

RIVEREAST

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Construction is underway at Andover Public Library. The work, which began Aug. 11, includes replacing the library's steps, repaving its driveway, replacing its septic system, installing a new DVD drop-box and other tweaks to the building. It's a project 10 years in the making, according to the library board's president.

Andover Library Getting a Makeover

by Courtney Parent

One might call it *Extreme Makeover: Library Edition*.

After a much-anticipated wait, a construction project at Andover Public Library is now underway. According to Library Board President Cathy Desrosiers, the library construction has been on the to-do-list for many years now and has finally reached the top spot.

"The library has been working on this project for about 10 years," said Desrosiers. "It's been on the slate for one of the projects we needed to address. We have been doing a little bit each year to get prepared for this."

According to Desrosiers, there were different issues that needed to be discussed prior to the commencement of construction. The main issues included addressing the location of an existing well and tree, securing funding and lining up contractors.

The total cost of the project is approximately \$102,000, Desrosiers said. The entire project is being funded through a grant from the Hartford Foundation and LoCIP (Local Capital Improvement Program) money. According to Desrosiers, the Hartford Foundation grant is in the amount of \$23,000; LoCIP funds will be paying for the balance of the project.

Construction officially began last Thursday, Aug. 11, with the installation of a new septic system. From there the project moved forward

with the removal of the stairs and concrete wall on the east side of the building. This week and next week, Desrosiers said a new retaining wall is being built. Following that will be "new surfacing of the driveway."

According to Desrosiers, the library construction will create an additional eight or nine parking spaces.

"We wanted to create more parking," said Desrosiers, "and create a better parking lot for our patrons as they come and go."

Dianne Grenier, president of Andover's Friends of the Library, called the construction a "thing of beauty." Grenier said the thing that really got the ball rolling on the construction project was a home inspection that was done on the library "several years ago."

As a result of that home inspection, Grenier said the library got a new roof and a new furnace; the oil tank also got moved. And from there the need for driveway repaving, septic replacement and additional parking was discussed.

Desrosiers said the project has gone smoothly to this point and gave credit to the road crew, contractors, town administrators and First Selectman Bob Burbank, all of whom she said have been "phenomenal" in aiding the construction project. Desrosiers added that the li-

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Portland Named One of Country's Best Towns

by Joshua Anusewicz

For years, Portland has beckoned people to "Come on Over" and enjoy all that the small riverside town has to offer. Residents have taken tremendous pride in their town and preserved its history and charm.

And it seems someone has taken notice.

Money magazine ranked Portland number 88 on its list of "100 Best Places to Live for 2011," which ranks towns and cities throughout the country based on categories like demographics, finances, education and quality of life. The list is whittled down from the 3,570 communities that have between 8,500 and 50,000 people.

"We're very proud," said First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield. "For an independent body to consider us one of the best places to live is a great honor." Bransfield said she was contacted by the publication several months ago and informed that Portland was in the running. She said she did her best to sell the town, but hadn't heard back until the list came out this week.

Portland is one of five Connecticut towns ranked in the top 100; Tolland (ranked 37), South Windsor (38), Simsbury (39), and Cheshire (73) also made the cut. Local towns that the publication considered "contenders" were Middletown, Cromwell, and Colchester.

Money describes Portland as being "known for its good schools, reasonable taxes, and peaceful scenery." It also touches upon the town's historic brownstone quarries, which not

only provided brownstone for buildings around the country, but has also indirectly created Brownstone Exploration and Discovery Park, a local attraction.

Financially, Portland ranks slightly below the average of the other towns on the list. The town has a median family income of \$87,877 and job growth of roughly 10 percent over the past 10 years.

In education, Portland has 29 percent of students above the state average in reading, 4 percent higher than the average of other towns on the list. Portland had 19 percent of students above state average in math, which was about 5 percent lower than other towns on the list.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Sally Doyen said Tuesday that the entire district is "thrilled that Portland has been recognized in such a positive way" and the schools played an important role in achieving that recognition.

"Local schools are central to a community and that is certainly the case in Portland, where we have true family-focused schools," Doyen said. "Everyone who is a part of Portland schools is proud and excited to be named one of the best."

For leisure activities, Portland is slotted in a perfect location. Compared to the other towns on the list, Portland ranks higher in nearby movie theaters, golf courses, ski resorts, libraries and museums. There are also 1,965 restaur-

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Portland was ranked 88 on *Money* magazine's recent list of the top 100 places to live in the country. Not surprisingly, town officials are thrilled by the news, with First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield calling it "a great honor." Shown here is the sign that welcomes people to town when they get off the Arrogoni Bridge.

Library Makeover cont. from Front Page

brary board is “very happy” with the progress.

Along with the construction, Grenier said the Friends of the Library are also making a new addition to the library: a fire-proof drop box which will allow patrons to drop off books and DVDs at their convenience.

Though the library is small, Grenier said Andover’s Public Library sees over 1,000 patrons a month.

“It doesn’t have a lot of hours, but is very busy,” Grenier said. “Especially in this poor economy, we find that the community computers are heavily used by people doing job searches and things like that.”

Grenier said the library provides not only

books and DVDs, but also numerous programs for residents to participate in including knitting club, book discussions and meet-the-author to name a few.

Noting that there is no cost for books, DVDs or a library card itself and there are no late fees, Grenier referred to the library as “the best deal in town.”

According to Desrosiers, the construction is anticipated to be completed by Sept. 15, with the last step being the paving and lining of the parking lot. The library does not plan on being closed at any time during the construction, Desrosiers said.

Best Town cont. from Front Page

rants within a 15-mile radius, with various types of cuisine.

Portland also ranks low in crime, with all figures about even with other towns on the list.

Bransfield added that there are also numerous other services in town that cater to residents “from youth to senior citizens,” but she admitted it might be the intangibles that make Portland a great town to live in.

“People care about each other,” Bransfield said. “There are always people volunteering to help those who are less fortunate.”

According to *Money*’s website, the company Onboard Informatics was used to calculate the rankings. Onboard Informatics is a data services company that specializes in working with real estate, media and technology companies and is able to process and project statistics using community information.

To read more about Portland’s ranking, go to money.cnn.com/magazines/moneymag and click on “Best Places to Live.” There is also a link posted on Portland’s town website, portlandct.org.

From the Editor’s Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

First off, congratulations to Portland, for being named one of the top 100 places in the country to live, according to a recent *Money* magazine report.

According to the magazine, the list is composed of “terrific small towns” that “stand out in the qualities American families care about most - great job opportunities, top-notch schools, safe streets, economic strength, nice weather, plenty to do and more.”

Portland came in at No. 88 in the poll; it’s actually one of five Connecticut towns on the list. Tolland, Simsbury and South Windsor ranked at numbers 37, 38 and 39, respectively, and Cheshire placed 73rd on the list. (The top overall town on the list, in case you’re wondering, was Louisville, CO.)

So why did *Money* choose Portland as one of the top 100 towns? The magazine wrote that, while the town was famous in the 18th and 19th centuries for its brownstone quarries (which the magazine noted supplied building materials for “a good chunk” of New York City and Boston), these days Portland is known for “its good schools, reasonable taxes and peaceful scenery.”

The magazine also singled out as a “big attraction” the Brownstone Exploration and Discovery Park, which it said “draws residents and out-of-towners with zip lining, water skiing and snorkeling.”

I’m not surprised Portland made the list. While I’ve never lived there, the town has long seemed like a quiet, peaceful, rather bucolic place to reside. My reporters who have covered the town over the years have also made the same observation – and not just because the other town in that beat is the rather un-quiet East Hampton. (And no, that wasn’t a commentary on the ongoing noise ordinance issue in that town.) Simply put, the *Money* editors seemed to hit it right on the nose with their description of Portland – it really does just look like a nice place to live.

So, again, kudos, Portland, on that well-deserved honor.

* * *

Growing up, I used to think being a broadcaster of baseball games would be an awesome job; you get to travel the country, go to different stadiums, eat various regional foods, stay in fancy hotels and, let’s not forget, be paid to not only watch a live baseball game but to talk about it. As I’ve gotten older I’ve come to realize it has its drawbacks – for starters, if you have kids or other familial obligations, being on the road six months out of the year can be kind of a pain – but it still seems like a pretty sweet gig.

Of course, one of the things a broadcast team has to be able to do – and do well – is fill three-plus hours of air every night. One of the tried-and-true ways to do this is to talk about the manager’s days as a ballplayer, and discuss his career highlights. Such was the case Monday night, when the SNY play-by-play team of Gary Cohen and Ron Darling were talking about the San Diego Padres’ manager, Bud Black.

Black pitched for 15 years in the majors, compiling a 121-116 record. He played for six different teams, most notably for the Kansas City Royals from 1982-88. He was a member of that team’s starting rotation in 1985, the year they won the World Series.

Those facts are all well and good, but what stuck out in my mind was this piece of trivia Cohen relayed: from 1991-94, Black was a pitcher for the San Francisco Giants. During two of those years, 1991 and 1992, the Giants had a catcher named Steve Decker. This means that the Giants in those days had a battery of....wait for it....Black & Decker.

I can practically hear the groans. But what can I say; sometimes I’m easily amused.

* * *

See you next week.

East Hampton Resident Withdraws FOI Complaint in Hebron

by Courtney Parent

An East Hampton resident has withdrawn a complaint she filed late last year against the Town of Hebron and Public Works Director Andrew Tierney.

On July 13, the Freedom of Information (FOI) Commission approved the withdrawal of a complaint previously filed against the town by East Hampton resident Angela Sarahina.

According to Town Manager Bonnie Therrien, Sarahina’s complaint was filed in October 2010 and was in regards to a request for all e-mails to and from Tierney, who was interim town manager at the time.

According to Therrien, prior to the complaint being made, Sarahina’s original request for information was made on July 28, 2010, asking for all incoming and outgoing e-mails, as well as text messages sent from Tierney’s town-issued Blackberry. The information requested fell within the time period of July 2009 to July 2010.

Sarahina said this week she was looking for e-mails between Tierney and then-East Hampton Town Manager Jeffery O’Keefe; the search was prompted by the *Hartford Courant*’s publishing last summer of e-mails sent by Tierney to O’Keefe, offering encouragement to the latter on sexual harassment allegations that had been brought against him.

“Jeff, keep your chin up (this to shall pass)

from what I know of you. YOU are a good person, I am there for you...” the *Courant* quoted Tierney’s e-mail as saying.

Sarahina said this week the reason for the FOI complaint was that she feels “when an employee works for a municipality ... the people have the right to see, read and know what they are doing on company time.”

After receiving the request, Therrien said the town informed Sarahina that if she would limit her scope, the process would go much faster, as there were thousands of documents to go through. As a result, in September, Therrien said Sarahina shortened the time frame to between February 2010 and July 2010.

In addition to requesting e-mails from his work account, Sarahina also requested e-mails from Tierney’s personal account, which Therrien said are “non-exempt in FOI laws” and that “[the FOI Commission] can’t force anybody to do that.”

Later in September, Sarahina returned to her original request for documents in the July 2009 to July 2010 time frame, said Therrien. According to Therrien, she had informed Sarahina that if she could provide a specific name or e-mail address that she was in search of that would aid in speeding up the process.

Sarahina said that while she did not provide

the town with O’Keefe’s name, or any specific name, she did advise Therrien that she was looking for e-mails “where [Tierney] was conducting East Hampton business while on Hebron time.” Sarahina added that “[Therrien] knew very well what I was looking for.”

In response, Tierney said that himself, along with the town provided ample documentation to Sarahina and that he felt the incident was unnecessary.

“I feel I’m the victim,” said Tierney. “I’ve done nothing wrong. They received tons and tons of e-mails and there was nothing that wasn’t supposed to be there. It was just a shame.”

According to Therrien, the complaint was very costly to the town, estimating that it was “certainly three or \$4,000” in fees to pay the attorney to scan through e-mails and make sure no “confidential” e-mails were sent.

“Lots of the e-mails were confidential,” said Therrien. “Our attorney had to go through and see which ones could not be handed out.”

Sarahina said she found the fact that the town of Hebron was willing to spend approximately \$4,000 on an FOI complaint to be “very interesting.”

“To me, it tells me that whatever it was they

didn’t want to get out that they were going to make sure it didn’t get out,” said Sarahina. “I don’t know many municipalities that would spend that much on an FOI request.”

While Tierney felt he was “the victim,” he said the worst thing about the FOI complaint was that it was a financial burden to the taxpayers and the town.

“It was a frivolous, unprovoked attack that cost the taxpayers a lot of money,” said Tierney. “It was pointless.”

In the end, Sarahina said she withdrew the complaint as she felt she was not going to receive the information she was seeking.

“I dropped it because I didn’t feel justice was being done and that it was going to be a double standard as to what was acceptable and what was not,” Sarahina said.

Though the complaint was costly to the town, Therrien said that she felt the FOI Commission properly executed the complaint and explained the needs and restraints of such requests.

“I think the hearing officer kind of explained that if you’re looking for something particular you need to be more exact,” said Therrien. “And that personal accounts are exempt in most cases.”

Marlborough Service Dogs an Issue at the Beach

by Bailey Seddon

As Rosie walks toward the beach it is easy to see why these dogs are nicknamed “bear dogs.” She is big; a 91-pound Newfoundland. Yet her owner, Cassandra Hamilton, has no problem getting Rosie to do what she wants, as they work their way down to Lake Terramuggus.

Hamilton, a Marlborough resident, was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 2006. Despite the often-crippling effects of the disease, Rosie, who is five, has given Hamilton a reason to stay upbeat, and to not give up on herself. Several days a week, Hamilton comes with either Rosie or her other dog, Joy, a 17-month-old, 120-pound Newfoundland, to Lake Terramuggus to make sure they are all staying active. Hamilton switches off which dog she takes on each beach visit. When the *Rivercast* paid her a visit at the lake last Wednesday, Aug. 10, it was Rosie’s day.

“She really, really likes water,” Hamilton said.

Being able to go to the lake is very important to Hamilton, Rosie and Joy. Hamilton has what is called relapsing remitting MS; she suffers from periodic episodes in her brain or spine that can leave her temporarily paralyzed, and when it passes she slowly improves.

However, while this is not the most severe form of MS one can have, Hamilton said the disease has lately been getting worse. She said she feels going for swims with Rosie and Joy is very important for her to stay as active as possible for as long as she can. Rosie and Joy “keep me walking, doing stuff,” which is critical, she said.

Hamilton is glad she has the beach at Lake Terramuggus to come to. Dogs are not allowed at the beach as pets, but, due to federal law, any service dog is allowed to be there, as long as they are on a leash and have their service vest on.

Rosie and Joy are always on leashes while at the beach, which Hamilton said is very important, even though Rosie would be fine without one. “I think it’s important to remove anxiety” for the other swimmers, she said.

It is also important to Hamilton for people to know that she has Rosie and Joy because she is handicapped; having dogs on the beach is not something just anyone can do. However, there is no town law that says someone has to prove they are handicapped and their dog is trained to be a service dog. “That’s part of the problem,” Hamilton said.

An example of this problem is that while Hamilton was being interviewed, on the beach, another dog without a leash came running down the beach. “That puts everybody in a not good situation,” Hamilton said. The owner identified this dog as a service dog, but it did not have the vest and leash it required to be on the beach. Hamilton said the dog later turned out to not be a service dog; while its owner was handicapped, the canine itself was not trained to be a service dog, as Rosie and Joy are.

“That is the owner’s responsibility and he was negligent,” Hamilton said. “It’s not cool that someone is trying to do that.”

Hamilton said she feels the town can make a rule requiring people to prove their dog is a service dog. This would include a letter from the doctor, a photo ID of the person who is handling the dogs and a photo ID of the dog from a service dog agency.

Parks and Recreation Commission Vice Chairwoman Louise Concodello said this week that while, as of right now, people do not have to register their service dog with the town, it would be nice if they came to Town Hall to let the town know they will be at the beach with their dogs. And when they go to the beach the dogs should be easily-identifiable.

“They should really have a vest to tell us they are a service dog,” she said.

Concodello said the Parks and Recreation Commission had a meeting on Monday at which it discussed changing the policies at the lake to emphasize that service dogs are allowed. The policy would indicate that the dogs would have to have a service dog vest and leash on whenever they were at the beach “just so they can identify themselves,” like Joy and Rosie,



Marlborough resident, Cassandra Hamilton, shown above, stays active in her battle against MS while exercising with her five-year-old service dog, Rosie, at Lake Terramuggus.

Concodello said.

Concodello said she is hoping the board will be able to vote on the possible policy change next month.

Chairwoman Barbara Lazzari agreed with Concodello. “We need to make sure” that they are really service dogs on the beach, she said.

Lazzari said the board will research and discuss, at next month’s meeting, the possibility of changing the policy. “There needs to be further discussion,” she said, as the commission feels it does not have enough information at the moment to make a decision.

“We have to do more investigations on it,” she said. “This will be a little bit of a process to go through. We will probably have to differentiate between service dogs” and regular dogs,

she said.

Lazzari added the commission has “to look out for the safety and health, too” for the people in the park.

Lazzari also commended Hamilton for taking the time to notify the town as to who she was and what she would be doing at the beach with her dogs.

“Cassandra did everything right,” she said. “Nobody else has ever done that.”

As she looked at Rosie last Wednesday, Hamilton expressed her gratitude to her Newfoundlands, who have helped her through the tough times when she might have “succumbed” to her disease.

“She’s my little angel,” Hamilton said, smiling down at Rosie.

New Marlborough Propane Business a ‘Natural Progression’

by Bailey Seddon

Before it became a propane company, Connecticut Propane and Petroleum, or CPP, was an HVAC company, started and owned by three brothers, all Marlborough residents.

The brothers, Bill, Tony and Jimmy Gjonbalaj, started Genco Heating and Cooling LLC in 2000 and will consolidate it with CPP. This way they will have one company that can provide multiple services to customers.

“We just wanted to expand our services,” Bill Gjonbalaj said.

“They thought it was a natural progression,” said General Manager Howard Weiner of the brothers’ decision to start the new company. Weiner, who has lived in Marlborough for 35 years, said when he was first approached by the brothers, he did not think they were serious.

“I thought they were kidding around,” said Weiner, laughing. However, once he realized they were serious, he was on board. Weiner had previously worked for a propane company for 15 years in Hartford and therefore brings a lot of experience to the business. The Gjonbalaj brothers do all the technical work, and Weiner said he does “pretty much everything else.”

CPP was started in February of this year, and the location, on 21 Austin Dr., was set up in May. The Gjonbalaj brothers were hoping to get going last September, but the amount of paperwork it takes to start up a company pushed back the brothers’ start date, said Gjonbalaj. “You just can’t buy a propane truck and start buying propane,” Gjonbalaj said. The company had to have things okayed by the Department of Transportation and the Department of Homeland Security, as propane is a serious material to be dealing with environmentally. Nonetheless, now the Gjonbalaj brothers are well under way with three trucks and two service vans and are looking forward to servicing Connecticut.

One of the things that makes CPP different from other companies is that if someone needs a new furnace and then needs propane or oil put in that furnace they do not have to go to

two separate companies; it is all done by them.

“It’s like heaven,” said Weiner. “Most propane companies don’t do heating and air conditioning. Everything is in-house.”

Weiner recommends propane over oil. In an ad, Weiner describes propane as 99.9 percent “clean, efficient and cost-effective.” Propane is also a little easier to get, said Gjonbalaj, because you can get it from such states as Texas, instead of from overseas. “They have pipelines all over,” he said. Propane can be used to heat a pool, dryer, stoves, hot water heaters, fire logs and more.

Most of CPP’s business – about 75 percent – is residential, and the rest is businesses. Weiner said the company is hoping to get 85 percent of the people in town who need propane or oil to get their business through them; they are also hoping to do business with most of Hebron and East Hampton. As of now, CPP can go anywhere in Connecticut for propane but is only going as far as Hartford and the surrounding area for oil. However, sometime in the future they will probably expand their oil deliveries, Weiner said.

“It’s going to take time,” Weiner said, but “I think the growth rate is pretty impressive.”

As of now the company has six employees, but they are hoping that number will grow to 20 as the business starts to expand. CPP will soon be servicing the Town of Marlborough, taking care of the schools, Town Hall, the town garage and other such town facilities, Weiner said. They also have four or five large companies that they are getting started on. In addition, CPP already has two pump stations for people with their own propane tanks, but are hoping to have 10 by the fall, said Weiner. He said this way, people who own tanks could get propane for better prices.

“If you treat people right, they will treat you right,” and come back for more business, said Weiner.

The amount a customer pays for propane depends on how much he or she uses, Weiner said. If someone is renting a tank, but only us-



Marlborough residents and brothers; Bill, Tony and Jimmy Gjonbalaj, brought a new business to town: Connecticut Propane and Petroleum.

ing propane sporadically, such as for a cook top or something similar, they will pay a little more, maybe \$3.50 a gallon. If they are using it a lot for heating, cooking, a pool and other such amenities, then they will pay less, perhaps \$2.25 a gallon. This is so it is fair to everyone. It is not fair for CPP to let someone rent a tank for the same prices if they are not getting as much business, and it’s not fair to charge someone more for propane if CPP comes out more to fill that customer up, Weiner said, though these prices are just estimates.

“It all depends on usage,” he said.

CPP owns two buildings on Austin Drive, right next door to each other. As of now, only one of the buildings are being used, but soon,

said Weiner, they are hoping to have a showroom in the other building to showcase different fire log models that people can buy. Weiner and the Gjonbalaj brothers are also going to be getting a permit, in six months or so, for storage facilities for 30,000 gallon tanks.

Hopefully, Weiner said, people will appreciate the dichotomy of their company and want to do business with them.

Gjonbalaj agreed. “We want our neighbors to support us,” he said.

For more information about Connecticut Propane and Petroleum, visit connpropane.com. Weiner can be reached at hweiner@connpropane.com, in his office at 860-368-1212 or via cell phone, at 860-748-9990.

East Hampton Chatham Party Announces Candidates

by Joshua Anusewicz

With the Republicans and Democrats having already announcing their candidates for November's municipal elections, the Chatham Party held its caucus on Wednesday night at the East Hampton Public Library to endorse its slate of hopefuls for the fall.

Headlining the slate are five candidates for Town Council, including incumbent Sue Weintraub, who is seeking her third consecutive term. Joining Weintraub is Chatham Party Chairman Kyle Dostaler, Derek Johnson, Angela Sarahina and Glenn Suprono.

Weintraub said she looks forward to campaigning and hopes that residents will support an "experienced" slate of candidates.

"I have been proud to represent the people of East Hampton over the past four years and look forward to once again winning the support of the community," said Weintraub, who will run as an independent. "The Chatham Party has assembled an incredibly strong slate that will provide the nonpartisan leadership we need to set clear politics and make better decisions based on priorities and opportunities."

Two other candidates that also have experience on the Town Council are Dostaler and Johnson, who each served one term from 2005-07. Dostaler is currently a self-employed web developer and IT professional, while Johnson is an attorney specializing in commercial law and faculty member at the University of Connecticut.

Dostaler said he believes this slate of candidates will "put the town on the right track."

"We will hire an experienced, professional and ethical town manager and town attorney,"

Dostaler said. "We will support town staff to do their jobs. We will restore the public trust by listening to the people, making informed, financially sound decisions and acting in the best interest of East Hampton."

Sarahina and Suprono are newcomers that will round out the Town Council candidates. Sarahina is the director of the Haddam Neck Fair Association and holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice. Suprono is a corporate engineer for Unicorr Packaging Group of North Haven. Suprono was nominated from the floor at the Republican Town Committee caucus, but did not garner enough votes to make the slate.

The party has endorsed three candidates for the Board of Education – Joelyn Leon, Bill Marshall and Scott Minnick. Leon has two children in the East Hampton school system; she works for the United Auto Workers Region 9A and is completing her master's degree in public policy at Trinity College in Hartford. Marshall is a former principal who has worked in the towns of Simsbury and East Hampton. Minnick is currently a middle school French teacher in Glastonbury and is a former Town Council member.

There are three candidates for the Board of Finance: Mary Ann Dostaler, Scott Sanicki and Dave Monighetti. Dostaler is former chairman of the Economic Development Committee and is currently a member of the Brownfield Redevelopment Agency. Sanicki is an engineering supervisor with Pratt and Whitney and ran for Town Council in 2009. Monighetti is part owner of two manufacturing businesses in Middletown, Wyrepak Industries and BCY, where he handles finance and accounting.



The Chatham Party announced its slate of candidates Wednesday for this November's elections. Pictured are five of the hopefuls. From left are Kyle Dostaler, Sue Weintraub, Derek Johnson, Angela Sarahina and Glenn Suprono.

There are also two candidates for the Zoning Board of Appeals: Paul Hoffman and Irene Curtis.

Dostaler said Thursday the candidates for each board will begin to set their platform for the upcoming election. He said each board currently "has some ideas," but added that the entire slate is in agreement that their biggest goal would be to hire a permanent town manager.

One of the advantages the Chatham Party has, Dostaler said, is that the slate represents a

"diverse group." On the slate, there are six independents, three Chathams, two Republicans and two Democrats. Dostaler said that the slate "represents everyone in town" and that it allows for flexibility, as they're not "hammered into one idea."

Dostaler said that he believes the chances of the party to gain seats is "very good" and he is looking forward to November.

"We need to get people out to vote and I think we'll win," Dostaler said.

East Hampton Police Sergeant Under Investigation Due to E-Mails

by Joshua Anusewicz

Just a week after announcing Sgt. Michael Green had been placed on paid administrative leave pending the outcome of an investigation, Interim Town Manager John Weichsel has confirmed that Sgt. Garritt Kelly is also under investigation.

Weichsel said Wednesday that while both are under investigation, only Green has been placed on leave.

Police Chief Matthew Reimondo said Wednesday that he could not comment on the status of the investigations because they are "personnel matters," but did say that the information is "still developing."

However, last week, the *Rivereast* anonymously received a packet of e-mails from Kelly's town e-mail account. The e-mails, which are sexually explicit, appear to be sent

from Kelly's account while he was at work, based on time stamps and the message content.

It has yet to be confirmed whether the e-mails are authentic or if they were sent while Kelly was working, but Weichsel did say on Wednesday the e-mails were the reason for the investigation.

According to Town Council Chairwoman Melissa Engel, the investigation is being "conducted externally" and not by Reimondo, who usually handles internal issues in the police department. Engel said the decision to make investigations into the police department external was made by Weichsel prior to both Green and Kelly being investigated.

"We are hoping for a fair and timely investigation," Engel said Wednesday.

Kelly and Green are not unfamiliar with con-

troversy surrounding the East Hampton Police; both sergeants were involved in the saga that saw then-Town Manager Jeffery O'Keefe attempt to eliminate Reimondo from his position last year. Kelly was the individual who requested an investigation by the state's attorney office into O'Keefe, which was ultimately dismissed. In April of this year, O'Keefe also claimed that Reimondo and Kelly have a "close personal relationship."

After Reimondo was temporarily removed, Green was promoted to lieutenant by O'Keefe and put in charge of the police department. Following his reinstatement as police chief in November, Reimondo sued O'Keefe, Engel, Town Council Vice Chairman John Tuttle, and Green, although the charges against Green were

ultimately dropped.

Green was also the subject of an investigation by the East Hampton Police earlier this year. In a letter from Green's attorney, Richard Hayber, to Reimondo in February, Hayber called the investigation "retaliation" and that Reimondo "openly and unjustifiably blamed Green for [his] absence." It has not been confirmed whether or not the pending investigation is the same investigation Hayber referred to in February.

Engel said Wednesday the investigation into Kelly is not related to the investigation into Green.

Kelly and Green could not be reached for comment.

Andover Board of Education Discusses CMT Scores

by Courtney Parent

At a Board of Education meeting Wednesday, Aug. 17, Superintendent of Schools Andy Maneggia outlined Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) scores, recognized a retiring staff member and noted an increase in school lunch prices.

Superintendent of Schools Andy Maneggia said Andover Elementary is continuing to see high marks at proficiency and at goal on the Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT). Maneggia came prepared with data that not only exemplified 2011 scores, categorized by grade and subject, but also displayed previous scores from past years.

While last year, students earned a single perfect 100 for proficiency in grade five math, this year there were an additional three perfect scores. Students also achieved 100 percent for proficiency in grade three math, grade four writing, and grade six reading.

"We've got a large cluster of kids knocking on state goals' door and that's important," said Maneggia.

CMTs are administered to students in grades three through eight, testing the areas of math, reading and writing. Fifth- and eighth-grade students are also tested in science. Scores are broken into five categories: below basic, basic, proficient, goal and advanced.

In the third grade, 100 percent of students met proficiency in math, 85.1 percent in reading and 95.8 percent in writing. The percent-

age of students that met goal was 68.1 percent in math, 80.9 percent in reading and 83.3 percent in writing.

State averages for third-graders at state goal are 63.3 percent in math, 58.4 percent in reading and 61.1 percent in writing.

Fourth-grade results showed increases across the board in math, reading and writing. In math, students at proficiency are 97.1 percent and at goal are 91.2 percent. In reading, students at proficiency are 97.1 percent and at goal are 94.1 percent. Fourth grade writing scores were 100 percent at proficiency and 91.4 percent at goal.

Last year, students were at 92.7 percent at proficiency and 70.7 percent at goal in math. In reading, students' scores jumped from 82.9 percent at proficiency and 73.2 percent at goal. In writing, 2010 scores showed students at 95.1 percent at proficiency and 82.9 percent at goal.

Andover fourth-graders far exceeded the state average for goal in all three subjects. State averages were 67.3 percent in math, 62.5 percent in reading and 65.5 percent in writing.

Fifth-grade results showed that Andover students retained a perfect 100 percent at proficiency in math for the second year. They also got 91.4 percent in math at goal. For reading, 85.7 percent scored proficient, down from 91.5 percent in 2010; writing was at 97.3 percent, up from 95.7 percent last year; and science was down to 97.3 percent from 97.9 percent.

In terms of students performing at goal, fifth-graders also saw a mix of ups and downs. In addition to the 91.4 percent at goal in math, students dropped from 78.7 percent to 62.9 percent in reading, jumped from 78.7 percent to 86.5 percent in writing and dropped from 80.9 percent in science to 70.3 percent.

While there were some slight drops in fifth-grade results, percentages are still well over the state averages at goal. The state averages at goal are 72.7 percent in math, 61.4 percent in reading, 66.8 percent in writing and 60.2 percent in science.

Turning to grade six scores, Andover students received high marks at proficiency in all subject areas. In addition to the perfect 100 percent in reading, students scored 95.7 percent in math and 95.7 percent in writing.

Sixth-grade percentages at goal increased slightly in reading and writing, but saw a small decrease in math. Reading scores, which were at 87.8 percent in 2010, rose to 93.6 percent this year and writing scores increased from 75.5 percent to 78.7 percent. However, math scores dropped from 83.7 last year to 76.6 percent.

Despite a slight decrease in math, sixth-graders fared well in regards to the state average for students at goal which are 71.6 percent in math, 76 percent in reading and 65.3 percent in writing.

Maneggia also acknowledged the retirement of math resource teacher Bonnie Godin. According to Maneggia, Godin has taught in Andover for the past 33 years and worked as a math resource teacher since 1993.

"Bonnie has been on staff for many, many years," said Maneggia. "She has provided assistance to students who had difficulties in math, as well as teachers. We're happy for her, but will miss her services."

Rather than hiring a full-time replacement, Maneggia said two part-time employees will increase their time commitment. Specifically, Maneggia said one half-time position will be increased to 90 percent and a 60 percent position will be increased to 80 percent.

Due to a federal government mandate, Maneggia said schools will be required to increase their lunch prices to \$2.46. However, Maneggia said the increase at Andover will be spread out over the next two years. Therefore, for the upcoming 2011-12 school year, prices will increase from \$2 to \$2.10. Board members unanimously voted to approve the increased price at Wednesday's meeting.

The next Board of Education meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 14, at 7 p.m. in the Andover Elementary library.

Colchester Bridge Rehabilitation Project in First Phase

by Bailey Seddon

The reconstruction project of the bridge on Mill Hill Road will kick into full gear later this month, which will translate into delays for motorists. But when all is said and done, drivers will be greeted by new, wider lanes.

Preliminary work on the bridge began several weeks ago, according to state Department of Transportation spokesman, Kevin Nursick. He said the work is considered “both a full-depth and partial-depth patching of the existing bridge deck.”

According to Nursick, a full-depth repair would consist of going all the way through the bridge and making repairs. A partial-depth repair requires fixing things such as potholes on a bridge. A bridge consists of the superstructure, which is the concrete or “deck” people drive over, and the substructure, which are the parts supporting the structure and the deck.

Bloomfield-based Baier Construction won the bid for the \$1.9 million project this past December. During the construction, Baier will fix various structural steel repairs to the superstructure. Any deteriorated portions of the concrete substructure will also be repaired or replaced. There will be new asphalt laid on the deck and a new protective fence will be added to the parapets, the low walls on the edges of the bridge.

The fence will “discourage folks from throwing things over the edge or doing anything they shouldn’t be doing,” said Nursick, as well as a “protective measure,” for cars and pedestrians. The entire bridge will also be cleaned and painted.

Other modifications will be that the granite curb will be eliminated and a minor modifica-

tion to the existing parapet will be done because of the “undesirable curbing system,” Nursick said. This way it is not just a flat barrier from top to bottom. As of now, drivers can easily drive over the curb and hit the concrete leading up to the parapet.

“The current structure is not ideal,” said Nursick, and “under the right circumstances,” a car could hit the curb and, because of the sharp edge, climb the curb, hit the parapet and climb over it as well.

The new parapet will be flared out at the bottom, like a Jersey barrier, instead of just a concrete removable structure. This makes it so that if a vehicle bumps it, it bumps the vehicle back out. This will “help extenuate any impacts of errant vehicles,” said Nursick.

The new lanes will be 12 feet wide, with nine-foot shoulders on each side; all of which should give cars, bikers and pedestrians plenty of room, Nursick said.

The project is currently in its first phase. Nursick said phase two is expected to begin later this month – and that will involve lane closures both on the bridge itself and below it, on Route 2.

“As the project starts ramping up, they will be reducing the width of the bridge,” he said.

This means that, on the bridge, there will be an alternating one-way traffic pattern, using a temporary stoplight. One side will get a green light, with an overlapping red light until the bridge clears, then the other side gets the green. This will take part during the second stage of construction. Work will be done on one half of the bridge; then once everything is done, Baier will move to the other side. During these times is when traffic will be reduced to one side of



Preliminary work has begun on a bridge rehabilitation project on Mill Hill Road. The work will eventually involve lane closures on both Mill Hill and Route 2.

the bridge.

“That’s typically how we move forward on a project like this,” said Nursick.

On Route 2, there will be lane closures near exit 17, in the vicinity of the bridge. On Route 2 east, there will be lane closures Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. and 7 p.m.-6 a.m., and weekends from 6-11 a.m. and from

3 p.m.-6 a.m. Route 2 west will have lane closures Monday through Friday from 9 a.m.-6 a.m., and on weekends from 6 a.m.-4 p.m. and 9 p.m.-6 a.m.

Phase two is the final phase of the construction. Nursick said the final phase should be complete by the end of the year.

For Colchester Resident, Natural Medicines Help Fight Lyme Disease

by Bailey Seddon

Paula Upton is a veteran of something nobody wants to be a veteran of – Lyme disease. Having contracted it three times in the past 17 years, Upton has found herbal supplements work best for her in terms of combating the disease. Now she has a website to help others suffering from Lyme disease fight back the all-natural way.

Last fall, Upton, a spiritual counselor with a master’s degree in clinical mental health counseling, took all she had studied and put online different “protocols” – charts to show people the best times and medicines to take, and the right order they should go in.

“I want to help people,” Upton said. “There’s an awful lot of people suffering” because of Lyme. As a spiritual counselor, she said, “a large percentage” of the people that were coming to her were suffering from the disease.

On Upton’s website, herbsforlyme.com, more than 400 supplements are available, all at discounted prices, which Upton receives a small commission for when someone buys a product. Interestingly enough, so far most customers are not from Connecticut (which, after all, is the place Lyme disease got its name); most are from California, Upton said.

Upton first contracted Lyme disease in 1994, again in 2005 and yet again just two months later. She decided to make the change to supplements because “it just felt like I wasn’t getting any better” after she had finished with her antibiotics. While doctors told her she wasn’t testing positive for the disease, Upton said that just because the Lyme was not showing up in her blood didn’t mean it was no longer there.

“I could not even walk to the mailbox because I was that sick,” said Upton.

After her first experience with antibiotics, she started looking for books and taught herself about herbs and supplements. She said this wasn’t easy, as the Internet had not yet taken off and there were only a select number of books on the subject. Eventually, though, Upton be-

gan finding answers – and found the natural supplements worked for her.

The supplements, she said, helped her and they help “a lot of people.”

Upton credited the supplements with reducing the duration of the Lyme disease each time she had it; she went from suffering from Lyme for three years after her first diagnosis in the mid-’90s to having it for just eight months the most recent time she contracted it.

After spending much time figuring out what supplements would work for her, Upton realized there were likely others who had the same problems. To help these people – and to save them the time it took her to gather all the information and sort through it – Upton started her website.

Some of the confusion over which supplements to take stemmed from when vitamin and supplement companies started developing new products specifically aimed at people with Lyme; it became hard to tell what to take because there was “a whole myriad of items,” Upton said.

“There isn’t one magic bullet herb that is going to help people,” Upton said.

More confusion over which supplements to take came from determining what exactly people were getting from a tick bite. In addition to Lyme disease, ticks can also give people viruses and parasites. There are also co-infections, such as Ehrlichiosis and Bartonella, which like Lyme disease are bacterium and can seem similar to the disease. It is important for people to know what they have so they know what to take.

How long a patient stays on a protocol depends on how long they have had Lyme disease; however, Upton said it is generally six months to a year. After that, the patient slowly cycles down on their supplements to maintain their health. Upton said she strives to make sure her website always has the current information for her customers. She also makes sure she has information on why there are certain products



Colchester resident Paula Upton has contracted Lyme disease three times in her life. For her, she’s found natural supplements work best, and she now has a website that offers those supplements for purchase.

she recommends and why they should be taken at certain times. For this she does a lot of research.

“It’s a constant updating I do,” she said. Besides herself, Upton gave her dog, Bodhi, who was sick with Lyme disease when she got him, herbal supplements after he was through with his antibiotics. “He is very, very healthy now,” she said.

Lyme disease, Upton said, is “so scary and you feel so hopeless,” and she hopes that, through the new herbs and supplements, people will realize they have more options. However,

Upton said it is best for people to be in contact with their doctor and alert them to what they are taking.

Upton also urged people to visit online support groups, be they chat rooms or Facebook groups, so they are not facing the disease alone. Through the groups, people can “try to find meaning in their suffering” and “educate themselves on small things they can do to improve their health,” Upton said.

“People need to know there is hope for them to get better,” she said.

Portland Selectmen Talk School Repairs With Board of Ed

by Joshua Anusewicz

The Board of Selectmen met with members of the Board of Education and the School Facilities Study Committee on Wednesday to continue a discussion about possible repairs at several Portland schools.

The committee submitted a year-long report to both boards in June that recommended that the town stay at status quo for the short-term. Much of the discussion at that last meeting, however, centered on future plans to make much-needed renovations, particularly at Valley View School.

At the June meeting, Paul Bengston, director of buildings and grounds for Portland schools, said that modular classrooms at Valley View are “structurally sound,” but a problem with the gutters is causing water to get inside the walls. Bengston said Wednesday that aside from that problem, there has also been water getting into the classrooms through small openings around the air-conditioning units. The carpet, which is “aging,” and the tiles in the hallways, which are “cracking” from the modulars shifting, would also need to be replaced, Bengston said.

Bengston estimated the repairs of the Valley View modulars at around \$40,000. He said Thursday that he would meet with Superintendent of School Dr. Sally Doyen to discuss using money from the education budget’s maintenance fund, which he said should have enough to at least cover the repairs to the roof to stop the leaking.

The modulars at Valley View, which houses students from kindergarten to second grade, were installed in 1988. At the time, the modulars were expected to have a lifespan of five years, but are still in use.

A possible alternative that was discussed at the June meeting – and continued again on

Thursday – was the possibility of moving second-grade students from Valley View to Gildersleeve School, which currently holds third and fourth grade, and taking out the modular classrooms. The selectmen recommended in June that Doyen look into the possible ramifications of moving the students and to present them at Wednesday’s meeting.

At the meeting, Doyen said she would not recommend moving the second grade for two reasons. First, she said, was for academic reasons, as the focus of the three grades at Valley View is reading. She said that the current configuration is “helpful,” because the students begin “reinforcing” what they’ve learned by the time they reach second grade and are able to move along to the next school after that.

The second reason, Doyen said, is for “social and emotional” reasons. She said that most students only go to half-days for kindergarten and are still adjusting to full days of school by the second grade. Doyen said that by moving second grade to Gildersleeve, it could be “disruptive” to the students’ adjustment process.

“We have a good, solid model in the district right now,” Doyen said. “The kids are learning a lot in their environment.” She did admit, however, that Portland’s configuration of grades is unique and that there is “no perfect configuration.”

Board of Education Chairman Chris Phelps agreed with Doyen, saying that educationally, the shifting of the second-grade students “doesn’t make sense.”

“We can put the money into the project for the modular,” Phelps said. “I think a move would be at a greater expense, and expend more time and energy.”

At the June meeting, School Facilities Study Committee member Stephanie Tatro said that

the cost of replacing the modular classrooms and improving the other schools – including Gildersleeve and Brownstone Intermediate – to accommodate more students would be roughly \$8.3 million at the “most costly” and \$3.7 million at the “least costly.” Tatro said that both estimates took into account inflation and possible reimbursement from the state.

Tatro said at the meeting on Wednesday that the discussion needed to focus on not just “looking five years out, but looking 15 years out.” She said closing a school or overpopulating another school could “work against the future” of the kids in Portland.

Board of Education member Benjamin Srb partly agreed, saying that “spending \$40,000 could get us another five years,” but added that a more stable, long-term plan could be realized “if [the Board of Education] put [their] heads together.”

At the end of the discussion, selectman Mark Finkelstein handed the reins over to the Board of Education, saying its members “need to take the lead and come up with a plan, not just for five years but beyond.”

“You find direction, and we’ll worry about finding the money,” Finkelstein said about the budget, which First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield called “the big elephant in the room.”

Phelps said the board would continue the discussion at their next meeting, with the help of Doyen, to come up with a plan for the project. Their next meeting will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 6, at 7 p.m. at the Portland High School library.

* * *

The Board of Selectmen unanimously approved the allocation of \$30,000 to repair an aging culvert at St. Mary’s Cemetery on

Marlborough Street (Route 66).

The project, which originally received one bid from Faraci Concrete of Portland, was put back out to bid last month after Faraci and the town could not come to an agreement on a plan or a cost. The project received three bids this time – with no bid from Faraci – and Director of Public Works Rick Kelsey recommended the low bid of \$24,976 from Pinder Construction of Clinton.

Kelsey said that the additional dollars would be to cover the costs of maintenance over the past few months to keep the culvert in good condition.

The culvert, which directs storm water from High Street into a stream that runs to the Connecticut River, runs underneath the entrance to the cemetery. Over ten years ago, the town approved the easement that would allow the water to flow through the cemetery, leaving the town responsible for the maintenance of the culvert.

The culvert has been deteriorating due to continued “scouring” from debris in the stream, First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield said in July.

Kelsey originally estimated the project at \$25,000, but the original bid from Faraci in July came in at \$47,000. After several discussions between the board, Faraci, Kelsey, and the town’s engineer, the project was put back out to bid when the sides could not come to an agreement.

No date has been set for when the project will begin or be completed.

* * *

The next Board of Selectmen meeting will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 7, at 7:30 p.m. at the Portland Public Library.

Position of Colchester Parks and Rec Head Modified

by Bailey Seddon

The title for the head of the town’s Parks and Recreation Department has been changed, from director to recreation manager, according to First Selectman Gregg Schuster.

The change came about after the previous director, Jason Cohen, abruptly resigned last September. After Cohen stepped down, Greg Plunkett, Director of Facilities, became the interim Parks and Rec. director. This gave the Board of Selectmen an opportunity to review the position Cohen had left. Anytime someone resigns, Schuster said, the town reviews that position because they want to take the time to look at other options. Once Cohen had left, “this gave us an opportunity,” he said.

The job of director was shared between the town and the school system. He or she had the responsibility of two functions, Schuster said. One function was for the recreational programs, which was the town side of the job, and the other was for ground and park maintenance,

which was the school side of the job. There are 360 acres of town and school property the director would oversee, which needed mowing, upkeep and landscaping.

“Everything outside of the buildings,” Schuster said.

As the director of facilities, Plunkett will now do the work overseeing the grounds and the new recreational manager position will just deal with recreational programs. The reason for this change, said Schuster, is because the town does not usually “get a lot of candidates who can do both,” he said.

Plunkett had been doing both, but it is better to separate the two functions, Schuster said. He said this will make the work that gets done much more efficient. Schuster said it will “put function in the most important place.”

The decision to replace the position came about through the budget process, said Schuster. The Board of Education had always contrib-

uted money to the position, but with the position’s focus off of the schools, the town will be paying for the position. Schuster said that money was allocated in the budget for this position, \$60,000, but is not necessarily what that recreation manager will get paid, just what the town has to work with.

Cohen resigned effective last Sept. 9, after having been placed on administrative leave. There was an investigation into a “personnel matter” at Town Hall, but Schuster would not confirm to the *Rivereast* last fall whether the investigation was related to Cohen’s resignation. However, a source at the time, who asked to remain anonymous, said it was Cohen who was under investigation.

According to the source, the investigation was because a Town Hall employee allegedly hid a video camera and recorded fellow employees. The source said last fall the recorded video had been deleted.

After Cohen left, the town never advertised to fill his vacated position, Schuster said. Because of the harsh winter and the money that was used for snow removals, the town wanted to wait to see if the position could be changed to save town money. Schuster estimated the change saved \$30,000-\$40,000 for this new position. However, Schuster said, this is a “very rough estimate.”

“We felt that a change would really benefit the town,” said Schuster. As of now, no one has been hired for the position. Schuster will bring recommendations to the Board of Selectman because the board makes the decision of who is hired for department heads. Schuster said the Board of Selectman is on its second round of interviews.

We are “so far very happy with the pool of candidates we have received,” Schuster said. He said the board is hoping to have someone in place over the next month or two.

Hebron Anticipates Substantial Budget Surplus

by Courtney Parent

After closing out the 2010-11 fiscal year, the town is looking at an estimated \$300,000 budget surplus, Finance Director Lisa Hancock said Wednesday. However, Hancock said there are “final adjusting entries” that still need to be put in place, so the estimate is subject to change.

Both Hancock and Town Manager Bonnie Therrien credited the budget surplus to a budget freeze that took place earlier this year.

“We had some unexpected revenue collections that helped with the surplus,” Hancock said, “but also we had implemented a budget freeze because of the uncertainty of winter costs, ambulance costs and other areas that had shortfalls.”

During the budget freeze, Hancock and Therrien both said that it was the department heads who deserved the recognition for tightening their department belts.

“The department heads really did an excellent job with limiting their expenditures during

the freeze, which did help a lot,” Therrien said. “We also picked up some revenues that were not anticipated.”

“Department heads did not purchase needed items in order to try to save money to cover the shortfalls,” Hancock said. “Some of the fund balance was transferred to cover snow removal costs for the [Board of Education] and some of the savings will flow back into the fund balance to help restore some of those funds.”

While Hancock gave praise to the department heads for doing an “excellent job” trying to save funds, she said that also means that departments are now further behind in obtaining some of the items necessary to operate.

According to Therrien, at this time there have been no discussions on how the \$300,000 surplus will be used. She estimated it would be put in “fund balance to assist us in future years and build our fund balance up.”

Three Teens Charged With Breaking Into Car in Portland

by Joshua Anusewicz

Three teenagers were arrested early Saturday in connection with a car burglary on Hartfield Road, Sgt. James Kelly said.

According to Kelly, at about 3 a.m., a resident of Hartfield Road observed a male juvenile inside his vehicle, which was parked in his driveway. The resident “startled” the juvenile and then alerted police that someone in a red shirt had broken into his vehicle.

Kelly arrived at the scene and observed a red Scion leaving from nearby Paley Farm Road, occupied by three people. Kelly said that in the backseat of the vehicle, he noticed a male juvenile wearing a red shirt and “sweating profusely.” Located in his possession was the insert in the car center console filled with roughly \$100 in change and bills; there was also a GPS unit and an iPod, which the occupants of the car did not claim.

Further investigation revealed that the driver of the vehicle, Olivia Breece, 18, of 30 Stephen Tom Rd., had driven the male juvenile suspect to the neighborhood and dropped him off, Kelly said. While the male juvenile rummaged through vehicles, Breece and the front-seat passenger – a 17-year-old male –

waited in the car and were “fully aware of the actions” the male juvenile was taking, Kelly said. After roughly 15 minutes, the male juvenile called the 17-year-old male and told Breece to pick him up down the road.

The resident that called police confirmed that the money stolen from his vehicle was in possession of the male juvenile, Kelly said. Police were also able to locate other vehicle owners in the neighborhood that had items stolen from their vehicles, including the owners of the GPS unit and iPod.

The male juvenile was charged with third-degree burglary and fourth-degree larceny, Kelly said. Breece and the 17-year-old male were charged with third-degree conspiracy to commit burglary and fourth-degree larceny. All were released with promise to appear.

Portland Police made two arrests earlier this month in a connection with a string of car break-ins in the downtown area of Portland. Two juveniles, ages 15 and 16, were arrested for larceny and criminal trespassing as part of an investigation into over 25 car break-ins over the past month. In that case, the thieves targeted unlocked cars to steal things like computers, jewelry and change.

Obituaries

Marlborough

Douglas Voisine

Douglas Voisine, 50, of Marlborough and formerly of East Hampton, died suddenly on Friday, Aug. 12, at the Middlesex Hospital Marlborough Medical Center. Born in Hartford Sept. 15, 1960, he was the son of the late Lawrence Voisine and Geneva Corriveau Voisine.

Douglas worked for Christine Rigging and Trucking and for Marino Crane, but was mostly self-employed. He was a past member of the Loyal Order of Moose of Marlborough and a communicant of St. Patrick Church in East Hampton.

He is survived by his brother, Gilman Voisine of Vermont; four sisters, Jacqueline of North Carolina, Barbara of Arkansas, Jane of North Carolina, Margaret of Marlborough; and many loving nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by two brothers, Rodney and Reynold, and a sister, Diane.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, Aug. 17, at 5 p.m. in the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, with the Rev. Walter Nagle, pastor of St. Patrick Church, officiating. Visitation followed the service until 7 p.m. Burial was private at the convenience of the family.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Colchester

Sophy M. Graves

Sophy M. Graves, 94, wife of the late Robert Graves of Colchester, passed away on Saturday, Aug. 13, at home. She was born on Nov. 24, 1916 in Colchester, daughter of Michael and Mary Woyner Vechinsky.

Sophy was a medical secretary and worked for the late Dr. Irwin Israel. Under the doctor she achieved the Middlesex County Medical Assistant award in 1964. Her last employment was with Dr. Khyberry. Sophy was an avid gardener and baker. She remained very active and in good spirits until her very last days of her life.

She was predeceased by her son Jonathan, and her four brothers, Steve, John, Joseph and Henry Vechinsky.

Surviving her is her grandson Shane Graves; daughter-in-law Adrienne "DeDe"; brother-in-law Lloyd Graves' nephews Tommy Graves and Michael Vechinsky; her Niece Nancy Knotek; cousin James Shamblen and countless friends.

Graveside services were held Thursday, Aug. 18, at 10 a.m. at Linwood Cemetery on Route 16, Colchester. There were no calling hours and those who wish may make donations to the United Methodist Church, Box 475, Higganum, CT 06441 in her memory.

Belmont/Sabrowski Funeral Home of Colchester is in care of arrangements.

East Hampton

William V. Depietro III

William V. Depietro III, 48, of East Hampton and formerly of Marlborough, husband of Karen (Stebbins) Depietro, died Wednesday, Aug. 10, at Middlesex Hospital. Born June 19, 1963 in Hartford, he was the son of William V and Sandra (Ervin) Depietro Jr. of Marlborough.

William graduated from RHAM High School and had worked as a foreman in the construction industry. William loved the outdoors, especially hunting, fishing and gardening. He also enjoyed NASCAR.

Besides his parents, he is survived by his wife, Karen of East Hampton; two sons, Robert A. Walton of Colchester, William V. Depietro IV of East Hampton; two daughters, Kariann M. Nameth of Waterford, Karla M. Depietro of East Hampton; two brothers, Peter Depietro of Bolton and David Depietro of Hartford; a sister, Devon Miller of Lebanon; three grandchildren, Melissa, Joshua and Emma; and two nephews, Kyle and Ryan

He was predeceased by a baby brother, Paul Depietro.

Funeral services will be private at the convenience of the family.

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

East Hampton

Cynthia Ann Tyrseck

Cynthia Ann (Bamber) Tyrseck, 52, of East Hampton, died Thursday, Aug. 11, at Middlesex Hospital Hospice. Born July 20, 1959, in Hartford, she was the daughter of Joyce (LaRock) Bamber and the late Richard Bamber. Cynthia had lived in East Hampton for most of her life and was employed as an accounts payable associate for the Tri-Town Precision Plastics, Inc.

Besides her mother she is survived by her son, Fredrick Tyrseck Jr of Marlborough and his fiancée Kelly Cavander; a daughter, Christina Camp and her husband Michael of East Hampton; two brothers, Ronald L. and Sandy Bamber of Higganum, Robert L. Bamber of Moodus; a sister, Marjorie Hathaway of Vermont; two beloved grandchildren, Jordan and Colby Camp; and her loving dog, Bailey.

Cindy had a love for NASCAR and her driver Jimmie Johnson. As a child she enjoyed barrel racing her horse Red. Cindy's family would like to thank the entire staff of Middlesex Hospice Unit and especially nurse Kelly who provided Cindy much comfort and support in her final days.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, Aug. 20, at 11 a.m. in the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, with the Rev. Robert Faulhaber officiating. Burial will be private. Friends may call at the funeral home Saturday from 9 a.m. until the time of the service.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Middlesex Hospital Hospice Program, c/o Middlesex Hospital Department of Philanthropy, 55 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Portland

William Brian Perruccio

William Brian Perruccio, 69, passed from this life peacefully Saturday, Aug. 13, after a long illness. He was born in Middletown July 4, 1942, and was a lifelong resident of Portland. He was the only son of the late Salvatore and Louise (Perez) Perruccio of Portland.

He was a graduate of UConn with both a B.S. (1965) and an M.S. (1968) in civil engineering. He spent all of his career working for the State of Connecticut, starting at the Department of Transportation. He then taught as a professor of civil engineering at Hartford State Technical College for 27 years, from which he retired in 1997.

He is survived by his loving wife of more than 45 years, Virginia (Johnson); his children, Susan King and her husband David of South Hadley, MA, and Brian and his wife Jennifer of Apex, NC. He leaves grandchildren Alexa and Anna King, and Davis and Kate Perruccio. He also leaves two sisters, Dorothy Seaman of Boca Raton, FL, and Irene Roberts of Marblehead, MA, and a brother- and sister-in-law, Carl and Sally Johnson of Kensington, as well as several nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Bill was a member of Zion Lutheran Church, a Past Master of Warren Lodge 51 A.F. & A.M. of Portland, a former member of Sphinx Shriners of Hartford, and a former member of the Portland Lions Club. He was a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, a professional engineer and a registered sanitarian who had worked part-time for the Town of Portland.

He enjoyed watching sports, especially UConn Men's and Women's Basketball and American Legion baseball. He liked gardening and was a big fan of Pick-Your-Own fruit orchards. Bill was a supporter of the Bushnell Park Carousel and enjoyed taking his grandchildren there. He was also a fan of live music and often attended concerts at The Wadsworth Mansion.

Calling hours will be 5-7 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 21, at the Glastonbury Funeral Home, 450 New London Tpke., Glastonbury, with a Masonic service held at 6:45 p.m. Friends are asked to meet at Zion Lutheran Church in Portland at 11 a.m. Monday, Aug. 22, for Bill's funeral service. Burial will be at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Zion Lutheran Church Memorial Fund, 183 William St., Portland, CT 06480, or the Masonic Charity Foundation, c/o 69 Masonic Ave., Wallingford, CT 06492.

For more information or to leave an online condolence, visit glastonburyfuneral.com.



Portland

John F. Gotta

John F. Gotta, 94, beloved husband of the late Eunice (Hale) Morehouse Gotta, died on Thursday, Aug. 11, at Middlesex Hospital. Born Oct. 22, 1916, in Portland, he was the son of the late Leo and Josephine (Bardone) Gotta.

John grew up on Gotta's Farm. With pride in his family's heritage, he was an avid lifelong farmer and enjoyed working the land. John attended local Portland schools. He was employed by Pratt & Whitney as a general foreman in the Experimental Test Department from where he retired after 44 years of service. John was an active member of the Portland Historical Society. He was known for his ability to repair most everything. John was always willing to lend a helping hand to anyone in need. He especially enjoyed spending time with his family.

John is survived by his two sons: Alan R. Morehouse and his wife Priscilla of Bethel, John H. Gotta and his wife Linda of Marlborough; four grandchildren: Jonathan M. Morehouse and his wife Cathy, Alan R. Morehouse III and his wife Tammi, Amy G. Ide and her husband Jacob and John W. Gotta; six beloved great grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by a sister and two brothers.

A special thanks to two caring individuals, his nephew Joe and his friend Gloria. Another thanks goes to the entire staff of One MacDonough Place for all their support and care.

Family and friends attended his funeral service Tuesday, Aug. 16, directly at Trinity Episcopal Church. There were no calling hours. Burial followed in Trinity Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations in memory of Mr. Gotta may be made to the Fidelco Guide Dog Foundation Inc., 103 Old Iron Ore Rd., Bloomfield, CT 06002, or to Middlesex Hospital Hospice, 28 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland. To send an online expression of sympathy, visit portlandmemorialfh.net.

Andover

Donald H. Barnett Sr.

Donald H. Barnett Sr., 72, of Manchester and formerly of Andover and Hartford, beloved husband of Carol L. (Dietrichsen) Barnett, died Friday, Aug. 12, at St. Francis Hospital with his family at his side.

Donald was born Oct. 15, 1938, in Hartford, son of the late William and Helen (Crowley) Barnett and had lived in Andover and Coventry before moving to Manchester in 1966. He was a U.S. Navy veteran. Donald was a member of the Manchester Army & Navy Club, he enjoyed golf and surf casting, he was an enthusiastic Giants and Yankees Fan, but his greatest joy was playing and spending time with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Prior to his retirement in 1998 he was a foreman with U.S. Food Service.

In addition to his loving wife he is survived by six children, Kevin J. Barnett of Los Angeles, CA., Donald H. Barnett Jr. and his wife Pamela of Manchester, Cheryl A. Doll and her husband Bill, also of Manchester, Paul J. Barnett and his wife Sue of East Hartford, Peter J. Barnett and his wife Doreen of Manchester, David W. Barnett and his wife Laura of Coventry; four brothers and sisters, Emmett Barnett of Wethersfield, Patrick Barnett of Collinsville, Betty Smegal of Torrington, Irene Christiansen of Liveoak, FL; 15 grandchildren; two great-grandchildren, Addison Rae Kryger and Justin Thomas Downes Jr., and several nieces and nephews.

Calling hours were Monday, Aug. 15, at the Watkins Funeral Home, 142 East Center St., Manchester. Funeral services and burial were private.

Memorial donations may be made to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, 185 Silas Dean Hwy. Wethersfield, CT. 06109.

To sign the online register book, visit holmes-watkinsfuneralhomes.com.

Amston

Edwin MacNaughton

Edwin Milledge MacNaughton, 91, of Amston, died Friday, Aug. 12, after a short illness. He served in the Army in World War II, first in England where he met his late wife of 58 years, Margaret (Sabine), and then in the Philippines.

He pursued several career paths in his time, but is best remembered for his custom made slip-cover business. He was keenly interested in the stock market and was an avowed news junkie! Dad was a funny, quirky, opinionated, sometimes cantankerous, but always a decent man with a good heart.

He leaves four children, John Edwin MacNaughton of New Milford, Laura-Jean Colon of Eustis, FL, Ellen Winters MacNaughton of Amston and Steven Roy MacNaughton of Burlington, as well as his much loved "kidz-in-law," Michele MacNaughton of Burlington and Michael Colon of Eustis, FL. He also leaves grandchildren Jennifer Wong, Christina Snow, Eric MacNaughton and Elizabeth MacNaughton along with great-grandchildren Sophia, Stephanie and Callan.

The family would like to thank the wonderful staff of Apple Rehab of Colchester for their excellent care and kindness during Dad's illness and passing.

Per Dad's wishes, there will be no services.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to St Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Pl., Memphis, TN 38105-1905.

To share a memory, visit mulryanfh.com.

Portland

Anthony J. Santostefano

Anthony J. Santostefano of Portland, an extraordinary husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother and friend, passed away peacefully Tuesday, Aug. 16. He will always be remembered fondly by his family for the love and pride he had for them.

Born in Melilli, Province of Siracusa, Italy, to the late Joseph and Josephine (Faraci) Santostefano. He entered his beloved America through Ellis Island, NY, as a young boy and settled with his family in Middletown. He attended local grammar schools and graduated from Middletown High School.

He proudly served as a U.S. Army private during the D-Day invasion of Normandy. Upon return, he attended the University of Connecticut, joined the Air Force ROTC program, graduating in 1950 to begin his career as a commissioned military officer in the 509th Bomb Wing at Roswell AFB, Roswell, NM. He was highly decorated for his outstanding military service in leadership and devotion to his country. His service stations included Fairford and High Wycombe AS in England, Rhein-Main AB in Germany, Lajes Field in the Azores, Dow AFB, ME, and Travis AFB, CA. He retired as a Colonel in 1970.

After retiring, he worked for the *Middletown Press* and, later, became a volunteer at the Middlesex Hospital emergency room for 13 years, logging over 6,000 hours. His favorite pastimes included cheering on UConn women's basketball team, the New York Yankees and Boston Celtics, as well as preparing new recipes. Tony's fondest memories were spending summers in Kennebunk, ME, with his family and friends. He was his happiest as he watched his grandchildren grow-up to love all that the shoreline community had to offer.

He leaves behind his loving wife and best friend, Rita. He is also survived by his children Mark and wife Judy, Dean and wife Rosanne, Elisa Paternostro and husband Pat, Alicia Sessa and husband Daniel, Lauren Schlesselman and husband Michael and Jason and wife Kerri. Tony's greatest joys were his 11 grandchildren, Emily, Nick, Jesse, Luke, James, Jenna, Briana, Joshua, Bennett, Katrina and Olivia, along with his great-granddaughter, Nina. He is also survived by his sister Phylis Beeman, as well as many wonderful friends, especially his 'breakfast buddy' John Larkin.

A special thank you to the dedicated staff at Portland Care & Rehabilitation, Devita Dialysis Center, and the Middlesex Weiss Hospice Unit for the warm and compassionate care given to Tony. And, a special thank you to Doctor Kazakoff for his care and support.

The Funeral Liturgy will be held today, Aug. 19, at 11 a.m., at St. Francis of Assisi Church, Elm St., Middletown. Burial with military honors will be in Pine Grove Cemetery, Middletown. There are no calling hours.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the National Kidney Foundation, 30 East 33rd St., New York, NY, 10016 or Middlesex Hospital, Office of Philanthropy, 28 Crescent Street, Middletown, CT 06457, payable to Middlesex Weiss Hospice Unit. Biega Funeral Home has care of the arrangements.

To share memories or express condolences online, visit biegafuneralhome.com.

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Hebron Police News

8/14: Joseph J. Stahl IV, 26, of 795 Route 148, Killingworth, was charged with DUI and possession of less than four ounces of marijuana, State Police said.

8/14: Christian Mundth, 19, of 72 Cedar Grove Rd., Branchburg, NJ, was charged with fourth-degree larceny, State Police said.

8/14: Brenden Burke, 19, of 2656 Softwood Dr., St. Louis MO, was charged with fourth-degree larceny, State Police said.

8/14: Jeffrey Szot, 19, of 29 Fieldpoint Dr., Danbury, was charged with fourth-degree larceny.

Andover Police News

8/13: Benn L. Nelson Jr., 38, of 370 Meadowbrook Ct., West Haven, was charged with failure to drive right, State Police said.

Colchester Police News

8/9: Jason Rich, 36, of 40 Falls Bashan Rd., Moodus, was charged with first- and second-degree failure to appear, State Police said.

8/10: Corinne M. Ciochini, 23, of 51 Pleasant St., was charged with third-degree conspiracy to commit burglary and third-degree conspiracy to commit criminal mischief, State Police said.

8/10: Thomas Lemay, 24, of 51 Pleasant St., was charged with third-degree criminal attempt to commit burglary, third-degree criminal mischief and third-degree burglary, State Police said.

8/11: Jason E. Menard, 22, of 30 Sipple Hill Rd., Moodus, was charged with third-degree larceny and possession of a controlled substance, State Police said.

8/11: Vanessa Brogden, 40, of 196 Standish Rd., was charged with second-degree larceny and criminal trespass, State Police said.

8/12: Ryan Henk, 20, of 297 Old Hebron Rd., was charged with third-degree burglary, third-degree larceny, third-degree criminal mischief, three counts of first-degree failure to appear and two counts of second-degree failure to appear, State Police said.

8/12: Jonathan Palafax, 20, of 147 Pinebrook Rd., was charged with reckless driving, State Police said.

8/12: Police are investigating a garbage can fire on the town green. The can was under the

Man Loses Control of Car, Brings Down Wire

A hundred feet of wire rope guard rail and posts were knocked down on Route 2 Exit 18 when a man lost control of his vehicle Aug. 9, State Police said.

Paul Dechio, 35, of 152 Ida Ave., Derby, was exiting off the highway when his 2005 CTS Cadillac went off the road 300 feet from the end of the ramp, police said. Dechio was not injured but the entire right side of his car was heavily damaged, police said.

Dechio was issued a written warning for making an improper turn, State Police said.

gazebo when the Colchester Hayward Fire Department responded to the call and extinguished the fire. The cause of the fire is unknown, Colchester Police said.

8/12: James N. Lepage, 51, of 135 North Main St., Apt., C, Jewett City, was charged with DUI and improper turn, State Police said.

8/12: Colchester Police are investigating the vandalism of numerous mailboxes and driveways. The vandalisms took place in the early morning of Aug. 12 on Jolin Lane and a can of spray paint was left behind, police said. Anyone with information is asked to contact the Colchester Police at 860-537-7270.

8/13: Colchester Police are investigating a burglary that took place on Lindsey Road during the daytime hours on Aug. 13. Anyone with information is asked to contact Officer Shannon Owens at 860-537-7270.

8/13: Christopher Thompson, 22, of 49 Standish Rd., was charged with DUI and unsafe passing, State Police said.

8/13: Carrie Patterson, 34, of 63 Neptune Ave., was charged with third-degree assault and disorderly conduct, State Police said.

8/14: Jacquelyn M. Eifler, 22, of 534 Norwich Ave., was charged with DUI and failure to drive right, State Police said.

8/14: Nicholas Malley, 20, of 191 Lebanon Ave., Lebanon, was charged with second-degree failure to appear, State Police said.

East Hampton Police News

8/1: Kathleen Hauser, 58, of 176 Saner Rd., Marlborough, was involved in a one-car collision in which her vehicle struck a wooden guardrail in the Stop & Shop parking lot while trying to park, East Hampton Police said. Hauser was issued a summons for illegal operation of a motor vehicle while under suspension, illegal operation of an unregistered and uninsured motor vehicle and reckless driving, police added.

8/6: Robert Roy Light, 48, of 1 Timber Trail, was arrested for second-degree strangulation and disorderly conduct, police said.

8/6: Christopher Scaplen, 26, of 18 Wells Ave., was arrested for third-degree assault and disorderly conduct, police said.

8/7: Luis Rodriguez, 35, of 55 Morris St., Hartford and Mildred Causcut, 40, of 35

Campfield Ave., Hartford, were arrested, police said. Rodriguez was arrested for possession of narcotics with intent to sell. Causcut was arrested for violation of probation, operating a motor vehicle while under suspension and failure to drive right, police added.

8/9: Ashley E. Schonagel, 21, of 29 West High St., was arrested for disorderly conduct and third-degree criminal mischief, police said.

8/9: Wesley Zaino, 22, of 22 Oak Dr., Marlborough, was arrested for two counts of second-degree failure to appear, police said.

8/10: A 17-year-old juvenile was arrested for drug paraphernalia, possession of drug paraphernalia within 1,500 feet of a school, possession of marijuana with intent to sell and possession of marijuana with intent to sell within 1,500 feet of a school, police said.