

RIVEREAST

# News Bulletin

Serving Amston, Andover, Cobalt, East Hampton, Hebron, Marlborough, Middle Haddam, Portland, Colchester and Salem

Volume 35, Number 28

Published by The Glastonbury Citizen

October 8, 2010

## From Bacon to Baseball's Postseason

by Katy Nally

While many New Englanders bicker and squabble over Yankees or Red Sox, Colchester residents might want to consider switching their allegiance entirely, and start rooting for the San Francisco Giants, as one team member's roots hit closer to home than New York or Boston.

Although you won't see him at bat, or poised for a grounder at shortstop, former Colchester resident Ron Wotus will be in the dugout during the playoffs, as the Giants' bench coach. He's held the position since 1999 and has been with the Giants' organization for 25 years.

The Giants took on the Atlanta Braves Thursday, after press time, in the first of five games for this year's National League Divisional Series.

If Wotus' team wins against the Braves, the Giants will play either the Cincinnati Reds or the Philadelphia Phillies in the National League Championship Series. If the Giants make it, they could be taking on either the Rangers, Rays, Yankees or Twins in the World Series.

"We have a shot now to move on, but we don't want to get ahead of ourselves," Wotus said Tuesday.

The Giants won 92 games and lost 70 during the regular season, placing them fifth of all 30 major league teams in terms of wins.

"With 162 games, it's not many off days, and the whole reason you go through all that is to get through the playoffs and make it to the World Series," Wotus said.

As a bench coach, Wotus went to the World Series in 2002, when the Giants played the Anaheim Angels. San Francisco lost that series in six games.

When asked about his team's chances this postseason, Wotus was hopeful.

"We feel good," he said, adding, "we have a very good team; pitching is our strength. Our bullpen is solid."

The Giants led Major League Baseball this year in strikeouts and saves, at 1,331 and 57 respectively. The team also had the lowest ERA (earned run average), at 3.36, and batting average against, at .236.

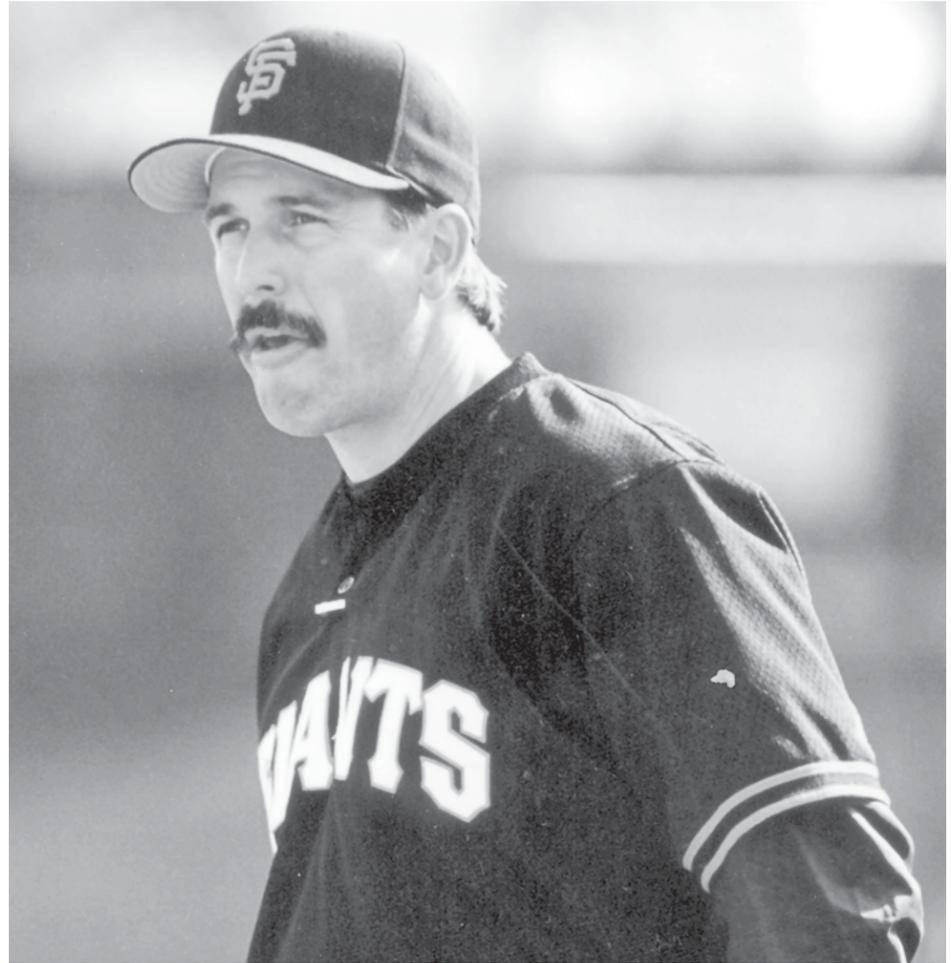
According to the *New York Times*, the Giants held opponents to a .182 batting average in September and pitched to a 1.78 ERA. According to the *Times*, those were the lowest such marks for a staff in any month since the Cleveland Indians in May 1968. Also, the *Times* noted, the last team to sport a better September ERA was the 1965 Los Angeles Dodgers – who went on to win the World Series.

"This is certainly one of the top three teams that I've been on here in San Francisco," Wotus said.

And Wotus is no stranger to top teams, or players, for that matter. He was first a third base coach, and then a bench coach, during Barry Bonds' tenure with the Giants. Bonds left the Giants after the 2007 season.

Wotus said he was fortunate to see Bonds

See **Baseball Page 2**



Former Colchester resident Ron Wotus has been bench coach for the San Francisco Giants since 1999. His team is currently taking on the Atlanta Braves in the first round of the National League playoffs.

## O'Keefe, Reimondo Speak Out at Hearing

by Claire Michalewicz

Former East Hampton Town Manager Jeff O'Keefe and laid-off Police Chief Matt Reimondo both testified Monday evening, for the hearing into Reimondo's termination.

For nearly five hours, Reimondo's attorney, Leon Rosenblatt, and the town's attorney, Mark Sommaruga, faced off in the high school auditorium. The two lawyers examined five witnesses, including O'Keefe and Reimondo, to try to determine why O'Keefe decided to eliminate Reimondo's position in June.

Interim Town Manager Bob Drewry served as hearing officer. During the hearing, attorney Nick Grello sat beside Drewry, offering legal advice and ruling on the numerous objections that Rosenblatt and especially Sommaruga raised during the course of questioning.

The long-awaited hearing into Reimondo's dismissal is offered under state statute 7-278, which states that a police chief can be dismissed only for just cause. This hearing started in July 2, only to be abruptly adjourned by Sommaruga, who said Reimondo had no right to a hearing as he had been fired for budget reasons.

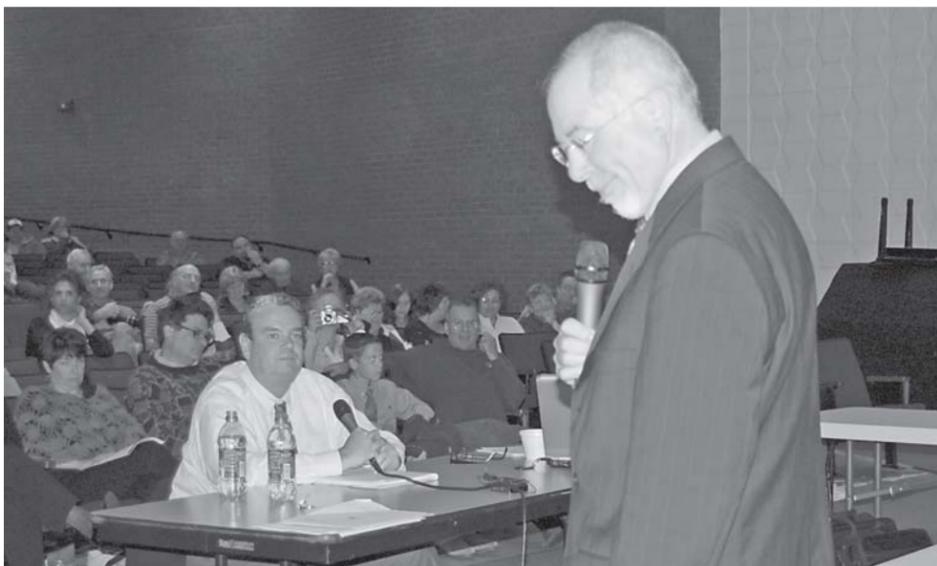
About 200 residents gathered in the auditorium to watch the proceedings, though the crowd thinned out as the evening wore on. The audience remained mostly quiet throughout the hearing, though most of them applauded for Reimondo.

Sommaruga frequently objected to Rosenblatt's questions, protesting when Rosenblatt brought up the harassment allegations against O'Keefe and Reimondo's history of being pressured by O'Keefe, Town Council Chairwoman Melissa Engel and other local politicians.

While being questioned, O'Keefe insisted he did not know that Reimondo was involved in the complaints when he started looking into eliminating his position, though he knew complaints had been filed. Reimondo, though, offered evidence that O'Keefe was acting on grudges that he and Engel had against him.

Sommaruga's argument hinged on the fact that Reimondo's position had been officially eliminated by a revised ordinance the Town Council passed last week. O'Keefe's move,

See **Hearing Page 2**



Former East Hampton Town Manager Jeffrey O'Keefe, left, was questioned by Leon Rosenblatt, the attorney for the town's laid off police chief, Matt Reimondo, during a hearing Monday. The hearing, which lasted five hours, was attended by 200 people.



# Marlborough Receives STEAP Funds for Sidewalks

by Katy Nally

Marlborough was awarded \$150,000 by the State Bond Commission Sept. 28, as part of the Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP).

Town Planner Peter Hughes said the funds will be used to construct sidewalks throughout the town center.

The money will be pooled with the town's 2009 STEAP award, Hughes said. Last year, Marlborough received \$250,000 from the state program, and the town is using those funds to bring sidewalks from South Main Street to Richmond Memorial Library. The design phase for this project is almost complete, Hughes said.

Areas where the new sidewalks could appear include Cheney Road, North Main Street from the 7Eleven to the Shoppes at the Marlborough Barn Complex, Route 66 near the post office and South Main Street past the Marlborough

Tavern.

Selectman Joe La Bella explained the areas are the "most logical places downtown."

The exact areas will be decided on by the Board of Selectmen and Nature Trails and Sidewalks. La Bella said the boards would probably make decisions within the next few months.

Hughes said the plans call for standard six foot-wide sidewalk blocks and some street lights. The town would go to bid for the project this winter, in anticipation of spring construction, he said.

The ultimate goal, Hughes said, is to "make everything connected."

La Bella said the benefit to sidewalks downtown is twofold. First, he said, the project would make the center of town more attractive overall. Secondly, sidewalks would also promote pedestrian traffic between stores, which could

encourage shopping downtown.

"I think it's a positive step, and a step in the right direction," La Bella said. "We're hoping the whole concept of the Village Center is to make the center of town accessible to pedestrians."

The town applied for STEAP this July after narrowing down several potential projects, including sidewalks, library renovations, creating a public water well and replacing the bathroom at Lake Terramuggus.

On July 13, selectmen voted 2-1 to seek STEAP funds for the sidewalks. Selectwoman Riva Clark was opposed, saying the money should go to renovate the second floor of Richmond Memorial Library. La Bella and First Selectman Bill Black voted in favor of the sidewalks, because the design phase for the project was already complete.

# STEAP Money Going Toward Downtown Hebron Improvements

by Lindsay Fetzner

At the end of last month, the town of Hebron was awarded \$150,000 for downtown improvements to Main Street and beyond from the state's Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP).

Facade improvements, sidewalk and tree installation, a new community events sign and a pedestrian crosswalk signal will be funded through the STEAP funds.

On Sept. 28, Gov. M Jodi Rell announced that 10 towns in the greater Willimantic area would share approximately \$1.5 million for projects including improvements to local parks, repairing bridges and roads, and for historic preservation, according to a press release.

Rell said the project variety reflects the "unique needs" of each of the 10 small towns that include Andover, Ashford, Chaplin, Columbia, Coventry, Eastford, Hebron, Lebanon, Union and Willington.

"Our small towns, just like all Connecticut families, have had to make some very difficult choices the last two years in this recession," Rell said in the press release. "I am pleased we can help so many projects – critical to a community's quality of life – now move forward."

Local officials were thrilled this week to have been awarded the STEAP funds.

"We are very pleased," Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said. "We can certainly continue the facade work."

Therrien added that the STEAP funds pro-

vide an opportunity for not only improvements for Main Street, but throughout the town as well.

"We will see how far we can go with the \$150,000," Therrien added. "We are just opening it up to the whole town."

Board of Selectmen (BOS) Chairman Jeff Watt agreed with Therrien.

"We are very happy to have \$150,000," Watt said. "Especially to be able to help out the facade – and not only on Main Street."

The town applied for a total of \$500,000 in STEAP funds in July. The Economic Development Commission (EDC) voted to allocate \$302,000 of that potential amount for facade/signage improvements to businesses throughout the town (not just on Main Street) as well as \$93,500 for sidewalk installation for sidewalks from routes 66/85 to the Town Office Building, along the front of Ted's Supermarket and along the south side of Main Street from Route 316 to Pendleton Dr.

An additional \$52,000 was allocated for street tree installation along Main Street and for landscape improvements, \$20,500 for a community events sign to be erected at the corner of routes 66 and 85, and lastly, \$32,000 for a pedestrian crosswalk signal to go along with the new traffic light in front of the Village Green district.

Hebron applied for the maximum amount of STEAP funds, as municipalities can apply for up to \$500,000, according to the Office of Policy and Management (OPM).

While the town didn't get the full amount it asked for, selectman Mark Stuart was still happy with the award. "I think it's great that the town was able to get those funds," selectman Mark Stuart said, adding that hopefully, with the improvements, additional business will be brought to town.

Watt said the next step for the BOS will be to accept the grant from the state when the funds become available. The EDC and Town Planner Mike O'Leary will work together to determine how to best use the funds, Watt said, and then come back to the BOS with their findings.

"Anything we can do to help out our businesses to draw more [business] to them is great," Watt said. "I'm excited about the \$150,000 and to help the businesses out any way we can."

The OPM administers the STEAP funds, and funds are distributed to the eligible communities by the State Bond Commission.

To be eligible, towns must have a population of less than 30,000 and must not be designated a "distressed municipality or a public investment community," according to Rell's press release.

STEAP funds can only be used for capital projects. Eligible projects include those associated with economic development, recreation, solid waste disposal, social service-related, housing and several others.

However, budget expenditures that are recurring or programmatic expenditures are not eli-

gible for STEAP funds, according to OPM. In July, town officials asked for the maximum amount awarded by the program – \$500,000. While Marlborough received only \$150,000 of that, Hughes seemed pleased with the award.

"We didn't do too bad," Hughes said.

The Office of Policy and Management (OPM) administers the STEAP grant and allocates money to Connecticut towns that have populations of less than 30,000. The funds can only be used for capital projects, which includes those associated with economic development, recreation, solid waste disposal, social services and housing, according to the OPM website, [www.ct.gov/opm](http://www.ct.gov/opm).

A total of \$20 million from STEAP was authorized for this fiscal year for 115 towns, covering 134 projects across the state. The awards were approved Aug. 17 this year.

gible for STEAP funds, according to OPM.

In total, approximately \$20 million in STEAP funds was approved for the fiscal year 2011, when the State Bond Commission met on Aug. 17 of this year. The funds are for 115 towns and a total of 134 projects across Connecticut.

Each of the communities that the *Riverast* covers were awarded STEAP funds for various capital projects.

Andover was awarded \$200,000 for the design and construction of a new recreational area on Long Hill Road; Colchester received \$285,000 for the expansion and sidewalk improvements from the town's central district to the southern entrance of the Colchester Air Line Trail, as well as trail entrance improvements; for \$200,000, East Hampton will complete an extension and improvements to the Air Line State Park Trail into the Village Center; Marlborough was awarded \$150,000 for the construction of sidewalks and streetscape improvements in the Village Center area; and Portland received \$200,000 for the third phase of the Brownstone Avenue Extension Project, which will include the construction of an open-air pavilion, an outdoor amphitheater and a restroom facility.

For more information on the program and a complete list of towns and the fund allocations, visit [www.ct.gov/opm](http://www.ct.gov/opm), and click on the STEAP link under the 'What's New' heading.

# Streetscape Construction Begins, TownPlace Still Waiting in Portland

by Claire Michalewicz

Construction on the long-awaited Main Street Streetscape Project has begun, after a groundbreaking ceremony on Monday.

The project, which the Board of Selectmen gave its final approval to on Sept. 1, is funded by a \$250,000 from the Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) and \$819,000 from the Federal Surface Transportation Program.

The project design includes widened sidewalks, benches and new light fixtures in the area of Main Street between the intersection of Marlborough Street and the Arrigoni Bridge. Cisco LLC, a construction company from New Haven, is carrying out the work.

Construction has started along the east side of the street, and on Monday morning, First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield, Planning and Land Use Administrator Deanna Rhodes, state Representative Jim O'Rourke and state Senator Eileen Daily gathered to commemorate the start of the project.

O'Rourke said the project was important for making that part of Portland more attractive, and making the town "a nicer place to live."

"I'm very, very excited about it," O'Rourke said. He explained that the project had been in development for years, and that the STEAP program had been a huge help to Portland in improving its roads. O'Rourke explained that he had worked to get Portland eligible for the grant program, allowing projects like the streetscape to become a reality.

Bransfield thanked O'Rourke, Daily and many residents for their work to get the project

started and securing grant money to fund it.

"I'm very proud of all the work that many people in Portland have done over the years to get work done on our Main Street," Bransfield said. She said she tried to make Portland a walkable, friendly community, and the improved sidewalks and more attractive neighborhood would help bring Portland toward that goal.

Bransfield said construction was planned to continue throughout the fall, break for the winter, and be completed in the spring or summer.

The streetscape project, Bransfield said, was "just one of several we're working on." Recently, representatives from TD Bank and Liberty Bank announced a low-interest loan program that residents and business owners in the village district could use to improve their properties.

\* \* \*

Also, last week, the state of Connecticut announced its STEAP grants for this year. Portland will receive \$200,000, to be used for Phase III of the Brownstone Avenue Extension project. Bransfield explained that the money would fund a pavilion, amphitheater and restroom facilities in the area off Brownstone Avenue, with views of the quarries and the Connecticut River. Phase II of the project, completed this summer, put new sidewalks in the area and improved the athletic fields and parking lot, while Phase I extended the village water system to the area. Phase III, she said, was important to complete the project and bring more recreational space to the area around the Quarries, the historical heart of Portland.

Connecting the village district, the historic quarries and the riverfront areas has been "an instrumental step in Portland's economic development, and now it is time to take the next step," Gov. M. Jodi Rell said in a press release about the grant. "The pavilion and amphitheater will make Portland a true destination and help to turn what was once a dream into reality."

\* \* \*

Meanwhile, construction on the nearby Portland TownPlace project, approved over a year ago, has not yet started. Before the project can begin, the developers need a new traffic permit and must demolish the vacant buildings on the property.

Portland TownPlace will be built on the former Elmcrest Hospital property, at the southeast corner of Main and Marlborough streets. The project, which the Planning and Zoning Commission approved in July 2009, calls for a mixed-use development of commercial space and 81 residential units.

The development is currently awaiting a traffic permit from the state, explained Rhodes, to accommodate a designated right turn lane from Main Street, or putting in a light at the intersection to ease traffic entering and leaving the development.

As of yet, Rhodes said, the project developer, Anthony Fonda, had not submitted a final plan for the traffic permit to the Department of Transportation for approval. Rhodes said she had only seen preliminary sketches of the designs, and said there was no deadline for sub-

mitting the plans.

Ralph Wilson, attorney for developer Anthony Fonda, did not return calls seeking comment. Patrick Gorman from Land Resource Consultants in Cromwell, which has been working on the project, said the plans for the traffic permit were not yet complete, and demolition of the Elmcrest buildings has not started.

Bransfield said she had recently met with Fred Hassan, who along with Fonda, owns Perry Portland Associates, which owns the former Elmcrest property. The company had bought three vacant houses adjacent to the hospital property – 2, 8 and 12 Perry Ave. – so their lots could be incorporated into the development, Bransfield said.

Bransfield said Hassan said the vacant houses should be ready for demolition within a few weeks, after they're cleared of any hazardous materials. As of this week, Bransfield said, Hassan has not filed any specific plans for demolition.

The plans also call for the destruction of two historic houses on the Elmcrest property, the Hart Jarvis Home, built between 1829 and 1830, and the Erastus Brainerd, Sr. Home, from 1852. Those two homes, along with the rest of the buildings on the Elmcrest property, have yet to be demolished. A third historic home, the Sage House, will be left standing.

Town officials are still meeting with companies interested in opening stores or restaurants at TownPlace, Rhodes said. Aside from a proposed Walgreens, none of the companies' names have been released.



Dressed to match, dogs and their owners stormed the Colchester Town Green last Sunday at the 12th annual Pumpkins 'n Pooches festival. Pictured left is Sue and Emily Cowan's boxer, Ginger, looking studious in her Harry Potter getup. Ginger and Emily won first place for funniest costume with their matching robes and red and yellow ties. Right is Owen Duff's Tommy Turtle, which won first place in the painted/decorated category for ages 10-12.

## Dogs – and Pumpkins – Have Their Day in Colchester

by Katy Nally

Last Sunday was a day of doggish proportions, as fanciful canines paraded around the town green in their best attire, showing off their best tricks, for the 12th annual Pumpkins 'n Pooches festival.

Each year the Colchester Lions Club organizes the event to raise money for local, regional and national charities.

One of the event's highlights was the costume and silly dog competition, where dog owners showed off their pooches to a panel of three judges.

"People just flock to that," Charlene Picard, organizer of the event and Lions Club member, said.

Throughout the day, there were also pumpkin decorating and photo contests, as well as doggie demonstrations.

This year's best in show for the costume competition went to Pumpkins 'n Pooches aficionado Janet Schultz and her dog Belle. Announcers were familiar with the pair, who are said to begin working on next year's costume the day after the event.

Last Sunday, Schultz arrived in a French maid's uniform and Belle carried all her accoutrements, including a mop she wore on her head. Freddie Martinez walked with the pair, carrying an empty bottle of Mr. Clean.

"They really get creative," Picard said.

Last year Schultz came as Lady Luck and Belle was her poker table, and the year before, Schultz was a flight attendant and Belle was her airplane.

"So much thought and work goes into it," Picard added. "They really enjoy doing it."

Schultz, Martinez and Belle won the best ensemble category and later best in show for costumes. Other costume categories included: funniest, cutest, scariest and most original. For the "silly dog" contest, there was waggiest tail, best kisser, biggest, smallest, funniest, biggest ears and most unusual trick.

For \$3, a pup and its owner were entered into two categories and \$1 for each additional group. The top three finalists from each category were awarded prizes.

Picard said it was hard to choose a favorite dog from Sunday's event, but she said she loved Kayla McAuliffe and her dog Barney. Kayla came as Little Bo Peep, dressed in pink and white, carrying a white Shepard's cane, and Barney, a poodle, was her fluffy white sheep. The pair took first place in most original.

Along with Kayla and Schultz, Brenda Beech and her tiny pup Murray, and Emily Cowan and her dog Ginger, all squared off in the winners circle for best in show.

Emily, who wore a black robe with a red and yellow tie, won funniest costume with Ginger, a boxer, who looked very similar to Harry Potter. Ginger had the cape to match Emily, but also wore glasses and a sign that read "Go Dogworts."

Beech won the cutest category with her dog "King Murray," whom she carried around the ring. Murray seemed to be dwarfed by his large red crown and matching cape.

"I think there were some really creative costumes," Picard said.

After the costume competition, pooches strutted their stuff in the silly dog competition.

While there were many fierce competitors, perhaps the Great Dane in the biggest dog category was the fiercest of all, as no other dogs would challenge the over-two-foot-tall winner.

In total, 56 pooches were entered into Sunday's costume and silly dog competitions. This was an increase from last year, when 53 participated.

And for as many pooches as there were, there seemed to be just as many pumpkins. Picard said those who entered their imaginative pumpkins into Sunday's contests, created them at home first.

"That way they can really think about it," Picard explained.

This year's pumpkins included several hamburger imitations, a googly-eyed porcupine and a black cat, just in time for Halloween.

First place for the painted/decorated category in ages 3-6 went to Gracie Gladding for her pretty in pink pumpkin. Gracie's creation rivaled the Disney princesses with her shining tiara, gold magic wand and curly locks. First place for the same category in ages 10-12 went to Owen Duff and his Tommy Turtle. Tommy was a happy, smiling turtle made up of eight different painted pumpkins.

"There were some really, really good pumpkins," Picard said.

Participants in the pumpkin contest paid \$1 per entry.

As of Monday, Picard did not know the total amount raised through Pumpkins 'n Pooches, however she estimated it was about \$5,000.

Last year the event took in over \$6,000, but

Sunday had fewer vendors, at 82 in total.

Besides entering in the canine and pumpkin competitions, the festival also fundraised through its dog photo contest, which debuted in 2009.

The winner of this year's contest was Bailey the Golden Retriever, pictured in a bed of daisies. The one photo raised \$46 of the total \$140 from the contest. Each vote cost \$1.

Although the Lions Club was able to fundraise last weekend, the club also had an unanticipated expense of \$240. Picard explained the Lions hired a police officer to keep watch on the green to make sure the Lions' trailers and tents weren't vandalized before the event.

"Unfortunately it's that much less we have to give back to the community," Picard said. "It was an investment we had to do."

Picard said private property on the green has been vandalized before, and she didn't want to take a chance last weekend.

The money that was raised, however, will go into the Lions Club general fund, and then will be distributed to organizations and scholarships. Every year the club gives \$8,000 to scholarships. The Lions Club also supports the Colchester Land Trust, Colchester Food Bank, Cragin Memorial Library and regional and national organizations such as Camp Rising Sun, Southeast Connecticut Center of the Blind and the Fidelco Guide Dog Foundation.

For more information about the Colchester Lions Club, visit [colchesterlions.org](http://colchesterlions.org).

## Parents of Portland Special Ed Students Pleased with Services

by Claire Michalewicz

The parents of special education students are mostly happy with the services they receive at Portland schools, Superintendent of Schools Sally Doyen told the Board of Education (BOE) at its meeting Tuesday.

Superintendent of Schools Sally Doyen presented the school board with the results of a survey from the state Department of Education, which was sent out to parents throughout the state. In Portland, Doyen said, the survey was mailed to 134 households, only 32 of which were returned.

The results of the surveys that were completed were "very positive," Doyen said, though schools would continue to work with parents to find out what they want and need from special education services.

One hundred percent of parents were happy with the transition services offered to young children starting preschool, Doyen said, but the parents of graduating high school students gave less favorable feedback about the transition out of Portland schools. Doyen said she was talking with high school guidance counselors and teachers to find ways to help graduating spe-

cial education students ease their way into life beyond high school.

Doyen said parents also felt the schools didn't offer adequate support to special education students participating in extracurricular activities like clubs and sports. She said that while she knew support staff had helped students with club activities, she and school administrators were unaware of any special education students who may be interested in sports and who needed help.

"It is something we need to be aware of," Doyen said, explaining that more feedback and input from parents and students would help schools provide the special education services students needed.

In other news, Doyen explained that the recent problem with fire alarms had been resolved. Last month, the Middletown dispatch center was not receiving the fire alarm signals from Portland schools. Doyen explained the problem had been with the computer at the dispatch center, which had been fixed. The dispatch center successfully received the signals from fire drills last week, though Doyen said the schools would continue testing the alarms

for the next week, just to be sure.

Doyen also announced that the Brownstone Intermediate School roof was set to be replaced this weekend. In case of rain, she said, the project would be moved to the following weekend. Doyen said BIS principal Laurie Boske had already prepared a backup plan for moving students from affected classrooms into other areas of the building while the construction is completed. Ideally, she said, construction would have started yesterday, Oct. 7, and would be complete by Tuesday.

The BOE also offered preliminary approval for a high school field trip to Spain in April 2011, which teacher Marietta Shlien proposed for students in higher-level Spanish classes. Doyen explained the trip would take place over the April vacation, taking students to several cities throughout Spain.

BOE members were supportive of the idea, though Chris Bongo cautioned that they should keep an eye on travel alerts and terror warnings for tourists in Europe. Still, Bongo called the trip "a phenomenal thing," and MaryAnne Rode suggested the trip could be a reward for students who had taken Spanish classes all through

high school. Doyen said she would ask Shlien to give the BOE periodic updates about the trip plans throughout the school year.

The BOE also approved a proposal from high school teacher Krista Karch to offer evening technology classes for adults, providing Doyen checked with the teacher's union to make sure the position didn't need to be advertised to other teachers. The classes would cost \$20 for Portland residents and \$25 for people from other towns, though Portland residents would have priority in registering. Doyen said she would have Karch run the classes for a two-month trial period and report back to the BOE about how successful they were.

The BOE also voted unanimously to adopt a new pesticide policy for the school district, as required by state statute. The policy requires the schools to alert parents and staff who have requested advance notification of pesticide application, and requires schools to keep records about the pesticides they apply for five years.

The next BOE meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 19, at 7 p.m. in the high school library.

# STEAP Grants to Fund Sidewalks, Air Line Trail

by Katy Nally

When the state's Bond Commission issued its allocation of Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) funds Sept. 28, the six towns the *Rivereast* covers made the cut, receiving a total of \$1,185,000. Colchester received \$285,000 and East Hampton, \$200,000.

According to Colchester Town Planner Adam Turner, the STEAP money will be used to renovate or maintain some existing sidewalks downtown, along Lebanon Avenue and Main Street, incorporate solar-powered light posts and formalize the entrance to the Air Line Trail on Lebanon Avenue.

"This project will greatly enhance the town center and the Lebanon Avenue corridor," Turner said in a press release. "It also permits us to utilize the airline trail as it is a tremendous resource both in terms of recreational value as well as for economic development."

Like Colchester, East Hampton also received STEAP funds for its portion of the Air Line Trail. East Hampton officials plan to use the \$200,000 from STEAP to extend the trail into the Village Center.

"Anything we can do to bring stuff into the Village Center is great, East Hampton Town Council Chairwoman Melissa Engel said.

The Air Line Trail "is one of the most scenic in Connecticut, and it makes all the sense in the world to extend it into the center of town," Governor M. Jodi Rell said in a press release. "Doing so will allow for more cyclists and pedestrians to access area businesses and result in an uptick in activity."

The Air Line Trail begins in East Hampton and continues for 50 miles, ending in Thompson. In the 1800s, "the trail originally served

as a railroad track for 'fast-speed' trains, offering a straight diagonal route through Connecticut – as if the line had been drawn in the air," according to Rell.

Turner called the Air Line Trail in Colchester "a world-class facility" that could benefit from STEAP funds.

\*\*\*

In addition to formalizing the Lebanon Avenue entrance in Colchester, Turner said the \$285,000 from STEAP would go toward "accentuating" the sidewalks downtown. This includes expanding some sidewalks and using red brick pavers, he said.

"It would really create an avenue," Turner added.

Along the brick sidewalks, small solar-powered posts would illuminate the walkway.

"At nighttime it would look very attractive to walk down," he said.

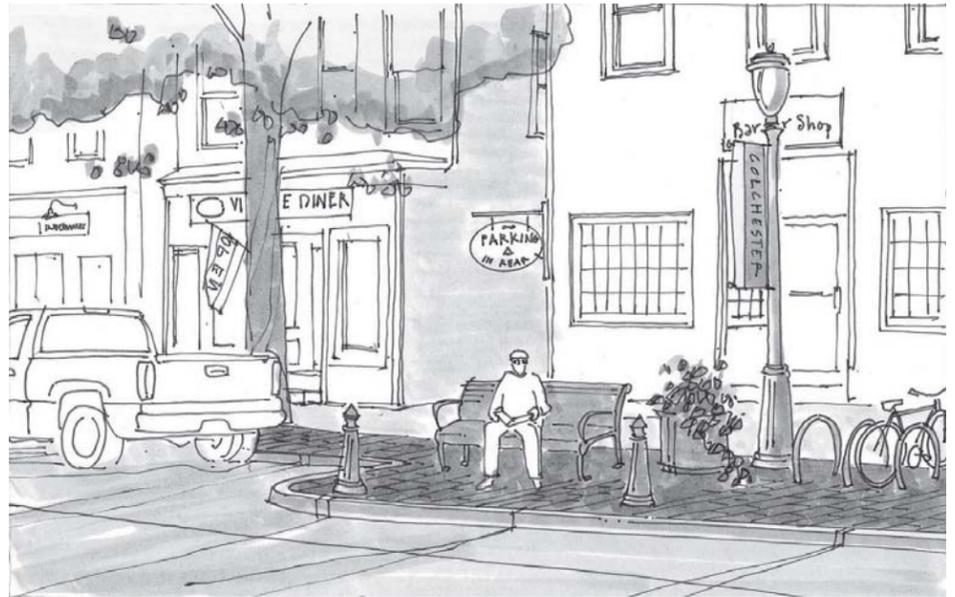
Through solar, Turner said the town could cut energy costs and the posts wouldn't require the town to string power.

"We're trying to green this out as much as we can," he added.

The entire project in Colchester, including the Air Line Trail entrance would "create a full service pedestrian corridor pathway," First Selectman Gregg Schuster said in a press release.

"We are very excited that we can now go forward on an economic development project like this," Schuster added. "These improvements will not only add character but also help create a healthy community where residents can walk or bike from place to place and not feel they have to drive everywhere."

Although Colchester applied for \$320,000 from STEAP, Turner said he was happy with



Colchester received \$285,000 from the state's Bond Commission last month to be used for sidewalk improvements in the downtown area. Above is a rendering of what the sidewalks along Main Street will look like.

the \$285,000 the town received. (The deadline to apply for STEAP funds was July 20 this year.)

The Office of Policy and Management (OPM) administers the STEAP grant and allocates money to Connecticut towns that have populations of less than 30,000. The funds can only be used for capital projects, which includes those associated with economic development, recreation, solid waste disposal, social services

and housing, according to the OPM website, [www.ct.gov/opm](http://www.ct.gov/opm).

A total of \$20 million from STEAP was authorized for this fiscal year for 115 towns, covering 134 projects across the state. The awards were approved Aug. 17 this year.

"We're very appreciative of the governor's office for including us and supporting our project," Turner said. "Anytime you can get something like this, it's great."

## Portland Fair Returns This Weekend

by Claire Michalewicz

It's already a week into October, but anyone looking to get one more fix of fair season can do so this weekend at the Portland Agricultural Fair.

The fair, one of the last in the area, starts today at 5 p.m., and continues at the Exchange Club Fairgrounds through Sunday. Organizers say they're looking forward to a weekend full of entertainment, food, fun, and hopefully, good weather.

"It's gonna be a good fair," said Portland Fair Association President Don Bascom, as he listed some of the many events scheduled for the weekend.

Returning for the second year is the Portland Fair 5K Road Race, a five-kilometer loop that starts and ends on the fairgrounds. Prizes will be given to the top three finishers in each age category. Race organizer and fair association treasurer Joyce Murphy said last year's inaugural race had been a success.

"We had almost 70 people, and it was great," Murphy said. "A lot of the people said it was the best race they ran all year."

The five-kilometer course starts at the fairgrounds, heads south on Route 17, cuts through a neighborhood off Bartlett Street and comes up Main Street back to the fair. The race starts at 9 a.m. Sunday, and runners can register starting at 8 a.m. The entry fee is \$25.

Also returning this year is a carnival midway with rides and carnival games, provided by Coleman Brothers Shows. Ride wristbands will be available on Friday and Sunday for \$18, Dillon said.

Other highlights Dillon singled out include Middlesex 4-H Shooting Sports, which are setting up an archery range on the fairgrounds. Walter and Nancy Squier offer free archery lessons at the range, Dillon said, which are always popular with both children and adults. And while there won't be a car show this year,

NASCAR driver and Middletown native Joey Logano's car will be on display Saturday afternoon.

Live entertainment is scheduled all weekend on two stages, kicking off this evening with Portland's own high school band. Other musicians include the band Fly Machine on Friday evening, and Great Hill Mountain Band and Gunsmoke Band both on Sunday. Performing Saturday are two acts from Nashville – singers Charlene Marie and Casey Ferguson; the latter is a Willie Nelson tribute act who, Dillon said, looks and sounds just like the real thing.

For those seeking a more traditional New England fair experience, there will be plenty of arts, crafts and homemade baked goods on display. And of course, animals will be on display all weekend, with contests for cattle, goats, sheep, poultry and rabbits.

Bascom said this was a particularly successful year for getting vendors, with "a lot more" signing up this year than in previous years. This means there will be a wider-than-usual variety of food and commercial goods available to fairgoers, he said.

Dillon said the biggest variable in the success of the fair is the weather. Since the fairgrounds are at the edge of the river, there was a risk of the ground being soggy, he said.

"As long as the rain doesn't amount to a lot, we're golden," Dillon said Tuesday, pointing out that the weather forecast for the weekend calls for sunny skies.

Speaking on Wednesday afternoon, as the rain was letting up, Bascom also said he was optimistic. Good weather and lots of vendors, Bascom said, "all adds up to a good fair."

Dillon said the fair was organized by a team of skilled volunteers who'd been doing it for years. "We've almost got it down to a science now," Dillon said.

Bascom agreed, thanking the core group of 15 or 20 people who help organize the fair ev-



The Portland Fair kicks off today and will continue through the weekend. Once again, a horse pull will be among the many sights for fairgoers to enjoy.

ery year. He said that while putting the fair together takes hours and hours of work every year, he likes creating an event that people can enjoy.

"I like having people come up to me afterwards and telling me it was a good fair," he said.

The Portland Fair is open today, Friday, from 5-11 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m.-11 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Admission is \$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors and free for chil-

dren under 10.

Free offsite parking is available on Sand Hill Road, off Route 66, with free shuttle service to the fairgrounds provided by Nichols Bus Services. Limited parking for those with handicapped parking permits is available at the fairgrounds.

More information and a full schedule of events are available at [www.portlandfair.com](http://www.portlandfair.com).

# Beloved Portland Police Dog Remembered

by Claire Michalewicz

Last month, the Portland Police Department lost a valued member of their team. Niko, a German Shepherd who worked with Portland Police since 2004, died of cancer at the age of 7.

In the time he spent with the police, Niko's duties ranged from detecting drugs and catching suspects to visiting students in local schools. Above all, he was Officer Peter Paranzino's friend, living at Paranzino's home and accompanying him out on calls.

"He was just a faithful companion for all these years," Paranzino said. "Just a great-natured dog."

Paranzino said Niko loved being with kids, whether on a visit to a classroom or at home with his grandchildren.

Paranzino explained that he took Niko to a regular vet check-up in early September, and the vet recommended he see a specialist because of some broken teeth. While he was waiting for another appointment, Paranzino said, he noticed a lump on Niko's neck, which he thought was a swollen gland. Niko was put on antibiotics, but the swelling didn't go down.

When Paranzino took Niko back to the vet on Sept. 22, the veterinarian, Robert Olson, did some tests and found that the lump was a rapidly-growing carcinoma. Olson said Niko might only live for another two weeks, Paranzino said.

"It was a mess," Paranzino said, explaining that he had just taken Niko out on a call two nights before and he seemed healthy. Faced with the grim diagnosis, Paranzino said, he and Olson made the decision to have Niko put down that same day.

Paranzino said he wanted to thank the staff at Pieper-Olson Veterinary Hospital in Middletown, who donated all their services for Niko and the police department's other dog, Lightning.

Niko was born in Slovakia, and came to Portland in 2004, when he was 11 months old. Niko was certified to detect narcotics when he was 16 months old, and then went through additional

training so he could also work as a regular patrol dog.

Ever since he started in Portland, Niko lived with Paranzino. While Niko was being trained, Paranzino was still working with Caleb, Niko's predecessor, whom Paranzino had also worked with since he was a puppy. Caleb had been getting older, and passed away shortly after Niko was acquired. Losing Caleb, like losing Niko, was difficult, Paranzino said.

Paranzino said most of the work Niko ended up doing was outside Portland, as towns throughout the state would sometimes make calls looking for the nearest police dog on duty.

"The hardest part about being a dog handler was to trust the dog," Paranzino said. "I don't know where he's taking me."

But as he and Niko worked together, he came to trust Niko to help him find what they were looking for, Paranzino said. Paranzino said tracking people was his favorite part of being a dog handler, because the searches were exciting and often successful.

Paranzino said it was hard for him to choose a favorite experience with Niko, since they spent so much time together. But one job that stands out was the cold December night Niko located a suspect from a break-in hiding in a swamp in Middletown.

"That was a pretty exciting night, because of the circumstances surrounding the search," Paranzino said.

"Everyone loved him," he added. "You could trust him."

Beth Wrobel, who teaches the D.A.R.E. program at Brownstone Intermediate School, said she and her students enjoyed having Niko visit their classes.

"Niko had a class act," Wrobel said in an e-mail. "He had such a personality and the kids loved him."

Wrobel said Niko taught her students important lessons when he visited her classes. When Niko demonstrated his drug-sniffing abilities to find items that had been planted on students, Wrobel said, he showed them that patience and perseverance can pay off.



The Portland Police Department said goodbye to one of its own last month, Niko the German Shepard police dog. Niko came to Portland in 2004 and regularly made appearances at local schools and assisted in catching suspects.

"The officers utilized him to teach us some very powerful lessons," Wrobel said. "He will be missed."

First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield said she remembered watching Niko give a demonstration for students in the D.A.R.E. program, and noted that he had "outstanding" abilities as a police dog.

"It's a huge loss for our department,"

Bransfield said, explaining that Niko helped with many crimes. "We're gonna miss him dearly."

To honor Niko, Paranzino explained, his daughter-in-law was working on organizing a memorial service for him, and possibly putting up a plaque in his memory.

"There wasn't one person who didn't like Niko," he said.

## New Andover Rec Area Possible Use for STEAP Funds

by Lindsay Fetzner

Long Hill Road might soon be the home of a new recreational area, thanks to funds from the Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) awarded last week.

The town of Andover was allotted a total of \$200,000 for both the design and construction of the area. Gov. M. Jodi Rell announced the award recipients of the STEAP funding last Tuesday, Sept. 28.

At Wednesday's Board of Selectmen's meeting, selectmen voted to start advertising to form a building committee to help get the recreational area underway. The committee would have no more than five people.

"We would like to do more than a soccer field," Burbank said. "We would like to have a recreational park if we have the funding for it."

Selectman Jay Linddy said the committee could recommend to the board an idea of what will be needed to make the recreational area a reality, as well how to get the best "bang for the dollar."

Following state grant procedure, Burbank said the town will work with a supervisor and architect on the project.

"Once we have that in place, we will look at the funding, look at the revenues that are available and try to get the most for the funding that we can," Burbank said.

Selectwoman Linda Knowlton said it is a "great idea" to have the recreational area in

town.

In addition to a soccer field, Knowlton said she would like to see a town park or picnic area constructed, which could be used by not only the younger crowd playing sports but also the seniors and other residents. Because the area is close to the Hop River Homes on Riverside Drive, Knowlton said it would "pretty convenient...and a nice thing for them."

Roughly two years ago, the town put together an athletic field search committee, which found that the town had a "definite need for a soccer field," Burbank said. He added that the committee found an appropriate location for the field, on Long Hill Road, on property that the town already owned.

From there, a STEAP grant application was submitted. However, Burbank said it was not approved. But this year, Burbank said he reapplied for the grant and it was approved for roughly half the amount that was in the original request.

"For small towns like Andover, it really, really helps" Linddy said of the STEAP money. "Every town has a different way of using [the funds]."

Although the allocation was about half of the original request, Burbank said he is happy to have the funds to put toward a recreational area, which seems to be a great need in town.

"We have many, many people that have chil-

dren that are playing soccer," Burbank said. "Some of the fields they play on at the elementary school are not even level. They are basically playing on a hill."

Burbank noted that other athletic teams share the Little League field too, creating a lot of "give and take," he said, due to appropriating different parts of the field for the various teams to share.

Linddy agreed with Burbank and said the town fields are constantly being used on a regular basis by various athletic teams.

And, as a result, "It's taking a toll on the fields," he said.

Hopefully, with the \$200,000 in STEAP funds, the town can now begin to fix this problem.

The STEAP funds are administered by the Office of Policy and Management (OPM). The State Bond Commission distributes the funds to the eligible towns across the state. In order to be eligible for STEAP funding, a town must have less than 30,000 residents.

The fund allocations are designated for capital projects. There are a total of 115 towns that are recipients of STEAP funding for the 2011 year, and as a result, 134 projects will now be able to move forward.

When the State Bond Commission met in August, the nearly \$20 million in STEAP funds

for fiscal year 2011 was approved.

Out the six *River east* towns, Colchester received the largest appropriation. At \$285,000, the town will fund the expansion and improvements of sidewalks from the town's central district to the entrance of the Colchester Air Line Trail, as well as enhancements at the site of the trail entrance.

In East Hampton, the town will extend and make improvements to the Air Line State Park Trail into the Village Center, with a total of \$200,000 in STEAP funds.

Hebron was awarded a total of \$150,000 for facade improvements, the installation of sidewalks, tree installation, a community events sign and a pedestrian cross walk signal along Main Street, as well as throughout the town.

Marlborough will construct sidewalks and make improvements to the streetscape in the Village Center area with the town's allocation of \$150,000.

In Portland, Phase III of the Brownstone Avenue Extension Project will be completed with \$200,000 in STEAP funds. Included in Phase III is the construction of an open-air pavilion, an outdoor amphitheater and a restroom facility.

For more information on the STEAP, visit [www.ct.gov/opm](http://www.ct.gov/opm) and click on FY2011 STEAP awards under the 'What's New' header.

# Pig Roast Planned to Honor Portland Firefighters

by Claire Michalewicz

Worried that all their service might go unnoticed, a local business owner is honoring Portland's volunteer firefighters next week.

Frank Cavaliere, owner of Cavaliere's Bakery and Deli, has organized a special dinner – a pig roast – for all active firefighters and their families, as a way to thank them for their contributions to the community.

"I don't think the general public realizes the amount of man-hours these guys take away from their families," Cavaliere said.

For Portland's 68 active firefighters, the time commitment can be large, explained Wayne Mergel, a third lieutenant at Company No. 1. Mergel explained that Portland firefighters responded to 998 calls in 2009, including 14 fires and 733 medical calls, including car accidents.

So far this year, Mergel said, firefighters have responded to 885 calls. In addition to calls, firefighters spend time on training, averaging about 120 hours per person per year. This commitment, on top of regular jobs and spending time with their families, can be difficult, Mergel said.

"Everybody does what they can," Mergel said, explaining that for him, this usually involves covering weekend shifts to ensure that Portland has 24/7 fire and medical coverage.

Aside from their regular duties, the members of the Portland Volunteer Fire Department have also been active in raising money for people in need. Mergel explained the department had been hosting monthly pancake breakfasts for years as fundraisers. Its October breakfast, held this past weekend, raised money for the New London Burn Foundation, while proceeds from next month's breakfast will go to Portland's food bank.

But despite the effort they put in, Mergel said the firefighters aren't looking for attention.

"We don't exactly need any recognition," Mergel said. "We do this out of our personal wants and desires to serve ourselves, our communities, and our families."

For Mergel and the other firefighters, he said,

the knowledge that they were helping people was enough of a reward, though he said he appreciated what Cavaliere was doing for them.

Mergel said he and Cavaliere had known each other for years, as he stops in at Cavaliere's bakery every morning for coffee as he heads to work. Mergel explained that Cavaliere had hosted events for other civic groups in Portland over the years, and felt that it was time to recognize the firefighters. He heard some firefighters talking about having a pig roast, and decided to host it himself to show his thanks.

Cavaliere said he had volunteered coaching sports for decades, and while that took a great deal of time, he knew the firefighters did more.

"That's really nothing compared to the amount of time they put in," Cavaliere said. "They put their lives on the line."

Some residents, Cavaliere said, seemed to have a perception of firefighters as just relaxing in the firehouse, not realizing how much work they really do. Cavaliere said he hoped the dinner would bring attention to the firefighters' work, and encourage people in Portland and other towns to thank their fire departments.

"We're very grateful to Frank, not only for what he's doing here," Fire Chief Bob Shea said. "Overall, he's just a great guy and his support to the department has been phenomenal. He's always taking care of us."

Shea said Cavaliere's support in the community went beyond the fire department, as Cavaliere frequently helped out other organizations in Portland as well.

"Coming from one volunteer to another," Shea said, "I think he understands what volunteerism is all about."

The dinner, for all active firefighters and their families, is scheduled for next Friday, Oct. 15, at 6 p.m. at Portland Engine Company No. 2, located at 594 Main St. Any firefighter who has not RSVP-ed can contact Mergel by today, Oct. 8, at 860-759-6921 or [waynemergel@att.net](mailto:waynemergel@att.net).



Westchester Pet Vaccines on Loomis Road provides vaccines and free exams for cats and dogs. Above is the owner, veterinarian Lewis Kimball, with Opus the Golden Retriever.

## Vaccination Clinic Welcomes Westchester's Pets

by Katy Nally

Pet owners in the area now have a low-cost choice when it comes to getting their dogs and cats vaccinated and tested, thanks to veterinarian Lewis Kimball and his new wellness center, Westchester Pet Vaccines, located at 111 Loomis Rd. in Colchester.

Because the clinic only offers vaccinations and tests, the business has less overhead costs, Kimball explained, and can charge less for each procedure. Kimball, who has been practicing veterinary medicine for the past 31 years, also provides brief routine physical exams free of charge. If something is found during the exam, Kimball said he would refer the pet owner to a full-service veterinary clinic.

Westchester Pet Vaccines, which opened about three weeks ago, will never expand into a full-service facility that includes surgery and large inventories of medicine, so prices will stay low, he said. On average, Kimball said people who come to Westchester Pet Vaccines can save about \$5 to \$25 per pet.

"In today's economy, I've been hearing more and more that folks want to keep up with their pets' vaccines but that it's just too expensive, particularly if you have more than one pet," Kimball said.

After practicing medicine at full-service clinics, Kimball said he "noticed the need" for a business that simply offers vaccines and tests.

Westchester Pet Vaccines offers routine vaccines, brief exams, heartworm tests, feline leukemia tests, flea and tick control and deworming. The wellness center only treats dogs and cats.

At traditional veterinarian facilities, Kimball said pet owners are charged for physical exams when having a pet vaccinated or tested.

And usually only large pet supplies retail stores offer vaccines without having to pay for exams, but these clinics come around about twice a year and last only about an hour, he added.

So far, mostly East Haddam, East Hampton and Colchester residents have been coming to Westchester Pet Vaccines, and overall, the pet owners have been "very happy" with Westchester Pet Vaccines, Kimball said. Now, it's just a matter of getting the word out, he added.

This is not Kimball's first endeavor when it comes to animal medicine. As a veteran veterinarian, Kimball began practicing in Glastonbury in 1978 and moved to Stonington two years later.

Westchester Pet Vaccines is open Mondays and Tuesdays from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. and 3-5 p.m., and Saturdays from 9 a.m.-noon. For more information, call the center at 860-267-4554.

## Amber Alert Search Ends in Andover

by Lindsay Fetzner

After an Amber Alert for two children was issued by Manchester Police early Tuesday morning, the 10- and 6-year-old were found safe in Andover several hours later.

At approximately 1:25 a.m., Manchester Police responded to 17 Huntington St. for "a possible child abduction that had just occurred," police said.

The children's biological mother, 36-year-old Carmen Montanez, left the home with her two children, 10-year-old Ivelyse Smith and 6-year-old Leonard Smith Jr., after Montanez broke in through a rear door of the house. The three left the scene in a 2004 Dodge Caravan with a Connecticut registration, police said.

Lt. Sean Grant of the Manchester Police Department said the Amber Alert was issued roughly one hour after police responded to the Huntington Street address, and as the department began receiving more information on the incident.

An off-duty State Police detective, who had knowledge of the alert, was able to locate the suspect, with the assistance of an off-duty Manchester Police Department sergeant, police said. Grant said the detective likely spotted the plate and called in for assistance.

"It was a fabulous job," Grant said. "A great job."

The police found the Dodge Caravan in Andover, in the area of routes 6 and 87, Grant said, shortly after 7 a.m.

Montanez was "successfully apprehended," and the children were found safe, due to assistance from members of the Manchester Police Department, local and federal agencies and State Police, Manchester Police said in a press release issued Tuesday.

Montanez was arrested and charged with violation of protective order, first-degree burglary, first-degree criminal trespass, risk of injury and breach of peace, according to Manchester Police.

## Portland Crash Traps Driver in Car

by Claire Michalewicz

A car struck a utility pole on Main Street Tuesday morning, toppling the pole and trapping the driver in the car, Portland Police said.

The accident happened at 10:46 a.m., when Casey Blackman, 18, of 52 Cherry Tree Ln., Colchester, was traveling north on Main Street, Sergeant Scott Cunningham said.

Blackman was rounding a curve in the road near Indian Hill Avenue when she veered into the left lane and hit the pole, Cunningham said. The pole fell on her car and trapped her inside, he said.

Cunningham said a crew from Northeast Utilities arrived to shut off the power to the pole before removing it from Blackman's car. Blackman suffered moderate injuries and was

transported by Hunter's Ambulance to Hartford Hospital, he said.

The accident knocked out some power, phone and cable services to the neighborhood around the collision, Cunningham said. Connecticut Light & Power spokesman Mitch Gross said 248 customers in the area lost power as a result of the crash, but it was mostly restored by that afternoon. The cable and phone connections were restored that day as well, Cunningham said.

Blackman said she veered into the left lane after momentarily taking her eyes off the road, Cunningham said. She was charged for failure to drive in the proper lane, he said.

## Obituaries

### Portland

#### Bruce May Memorial Service

The May family invites everyone to join them for a memorial service for Bruce I. May to be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 9, at Christ Lutheran Church, 300 Washington St., Middletown.

May, 76, of Portland and Sebastian, FL, died Monday, July 19.

### Hebron

#### Olive Warner Burt

Olive Warner Burt, 94, of North Port, Fla., passed away peacefully Tuesday, Sept. 28, at TideWell Hospice House in Port Charlotte, FL. She was born in Gilead to the late Norman J. and Mabel P. Warner. She was the widow of Wilfred Burt.

Olive is survived by three sisters, Allene Turner of North Port, FL, Charlotte Motyka of Glastonbury and her husband Alec, and Jean Raymond of Gilead; a brother, Alden Warner of Tolland and his wife, Anne; and nine nieces and 11 nephews and many great-nephews and -nieces.

She was predeceased by two brothers, Norton P. Warner and William H. Warner, both of Gilead.

Olive worked for many years at Connecticut Mutual Insurance in Hartford. She retired to Vermont, later moving to North Port, FL. She was a member of the Grace United Methodist Church of Venice. Olive was an accomplished pianist and enjoyed choir singing. Arrangements are with National Cremation Society of Port Charlotte, FL.

Graveside services will be held in Gilead Saturday, Oct. 16, at 1 p.m., at the Gilead Cemetery, Gilead Street (Route 85). Everyone is invited afterward to the home of her sister Jean Raymond at 731 Gilead St., Gilead.



### Colchester

#### Arthur Daniel Standish

The Honorable Arthur Daniel Standish, 92, a lifelong resident of Colchester, beloved husband of Minnette (Nelkin) Standish, passed away Monday morning, Oct. 4, at the family home, surrounded by his loving family. Born in Norwich Dec. 3, 1917, he was the eldest son of the late Charles and Ethel (Webster) Standish.

He proudly served our country with the Army Air Corps during World War II. Together, he and Minnette ran the family dairy farm on the Standish Road homestead in Colchester until 1960. He then went on to work as a mechanic for D.H. Marvin, Marvin's Midway and then partnered at Art and Romie's Service Station and later owned and operated Standish Auto, all in Colchester.

Artie had served on the Colchester Board of Tax Review, was an alternate trial justice for Colchester and was a representative in state legislature for one term. He was a longtime member of the Donald A. Bigelow American Legion Post No. 54 and the Wooster Lodge No. 10 A.F. & A.M., in Colchester.

He volunteered for the care and operation of the Linwood Cemetery in Colchester for over 50 years.

Mr. Standish was honored as the Grand Marshal of the Colchester Memorial Day Parade in 2007.

In addition to his loving wife of 68 years, Minnette, he is survived by four children, Robert C. Standish and wife, Judy of North Carolina, Jean Brainard and husband, Bill of Vermont, Kathy (Williams) Orth of Indiana and Bruce Williams of Colchester; two sisters, Barbara Smith Clark of Colchester and Betty Jean Bruce of Florida; a sister-in-law, Barbara Standish of Colchester; eight grandchildren, Kate and Hunt Rogers of New Jersey, Lori and James Standish and Lynn Mancini, all of Colchester; Amanda and George French and Alan Orth, all of Indiana and Sarah Korpak and Meghan McSweeney, both of Connecticut; nine great grandchildren, Alexa, Devyn, Aubrey, Mallorie, David, Lauren, Michael, Ashlyn and Griffin; and numerous extended family members and friends.

He was predeceased by his sister, Gladys Ladegard; and two brothers, Donald and Charles Myles.

Friends called Wednesday, Oct. 6, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. An American Legion memorial service was observed during that time. The funeral assembled Thursday, Oct. 7, before a chapel service. The Rev. Fred M. Dole officiated the service, assisted by the Rev. Amanda Ladegard Ostrove. Committal with full military honors followed in the Linwood Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the Colchester-Hayward Vol. Fire Co., 18-54 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester.

For online condolences, visit [www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com](http://www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com).

### Colchester

#### Wayne R. Taylor

Wayne R. Taylor, 71, formerly of Westchester, passed away Wednesday, Sept. 29. He was born in Hartford, and was a 1958 graduate of Bacon Academy.

Mr. Taylor served in the U.S. Navy, was a member of the Loyal Order of the Moose, and the American Legion. He along with his wife owned the Taylor Home Day Care for many years and was manager of the Florida Tackle and Gun Club.

He was preceded in death by two brothers, Donald and Neil Taylor.

Survivors include his wife of 37 years, Patricia Taylor; two sons, Arthur Genovese and Mark Taylor; three daughters, Gail Casalini, Janice Genovese and Sheri Taylor; two brothers, Jim R. Taylor and Joe Guastamachio; seven sisters, Barbara Oddis, Janice Chadwick, Nancy Partridge, Diane Taylor, Linda Cappelli, Jacqueline Caglioni and Li Guastamachio; and eight grandchildren.

A memorial service was held Saturday, Oct. 2, at in the chapel of Hardage-Giddens Rivermead Funeral Home, 127 Blanding Blvd., Orange Park, FL 32073. 904-272-6316.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the veterans' charity of your choice or to the American Cancer Society.



### East Hampton

#### Jessie Anne Franklin

On Sept. 26, Jessie Anne Yeager Franklin, 29, of Fort Hood, TX, and formerly of East Hampton, was unexpectedly taken away from loved ones and placed in God's care. She was the beloved daughter of David H. Yeager of East Hampton and Cynthia G. Yeager of New Britain.

Jessie Anne leaves behind a daughter, Mikayla Anne Franklin, 6, and a son, Byron David Franklin, 2, of Fort Hood, TX. She is also survived by her brother and best friend, T. Martin Cavanaugh and his wife Carrie; a cherished niece and nephew, Ashley and Tristan Cavanaugh; stepmother, Pamela Rudolph Yeager; her uncle, S.C. Gillette and family; her uncle, Z. Arthur Yeager and family; two other mothers, Kathleen McCrann of New Britain and Donna Byron of Rhode Island; sister-in-law, Bridget Byron of Massachusetts; many members of the Franklin family of Rhode Island and close friends from Texas, Connecticut, Massachusetts and South Carolina.

A 1998 graduate of the Academy of the Holy Family of Baltic, and a 2002 graduate of Salve Regina University of Newport, RI, Jessie Anne dedicated her life to her children and family. She was employed as general manager and personal trainer by GYM of Kileen, TX.

Calling hours will be from 6-8 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 11, at Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton. A funeral liturgy will be celebrated at Saint Patrick Church, 47 West High St., East Hampton, on Tuesday, Oct. 12, at 10 a.m. Burial at Saint Patrick Cemetery will follow.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to a fund for the children, Mikayla and Byron Franklin, c/o David Yeager, P.O. Box 208, East Hampton, CT 06424 or The Fort Hood Fisher House Building, 36015 Fisher Ln., Fort Hood, TX 76544 or the Prevent The Domestic Violence Coalition of your choice in memory of Jessie Anne Yeager Franklin.

### Marlborough

#### Salvatore Santangelo

Salvatore T. Santangelo, 76, of Marlborough, husband of the late Ruth (Tighe) Santangelo, died Monday, Oct. 4, at Middlesex Hospital. Born Sept. 7, 1934, he was the son of the late Thomas S. and Rose (Malone) Santangelo.

He proudly served his country in the Army during the Korean War. Salvatore had lived in Marlborough for the past 30 years and was a member of the Elks Club and the American Legion Post in Marlborough. He had worked as a union laborer at Millstone Nuclear Power Plant and had recently retired from the Marlborough Landfill after 15 years of service.

He is survived by his son, Thomas S. Santangelo and his wife Jenna of West Hartford; his two daughters, Dana Klemyk of Marlborough and Tracy Vincek of Marlborough; two brothers, Peter Santangelo of Middletown and Robert Santangelo of Middletown; a sister, Philomena Lessor of Middletown; five grandchildren, Jessi Klemyk, Roxanne and James Vincek, and Emma and Madeline Santangelo. He also leaves his close friend and companion, Brenda Abrams.

He was predeceased by his brother Thomas Santangelo.

Friends and family called at the Spencer Funeral Home on Wednesday, Oct. 6. Burial will be private at the convenience of the family.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Helen and Harry Gray Cancer Center at Hartford Hospital, 85 Retreat Ave., Hartford, CT 06102.

To leave online condolences, visit [www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com](http://www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com).

## 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.

9/27: 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, p

## Colchester Police News

9/27: Aharon Ron, 19, of 14 Addison Rd., Glastonbury, was charged with sixth-degree larceny, Colchester Police said.

9/27: A residence on Norwich Avenue was burglarized, Colchester Police said. Collectible coins and copper piping were stolen.

9/27: Rachel Blandina, 19, of 20 Main St., Apt. 5, was charged with sixth-degree larceny, Colchester Police said.

9/29: A residence on Windham Avenue was burglarized, Colchester Police said. A 42-inch flat-screen television was stolen.

9/30 Corrinne Ciochini, 23, of 92 Stanavage Rd., was charged with possession of narcotics, possession of drug paraphernalia, illegal storage of narcotics and DUI, Colchester Police said.

9/30: Thomas Lemay, 23, of 51 Pleasant St., was charged with possession of narcotics and possession of drug paraphernalia, Colchester Police said.

10/1: Michael Tancredi, 35, of 35 David Dr., was charged with criminal violation of a protective order, Colchester Police said.

---

*From the Editor's Desk*

# Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

In my last column I said they'd probably do it, so I wasn't surprised Monday when the Mets fired manager Jerry Manuel and general manager Omar Minaya. When a team with a payroll as high (and with expectations as high) as the Mets does as poorly as it did for two consecutive years – not to mention the famous collapses at the end of 2008 and 2007 – it's almost inconceivable that heads *wouldn't* roll.

As for their replacements, I think the general manager definitely needs to be experienced, both with making personnel moves and in dealing with the media. The GM of a New York ball club – especially one whose image is as bad as the Mets is right now – is *not* the kind of position you want filled with a newbie. But I don't have any particular names in mind as to who should get that spot. I know there are some quality-sounding resumes out there, but I'm not as well-versed in GM candidates as others are.

Now, I do have a name in mind for the Mets' next manager: Bobby Valentine. The fans would love to see him return, and his high-energy persona would be a polar opposite from the laid-back one of Manuel. Plus, the man has shown he can win in New York, and doesn't need the equivalent of the '27 Yankees to do it. The '99 and '00 Mets teams that he took to the playoffs, while they certainly had some star players (the biggest one being the one and only Mike Piazza), weren't overly terrifying, and featured a lot of unimposing, largely-forgotten names like Benny Agbayani, Jay Payton, Rey Ordonez, Rick Reed and Turk Wendell. Yet these guys knew how to win, and I think Bobby V. played a big part in creating that atmosphere.

Now, Valentine might not be the pick. After all, the team did fire him after the 2002 season, and rumor has it there's still some bad blood between Valentine and ownership stemming from that firing. What the team might do is go with Wally Backman, another favorite of many fans (he was a piece of those famed mid-'80s Mets teams) who also has a fiery personality, and who led the Class-A Brooklyn Cyclones to the Penn State League Championships this year. But that's the thing;

to go from managing a single-A team to managing a major league one....well, that's one heck of a leap.

\* \* \*

Speaking of baseball, the San Francisco Giants made the playoffs. The team's bench coach is Colchester native Ron Wotus, and in case you missed it (perhaps you just immediately turn to page 2 each week to read my delightful column; hey, it could happen), Katy Nally has a story on the cover of this week's *Rivereast* interviewing Wotus. This isn't the 1979 Bacon Academy graduate's first trip to the postseason; he's been the Giants' bench coach since 1999, meaning he was with them in 2000 when they lost to the Mets in the Division Series and was there in 2002 when they lost to the Angels in the World Series. Still, it's always nice to see a local guy enjoying success on a big stage.

The Giants are playing the Braves in their Division Series, which just started yesterday. While I suppose it'd be nice to see Braves skipper Bobby Cox get one more World Championship before he retires, as a Mets fan I'd feel a little queasy rooting for Atlanta. For too many years, the Mets season ended, either literally or figuratively, at the hands of the Braves. While it's true they aren't quite the thorn in the Mets' side that they used to be (one could argue that thorn is the Mets themselves), sometimes old habits die hard.

\* \* \*

Election Day is less than a month away, which means the mud-slinging, and dirt-digging, is in the home stretch. Now is the time of year where there is no skeleton too deep to unearth and expose. Of course, some skeletons are less relevant than others. Personally, I couldn't care less that Delaware Senatorial candidate Christine O'Donnell said in a 1999 episode of *Politically Incorrect* that she had previously dabbled in witchcraft. And yet, this week she premiered her new campaign ad and declared, "I'm not a witch."

Definitely one of the most surreal opening statements of a political ad I've ever heard.

\* \* \*

See you next week.