Up until the 1950s the Horton brothers' father, John E. Horton, used it as farmland. Now, 15 years after John's passing his three sons are trying to create a legacy for their father. "It hasn't been an easy decision," James Horton said of potentially developing the land. "But, we recognize that it's good for everyone involved and that's what our father would have wanted."

Greg Horton, another member of the Horton Brothers LLC, said that plans call for maintaining the stone walls and walking paths as much

as possible on the land. "It really is for the enjoyment of all," he said of the property.

Both James and Greg Horton reported that, as of yet, no deals have been reached with potential developers for the land. "Once the traffic light is in and we've met the DOT requirements, we can open the opportunity to commercial vendors," Jim said.

Horton Brothers LLC owns all but 6.17 acres of the parcel. The other owner is Hebron resident Sara Tarca who has long had plans to develop her piece of the property into an aquatic center and health club.

At Wednesday's meeting, BOS members didn't voice any concerns regarding the content of the agreement but did have some concerns regarding the timeline going forth. BOS Vice Chair Mark Stuart said he'd like to see the town hold its charter-mandated town meeting on the matter after the property owners have agreed to the proposal.

Ballots from the property owners – stating whether they are in favor of going ahead with this agreement or not – are due back to town officials on Nov. 23.

There was some discussion on holding the town meeting the evening of Nov. 23, but a final date has not been set at the time of publication. A public hearing will be the next step in the process and that will be held Thursday, Oct. 22, at 7 p.m. in the community room at Douglas Library, 22 Main St.

Portland Fair Makes Its Return

by Michael McCoy

The Portland Agricultural Fair returns this weekend, and this year the three-day event is celebrating its 10th anniversary.

The fair will be held from today, Friday, Oct. 9, through Sunday, Oct. 11, at the Exchange Club Fairgrounds, on Route 17A.

No doubt the biggest addition to this year's fair is a 5K road race set for Sunday morning. The cost is \$25, and runners can register at www.portlandfair.com or at 8 a.m. on the morning of the race. The race will start an hour later.

John Dillon is the fair's spokesman, entertainment coordinator, and co-founder. An avid runner in his younger days, Dillon was the driving force behind starting the 5K.

The 3.1-mile course will begin and end at the fair, with the majority of it going along routes 17 and 17A. Dillon called it a "relatively flat course." A map of the course is available at the website.

"It's always something I wanted to do," said Dillon, who said he used to run in the Haddam Neck Fair 5K. (Dillon added that he considers the Portland Fair to be comparable to the Haddam Neck one, which is traditionally held over Labor Day weekend.)

The other major change is the parking location. When the fair relaunched in 1999 (it initially ran from 1919-1989, then ceased due to a lack of interest), parking was located virtually

on the fairgrounds. Once the fair outgrew that space, it was relocated to a sizable lot behind the town garage. However, that is now a soccer complex. So, this year parking will be held in a large field off of Sand Hill Road, which is located off of Route 66, near its intersection with Route 17.

As always, Nichols Bus Service will provide a free shuttle to the fairgrounds, and handicapped parking will still be located onsite. Though the fair does reimburse Nichols for a certain amount, Dillon said, "Let's just say they help us a lot. We owe Nichols a huge debt of gratitude."

Dillon seems to have high hopes for the fair. This makes sense, as he called the 2008 fair "a banner year." Fairs are obviously a slave to weather, and the Portland Fair has had a notoriously stormy relationship with the elements. However, weather was uncharacteristically kind in 2007, and last year, the fair enjoyed arguably the most beautiful weekend of the season. Dillon said this success allowed the Fair Association to "pay off some of the debts we've accumulated over the previous eight years."

Dillon specifically credited the Hemlock Grange and the Portland Historical Society for helping the fair over the years.

As for music, Dillon highlighted The Great Hill Mountain Band, which will return this year

for a 12:30 p.m. show Sunday on the main stage. Dillon called the group "one of the best country bands in Connecticut."

Sunday will have a decidedly country flavor as the fair's music will close out with Charlene Marie & Nashville Bound.

Dillon said Saturday's music will tend toward classic Motown and R&B with acts like The Nifty Fifties Band and The Bernadettes. (The former will once again host a dance contest.) Plus, don't forget local staple Joe Milardo & The Musical Cavaliers.

Also, playing to the golden oldies feel of the day, Saturday will also include the hot rod and classic auto show.

Friday's music includes Small Town Roots and the Michael Cleary Band, and Dillon compared the latter to Dave Matthews Band.

Children's events include appearances by Ronald McDonald and Wally the Green Monster. (The Red Sox started their postseason in California this year, freeing up Wally for the day.) One of the fair's biggest events, the annual talent show, begins at 11 a.m. on the small stage.

The Jim Show will close out the entertainment schedule Sunday at 4 p.m. According to www.thejimshow.com, this one-man show features juggling, physical humor, red socks and "understated sarcasm."

"He'll bust your sides open," Dillon said.

Dillon said when he and a small group of people resurrected the fair in 1999, "we really kind of did it for the kids." Of that core group, Dillon said only he and fair president Don Bascom are still heavily involved. Both are lifelong Portlanders who frequented the fair all through their childhood. Dillon said they really got motivated to relaunch the fair when they had children of their own.

There is so much more to the fair than this story can contain. This includes tons of fall fair vintiles, as well as booths from businesses, civic organizations and plenty of politicians. This to say nothing of the carnival rides, as well as the livestock/produce/culinary competitions and tractor, horse, and cattle pulls that make this an agricultural fair in the first place.

Setup for the fair began this past Monday night. The fair will kickoff this afternoon with a tractor pull at 5 p.m., and the opening ceremonies will follow an hour later.

Admission to the 10th annual Portland Agricultural Fair is \$7 for adults, \$5 for seniors and free for children under 10. The fair runs 5-11 p.m. on Friday, 9 a.m.-11 p.m. on Saturday and 9 a.m.-5 p.m. on Sunday. More information is available at www.portlandfair.com.

Colchester Police News

9/25: Youth offender was charged with distributing a controlled substance to minors in school, State Police said.

9/29: Shaun Ratliff, 18, of 17 Mallard Pt., Griswold, was arrested on a warrant stemming from an Aug. 21 incident, on charges of threatening, breach of peace and harassment, State Police said.

10/2: Kimberly Ann Wilson, 34, of 84 Alexander Dr., was charged with third-degree assault, disorderly conduct, second-degree unlawful restraint and interfering with emergency calls, State Police said.

10/2: Joshua Wetmore, 35, of 64 Briarwood Dr., was charged with possession of less than four ounces of marijuana, State Police said.

10/4: Joanna Marshall, 44, of 36 Holbrook Rd., West Hartford, was charged with DUI and failure to drive in proper lane, State Police said.

10/4: Gregory Currier, 23, 9 Windham Ave., was charged with possession of less than four

ounces of marijuana, State Police said.

10/4: Lindsay Fuller, 19, of 159 Waterhole Rd., was charged with possession of less than four ounces of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia, State Police said.

10/4: Cynthia Carbuni, 56, of 577 Rte 32, North Franklin, was charged with DUI and driving too fast, State Police said.

10/5: Deborah Long, 53, of 105 Geer Ave., Norwich, was charged with third degree larceny, State Police said.

10/5: Horace Henry, 45, of 179 Palm St., Hartford, was charged with DUI and failure to maintain proper lane, State Police said.

10/5: Jessie Blesso, 30, who police reported having no current address for, was charged with failure to appear in court, State Police said.

10/6: Dyan Derringer, 50, of 439 Parum Rd., was charged with failure to appear in court, State Police said.

Marlborough Police News

9/29: Shauna Edgerton, 27, of 31 Enfield St., Enfield, was charged with writing bad checks, State Police said.

10/5: Nicole Reynolds, 21, of 164 Cheney Rd., was charged with DUI and making an improper turn, State Police said.

Portland Police News

9/29 — Barry Murphy, 47, of 155 Jobs Pond Rd., was charged with breach of peace and third-degree criminal mischief, Portland Police said.

9/30 — Rachel Fields, 24, of 43 Chatham Ct., was charged with risk of injury to a minor, third-degree assault, disorderly conduct and third-degree criminal mischief, police said.

Parents of Child Left on Bus Outraged at East Hampton School System

by Michael McCoy

The parents of a 5-year-old child left on a school bus for an entire day last month are speaking out about the incident – and they are not happy.

Last week, East Hampton Police Sergeant Garritt Kelly reported that a 5-year-old kindergarten did not exit the bus at Memorial School, on the morning of Sept. 4. It was just his fourth day of school.

Kelly said last week the bus driver, an employee of Nichols Bus Service, not only never checked to make sure the bus was empty when he parked it in the yard, but he never alerted anyone of the situation once he realized it. Kelly also said the school never contacted police about the incident. Instead, the parents did two weeks after the fact.

The 5-year-old's father, who wished not to be identified so as to protect his son's identity, contacted the *Rivereast* this week, and still seemed more than agitated this week. "I am completely disappointed in the school system," he fumed. "We are so upset."

Though the father was clearly displeased with the driver's behavior, he sounded downright appalled with the school system. "I'm most upset that the school didn't get a hold of me or my wife and claimed it wasn't their responsibility," he said.

The father, a Pratt & Whitney employee, said he was off on a mandatory furlough day on Sept. 4. So, the parents went golfing and out to lunch. But, he said they both had their cell phones on them the entire day.

The father furnished the *Rivereast* with the same written account they eventually gave the police. He said he and his wife spent Sept. 5 and 6 recounting everything before they could forget the finer points.

According to the father, the bus stops right at their driveway. At 8:30 a.m., both parents saw their son off. The father said that, as his son was the last to be picked up on the route, he had to sit in the back because there were no seats near the front, something the father recalled remarking to his wife about at the time.

The bus arrived at Memorial School 10 minutes later, but the boy did not get off, the father said. The father explained this was because, on the previous three days that week, the boy was specifically directed by staff to exit the bus. The father said his son is a very precise follower of directions, and without the explicit instruction, did not realize he should exit.

In their written account, the boy's parents said he was marked absent by his teacher between 9 and 9:30 a.m., around the same time the bus arrived back at the bus yard. According to the account, the boy said he tried to communicate his presence, but the driver may not have heard because of "loud noises there."

The account described the boy as "scared and confused on the bus, sitting in the heat." (The temperature reached 82 degrees that day, according to www.weatherunderground.com.)

According to the account, it does not seem the boy moved from his seat the entire day, and

began to cry. The account said he later told his parents he felt guilty about crying, because "you told me to only cry when I get hurt."

According to the account, the driver retrieved the bus at around 2 p.m., and picked high school students up at 2:10 p.m. The boy said a high school student, whom he called a "grown up lady," brought him to the front of the bus and informed the bus driver the child was on it. By this time, the boy had urinated in his pants, which allegedly prompted the only exchange between he and the driver, who responded, "It's OK; accidents happen all the time."

Then, the parents said that the driver finished the route, picked the Center and Memorial school children around 3:10 p.m. He said the driver dropped off the boy around 3:34 p.m., without saying anything to his mother, who was waiting at the foot of the driveway.

Upon getting off the bus, the boy started crying, and told his mother, "I made a bus mistake... I never made it to school today," according to the account. The mother called Memorial School, the account said, and also called the parent of a classmate to find out if he the son was indeed out of school. Both Memorial School and the parent confirmed the child's story, and his mother also noticed he still had his lunch money.

Around 4 p.m., the child and his parents drove to Memorial School to meet with Principal Karen Fitzsimmons. According to the parents, Fitzsimmons said both the home phone and the mother's cell phone were called to alert them of the student's absence, but that there was no voicemail available. However, the mother said in the account, there is no record on her cell phone of a call. Caller ID on the home phone only registered one call, at 10:19 a.m., the mother said.

Superintendent of Schools Judy Golden later said a message was never left at home because there was "a long delay" after the rings, leading the caller to believe there was no voicemail. But the father holds that the voicemail picks up after four rings.

The parents said around 5:30 p.m. they were notified that school administrators had spoken with the bus driver and told the parents "he has been put on leave."

(According to published reports, that driver has been fired. However, Charlie Nichols, owner of Nichols Bus, has not been available for comment to confirm this. Regardless, Golden has said that Nichols guaranteed the driver would not drive for East Hampton schools any longer.)

The father said he has yet to receive an apology from Nichols Bus.

According to the account, the boy was on the bus for seven and a half hours, with more than five of them spent in solitude. The report said the boy "thought he was never going to go home" and "really wanted Mommy to be with him."

The account also said the boy has experienced guilt, perceiving the incident to be his



The parents of a 5-year-old child expressed anger with the East Hampton school system this week after their son was left alone on an empty bus all day at the school busyard.

fault. During the weekend after the incident, according to the account, the boy wet the bed each night and refused to be left alone in a room. The father said he and his wife have stopped asking their son about the ordeal to "let him forget about it."

The father said this week he and his wife were quite upset by comments from both Golden and Board of Education (BOE) member Don Coolican in last week's *Rivereast* article. "The superintendent has us very upset," he said, explaining he and wife's disbelief that Golden felt the administration did what they could.

Golden did not have much to say this week, but said, "We made several changes to ensure this won't happen again." These measures included making sure the driver does not drive for the school, having staff check the bus during drop-off, and exhausting every phone number on file for a student until a person is reached.

"We are extremely sorry this happened to this little boy, of course," she said.

When asked about the administration's handling of the situation, BOE Chairman Michael Vasquenza said they "kept us in the loop from the first day." "It's an unfortunate incident, no question," he said, later adding, "I think the administration handled the situation as best they could."

Coolican said last week he felt the administration handled the situation appropriately, and thought it reasonable to not think the worst and call the police right away. However, when told this week that the school reportedly called the parents' home number once, and not any emergency contact number or cell phone, he said, "I didn't know that."

"I completely understand why they're upset; they have a right to be," Coolican said. "I'd be mad as hell too."

He added that if any of his comments in last week's article upset the parents, "I am truly sorry."

The father said that soon after the event he told his wife, "We have to get him back on the bus on Tuesday," or he'd never get past what had happened.

According to the account, the mother asked the new bus driver the morning of Sept. 8 if there was an assigned seat for her son, and the driver replied, "Not yet; it's my first day." (Because of Labor Day, this was the boy's first day on the bus following the ordeal.)

On Wednesday, the father said he and his wife have hired a lawyer, who sent a letter of inquiry to Nichols, informing him they will be working with his insurance company. The father declined to comment further on possible legal action.

Kelly said police applied for an arrest warrant for the driver on Monday, charging him with risk of injury to a minor. However, as of press time, Middlesex Superior Court had not ruled on the warrant.

Kelly said the charge was an "unclassified felony," so the court has leeway on sentencing. Though the driver could technically face jail time, Kelly did not seem confident of that since, he said, "it was nothing of an intentional nature."

Though Kelly formerly spoke about his disappointment with the school's handling of the situation, he said the police will pursue no criminal charges against them.

Hebron Special Ed Director Resigns

by Sarah McCoy

After a little more than a year on the job, Director of Special Education Brenna Kosicki has resigned, to take a job in the Hartford public school district.

Kosicki came to Hebron in the summer of 2008. Superintendent of Schools Ellie Cruz said that, in that time, Kosicki has been an instrumental part of building relationships with parents and developing programs to help bring previously outplaced students back into their hometown school.

Cruz also said that Kosicki had a big part in creating the school district's Pandemic Plan as well as teaming up with regular education teachers to improve writing throughout the school. "Brenna has been a tremendous part of the good work being done in Hebron and I'm confident she'll continue to be an asset to any school district," Cruz said.

In an Oct. 1 letter to the families of Hebron schoolchildren, Kosicki said she has taken a position as zone director of pupil personnel ser-

vices in Hartford. Cruz said she certainly didn't "begrudge" Kosicki for taking the position as "it is a tremendous opportunity."

Cruz said Kosicki's hiring for the Hartford position demonstrates the type of high-quality educators Hebron has on its staff.

Kosicki's last day in Hebron will be Friday, Oct. 16. The district is currently accepting applications for the soon-to-be-vacant position.

Cruz is also looking for parents interested in serving on the search committee for a hiring a new special education director. The search committee, in partnership with Cruz, will be responsible for making a recommendation to the Hebron Board of Education.

Cruz hopes that the hiring will take place in November with the person starting in the role around Dec. 1. Until that time, Annie Sweeney, who was interim principal at Hebron Elementary School last month, will serve as interim director of special education for the district.

East Hampton Town Council Set to Make TV Debut

by Michael McCoy

Anyone speaking up at next Tuesday's Town Council meeting may just find themselves on television soon after.

Starting on Oct. 13, all East Hampton Town Council meetings will be recorded and broadcast on Comcast Cable.

This initiative came from Town Council member Thom Cordeiro, who brought the matter up to the council last fall, and the council decided to move forward with it. "I've wanted to do this since I was first elected two years ago," Cordeiro said this week.

In February, Cordeiro first made contact with John Bairos, Comcast's manager of government and community relations for western New England, to get the ball rolling.

Cordeiro said initially, he and Town Manager Jeffery O'Keefe explored the idea of a live feed. However, they were swiftly told by Comcast that this would involve equipping the Town Hall with fiberoptics, a \$30,000 endeavor. Nevertheless, Cordeiro said he felt a live feed would be ideal somewhere down the road

"It's so unobtrusive," Cordeiro said of the camera, which was installed in the rear of the Eaton E. Smith Meeting Room, by the clock. It is recessed into the wall, and resembles a security camera. (Anyone acquainted with the room knows this sounds much more appealing than a large camera situated in the aisle.)

Cordeiro said they explored getting two cameras, to provide different perspectives, but eventually decided against it. However, the camera does have zooming capabilities, though Cordeiro said this would not be used, at least initially.

The equipment is being provided by HB, a New Haven company, as will the installation, which was completed Sept. 29. The equipment included the camera, a DVD recorder, a 16-inch LCD television, and new microphones that will be positioned on the council table. Cordeiro called the latter "very sensitive."

Town Clerk Sandy Wieleba has already received training on the equipment by Comcast, and will be in charge of manning the technology.

Cordeiro figured many residents "busy with their lives" can't make it to meetings, but still have a right to see what's happening. He said the step was "important for transparency."

Best of all, this measure will not cost the town a cent, with the exception of the gas involved in running the recorded DVDs to Comcast. Because the meeting room technically doubles as the town's emergency management room, they were able to apply for a federal Department of Emergency Management Services grant, which they received in August. The grant was for \$10,000, but this initiative still leaves them with \$6,000 left over for other applicable technology.

"I'm a marketing guy," said Cordeiro, who possesses a communications degree from Temple University in Philadelphia, PA. "I fully endorse the use of this medium."

The details of the broadcast have not yet been ironed out. Comcast, whose nearest office is located in Middletown, provides two local stations. Channel 15 is for public access, while Channel 19 is for government affairs. Cordeiro said he would be happy to be on either, but that Channel 19 looked to have more promising time slots, not to mention the broadcast's pertinence to government affairs.

"Obviously, we'd rather not be on at two in the morning," said Cordeiro, adding that he hoped to score a spot at 7 p.m. on a weeknight.

East Hampton Town Council meetings are not exactly known for fitting into nice little one-hour spaces. Cordeiro was unsure exactly how the entirety of each meeting would make it to air, but seemed confident it would happen somehow, promising, "We're gonna show our entire meeting...for all to see."

Cordeiro said he hoped to know the timeslot for the meetings by the end of the week.

Cordeiro said the town is also exploring posting the video of the meetings on its website, www.easthamptonct.org, but seemed wary of the site currently being able to support a file that large.

East Hampton Police News

9/24 — David Caldwell, 20, of 7 South Wangonk Tr., was issued a ticket for operating an unregistered motor vehicle, East Hampton Police said.

9/24 — Joseph Sorvillo, 23, of 12 Browning Dr., was issued a ticket for traveling too fast, police said.

9/25 — Edward Odell, 41, of 166 Bear Swamp Rd., was issued a ticket for traveling unreasonably fast, police said.

9/25 — Matthew Sypher, 25, of 31 Christian Hill Ln., Higganum, and Ayisha Bennett, 27, of 178 Tunis Ave., Bloomfield, were involved in an accident on Childs Road, police said, adding that Sypher was arrested for following too close, operating without insurance and failure to carry registration.

9/25 — Two 16-year-old male juveniles, whose identities were not released, were issued tickets for possession of tobacco by a minor, police said.

9/26 — Henry Cooper, 22, of 63 Clark Hill Rd., was issued a ticket for operating a motor vehicle in violation of classification, police said.

9/26 — Lindsay Miner, 20, of 116 Colchester Ave., was issued a ticket for operating a motor vehicle while using a cell phone, police said.

9/26 — Daniel Crook, 65, of 15 Markham Rd., was arrested for operating an unregistered vehicle, operating without insurance, driving under the influence, misuse of plates, operating under suspension, failure to display front marker and a defective windshield, police said.

9/27 — Randolph Scherp, 40, of 47 Hog Hill Rd., was arrested for disorderly conduct and second-degree violation of conditions of release, police said.

9/28 — Paul Raschi, 43, of 501 Moodus Rd., was arrested for violation of a protective order, police said. He was also arrested pursuant to a warrant for disorderly conduct and violation of a protective order, police added.

9/29 — Christopher Cherry, 32, of 159 Main St., was arrested pursuant to a warrant for violation of probation, police said.

9/29 — Amy L. Ingalls, 30, of 869 Main St., Willimantic, was issued a ticket for failure to obey a traffic signal, police said.

9/29 — William McCabe, 22, of 28 William Dr., was issued a ticket for failure to obey a traffic signal, police said.

9/29 — Melissa P. Gish, 49, of 23 East Hayes Rd., was issued a ticket for operating a motor vehicle while operating a cell phone, police said.

9/29 — Jessica F. Duers, 39, of 75 Tarragon Dr., was arrested for operating under the influence of alcohol and failure to drive right, police said.

9/30 — Kyle J. Buracchi, 21, of 8 Lena Ln., was issued a ticket for traveling unreasonably fast and failure to have headlight, police said.

9/30 — Chapin M. Stickler, 27, of 61 Chestnut Hill Rd., was issued a ticket for traveling unreasonably fast, police said.

From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

Well, the long, strange and deeply disappointing season finally wrapped up for the New York Mets last weekend. I had tickets for the final two games, and had a great time at both of them.

For starters, the Mets won them both. They had also won last Friday's game too, so that means the Mets finished the season with a three-game sweep of the Houston Astros. Pretty impressive. In fact, I can't remember the last time the Mets swept an opponent this season. (Did I mention it was a rough year?)

Saturday's game was incredible fun. The weather forecast did not look promising. I checked weather.com Friday night, and it called for a 90 percent chance of rain on Saturday. And yet, when the next day rolled around, it wasn't that bad. It was cloudy, but it wasn't raining. However, shortly after the game started, I saw from my seats at the top of the upper deck in Citi Field, some umbrellas start to open (my seats were under an overhang, so I was never in danger of getting wet). It rained lightly for a while but around the fifth inning it got heavier and, after the fifth, the sky just opened up, and the game went into rain delay mode.

The rain delay lasted for quite some time. But at no point did I think it would wind up being postponed, because the sky never looked that dark; in fact, you could see breaks of sunlight every now and then. Sure enough, after about two hours, the game resumed, and that's when things took a turn for the — well, for the pretty awesome.

It seemed that during the rain delay loads of people had filed out of the stadium. (Not all that shocking, I suppose, considering it was a rather meaningless game between two teams that had already been eliminated from the postseason.) By the time play resumed, there were maybe 500 or so people left in the ballpark. The public address announcer stepped to the mic and declared that, as a reward to those who stuck it out, fans could move down to any seat on the field level — i.e., the really expensive seats.

I was at the game with my sister (a fellow long-suffering Mets fan), and we had already been on the field level, chowing down on the tasty field-level food. So when the P.A. guy made his announcement, we were already pretty close to some good seats. We hot-footed it down the aisles, and wound up seven rows behind the first-base dugout. Just seven rows. The seats would've cost around \$200 apiece, under normal circumstances.

Action resumed in the top of the sixth inning, so I had a few innings to soak up the view from my new seats. And it was amazing. I could see the expressions on the players' faces as they walked into the dugout. I could see first baseman Daniel Murphy move the dirt around with his foot. I could see play-ers actually engaging in conversation with each other. It was incredible. Easily the best seats I have ever had for a Major League baseball game, and probably the best seats I ever will have.

How good were they? Well, I gotta admit: The Mets were leading 5-1 entering the ninth inning, and a small part of me was secretly hoping they'd blow their lead, and the game would go into extra innings, and I would be allowed more time in my awesome seats. But, the Mets held on and won. So, I got an up-close view of the players celebrating. No complaints about that.

The next day's game was played under gorgeous, sunny skies, so there were no Mother Nature seat upgrades. However, at the start of the season my sister and I got tickets for this final game of the year in the "Caesars Club" level of Citi Field — a fancy level located in between the field and the upper deck. The level even had its own bar, a very up-

scale place I'd been to a few times earlier in the season (as they let fans from the upper deck visit the bar after the game — but never during it). And there was some fancy food there too, edibles that were unavailable anyplace else in the ballpark. I picked up a grilled steak sandwich and some delicious garlic fries. (Yes, my ballpark eating has come a long way since the Kahn's hot dog I enjoyed during my first trip to Shea Stadium 14 years ago.)

The seats, while not as close as the ones I'd sat in the day before (but then I didn't expect them to be), were still very good, and afforded me some real quality views of what turned out to be a quality Mets win. Both games I saw last weekend, in fact, featured timely hitting, strong pitching and good defense. While that wasn't the case for much of 2009, at least the Amazin's ended the season on a strong note.

* * *

Speaking of baseball, the first round of the playoffs are upon us. Who do I want to see win? Well, at the risk of sounding unpopular, I'm rooting for the Angels to beat the Red Sox. The Angels are such an inspirational story this year; one of their starting pitchers, Nick Adenhardt, who was just 22 years old, was killed in a car accident the first week of the season. The team was understandably rocked by the death, but the players recovered, and finished the season with 97 wins, the second-most in all of baseball. Also, I've always liked Mike Scioscia. He makes smart moves, and he seems like a jolly guy.

Plus, the last time the Angels won a play-off series was 2003, when they won the World Series. The Red Sox have won two World Series titles since then (2004 and 2007). Yeah, from a Red Sox fan's perspective, that's great (I know I'd be doing backflips if the Mets won two world championships in four years — hell, at this point, I'd settle for them just making the playoffs), but from the point of view of a fan of the game, well, you'd like to see someone else make it.

As for the Twins-Yankees series, I'm definitely pulling for the Twinkies. Not because I'm a Minnesota fan (in fact, part of me's a little jealous those Twins fans get one last postseason in their Metrodome, which will be torn down at the end of the year; I'd have loved for Shea to have seen one last playoff series), but because they're playing the Yankees. Like any good Mets fan, I hate the Yankees. So the Yankees need to lose. They need to lose fast. They need to lose painfully.

Over in the National League, the Dodgers are taking on the Cardinals. This one's easy: gotta root for Los Angeles. I've always had a soft spot for the Dodgers. I like seeing Joe Torre succeed; I felt bad for him after the Yankees treated him so badly a couple of years ago. I like Manny Ramirez. I like Dodger Stadium. There's a lot to root for with Los Angeles. Not so much with the Cardinals; certainly not for me, anyway. There are still too many guys there from 2006, when St. Louis ripped out Mets' fans hearts during that seven-game National League Championship Series.

The Rockies are battling the Phillies. This one is another no-brainer: Rockies. As is the case with the Twins, it's not so much because I like Colorado, but because I hate, *hate* the Phillies. They need to lose, much like the Yankees need to lose. (And yes, I'm aware that since they're both in the playoffs, there's a chance the Yankees and the Phillies could face each other, in what I would instantly deem the World Series From Hell. I'm choosing not to dwell on that scenario.)

So, let's go Angels, Twins, Dodgers and Rockies.

And let's go Mets. In 2010, anyway.

* * *

See you next week.

Obituaries

East Hampton

Patricia Anne Betts

Patricia Anne (Murphy) Betts, 65, of East Hampton, beloved wife of Richard Betts, died unexpectedly Sunday, Oct. 4, at Marlborough Medical Center. Born June 6, 1944, in Waterbury, she was the daughter of Dorothy (Phillipone) Urling and the late Edward Murphy.

Patricia was a resident of East Hampton for 37 years and a communicant of St. Patrick Church in East Hampton. Patricia was a nurse having worked at Cobalt Lodge in the Cobalt section of East Hampton for several years.

She is survived by her mother, Dorothy Urling of Cheshire; her loving husband, Richard Betts of East Hampton; her son and his wife, Richard E. and Vera Betts of East Haddam; her daughter and her husband, Sheryl Anne and Richard Carter of Virginia; a brother, Thomas Murphy of Waterbury; a grandson, Richard P. Betts, and several nieces and nephews.

A graveside service was held Thursday, Oct. 8, in St. Patrick Cemetery, East Hampton. Friends called at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, on Wednesday, Oct. 7.

Memorial donations may be made to the American Cancer Society, 538 Preston Ave., P.O. Box 1004, Meriden, CT 06450.

To leave online condolences, visit www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Colchester

Norine M. Tetreault

Norine Wambolt Tetreault, formerly of Colchester, passed away Sept. 3 unexpectedly. Born July 22, 1947 in New London, she was the daughter of the late Oscar and Mildred Chemerynski Wambolt.

Norine leaves her soulmate husband of 48 years, Robert Tetreault Sr.; a son, Robert Jr. and his companion, Shelia (the daughter she never had); a granddaughter, Abbie of Charleston, ME; a sister, Evelena Hollendonner of Niantic; a brother, Oscar Wambolt of Colchester; and many aunts, uncles and cousins.

She was predeceased by a grandson, Robert III.

At Norine's request there were no services. Messages of condolence and memories may be expressed at www.laryfuneralhome.com.

East Hampton

Charles Joseph Turner

Charles Joseph (Chuck) Turner, 57, of East Hampton, husband of Grace Elizabeth (Betsy) Fortin Turner died unexpectedly Monday, Sept. 28. Born in Kensington, Chuck was the son of the late Kenneth J. Turner and is survived by his mother Rita R. Turner of Kensington. A loving father, Chuck is survived by his daughter Raimy O'Neil Turner and his son Kyle Zhonghe Turner. He was predeceased by daughter Tahnee Markley Turner.

Chuck, a caring and loving individual dedicated his life to those in need as a member of emergency services. He began his career at the age of 18 with the Kensington Volunteer Fire Department, obtaining the rank of assistant chief and remained a life time member. He was part of the original group of employees that founded the New Britain Emergency Medical Services, rising to the rank of Deputy Director. Chuck's career continued, working for Manchester Fire Rescue EMS Department as a firefighter/paramedic until his retirement. After retirement he worked part-time as a driver education instructor for AAA Auto Club.

He is survived by sister Deborah of East Hampton; brothers Gerald of Niantic, Kenneth R. of East Haddam, James of Kensington and Robert of Old Saybrook; along with several nieces and nephews. He also leaves many, many friends.

A memorial service will be held Sunday, Oct. 11, from 3-5 p.m. at the Kensington Volunteer Fire Department, 880 Farmington Ave., Kensington.

In lieu of flowers and in accordance with Chuck's wishes, donations may be made to: National MS Society, Connecticut Chapter, 659 Tower Ave., First Floor Hartford, CT 06112, Camp Sunshine, 35 Acadia Rd, Casco, ME 04015.



Marlborough

Patricia Jo (Nolan) Golias

Patricia Jo (Nolan) Golias, 56, of Marlborough, wife of John J. Golias, died Sunday, Oct. 4, at Hartford Hospital. Born April 2, 1953, in New Britain, daughter of Josephine (Pellegrini) Nolan of Plainville and the late James Nolan Sr., she was raised in New Britain and had lived in Marlborough since 1999.

She was a senior legal assistant for UTC. She was a graduate of New Britain High School Class of 1971. Patty was a 12-year pancreatic cancer survivor who was loved, cherished and adored by her family and friends. Patty had a very loving way about her and was always willing to help out and provide support and guidance. She had a kind and giving way. One of her greatest joys was playing Mrs. Santa Claus at the Helen and Harry Gray Cancer Center for the last nine years. She had an unstoppable sense of humor. She made a tremendous impact on the lives of people she touched. She was a very special person to all of us and she will be greatly missed.

Besides her husband and mother, she is survived by her brothers and sisters and their spouses: Kathleen and Andy Wydar of New Britain, Jacquelyn and Robert Flowers of Bristol, Robert Nolan and Jane Harries of Kansas, Claire and Keith Barrington of Plainville, Judith Nolan and Steve Bonin of Plainville, Brian Nolan of Bristol, Timothy Nolan of Bristol, Richard Nolan of Florida; her stepson, Joseph Golias of Colchester; stepdaughter, Kelly Boerenko and her husband Erik of Colchester; her grandchildren Ariana, Alexis and Karissa Golias, Kylie Boerenko; several nieces and nephews and two grandnieces.

She was predeceased by a brother, James Nolan Jr., and a niece, Regina Nolan.

Funeral service was today, Friday, Oct. 9, at 9:15 a.m., from the Mulryan Funeral Home, 725 Hebron Ave., Glastonbury, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 10 a.m. in St. John Fisher Church, 30 Jones Hollow Rd., Marlborough. Burial in St. Mary's Cemetery, New Britain will be private. Friends called at the funeral home Thursday, Oct. 8.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Helen and Harry Gray Cancer Center, 85 Retreat Ave., Hartford, CT 06102.

Portland

Stephen Richard Luppi

Stephen Richard Luppi of Portland passed away peacefully Friday, Oct. 2, after a long illness. He is survived by his loving wife of 55 years, Joanne; his devoted daughters Faye Luppi of Poland Spring, ME., Carol Luppi of Winthrop, MA., and Cynthia Luppi of Winthrop, MA; his son-in-law, Mark Hyland; and grandsons Ethan and Matthew Hyland, whom he adored.

He was pre-deceased by his father Stephen J. Luppi, and his mother Leta Thompson McNutt.

Steve served during World War II in the Yankee Division, Patton's Third Army, where he fought in the Battle of the Bulge. He was awarded the Bronze Star and a Purple Heart. He worked for many years as a quality control foreman at United Technologies before he retired. He was most proud of his work on the Apollo space program and pioneering work with fuel cells. He spent his retirement years traveling the country with his wife and family, and in the company of his devoted dogs, Maggie, Brandy, Gus, and Sox. He looked forward every spring to golf season and spending time at camp in Maine with his family.

The family wishes to thank the caring staff at Water's Edge Center for Health and Rehabilitation of Middletown and Cromwell Health and Rehab.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Portland Fire Department, or the Yankee Golden Retriever Rescue, at www.ygrr.org/donations/donations-beyond-time.html. The family will host an open house to celebrate his life at their home Saturday, Oct. 10, from 1-7 p.m. Arrangements are under the direction of the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland.

To leave an online expression of sympathy, visit www.portlandmemorialfh.net.

East Hampton

Jeanne N. Stone

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of our beloved mother and grandmother, Jeanne N. (Goodrich) Stone, 79, of East Hampton. Jeanne passed away peacefully Tuesday, Oct. 6, at Middlesex Memorial Hospital, surrounded by her loving family. She was met by angels to cross over to be with her daughter Pamela Stone, her sister Ellen Platka, and her former husband Henry J. Stone Jr.

Jeanne was born in Boston, MA, on Oct. 8, 1929, to the late Elizabeth Gregg (Moulton) and E. Lester Goodrich. She graduated from Bloomfield High School in 1947 and attended the University of Vermont. Jeanne was employed at Middlesex Memorial Hospital as a licensed practical nurse for many years. She generously volunteered for over 15 years at the Middlesex County American Red Cross.

Jeanne is survived by her beloved children Carol Stone of East Hampton, Linda Roberts of Virginia and Henry Stone III of Colchester. Also surviving are eight grandchildren, Stephen Gilbert and his wife Lisa of Meriden, Jennifer Thompson and her husband Rob of Rhode Island, Shannon Stockburger and her husband Jason of Marlborough, Rebecca Rittman and her boyfriend Michael Guidicelli of Manchester, as well as Henry Stone IV, David Stone, Daniel Stone and Christopher Stone, all of Colchester. Jeanne cherished her seven great-grandchildren, Catherine Gilbert of Virginia, McKenzie Thompson of Rhode Island, Hannah and Kaitlyn Gilbert of Meriden, Talan and Kayl Stockburger of Marlborough and Adrien Stone of Colchester.

Jeanne had a passion for sports cheering on the NY Yankees and the UConn basketball teams. A woman of great strength, integrity and dedication, she remains an inspiration to her family and friends, who will miss her dearly.

A private family burial will take place at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, Jeanne may be remembered with contributions to the American Red Cross, Middlesex Central Connecticut Chapter, 97 Broad St., Middletown, CT 06457 or to The March of Dimes, (Attention DRFR) 1275 Mamaroneck Ave., White Plains, NY 10605.