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Portland resident Melissa Woodward gave birth to Ella last week in a rather unusual location – the bathroom. The two are shown earlier this week, happy and healthy, at their Main Street home.

Woman Gives Birth On Bathroom Floor

by Claire Michalewicz

Quietly sleeping in her mother's arms, Ella Rose Woodward looks like a typical happy, healthy newborn baby. But, as her mother Melissa said, she's already something of a local celebrity.

What's unusual about Ella is the way she came into the world – Melissa Woodward gave birth to her on her bathroom floor, unassisted, on Thursday, Aug. 26.

Melissa, a Portland resident, delivered her daughter so quickly that when firefighters and an ambulance crew arrived at her Main Street home, they found her with Ella already in her arms, ready to let them in the front door.

Melissa, 38, was scheduled to have labor induced the next day, Aug. 27, but on the morning of the 26th, she noticed some strong contractions. She called her husband, Kenneth, to ask him to come home from work and take her to the hospital, and started getting ready in the bathroom with her 2-year-old daughter, Emmaline.

"I really thought I'd have another hour or two," Melissa said, explaining that the contractions were still several minutes apart.

Suddenly, though, the contractions got stronger, and Melissa called 911, explaining her situation between screams. Emmaline, afraid and confused, fled down the hall to her bedroom.

The 911 operator coaxed Melissa through labor, but around the time Ella's head started to

emerge, she lost contact with them.

Melissa said that during the birth, she couldn't think about much else besides delivering her daughter.

"There wasn't really room for a whole lot to go through my head," she explained.

Melissa estimated that it took about 10 minutes from the start of the strong contractions to the time Ella was born, so fast that the ambulance couldn't arrive in time.

"They were very, very fast," Melissa said. "And, to think, I was faster."

Melissa realized she no longer had the 911 dispatcher on the line – she said she thinks she accidentally hung up on them – and called them back to tell them that Ella had been born. While she was cleaning out Ella's nose and mouth, Melissa realized that emergency personnel had arrived, and the doors were still locked.

"For whatever reason, I decided to go downstairs," she said, even though she had told the 911 operator that she would wait in the bathroom while the EMTs and firefighters found a way into the house.

Melissa wrapped Ella, still connected to her by the umbilical cord, in a towel and started downstairs to the front door. About four steps from the bottom, she explained, some more fluid came from her body and she slipped and fell on her back, getting only minor bruises.

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Colchester's Vineyard Powers Up, Solar Style

by Katy Nally

A family of Eastern Box Turtles, which has called the marshy lowlands at Priam Vineyards home for the past few years, might become even happier in the next few days, once the vineyard's giant solar panel begins churning out "green" power.

Owners of the vineyard, Gloria Priam and Gary Crump, leased a groSolar panel and Zelek Electric of Old Lyme installed it in August. Priam said she expects to have the panel up and running to power the winery by the end of this week.

The huge structure of 50 photovoltaic panels stands in stark contrast to the quaint winery and tasting room, which are housed in a red New England-style barn, and the home of Priam and Crump, which overlooks the entire vineyard.

But, despite its appearance, the solar panel is an enticement factor for many who venture out on the Connecticut Wine Trail. With the addition of the panel, Priam Vineyards became the first winery in New England to be solar-powered, Priam said.

"That's big," she said. "We're excited about that."

The panel will power the equipment to process and cool the wine, as well as the tasting room – "down to every light bulb," Priam noted.

It will save Priam and Crump about \$1,000 per week in electricity costs and any surplus

electricity produced will be sold back to Connecticut Light & Power, Priam said.

"This was a bonus for us in every way," she added.

And although Connecticut sees its share of cold, harsh winters, the solar panel will still produce electricity throughout the chilly weather, as long as there is daylight, because the panel works off of light and not heat.

Going solar seemed to be a natural step for the vineyard that doesn't use insecticides on its crops and was declared a certified bird and wildlife habitat.

The 40-acre property on Shailor Hill Road includes several areas of tall grasses and wildflowers, a marsh and an open lawn that is available for weddings, Priam said. Among the Eastern Box Turtles, which the state Department of Environmental Protection considers a species of "special concern," there are multitudes of birds, water fowl, the occasional coyote and Crump's two honeybee hives.

Crump, a former petrol engineer and owner of a construction company, said he feels he has an obligation to preserve the environment for future generations. He said mostly everyone impacts the environment through daily life, so going green was one way to offset those actions.

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Priam Vineyards became the first solar-powered winery in New England when it hooked up its groSolar panel. The 50 photovoltaic panels are pictured left next to the barn that houses the winery and tasting room.



Gary Crump, co-owner of Priam Vineyards, tastes a young red wine that is still settling in its steel vat.

Priam agreed, adding "We've created a healthier environment than what it was before."

Crump and Priam opened the vineyard in 1998 and the winery just five years later. Priam explained the vineyard was named after her grandfather, Andrew Priam, whose wedding photo now adorns the tasting room.

Even before Crump and Priam had told their families they planned to grow grapes, Priam said she learned her grandfather had once owned a vineyard himself in Hungary, before he fled the country in the early 1900s. After that, the couple decided to honor tradition and named the business after him.

Priam and Crump originally purchased the lot from a farmer who was selling off pieces of his three-generation 300-acre farm. While most of the land went to developers, Priam said the farmer was delighted to learn she and Crump had plans to work the land and he sold the couple his last 50 acres.

Essentially, "it's a gravel pit with 300 years of cow pies on top of it," Priam said.

Since its purchase, the duo has had no trouble growing the 10 varieties of grapes on Priam Vineyards, to create 13 types of wines including: Westchester Red, Salmon River Red and White, Salmon River Red PV, St. Croix, Essence of St. Croix, Jeremy River White, Barrel Select Chardonnay, Cayuga, Blackledge White, Gewurztraminer, Riesling and Late Harvest Riesling.

Priam noted "our local-named wines are

huge sellers for us."

And Labor Day weekend brought in a number of locals to purchase and peruse the vineyard's offerings. In what could be considered controlled mayhem, tour groups and wine enthusiasts from across the state filtered in and out of the tasting room, over the holiday weekend. Perhaps it was Crump's Louisiana upbringing, but he noted calmly, Monday was just like any other day.

Priam, who works the inside of the winery and tasting room, called it "insanity."

While she handles the books and the retail, Crump is in charge of the outside, managing the vineyard and making the wine. They both harvest the grapes, along with volunteers, every year.

Priam, a former advertiser, said her current business is "fun, if you like working hard."

"To me it's invigorating," she said, adding, "It's a very romantic business."

Like Priam, Crump too was enamored with the vineyard's atmosphere. As he snaked in between the rows of leafy vines Monday, plucking and tasting ripe freckled Riesling and yellow Gewurztraminer grapes, Crump's love for his new business was evident.

Now, with the addition of the solar panel, it seems the duo has yet another reason to continue their dedication to creating wine and cultivating grapes at Priam Vineyards.

For more information about Priam Vineyards, call 860-267-8520.

Ella, whom Melissa was holding tightly against her chest, was unharmed.

Going downstairs, Melissa said, "was probably the only thing I didn't make a good choice on." Just as she arrived at the front door, emergency personnel were able to break open the back door and immediately tend to Melissa and Ella in the living room, before taking mother and daughter to Middlesex Hospital.

Melissa said her house is over 300 years old, and when she and Kenneth were moving in, she wondered how many people were born and died in the house over the years. By giving birth at home, even though it was unplanned, she joined in that long legacy.

"I'm part of the history of the house," she said, noting that she and Kenneth were married in the living room. "It's kind of interesting."

"I feel there were a lot of angels that surrounded us here," she said, explaining that many factors combined to keep her and Ella safe. The only reason she had the phone with her in the bathroom, she explained, was that she was expecting a call back from her mother-in-law about going to the hospital.

In addition, she said, a friend just happened to be in the neighborhood that day, and stopped by because she knew Melissa was scheduled to give birth the next day. Finding the commotion at the house, the friend looked after Emmaline, cleaned the bathroom and the stairs, and directed Kenneth to the hospital when he arrived

home.

"There's a reason things happen," Melissa said. "You don't think about those blessings."

Kenneth said that above all, he was grateful that Melissa and Ella were safe and healthy.

"My first reaction was that it's just a miracle," he said.

Kenneth said he was almost in a daze through the entire experience. Driving home from his office, he hit traffic several times, and said he was confused and worried when he arrived at home to find Melissa gone.

Arriving at the hospital and finding Melissa and Ella waiting for him, Kenneth said, "was so crazy."

"It was so unreal that it was already done," he said, noting that usually, giving birth takes hours, giving the parents time to think. "I was in a fog. It was like a total dream."

Ella, Kenneth said, is "perfect."

"She's so pretty," he said.

As she looked back at that day, Melissa said, the image she most vividly remembers was her healthy baby girl on the bathroom floor. Emmaline, who had been hiding while Melissa was in labor, returned to the bathroom to meet her new baby sister.

"She's beautiful!" Melissa said she remembered exclaiming when she first saw Ella.

"I'm pretty happy that I could do what I did," she said. "There was nothing to do but go with it."

From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

An episode of *That '70s Show* revolves around President Ford paying a visit to the fictional setting of that series, Point Place, WI. In one of the installment's sillier moments, Kitty Foreman runs around her house, straightening up, because, as she keeps repeating, "The president is coming!" She then wonders if she should make a pie.

Well, you don't have to make a pie, or even neaten up your living room, but the president is coming.

President Barack Obama will be in Stamford Sept. 16 to headline a fundraiser for U.S. Senate candidate Richard Blumenthal and the Democratic National Committee.

I shan't be attending, but I'm glad to see Obama making a return trip here (he also made an appearance in Stamford last October, to raise money for Chris Dodd). Unfortunately, though, it appears I may be part of a dwindling number of Nutmeggers who feel this way. The news site ctnewsjunkie.com, in its story about Obama's upcoming visit, reported on a July Quinnipiac University poll that showed Obama's approval rating in the state has dropped to 50 percent, down from 58 percent last November.

Blumenthal, not surprisingly, is also happy to see him come, saying in a statement released last Friday that he was "looking forward" to the visit.

"It is an honor to have his support and his assistance," Blumenthal said. "His visit will make a difference for us, energizing our supporters and helping us raise the resources we need against my opponent, who is spending an unprecedented \$50 million on her campaign."

And for Linda McMahon, there's more where that came from – thanks to a tiny little organization called World Wrestling Entertainment – so Blumie is probably looking for all the fundraising he can get.

This news is rather appalling: To mark the ninth anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, Rev. Terry Jones, pastor of the small Christian church Dove World Outreach Center in Gainesville, FL, is planning to host a public burning of copies of the Quran, the

sacred religious text of Islam. The pastor says the burning would "send a message to radical Islam that we will not tolerate their behavior."

But what kind of message would it send to the many, many Muslims who aren't extremists? Jones probably doesn't care; after all, his church's website displays a picture of a sign that reads "Islam is of the Devil" – and even sells T-shirts featuring the same repugnant slogan.

It's incredibly obvious that Saturday's planned Quran-burning – a blatant insult and attack on an entire group of people – is a very un-Christian act for the good reverend. It's also a rejection of the values this country was founded on (or I suppose Jones hasn't heard of freedom of religion?), and, well, it's just plain dangerous. In an e-mail to the Associated Press, Gen. David Petraeus said, "images of the burning of a Quran would undoubtedly be used by extremists in Afghanistan – and around the world – to inflame public opinion and incite violence."

I'm with the general on this one; basically, no good can come of this.

Fortunately, the majority of the country seems to be against Jones. As I write this Tuesday, the government is trying to talk the pastor out of the Quran-burning. The White House and the State Department have criticized the event, with Attorney General Eric Holder calling it "idiotic and dangerous."

Also, a group of religious leaders – including a Roman Catholic archbishop from Washington, rabbis from both conservative Judaism and reform Judaism and the head of the National Council of Churches – has released a statement saying they were "appalled by such disrespect for a sacred text" and that "to attack any religion in the United States is to do violence to the religious freedom of all Americans."

As of Tuesday, Jones plans on going ahead with the burning, although he said he would pray about his decision. Hopefully he does, and hopefully he'll come to realize what he's planned is an incredibly hateful, heinous act.

See you next week.

Colchester Resident Charged with Supplying Alcohol to Minors

by Katy Nally

A Colchester woman was arrested for supplying alcohol to minors, among other offenses, after a birthday party at her home sent one 13-year-old to the Marlborough Clinic for alcohol intoxication, police said.

According to an arrest warrant affidavit on file at Norwich Superior Court, Kimberly Anne Taylor, 43, of 9 Cobble Way, Apt. 4, was arrested Sunday, Aug. 29, in connection with a birthday party that was held July 29 for a 13-year-old turning 14.

Taylor was charged with six counts of delivery of alcohol to minors, 14 counts of risk of injury to a minor and one count of second-degree reckless endangerment, Colchester Police said.

After she was arrested, Taylor was fired from her position within the Colchester school system, Friday, Sept. 3, Superintendent of Schools Karen Loiselle said.

Taylor had worked as a part-time cafeteria worker since October 2009. On Aug. 29, she notified her district supervisor of her arrest and was immediately placed on administrative

leave, pending results of the investigation, Loiselle said.

According to the affidavit, there were 13 youths at Taylor's house during the evening of the July birthday party. Of the 13, 11 gave statements to police and eight claimed there was alcohol in Taylor's house. Six of the eight reported they were drinking alcohol. Three of them said they didn't see any alcohol and, of those three, two mentioned Taylor was not drunk during the event.

Excluding the birthday boy, there was one 11-year-old, one 13-year-old, eight 14-year-olds, one 15-year-old and one 16-year-old, at the time of the party, the affidavit said.

In addition to drinking alcohol, several of the kids said there was marijuana at the party and the birthday boy had an "elephant shaped smoking bowl" to smoke pot, the affidavit said.

The birthday boy told police Taylor had purchased a 30-pack of Bud Light, a bottle of Dubra Vodka and a bottle of E&J Brandy for his party. She also took him to buy the bowl he used to smoke marijuana, the affidavit said. The

now-14-year-old said he used \$55 of his birthday money to purchase pot from someone at Country Place Apartments.

Taylor denied she provided alcohol for the kids and said she didn't know if the youths had drunk that night. She said she didn't see anyone smoking cigarettes or marijuana, and she didn't buy a smoking bowl for the now-14-year-old, the affidavit said. Taylor said there may have been a "partial case of Bud Light cans" in the garage at the time of the party, and added she did not know "what the kids might have gotten into outside," the affidavit said.

Taylor said she had planned a sleepover for the kids with pizza, cake, chips and chicken nuggets, the affidavit said.

Several of the youths said there was also a beer pong table sent up inside Taylor's house and Taylor had seen the kids drinking, but did not attempt to stop them, the affidavit said.

One child said his mother came to pick up him and his brother from Taylor's house at about 8:15 p.m. on July 29. According to a statement

made by his mother, when she came to Taylor's house the 13-year-old was slurring his speech, unable to stand and had bloodshot eyes. The youth said he had been vomiting during the party.

The 13-year-old was taken to the Marlborough Clinic that night and, according to the affidavit, he tested positive for marijuana and his blood alcohol content was 0.097 at 11:30 p.m. the same night. (According to state law, if someone is under 21, they are considered legally intoxicated if their blood alcohol content is .02 or higher.)

Police said a Department of Children and Families social worker had been notified of the event through an anonymous report made to the department's hotline. The social worker later informed Colchester Police about the situation on Tuesday, Aug. 3.

Taylor was released on a \$5,000 bond and appeared in Norwich Superior Court Thursday, Sept. 9.

New Roof Coming for Portland Brownstone School

by Claire Michalewicz

The roof of Brownstone Intermediate School could be replaced as soon as next month, the Board of Education (BOE) said at its meeting Tuesday evening.

The BOE decided to schedule a facilities subcommittee meeting for next Tuesday, Sept. 14, to review the plans, so they could explain the project to the Board of Selectmen at their meeting next Wednesday.

If approved at the next BOE meeting, on Sept. 21, Director of Buildings and Grounds Paul Bengston said, the construction could be completed over the four-day Columbus Day weekend.

Bengston and Tom Robinson, the town's finance director, explained their plans to the BOE. Bengston said the portion of the roof erected in 1967, along the side and rear of the building, was soaked with water in over half of its surface. Bengston said he had several concerns about the roof, including the potential for leaks. BIS Principal Laurie Boske, Bengston said, recently told him that black "goo" was leaking from the roof into some of the fifth-grade classrooms.

In addition, Bengston said, the leaky roof could crack if it froze during the winter, and he was also concerned about its steel deck collapsing. A final concern, he added, was the risk of mold growing in the roof.

"So far we haven't had anything sprouting up there," Bengston said, but he said mold was a major concern.

Bengston and Robinson explained that they had looked into replacing the roof through a program from the Capitol Region Council of Governments, and had arranged a plan with a contractor who could complete the project for under \$100,000.

Robinson said the town had enough money to complete the project, including \$47,550 in the town's capital fund. The rest of the money could come from cost savings in the BOE budget.

If the construction took longer than the four-day weekend, Superintendent of Schools Sally Doyen said, the school district would have to look into moving students from the affected classrooms into another location, either in BIS or, if repairs took significantly longer than the

weekend, into another school.

"We're not at the level that we can't have kids in the classroom," said BOE Chairman Chris Phelps, though he added that the roof had been a longtime concern and he was glad it could be fixed soon.

Doyen explained that the schools were also facing another safety issue – when the schools conducted fire drills last week, the dispatch center in Middletown did not receive their alarm signals.

"There's nothing wrong on our end," Doyen said, explaining that the problem was with the dispatch center. First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield and school officials were scheduled to meet with Middletown Mayor Sebastian Giuliano next week to review the problem.

"It is a very serious issue," Doyen said, but explained that until the problem could be corrected, schools would make a follow-up phone call to the dispatch center if a fire alarm rang.

The BOE also discussed proposed changes to the Facilities Usage policy, which outlines how groups from outside the school district can

rent gyms, fields and other school facilities. The BOE has discussed changing the rental fees, and agreed to schedule a policy subcommittee meeting to draft a final proposal to bring to the full BOE at their next regular meeting.

In other facilities news, Carl Johnson, Grounds Crew Supervisor, noted that he was working to get the high school and middle school athletic fields into good condition, but that it was difficult this year because of the dry summer.

In other business at the meeting, the BOE reviewed the attendance records for the first few days of school, which Doyen noted were "phenomenal." In addition, she said, she had received very few phone calls from parents concerned about bus safety.

Doyen added that staffing at all the schools was complete, with a 4 World Cultures teacher recently hired at BIS.

The next regular BOE meeting will be held Tuesday, Sept. 21, at 7 p.m., in the high school library.

Portland Planning and Zoning Delays Action on IHZ Study

by Claire Michalewicz

At their meeting last Thursday, Sept. 2, several members of the Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) expressed skepticism about a possible Incentive Housing Zone in town.

Ultimately, while commissioners discussed the results of the Incentive Housing Zone (IHZ) study conducted over the summer, they opted to delay any action on the report until a meeting in October, when all PZC members would be present. (Absent were commission chair Bette Jenak and Alan Kenney.)

The IHZs create mixed-use residential and commercial zones, and some of the housing units in the areas would have to be deed-restricted as "affordable housing," for people under a certain income level. For each affordable unit designated in an Incentive Housing Zone, and for each building permit issued for an affordable unit, the town receives a payment from the state Office of Policy and Management.

Planning professional Karen Cullen has described IHZs as "build-your-own-zoning." Using grant money, Cullen, who works for the Boston firm Concord Square Development, studied five sites over the summer to determine how suitable they were for an IHZ. The five

sites were a vacant office building at the corner of Main Street and Victoria Road, Brownstone Intermediate School and the lot behind it, an industrial area off Commerce Street, several commercial lots on Marlborough Street, and a parking lot at the corner of Freestone and High streets.

Of all the sites studied, Cullen said, the two most practical options would be to turn the office building on Main Street into multifamily housing, and build townhouses in the lot next to it, or to convert Brownstone School into 40 housing units and to build townhouses in the lot behind it.

Cullen said that while Portland's IHZs were not yet ready to be developed, there are developers interested in IHZs in other nearby towns. She also pointed out that her study ideas were just preliminary, and that another planner might be able to create different designs.

"I'm not a big fan of the concept, so it seems like jumping ahead a little too much," said PZC Vice Chairman Mike Woronoff. "I don't see the need to proactively create these zones."

PZC member Bruce Tyler said that since the new developments would not bring the total

percentage of deed-restricted housing units in Portland to 10 percent, a developer could still come in and override the town's zoning regulations to build affordable housing.

Currently, Planning and Land Use Administrator Deanna Rhodes said, the town's percentage of affordable units is at about 8 percent, though Cullen said that figure would likely change when the results of the 2010 census were published.

Cullen explained that the deed-restricted units were not targeted at low-income families, but rather at young professionals who had trouble affording homes at the market rate.

"If these people cannot afford to live in your state, you're in trouble," she said.

Tyler suggested the town be more proactive in planning housing developments.

"Either you're in control of your destiny or you're not," Tyler said. "We ought to be planning. To wait for some developer to come in – or not – is to be passive."

To do this, Tyler suggested the town plan further ahead to bring the total of deed-restricted units to 10 percent, to prevent a developer from

coming in with a project that didn't fit with the town's character.

PZC member Carl Fitzgibbons said he had heard nothing from the public about the IHZs, either in favor or in opposition to the plans. Fitzgibbons suggested opening the meeting up to public discussion, explaining that he did not feel comfortable planning for new developments without hearing how residents felt.

One resident in attendance, Kitch Breen Czernicki, said she was concerned about bringing higher-density housing into Portland, especially building on Victoria Road, an area with many historical homes.

While building IHZs might benefit developers, Breen Czernicki said, it may not benefit current residents, who would have to deal with crowding and potential safety risks in fire coverage.

"It's a little scary," she said. "To me, it's a little frightening."

The next PZC meeting will be held Thursday, Sept. 16, at 7 p.m., at Portland Library, 20 Freestone Ave. The IHZ study will be discussed at the PZC's Oct. 7 meeting.

Updated Signs Welcome People to East Hampton

by Claire Michalewicz

Drivers entering East Hampton this week may have noticed something different – the town's welcome signs, featuring the logos of various local civic groups, were replaced last weekend.

The new signs greet visitors entering East Hampton on Route 66 from Marlborough and Portland, and on Route 16 from Colchester.

The signs were sponsored by the Chatham Alliance of Resources (CARE), an umbrella organization that unites many of East Hampton's civic organizations to work for common goals.

Barbara Moore, chairwoman of the Democratic Town Committee and member of the Town Council, and her husband, Ray, founded CARE in 1994. Barbara Moore said the group would give the town's many civic groups a common way to raise money.

CARE sponsored the town's previous welcome signs, which were erected in 1998, but, Moore explained, the town needed new ones. Not only were the old ones starting to become worn, she said, but they included some organizations, such as the Junior Women's Club, which no longer existed. More said the new signs, constructed by Home Team Supply in Middletown, were designed to "last forever."

"They are important to us as we enter East Hampton so we are reminded of these civic groups who do so much for the community," Moore said.

The three signs cost a total of \$2,700. All the clubs and groups involved in CARE – the Rotary Club, Anchor Lodge, East Hampton Lions Club, Village Lions Club, VFW, American Legion, Knights of Columbus and East Hampton Antique Car Club – contributed a

portion of the money for the project.

Putting the clubs' logos on the signs, said CARE member Peter Zawisza, was a way to show people in the community what's happening.

"It's a good sounding board," he said.

Zawisza explained that most of the time, each group in town focused their efforts in a slightly different direction.

"It's stuff we all do in our own ways," Zawisza said. With CARE, he said, the groups were able to pool their resources for common goals.

Larry Emmons, who's involved with CARE through several clubs, including the East Hampton Lions and the Anchor Lodge, said CARE is important because it brings together people from throughout the town, who might not otherwise have a chance to work in one group.

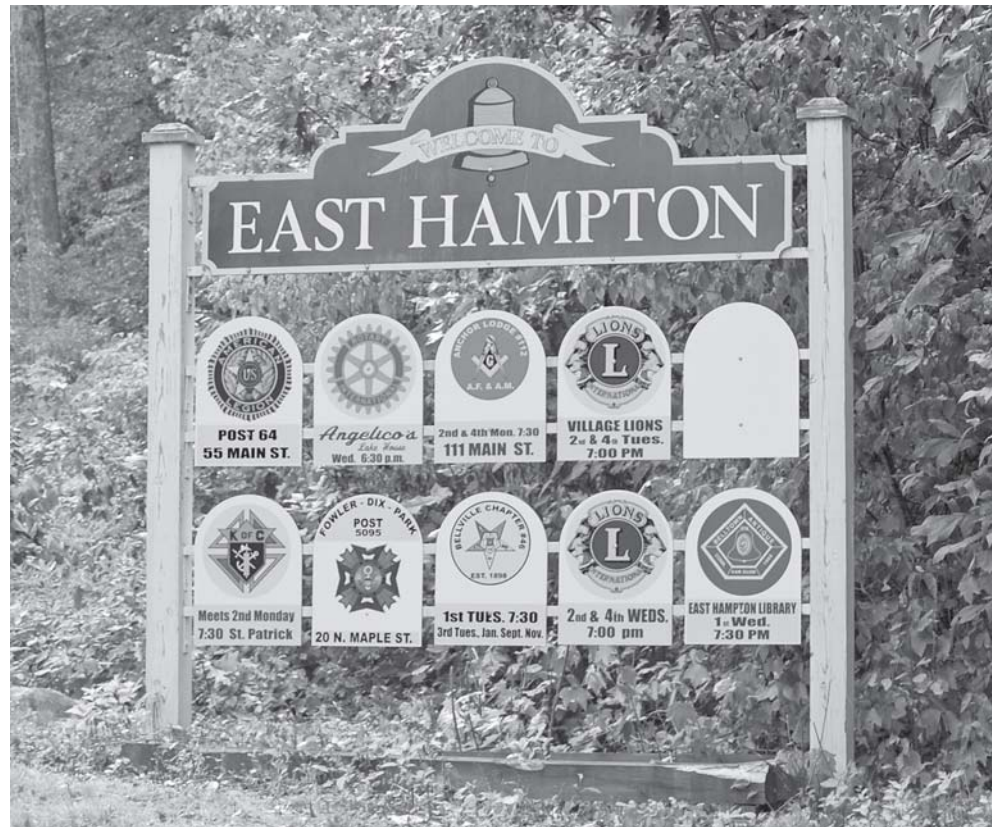
"We do everything for nothing," he said. "It's all volunteers."

The signs, he said, would let people know what organizations were available for them in the town.

"They'll last for a long time," he said.

One of CARE's other past projects was the construction of a park at the Comstock covered bridge in 1996. The bridge, Moore noted, is currently being restored by the Department of Transportation. Construction started last week, Moore said, with workers dismantling the bridge, putting the pieces in the nearby parking lot and rebuilding it to be structurally stronger.

Moore said she wasn't sure what CARE would be doing next, but said the group would look for more projects to benefit the East Hampton community.



Drivers entering East Hampton from routes 66 and 16 will now be welcomed with updated signs that feature logos of local civic organizations. The signs were sponsored by the Chatham Alliance of Resources.

'Management-Level' Employee Leaving East Hampton?

by Claire Michalewicz

The Town Council met Wednesday morning to discuss putting together a separation agreement for what they described as "a management-level town employee," though they did not identify the employee.

The council discussed the separation in an executive session that lasted about 25 minutes. Afterward, they voted to hire Mark Sommaruga, the town's labor attorney, to draft the agreement.

This summer, Sommaruga represented the town in laid-off Police Chief Matt Reimondo's hearing – which was adjourned in July but scheduled to resume this month. Sommaruga also drafted three versions of the ordinance which establishes the town's police department, to remove all references to the chief of police.

Town Council Chairwoman Melissa Engel explained that the employee came forward this past weekend with a request for a separation agreement, and said she was surprised by the employee's request.

Engel said she didn't expect the agreement to take longer than a week to draft.

"It's not fair to keep the employee waiting," she said.

After the meeting, Engel confirmed that at a recent Republican Town Committee meeting, she told members that Town Manager Jeffery O'Keefe was seeking employment elsewhere. O'Keefe did not attend Wednesday's meeting, and Engel explained that he was dropping his daughter off at the airport.

Engel said she could not release the employee's identity until the separation agreement was finalized.

A special Town Council meeting is scheduled for today at 11 a.m. at Town Hall to vote to approve the separation package as well as an "interim replacement for a management-level employee."

Sue Weintraub, the lone council member to publicly object to the June layoff of Reimondo,

was also the only member to vote against retaining Sommaruga to work out a severance package. (All other members, including Bill Devine, attending his first meeting in months, voted in favor of hiring him.)

"I'm not convinced Attorney Sommaruga would be the best attorney to retain in this situation," Weintraub said. "I believe he has been representing the other Town Council members' interests."

Before the executive session, Weintraub asked Engel and Council Vice Chairman John Tuttle to recuse themselves from the discussion, as they had both been named in Reimondo's civil lawsuit against the town. Engel and Tuttle both declined, explaining that they had discussed the matter with Town Attorney Jean D'Aquila, who did not see a conflict of interest.

"The perception of the community is certainly quite different," Weintraub responded. Throughout the public portions of Wednesday's meeting, the 50 residents who crowded into the Town Hall meeting room repeatedly cheered for Weintraub.

After the meeting, Weintraub also said she could not comment on who the employee who requested a separation is, but said she "can only hope" that the separation would change Reimondo's status with the town. She also said she was not surprised that the employee had come forward.

In another agenda item, the council was set to hire attorney John Bennet, from the firm of Gould, Larson, Bennet, Wells and McDonnell in Essex, to review the language for Town Ordinance 109, which outlines the structure of the police department and duties of the Chief of Police. The Town Council has already reviewed several drafts of the revised ordinance, which remove the chief's position and transfer their duties to a lieutenant – currently, Acting Lieu-

tenant Michael Green. At an Aug. 16 meeting, the council reviewed a version of the ordinance that Sommaruga drafted, but voted to delay action for 30 days.

Engel said she had e-mailed the other council members about hiring Bennet, and that, as far as she knew, none of them had any objections to him.

"Sue, you probably did, but I don't know about it," Engel said. She said she had checked Bennet's history for potential conflicts of interest, but had not found any.

"I'm aware, Mary Ann, that you've filed an FOI complaint, yet again, about this meeting," Engel also said, a reference to a complaint that resident Mary Ann Dostaler filed to the Freedom of Information Commission on Aug. 30, alleging that the council illegally conducted a meeting via e-mails.

Weintraub did raise objections to hiring Bennet, saying that in 2004, Bennet had represented a resident who sued the Town Council about road boundaries. Furthermore, she said, Bennet had worked at the same law firm as Engel's boss' son-in-law, when Engel was a reporter at the *Pictorial* newspaper in Old Saybrook in the 1970s and 1980s.

Engel said she was not aware of the connection between her former employer and Bennet.

Council member Thom Cordeiro, joining the meeting via speakerphone, said that if there was even "one iota" of evidence of a conflict of interest, he did not want to hire Bennet. Cordeiro's comments drew cheers and applause from the audience.

The other Town Council members agreed, and the council voted unanimously to have D'Aquila look for another attorney who had no other connection to the town.

Engel did warn that finding another attorney might be difficult.

"Jean D'Aquila had a lot of trouble finding any attorney who was willing to do any work in East Hampton," she said.

If hired, Bennet (or another attorney) will be the fifth lawyer working for the town in the ongoing controversy involving O'Keefe and Reimondo, joining D'Aquila, Sommaruga, Glenn Coe, who is investigating a complaint filed by police Sergeant Garritt Kelly, and Nicholas Grello, who is moderating the hearing into Reimondo's removal.

"I'm still questioning why we're continuing this charade at great expense to the citizens," Weintraub said.

"Sue, this isn't a grandstanding opportunity for you," Engel retorted.

Weintraub responded that she wanted Reimondo reinstated, since "due process was not followed" when he was laid off.

"It went as I thought it would go," Weintraub said of the meeting. "But I'm not happy with the results. I'm concerned with the attorney (Sommaruga) they've selected."

"We need more transparency," she added. "The residents' trust for this council couldn't be any lower."

Engel said it had been a difficult summer for the council, adding that council members were having trouble balancing the desires of town residents.

"You try to do what everybody wants," she said. "You try to hear everybody."

The next Town Council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 15, at 6:30 p.m. in the high school auditorium. This is a special meeting for the purpose of reviewing proposed language for the police department ordinance, and no public comment will be allowed. The next regular Town Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 28 at 6:30 p.m. at Town Hall.

Holiday Weekend Leads to Several DUI Arrests

by Katy Nally

Last week's three-day holiday weekend saw its fair share of alcohol-related arrests, as state troopers and police officers patrolled the roadways.

According to Lieutenant J. Paul Vance of the Connecticut Department of Public Safety, State Police "experienced heavier than normal weekend traffic" from Friday, Sept. 3, through Monday, Sept. 6. Statewide, there were 72 arrests made for driving while under the influence.

This number is up slightly from last year's Labor Day, when state police made 67 arrests for driving while under the influence, according to Vance.

This year, in the towns that the *Rivereast* covers, police made 11 arrests for driving under the influence (DUI) or driving while intoxicated (DWI) from Friday to Monday. Colchester had the most arrests at seven, all made by State Police at Troop K.

Those arrested in Colchester include: Donna

Lombardi, 46, of 17 Lebanon Ave., Lebanon, who was arrested Friday, Sept. 3 for DUI and reckless driving; Gloria Kazibwe, 18, of 63 Alexander Dr., Colchester, who was arrested Saturday, Sept. 4 for DWI; Todd Russell, 47, of 36 Viola Dr., East Hampton, who was arrested Saturday, Sept. 4 for DUI and failure to drive in proper lane; Shaun Ratliff, 19, of 17 Mallard Pt., Griswold, who was arrested Saturday, Sept. 4 for DUI; Jahmar Williams, 21, of 266 Main St., Windsor Locks, who was arrested Monday, Sept. 6, for DUI, operating a motor vehicle when license is suspended or refused and speeding; Bashin Muhammad, 29, of 89 Debi Cir., Colchester, who was arrested Monday, Sept. 6 for DUI and failure to maintain lane; and Anthony Ziccardi, 22, of 111 West Rd., Colchester, who was arrested Monday, Sept. 6, for DWI, traveling too fast for conditions and failure to renew his license.

East Hampton came in second for the num-

ber of DUI arrests. East Hampton Police reported arresting two people, one on Saturday, Sept. 4 and another on Sunday, Sept. 5. As of press time, those individuals' names had not been released by the police department.

Hebron and Marlborough each saw one DUI arrest. In Hebron, it was Dustin Edson, 21, of 197 Wall St., Hebron who was arrested Friday, Sept. 3 for DUI, evading: physical injury or property damage and traveling unreasonably fast for conditions.

In Marlborough Kenneth Romanchuck, 29, of 69 Portland Rd., Marlborough, was arrested Sunday, Sept. 5, for DUI and traveling unreasonably fast for conditions.

State Police did not make any arrests for DUI or DWI in Andover, Salem or Portland during the Labor Day weekend. The Portland Police Department also made no arrests for DUI or DWI over the holiday weekend.

Besides alcohol-related arrests, State Police also issued 1,940 speeding tickets and recorded 283 seatbelt violations, according to Vance.

Last year State Police issued 1,635 speeding tickets and recorded 351 seatbelt violations, Vance said.

This year was worse for accidents overall and those that caused injury, Vance said.

In total, there were 265 accidents over this Labor Day weekend and 220 in 2009. This year's included 53 accidents that resulted in injuries and last year that number was 35.

There were two fatal accidents over last weekend and in 2009, there was one fatality.

To prepare for the last weekend's volume of traffic, Vance said, State Police "utilized aircraft, unmarked patrol vehicles, and additional manpower to increase the public safety to the highways and secondary roads."

H

Selectmen Take Step Toward Revaluation

by Lindsay Fetzner

It's getting to be that time again – time for the town to undergo a revaluation. And last Thursday, Sept. 2, the Board of Selectmen took a big step to prepare for that, awarding a contract to a Rhode Island-based company to perform the project.

Every five years, the town must complete a full revaluation; next year marks the fifth year for Hebron. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said the complete revaluation would be in effect for the Oct. 1, 2011, Grand List and would be reflected in the July 2012 tax bill.

Appraisal Resource Revaluation Group, LLC of Warwick, RI, was given the award, at a cost not to exceed \$176,400.

Town Assessor Robert Musson said the revaluation was initially estimated to cost \$250,000. He said the bidding was "much more aggressive this time," and there were several bids that the town received.

Although the bid is \$176,400, Musson said there is an additional \$34,000 that must be funded due to additional expenditures. Because of a change in revaluation vendors, Musson said some programs being used have to be updated, in addition to the expense of legal fees for any

appeals.

Therrien said there were a total of five responses to the request for proposal; however, one company did not meet the bid requirements.

Richard Nagle, owner of Appraisal Resource Revaluation Group, LLC, was present at the meeting and provided a brief overview of the revaluation process, adding that "communication to taxpayers" is "very important."

Nagle said as the process gets underway, a mailing will be sent to homes in town with an overview of the process. With the full physical revaluation, Nagle said all properties in town will be inspected, including a brief interior and exterior inspection by data collectors. The information gathered by the data collectors is then brought back to internal appraisers within the company. Sales over the past year or two are then looked at and analyzed to set a tentative value for the property, Nagle said.

Utilizing its software, and the assessor's office "all along the way," Nagle said the company will again go back into the field with an appraiser and field manager and do a field review. Nagle said values will be checked against what was seen in the field, and a new assess-

ment notice will be sent to the taxpayers.

Musson said it is important that all along the way, the public is kept informed and that the revaluation is "an open process." He also noted that the taxpayers "need to know that the values we are producing are accurate."

Therrien said with the award of the bid, the company will begin training staff on the software that will be used, start public relations sessions with residents and businesses, and begin visiting homes and businesses in the month of October.

* * *

In other news, the BOS also approved the move of Parks and Recreation offices to Burnt Hill Park. Due to the limited space in the Town Office Building and overcrowding, along with a host of other things, the move would prove to be better for both communication and coordination with the staff.

The cost for the move is estimated at \$33,000, which would come from the Fund 4 account (recreation programs fund). The Parks and Recreation Department approved the consolidation of the department and move to Burnt

Hill Park at its Aug. 24 commission meeting.

According to a memorandum from Parks and Recreation Director Rich Calarco to Therrien, the timetable slated the move and completion of work for the month of January 2011, once approval has been given, permits have been attained and construction is completed.

Therrien said if the Parks and Recreation were to move into Burnt Hill Park, there would be some shifts in the Town Office Building that would free up some space for storage.

With the move, the finance department would shift into the Parks and Recreation space, and also take up parts of the probate court area. The current finance director's office would then become a meeting room, the registrars would move into the finance department staff office and the building maintenance office would move into the registrar's office. With that move, the building maintenance office would become a "much-needed" storage area for all of the town offices, Therrien said.

* * *

The next meeting of the BOS is on Sept. 16 at 7:30 p.m.

Portland Selectmen Give Go-Ahead to Construction Projects

by Claire Michalewicz

At its meeting last Wednesday, Sept. 1, the Board of Selectmen (BOS) approved three major construction projects – the Main Street Streetscape, the construction of new water tanks, and improvements to the library entrance.

The streetscape project will improve the part of Main Street between the Arrigoni Bridge and the intersection with Marlborough Street. The changes, First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield said, include new benches, trash cans and sidewalks, along with new trees and a sculpture to greet people as they arrive in Portland. The project is due to begin within the next few weeks, according to Public Works Director Rick Kelsey.

The BOS awarded the \$585,000 construction contract to Cisco, LLC from New Haven. The project will be funded by a Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grant and another grant from the Federal Surface Transportation Grant.

"This is a project that started a long time ago," said Bransfield.

"It's going to be an inconvenience for drivers and pedestrians," she added, but she said the area would be greatly improved afterward.

The second contract awarded was to Natgun Corporation of Wakefield, MA, for the construction of new water tanks on the high school grounds on High Street and at the Portland Reservoir. The \$865,000 project will be funded by a Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan. The work should begin within a month, Kelsey said.

The selectmen also voted to approve renovations to the library's exterior, including new sidewalks and trees around the building entrance. Faraci Concrete of Portland is carrying out the \$52,100 project, which began last Friday, Kelsey said. It is funded by the town's Capital Improvement Fund.

The next BOS meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 15, at 7:30 p.m., at Portland Library, 20 Freestone Ave.

Candidates for State Office Meet With Hebron Seniors

by Lindsay Fetzner

Before a packed house with standing room only, 26 candidates for the Nov. 2 election were welcomed at the Russell Mercier Senior Center on Tuesday afternoon for a "meet and greet" with members of the community.

Senior Services Coordinator Sharon Garrard and Town Manager Bonnie Therrien addressed the crowd at the start of the event, before the candidates addressed the audience, and thanked the candidates for coming to town.

"We are just so thrilled to have all of you here," Therrien said. "We need all of your assistance to get through the times we are all facing. ... Without all of you running, we wouldn't have choices."

Among the visitors to the center were candidates for attorney general, comptroller, governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, treasurer, U.S. Senate, U.S. House of Representatives, state House of Representatives, state senate and judge of probate.

Before the event began, Joe Courtney, Democratic candidate for U.S. House of Representatives, shared his appreciation for Garrard and her efforts to put on the event and invite the candidates.

Courtney said that events such as those at senior centers, which he has attended in the past, are one of the ways of "opening doors to democracy."

Jerry Farrell Jr., Republican candidate for secretary of state referred to the event as "a good place to be."

Anywhere that voters can be found that are willing to hear the candidates out, he said, is "always a positive thing."

"The people all came in with the intention in mind of finding out more," Farrell said.

Each candidate in attendance was invited to the podium to give a short overview of his or her candidacy. A short question-and-answer session was also held at the culmination of the event, where residents from area communities could voice issues or questions they had, and direct them at individual candidates if they chose.

For many candidates, the present state of the economy, loss of jobs and decreased spending were the issues they addressed.

"We are facing a fiscal catastrophe," said Chris Coutu, Republican candidate for the 47th District state House of Representatives. He added that a myriad of taxes are constantly being raised, including business, death and cigarette taxes, to name a few.

"What will you be expecting next year?" he asked the audience. "It's almost a guarantee you will get a tax increase."

Pam Sawyer, Republican candidate for the 55th District state House of Representatives, addressed jobs, "the need to conserve our dol-

lars," and looking at agency consolidations.

For Denise Merrill, Democratic candidate for secretary of state, working together and civility were two messages she said are part of her campaign.

"I am campaigning on a message of positive," she said.

In addition to streamlining government and making it easier to vote, Merrill said she also wants to "make the small business function 'come alive.'"

Candidates for governor addressed the individual aspects of their own campaigns, and the affect they would have on jobs and the budget, among other aspects of the state.

Putting together a plan, Republican candidate for governor Tom Foley said, is one aspect that sets him apart.

"We have operated for far too long without a plan in this state," he said.

Among the aspects of Foley's plan are bringing back jobs and the economy, reducing the tax burden on working families and reducing the cost and size of state government.

Foley also addressed the need to reduce spending, to stop borrowing and "hold the line on taxes."

Democratic candidate Dan Malloy, who spoke after Foley, said, "It is time to put the partisan politics aside and do the right thing."

Malloy went on to discuss the need to balance the budget, to put in structural and systemic change, and to "tell the truth about where we are in our budget." Malloy also highlighted the need to begin growing jobs and to address the issue that "we have the most rapidly aging work force in America."

"If you believe that Connecticut's best days could be ahead of it as opposed to behind it, then you're looking at the kind of change that we need to invest [in]," Malloy said.

And for Republican U.S. Senate candidate Linda McMahan, it is experience that she said sets her apart.

What gives her a "different perspective," she said, is her business experience. People are not looking for more politicians, she said, but people with "real-life business experiences."

McMahan was the chief executive officer of World Wrestling Entertainment until last year, when she stepped down to run for U.S. Senate. The company, she said, went from a "mom and pop" business to one that is publicly traded and listed on the New York Stock Exchange.

"I felt compelled to see if I could make a difference," she said, and was one of the main reasons she decided to run in the race.

McMahan's opponent, state Attorney General Richard Blumenthal, told the crowd the corporate bailouts are "a sign of how broken Washington is." He also said he wanted to "fight for small businesses," and stressed that he



Citizens met with, and heard from, 26 candidates for state and US office at the senior center Tuesday. Above, Democratic candidate for governor Dan Malloy addresses the audience while his Republican opponent, Tom Foley, looks on.

reaches "across party lines." If elected, he said, he would be "putting Connecticut first always."

After the event came to a close, Jeanne Webb, Democratic candidate for the 55th District state House of Representatives, said she thought the event was "fabulous."

"It's great to listen to everybody's views and make the distinction between the candidates," she said, adding that it is "wonderful to see such a great turnout."

Garrard, too, was pleased with the way the event went and added, "Overall, I am just thrilled with the attendance."

For Hebron Republican Town Committee Chairwoman Donna McCalla, this event was the result of over a month of hard work, including daily telephone calls and e-mails to the candidates, as well as area media outlets to get the word out. McCalla said overall, there was "a lot of support for the event."

"People want to know and meet the candidates," McCalla said, adding that seeing them in person adds "that personal touch people want."

* * *

The candidates in attendance included: state House of Representative candidates Chris

Coutu (R-47th District); Pam Sawyer (R-55th District); Jeanne Webb (D-55th District); state Senate candidates Edith Prague (D-19th District) and Sean Sullivan (R-19th District); state comptroller candidates Kevin Lembo, Democrat, and Jack Orchulli, Republican; state treasurer candidates Denise Nappier, Democrat, and Jeff Wright, Republican; secretary of state candidates Jerry Farrell Jr., Republican, and Denise Merrill, Democrat; Nancy Wyman, Democratic candidate for lieutenant governor; candidates for governor Tom Foley, Republican, Dan Malloy, Democrat, and Thomas Marsh, Independent; candidates for attorney general Stephen Fournier, Independent, and George Jepsen, Democrat; U.S. House of Representatives candidates Joe Courtney, Democrat, Janet Peckinpaugh, Republican, G. Scott Deshefy, Green Party, and Dan Reale, Libertarian; U.S. Senate candidates Richard Blumenthal, Democrat, Linda McMahan, Republican, John Mertens, Connecticut for Lieberman candidate, and Warren Mosler, Independent; and Peter Alter, Democratic candidate for judge of probate for the new Glastonbury-Hebron probate district, who is running unopposed.

Colchester Police News

8/31: Nicole Violette, 30, of 70 Columbus St., Apt. B1, East Hartford, was charged with criminal violation of a protective order, State Police said.

9/7: Briana Clark, 33, of 40 Olcott St., Apt. 330, Manchester, was charged with DWI and failure to drive right, State Police said.

Hebron Police News

9/2: Stephanie Bialkowski, 30, of 42 Marybell Dr., Storrs, was charged with first-degree criminal trespass, State Police said.

9/6: Benjamin Shvonski, 20, of 411 High St., Coventry, was charged with possession of less than four ounces of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia and stop sign violation, State Police said.

Marlborough Police News

9/3: Troop K is investigating a residential burglary that occurred on West Road, State Police said. Any witnesses are asked to contact Troop K in Colchester at 860-537-7500.

Hebron Residents Arrested on Forgery Charges

by Lindsay Fetzner

Two people were arrested on Aug. 24 and face forgery charges in connection with a complaint reported to State Police from the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), State Police said, for incidents that date back to 2006.

Thea Radke, 52, of 560 Route 6, Andover, was charged with two counts of second-degree forgery and two counts of conspiracy to commit second-degree forgery, according to the state judicial website.

Michele Savalle, 40, of 24 Crouch Rd., Hebron, was charged with two counts of accessory to commit second-degree forgery and one count of conspiracy to commit second-degree forgery, according to the state judicial website.

Savalle is co-owner of Affordable CDL, a commercial truck driving training school in Colchester, and Radke is a former DMV employee, according to an affidavit on file at the Norwich Superior Court. Radke stopped working at the DMV in December 2006, and retired in September 2007 according to her time sheets, the affidavit states. (An Affordable CDL employee said Thursday that Savalle is no longer the business' co-owner.)

On Nov. 5, 2009, State Police were assigned to investigate a complaint regarding "possible ongoing illegal activities" of Savalle. The complaint alleged that Savalle, in addition to current and retired Connecticut state motor vehicle inspectors, were "acting cooperatively in fraudulently falsifying CDL licenses applications," the affidavit states.

In addition, the affidavit states that the com-

plaint alleged that they were falsifying commercial driver's license (CDL) testing procedures and awarding licenses to "unqualified applicants" through the Affordable CDL training school for "monetary gains" to Savalle and the inspectors.

In an interview with Thomas Moysey, owner of A.B.CDL Driving Training Center, a competitor of Affordable CDL, it was reported that in addition to Savalle, the inspector "acting fraudulently in the issuing of CDL licenses" was Radke, the affidavit states.

According to the affidavit, while speaking with DMV officials regarding Moysey's complaint, State Police learned that in March 2009, Moysey made a complaint to the DMV regarding Savalle's school and "alleged corruption" within the DMV. A DMV lieutenant conducted the investigations into Moysey's allegations that Savalle was "operating her school illegally and working in collusion with DMV inspectors to pass CDL applicants in return for compensation," the affidavit states.

In a written statement, Moysey said he believed that two people received passing grades on the General Driving Behaviors portion of the CDL exam, and were not required by the DMV inspectors to "demonstrate the ability to drive a commercial vehicle," according to the affidavit.

The affidavit states that more than once, throughout 2009, surveillance was taken by a DMV lieutenant of Savalle conducting training and of an inspector conducting training where Savalle was, but no "wrongdoing" or

"improper activity" was reported. A former student of Savalle's was also spoken to, but there were "no complaints" by the Baltic resident.

Then, on Nov. 17, 2009, Savalle and a member of the State Police met at Troop K in Colchester, where she alleged that Moysey, a DMV lieutenant and an associate of Moysey, Paul Brennan, were "conspiring to keep her from being approved to teach private pay clients." During the interview, she said she now only trains people who own a company and need a CDL, or people who are sent by a company to her for training, the affidavit states.

During the interview, Savalle did not admit to working with DMV inspectors to pass "unqualified candidates" or to falsifying the CDL applications, the affidavit states.

The affidavit lists accounts of multiple people who on different occasions received training from Savalle and allegedly received either inadequate training and/or were not required to take the "over the road" portion of the test.

According to an employee of Pepsi Bottling Corp. who met with State Police on Nov. 23, 2009, not one candidate in a group of about 10 people was required to perform the "over the road" portion of the test when he went to Savalle for training in May 2006.

The employee also noted that in addition to the testing taking no more than two hours, both Savalle and the DMV inspector explained to people why there were different dates on the test paperwork. The employee said he heard them say "there were too many people for one

group and that may cause suspicion," the affidavit states.

Another person who received training from Savalle met with State Police at Troop E on Nov. 18, 2009. As part of the training with Savalle, when they tested with DMV for a Class A license, it was stated that they were not required to take the "over the road" portion of the test. The affidavit states that he said "the inspector spent most of her time smoking cigarettes and talking with Savalle." Additionally, according to the affidavit, the person said that while taking the 'static' test, the "female DMV Inspector never really paid any attention to him or the process."

Subsequently, when several license applications were later reviewed, they were found to be fraudulent, including the two persons named above who received training from Savalle. Although the applications said they demonstrated the proper skills, the licensees admitted that they either did not demonstrate those skills or did not drive a portion of the test, the affidavit states.

The accused were taken into custody "without incident" by State Police Detectives and then taken to Troop E, based in Montville, according to the State Police press release.

Savalle and Radke were each released on a \$5,000 bond. According to the state judicial website, Savalle is next scheduled to appear at the Norwich Superior Court on Oct. 5 and Radke is next scheduled to appear at the same court on Sept. 17.

Marlborough Tax Relief, Sewer Referendum, Topics for BOF

by Katy Nally

Finance board members reviewed a proposed ordinance that would provide property tax relief to seniors and disabled residents, and then discussed the proposed sewer referendum question, at their Wednesday, Sept. 8 meeting.

Although the Board of Finance (BOF) took no action on approving the sewer referendum question, the board has until Friday, Sept. 24 to publish a notice of a public hearing. However, to make the deadline of the *RiverEast*, the BOF would need to agree on publishing the notice by Tuesday, Sept. 21.

The public hearing would allow residents to ask questions and give comments about the project, but not vote on the proposal.

Before discussing the sewer, the BOF heard from a financial review committee made up of citizens, who reviewed the original tax relief ordinance that was proposed by the Board of Selectmen (BOS).

Based on state statute 12-129n(b), the committee was charged with looking at the "fiscal effect" of this property tax relief on the town's tax revenue, and make recommendations for the program.

The committee presented two alternatives to the BOF, a pool program and a deferral program.

The pool option has the same eligibility requirements as the state's program for elderly and disabled tax relief, which is known as the Circuit Breaker Program. There are already 26 households in Marlborough in the program.

The pool alternative requires a three-year residency in town, has an \$800 cap per house-

hold and the cost to the town is capped at \$20,800 for the first year. The committee estimated all 26 eligible households would apply for this option, if approved.

However, the amount of tax relief per household could potentially decrease if more residents became eligible for the Circuit Breaker Program and the pool remained at \$20,800.

The deferral program would allow for elderly or disabled residents to defer up to 75 percent of taxes – the applicant decides the amount. Like the pool option, the deferral program also requires a three-year residency. But, with the deferral, a lien with 5 percent interest would be placed on the property and the cost to the town is capped at \$15,000 for the first year. The committee estimated five Marlborough households would apply for the deferral program, if approved.

According to the committee, the deferral option would be "more substantial help" than the pool program, because the property tax relief could amount to around \$3,000, instead of \$800. This alternative also has a lower cost to the town, because it would recoup its costs through the lien and interest collected.

Several finance board members said they liked how the deferral alternative provided greater support for residents who are struggling financially.

"My preference is helping the ones who have the most need," BOF Chair Cathi Gaudinski said.

Although BOF member Beth Petroni agreed

with Gaudinski, she noted, "My personal opinion is the timing couldn't be worse [for a tax relief ordinance]."

Ultimately, the BOF decided to discuss the tax relief options further and put it on an agenda for a future meeting. Selectmen would approve the ordinance once it is finalized.

The BOF then switched over to discussing the sewer referendum question. At a special BOS meeting on Aug. 31, the BOS unanimously approved a resolution that would appropriate \$2.9 million for "phase 2" of the sewer project if voters support it at a referendum.

There was some confusion Wednesday night over what a "deviation" is and whether or not the state's Clean Water Fund would be secured for a portion of the project. BOF member Cliff Denniss explained a deviation is a promise.

To complete the original sewer proposal from 2002, the town estimated it would need more than the \$12.02 million that was approved by voters through a referendum. Selectmen have said the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), which manages the Clean Water Fund, would allow construction to continue based on a deviation, because installing the sewers around the lake was part of the original proposal.

But, with a new administration to take over the state in 2011, some are apprehensive to continue a project based on a deviation. However, First Selectman Bill Black has said he was not aware of an instance when the DEP granted a

deviation and did not provide funding later on.

Denniss and BOF member Dick Shea had attended several Water Pollution Control Authority meetings and gave some background information to the BOF. However, Shea said he was "not comfortable" with going ahead on a deviation.

"I think it'd be irresponsible to pass this tonight," Shea added.

"I have absolutely no confidence that we'll see any Clean Water Funds for at least the next few years," Petroni said.

Several board members said having a representative from the WPCA or the BOS would have been helpful to answer questions. But, since there were many questions raised and left unanswered, the BOF decided to possibly hold a special meeting with selectmen next Tuesday, Sept. 14.

The BOF is charged with conducting the public hearing, to be held Wednesday, Sept. 29. After that it must file a recommendation by Monday, Oct. 4 if the project is to move to a town meeting and then to a referendum.

As the BOF is feeling the crunch to take action on the referendum question, Gaudinski said, "I'm having a difficult time saying 'yes' because we have to, without doing some due diligence."

The next regularly-scheduled BOF meeting will be held Wednesday, Oct. 13, 7 p.m., at Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall Elementary School, 25 School Dr.

Hebron State Police Investigating Credit Card Theft

by Lindsay Fetzner

The Hebron Resident State Trooper's Office is assisting the Boyington Beach, FL, Police Department with an investigation regarding the theft of a credit card number, State Police said.

Resident State Trooper Mark Gendron said an arrest was made of the individual who attempted to use a fake credit card with the

complainant's credit card number on it. The Boyington Beach, FL, Police Department made the arrest.

Gendron said the State Police had to get a statement from the victim in Hebron that no permission was given to use the credit card.

The investigation is ongoing in Florida, State Police said.

Former Hebron Firehouse Broken Into

by Lindsay Fetzner

The old Hebron Volunteer Fire Department Company No. 2 building was broken into between Aug. 30 and Sept. 2, State Police said.

The building, located on Deepwood Drive, is no longer used by the fire department, as the Company No. 2 firehouse that is used at the present time is on Route 85/Church Street.

Hebron Resident State Trooper Mark Gendron said nothing was taken from the firehouse. (Fire officials would not explain

what the building is currently used for, as investigation into the break-in is ongoing.) However, there was "minor damage," according to State Police. Gendron said door casing in the firehouse was the source of the damage.

The case is currently under investigation, Gendron said, and anyone with more information is asked to contact Gendron at the Hebron Resident State Trooper's Office at 860-228-3710.

Obituaries

Salem

Susan Eliason McCusker

Susan Eliason McCusker, 56, of Salem, passed away on Aug. 29 at her residence.

She was born on May 10, 1954 in Hartford, daughter of the late Kenneth and Marie Englund Eliason.

For many years she was a librarian for the Salem Public Library.

Surviving are two sons, Sean and Zachary of Salem; a brother, Robert Eliason; two grandsons, Jalen and Sean; cousin, Douglas Cummings; her step-mother, Sue Eliason and her former husband, Michael.

Visitation will be held today, Sept. 10, from 5-7 p.m. at the Belmont/Sabrowski Funeral Home, 144 South Main St., Colchester.

Memorial services will be held Saturday, Sept. 11, at 11 a.m. at the Salem Congregational Church on Rt. 85 in Salem.

Colchester

Elbert Bray Jr.

Elbert Bray Jr., 90, of Elmwood Heights, Colchester, widower of the late Rhuemyrtice "Ruth" Bray, passed away Sunday, Sept. 5, at home, surrounded by his loving family. Born Sept. 10, 1919, in Eastman, GA, he was a son of the late Elbert and Ludie (Carson) Bray Sr.



He served proudly with the U.S. Army during World War II. Mr. Bray was a mechanic for the former Schuster's Express in Colchester for many years before his retirement. He was a member of the Colchester Federated Church, the Donald A. Bigelow American Legion Post 54 and the Teamsters Local 493.

He is survived by two children and their spouses, Odessa and Aaron Turner Jr. of Colchester and Johnny and Antoinette Bray of Ettrick, VA; five grandchildren, Marilyn and Charlotte Turner, both of Colchester, Denise Turner of Danvers, MA, Joyce Turner of Stonington and Darrell Bray of Ettrick, VA; a great-granddaughter, Odessa Turner-Blanker of Stonington; two sisters, Hattie (Sam) Turner of Colchester and Alta M. Jones of Cleveland, OH; and numerous extended family members and friends.

In addition to his beloved wife, he was predeceased by a grandson, Derrick Bray; three sisters, Willie Pearl Hamilton Barnes, Juanita Dupree, and Ardie B. Whiting; and two brothers, Horace Bray and Harvey Bray.

The funeral service will be at 11 a.m. today, Sept. 10, directly at Colchester Federated Church, 60 Main St. (on the green), Colchester. Burial with full military honors will follow in the Linwood Cemetery, Colchester. There are no calling hours.

Donations in his memory may be made to the church.

Care of arrangements has been entrusted to the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester. For online condolences, visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Colchester

Janet L. Ladd

Janet L. Ladd, 72, of Colchester, died Sept. 4, in Colchester, at her home, following a courageous battle with leukemia. She was born in Putnam on April 8, 1938, to the late Horace and Glenna (Walker) Loos.

She was raised in Pomfret and went to the Pomfret Community School. She graduated from Putnam High School in 1956 and attended the William W. Backus School of Nursing, graduating in 1959. She worked most of her career at the W.W. Backus Hospital, as an evening supervisor, head of dialysis and on the maternity ward before retiring in 1994 after 29 years of service.

Janet was married to her husband Roger "Bob" Ladd in 1960. They lived in Norwich for a short time and moved to Lebanon where they lived for 34 years, before moving to Colchester. Janet enjoyed camping with her family, cross stitch, needle point, ceramics, reading, going to the beach, and doing crossword puzzles, but her greatest passion was spending time with her family.

In addition to her husband Roger, she is survived by four children, Scott Ladd of Macungia, PA, Pamela Logan and husband Barry of Porter, ME, Brian Ladd and his wife Gail of Lebanon, Andrea Vachon and husband Roger "Ed" of Lebanon; a brother, David Loos of Pomfret Center; two sisters, Glenna Bruno of Dayville and Virginia Kempf of Dayville; seven grandchildren, Bruce Logan, Keith Logan, Kyle Logan, Rebecca Ledoux, Luke Ledoux, James Ladd and Jeffrey Ladd; many nieces, nephews and classmates of the 1959 School of Nursing.

She was predeceased by a brother, Horace Loos Jr., and her grandchildren Heather Logan and Marc Ledoux Jr.

Calling hours will be held today, Sept. 10, from 5-8 p.m., at the Woyasz and Son Funeral Home, 141 Central Ave., Norwich. There will be a funeral service held at the funeral home at 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 11, followed by a burial at the Exeter Cemetery in Lebanon.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Hospice of Southeastern Connecticut, 227 Dunham St., Norwich, CT 06360 or the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, Donor Services, P.O. Box 4072, Pittsfield, MA 01202.

Marlborough

Stanley R. Robbins

Stanley R. Robbins, 84, of Citrus Springs, FL, formerly of Marlborough, passed away Wednesday, Sept. 1, at his home. A native of Derby, VT, he was born Aug. 9, 1926 to Guy V. and Luella (Tice) Robbins and was a retired supervisor and machinist for Pratt and Whitney Aircraft.



Mr. Robbins served his country during World War II in the U.S. Navy from 1943-46 and was a life member of Edward Penno VFW Post 4864, Citrus Springs, FL; a 46-year member of American Legion Post 197, Marlborough; and a member of LST 494 Organization of World War II Shipmates. One of Stanley's great loves was golf and he was a member of Citrus Springs Golf and Country Club and a former member of Chantclair Golf Course, Colchester.

He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Bertha H. Robbins, Citrus Springs, FL; son, Randy G. Robbins, Citrus Springs, FL; son, Alan D. Robbins (wife Linda), Andover; son, William S. Robbins (wife Laurel), Marlborough; brother, Milton Robbins (wife Beverly), Meridianville, AL; sisters, Frances Taylor and Ruth Marsh, both of Derby, VT, and sister Marion Bates, Bradenton, FL; seven grandchildren, five great-grandchildren; and many nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

Mr. Robbins was preceded in death by a son, Gregg Robbins, in 1954, and a great-grandson, Brandyn Beebe, in 1999.

In lieu of flowers, make memorial contributions to Hospice of Citrus County, P.O. Box 641270, Beverly Hills, FL 34464. A memorial service will be held Monday, Sept. 13, at 10:30

Portland

Harriet Hyyppa

Harriet (Kinne) Hyyppa, 87, of Portland, formerly of South Glastonbury, wife of the late Reino E. Hyyppa, died Monday, Sept. 6, at the Portland Care and Rehabilitation Center.

Born Nov. 15, 1922, in South Glastonbury, daughter of the late Aaron W. and Louise (Taft) Kinne, she lived most of her life in South Glastonbury – some would say she never left her beloved South Glastonbury, even though she lived in Portland for 30-plus years.

Harriet graduated from High Street School in South Glastonbury, Drew Seminary for Women in New York, Russell Sage College in New York and received her master's from Boston University. She had been a social worker for the YMCA and had sold real estate for Laura Hale Gorton prior to her marriage. She was a lifetime member of St. Luke's Episcopal Church in South Glastonbury where she had served on the vestry. Harriet was a member of Glastonbury Grange No. 26 and the Junior League of Hartford.

She volunteered for the U.S. Pony Club as a game official and was on the National Pony Club Testing Committee. She volunteered for the Connecticut Horse Show Association and the Connecticut Hunter and Jumper Association. She was a volunteer and librarian at the South Glastonbury Public Library, founded by her relatives. Harriet was past president of the Glastonbury VNA, the Glastonbury Women's Club and was on the Board of Trustees for Watkinson School. She was a founding member of the Portland Golf Club 18 Hole Women's League where she was Women's Club Champion five times. She was a member of the Southern New England Women's Golf Association.

Harriet served in the WAVES during World War II and was stationed at the Naval Hospital in Boston. She was a substitute teacher in the Portland School System. Harriet survived the circus fire in Hartford. Besides golf, she loved to garden and knit. She was a true native of Nayaug, the 51st state of the union, and was proud of her Taft and Kinne heritage dating back to the 1600s. She loved nothing more than a drive down "river road and to the ferry." She was involved with Old Church and Still Hill Cemeteries. She volunteered at the voting polls in Glastonbury and Portland.

Harriet is survived by her son Thor A. Hyyppa of Portland, her daughter Louise "Taffy" Hyyppa and her partner John Palatine of Portland, her sister Martha K. Baribault of South Glastonbury, her sister-in-law Rosalyn Kinne of South Glastonbury, four grandchildren Johanna C. Hyyppa, Kalervo K. Hyyppa, Reino A. Hyyppa, Kari T. Hyyppa, her former daughter-in-law Patricia L. Hyyppa of Simsbury and several cousins, nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her two brothers, Henry A. Kinne and James T. Kinne.

The family would like to thank Maria Vargas, Arden Courts of Farmington and Portland Care and Rehabilitation for the amazing care they gave Harriet during her journey.

A memorial service will be held today, Sept. 10, at 11 a.m., in St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 915 Main St., South Glastonbury. The family will gather at 9 a.m. at the Hyyppa Farm, Portland, for a procession and a private burial in Old Church Cemetery, Glastonbury. There are no calling hours.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the South Glastonbury Public Library, 80 High St., South Glastonbury, or to St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 915 Main St., South Glastonbury, CT 06073.

The Mulryan Funeral Home has care of arrangements. For online tributes, visit www.mulryanfh.com.

East Hampton

Maureen A. Mello

Maureen A. Mello, 76, of Burlington and formerly of East Hampton, beloved wife of Manuel S. Mello, died Sunday, Sept. 5, at Sheridan Woods Health Care Center in Bristol. Born Jan. 13, 1934, in Dorchester, MA, she was the daughter of the late Madeline Dinnigan.

She was a longtime resident of East Hampton before moving to Burlington in 2005. Maureen had worked for the Nichols Bus Service as a bus driver for more than 28 years. She was an avid archer and had won the New England Archery Free Style Outdoor Championship in 1971.

Besides her husband, she is survived by her son Brian Mello and his wife Janet of Burlington, two grandchildren Sydney and Tyler Mello both of Burlington. She was predeceased by her mother Madeline Dinnigan, her three sons Richard, Michael, and David, and her mother and father-in-law Nat and Bob Mathias.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, Sept. 11, at 11:30 a.m. in the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, with the Rev. Walter Nagle officiating. Burial will be at the convenience of the family in St. Patrick Cemetery. Friends may call at the Spencer Funeral Home on Saturday from 10 a.m. until the time of the service.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions, may be made to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation CT Chapter 185 Silas Deane Hwy Wethersfield, CT 06109.

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