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The scarecrows are back! The 11th annual Scarecrow Decorating Contest kicked off last Sunday, Oct. 10. Here, a mannequin barber, created by the Colchester Barber Shop and an Enchanted Florist, gets a zombie ready for his big date with a new haircut and a rose boutonniere.

Celebratory Scarecrows Swarm Colchester Green

by Katy Nally

Scarecrows and zombies and werewolves, oh my!

The pumpkinheads have returned to the Colchester Green for the 11th annual Scarecrow Decorating Contest, making the town a bit more festive, just in time for Halloween.

Every year the Colchester Business Association (CBA) and the Parks and Recreation Department organize the contest, which accepts scarecrow entries from businesses, families/individuals, youth groups and organizations.

"It gets everybody into the season," Recreation Supervisor Anita Pizzutiello said. "It's festive."

As part of this year's event there is a werewolf entertaining ghosts, a scarecrow painting a portrait of a fellow stuffed friend and several scary characters promoting reading. There are 22 entries in total, four more than last year, including two from families, three from youth groups, five from organizations, and 12 from businesses.

Two entries this year have a "green" theme – Girl Scout Troop 63050's "Think Thin Mint Green" and S&S Worldwide's "Green Enforcer."

The scouts created a scarecrow with lemonade-can legs, cardboard-box feet and topped the creature off with a scraggly straw hat. The spindly character stands next to a bicycle to carry around Thin Mint cookies.

The "Green Enforcer" took a more Recyclops approach. S&S' figure is dressed completely in

green, wears a recycle symbol and has an orange pumpkin for a head. Underneath the enforcer are signs displaying superhero missions like "Conserve Water" and "Turn Down The Heat!"

S&S Worldwide nationally distributes arts and crafts and sporting goods, and is headquartered in Colchester.

"Every year people come up with some new ideas and different approaches and materials, so it's really kind of exciting," said Katherine Kosiba, Colchester Garden Club president. "They're all so clever."

The Garden Club submitted "Daisy," a scarecrow with white hair and glasses who holds a rake and tends to her pile of leaves and bed of sunflowers.

Garden Club member Linda Grandy said she began creating Daisy just as Halloween was winding down last year.

"I really needed to find a fun project for the Garden Club," Grandy said. "I did a little bit at a time; it was a month-to-month project."

Grandy stockpiled plastic bags all winter, to stuff Daisy, then collected old garden tools and found her an outfit at Goodwill.

"She was very inexpensive to dress," Grandy noted.

Grandy created Daisy's face from a volleyball, which she covered in burlap. She surrounded Daisy with fake flowers and leaves.

See Scarecrows Page 2

Warm, Sunny Skies Lead to 'Great' Portland Fair

by Claire Michalewicz

After several days of rain, the skies cleared up for a warm, sunny weekend, contributing to what one organizer called one of the best Portland Agricultural Fairs yet.

"It was a great fair," Portland Fair Association President Don Bascom said. Bascom estimated that in terms of weather and attendance, it was one of the best fairs since the annual event restarted in 1999.

All three days of the fair, which ran from Oct. 8-10, had been warm and sunny, and while attendance was a little low on Friday, Bascom said it picked up on Saturday and Sunday.

The weekend was jam-packed with entertainment on two stages. On Saturday afternoon, the swing band Eight To The Bar was playing while audience members danced in front of the stage, and magician Brian Flynt performed a magic show for children on the small stage. Later that evening, Casey Ferguson, a Willie Nelson tribute musician, performed a country set with Charlene Marie, another singer.

Those in attendance came from Portland and surrounding towns, many with their children in tow. The Portland Fair, they explained, was a more relaxing experience than some of the other fairs in the area.

"It's not as crazy as the Big E," explained Jamie Palma, attending the fair with his wife,

Jill and their two daughters, Sophia, 6, and Claire, 3. "The kids have fun, it's local and it supports our town."

Sophia and Claire did seem to be having fun – proudly displaying the inflatable animals they won as prizes from the midway games, both girls said their favorite part of the day was going on the dragon roller coaster.

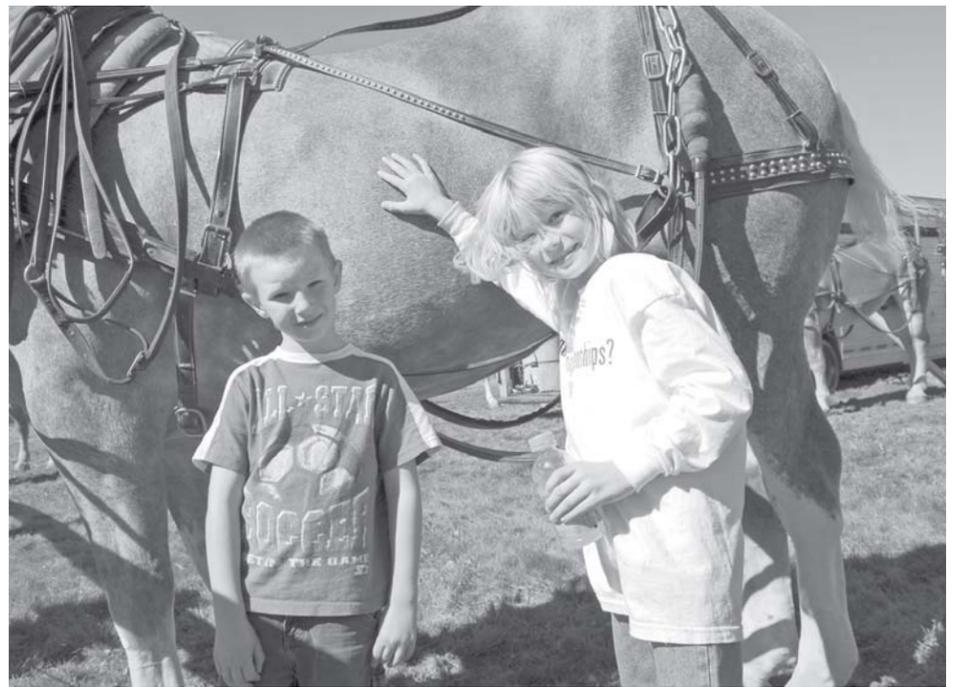
Along with the roller coaster, other rides at the fair included a Ferris wheel, a funhouse and a giant slide. The midway, provided by Coleman Brothers Show, also included numerous games with a wide array of prizes up for grabs.

For those looking for a quieter fair experience, one large tent displayed prize-winning baked goods and crafts, including hand-knit items, spun wool, and paintings. Sitting nearby demonstrating the spinning process was Portland resident Fiona Fine, dressed in a medieval costume. Fine explained that she demonstrated the spinning machine to children who came by, many of whom didn't know how yarn was made.

"I like to show them the craft exists," Fine said. "I can sit here and daydream. I meet lots of really nice people."

In another section of the fairgrounds, competitors took turns participating in the tractor

See Portland Fair Page 2



The Portland Agricultural Fair was held last weekend. Here, Cheyenne Stevens, 5, and Breeanna Bentley, 8, of Chaplin, pose with Cheyenne's horse, Charlie. Charlie competed in a horse pull Saturday afternoon at the fair.



Scarecrows dominated the Colchester Town Green this week as part of the 11th annual Scarecrow Decorating Contest. At left is the Colchester Garden Club's submission of "Daisy" among her leaves and sunflowers. At right is "Betty the Brownie," an entry from Brownie Troop 63355, who drops off cookies as she Trick or Treats.



Scarecrows cont. from Front Page

and a wheelbarrow full of bags of dirt. Grandy said she wanted voters to stop and say, "This gal is really busy!"

"I think she looks really good," Grandy said. "I think she has a good chance at winning because it's colorful and it's interesting to look at."

Grandy said participating in the scarecrow contest was "some way of having people know the Garden Club is out there and we do fun projects when we can."

Like the Garden Club, businesses also use the scarecrow contest as a way to get their name out there.

Among the other entries from businesses were "Goldilocks Gone Bad" from Again! Again! Kids Consignment/Jaden and Marnie Balaski, and Harrington Court's "Trick or Treat."

In this fairy tale scene, Goldilocks seems to have gotten the better of the three bears. Dressed in a red autumn dress, the smiling Goldilocks

holds a gigantic pair of scissors, and cotton stuffing is strewn about her feet. The sad-looking three bears are missing various limbs and seem to have given up.

The Harrington Court scene is a bit more cheery, but just as creative. It features one scarecrow in a wheelchair handing out treats to a tiny devil with his friends – a turtle and skeleton.

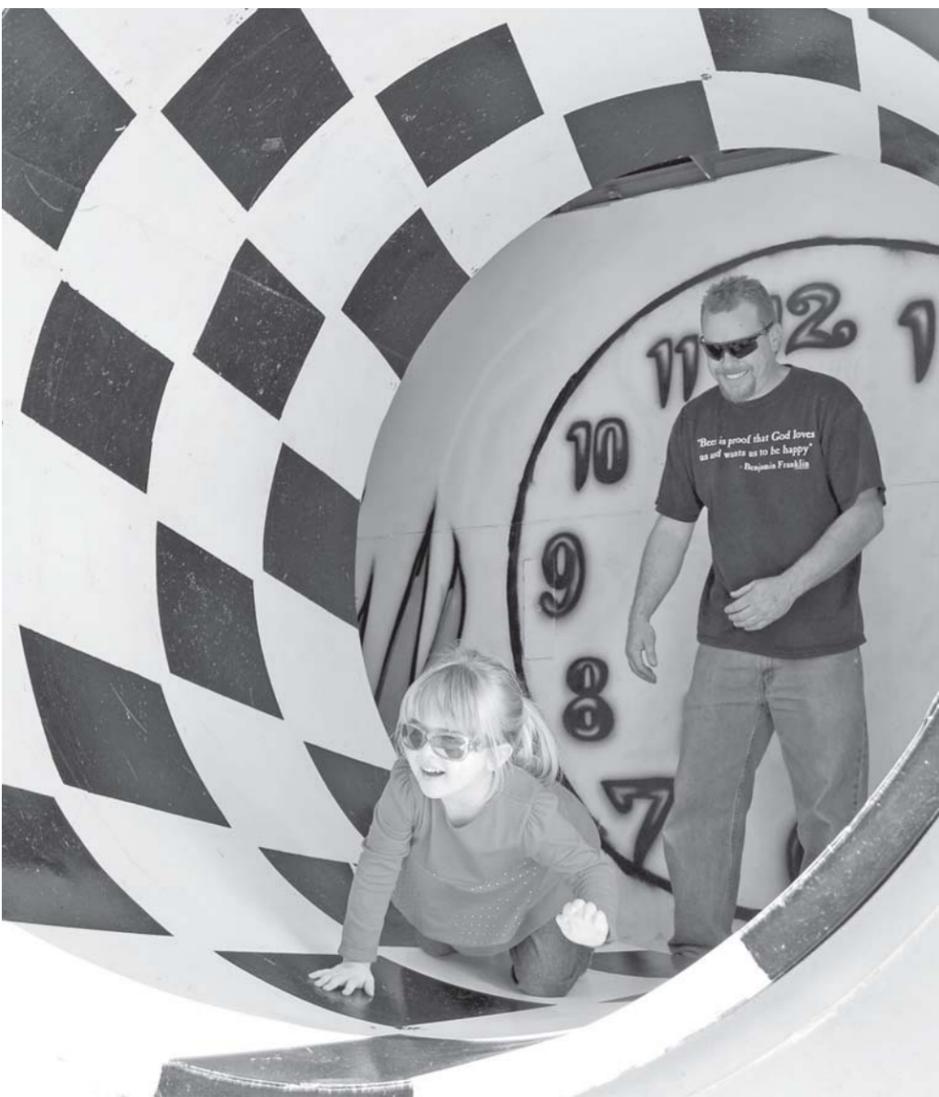
"It's a unique way for people to be creative, as well as businesses, civic organizations and

the scouts," Pizzutiello said.

Residents can cast votes for their favorite scarecrows in each category online at cba.bz until Saturday, Oct. 23.

"It's going to be a beautiful week, so I suggest everybody come out and take a walk and look at all the entries," Pizzutiello said.

First place winners in each category will receive a \$100 gift certificate to CBA member businesses, and second place winners, a \$50 gift certificate.



Kyra Goss, 4, led her father Jerry through an *Alice In Wonderland*-themed funhouse, one of the many rides and attractions at the fair.



It just wouldn't be the Portland Fair without cows, and this year's event had plenty of them.

Portland Fair cont. from Front Page

and truck pulls, with a horse pull happening nearby. One barn was filled with prize-winning cattle from around the state, while another showcased goats, alpacas, sheep, rabbits and fowl.

Victoria Footit, 10, of Meriden, brought several cows to the fair, explaining that she spent her summer showing cows at fairs throughout the state. "It's fun and we make a lot of friends," Victoria explained. On Saturday, one of her cows, Diva, won the award for best Holstein, she said.

One of the fairgoers impressed with Victoria's cows was Sean Mazza, 5, who ran around the barn petting the different animals. "They're soft," Sean said. He and his brother Jake, 8, both said they were having fun going on rides and seeing the animals.

Another young farmer at the fair was Owen Day, 10, of Colchester, who brought several of his goats and won awards in multiple categories, including showmanship.

"I just like having goats," Owen said. "They're good pets." He said that while he travels to several fairs a year, he especially likes the Portland one because it's local.

Dozens of vendors set up booths at the event, selling products ranging from knit scarves and hats to watches and windows. And of course, plenty of food was available, ranging from classic fair fare like fried dough, hot dogs and ice

cream to spicier choices like Pad Thai and garlic chicken.

The Portland Exchange Club was at the fair all weekend, selling hamburgers and other refreshments from its pavilion. On Saturday afternoon, club secretary Jamie Leonard explained that so far, the turnout had been good, with many people coming Saturday morning for the club's breakfast sandwiches.

This year marked the second annual Portland Fair 5K Road Race, and despite a lower-than-expected turnout, it was deemed a success. Joyce Murphy, the race organizer, said about 40 runners participated this year, compared to about 70 last year. Murphy said the Hartford Marathon taking place the day before may have affected the turnout, though she still got positive feedback from participants.

Bascom said that while he didn't have any exact numbers on attendance yet, he estimated that about 15-20,000 people visited over the weekend.

Bascom said more vendors than usual set up at the fair, which he said made the fairgrounds fuller and busier. He also thanked all the volunteers that worked over the weekend to make the event run smoothly. This year, Bascom said, he had many new volunteers helping out, in addition to the core group who donated their time and efforts year after year.

Benefit Planned for Andover Accident Victim

by Lindsay Fetzner

A pig roast benefit will take place at the Long Hill Road ballfield next weekend in honor of 39-year-old Chris Clark, an Andover native who was involved in a tragic accident at his Mansfield residence on July 4.

Around 3 p.m. on the blisteringly hot holiday (according to weatherunderground.com, the high that day was 92 degrees), when many people across the country were celebrating Independence Day, Chris was repairing the muffler on his car in his backyard. Mansfield Fire Department officials said it appeared that the jack stands Chris was using to hold up the car melted into the pavement due to the heat and tipped to the side, prompting the vehicle to fall on top of him. As a result, Chris suffered bilateral collapsed lungs and cardiac arrest.

Chris' wife Lodamia was inside their apartment at the time, when she heard a pounding on the door. Ed Goldberg, a Norwich resident, happened to be gardening at the home of his wife's parents nearby, and heard Chris screaming.

Terry, Chris' mother, said the family had never met Ed, and him running to their door was nothing shy of a miracle.

"This man ran like a deer," Terry said. "He ran like you've never seen anyone run before."

Captain Ryan Hawthorne of the Mansfield Fire Department said the response time from the 911 call to actively trying to remove Chris out from underneath the car was approximately two minutes. The Clarks' residence is very close to the fire department, which Hawthorne estimated at "a couple hundred yards down the road." Windham Hospital paramedic Ryan Monahan and Mansfield firefighters Ted Morrisette and Brian Jones were among the first on the scene.

Hawthorne said the crew was able to physically lift the car up, remove the jack and reposition it to keep the car up off of Chris in an effort to get him out. Although others were on their way with equipment, Hawthorne said, "in this case, you can see that every second really mattered."

"The guys got there and they did a great job," Hawthorne said of those involved.

Within five minutes of the call, Chris was out from underneath the car. Chris was not breathing, Hawthorne said, and the crew performed CPR for 30 seconds until he started breathing on his own. The paramedic from Windham Hospital was able to use advanced life support and insert an IV into Chris. He was then taken to the local middle school, where he

was transported to the hospital via LifeStar helicopter.

"It was horrible," Lodamia said, recalling the event this past summer. Hawthorne agreed, and said in his 18-year-career, "I don't remember another one like this."

The afternoon of July 4 marked the first of a trial shift for the Windham Hospital paramedics, Hawthorne said, where a medic is in attendance at the firehouse in Mansfield during peak hours. Although the EMTs are trained in CPR, Hawthorne said the paramedics and LifeStar staff have respiratory specialists. They have the ability to perform advanced life support, such as measures dealing with airway management, "above and beyond" what the EMTs perform.

In addition to having the presence of the medic on Chris' side, Hawthorne said LifeStar had a new program in place when the accident happened, known as "Auto-Launch." Hawthorne said the dispatch of the helicopter to the scene occurs at the time of the call, enabling the helicopter to reach the person faster.

Terry said between Ed hearing Chris screaming, the firefighters being at the house and not out on another run, the presence of the medic in town, and Life Star's quick arrival, "Everything that happened was a miracle," said Terry. "Every little thing."

As a result of the accident, Chris, a husband to Lodamia and father to two young children, ages 9 and 11, suffered an anoxic brain injury, due to lack of oxygen to the brain. As a result, he was diagnosed with Lance Adams Syndrome, a rare condition where people experience sudden and involuntary muscle contractions, according to the Worldwide Education and Awareness for Movement Disorders (www.wemove.org).

From the day of the accident until Aug. 27, Chris remained in the hospital where he was given constant care. Lodamia said he was medically induced for one week after the accident happened. At the end of August, Chris was then transported to the Louis D. Traurig House. The eight-bed, co-ed facility on the Gaylord Hospital's campus in Wallingford is the "only transitional living center for people with acquired brain injury" in the state, according to the hospital. (For more information, visit www.gaylord.org.)

Chris remained at the Traurig House until last Friday, Oct. 8, when he was released. Today marks one week since Chris returned home to his family, and just over three months since the accident occurred.



Firefighters and an alert resident helped to save Andover native Chris Clark's life, after a car fell on the current Mansfield resident on the Fourth of July. Pictured from left are Norwich resident Ed Goldberg, Mansfield firefighter Brian Jones, Clark, Mansfield firefighters Ted Morrisette, Ian Berghorn and Juan Sanchez III. Pictured in the front are Lodamia Clark, Chris' wife, and his two children, EmmaRaea Clark, 9, and Avery Clark, 11.

"He's coming home and that's all that matters," Terry said before his arrival last week. "Hopefully, he will just get better with time."

Progress, she said, is made on a weekly basis and added that Chris has come quite far since the accident.

"He's come from a coma, to not moving a finger or toe, to walking in his backyard," Terry said. "And he's still going, he's still progressing." But although it has only been three months, Terry said, "It feels like it's been three years."

And since coming home, Terry said Chris had made strides in only one week's time.

"The first day was probably the most scary for him," Terry said this week, adding that Chris has since acclimated himself to being home and "has been doing wonderful."

"It is a slow process," Terry said, but family members are thrilled to have Chris back home.

Lodamia said although it's going to be a challenge, "It's nice to have him home." Over the weeks and months, she said both she and the family have found strength "from family, friends and God."

Members of the Mansfield Fire Department visited with Chris this Monday, and also said he is improving.

"He's really looking better every time I see him," Hawthorne said.

The pig roast benefit for the Clark family will take place on Saturday, Oct. 23 starting at 2 p.m. at the Long Hill Road ballfield in Andover. In addition to the roast, there will be other side dishes, salads and hamburgers. Music, raffles, a DJ and activities for children, including face painting, pumpkin decorating, a bounce house and games will provide entertainment.

Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$10 for children and free for those under the age of 6. Tickets will be available at the ballfield, and prices include food, drinks and activities. All the proceeds will benefit the Clark Family.

For more information, contact Terry Clark at 860-558-6224, Josh Clark at 860-798-0552 or e-mail chrisclarkbenefit@gmail.com. The family also welcomes pot luck and raffle donations.

New Colchester Healing Center Aims to Treat Patients 'As a Person'

by Katy Nally

While traditional western medicine typically groups other health care philosophies as "alternative," Lorraine Cannatta, owner of Five Elements Healing in Colchester, said her business provides "complementary" approaches to treatments.

"In Ayurveda we work with an individual on a cellular level," she said. "I don't just treat your headache; I treat you as a person."

Five Elements offers massage therapy, yoga, craniosacral therapy, emotional clearing and Ayurveda consultations, to name a few.

Cannatta, who has worked in the medical field for 20 years, has been practicing Ayurveda for the past three and a half.

She explained Ayurveda is "a sister science of yoga," and is the "oldest, most continuously practiced healthcare system in the world."

"Through Ayurveda, one learns how to observe the play of the five elements – water, air, fire, earth and ether – in nature and how they affect the individual on all levels: emotionally, physically, mentally and spiritually," Cannatta said.

When clients come to Five Elements, Cannatta said they are given a consultation to discuss their ailments, current treatments and mental, physical and spiritual states. Then Cannatta creates a health regimen for them to follow, which can include diet changes, taking herbs medicinally, yoga, meditation, breathing techniques, massage and physical therapy.

Ray Bieri, a kinesiologist who works in conjunction with Cannatta and Five Elements, is on hand to help certain clients who need to work on improving mobility and strengthening their bodies. Bieri specializes in geriatrics.

As part of clients' new healthcare regimens, Cannatta performs anointing and massage. Cannatta said she became interested in the benefits of massage when she worked as a surgical

technician and noticed patients' anxiety levels could decrease if they had a massage before surgery. The correlation between decreasing stress and anxiety and massage has been scientifically proved, Cannatta added.

Anointing, she said, involves selecting different oils for massage.

"Certain techniques that alter the muscle tone, have an effect on the cerebellum – a part of the brain that assists in restoring homeostasis," Cannatta said.

Craniosacral therapy goes hand-in-hand with massage and is used to treat chronic headaches and joint pain, among other ailments, Cannatta said.

Cannatta said craniosacral therapy encourages the relationship between the nervous, vascular, lymphatic and musculoskeletal systems.

"Craniosacral work is a gentle intuitive-based non-invasive hands-on approach," she said.

In addition to craniosacral therapy and massage, Cannatta also goes through Ayurveda consultations with clients. She explained certain body parts and emotions are linked with one of the five elements, and the goal is to achieve a balance between water, air, fire, earth and ether (the mind).

"It uses the five elements of nature, in life," she said.

For example, if a client has been crying a lot, Cannatta said they have excess water, so a treatment would be yoga, which brings up fire to extinguish some of that water.

Since she's been practicing Ayurveda, Cannatta said "It has raised my well-being."

"It's unbelievable; it's worked for me," she said.

Ultimately, through Ayurveda, Cannatta said clients can diminish depression and anxiety.

"Through these practices one begins to see themselves and others with more objectivity and



Five Elements Healing on Loomis Road, offers massage, yoga and Ayurveda consultations, and seeks to provide a holistic approach to treatments. Above is the Five Elements team. From left is former nurse Cyndi Tentinger, owner Lorraine Cannatta and kinesiologist Ray Bieri.

and physical therapy, coincide with one another.

"The people who stay committed really do see a difference," Cannatta said, "and that's extremely rewarding for me."

Five Elements Healing is located at 111 Loomis Rd., Colchester. For more information call Cannatta at 860-467-4806 or e-mail her at massage@FiveElementsHealing.com.

Five Elements is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m.-8 p.m., by appointment only.



The Hebron Lions have announced the winners of this year's Rising Star Talent Show. In the photo at left are winners from the youth division. Pictured from left are Guada Mary Benoit, Maggie Hughes, Amy Viens, Carey Ozmun and Halley Neal. In the photo at right are winners in the young adult division. Pictured from left are Caryssa Propfe, Colleen Stoddard, Seritta Norige, Vinny Tomasello, Meghan Gionta, Sam Frost and Kelsey Kaplan.

Hebron Harvest Fair Talent Show Winners

The Hebron Lions have announced the winners of this year's Rising Star Talent Show, held at the Hebron Harvest Fair.

In the youth division, first place was awarded to Halley Neal and Carey Ozmun of Lebanon, second place to Amy Viens of Hebron, third place to Maggie Hughes of Marlborough and fourth place to Guada Mary Benoit of Plainfield. In the Young Adult Division, first place was awarded to Kelsey Kaplan and Sam Frost from the group Taking This Oasis, of

Tolland, second place went to Meghan Gionta of East Haddam, third place went to Vinny Tomasello of Andover, fourth place to Seritta Norige of Bozrah and fifth place to Caryssa Propfe and Colleen Stoddard, both of Hebron.

The Talent Show ran all four days of the fair. Twenty-six acts participated in a dress rehearsal on Thursday and Friday evenings, Sept. 9 and 10. The semifinal round was held on Saturday, Sept. 11. Nine acts were selected to appear in Sunday's Finals. Each winner was awarded a

ribbon and a cash reward. The top award in each division was \$250.

The Thursday night rehearsal for the Young Adult Division was judged by Barbara Soderberg and Pam Atwood, both of Hebron. The Friday night rehearsal for the youth division was judged by Judy Spragg, Mary Anne Zeh and Katrina McGlynn, all of Hebron. The semifinals were judged by Donna Mercier of Manchester and Frost Krist and Judy Spragg of Hebron. The finals on Sunday were judged

by Mary Rose Meade and Pam Atwood of Hebron and Heather Hegedus from WFSB-TV Channel 3 Eyewitness News.

Richard and Diedre McGlynn recorded the event.

Additional pictures of contestants in the talent show can be found at www.HebronHarvestFair.org. Application information for the third annual Rising Star Talent Show will be available on the Hebron Harvest Fair's website in early 2011.



Longtime resident and former state representative Art Standish passed away earlier this month. In 2007 the World War II veteran was selected to be the Grand Marshal for Colchester's Memorial Day Parade. He's seen above with his son Robert in front of the family farm on Standish Road, and at right is Art with his wife Minnette.

Family Remembers Colchester Veteran, Former State Rep Standish

by Katy Nally

Arthur Standish held many names in his 92 years, including state representative, alternate trial justice and Army Air Corps corporal, but his relatives will remember him simply as a loving family-man whom they called Art – and for the younger ones – Uncle Artie.

Art passed away Monday, Oct. 4, in his family home.

His life began in the same home, on the same dairy farm his grandfather started generations ago in 1851. Standish has been such a prominent name in town, the road that leads up to the family farm is aptly called Standish Road.

Born to Charles and Ethel in 1917, Art was the oldest of six children.

As World War II approached, Art decided to join the Armed Forces, but not without marrying Minnette Nelkin, whom he had known his whole life.

Minnette explained the Standishes and her family both operated farms and developed a lasting friendship.

"I knew him all my life; we lived six or seven miles apart," Minnette said.

In fact, Art had dated Minnette's older sister before her, she said.

The May before her senior year of high school ended, Minnette and Art married in the Nelkins' home.

"In those years there were so many marriages when the kids were being drafted," Minnette noted.

The two would stay married for 68 years.

During the 1940s, Art worked as a machinist at Pratt & Whitney and later enlisted in the Army Air Corps. He started out in Nebraska and was transferred to Colorado to instruct arctic fleet maintenance. In a year, Art went from private to corporal, skipping private first class.

Minnette said Art was among the top ten in his class of 500.

In a 2007 *Riverast* article, Art said the Army was anxious to have instructors who could train mechanics, but they had to be staff sergeants – a step above corporal. Art was slated for the promotion to staff sergeant, but his father had a heart attack and needed Art to take over the family farm.

After returning to Colchester, Art, then 25, began working the family dairy farm and would continue to do so until 1960.

In the meantime, Minnette and Art had two children and were also foster parents to two more children. Then in 1957, Art began his one-year term as a Republican state representative.

"Being a representative what the thing he was proudest of," Minnette said. However, she explained, "It was difficult because he still had the farm to run."

Several years prior, around 1947, Art joined the Colchester Republican Town Committee and would stay a member for about 30 years.

Art also served on the local Board of Tax Review, worked as an alternate trial justice to fill in for a local judge and became a justice of the peace, marrying 12 couples.

"He was forever involved with something in town," Minnette said. "He was a man who could never sit; he was always busy."

In addition to serving his community, Art put his mechanical background to use and began working for the local garage Marvin's Midway. He later partnered with his friend Henry Romanofsky and opened another garage, Art and Romie's on Route 16.

After several years, Art opened his own garage, Standish Auto, and ran it out of his home on Standish Road.

"He was a very, very active man," Minnette remembered.

Art was also a member of the Donald A. Bigelow American Legion Post No. 54 and the Wooster Lodge Masonic Temple No. 10 A.F. and A.M.

Art was honored as a WWII veteran in the 2007 Colchester Memorial Day Parade, when he was selected to be the grand marshal.

As he rode shotgun in the shining red

Chrysler convertible that May, at the age of 89, Minnette said many of his grandchildren and great-grandchildren ran along side his car shouting "Uncle Artie!"

Art leaves behind a total of eight grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

His daughter, Kathy Orth, said she would remember her father as an "all-around nice man" who never got mad, but, by the same token, "you wouldn't want to disappoint him."

"Anytime you asked him to do anything, he was there," she said.

Minnette said Art always played an active role in his children's lives.

"He was very interested in all the things they had to do," she said. "He was a great man and an excellent father."

Minnette said the days since Art passed away have been difficult.

"It's past the crying stage, but it's just the loneliness now," she said. "I couldn't have asked for a better husband or friend."

Art's funeral service was held Oct. 7. He was buried with full military honors in Linwood Cemetery.

To make donations in Art's memory, the family has asked that contributions go to the Colchester Hayward Volunteer Fire Department.

Colchester Board Approves Use of \$258,000 From Federal Grant

by Katy Nally

Superintendent of Schools Karen Loisel presented the Board of Education (BOE) with a recommendation on how to allocate about \$258,000 that comes from the federal jobs bill at the board's Tuesday, Oct. 12, meeting.

Colchester was granted \$792,116 in one-time funds as part of the federal government's Education Job Fund Program, which allotted \$110 million for Connecticut schools.

The money must be used to retain, rehire, bring in new employees or reinstate previously eliminated positions. The grant can also go toward restoring reductions in salaries and benefits.

At its Sept. 14 meeting, the BOE unanimously voted to reinstate five sports teams and hire one paraprofessional, using about \$35,000 from the federal funds. Freshman girls' and boys' basketball at Bacon Academy, girls' and boys' basketball at William J. Johnston Middle School (WJMS) and indoor track at Bacon Academy were reinstated.

The paraprofessional was brought in to assist two new kindergarten special education students.

Loiselle's proposal uses the majority of the \$258,000 for academic support for students, at \$118,000. This includes hiring seven Scientific Research-Based Intervention (SRBI) Para-Interventionists at \$21,000 per person. Two would work at Colchester Elementary School, two at WJMS and one at Jack Jackter Intermediate

School (JJIS).

BOE Chairman Ron Goldstein explained "the paras will work with students in those schools on a more specific basis, basically to raise the bar."

Part of the reason for hiring these paraprofessionals, Goldstein said, was because some Colchester students did not meet No Child Left Behind standards last school year.

Special education and free/reduced lunch students at JJIS did not meet the No Child Left Behind mark of 79 percent reaching "goal" in reading on the Connecticut Mastery Test. The students met the 82-percent mark in math, however.

At WJMS, special education students also did not meet the 79-percent at-goal target in reading.

For this school year, the percentage of students who need to reach goal on the CMTs and the Connecticut Academic Performance Tests, will increase by about two percentage points, as dictated by the No Child Left Behind Act.

Goldstein said hiring the SRBI Para-Interventionists would "ensure that we can get those kids up to that mark."

He said the positions are intended to last only one year, because after working with these paraprofessionals, the students are expected to be able to reach the No Child Left Behind marks on their own. Goldstein added that this method "gives people a little bit of a boost" and has

had proven results.

Loiselle also allocated about \$40,000 for professional development needs, including \$19,000 for Project Opening Doors.

Goldstein explained Project Opening Doors provided between \$60,000 and \$70,000 last year to give incentives to students to take Advanced Placement classes. For this school year, he said officials of Project Opening Doors asked Colchester to budget \$19,000 from the jobs bill to help "further other initiatives." The rest would come from Project Opening Doors.

"It's understandable," Goldstein said.

Also listed is \$20,000 for an IT assistance for "virtualization," the act of changing a physical machine into a virtual one. This would include consolidating the districts' 26 servers down to four. Goldstein said this switch would require about a \$96,000 investment, but schools would see savings in electricity and hardware/software costs.

Goldstein said the BOE will put up the \$20,000 toward virtualization only if the remainder of the project, approximately \$76,000 can be provided through grants or savings.

"It's an extremely exciting initiative," he said. "Only four districts in the state have it now."

When asked about using jobs fund money to bring back items cut in the last budget, Goldstein said reductions made to enrichment and physical education would not likely be reinstated, because of how the changes would

affect scheduling.

At both JJIS and the elementary school, periods for physical education/health were reduced from three to two, so Goldstein said the board "really couldn't reverse that one quickly."

Goldstein said the same was true for enrichment. With the most recent budget changes, an enrichment teacher now splits her time between JJIS and WJMS, and new scheduling would be difficult.

Also, Goldstein said, "We feel [the enrichment program] is still meeting the needs of kids."

Goldstein said he was also cautious when it came to these items because they might not be "sustainable" if reinstated.

"We know that this money will go away," he said.

Overall, Goldstein said he thought Loisel's proposal was "a well thought-out and appropriate use of these funds, for immediate needs the district has, without putting in place programs that will not be sustainable."

The BOE unanimously approved Loisel's recommendation.

He said the remaining \$534,000 might be used during this school year, or the upcoming budget. The funds are available until July 1, 2012.

The next regularly scheduled BOE meeting will be Tuesday, Nov. 9, at 7 p.m. at Bacon Academy, 611 Norwich Ave.

Alleged Bill, Website Changes Reviewed by Colchester Selectmen

by Katy Nally

At last Thursday's Board of Selectmen meeting, board members were updated on the status of an "outstanding" bill, reviewed a proposal to change the town website and discussed the possibility of beginning "virtual" town meetings.

The alleged outstanding bill stems from an old contract with a workman's compensation provider, and totals \$51,660, Chief Financial Officer Maggie Cosgrove said at the Oct. 7 meeting.

The town ended its one-year contract with Municipal Interlocal Risk Management Agency (MIRMA) in the 2004-05 fiscal year, Cosgrove said.

According to Board of Finance (BOF) Chairman Bruce Hayn, MIRMA apparently routinely "undervalued everything they did," which resulted in "financial trouble." When the town was first quoted an estimate, Hayn said MIRMA came up with \$220,000, but later dropped the estimate to \$180,000. Hayn said the \$51,000 bill could come from this difference in quotes.

Now, five years later, to pay off its debts, MIRMA has sent out bills to Connecticut towns, totaling \$8.9 million. It has sent town officials two invoices already, totaling about \$19,000.

Colchester's share is small in comparison to other municipalities, but MIRMA claims the town owes it \$51,660, Cosgrove said.

"We're one of the small pieces of this," she

said.

If Colchester had renewed its contract with MIRMA, Cosgrove noted, the town "be facing much more than this \$51,000 bill."

Cosgrove said MIRMA presented little evidence on how it arrived at the \$51,000 estimate. And the data MIRMA is using to calculate the assessments, Cosgrove added, dates back to 2009.

MIRMA also recalculated its original estimate of \$10 million, which was lowered to \$8.9 million; however, Colchester's share did not decrease.

"If they calculate it three years from now, they could come back with another assessment for us," Cosgrove said.

Currently there is one workman's compensation claim from MIRMA that is still open and the town keeps about \$40,000 in reserves for it.

"A lot is being done to try and settle that claim," Cosgrove stressed.

The BOF was briefed on the situation at its Oct. 6 meeting, and Cosgrove said it was that board's consensus to "not pay anything at this point in time."

She added that the town is "still trying to do some research" about MIRMA's bill.

Selectman James Ford echoed the BOF's feelings.

"Have [MIRMA] prove we owe it," he said. MIRMA has not provided copies of the origi-

nal contract with Colchester.

"I'm uncomfortable with the open-ended nature of this," First Selectman Gregg Schuster said. "We need to end this as soon as possible."

The Board of Selectmen (BOS) took no action on the bill because, Schuster said, "we do not yet have enough information to determine if we do actually owe anything."

* * *

The BOS also looked at tweaking the town website, www.colchesterct.gov, and possibly airing town meetings on the Internet.

Schuster said Salem recently began broadcasting its meetings online and it has "worked very well." The cost for the equipment would be about \$3,000, Schuster said, but the town would look for a grant to cover the expenses. Salem received such a grant.

"If we don't get the money for it the equipment, we're not going anywhere," Schuster said.

In addition to watching the meetings, Schuster said residents would be able to vote remotely and give input. He said this could possibly increase residents' participation in meetings, especially town budget forums.

The BOS asked for additional research and information before taking a vote on the proposal.

Selectmen also heard from Network Administrator Marc Tate, about possible small changes to the town's website.

His proposal would include a bar under the

masthead with buttons such as "About Us," "I Want To," and links specified for residents, businesses and visitors.

The "I Want To" button would list commonly asked questions like where to get a dog license.

"Lots of people have no idea where to go" on the current website to find how to license a dog, Schuster said.

The rest of the homepage would be in the same format, with a calendar on the right column and links on the left, but there would be fewer options on the left-hand side. Currently there are 15 links in the one column that begin with "About Our Town," and "1st Selectman Notes."

Tate's proposal limits the left column to 10 links including links for schools, the library and budget information.

Having fewer buttons, Tate said, "makes it less redundant."

"Overall, I think it's a good layout," he added.

Selectwoman Rosemary Coyle said the new plan should include a direct link to the town charter, but for the most part, "anything that makes it more user-friendly is good."

The BOS took no action on the website proposal.

* * *

The next regularly scheduled BOS meeting will be Thursday, Oct. 21, at 7 p.m., at Town Hall, 127 Norwich Ave.

Portland Resident Makes Videos Dealing with Brownstone Quarries

by Claire Michalewicz

A Portland resident has produced a series of online videos documenting the Portland Brownstone Quarries and their important role in the town's history.

Paul Smith, a content producer at Connecticut Public Television (CPTV), produced *Quarry Stories* over the summer. Though making videos like this is part of his job, he said these particular videos were a sort of pet project of his, and one of the first times he's done something with such a local angle.

In the three *Quarry Stories*, Smith addresses three topics: the history of the quarries, the current small-scale quarry operations, and the Brownstone Exploration and Discovery Park, which has turned into a profitable tourist attraction for the town.

Smith said he was inspired to make the videos about the quarries because a friend of his is working on a children's book about them, to be published by the Portland Historical Society.

When he started filming, Smith said, he discovered some things he didn't know about the quarries, like the fact that a geologist named Michael Meehan is still carving brownstone from the quarries, which is mainly used to restore historic brownstone buildings.

Portland Historical Society museum director Bob McDougall offered much of the historical background in Smith's first video.

Smith explained that in the 10 years he's lived in Portland, he's never known much about the quarries. What struck him about them was discovering how important they were in history, as they were used in many buildings in Connecticut and surrounding states in the 19th century. In addition, Smith said, the quarries built

the town itself.

"Immigrants came just to work on quarries," Smith said. "They formed the town as we know it."

McDougall echoed Smith's comments, adding that the quarries were Portland's main reason for existing.

"I'm not sure everyone appreciates that," McDougall said, explaining that now, most people in Portland commuted out of the town to work.

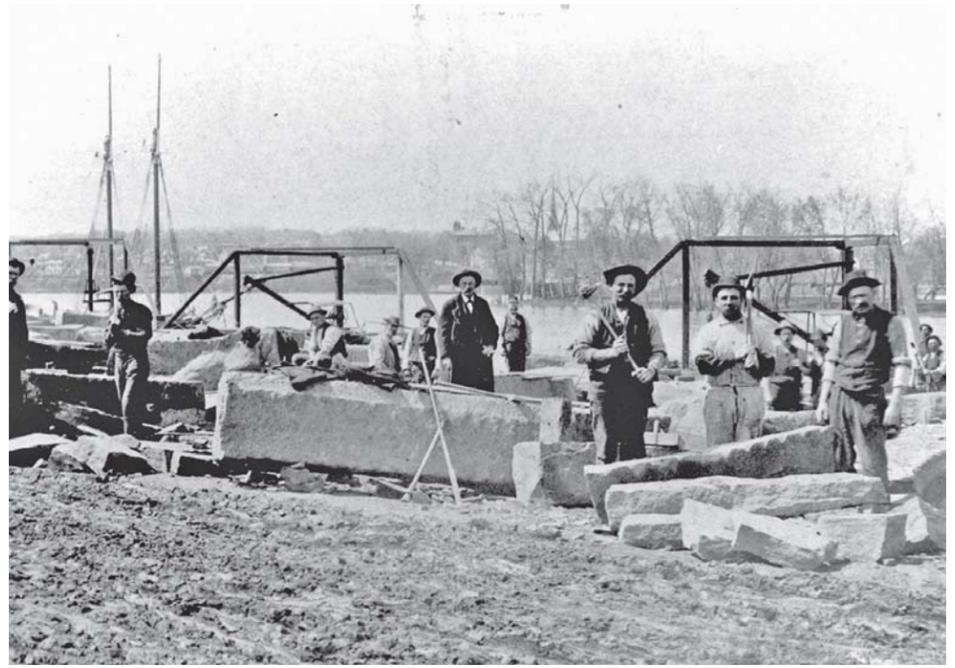
In Portland, Smith said, "Everyone has some sort of quarry story." He's hoping to spread the word about his videos, so people can learn more about them, and possibly share their own stories.

The purpose of his online videos, Smith explained, is to tell stories that wouldn't be shown on mainstream TV. Because they're designed for the web, the videos are only a few minutes long, to hold people's attention, he said.

"These are quick little videos," Smith said, designed to give people an awareness of what's in their surroundings.

The final video in the series focuses on the Brownstone Exploration and Discovery Park, which Sean, Ed and Frank Hayes opened in 2007. What drew him to the Hayes brothers' story, Smith said, was that they were trying to take an old property and restore it. Smith said he could relate to their work, though on a smaller scale – since moving to Portland, he and his wife have been working to restore their historic house, and still aren't done.

"I like the fact that people are taking interest in a property that needed rescuing," Smith said. "That's awesome that they were able to rescue historical land."



This photo was taken around 1890 at the Shaler & Hall Quarry, the southern brownstone quarry. In the center of the picture, in the long coat, is Daniel Webber Graham; he was the yard foreman. "Webb" Graham was born in 1842 and was the grandson of Captain Issac Webber who owned the Savage Shipyard in Cromwell. He died in 1915 and is buried in Trinity Cemetery.

McDougall said the videos would be an important tool in teaching local residents about their town.

"It's important to keep reminding the public about the history of the town," McDougall said. "Bringing attention to any history is a great

thing."

To view Smith's *Quarry Stories*, visit www.yourpublicmedia.org/content/cptv/portland-brownstone-quarry-stories-part-i and follow the links to the other stories on the side of the page.

Info Session Planned on Portland Incentive Housing Zones

by Claire Michalewicz

The Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) has decided to go ahead with a study into Incentive Housing Zones, scheduling a public information session next month.

Karen Cullen, a planner from Concord Square Development, studied five sites in Portland over the summer, to consider them for mixed-use development. Cullen will present the results of the study to interested residents at a session tentatively scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 18, at the senior center.

Incentive Housing Zones (IHZs) are areas of mixed-use development, combining housing and commercial space. When the town adopts the special zoning, it receives a payment from the state Office of Policy and Management (OPM). Twenty percent of the housing units must be deed-restricted as "affordable," set aside for families earning less than a specified income level. For each building permit issued for an affordable unit, the town receives an additional payment.

Of the five sites she studied, Cullen reported to the PZC at a meeting last month, the two most practical were an office building at the

corner of Main Street and Victoria Road, and Brownstone Intermediate School. At both sites, the best option would be to convert the existing building into housing units and build additional housing on a neighboring lot, Cullen said.

The other sites Cullen studied were an industrial area off Commerce Street, several commercial lots on Marlborough Street, and a parking lot at the corner of Freestone and High streets.

The study, funded by a grant from the OPM, has generated debate within the PZC. Commission member Mike Woronoff said he had been opposed to the project since the beginning, explaining that it would create different zoning regulations for certain parts of the town. "Zoning is creating a fixed set of rules that every property can live by," he said.

"I'm not afraid of affordable housing," Woronoff added.

Planning and Land Use Administrator Deanna Rhodes said that since the grant covered the entire study, the PZC should open discussion up to the public at the November meeting and make decisions afterward.

Enough Signatures Collected to Force East Hampton Police Chief Vote

by Claire Michalewicz

The petition to overrule the revision to Ordinance 109, which removes the police chief's position from the town's laws, has gathered more than enough signatures to bring the issue to a town-wide vote.

Take Back Our Town, the grassroots group that organized the petition, announced Thursday morning it had collected 1,350 signatures, more than the 1,161 required to bring the ordinance to a vote. That was not the final number, organizer Bill Marshall said, as more petition sheets are still circulating in town.

Marshall said he was filing the petition at the town clerk's office on Thursday, but would continue to collect more signatures until the Oct. 21 deadline.

"Our goal at this point is to give everyone in the community an opportunity to sign the petition," Marshall said.

Though the town charter states that the vote

would happen at a town meeting, Marshall said he was filing a request to bring it to a referendum on Nov. 2, the day of the general election.

Town Council Chairwoman Melissa Engel said she was happy about the prospect of sending the issue to a referendum.

"It would be helpful to have the whole community weigh in on it," Engel said. "That way, it's not seven people or six people; it's the whole community."

The petition drive started immediately after the Town Council voted Sept. 28 to remove the position of police chief. Tomorrow, Oct. 16, the group will set up tables in front of Town Hall, 20 East High St., and Stop & Shop, 11 East High St., to collect more signatures. Residents interested in signing can visit www.takebackourtown.org for more information.

East Hampton Man Crashes Motorcycle in Andover While Avoiding Child

by Lindsay Fetzner

On Friday, Oct. 8, an East Hampton resident crashed his motorcycle while trying to avoid a child crossing the road, State Police said.

At approximately 6:11 p.m., Thomas Corris, 36, of East Hampton, was traveling southbound on Wall Street, State Police said. Corris was riding a 1985 Suzuki GS700 when a child crossed the road ahead of him. State Police said he braked hard, and the front tire of the motorcycle slide out. Corris went down on the left side and slid to rest on the right shoulder of Wall Street.

The accident occurred three-tenths of a mile south of Hebron Road, on Route 316. As a result of the crash, the entire left side of the motorcycle was damaged, State Police said.

EMS personnel present at the scene of the accident confirmed that a child had indeed run across the street, which was relayed "by an unidentified witness," according to State Police.

There was not a child present upon arrival of State Police, and no identity of the child was revealed after a survey of the neighbors, State Police said.

State Police said Corris was wearing a helmet. He was transported via Andover to Middlesex Hospital as a "precautionary measure" and was listed as having a "possible injury," according to State Police. On Wednesday, the hospital had no record of Corris listed.

Corris was not charged, State Police said.

Former East Hampton Resident Killed on Texas Army Base

by Claire Michalewicz

An East Hampton woman was shot and killed by her husband in an apparent murder-suicide at an Army base in Texas last month, published reports say.

Jessie Anne Yeager Franklin, 29, was allegedly shot by her husband, Sgt. Michael Timothy Franklin, 31, before he turned the gun on himself, published reports say. According to published reports, the couple's bodies were found on Sept. 26 in their home at Ford Hood, TX, where Michael was stationed.

Michael Franklin, published reports say, was a decorated soldier who had served two tours in the war in Iraq.

The couple left behind two children, Mikayla, 6, and Byron, 2, who are staying

with family in Connecticut, published reports say.

According to Jessie Franklin's obituary, which appeared in last week's *Rivereast*, her funeral was held at St. Patrick's Church in East Hampton on Tuesday morning, followed by burial in the church's cemetery.

Franklin grew up in East Hampton, and attended the Academy of the Sacred Heart in Baltic and Salve Regina University in Rhode Island, her obituary said.

Franklin was "an extraordinary, wonderful woman," her mother, Cynthia Yeager of New Britain, said Tuesday.

"She was a wonderful mother, wonderful daughter, a friend," Yeager said. "That's all I can say."

Hebron Selectmen Award Bids, Review Goals

by Lindsay Fetzner

At their meeting last Thursday, selectmen awarded several bids in town, as well as discussed the status of their board goals.

A number of bids were awarded for the Parks and Recreation Department, including apparel, supplies, materials and the replacement of a dump truck body.

The Board of Selectmen (BOS) awarded the bid for the Parks and Recreation apparel to Rainbow Graphics, at a cost not to exceed \$14,200. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said there is \$14,200 included in the Parks and Recreation Department budget for apparel for the sports teams. There were a total of three bids received and Rainbow Graphics was the lowest bidder, based on the average price of the quoted apparel.

For various supplies and materials for the Parks and Rec. programs, three different companies were awarded bids. The BOS awarded the supplies and materials bid to S&S Worldwide for an amount not to exceed \$1,910, to BSN Sports in an amount to exceed \$480 and to School Specialty in an amount not to exceed \$1,940.

For the replacement of a dump truck body, \$5,617 was awarded to W.H. Rose. Two bids were received, and W.H. Rose was the low bidder with the added option of a hydraulic line on the truck.

Therrien said there is \$6,000 budgeted in the capital account for this replacement. Parks and Recreation Director Rich Calarco said the public works team will remove the old dump truck body, and noted that the remaining funds from the \$6,000 allotment will be used to make side

boards on the truck.

The last award the BOS gave was to Catco Construction LLC in an amount not to exceed \$158,565 for the installation of sidewalks on Main Street. A couple years ago, Therrien said the town received a \$487,000 Small Town Economic Assistance Program grant as part of the Main Street Commercial Revitalization Program, and would fund the sidewalk installation. This project would finish off the sidewalks along Main Street and continue to the Town Office Building.

A total of six bids came in for the project, and Catco Construction LLC was the lowest total base bidder, according to bid results provided by Town Engineer Tom Fenton.

* * *

Therrien also provided the BOS with a status report of the board's goals and objectives for the 2010-11 year, many of which have either been completed or are currently being worked on. Some of the larger goals and their progress were discussed by the board at their meeting.

In the area of budgeting, the board's goal is to allow the town boards, commissions, staff and residents to work together in identifying town services with both the highest and lowest priorities, as well as assisting the boards and commissions in preparing their future budgets. The goal was to have a list of services identified as "priority" when the BOS begin their work on the budget.

Currently, Therrien said the core service work is ongoing, but she is finalizing results from past meetings with the BOS. The BOS had a number of workshops where they discussed and

identified core services the town offers the past couple months. Therrien said during the month of October, she will be meeting with department heads to share the results, and in November, a public forum will be held for residents to voice comments and concerns.

Another goal for the BOS is regionalization of services, which includes working with other towns, as well as the boards of education, to consider sharing or eliminating duplicate services in an effort to save money. This process, Therrien said, is also ongoing.

Therrien said a group of 10 municipalities has been formed and is looking into areas such as police services, purchasing, health plans, legal services and parks and recreation for regionalization. Therrien said she currently is working with Manchester to have the town oversee Hebron's IT needs, as opposed to utilizing an outside company.

In the area of economic development and the charrette process (period of design activity), the goal for the BOS was to enhance the town's economic development outreach, through working with staff and the Economic Development Commission (EDC). Concentration on the Village Green district and vacant properties in town were also elements to this goal for the selectmen to address.

The EDC has met with representatives from Simsbury to address how they put together and planned the phases of their charrette process, and the EDC is looking to plan a future meeting with them for assistance in developing Hebron's timetable. An economic development tour was planned for September; however due

to weather, it had to be canceled; another tour is planned for Thursday, Oct. 28 from 8-10:30 a.m. at Blackledge Golf Course.

Another goal revolves around charter revisions and a town ethics code. The goal was to establish a charter revision commission as well as to vote on an ethics code, to be placed in a revised charter document. Some of the areas the commission would look at are various forms of government and the bifurcation of budget questions.

Currently, the ethics code has already been completed, as well a vote taken on the document from the BOS. Therrien said training on the code has been finished with all employees in town, with the exception of public works and parks and recreation union members. A bifurcation committee has also been formed in town, and began meeting at the end of August.

* * *

In other news, the BOS accepted the resignation of Thomas Lillis from the Hebron Police Department, effective Sept. 30. Lillis has served Hebron since April 2001 and will now enter retirement.

"I enjoyed serving the citizens of Hebron and members of the business community," Lillis wrote in his letter of resignation. "I remain very grateful that I was given the opportunity to serve this town while working alongside members of the Hebron Police and Connecticut State Police."

* * *

The next meeting of the BOS is scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 21, at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Office Building, 15 Gilead St.

Hebron Residents Discuss Concerns With School Board

by Lindsay Fetzner

The Board of Education (BOE) held one of three roundtable discussions Wednesday evening, where board members looked to the public for a better understanding of what the community values in its education system.

Superintendent of Schools Ellie Cruz said the decision to hold the discussions was due to "an outgrowth of feedback we received last year after the budget process." Voters defeated the town's proposed 2010-11 budget twice at referendum this year, before passing it on the third try.

Reflecting on that budget season, Cruz said there were several things the BOE wanted to address this year. These included communicating and sending a clear message to the public about the budget and having "a clear understanding of what the community wants in the schools."

Attendees were asked to consider four questions for discussion – what they value in the public schools, how they would prioritize the school system's needs, what they would like to see strengthened in terms of programs and resources and lastly, what they feel is not as necessary in the schools.

Attendees were broken into small groups, facilitated by a board member, who promoted questions and discussion. As the facilitator asked the questions, a recorder was also present to take down people's comments and/or questions.

After commending the district for Hebron Elementary School's Blue Ribbon award, resident Robin Lane told board members that two programs that she values are the chal-

lenge and enrichment (C&E) as well as the music program.

"That tiny little sliver of time is so important," Lane said of C&E. "It is a fun environment and is key to keeping kids motivated. It is something I am very, very proud of."

Hebron's music program, Lane said, is another aspect that "sets us apart," and permeates all of the learning experiences for the children. Like Lane, resident Jeff LaFleur said he too values the music program, and that the arts play a key piece in academics.

LaFleur also stressed that he would like to see more science in the school curriculum to prepare the students for RHAM, and to strengthen some of their basic skills in the subject area. Lane identified writing as her "one frustration" since her son entered the third grade, especially with the male population of students.

"I would like to see a beefed-up writing program," Lane said. "I hope that soon, more thought will be put into that."

Lane added that the district seems to be lagging a bit in technology needs, and will need assets like computer labs to keep up with the rest of the state. However, Lane said this upcoming budget season will likely be another difficult one, and was hopeful that groups such as an education foundation the district is trying to create could help to offset costs with things such as technology needs. Lane commended the Parent Teacher Association for its efforts as well in the schools.

"I think the next budget is going to be about keeping jobs and class sizes down and keeping

the paras in the classroom," Lane said, later adding, "We can't increase class sizes."

On the topic of prioritizing school needs, resident Dominic Marino said the board, when it considers which programs the district offers, should take into account not only the cost, but also the number of people that benefit from it. Whether it benefits only a small group or a couple hundred students is important, especially during a difficult budget season.

Resident Dan Larson, also a member of the Board of Selectmen, suggested that the school board broaden the scope of how they use volunteers from the community.

After school programs or activities, Larson said, could be a way to get the both students and community members involved. Larson suggested walking the nature trails in town, or having wildlife management or Department of Environmental Protection staff come and educate children on the flora and fauna.

Adding onto Larson's comments, resident Kevin McDonnell suggested that there be more parent-teacher involvement or events in the schools. McDonnell said he would like to see activities beyond just the end of the day when the parents and teachers interact, or at events such as open houses.

"It doesn't feel like there is a lot of that," McDonnell said, "where parents and teachers come together."

Cruz said she hopes the three roundtable discussions will give the community an opportunity to interact and engage with the board in "free dialogue." In addition, Cruz said the board is looking to gain a deeper understanding of

what the community values in the school system. Cruz said she is looking for insight and input into what the board should prioritize when developing the local school board budget.

"The economics haven't changed dramatically," Cruz said. "If we need to make hard choices, we want to know now."

Cruz said the comments from Wednesday's discussion were going to be discussed at Thursday evening's BOE meeting, which occurred after press time. From there, Cruz said the information would be turned over to the school board's resource management committee, which works on the budget.

The comments from the discussions will also help the board in the strategic planning process of the budget, as well as establishing budget priorities for the 2011-12 school year, Cruz said.

For those who could not attend Wednesday evening's roundtable discussion, there are other ways to provide feedback to the board.

"During the month of October, we are really looking to get feedback from the community," Cruz said.

There will be another roundtable discussion tomorrow, Saturday, Oct. 16, from 10 a.m.-noon in the community room at Douglas Library, 22 Main St. The final discussion will take place on Wednesday, Oct. 27, from 7-9 p.m. in the activity room at Gilead Hill School, 580 Gilead St.

There is also an opportunity to provide feedback via e-mail to the board at BOE@Hebron.k12.ct.us or in a survey that will most likely be released next week on the district's website, www.hebron.k12.ct.us, Cruz said.

East Hampton ZBA Says Angelico's Can Keep Fence

by Claire Michalewicz

The Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) voted last week to allow a fence at Angelico's Lake House Restaurant to remain standing, after a resident alleged that the fence violated the town's regulations.

The fence, which runs along the north end of Angelico's patio along Barbara Avenue, was erected earlier this year. Angelo Tammaro, who lives on Lake Boulevard, filed an appeal against the town for granting a permit for the fence.

At its meeting last Monday, Oct. 4, the ZBA voted 4-1 to uphold Building, Planning and Zoning Administrator Jim Carey's opinion that the fence was allowed. (Member Linda Dart was opposed because she was concerned about sightlines.)

Carey said he issued the building permit for the fence after it had been built. Carey explained that according to the town's zoning regulations, a fence of eight feet or less does not require a permit, or a setback from the road. The fence at Angelico's is eight feet high, Carey said, though it was built on top of a mound of earth that brings the height to about 11 feet.

Connecticut state regulations, though, require a building permit for fences over six feet. Carey said that when he discovered this, he asked Angelico's owner Paul Angelico to ap-

ply for a permit, which he then granted.

Tammaro's appeal focused on the fact that Carey granted the permit after the fence was constructed, and that it had been built on top of a berm to increase its height beyond the zoning regulations. But Angelico's attorney, Michael Dowley, explained that the town's regulations allow both berms and fences to be used to reduce noise, and do not require the fence's height to be decreased to accommodate a berm.

Carey explained that Angelico had discussed building a larger sound-attenuation system, including a fence and a roof last year, but the Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) rejected it. This year, Angelico went ahead with just the fence portion of the structure.

Tammaro brought his appeal against Carey's opinion earlier this summer, first in front of the PZC. In July, the commission sent it to ZBA to rule on whether Carey had been right in granting the permit.

Tammaro said he was not surprised by the outcome of last week's meeting, explaining that he thought the ZBA, PZC and Carey were acting together to protect Angelico.

"It's really not okay what they're doing there," he said, explaining that he felt the fence violated zoning rules and should be torn down.

Angelico, Tammaro said, should have obtained the proper permit before building the fence, rather than having the permit granted afterward.

"Everything's a conspiracy in East Hampton," Carey remarked facetiously, adding that he and Tammaro had a long, friendly working relationship. He said neighbors near Angelico's had been banding together to oppose the restaurant because of their noise concerns.

Carey said he doesn't like to tear down existing structures unless they pose a safety hazard. The police surveyed the area around the fence and found it did not interfere with visibility, Carey said.

"I'm happy they found in my favor," Carey said, "But if they ruled differently, that would be okay, too."

Dowley said he and Angelico were pleased with the ZBA's vote, pointing out that the fence was designed to help block noise from the restaurant from spreading into the surrounding neighborhood.

"I think my client has really tried to work hard with the town and the community," Dowley said. "It's easier to work with my client than against him."



A fence erected earlier this year at Angelico's Lake House will remain, the Zoning Board of Appeals decided last week.

East Hampton Employee Handbook, Town Hall Annex Topics for Council

by Claire Michalewicz

The Town Council tackled a variety of topics, including a new employee handbook and a new location for the Town Hall Annex, at its meeting Tuesday evening.

They decided to delay action on the handbook until their next meeting, after council member Sue Weintraub suggested several revisions. The plans for relocating the offices in the annex are also still uncertain, though the town could lose the building within weeks.

About 60 people attended the meeting, filling the Town Hall meeting room and spilling into the hallway. However, Town Council Chairwoman Melissa Engel explained they would not be relocating the meeting to a larger venue. (Throughout the summer, most meetings have been held at the high school, to accommodate the hundreds of people who frequently attend.)

Though the meeting's agenda largely represented a return to town business as usual, residents addressed the ongoing controversy concerning former town manager Jeffery O'Keefe and laid-off police chief Matthew Reimondo in their comments.

"You have lost the respect of the public and we will not be intimidated," said Mary Ann Dostaler. She asked the council why it was not addressing the issue of returning Reimondo to his job, or discussing the budget crisis the town might be facing.

"There is no item to discuss the real elephant in this room, which is the returning of the police chief to his rightful position," Dostaler concluded.

In her address to the council, Laurie Wasilewski demanded an apology from Town Council Vice Chairman John Tuttle. Wasilewski explained that she was helping another resident sort through Town Council members' e-mails, obtained through a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request. In one of the e-mails, Wasilewski said, Tuttle had personally insulted her.

"If I start to tell Laurie W. to stuff her clipboard up her backside," Wasilewski read from Tuttle's Feb. 23 e-mail to Engel and O'Keefe, "please stop me. I'm in no mood for it tonight."

Wasilewski approached Tuttle and put a clipboard on the table in front of him.

"Mr. Tuttle," she said, "I have never brought a clipboard to a meeting, but you may need that."

Wasilewski said later that Tuttle had apologized to her after the meeting, and he wanted to keep the clipboard as a reminder to be po-

lite. Tuttle offered to reimburse her for it, Wasilewski said, but she let him have it for free.

Among the changes Weintraub suggested for the handbook were the procedures for handling harassment complaints and retaining official e-mails – two items that have caused controversy in recent months.

In the current draft of the handbook, Weintraub explained, employees with concerns about harassment are directed to go to their supervisor, who goes to the town manager, or to the Town Council if the complaint is against the town manager. After some discussion, council members agreed to change the wording so the employee's supervisor has the option of taking the complaint to the human resources director, or to any Town Council member.

Weintraub also suggested that employees be informed their complaints could be publicly released through an FOIA request, though only with all sensitive information redacted. Weintraub said she had some concerns about the complaints labor attorney Mark Sommaruga released over the summer – in some, she said, Sommaruga had not removed all identifying information.

In another discussion, Interim Town Manager Bob Drewry said he had scheduled an executive session to discuss all pending litigation against the town at the council's next meeting on Oct. 26. The litigation includes a lawsuit, and two investigations into the alleged harassment by O'Keefe, who resigned last month.

Drewry then asked the council members how they wanted to proceed with a complaint filed by police Sgt. Garritt Kelly in July, accusing O'Keefe of creating a hostile work environment. Glenn Coe, the attorney investigating the complaint, was charging the town \$315 an hour, Engel said. Drewry said he had not yet received any invoices from Coe.

"I think it does matter," Weintraub said, pointing out the three earlier complaints filed against O'Keefe. "By not removing the town manager and giving him administrative leave, we allowed this behavior to continue."

The council agreed to have Coe give a report on what he had found so far in the investigation, so they could determine how to proceed.

The relocation of the Town Hall annex was another major discussion item, as Drewry explained the town may lose the building as soon as Oct. 31. Northeast Utilities, which owns the building, decided earlier this year not to renew

the town's lease.

Drewry said the Goff House was available, though he was concerned the state would not allow the town to purchase the building. In that case, he said, the town could investigate leasing the property.

"It may be the only place that we can move into rather quickly," Drewry said. "We're under the gun. We cannot tell you when Northeast Utilities is gonna want the building."

Drewry said he had considered moving the employees from the annex into the Town Hall meeting room, but said the room was too crowded and impractical.

Cynthia Abraham, a food bank volunteer, said she had concerns about the Goff House, since part of the building was only accessible by stairs. Installing a ramp, she said, would be costly and take up too much space.

The council agreed to schedule a meeting with several department heads later this week to look at alternate sites in the village center.

The council also accepted the resignation letter of Board of Finance member Judith Isele. Isele, a Republican, explained in her letter that she was moving out of town. As a property owner, Isele said, she was still allowed to serve on the board, but said she had concerns about the public's perception.

"I wouldn't want the board to be questioned or criticized, or the budget process distracted, by maintaining my seat on the board," Isele wrote in her letter.

To fill Isele's position, the Republican Town Committee recommended Maria Peplau and the Democrats recommended David May. The council agreed to move the decision to the next meeting, so the Chatham Party could have a chance to choose a candidate.

In public remarks at the end of the meeting, Kyle Dostaler urged the council to complete the investigation into the complaint Kelly had filed.

"Conclude the investigation and don't do to him what happened to the three women," Dostaler said. Unless Kelly removed his complaint, Dostaler said, it was still a complaint against the town.

Resident Steven Lockwood urged the council to continue addressing other issues, like sidewalk, road and playground maintenance, which he felt had been neglected all summer.

"We're getting so involved in all this stuff in our town that our town is literally falling apart," Lockwood said. Council member Thom

Cordeiro urged Lockwood to take his issues to the Department of Public Works, and explained that the town was working on repairs.

"They don't all get done overnight," Cordeiro said.

In a special presentation at the start of the meeting, Acting Police Lt. Michael Green presented resident Jeffrey Leith with a commendation for his efforts to save Hebron resident Jacob Plude after Plude's car crashed on Chapman Road on Aug. 31.

Leith, who lives near the crash site, ran to the scene with a fire extinguisher, and tried to extract Plude from the burning car. Despite Leith's efforts, Plude did not survive.

"You knowingly placed your own life in extreme peril during your efforts to save a fellow citizen in a time of grave need," Green said.

"Amidst the tragedy that occurred, some solace can be found in knowing that we are blessed to have a brave and courageous man like you among your citizenry," Green continued.

Leith thanked Green for the honor, and added that his wife, sister-in-law and neighbor had also helped in the rescue. He also thanked Plude's family, explaining that the "terrible situation has allowed me to have a new family." His young son Jarrett had become close with Plude's son Cameron, he said.

"Not everybody would do what you did, and just to know my son was not alone, it means a lot," Plude's mother, Karen Kloof, said to Leith.

Also at the beginning of the meeting, Gary St. Amand, from the state Department of Public Health, presented the town with an official designation as a HEARTSafe Community.

"East Hampton has demonstrated its commitment toward ensuring that its residents and visitors receive the early lifesaving response proven to increase the chances of survival for heart attack victims," St. Amand said. St. Amand thanked the town departments, schools and residents who had taken efforts to become certified in CPR and AED use.

To commemorate the town's achievement, St. Amand provided 10 HEARTSafe road signs.

The next Town Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 26, at 6:30 p.m. at Town Hall, 20 East High St. However, the council said it was considering moving the meeting to the middle school or high school to accommodate a larger audience.

East Hampton Bar Disciplined After Fatal 2009 Crash

by Claire Michalewicz

Dalton's Pub has been fined and its liquor license suspended in connection with the death of a local teenager last year.

The pub, at 42 E. High St., was fined \$1,000, and its liquor permit will be suspended from Oct. 18-21 for four violations, including serving alcohol to a minor and serving to an intoxicated person, said state Liquor Control Commission (LCC) Division Director John Suchy.

The fine and suspension were issued in response to the death of 19-year-old Robert Kochuk, who crashed his car after drinking at Dalton's in March 2009. The settlement was reached on Sept. 30, Suchy said, after reviewing investigations by East Hampton Police and by the LCC.

Dalton's also committed violations in keeping daily records and recording its liquor permit, Suchy said.

After Kochuk's death, about 200 local residents signed a letter to the LCC, alleging that Dalton's served Kochuk alcohol that evening, and that the pub had served minors on other occasions.

East Hampton Police investigated the incident, and in May 2009 filed an application for an arrest warrant for Bonnie Rau, the bartender who allegedly served Kochuk the night he died. The state's attorney's office rejected their application, saying there was insufficient

evidence that Rau knew Kochuk was underage, since he allegedly showed Rau a fake ID.

"2009 was kind of a high profile year for Dalton's," Acting Lt. Michael Green said, explaining that Dalton's was linked to three other incidents that year in addition to Kochuk's deaths. He said there were two DWI arrests of people who had allegedly been drinking at Dalton's – one of which involved Dalton's owner Catherine Lynch – and one incident where a woman was found dead in her neighbor's yard (the woman was found to have been drinking at Dalton's before she died). And in July of this year, Green said, the police filed a referral to the LCC after three DWI suspects were found to have been drinking at the bar before driving.

But Green said Dalton's didn't necessarily commit a disproportionate number of violations, since it's a popular bar in a small town.

"It's one of the few places in town that's almost strictly a bar," Green said.

Reached Wednesday, Kochuk's grandfather, East Hampton resident Russell Blow, did not seem very pleased with the LCC's decision, although he appeared to accept it.

"It's not as much as we wanted or as long as we wanted, but the liquor commission did their best, I guess," he said.

Lynch and her attorney, Frank Szilagyi, both declined to comment on the suspension.

Portland Police News

9/29: Kristin Solis, 29, of 46 Marlborough St., was charged with third-degree identity theft, illegal use of a credit card, fourth-degree larceny and third-degree forgery, Portland Police said.

9/30: Michael Cannata, 66, of 218 Main St., was charged with second-degree threatening, interfering with police, third-degree criminal trespass and breach of peace, police said.

10/5: Lawrence Breault, 49, of 1462 Portland Cobalt Rd., was charged with third-degree burglary, third-degree criminal mischief and sixth-degree larceny, police said.

East Hampton Police News

9/18: Sebastian Walsh, 19, of 719 Squaw Rock Rd., Moosup, was arrested for DUI, East Hampton Police said.

9/24: Amelia A. Cavanaugh, 19, of 133 Wopowog Rd., was arrested for first-degree forgery and sixth-degree larceny, police said.

9/25: Donald J. Prosser Jr., 42, of 78 Spring St., Willimantic, was arrested for DUI and failure to drive right, police said.

9/27: Sean Jeffers, 24, of 6 Mott Hill Rd., was issued a ticket for speeding and failure to notify DMV of address change, police said.

9/28: Christopher Scaplen, 25, of 18 Wells Ave., was issued a ticket for breach of peace and interfering with an officer, police said.

10/5: Michael Bernard, 25, of 29 North Main St., was arrested for sixth-degree larceny and third-degree criminal trespass, police said.

Obituaries

East Hampton

Donald Howard Michaud

Donald "Peter" Howard Michaud, 69, of Portland, passed away peacefully in his sleep Saturday, Oct. 9, at home. Born in Hartford, he was the son of the late Gilbert and Rita (Pelletier) Michaud. Peter lived in East Hampton and Windsor Locks and after becoming ill moved to Portland. Prior to his illness, he worked in sales and was self-employed for several years.

He is survived by his beloved children, Brian P. Michaud, and his wife, Renee of Cromwell, Mark G. Michaud and his wife, Karen of Plantsville and Jennifer M. Lord and her husband, Richard of East Granby; his brother, Gilbert Michaud of San Antonio TX; his sister, Jackie Boutot of Vernon; and his six grandchildren whom he cherished, Nathan, Sophia, Grace, Matthew and Gavin Michaud and William Lord.

Besides his parents, he was predeceased by his brother, Robert Michaud.

Peter's family would like to say a special thank you to the staff of Greystone Retirement Home for the kind and compassionate care they gave to Peter the past two years.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, Oct. 13, from the Cromwell Funeral Home, 506 Main Street, Cromwell, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at St. John Church, 5 St. John Ct., Cromwell, with the Rev. Mark Curesky officiating. Interment will follow in Rose Hill Memorial Park in Rocky Hill. Friends and family called at the funeral home Tuesday evening, Oct. 12. Friends who prefer may make donations in Peter's memory to East Hampton Little League, 20 Smith St. East Hampton, CT 06424.

Messages of condolence may be sent to the family at www.doolittlefuneralservice.com.

Portland

Antoinette Francis

Antoinette (Cirillo) Francis, 93, of Portland, passed away peacefully at Middlesex Hospice on Thursday, Oct. 7. She was born Jan. 17, 1917, in Hartford and was raised in New Jersey by her aunt and uncle. At the age of 16 she returned to Connecticut.

She was employed for more than 25 years by the *Hartford Courant* and was president of their women's club in 1962. Antoinette was a long-time faithful communicant of St. Sebastian Church, Middletown and a member of their St. Teresa Guild. She also belonged to several other clubs and associations, both at the church and at the Pond View Apartments and she was a member of the Lions Club in Colchester.

In addition to the time spent with her women's groups, Antoinette enjoyed cooking and baking, trips to the Cape with her close friends, ceramics, crocheting and knitting. More than anything, however, she loved spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She always gave to and helped everyone, and she will always be our role model. She will be greatly missed, but never forgotten.

Antoinette is survived by her only daughter, Nancyann Lagana and her husband Benito of Portland; her granddaughters, Anna Hoffman of Marlborough, Susan Lagana Richards and her husband Scott of Portland, Gina Lagana of Portland and Maria Calabro and her husband Keith of Canton; her beloved great-grandchildren, Christina Brainard, David and Jennifer Hoffman, CJ Long and Michael, Ben and Sarah Calabro. She is also survived by her step great-grandchildren, Jessica and Brittany Richards and her step great-great-granddaughter, Madelyn Rose, along with many beloved nieces, nephews and wonderful extended family members.

Antoinette was predeceased by her husbands, Joseph Rinaldo and Tom Francis, as well as all 12 of her siblings.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Monday, Oct. 11, at St. Mary Church, 51 Freestone Ave., Portland. Burial will be private at a later date. There was a calling hour and prayer service prior to the Mass at the D'Esopo Funeral Chapel, 277 Folly Brook Blvd., Wethersfield.

Antoinette's family would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to everyone at Portland Care & Rehabilitation for their constant care and also to the wonderful staff of Middlesex Hospice for their compassionate care and assistance during this hard time. Donations in Antoinette's memory may be made to: Middlesex Hospital Hospice, 25 Cresecent St., Middletown, CT 06457.

For online expressions of sympathy to the family, visit www.desopo.com.

East Hampton

Suzanne Engel Redfield

Suzanne Engel Redfield, 75, passed away surrounded by her family on Thursday, Oct. 7 at the Middlesex Hospital Weiss Hospice Unit after a courageous battle with lung cancer. She was the wife of the late Charles W. Redfield. She was born June 15, 1935 to the late Howard J. Engel and Irene Gray Engel and lived in East Hampton her entire life.

She attended East Hampton public schools and was a graduate of Becker Junior College. She was previously employed as a secretary at Pratt & Whitney. She was a former member of Christ Episcopal Church and served on the Altar Guild. Suzanne served as a justice of the peace for over 30 years.

She had a love of flowers and gardening and was a past member of the Belltown Garden Club. East Hampton was dear to her heart and she served on the Zoning Board of Appeals for many years, as well as the Park and Recreation Dept. She was a member of the Republican Town Committee and was an active member of the Edgemere Condo Association.

Suzanne enjoyed her home in her later years watching the sunrise over the lake, visiting with her family and friends and keeping in touch with the goings on in town. Su-Su enjoyed sewing, oil painting and was known for knitting blankets for the new members of her extended family and special friends.

She leaves her daughter, Mary and husband Christopher Rovazzini of Marlborough, along with their children Savanna and Jack; her son, John Redfield and his wife Eva, and their children, Alexis and Ty of Manchester; her daughter, Carrie and her husband Thomas Clausi of East Hampton, along with their children, Olivia and Emily; her brother, Peter Gray Engel of East Hampton; her brother, Howard (Joe) Engel Jr. and his wife Sue Carol of East Hampton, as well as many nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her sister-in-law, Patricia Norton Engel and nephew, Thomas H. Engel.

A celebration of her life will be held at Markham Meadows Campground, where she spent many happy summers, in East Hampton, today, Friday, Oct. 15 from 5-8 p.m.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Middlesex Weiss Hospice Unit, where she received such wonderful care, Middlesex Hospital Office of Philanthropy, 28 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457.

The Spencer Funeral Home has care of arrangements.

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

Portland

Chloris Schunk

Chloris (Pelletti) Schunk, 77, of Portland, and formerly of East Hampton, died Monday, Oct. 4, at Portland Care and Rehabilitation. Born Dec. 5, 1932 in Middletown, she was the daughter of the late Frank and Mabel (Jacobson) Pelletti Sr.

Chloris had retired from the state of Connecticut where she had worked in purchasing. She was a member of the East Hampton V.F.W. Women's Auxiliary.

She is survived by her two sons, Kerry Schunk and his wife Deborah of East Hampton, and Robert Schunk and his wife Lori of Florida; a sister, Marie M. Arico of Waterford; five grandchildren, Kegan Schunk, Patrick Schunk, Amanda Sweet, Justin Schunk, Steven Boone; and four great-grandchildren, Miranda, Colin, Clayton and Xavier.

Besides her parents she was predeceased by her stepfather, Hunka Robinson, and her brother, Frank J. Pelletti.

Funeral services will be held today, Friday, Oct. 15, at 10 a.m. in the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton. Burial will follow in Lakeview Cemetery in East Hampton.

Friends may call today from 9 a.m. until the time of the service.

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

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

A jury in New Haven is supposed to begin deciding next week whether Steven Hayes, convicted last week in those brutal Cheshire home invasion killings, should live or die. I don't envy their task.

Normally, I'm not a big death penalty guy. Too often these days you hear of people on death row being exonerated, due to new DNA evidence that simply just didn't exist when the person was originally convicted. And even one person being executed for a crime they didn't commit is a tragedy. Plus, there's the general uneasy feeling in sentencing someone to die. Yes, I realize the person you're sentencing to die also killed somebody themselves, but "you killed him so I kill you" just feels like a kind of Old West-style "justice" that frankly we should be past by now.

But with the Cheshire killings, I can see both sides of the death penalty debate. The crimes Hayes was convicted of were so brutal, so disgustingly gruesome. When you have someone convicted of the torturing, the raping, the killing of a mother and her two children...well, I can see how it can be tough to want to spare that guy his life.

Also, it doesn't seem like there will be any new exonerating evidence about Hayes brought to light. Even his own defense team didn't argue he was an innocent bystander; the most they could do was try to persuade the jury that he only killed Jennifer Hawke-Petit at the behest of his partner in crime, Joshua Komisarjevsky.

So, at the end of the day, you're left with a vicious, vicious crime, perpetrated by a guy who just seems incredibly guilty. And yet, I'm still not sure executing him is the way to go. I go back to what I wrote earlier; ordering the execution of someone leaves me with an uneasy feeling. Is taking someone else's life, no matter what that person did, ever really the right thing to do? No one really believes "an eye for an eye" is sound justice anymore, but when it's an eye for three eyes, two of which were children, does that change things a little?

I don't have the answers, and I don't know what decision I'd make. I'm just glad I don't have to make it.

* * *

On a much happier note, congratulations to Colchester native Ron Wotus. You may remember the story on the cover of last week's *Rivereast* about Wotus, the bench coach of the San Francisco Giants, which had made the playoffs. Well, the Giants got through the first round of playoffs Monday, beating Atlanta in the best-of-five NLDS. Now it's on to the National League Championship Series, against the much-hated (by me, anyway) Philadelphia Phillies. Game One is tomorrow night, in Philadelphia, and the pitching matchup is Tim Lincecum for the Giants vs.

Roy Halladay for the Phillies. Should be one heck of a game.

* * *

If you read the *Rivereast* each week, you no doubt come across notices announcing various barbecues, potluck suppers, etc., taking place in the area. These events almost always offer tasty-sounding food at a reasonable price, with proceeds often going to a good cause, like a church or a library or the food bank. But this week a notice came across my desk that really made my eyes pop; it seemed like quite the awesome food deal.

On Saturday, Nov. 6, Ormont Post 69 of the American Legion in Portland will offer its traditional 1941-era rendition of a military breakfast. For a measly five bucks, you can get chipped beef on toast, ham or cheese omelets, bacon, sausage, grits, coffee, tea and orange juice. And did I mention the meal is all-you-can-eat? The event lasts from 7:30-11 a.m. – or until the food runs out. Which, judging from the description, may be sooner rather than later. So you might want to plan to get up early that Saturday; it sounds like quite the breakfast bargain.

* * *

Speaking of food, I finally went Tuesday and got one of those Double Down sandwiches from KFC. You know the one I'm talking about – bacon, cheese and special sauce in between two boneless chicken filets that serve as buns. And, well, it was really kinda gross. Overly salty and greasy, with bland chicken filets and limp, rather drab bacon, the sandwich didn't even leave me satisfyingly full as much as it left me with a feeling of "what have I done to myself?" Still, I'm glad I went and finally got one, if only to say that I've had it. I just know now to never have it again. There are tastier things to spend 540 calories and 32 grams of fat on.

* * *

Election Day is fast approaching, and with that in mind, there are some new rules for the letters to the editor page that readers should know about. Next week's issue, the one dated Oct. 22, will be the last paper for which readers can submit political letters attacking candidates or raising a new issue about them. No such letters will be accepted for the Oct. 29 issue, as that's the last *Rivereast* before Election Day, and candidates wouldn't have a chance to respond to the letters before voters flock to the polls.

Letters about candidates written for the Oct. 29 issue should be positive ones, endorsing them. I'm not saying you shouldn't write a negative letter if you want to; I'm just saying you've got one more week to do so.

* * *

See you next week.