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RIVEREAST News Bulletin

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Hurricane Irene was a tropical storm by the time it reached Connecticut, but it still caused massive damage throughout the state. This scene, of fallen trees bringing down power lines on Route 17 in Portland, was not an uncommon sight. Nearly 700,000 CL&P customers across the state lost power as a result of the storm. *Photo by Renee Snyder.*

Area Feels Irene's Wrath

by Courtney Parent

While "Hurricane Irene" may have been downgraded to a "tropical storm" by the time she touched ground in Connecticut, that does not discount the treacherous path of destruction she paved as she made her way through the state this past Sunday, Aug. 28.

From the time her 70 mph winds and heavy rains struck the state early Sunday

morning to when she left late Sunday afternoon, houses and cars were destroyed, roads were blocked by trees and debris, power lines were strewn about like rag dolls and hundreds of thousands of residents were left in the dark.

According to Connecticut Light & Power (CL&P) spokesman Al Lara, power outage numbers peaked Sunday evening

hitting an all-time high of 671,789 – considerably more than the 477,000 customers that were left without power when Hurricane Gloria struck the state in 1985. However, Lara said the numbers are not a clear comparison as the state is much more populated than it was more than two decades ago.

Lara added that the storms not only dif-

fer in outage numbers but also in style. Lara said Wednesday that Gloria was a "fast-moving, dry storm," while Irene was "slow moving and very wet." Additionally, Lara said that while in actuality Hurricane Irene may not have been as strong a storm as Gloria, there were sustained winds for a much longer period of time.

See Irene's Wrath Pages 3 and 4



No Rivereast town was spared from Tropical Storm Irene. At left, courtesy of Marlborough resident Ken Hjulstrom, is a picture of a fallen tree leaning across Route 66. At right, courtesy of Rivereast reporter Courtney Parent, is a shot of a tree that had fallen on the house of Andover resident Mary Duval. Duval was uninjured when the tree came tumbling down.

Irene's Wrath cont. from Front Page

"One thing about Irene is that it caused a lot of damage," said Lara, "but mostly on the eastern side of the state, which is less populated than other areas in the state."

Though there were record-breaking outage numbers, Lara said CL&P has also seen "record-setting restoration" over the past few days. Since the time Irene ceased Sunday, Lara said CL&P has restored power to over a half million customers throughout the state.

As of press time, there were 900 crews working across the state (500 line crews and 400 tree crews); by this weekend, Lara said that number will increase to 1,200 crews. Of those crews currently at work, Lara said just 203 belong to CL&P; the remainder have been contracted from as far north as Vancouver and as far west as Seattle.

"The idea is that as soon as work is completed anywhere those resources are getting redeployed," said Lara. "The west side [of the state] is getting fixed first because there's less damage. Then those crews will complement crews already on the east side of the state."

Unfortunately, as crews move to the east side of the state where damage is more intense, Lara said the pace will slow.

"As we start getting into the next few days it will slow down in general," said Lara, "as we will be working on the most damaged areas and challenging restorations. Only so quickly we can move to extricate a line connected a tree."

As of Wednesday, Lara said there were still approximately 1,000 roads blocked on the eastern side of the state. Lara anticipates that outage numbers will be down to the final 100,000 by this weekend.

"We remain optimistic," said Lara, "while trying to stay as safe as possible."

According to CL&P's outage report, as of press time Rivereast towns varied from just 22 percent without power in Portland to 80 percent without power in Marlborough. Other

power outage percentages include 48 percent in Andover, 54 percent in Colchester, 59 percent in East Hampton and 66 percent in Hebron. * * *

Marlborough First Selectman Bill Black said the town began preparation efforts for the storm last Wednesday, Aug. 24. Efforts included having plow trucks, chainsaws, safety glasses and helmets available for debris removal and ensuring that 15 volunteers were on call and ready if needed.

"We have done all we can do from a town perspective," Black said.

Black added that the town has been utilizing its resources, including a communications room with a radio link to state offices of Emergency Management in the town's emergency center in Town Hall.

On Monday morning, after the storm had passed, Black and Ann Kilby (a member of the Emergency Operations Team) compiled a list of all the locations where damage had been reported. A phone and fax machine in the town's Emergency Operations Center aided the EOT in sending CL&P a list of outages.

"We prioritized with CL&P... we are here [in Town Hall] in case people come in," Kilby said Monday.

The biggest crisis referenced by Black was in regards to Route 66, where fallen trees took out power from Portland to Hebron. According to Black, in many spots fallen trees across Route 66 laid so high that a car could drive under it, giving it what he referred to as the "tunnel effect." Other locations Black noted where trees crashed on power lines were North Main and South Main Street, Finnley Hill, Jones Hollow, Park, Isleib and Buck roads.

According to Black, as there are "numerous trees intertwined with cable," it is going to take "considerable effort" and be a "slow process" to get all the roads cleared and get the towns power back up and running.

According to Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall Elementary School Principal Scott Nierendorf, though the first day of school was scheduled for this past Monday, Aug. 29, that date has been pushed back to Tuesday, Sept. 6. Nierendorf said Monday that even if the school were to regain power this week, buses would still be unable to make it down many of the town's roads due to downed trees and debris.

Though Nierendorf said the "regular channels of communication" are not working, Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall is trying to get the word out about closings through an automated message and a sign on the school's front door.

As a result of the 80 percent power outage in Marlborough, the town requested and received Meal Ready to Eat (MREs) and water from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Supplies can be picked up near the school buses opposite Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall. * * *

According to Hebron Fire Marshal Randy Blais, the town was still 100 percent without power through Monday evening. However, Tuesday morning, approximately 30 percent of the town woke up to the sight of bright lights and the sound of toilets flushing.

Blais said Tuesday that between Public Works and CL&P, all of the roads had been opened; downed trees were removed and CL&P removed lines that were tangled.

"Here at the firehouse," Blais said, "we've come up with like 100 different locations for trees down and power lines down."

According to Blais, there were four or five homes in Hebron which sustained damage in the storm. However, he said the damages were "nothing severe."

At this time, Blais said the Hebron Fire Department has aided in clearing a majority of the roads, and added, "if we get any calls we're going out to them." Also, he said, residents are welcome to visit the firehouse, equipped with their own buckets for water.

As of Wednesday, Hebron had an electrical charging station for cell phones and other devices available at town hall and library during normal business hours. Douglas Library is open with Wi-Fi available. Finally, residents can make their way to the firehouse at 44 Main St. or to the Town Office Building at 15 Gilead St. to get buckets for flushing.

Looking at area schools, Hebron Superintendent of Schools Ellie Cruz said in terms of physical appearance the schools are "remarkably unscathed." Cruz credited the current standing of the schools after the hurricane to preparation efforts made before the storm hit. Specifically, Cruz said that staff went through the buildings, unplugging all of the electronics and technology.

"We tried to anticipate every problem we could foresee and more," Cruz said Wednesday.

Additionally, Cruz said there were concerns over the current roof maintenance taking place at Gilead Hill School. However, Cruz said they worked with the roofing company in advance to make sure everything was secured and in the end the "new roof held perfectly." Despite minor leaking at Hebron Elementary in the gymnasium, Cruz said the schools "weathered the storm very well."

Now Cruz said the main challenges are get-

ting back up online and ensuring that the bus routes are safe before making decisions about opening the schools.

According to Cruz, drivers were asked to take busses out for a trial run earlier this week and report on problem spots. Cruz said Wednesday afternoon she would be taking part in a meeting with RHAM, as well as Hebron Town Manager Bonnie Therrien, to assess RHAM's status and do a "physical drive-through" of Hebron's six streets in question.

After a meeting on Wednesday, a decision was made to bump the first day of school back to next Tuesday, Sept. 6, according to the RHAM High School website, rhamhs.reg8.k12.ct.us. * * *

According to Andover First Selectman Bob Burbank, as of Wednesday more than 50 percent of Andover was still without power. As a result, Burbank said the town will be distributing water and food rations (if necessary) at the town garage at 35 Long Hill Rd.

Burbank pointed to Comcast service as the main "disaster" left in Irene's aftermath. Specifically, Burbank said that a majority of the seniors and elderly in town are now "incommunicado," while neighbors with AT&T are "fully operational."

Adding to the phone fiasco, Burbank said that upon trying to call Comcast to get information, the Comcast connection goes dead. After listening to the touchtone commands and pressing the necessary numbers to speak to a customer service representative in regards to residential phone service, Burbank said the connection simply ends without transferring to a "real person."

"It's a pretty poor situation," Burbank said. "I've got tons of complaints about that."

Aside from the communication catastrophe, Burbank said the town is "faring pretty good," with CL&P beginning to clear trees and restore power to additional residents. Burbank anticipated Wednesday that all of the roads would be opened up by the end of the day.

Andover Fire Marshal John Roache said there were trees down on two different houses in town and estimated that at Andover's peak outage, 90 percent of the town was without power.

"There are a lot of trees down," said Roache, "but it wasn't completely unheard of or out of the unusual...nothing we couldn't handle."

Roache commended the Andover Fire Department for a "great job" clearing the roads so that people could get to where they needed to. While Roache said it was not necessary for the shelter to open, RHAM is open to area residents so that individuals can take showers.

One of those aforementioned residents who saw a tree collapse on their house as a result of Irene's rage was Mary Duval. Duval, who lives on Lake Road, said she made a dash for the back door when she heard the crackle as the tree came tumbling down.

"I was standing there and heard the loud crack and ran down the hallway," Duval said. "I tiptoed back and looked out the same place I was and there was the tree. It was right where I was standing."

Duval said she was well aware of the danger of her neighbor's tree, as a portion of the tree had fallen down in February due to a winter storm.



After all the rain associated with Irene, flooding was next. Shown here is water running over Route 17A in Portland. Photo by Renee Snyder.



Fallen trees and branches, and sagging power lines, were common sights in the area this week. At left is damage on North Maple Street in East Hampton, while at right is Isleib Road in Marlborough.

The tree, which is still laying atop Duval's house, broke through her brand new cedar fence, mangled her rain gutters (which she had just cleaned prior to the storm), and stuck its limbs through her bedroom ceiling. Though the building inspector permitted Duval to remain at her residence (after the roof was patched and tree branch removed from the interior), she was advised to stay clear of her bedroom.

Though the event was terrifying for Duval, she said her best friend – and Andover's Top Dog – Blitzen had a "great day," as the pooch thought everyone coming to assess the damage and clear the debris was really coming to visit her.

East Hampton, which had 100 percent of residents without power after the storm, held an emergency Town Council meeting on Tuesday to update citizens on the clean-up efforts. Those present to address the town included Town Council Chairwoman Melissa Engel, Director of Public Works Keith Hayden, Police Chief Matthew Reimondo, Fire Marshal Richard Klotzbier and Superintendent of Schools Dr. Judith Golden, to name a few.

"We've seen a lot of good things in the community," Town Council Chairwoman Melissa Engel said of residents' response to those in need as a result of the storm.

Engel added that as of Tuesday, there were still families trapped on multiple roads in towns due to downed trees.

Hayden informed the public that his "skeleton crew" of three employees began work on Saturday evening, responding to calls from the police department. By 6 a.m. Sunday, Public Works was traveling throughout the town in an attempt to minimize the damage. However, Hayden said that when the winds reached 50 mph on Sunday, he was forced to pull the crews back in.

Monday morning, Hayden, along with Reimondo, members of the public works department and the police department, began surveying the damage caused by the tropical storm. Hayden said that several highly-traveled roads, including Mott Hill Road and Smith and Maple streets, were among those that had trees and wires down. Like many residents, Hayden expressed his frustration with CL&P.

"We've had to keep telling [CL&P] where to be," Hayden said. "It's their infrastructure; they should know if it's down."

Resident Matt Walton said he was concerned by CL&P's response as well. Walton, who lives on Sherry Drive, said that a down tree was cleared by "a tree-cutting professional" on Tuesday, but that prior to that, there was only enough room for a passenger car to pass. He said that with several generators running on the road, it created "a dangerous situation."

"It shouldn't take three days for someone to get out there," Walton said.

On a similar note, Laurie Wasilewski, a resident of Hog Hill Road, also expressed concern on the state of her road, pointing to several "low trees and down wires" that vehicles are forced to drive through, creating a "terrifying" situation. She said that few residents she has spoken with have been updated by CL&P or town officials.

"We've been literally and figuratively left in the dark," Wasilewski said. She also applauded the decision to extend the high school's hours to 10 p.m., as she said there are a number of

residents who aren't home from work until after 7 p.m.

Hayden added that some residents had taken it upon themselves to move the trees or wires – something he said that was "not advised." He also said the town has exhausted its supply of traffic cones, as some have been stolen by residents over the past few days.

Reimondo said that the police department has remained open, taking phone calls "24/7." Officers have been dispatched to a few major intersections to "man the roads and keep traffic flowing," Reimondo said. He added that one police cruiser sustained minor damage to its windshield during the storm.

Klotzbier, who was also on hand, outlined to the public the shelter set-up at East Hampton High School, which he said had accommodated "a few" residents before closing at 6 p.m. on Sunday.

As of Tuesday, the high school was opened from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. for residents to take showers, charge electronics, and get bottled water and snacks donated by the Red Cross. This service has been extended to 10 p.m. and will run through today, with the weekend pending, Klotzbier said. There is also a water spigot located at the front of the high school.

For those residents who need ice, Klotzbier asked residents to call Chris of Nationwide Insurance at 860-539-1843. The ice can also be delivered to residents, if needed.

Turning to another school postponement, Golden told the public at Tuesday's meeting that the first day of school would be rescheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 6. Golden said she has been in "constant contact with the administrators" of all four schools, and that no major problems have been reported.

"We realized that going day-to-day just wasn't going to work," Golden said about the decision to postpone the start of school.

Any East Hampton residents looking to dispose of brush can do so for free beginning this Saturday, Sept. 3, from 7:30 a.m.-3 p.m. at the town transfer station. The transfer station will also be open on Wednesdays from 7:30 a.m.-3 p.m. through the end of September. Hayden asks that individuals provide proof of East Hampton residency.

In Colchester, Irene left an estimated 96 percent of the town in the dark, said Emergency Management Director Reed Gustafson. As a result, the Red Cross set up a shelter for residents at Bacon Academy. According to Gustafson, 17 citizens waited out the storm in the shelter, utilizing the free food, water and cots.

Like many town officials, First Selectman Gregg Schuster said that the town was as prepared as they could be for Irene's arrival. According to Schuster, Sunday evening public works crews were staged all across town waiting for any emergencies that may arise. At approximately 7 a.m. Sunday, Schuster declared a state of emergency for the town, as he said the town's resources "could not handle" the damage.

Once the storm had passed, Schuster said the most important thing was to assess the damage. A few of the main areas impacted by the storm included West and Standish roads, Lebanon and Windham avenues and Elm Street.

"The vast majority of the town is without power," Schuster said Monday, and the town is

doing its best to work with CL&P to make things fully functional. Schuster said the number one priority is to open up the roads, so that CL&P can come through and restore power. Schuster said it is also very important for the town that everything is well documented to try to get Federal Emergency Management Agency money down the line.

Gustafson pointed to resident safety, saying that the most important thing is "making sure people were safe" and "getting information in and out."

Rick Farrick, a volunteer certified disaster recovery planner with Aetna, was at the shelter Sunday. Farrick said there is "a real team effort that you see from everybody." Reed agreed saying the town has worked hard to "build a team of people that can help in situations like this."

Resident Trooper Supervisor Marc Petrucci said that everything was well-controlled and "nothing crazy" happened during the storm due to the preparedness of town officials. As of Monday, the Colchester Police were up and running "as a normal day," he said. Petrucci is asking residents to not cross closed roads, even if it seems like they could make it through.

"We are trying to help out as best we can," he said.

Jean Walsh, administrative assistant at the firehouse, who is also a CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) representative, commended the Red Cross for a job well done.

"The Red Cross was phenomenal," said Walsh. "I was very impressed with their operation portion" during the disaster.

Turning to Bacon Academy, Walsh said that showers were available at the high school from 12:30-2:30 p.m. during the week following the storm. Unfortunately, she said there was only enough generator power for the boys' bathroom. As was the case with most schools, Colchester schools had to delay their first day and will be resuming classes this Tuesday, Sept. 6.

While outsiders may view Portland residents as "lucky," seeing the lowest outage numbers of all *Riverest* towns by a significant margin, the damage there was two-fold. Not only did Irene knock down trees and wires causing power outages, but she also caused the Connecticut River to rise to heights that haven't been seen since the 1980s.

At a Board of Selectmen meeting Wednesday evening, Portland Fire Chief Bob Shea, it was "planning earlier in the week" which saved the town from any major problems.

Portland First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield explained that the public works department cleared sewers and culverts prior to the storm, which helped prevent any flooding. There was also a Hunter's ambulance stationed in Portland during the storm if needed.

Shea said that there was "no work done during the hazardous weather unless it was a life-threatening situation."

According to Shea, an emergency operations center was opened at the Buck Foreman Center for residents that needed help. However, it was only utilized by a few residents.

Portland Public Works Director Rick Kelsey said that the plan for the departments to work together was "well-planned and well-executed." Kelsey said that all of the roads that had trees down, but did not have wires down were cleared by Sunday night. As of Wednesday night, all but four roads with trees and wires down were

cleared.

Kelsey said that members of Cromwell's Public Works Department came to Portland on Tuesday night to help the clean-up effort.

At the meeting, selectman Fred Knous asked Kelsey, who is also the town's tree warden, if he planned to examine any of the older trees in town that didn't fall down. Kelsey said he planned to look at some trees that looked to be in danger and would assess them over the next few months. He added that some trees are the town's responsibility, while some are the responsibility of property owners.

Stephen Gibelli, associate general counsel for Northeast Utilities and Portland's liaison to CL&P, was on hand at the special Board of Selectmen meeting to answer questions and give updates on the town. Gibelli, who lives in Portland, said that the first priority for CL&P was to clear all of the roads in town and "make them safe for drivers."

The second priority, he said, was to open all of the schools and businesses. Bransfield noted that several businesses are still without power as of Wednesday, including Gildersleeve Spirit Shop on Main Street and Petzold's Marine Center on Indian Hill Road.

Gibelli also warned residents not to touch any of the down trees or wires; he asked residents to call CL&P at 800-286-2000 and a representative would come out to "guard the wires."

The town will supply brush pickup to residents, with a deadline of Saturday, Oct. 1. Kelsey said that residents could leave brush near the road that was less than 12 inches in diameter.

Water is available at the Company 2 Fire House, and Portland High School will be open from 5-8 p.m. until Friday for showers and outlets to charge electronics. The schedule for the weekend is still pending. Portland schools have also been forced to delay their start date until next Tuesday, Sept. 6.

Another problem the area is having to deal with in Irene's aftermath is contaminated water. The state Department of Public Health announced Thursday that 69 small public drinking water systems in the state are under an advisory to boil water.

The water systems affected in the *Riverest* area are: Colchester Courtyards in Colchester; Westchester East Lp in East Hampton; Hebron Arms Apartments, London Park Division, Christ Lutheran Church, Wellswood Estates Foundation Inc., Wellwood Village Division and Mill at Stonecroft Division, all in Hebron; and Forest Homes Association and Florence Lord Senior Housing in Marlborough.

The list of affected systems will be updated daily at ct.gov/dph.

While *Riverest* residents are seeing storm debris removed and power restored, for some the lights may come back on just in time for more hurricane preparation.

According to published records, as of press time, Hurricane Katia, which threatens the already battered East Coast, was making her way across the Atlantic with approximately 75 mph winds. Katia is anticipated to be a Category 3 hurricane, sustaining winds up to 120 mph.

All those who are still "in the dark" due to Irene, visit CL&P's website at cl-p.com and search for restoration estimates by town.

Riverest reporters Joshua Anusewicz and Bailey Seddon contributed to this story.

From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

I laughed at all the meteorologists, laughed at all the worry-warts.

Turned out the last laugh was on me.

As the week wore on last week, the weather prognosticators said we should look out for Hurricane Irene, as it barreled its way up the eastern seaboard over the weekend. *Oh please*, I thought to myself. *By the time it reaches Connecticut, it'll be the remnants of a tropical storm, at worst, and we'll get a couple inches of rain.*

Clearly, this is the year of me eating crow, at least weather-wise. You may recall I thought that monster snowstorm we got in January would wind up delivering six inches of snow, tops. I had been burned too many times by predictions of a huge storm that never delivered.

I finally started to buy into the hype Saturday morning, after the weather forecasts weren't getting amended one iota, and after places like New York and New Jersey began evacuating people and the New York City subway system was shut down. So I went to the store and bought a loaf of bread, some peanut butter and jelly, and some tunafish, just in case I lost power. And even then, I figured, I'd probably be without power for only a few hours.

Yeah, about that....

As I write this Tuesday afternoon, I still don't have power at my apartment in Manchester; I've been out since early Sunday morning. The *Riverast/Glastonbury Citizen* offices in Glastonbury don't have power. (It's basically just a bare-bones crew in here at this point, working off of three small generators and extension cords galore; advertising manager Carole Saucier deserves a lot of credit for getting us up and running.) And – as you all are painfully aware – the vast majority of the *Riverast* towns are still doing without.

So, Irene did indeed pack a punch. There may be some naysayers who will say it wasn't so bad, could've been worse, and really was overhyped. True, it may not have been along the lines of Katrina, and thankfully the loss of life was minimal, but for the 700,000 people in the state who lost power and the countless others who suffered property damage, it was bad enough.

And the videos I saw Monday night of all the flooding up in Vermont – the cars, covered bridges, etc., that were totally washed away – were just horrific. You might want to think twice before telling folks up there the storm was a lot of hype.

Yes, Irene was real. A little too real. And I think next time I won't be so quick to dismiss the weather forecasts.

* * *

It's now September, and the campaigning season is in full swing. That being said, let me issue a friendly reminder. Candidates sending in letters to the editor are certainly welcome to do so (you're allowed one per week), but anyone doing so really should include a 'P.S.' indicating that they're a candidate and identifying the board they're running for. In the interest of full disclosure, it's just the right thing to do.

Also, if you haven't submitted any copy to the *Riverast* in a while, let me issue another friendly reminder. The deadline for submissions is noon on Tuesdays. Yes, it used to be noon Wednesdays, but due to stricter postal regulations which affected our publication schedule, the deadline was changed to noon Tuesdays over a year ago. You can e-mail (rivereast@snet.net or bulletin@glcitizen.com), fax (860-657-3258), snail mail (P.O. Box 373, Glastonbury, CT 06033) or drop off (87 Nutmeg Ln., Glastonbury) your submissions – but no matter which method you use, they have to be in by noon Tuesday. There are no exceptions.

* * *

Late last Tuesday afternoon, I got a rather

panicked call from my mom. She and my dad had just returned home from a trip to Gay City State Park in Hebron. She had brought her digital camera along to record the sights of the beautiful park – as well as to snap pictures of her beagle, Polly, as they roamed the area. At the end of their visit, it seems, my mom placed the camera on top of her car, as she guided Polly into the back seat. She forgot about the camera, though, and she and my dad sped off towards home.

Upon returning to the house, my mom realized she couldn't find her camera – and then realized what had happened. They returned to Gay City, since that was likely the place where the camera had fallen off the car; due to where the camera was placed (near the rear of the car's top), and where my mom and dad had parked (which was in the back parking lot, right by the beach area), the camera was probably already lying on the ground by the time they hit Route 85 to go home.

A search of the Gay City grounds turned up nothing, however; I looked when I got off of work last Tuesday, and I also found nothing. My mom was just despondent, not so much over losing the camera itself but the memory card inside. The pictures on it went back a long way; my mom called them "priceless memories" – and they really were. Among the gems were several pictures of my mom's beloved late beagle, Shiloh (and I can tell you firsthand, she was a sweetheart of a dog). There were also pictures of other events and memories, including the amazing snows we had this past winter.

However, just when all was considered lost, my mom discovered a message on her cell phone last Wednesday afternoon, from a man living in Glastonbury. It seems that shortly after my parents had left Gay City, the Glastonburian – who had been visiting the park with his family – came across the camera. While a lot of people may have been tempted to just chuck the memory card and keep the camera – after all, it's a pretty nice camera – this Good Samaritan was not. He went home, looked at the pictures on his computer, and scrolled to them until he found one of Polly that just happened to feature her dog tag. He zoomed in on the tag until he could make out the cell phone number – and then he gave my mom a call.

The kicker? That cell phone he called wasn't long for this world. It had been periodically dying on my mom; in fact, she and my dad were headed to the cell phone store to try to fix it when it gave one last gasp, and turned back on just long enough for my mom to notice the message and listened to it. After she got the Glastonbury resident's phone number, the cell phone died once again – and, it turned out, was never revived.

Also, it turns out the Glastonbury resident had only moved to town fairly recently. If he hadn't moved there when he did, and been at Gay City when he was, that camera, and all of its irreplaceable life moments, may be gone for good.

So, what could've been a very sad story instead it wound up being one of those tales that remind you that, while the lowlifes and dregs of society are more often than not the ones that grab the headlines, there are still an awful lot of good, conscientious people left in the world.

* * *

I hope you all have a good Labor Day weekend – and I hope those of you who are reading this by candlelight get your power restored this weekend. If you need a break, head out to Haddam Neck for the Haddam Neck Fair; one of the event organizer Angela Sarahina gave me a call Wednesday and let me know they've got generators and, yes, the show will go on, no matter what.

That was good to hear. After all, the fair is a 100-year tradition; it's nice to know Irene couldn't keep it down.

Kelly Suspended After Sending E-Mails in East Hampton

by Joshua Anusewicz

A settlement agreement has been reached between Sgt. Garritt Kelly and the Town of East Hampton regarding an investigation into inappropriate e-mails Kelly sent while at work.

The agreement, reached on Aug. 24, suspends Kelly for a total of 10 days; the suspension will consist of five days of suspension, "evenly distributed over five pay periods," and five days forfeited from Kelly's accrued vacation time. The agreement was signed by Kelly, Police Chief Matthew Reimondo, Attorney Lisa Lazarek, and National Association of Government Employees (NAGE) Regional Counsel Douglas A. Hall.

A document outlining the settlement, which was sent to members of the Town Council, states that "the parties agree that it is in their best interests to resolve any and all differences and disputes, whether known or unknown, which may exist regarding the matter concerning the internal affairs investigation commencing on Aug. 11, 2011 involving [Kelly's] personal e-mails unrelated to work."

The agreement also states that, per the terms of the agreement, Kelly may not file a grievance regarding the internal affairs investigation. It also states that if "no similar circumstances arise," the town will remove all of the documents related to the matter from

Kelly's personnel file after one year.

The situation regarding Kelly began roughly two weeks ago, after copies of sexually explicit e-mails from Kelly's work e-mail account were sent anonymously to Interim Town Manager John Weichsel and several other places, including the *Riverast*. Based on the content and time stamps of the e-mails, they appear to be sent while Kelly was at work.

While the settlement refers to an "internal affairs investigation," Lazarek, the town's labor counsel, said Thursday the issue "never got to a formal investigation." She said that Kelly "voluntarily admitted" to sending the e-mails and "apologized." The parties then signed into the agreement, Lazarek said.

According to Lazarek, the terms of the punishment were negotiated by the town (represented by Reimondo and Lazarek) and the police union (represented by Hall).

Kelly declined to comment on the matter on Wednesday. Reimondo and Weichsel could not be reached for comment.

Town Council Chairwoman Melissa Engel, who said before the investigation that it would be done "externally," said Thursday that she did not know why the matter was considered an "internal affairs investigation," and that she would be meeting with Weichsel about it.

Engel added that the decision was "not what [she] was expecting."

Portland House Fire Displaces Five

by Joshua Anusewicz

A candle is believed to be the cause of a fire in Portland early Tuesday morning that caused "extensive damage" to a home and displaced a family of five, Fire Marshal Ray Sajdak said.

On Tuesday, Aug. 30, at roughly 2:30 a.m., the fire department was dispatched to 629 Glastonbury Turnpike for a structure fire. When they arrived, a "fully-involved bedroom fire" had begun extending into the roof. Sajdak said that firefighters attempted an "interior attack," but were pushed back by the heavy fire.

After the fire was worked on by the exterior, the firefighters went back inside and were able to bring the fire under control within 45 minutes.

Sajdak said the five occupants of the home – the Aresco family – were able to escape fire when the smoke detectors were activated. Unfortunately, four dogs and a cat died in the

blaze.

Portland received mutual aid from Middletown and Glastonbury fire departments, and also received tanker assistance from the East Hampton Fire Department. Fire Chief Bob Shea said that the decision to use tanker trucks instead of a nearby hydrant was made because the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) had cut back on water pressure after Tropical Storm Irene.

Sajdak determined that the cause of the blaze was a candle that was being used in the master bedroom as a light source, as the family had lost power from Irene.

Sajdak has urged residents "to use alternative means of temporary lighting, such as battery-operated flashlights and lanterns" if they do not have power.

Shea said the Arescos, which "many people in town know very well," are living with relatives in town.

Rain Holds Off for This Year's Marlborough Day

by Bailey Seddon

The sun was shining and the people were smiling this year at the fourth annual Marlborough Day. More than 400 people and 32 vendors showed up to join in on the celebration which started at 11 a.m. last Sunday, Aug. 20.

The event is held to get people motivated about the town and aware of the many small businesses the town has. It is held, said Enza Dandendau of the Marlborough Business Association, "to keep our small and very lovely town running."

Jessica Olander, an organizer of the event, said "it was great, much better than last year whether wise." (Rains last year put a damper on Marlborough Day, although people still turned out for it.) According to Olander, there were over 30 door prizes donated, at no charge to community. This included a new tea cup raffle with seven prizes, such as, a framed piece of artwork from Orion Adventures, a gift certificate to Sadler's Ordinary, and a gift card to It's So Ranunculus flower shop.

Olander said the event was "very family-oriented this year," adding that "the community is finally seeing what it is all about." Besides the vendors, who donate their time and effort, Olander said that Craig Robinson, chairman of the event, worked hard to make the event a good one. A surprise volunteer came in the form of David Mozotas, a Boy Scout who chipped in to get community service hours.

"You name it, whatever I asked him to do" he did it, said Olander. "He was the true spirit of Marlborough Day."

Olander said Mozotas made his own donation box for the Marlborough Food Bank, picked up trash and even helped performers.

While the weather was a vast improvement over last year, organizers shut down the event an hour early, at 4 p.m. The organizers and life guards said they started to see clouds rolling in at around 3 p.m. and when it looked like they were here to stay, they decided to shut down.

"We did not feel it was safe" to continue on, Olander said.

Due to the early closing, one of the bands, Dino and the No-Names, did not get to perform. Olander said she was hoping a special event could be held soon to "get them in front of people."

Anna Dobrowolsky, representing It's So Ranunculus, was at her booth for the first time. There was candy for kids and a game where people had to guess which flowers were fake and which were real. "It's a fun thing," to do to get the word out, said Dobrowolsky.

Marlborough Republican Dick Shea was on his third year at the Republican Town Committee's booth, offering water. "It works out well because it's always hot and sticky and people enjoy the water," Shea said. He added

that he likes to come out to Marlborough Day to participate, that having a big event is good for a small town. The Democrats were also out this year selling corn from Gotta's Farm. Rosa Taylor said she enjoys working the booth. "This event is well-attended," she said.

The Hot Stepz Dance Academy performed at this year's event. (The dance troupe attended last year's Marlborough Day, but due to the weather did not perform.) Before their performance, 11-year-old Gabrielle Benson-Clarke and 9-year-old Gabrielle Fales were passing out lollipops with business cards of the dance school on them. This was Benson-Clarke's second year at Marlborough day and was excited this year because, as she said, "I love to dance."

Fales agreed; "I think it's pretty cool," coming to Marlborough Day, she said.

Sadler's owner Kevin Haggarty and his son Brendan Haggarty also enjoyed Marlborough Day. Brendan Haggarty, a teacher in Rhode Island, comes back every year to help. "It is a little extra work and we have fun with it," he said, adding there is a "sense of community."

The Marlborough Bird and Animal hospital comes to the event because, "It gets our names out there [and] develops a relationship with clients," said Ashley Zeppa, who works at the hospital.

Kasha Breau of the Connecticut Audubon Society was also on hand, wearing for a hat a ball python named Monty Python. She said she was "here to educate people on how to take care" of animals. While most people probably do not own a ball python, there were simpler animals such as goats, iguanas and birds.

Residents were just as happy to be there as businesses and organizations.

"All the community comes and hangs out before the start of school," said Angela Dean. "This is awesome," said youngster Corey Tobias.

Kristen Cavender, whose son Jordan Cavender was part of the Dance Academy, likes Marlborough Day because she enjoys "being able to see all the small businesses in town," she discovers "fun new places to go to," when she sees how many businesses Marlborough has. Resident Chris Curtiss, who had just arrived, said there was so much at Marlborough Day it was hard to "take it all in," there were so many different activities.

It's So Ranunculus owner Leah Ohearn, said as a resident, "I love the sense of community that it brings," to the town, she said. "It gives local businesses an opportunity to kind of shine."

"It's great that the sun is shining today," Ohearn added with a laugh.

Nicole Genga, Gabrielle Leaming and Lauren Costa, who were participating as part of their Soccer Club, were all having fun. "We



Members of the Hot Stepz Dance Academy shake their groove things at this year's Marlborough Day.



The Starline Nine provide musical melodies for residents of Marlborough and surrounding communities.

love hanging out with each other," said Gabrielle. Nicole agreed, "Just being with the team and having fun," is what they liked best, she said. The girls were trying to entice younger kids to play games with them, and if they won said Lauren, they got candy.

Janice Flanigan, who was with the

Marlborough Business Association, was getting a salad from Bite Me Catering. "I'm working the booth and they gave me a break...I'm glad I can help," give the catering company her business, she laughed.

Next year's Marlborough Day will be held Sunday, Aug. 19.

East Hampton Police News

8/16: Joseph Nedobity, 31, of 21 Plains Rd., Moodus, was arrested for possession of narcotics, possession of a controlled substance, improper storage of controlled substance, East Hampton Police said. Nedobity was also issued a ticket for having a defective windshield and an improper muffler, police said.

8/17: Richard L. Livingston, 55, of 47 Lafayette Rd., Marlborough, was arrested for failure to drive right and DUI, police said.

8/19: Kyle Rutka Bentley, 18, of 195 South Main St., Colchester, was arrested for failure to drive right, failure to obey a traffic signal, speeding, DUI, possession of less than half an ounce of marijuana and possession of alcohol by a minor, police said.

8/24: Anthony Francis Longo, 51, of 104 Lewis Ave., Meriden, was arrested for DUI, failure to drive right and operating an unregistered and uninsured motor vehicle, police said.

Marlborough Police News

8/23: Freddy Lugo, 25, of 162 Gallivan Ln., Uncasville, was charged with operating an unregistered motor vehicle, failure to display plates and operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license, State Police said.

Portland Police News

8/27: Joshua Garriques, 21, of 4 Christian Hill Rd., Cromwell, was charged with possession of less than half an ounce of marijuana, Portland Police said.

8/29: Jordan Kelsey, 18, of 422 Gospel Ln., was charged with possession of less than half an ounce of marijuana, police said.

8/29: Kayla Lewis, 18, of 528 Main St., was charged with third-degree criminal mischief, police said.

Hebron Police News

8/23: Sarah Steward, 22, of 252 Leetes Island Rd., Apt. 5, Branford, was charged with third-degree criminal mischief and disorderly conduct, State Police said.

8/23: Gregory Orlor, 47, of 101 Indian Field Rd., Hebron, was charged with disorderly conduct and impairing the morals of a child, State Police said.

8/24: Gerald Alfonso, 56, of 297 Rattlesnake Ledge Rd., Salem, was charged with third-degree assault and threatening, State Police said.

Colchester Police News

8/23: Police are investigating a trashcan fire *on what street*. The victim reported that an unknown person(s) lit their trashcan on fire and by the time the Colchester Hayward Fire Department got to the residence the can was fully engulfed. CHFD put the fire out and the fire is under investigation, State Police said.

8/23: Tracy Bennour-Ligos, 37, of 16 N Main St., East Granby, was charged with second-degree threatening and disorderly conduct, State Police said.

8/23: Randall V. Luster, 39, of 497 Deepwood Dr., Lebanon, was charged with altering a prescription and second-degree forgery, Colchester Police said.

8/27: Jeffrey Grant, 26, of 179 Smith Rd., East Haddam, was charged with second-degree threatening, having a weapon in a motor vehicle and breach of peace, State Police said.

8/27: Myra Vancedarfield, 27, whose address police did not list, was charged with DUI and failure to drive right, State Police said.

Distracted Driver Flips Car in Marlborough

A driver and his passenger went to the Marlborough Clinic last Friday, Aug. 26, when his car flipped over onto its roof, State Police said.

Jeffrey Laperriere, 26, of 935 Highland Ave., Waterbury, was traveling on Route 2 west when he got off on Exit 13. He was distracted by his iPod, police said, and veered into the right shoulder, striking the wire rope guiderail and his 2010 Subaru Forester rolled and ended up on its roof.

Laperriere and his passenger, Brian Boyd, 26, of 41 Elm St., Manchester, were transported to the Marlborough Clinic for evaluation of possible minor injuries. He was found at fault for failing to drive in the proper lane and distracted driving, police said.

Marlborough Selectmen Talk Bonds, Grants

by Bailey Seddon

Bond refinancing and a proposal for a Trails Grant application were among the items discussed at a special meeting of the Board of Selectmen last Wednesday, Aug. 24.

First Selectman Bill Black said he and town treasurer Robert Hannon have been looking for options for refinancing \$9.76 million in general obligation bonds since last fall. Black and Hannon felt that refinancing would be a good idea, considering that interest rates had been good lately and the tax-free status of the bond offerings.

"We moved very quickly...to get through the refinancing," Black said.

The bonds are broken down into \$6.70 million in refunding bonds issued in 1999 and 2003 and \$3.06 million in capital project bonds.

Thanks to the re-issuance of bonds, Black said, there is \$475,600 in budgetary savings for the town. Black also said \$263,000 will go toward sellable land in the business park, which the board is hoping the town can sell by 2012-13. Yet another \$22,000 will go in savings every year for the next 12 years toward debt service for the town.

Another reason now was a good time to look at re-financing, Black said, was the town's eligibility for tax-free bonds, due to its strong Aa2 rating by Moody's Investors Service. Black said the rating was "substantial," especially considering that many other communities have re-

ceived a downgrade in the past several years, while Marlborough's has stayed the same. Black said this re-enforces the savings they are eligible for.

"We enjoy the benefit of low interest rates" because of the town's Aa2 rating, Black said. Black said this was a "very positive statement on the financial" liability of the town.

* * *

Next up on the agenda was a proposal from Peter Hughes for a Trails Grant application, which will be submitted to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. If received, the \$120,000 grant would go toward an extension of the already 3,000-foot trail on West Road. If the town gets the grant, 7,000 feet will be added to the trail and will extend it to North Parker Road. The trail will be just under two miles, or four miles up and back.

The project is a \$120,000 project which will be 80 percent reimbursed. This is because the project would be an 80/20 program, meaning the state will pay 80 percent of the project and the town would pay 20 percent. This means the state would pay \$96,000 and the town would be obligated to come up with the other \$24,000. Fortunately, Hughes said, the grant is a three-year grant, which would give the town plenty of time to come up with its share. When asked by selectwoman Riva Clark as to how the town could come up with the money, Black said it

was in the open space funds.

The money would go toward the second stage of the project; the first stage was done back in the 2008-09 fiscal year. The town applied for grants for the second stage of the project in 2009 but did not receive the funding. Hughes said the funding the town is now applying for would complete the trail extension project.

"This is the continuation of a long term goal," Hughes added, as this contributes to the community's assets.

One key difference between the 2009 application and the new one is that the project now calls for shifting the trail as far away from residential property as possible and toward town-owned property. Hughes said some citizens had expressed concern with trails being too close to their houses because of the possibility of vandalism by people walking the trails at night. "Kids at night is really the biggest concern," he said.

Hughes said he felt residents would be happy with the trail shift. "We listened to what they [residents] had to say," he said.

Clark asked if this was the next best step for the trail. She said she thought there were other trails that could be extended, in light of the residents' concerns about this trail. However, Hughes said the town did consider other trails, but "felt this was the best" to extend.

Selectman Joe La Bella agreed with Hughes,

saying he thought this was a good, next logical step. Black agreed, "It serves the entire town," and others who may want to go on the trail, he said.

"We are just submitting the best application we can submit and see where the chips fall," Hughes said. "We know what we are doing. ... [T]he town has made the commitment" and now he wants to see the second stage finished.

Hughes also said there is no guarantee the town will get the grant this time because it is a "very competitive grant." However, he felt Marlborough has as good a chance as any because of how well the town has always interacted with the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

"Once you develop that relationship" there is a better chance you will get the money, Black said. He also noted the town has been awarded \$5 million in grants in last five years. "That is a significant amount of money for a town of this size," Black said.

The selectmen unanimously agreed to authorize Hughes to apply for the grant. The deadline for the application was yesterday, Sept. 1. Despite the effects of the hurricane, Hughes said at press time yesterday he would still be able to make the deadline. He will find out in February if the town has received the money.

The next Board of Selectmen meeting is Tuesday, Sept. 20, at 7 p.m., at Town Hall.

New East Hampton Business Keeps It Clean While Going Green

by Joshua Anusewicz

With the idea of "going green" becoming ever-present, two local women have used their knowledge of the "lifestyle" to start a cleaning company – right in East Hampton – that specializes in natural and non-toxic cleaning services.

Green Cleaning Etc. was born from an idea several years ago by the company's owners, Meagan Deveran and Jodi Blyler. Both have been living a green lifestyle for a while now, they said, and that includes the way they clean their homes.

"There is a high risk of cancer for people who spend a lot of time in the workplace and in stay-at-home moms," Deveran said. "Some of that has to do with the type of toxins people have in their homes."

But not only are adults vulnerable, the women say, but children are even more susceptible. Their organs and immune systems have yet to fully develop and certain chemicals can interfere with the growth.

When they realized this, Deveran and Blyler, both mothers, decided to make the switch to "green cleaning."

Essentially, "green cleaning" does the same work a regular cleaning service would do, except Green Cleaning Etc. uses natural, non-allergenic, biodegradable material that don't leave toxic residue behind, like regular household cleaners. The cleaners are "enzyme-based," Blyler said, so they break down more naturally than artificial chemicals.

In using these natural cleaners, the company is careful in monitoring even the smallest details, like how the products are contained, how they dissolve in the environment and even the cloths they use to wipe surfaces.

"Our goal is to not bring any toxins into the house," Deveran said. The company will also survey your home for ways to improve the cleanliness, and can also switch your current cleaners with Wowgreen products, the cleaners the company uses.

From using these techniques in their own homes, the women grew their company, which has expanded to cover all of Middlesex County and parts of Hartford County. The company has five employees – all area residents – that do everything from the cleaning to number-crunching. The company has grown, they said, mostly by referrals and clients telling friends.

"Most people think a cleaning service like this would be too expensive," Blyler said. "But we tailor our cleaning to the clients."

The women said a number of factors are taken into consideration when pricing the service, including the size of the home, the amount of clutter and the presence of pet hair. Deveran said that through a consultation before the company is hired, the women will even work out which time is best for you, whether you're home or not.

But residences aren't the only places Green Cleaning Etc. is servicing. The company has branched out into commercial areas like offices, stores, and daycare centers that have been in-



Green Cleaning Etc. makes it way to East Hampton, specializing in natural and non-toxic cleaning services.

terested in using "green cleaning." The company will also do "special cleans," where you can hire the company once to clean before a party or event.

If you feel like you've heard a little bit about "green cleaning" before, it's because you probably have. A few years ago, former Gov. M. Jodi Rell helped pass a bill that will require all public schools in the state to use green cleaning products, a mandate that began on July 1.

"For the state to get involved in green cleaning, there must be something to it," Deveran said.

In its short existence, Green Cleaning Etc. has also taken the opportunity to give back to

their community. On top of donating money or time for various fundraisers, the company recently sponsored a road race in Middletown to help raise money for children with cancer. The company is also willing to – and has already done – free cleanings for individuals who are sick or suffering from life-threatening diseases.

"We go to bed at night knowing we are making a difference in many peoples' lives," Deveran said.

For those interested in setting up a consultation with Green Cleaning Etc., or buying any of their Wowgreen products, call 860-817-2801 or visit greencleaningetc.com.

Obituaries

Colchester

Marguerite Marie Radicchi

Marguerite Marie Radicchi, 89, of Colchester passed away Friday, Aug. 26. She was born March 5, 1922, in Middletown, the daughter of Walter and Elizabeth (Saffery) Schutte.

Marguerite was raised in Chester and lived for nearly 50 years with her sister, Elizabeth Ryan, and family in Colchester. She worked for 40 years for the S&S Arts & Crafts Company of Colchester and retired from there in 1994.

Marguerite had many interests and hobbies; she was an avid gardener, and was well known for her crocheted afghans, which she enjoyed gifting to family members. She also enjoyed vacationing with her sisters and their families, including many motor trips with her sister Helen and her husband Arthur throughout the northeast and spending time with her sister Elizabeth and her family at their beach cottages in Westbrook. Marguerite (known as “Aunt Rete” to her nieces and nephews) was also the family chronicler, and spent decades taking and showing home movies and later taking photographs and assembling albums.

She is survived and will be greatly missed by her sister, Elizabeth (Bette) Ryan of Colchester, four nieces (Linda Parrish, Kathleen Ryan, Carol Barkett and Jeannine Savalle), two nephews (Arthur Tiezzi Jr. and Robert Ryan) and several great-nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her sister, Helen Tiezzi and nephew, Richard Tiezzi.

Her family would like to take this opportunity to thank Apple Rehab’s staff for the care and compassion she received during the last two years of her life.

Funeral services took place Tuesday, Aug. 30, with visitation one hour prior to the service at the Belmont/Sabrowski Funeral Home, 144 South Main St., Colchester. Burial followed at Linwood Cemetery.

Colchester

Leonard Paul Maynard

Leonard Paul Maynard (Lenny, Big Len, Big Papa) 70, of Dayville, died Tuesday Aug. 23, at home, surrounded by his family. Len was born in Middletown on March 5, 1941, son of Alice Maynard and the late Marvin Maynard. He was the husband of Barbara (Coddington) Maynard. They were married in Foxboro, MA, Nov. 7, 1964.

Len graduated from Bacon Academy of Colchester in 1959 and the University of Connecticut College of Agriculture in 1964 where he served in the army reserves for six years. He was also president of his fraternity, Alpha Gamma Rho. He worked for over 30 years in the restaurant industry beginning with Brock Hill Dairy 1964-70, owner of Bosworth Farm Dairy and owner of Maygold Farms Ice Cream plant and six restaurants throughout Connecticut and Massachusetts.

After his retirement from the restaurant business, he began working at Nissan of Norwich in 2004 where he received multiple accolades, including “Salesman of the Century.” He was involved with the Elks Club of Danielson, Past Exhaulted Ruler 1978-1979 and chairman of various charities relating to the Elks. He also served as president of New England Ice Cream Restaurant Association, chairman and host of the annual Maynard 4th of July celebration.

He is survived by his mother Alice Maynard, wife Barbara and four children, Amanda Zadora, Samantha Maloney, Leonard “Patrick” Maynard and Megan Crescimanno; special daughter Katie Quigley, sons-in-law Shawn Zadora and Steven Crescimanno and daughter-in-law Naomi Carretta; grandchildren Jacob and Riley Zadora, Caden and Landen Maloney and Bryce Maynard; as well as several nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by son Kevin Thomas Maynard, father Marvin Maynard, sister Jean Moroch and foster brother Paul Sarrette.

Lenny loved to say “Go Big or Go Home” and that is exactly how he lived his life. The lives he touched are insurmountable. He and his wife Barbara (Babs) had a standing open door policy for all friends and family. He will be missed tremendously.

Calling hours were Friday, Aug. 26, at Gagnon and Costello Funeral Home, 33 Reynolds St., Danielson. The funeral was Saturday, Aug. 27, from the Gagnon and Costello Funeral Home, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial in St. James Church, 12 Franklin St., Danielson. Burial followed in Holy Cross Cemetery, Danielson, and a celebration of his life will be held at the Elks Club of Danielson immediately following.

In lieu of flowers, send donations to the Alexander’s Lake Home Owners Association, P.O. Box 764, Dayville, CT 06241.

To share a memory with his family, “Light a Candle” at gagnonandcostellofh.com.

Marlborough

Margaret Boone

Margaret “Peggy” (Bain) Boone, 83, a long-time resident of Glastonbury, more recently of Marlborough, passed away Monday, Aug. 29. She was born in Hartford, a daughter of the late David and Patricia (Campbell) Bain.

She was active in the Democratic Party of Glastonbury, where played a pivotal role in every Democratic election. She was honored by the Democratic Party by being named “Democrat of the Year” in 1980. She was also a member of the Glastonbury’s landmark Redevelopment Commission.

Margaret was a founding member of “Camp Together” which brought together Glastonbury and Hartford for a summer camp experience after the death of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Margaret was always vigorously engaged in political campaigning and civil rights movements. She worked with the registrar of voters in both Glastonbury and Marlborough for many years.

Her greatest joy in life was her family. She was a loving and devoted wife, mother and grandmother. Margaret’s grandchildren were the delight of her life.

Margaret is survived by her husband John W. Boone, her son David W. Boone and his wife Deborah of Hebron, her daughter Bonita Baldwin and her husband Russell Stanton of E. Claridon, OH, her daughter April Boone of Yonkers, NY., her sister Alexandrina and her husband David Sergio of Glastonbury, her brother-in-law and sister-in-law William and Vivian Boone of South Carolina. She will be dearly missed by her seven grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Visitation services for Margaret will be today, Sept. 2, from 4:30-7 p.m. at the Glastonbury Funeral Home, 450 New London Tpke., Glastonbury, with a memorial service at 6 p.m. at the funeral home. Burial will be Saturday, Sept. 3, at 10 a.m., in Cypress Cemetery, Westbrook.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in her memory to: POTS, Part of the Solution, 2763 Webster Ave., Bronx, NY 10458.

To leave an online condolence or for directions, visit glastonburyfuneral.com.