

RIVEREAST

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Few houses in East Hampton could provide a spookier backdrop than the Philo Bevin House on Barton Hill Road, which will host its annual haunted happenings again this year on Halloween night. Visitors can expect the usual skeletons and ghosts, which are sure to frighten even the bravest trick-or-treaters, as well as a few other surprises.

One Last Scare at the Bevin House

by Joshua Anusewicz

If you're looking for a scare this Halloween, you'll be happy to know that a popular – and scary – attraction will be making a comeback this year, with the return of the haunted happenings at the Philo Bevin House on Barton Hill Road.

You won't be happy to know, however, that this will also be the last time. But Neil Alan, the owner of the home, said Wednesday he plans to go out with a bang.

"It's go big or go home," Alan said.

Locals who go trick-or-treating in the area of the house are no doubt familiar with Alan's Halloween hijinks, which have grown increasingly popular since he moved to East Hampton seven years ago and started the event. He said the idea was actually sparked 15 years ago at his former home in Andover; Alan said he had taken a theatre lighting class in college that he particularly enjoyed and decided one Halloween that it might be fun to try out his skills.

Starting with a mixing board and a few different colored lights, Alan set up a spooky scene that was a big hit with kids and adults that visited the house. "People thought it was cool," he said, so the idea grew from there, with Alan adding something new to the display each year.

When he moved to East Hampton, and into the Philo Bevin House, the scene was almost too perfect. The house – an enormous French Empire-style mansion built in 1872 by Philo Bevin, one of the founding brothers of the Bevin Bros. Manufacturing Company – looked like a haunted house pulled right from a movie.

"Before we fixed it up, the outside looked like the *Addams Family* home," he said, laughing.

From there, the idea was resurrected to decorate the front yard of the home as a sort of path. Alan said, that trick-or-treaters could walk through. While walking through, the visitors would see black lights, strobe lights, cobwebs, coffins, skeletons, and animatronics of different creatures that jump out and shout to give them a scare. Alan said all of the animatronics are run off a huge air compressor stored in the garage, which also houses all of the equipment and materials throughout the year.

Since starting the event in East Hampton, it's become an even bigger hit. Alan said that a few years back, a friend held a baseball pitch counter at the front gate of the house and counted over 700 people visiting the house. This year, Alan said he expects over 1,000.

Part of the reason this year's edition is being hyped up so much is because the Alan family has announced it will be the last time it will be held. Alan said the success of the event has been helped by his two daughters who, along with their friends, have played a vital role in the planning, set-up and execution of the display. But with his youngest daughter graduating high school this year and leaving for college next fall, that help just won't be available.

"Without their help, it would just be a lot for me to do," Alan admitted. Last year was the first since the Alans moved to East Hampton that the display was canceled, due to the freak

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Colchester Democrats Rebuild Scarecrow

by Melissa Roberto

The people of Colchester came together last Saturday to reconstruct the Democratic Town Committee's scarecrow display that was destroyed by fire last Tuesday night.

The original scarecrow display was built by members of the Democratic Town Committee, and featured seven scarecrows wearing laminated photos of the faces of local, state and national Democratic candidates. It was one of 30 entries in this year's Scarecrow Decorating Contest, which was put on by the Colchester Business Association and Colchester Parks and Recreation Department. People could vote for their favorite scarecrows on the CBA's website; voting wrapped up on Wednesday.

Many residents were shocked by last week's fire. At last Thursday's meeting of the Board of Selectmen, acting First Selectman Stan Soby, filling in for an out-of-state Gregg Schuster, read aloud a resolution written by the selectmen that referred to the act as "against the norms" of Colchester and that it "should not be tolerated or accepted in any manner." The selectmen requested full review of the criminal act by police, so that the parties responsible are brought to justice. (Police said Wednesday the fire is still under investigation, and have not

officially labeled it an arson.)

Many residents, DTC members and selectmen Jim Ford and Rosemary Coyle – both Democrats – came together Saturday to rebuild the new display. It features a scarecrow with the face of President Barack Obama, holding American flags and surrounded by Democratic signs for the town, state and national candidates.

DTC Chairwoman Dorothy Mrowka expressed gratification, saying, "It was a good gesture on everyone's part to help build it."

"It shows a lot of character," said Teri Damato, co-chair of this year's Scarecrow Decorating Contest.

Mrowka also explained why the scarecrow was rebuilt. "We just felt that we needed to have something there to represent the Democratic Party," she said. She added that she felt the committee's original display had a chance of winning this year.

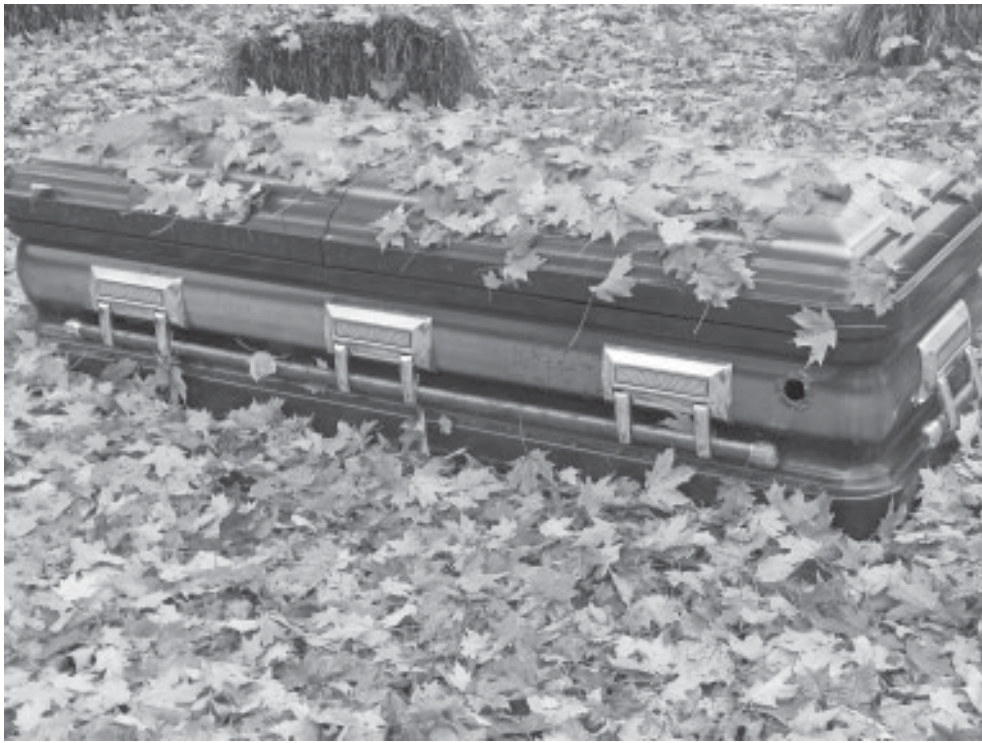
Mrowka's son, Jeffrey Watson, 48, of Colchester, helped clear the debris from the fire and transferred five bales of hay donated by Colchester AARP member Polly Leonard to the town green.

"I'm glad they were able to rebuild the display and hopefully it will get a good amount of

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Residents of Colchester came together last Saturday to rebuild the Democratic scarecrow display that was destroyed by fire last week. The new display features a scarecrow with the face of President Barack Obama, surrounded by town, state and national Democratic candidate signs.



There's no telling what to expect at the Philo Bevin House this Halloween, with scary surprises lurking around every corner. Who knows what could be waiting for you inside this coffin?

Bevin House cont. from Front Page

late October snowstorm that put a halt to most Halloween events in the area.

Alan's disappointment that the event will not live on is noticeable, and you can tell that creating the display has meant a lot to him over the years. There are many people who decorate their yards for Halloween, but very few who welcome crowds of people into their yards, particularly for such a well-thought out and comprehensive Halloween event.

So why has he done it all these years? "It's very much about the community aspect," Alan said. "A lot of people see Halloween as a dark and spooky event. I look at it as the last, true time in fall where you're going to see your neighbors and other locals stopping by to say 'hello.'"

"Soon everyone is going to close up their houses for winter and we won't see each other outside again until the spring," he continued. "This is our last and best opportunity to have that interaction with our neighbors."

Scarecrow cont. from Front Page

votes in the competition," Schuster said this week.

Schuster, a Republican, has personally offered a \$250 reward to any information that leads to an arrest, which matches the reward previously announced by the CBA. Mrowka also said this week the DTC has raised \$500 to offer as a reward.

Residents at last week's Board of Selectmen meeting had much to say about the destruction. John Malsbenden said the act serves as a warning about political intolerance in town, and also said "events similar to this have gone on in other places, and this affects us nationally."

Resident Sean O'Leary questioned whether this would be as big of a deal if it were not a

With an attitude like that, it's no surprise the event – which Alan admitted has no formal name – has been such a success. It's also why he's optimistic that the last one might just be the best. Alan didn't divulge too many details about the display this year, but did say there would be a few surprises for those who choose to visit.

Though residents have tried to give him money in the past – "I can't take people's money," he laughed – he said that visiting the display is totally free and safe for kids and adults, though some younger children might be scared of some of the displays. He said that in years past, it's been a popular spot for those who stop by the Co. 1 Fire House down the street, so those in the area can make plans to visit one of the best and scariest Halloween attractions in town for one last scare.

The Philo Bevin House is located at 26 Barton Hill Rd.

political display that was burned. In response, resident Irene Malsbenden said, "I personally believe that regardless of what display was set afire, that it's an illegal act and I would like to think that we would want to pursue it no matter which scarecrow display was harmed."

Schuster said this week, "I am sad every time there is an act of vandalism on the town green."

As for whether this was an act of political intolerance, Schuster admitted that it is hard to determine.

The winners of this year's Scarecrow Decorating Contest will be announced Monday at colchesterctbusiness.com.

From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

It was reported last week in the *Rivereast* and in media outlets across the state and the region. And let me just say the apparent torching last week of the Colchester Democratic Town Committee's scarecrow display was just plain horrid.

The display was one of 30 scenes local businesses and organizations had set up on the town green for the annual Scarecrow Decorating Contest. I thought it was a pretty clever display, featuring scarecrows sitting, wearing for faces photographs of various regional, state and national Democratic candidates.

Last Tuesday night, the display went up in smoke. As of this past Tuesday, police continue to investigate the incident, and are not yet classifying it as arson. The police are just doing their due diligence here; after all, in theory it could've been an accident, perhaps caused by a carelessly-tossed cigarette. Or maybe it's a simple case of "boys will be boys" – a group of bored teenagers decide to spice up their night by torching one of the scarecrows on the town green.

But I have my doubts. Of the 30 scarecrow displays, this is the only one torched? It doesn't seem random. It seems targeted – and that's rather scary.

And lest anyone think this is my Democrat side talking – I'd feel this way if the Republican display were burned too.

Frankly, it's distressing if political discourse has gotten so *un-civil* that this is how people react to viewpoints different from their own. Swiping the other side's lawn signs, or egging them or tearing them up, is nothing new. It happens in nearly every town every election season. And it's childish. But when you leap from tearing something up to setting it on fire – that's just too much. Is that the message we want to send to our children? If you disagree with something, light it on fire? Not to mention these scarecrows were representing definitive, named people: Barack Obama, Joe Biden, Linda Orange, Chris Goff. Sending their images up in smoke – it just leaves you feeling a little queasy.

Not to mention how dangerous the whole thing was. As I said, the scarecrows were sitting on top of piles of hay. And there were 29 other displays on the town green, many of which also had involved hay. What if it had been a windy night last Tuesday? What if that fire had spread? It could've been a disaster. So this wasn't just a matter of politics; it was a matter of public safety.

As Melissa Roberto reports in this week's paper, the Democrats rebuilt their display last weekend. Good for them; I'm glad they didn't let this incident defeat them. And I hope this doesn't ruin the Scarecrow Decorating Contest for people. This is the 13th year of the

event, and it's always a lot of fun. Folks in Colchester have a lot of creativity, and it's a hoot to see the different designs each year. This is the first time in the history of the contest an incident like this has ever taken place – and I sincerely hope it's the last.

* * *

I'm happy to report Colchester's own Ron Wotus is headed back to the Fall Classic. Wotus is the bench coach for the San Francisco Giants, who on Monday defeated the St. Louis Cardinals to punch their ticket for the World Series. The Series opened Wednesday. It's the Giants' second trip to the World Series in the past three years, and Wotus has been a part of both of them.

In 2010, the Giants went all the way, topping the Texas Rangers in five games. The *Rivereast* spoke with Ron not long after his team won that year, and he was obviously very excited, and told us, "A lot of guys go their whole career and don't even get to the Series. It's certainly special."

And now Ron has been twice in three years. Hopefully, another Series win for him is in the cards. I like the Detroit Tigers, and wouldn't be crushed to see them win the championship, especially since they haven't won a title since 1984. But at the same time, I'm a National League fan, and the Giants are a likable bunch.

Time will tell, of course, if Ron will be hoisting that World Series trophy again. But recent history may be on his – and the Giants' – side. In 2006, the Tigers swept the Oakland A's in four games in the ALCS. The St. Louis Cardinals, meanwhile, grinded out a full seven-game series against the Mets, clinching the pennant at Shea Stadium (I was there for that game; it was very sad), and rolling into Detroit with a ton of momentum. The Tigers, meanwhile, appeared overly-rested, and played lackluster ball in the World Series, committing multiple errors and hitting under .200 as a team. Baseball isn't football; a bye week isn't necessarily a good thing.

Flash forward to this year. In case you somehow missed it (as a Yankee hater, I was very pleased by it) Detroit shockingly swept New York, polishing off the Bombers last Thursday night. Since then, manager Jim Leyland – who was also the Tigers' skipper in '06, and is bound and determined not to let the same fate befall them this year – has kept his squad busy, through such things as working on bunts, playing scrimmages against the Tigers' instructional league team, even letting ace Justin Verlander pitch to hitters.

Will it be enough? I'm sure Ron Wotus – and indeed, probably a lot of Colchester – is hoping not.

* * *

See you next week.

Old Road Signs New Addition to AHM Auction

by Geeta Schrayter

The AHM Fall Foliage Concert and Auction is fast approaching. The annual event, scheduled for Nov. 10, is one of the major fundraisers for AHM Youth and Family Services. And this year, people can bid on pieces of Hebron history.

AHM Director Joel Rosenberg explained Monday the Hebron Board of Selectmen recently came to AHM with the idea of auctioning off old street signs from town that had recently been replaced.

The selectmen “understand we’re constantly looking to bring in alternative sources of revenue other than local taxpayer dollars and they donated the signs,” said Rosenberg.

Over the course of the past year, Town Manager Andy Tierney said Tuesday, the town signs were replaced, due to a federal mandate. He explained it was now required that street signs be reflective, with letters of a certain size, and be housed on a breakaway pole, in case someone crashes into one. He added the mandate made the older signs – some of which date back more than 30 years – “obsolete,” and said offering them to AHM for auction seemed more productive than “just scrapping them.”

“We really didn’t have a use for the signs,” he said. “They had to come down, and we didn’t want to just throw them away. It’s a good way to raise funds for youth services.”

Board of Selectmen Chairman Jeff Watt agreed.

“The board thought, ‘Instead of just discarding them, why don’t we see if AHM can use them as an auction?’” he said, explaining residents who have lived in a particular place for a

period of time are likely to have an interest in that street’s sign.

“So we’re hoping that will end up being successful,” he stated, adding he “couldn’t think of a better cause than AHM.”

AHM is a private, non-profit organization servicing Andover, Hebron, Marlborough and Columbia. Its mission, the organization explains on its website, is “to provide mental health and positive youth development services which assist children, young people and their families in creating a supportive and caring environment for them to reach their maximum potential as members of society.”

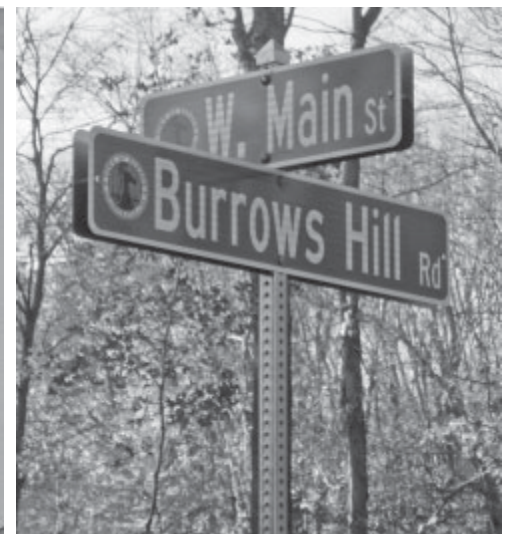
As a non-profit, Rosenberg explained AHM has to raise a substantial amount of money for their programs.

“We can’t just depend on government grants or local municipal funding,” he said, so the organization puts on a number of events throughout the year to bring in the needed funding.

As part of the Fall Foliage Concert and Silent Auction, which Rosenberg said he hopes will bring in about \$10,000, guests have the opportunity to listen to a performance by singer/songwriter Jon Pousette-Dart as well as the local band Dino and the No-Names, enjoy a selection of light hors d’oeuvres and desserts, and take part in a silent and live auction – featuring the street signs.

“They’re not the most beautiful things in the world,” Rosenberg said of the signs. “They don’t hold great monetary value – it’s about two things: supporting the Youth Services Bureau and they’re going to make great gifts.”

Rosenberg said the signs would be great in a college student’s dorm or a recreation room “or



AHM Youth and Family Services is hoping one man’s junk – or in this case, the town’s – will be another man’s treasure. In a creative effort to raise funds for its programs, AHM is accepting bids on the town’s old street signs, left, that were replaced with new signs, right, as per federal mandate.

some are saying [they’d want one] just for the purpose of nostalgia and community pride.”

“We think we’re going to do really well with it,” he said.

Bidding on the signs began Oct. 18, and although bids start at \$25, Rosenberg said a bid for much more was received this week.

“One of the first street sign bids was for \$1,000 which is absolutely phenomenal,” he said. “I don’t think we’ll probably see too many of those but certainly – just what a nice gesture on someone’s part to make that bid. Hopefully

this will really instill some enthusiasm.”

He added AHM wouldn’t be able to continue offering the support that they do without the local boards and the public who understands that “this is a partnership.”

“We can’t do this alone,” he said.

To bid on one of the old Hebron street signs, call 860-228-9488 or stop by the AHM office located at 25 Pendleton Dr. in Hebron Monday through Friday to select from the street sign catalog.

Malloy Announces Arrigoni Officially Done in Portland

by Joshua Anusewicz

At a rededication ceremony Tuesday, Gov. Dannel Malloy announced that the project to renovate the Arrigoni Bridge was officially completed.

“Today is a good day for Connecticut travelers,” Malloy said in a press release issued Tuesday. “Strengthening our economy requires addressing our aging infrastructure and transportation network. For 74 years, the Arrigoni Bridge has been an integral part of our highway system; with these repairs, it will last long into the future.”

Malloy was joined by James Redeker, commissioner of the state Department of Transportation (DOT), U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal, Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro, Middletown Mayor Dan Drew, Portland First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield and other local and federal leaders to help unveil the original 1938 bronze bridge marker during the ceremony, which was returned to its location on the south side of the bridge.

The completion of the project came as welcome news to those in the Portland area last month, when it was announced that it would be completed two months ahead of schedule. The project, which began in May 2011, was completed in three phases that included replacing the entire bridge deck, sidewalks, and concrete

barriers. The project cost \$19.7 million, 80 percent of which was covered by federal funds.

The bridge was in dire need of repair, having been left almost completely as is since its construction in 1938. Just two years ago, the DOT rated the bridge’s condition a three out of 10.

“I want to thank the people of central Connecticut for their patience during this year-long rehabilitation project,” Redeker said in Malloy’s Tuesday press release. “Getting all four lanes of traffic reopened early was a major accomplishment and a testament to the diligence of the DOT staff, its contractors, and the towns of Middletown and Portland.”

Bransfield said Wednesday she was particularly pleased with the work of the town’s fire and police departments, which she said “showed great cooperation” throughout the project. She said both departments – along with Middletown – controlled the heavy volume of traffic on both sides of the bridge, as well as helped clear the bridge during emergencies.

“I can’t say enough good things about [the police and fire department],” she said. Calling the bridge a “lifeline” for most locals, Bransfield added that she was pleased the project was completed ahead of schedule, for the sake of both motorists and the businesses in the area that were affected by the project.



Local, state and federal officials were on hand Tuesday for a rededication ceremony for the recently renovated Arrigoni Bridge, including, from left, Gov. Dannel Malloy, First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield, Middletown state Rep. Matt Lesser, Middletown Mayor Dan Drew, at podium Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro, President of Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce Larry McHugh and Commissioner of the state Department of Transportation James Redeker.

Portland Receives Grant for Storage Shed

by Joshua Anusewicz

It might just be road salt and sand, but the cost of storing it can be pretty expensive. Fortunately for Portland, they’re going to have a little bit of help paying for it.

Gov. Dannel Malloy recently announced the awarding of a Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grant to the town in the amount of \$227,700, which will cover the cost of a storage shed for road salt and sand at the town garage located on Route 17. Similar grants were also awarded to Killingworth and Madison as part of an emergency management initiative designed to help in responding and mitigating damage during storms and other emergencies.

“Connecticut has made storm-preparedness

a priority – from ensuring utility companies are held to higher standards of service to better coordinating statewide response efforts and communications,” said Malloy in an Oct. 9 press release. “These emergency management grants ensure that Connecticut cities and towns are better able to get information and services to residents, and return life to normal as quickly as possible.”

The grant, which was applied for last summer, is expected to cover the cost of a 40-by-80-foot storage building that will enclose the road salt and sand, a requirement if the materials are to be stored at the town garage. According to First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield, storing the materials outside could pose an envi-

ronmental hazard in the area, as an aquifer is located nearby and well water could be polluted.

Currently, Bransfield said, the materials are stored at the town’s sewage plant underneath the Arrigoni Bridge. Bransfield added that the exact plans for the shed are not yet in place, and said that the storage shed’s proposed location could even change, possibly constructing the shed near a similar structure on Sage Hollow Road.

No matter where the shed goes, the fact that it will be funded is a welcomed announcement.

“We’re very pleased,” Bransfield said of the grant. “The STEAP program is outstanding for small towns like ours. It makes sure we get our fair share of state funding.”

State Rep. Christie Carpino agreed. “It can

be difficult to balance town services like safely maintaining our streets during the winter months while at the same time protecting the integrity of our waterways,” Carpino stated in a release. “This grant will allow Portland to do just that.”

Portland has received STEAP grants in the past, but never hand-delivered by the governor himself. On Oct. 9, Malloy stopped by Portland Town Hall to award the grant to Bransfield in person and to meet with many of the town employees. The visit was a treat for those at Town Hall, Bransfield said.

“It was nice to have him come by for a visit,” she said.

No date has been set for construction of the shed to start, Bransfield said.

Colchester Approves Old Bacon Academy Lease Renewal

by Melissa Roberto

Residents last week approved the renewal of the town's lease agreement for the old Bacon Academy, and also okayed changes to town ordinances regarding Sunday sales of alcohol and the Open Space Advisory Committee.

There were 27 residents present at the Oct. 18 meeting, in addition to selectmen Stan Soby (who was filling in as first selectman for an out-of-state Gregg Schuster), Rosemary Coyle, Greg Cordova and James Ford, and Town Clerk Nancy Bray.

The lease is only for the first floor of the building, which the town uses for the alternative education program offered to all Bacon Academy students. The second floor of the building has two rooms, one for the Historical Society and one for the Bacon Academy Board of Trustees. The third floor includes another two rooms, which are used for antique Colchester souvenirs and memorabilia.

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The original Bacon Academy first opened in 1803, as the primary high school in Colchester. Due to increases in the number of students, a new, larger Bacon Academy was built in 1962 on Norwich Avenue. By 1993, an even larger home was needed for the town's high schoolers, resulting in the opening of the current Bacon Academy, which is located at 611 Norwich Ave. (The previous Bacon became what is now William J. Johnston Middle School.)

Since 2002, the alternative education program has been housed at Bacon Academy. The program is for students who are having trouble in the traditional school's structure, and was originally created as a dropout-prevention program. It runs from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and includes two teachers and one full-time social worker.

The program is typically for students who are deficient in credits and are placed on a five or six year graduation plan. The students graduate with the same diploma and have all the rights of a Bacon Academy student to participate in sports and attend school events.

Due to the alternative education program, Colchester's dropout rate has dropped significantly, said Diana Giles, chairman of the Bacon Academy Board of Trustees.

Giles was thrilled about the renewed lease,

saying, "One of the reasons we were really excited about doing this in 2002 was because we wanted it to be used as a school for students. That's why it was built in the first place, we're just delighted."

The first lease was signed in 2002 when the alternative education program was started; it was first renewed in 2007.

The town also voted to replace an original paragraph in the lease with a new one that includes the correct dates for the renewal term. The new paragraph explains that the Town of Colchester will have an option to extend the lease for an additional two-year period, commencing on July 1, 2015 and ending on June 30, 2017 (the "Second Extended Term"). The change also explains that the second extended term will automatically go into effect unless the Board of Trustees gives written notice to the town prior to June 30, 2015, that it intends to end the lease agreement.

If the lease is extended, though, the rent would increase to \$24,525.75 for the 2015-16 fiscal year, and to \$25,752.04 for the 2016-17 fiscal year.

Also at last Thursday's meeting, residents passed a change to the town ordinance of Sunday alcohol sales, so it complies with the new

state law. The original ordinance, enacted in 1982, permitted alcohol to be sold in town from noon to 5 p.m.; the ordinance applied primarily to bars and restaurants, as package stores were required by state law to be shuttered on Sundays. However, earlier this year the state agreed to allow liquor stores to be open on Sundays from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., so the town ordinance was adjusted accordingly.

In addition, residents approved a change involving the makeup of the Open Space Advisory Committee. The number of people on the committee will stay the same; however, it will now consist of: a representative of the Colchester Land Trust; a representative of a fish and game club; and five "members-at-large," i.e. town residents not necessarily affiliated with a particular club or committee. Previously, there were only two members-at-large; the other three slots were filled by a Town Hall staff member, the town planning director and the director of the Parks and Recreation Department.

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The lease for Old Bacon Academy goes into effect immediately, while the tweaked liquor sales and Open Space ordinances will go into effect 30 days from the vote.

Colchester Selectmen Discuss New Road Pavement Method

by Melissa Roberto

The Board of Selectmen at its meeting last Thursday, Oct. 18, agreed to waive bids for a pavement recycling in town, and also discussed a contract with the Center for Work and Families.

Public Works Director Jim Paggioli presented research conducted by his department into newer pavement recycling technologies to consider for paving roads in Colchester this year. In a letter sent to First Selectman Gregg Schuster on Oct. 3, Paggioli said the streets in town that need the most work are Windham Avenue and Cabin, Marvin and River roads.

Paggioli explained the primary cost increases for the reconstruction and maintenance of the town's roadways are caused by the need to purchase new bituminous pavement. Paggioli stated in his letter that last year the Cold In-Place Recycling (CIPR) method was used to repair Old Hebron and Bigelow roads. That process requires a 1.25-inch new pavement cap, or an additional layer of pavement over the recycled pavement. Another process that requires a cap is the full-depth reclamation method. Paggioli explained that the department's goal was to find a process that would eliminate the need for a cap.

Paggioli said an alternative called the "Hot In-Place Re-Heat" method saves the town

money because it does not require a cap. It has the ability to recycle existing bituminous pavement and still create a "durable roadway surface," the letter describes.

This method is conducted by Illinois-based Gallagher Asphalt. The process reheats the pavement back to its original temperature before entering a milling machine. According to the letter, the Re-Heat process is a "one-pass process" and roads can be traveled on within two hours after the paving is completed.

Paggioli explained to the board that Gallagher Asphalt is currently the only vendor that will service Connecticut, due to the technology needed to complete the project. He also said this method has mostly been used in the midwest region of the country.

"We've looked and there isn't anybody in the New England region that does this type of reheating work," Paggioli said. "Firms that do, scarify it, and then are still required to cap it. But the cap is what kills the price."

He also concluded that the road improvement budget is \$400,000 which is enough to cover two roads. He ensured that Cabin Road and Windham Avenue have been evaluated by Gallagher Asphalt and are able to be worked on.

"Because of the nature of the work, the pro-

cess is what we've calculated to be the best way that we can meet our budgetary constraints and still get the road work we need done, at least within the budget," said Paggioli.

The Re-Heat method is the cheapest method the Department has come across, with a cost quote of \$295,608. Full-depth renovation of the pavement – involving the grinding of the pavement, mixing it with dirt and then applying new pavement – would cost \$509,573, and if CIPR was used it would cost \$327,680 with an additional \$5,500 for driveway adjustments.

The department has also received feedback from other locations in the country that have used this process. Paggioli said the city engineer of Canton, Ohio, told him the process has been successful for the last 10 years. In addition, he said, Amherst, Mass., is currently using the Re-Heat method on 13 miles of road.

The selectmen moved to waive the bid requirement for pavement recycling and approved the contract with appropriate insurance and technical specifications with Gallagher Asphalt for "Hot In-Place Re-Heat" recycling of Cabin Road and Windham Avenue.

* * *

Also at last week's meeting, the selectmen reviewed a contract for an employment assistance program (EAP) between the town and The

Center for Work and Family. The contract calls for the Center for Work and Family to provide services in the development, implementation and operation of the EAP, as well as employee orientation and education, training supervisors, diagnostic assessment and referral, coordination of services, data collection and reporting, confidentiality, critical stress debriefing services, and responsibilities of the employer. The selectmen approved the contract and authorized the first selectman to sign all documents.

The selectmen also appointed citizens to various boards and commissions. Sean O'Leary was appointed to a four-year term (expiring Nov. 1, 2016) as a member of the Parks and Recreation Commission; Frank Jackter was reappointed as a member to the Police Commission for a three-year term (also expiring Nov. 1, 2015); Robert Parlee was reappointed to the Police Commission for a three-year term (expiring Nov. 1, 2015); John P. Dion was appointed as a member to the Economic Development Commission for a two-year term, expiring Oct. 31, 2014; and David O'Brien was appointed as an alternate to the Parks and Recreation Commission for a four-year term, expiring on Nov. 30, 2016.

The next Board of Selectmen meeting be held Thursday, Nov. 1, at 7 p.m., at Town Hall.

East Hampton School Board Looks at CMT, CAPT Scores

by Joshua Anusewicz

The Board of Education Monday reviewed the results of the district's 2012 Connecticut Mastery Test and Connecticut Academic Performance Test scores, which showed continued success across all grades and subjects.

The results were part of a presentation given by Clive Connor and LuAnn Hardacker, the district's coordinators of math and science and English-language arts, respectively. The presentation outlined the district's CMT scores, which are taken by students in grades three through eight, and the CAPT scores, which are taken by high school sophomores. Connor and Hardacker also explained where the district intends to focus its instruction in the coming years to meet the state's Common Core standards.

The CMTs and CAPTs were taken in all Connecticut school districts this March and the results were released over the summer. The scores are broken into five scoring categories: below basic, basic, proficient, goal and advanced.

As of right now, the testing and its reporting are part of the national No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act, which the state of Connecticut has announced they will no longer be a part of after 2014. In its place, the testing and reporting parameters will be put in place by the state Department of Education under the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium.

Under the consortium, the target score for students will change, Connor said, as part of a new "accountability system." Among the major shifts, the target for students will change from "proficient" to "goal"; also, instead of the NCLB plan of having all students at proficient by 2014, the consortium hopes to have all students at least halfway to "goal" by 2014.

In what will be good news for the residents of East Hampton, Connor said town schools are "in very good shape."

"Most of our schools have already made the

target," she added.

Among third-grade students at Memorial School, 68.9 percent are currently at goal in mathematics while 91.1 percent are proficient; in reading, 64.7 percent are at goal and 77.2 percent are proficient; in writing, 71.3 percent are at goal and 85.3 percent are proficient.

For fourth-graders at Center School, 74.8 percent scored at goal in mathematics, 89.2 percent are proficient; in reading, 76.3 percent scored at goal, while 85.9 percent are proficient; and in writing, 64.3 percent scored at goal and 82.5 percent scored proficient.

In fifth grade, the CMTs include science as part of the tests, and on this portion, students scored 77.8 percent at goal and 94.3 percent at proficient. In mathematics, 83.9 percent scored at goal and 92.9 percent scored at proficient; in reading, 79.7 percent scored at goal and 88.9 percent scored proficient; and in writing, 73.4 percent scored at goal and 91.8 percent scored proficient.

At Center School, the percentage of students that reached the goal level rose from the 2011 numbers in every subject except fifth-grade writing, which dropped from 78.2 percent. Hardacker said the district was particularly "proud" of the increase the school saw in reading scores, as students in both grades have already reached the "halfway to goal" target.

At East Hampton Middle School, sixth-graders for the most part fell from their 2011 counterparts, though the scores remained relatively high. The largest drop came in the reading portion of the exams; 79.4 percent of students scored at goal and 88.1 percent at proficient, down from 84.8 percent and 94.3 percent, respectively, in 2011.

In math, the percentage meeting goal fell from 86.2 percent in 2011 to 81 percent this year, while the percentage scoring at the proficient level rose slightly, from 96.2 percent in

2011 to 98.4 percent this year. In writing, the changes were more slight; 72.4 percent scored at goal, a drop from 73.8 percent last year, while 91.5 percent scored at proficient, down from 91.3 percent last year.

In seventh grade, test scores showed a drop from 2011 in reading and writing, but a gain in math. In reading, 83.5 percent scored at goal and 92.4 percent scored at proficient, down from 89.6 and 95.4 percent, respectively, last year. In writing, the percentage meeting goal fell from 77.1 last year to 75.3 this year, with the percentage meeting proficient going from 92.7 in 2011 to 87.3 in 2012.

In math, though, the percentage meeting goal rose from 79.2 last year to 85.6 percent this year, while the percentage meeting proficient went from 96 percent in 2011 to 98.1 percent in 2012.

The results in eighth grade – which were comparable to the results from last year's eighth-graders – were singled out by Superintendent of Schools Dr. Judith Golden as scores she was especially pleased with, particularly in reading and writing. In mathematics, eighth-graders scored 80.6 percent at goal and 95.8 percent proficient; in reading, 87.7 percent scored at goal and 94.5 percent scored proficient; in writing, 84.8 percent scored at goal and 93 percent scored proficient; and in science, 80.7 percent scored at goal and 91.8 percent scored proficient.

Overall, while some numbers may have slipped from last year, East Hampton schools had a higher percentage of students at or above goal level than the state average in every grade and subject except for fourth-grade writing

And the CAPT scores might be considered even better. In the school's district reference group (DRG), which compares East Hampton to other Connecticut towns of similar size and demographics, East Hampton scored in the top

three (out of 24) in science, reading and writing.

In mathematics, 61.2 percent of sophomores scored at or above goal and 90.9 percent scored proficient; in science, 62.9 percent scored at or above goal and 91.9 percent scored proficient; in reading, 68 percent scored at or above goal and 91.8 percent scored proficient; and in writing, 84.7 percent scored at or above goal and 96 percent scored proficient.

Across the district, Golden said she was "pleased with the results" but that, with the scores in the past, the administration is already looking forward to next year.

"We always have work to do," she said following the meeting. "We're always planning ahead of time to improve, and that's where our heads are at right now."

Golden added that she tends to watch the scores of the entire grade as they progress through the district, which gives the administration a picture of how the curriculum is affecting students' test scores. In almost every grade and subject, the district has seen considerable progress from year to year; last year's eighth-graders, which have the largest sample size having taken the CMTs since third grade, have shown considerable gains in all subjects over the course of their East Hampton Public Schools career.

"We look for growth and if we see that over several years, that's what you want," Golden said.

To see the full list of scores for 2012, visit cmtreports.com for CMT scores or visit captreports.com for CAPT scores.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 13, at 7 p.m. at East Hampton High School, 15 N. Maple St.

East Hampton Council Approves \$200K for HS Building Project

by Joshua Anusewicz

Marking a big step forward for the proposed East Hampton High School renovation project, the Town Council Tuesday unanimously approved \$200,080 for the High School Building Committee to begin "Phase 1" of the project, which will include hiring an architect and a project manager.

Members of the building committee were on hand at the meeting, along with members of the Board of Education, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Judith Golden, Assistant Superintendent Kevin Reich and high school principal John Fidler. The meeting also included a presentation from John Mena, a representative from the Capital Region Education Council (CREC), who broke down what exactly the project would need to entail and how the state would reimburse the town for the cost of the project.

Since April, the building committee has met virtually every Thursday, said committee chairwoman Sharon Smith, to put the wheels in motion for the proposed renovation, which is expected to be an extensive upgrade of the high school facility, particularly in the areas of science and technology. The need for a renovation was highlighted in a 2007 report from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC), which is tasked with putting schools through an accreditation process over 10 years.

Now, with the district halfway through the accreditation process, the district has had to show NEASC that it is taking considerable steps toward reaching its accreditation in 2017. To that end, the Board of Education formed the building committee earlier this year to oversee the ins and outs of the proposed project, which must be designed and planned before heading to a town-wide referendum for approval. The

proposal, along with an approval from the town's voters, must be submitted to the state by June 30, 2013, to possibly receive state reimbursement.

With a solid deadline, the building committee had requested the initial funding from the council to get the ball rolling. "Without this funding, we literally cannot move forward," Smith said.

The focus of Tuesday's presentation was on Mena, who works in CREC's construction division, which he said has overseen almost \$2 billion in construction projects throughout the state. Mena said that his division's job is to assist the district through the entire construction process, making sure that all rules and laws are adhered to so that the project meets accreditation requirements and the town receives the best reimbursement possible.

At the request of the council, Mena provided a scaled-down summary of the 80-page NEASC report, which highlighted various shortcomings in the high school facility that could – or have already – adversely affected the school's curriculum, as well as the safety and health of the students.

"The facility and equipment are not sufficient to support a modern and comprehensive curriculum or prepare students for success in the 21st century," Mena stated in his summary. "There will need to be significant upgrades and updates to facilities, equipment, and technology to assure that East Hampton students enjoy the same educational opportunities as their peers across the state."

As has been said in the past by the school board, Mena recommended to the town that the project be a "renovate as new," which would provide more reimbursement from the state.

Mena said that along with new, improved classroom space and materials, the renovation would also include upgrades on the building's infrastructure and make the building "high performance" to save on energy costs.

Despite the reimbursement from the state, Mena admitted that the project would require "a sizable financial investment" from the town. Without the exact plans of the proposal, Mena was unable to provide the council with any ballpark figures for the cost of the project, but did provide several hypotheticals.

According to Mena, the state's reimbursement rate for school construction projects is currently 52.5 percent. He estimated 5 percent of any construction would potentially be deemed "unnecessary" by the state; therefore, if the project costs \$35 million, the amount eligible for reimbursement could be just \$33.25 million. The amount the state would pay for in this estimate, Mena said, would be \$17.46 million, leaving the town to pay \$17.54 million for the project.

Another option for the town that Mena discussed was an "extensions and alterations" project, which would renovate only a portion of the school to meet accreditation requirements, but would receive less reimbursement from the state. Mena said if the cost of the project was \$25 million, he estimated that 25 percent, or \$6.25 million, would potentially be ineligible, leaving the amount eligible for reimbursement at \$18.75 million. With the 52.5 percent reimbursement rate, the state would pay \$9.8 million and the town would pay \$15.2 million, a little over \$2 million less for a smaller-scale project.

"It might not average out and be worthwhile," Mena explained. He added that over the past

several years, state reimbursement rates have been trending down, making now "the time to build."

The council, as a whole, seemed on board with the project from the get-go, but admitted that it will be the town's voters that determine the project's fate. "I was sold two weeks ago on the project [when the request was originally brought to the council], but I'm worried about the public perception," councilor Barbara Moore said.

With the funding request approved, residents will now get their chance to weigh in on the project at a town meeting, which has been scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 1, at 7 p.m. in the auditorium at the high school, 15 N. Maple St. Residents will have the chance to ask questions about the proposed project, give their opinions, and ultimately vote to approve the funding request. Paul Hoffman will serve as moderator.

If approved, the plans and scope of the project would be drafted and the costs would be calculated in preparation for the referendum, which is expected to take place in the spring. If the referendum passes, the plans would be submitted to the state for reimbursement and the project would begin; if the referendum fails, Mena said that the architect would continue to work to draft a proposal that voters approve.

Passing the referendum, however, is at the top of everyone's list. "Everyone is invested in passing the referendum," Smith said. "That's our highest priority."

The next regular meeting of the Town Council is scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 13, at 6:30 p.m. at East Hampton High School, 15 N. Maple St.

New Hebron Café Hopes to Find ‘Simple’ Success

by Geeta Schrayter

Something simply wonderful has cropped up at 12 Main St. in Hebron: a café that entices with a variety of breakfast and lunch items and an environment where patrons are encouraged to “sit and enjoy each other with simply great food and great coffee,” according to the café’s website.

For owners Ross and Jessica Dapsis, who have lived in Hebron for about 13 years, Something Simple Café is a dream come true – but one that came a little earlier than expected.

“We’ve talked about [opening a café] on and off but thought more for like when we retired,” Jess explained Monday as she sat in the café filled with the scent of coffee.

But when the building that houses Something Simple went up for sale, Jess and her husband decided to seize the opportunity and the idea for a bakery became more immediate. The property was purchased, and the two spent about a year talking with other café owners and conducting research that would aid them in their endeavor.

Something Simple then opened its doors on Oct. 6. Jess explained that from the beginning, the idea was to offer fresh, local produce and form partnerships with smaller businesses – and that’s exactly what they’ve done.

The coffee comes from Bean & Leaf Roasters out of New London while the perfect accompaniment – chocolate-dipped biscotti – stems from Sweet Mavens in Glastonbury. The bagels are from Diana’s Bakery in Enfield, and sodas are available from Hosmer Mountain Soda in Willimantic.

The café also offers breakfast sandwiches and yogurt in the morning and soups, salads and toasted paninis in the afternoon. It’s the latter that Jess said she’d recommend to patrons (along with everything else, of course).

“The sandwiches are really good,” she said, noting the meats and cheeses were all Boar’s Head brand. “It’s good stuff,” she exclaimed, adding the “Italian Stallion,” with roast beef, roasted red pepper aioli, lettuce, tomato and provolone cheese, was a bestseller.

Her daughter Tristin, 11, said she’s a fan of the paninis too, along with some of the baked goods.

“I like either the Blondies or the paninis” she said.

As her brother Evan, 9, enjoyed a lemon square that was baked in-house, he said his favorite item was the ham and cheddar panini, as well as the apple cider, which comes from the Farmer’s Cow.

In addition to the traditional fare, the café is also looking to cater to individuals who are gluten-free or vegetarian.

“And we’re working on dairy-free, too,” said Jess.

Although the café has been open for less than a month, the Dapsises said they’ve already learned a lot – such as, for instance, the fact that all of the research they conducted didn’t totally prepare them for the life of a café owner.

“I think you do as much research as you can, but then you hit the ground running and think ‘I didn’t do this,’” Jess said.

“We didn’t realize how much work there is after the café closes,” added Ross, explaining it involves clean-up, ordering supplies and preparing for the following day.

“It’s a fast-learning process,” he said of owning a café.

There was also the costs for building inspections and the required licenses. “We knew you had to have them,” Jess said, “but we didn’t know how many and how much.”

And then, unfortunately, there’s the possibility of theft, which the Dapsises discovered firsthand on Oct. 21, when someone broke in and stole their cash register.

“We can’t figure out how they got in,” said Ross. None of the windows were smashed. Rathe, the door they’d locked was found wide open. “It’s just weird timing because my parents live upstairs and they were at our place.”

“It’s almost like [whoever broke in] knew the building was empty,” Jess said.

On Monday, the café was operating with a manual credit card machine and on a cash basis, but a new register was in place the follow-



Individuals looking for a place to unwind with a cup of coffee or a bite to eat can stop by Something Simple Café on Main Street in Hebron. The café opened earlier this month and offers an array of items that are from local businesses or made in-house.

ing day. Jess added there was only about \$30 in the stolen register.

Despite the theft, the Dapsises are excited about their venture, said they’ve received a lot of support from the community and plan to expand in the future. Along with making a bigger kitchen – “the kitchen is tiny,” Jess lamented – the Dapsises said they plan to hold some open mic nights, as well as monthly discussions. State Rep. Pam Sawyer is already scheduled to be at the café for a talk on Halloween.

In addition, Jess said the walls of the café are the perfect place to display the work of local artists.

“We could have an opening [for an artist] then display their stuff” for a period of about three weeks, she explained, mentioning the family wanted to have “community involvement.”

Something Simple offers “just the smaller, slower kind of atmosphere,” Jess shared. “It’s not fast food, it’s not ‘get in and get out’ – everyone comes in, relaxes and enjoys.”

“It’s been great so far,” Ross furthered, adding it was the atmosphere that he enjoyed most. “I enjoy watching people walking down and coming in. Whether it’s sitting outside reading a book or coming in for a coffee – all that stuff – that’s the part I like.”

“Now that we’re here, I can’t imagine not doing this” Jess smiled.

Something Simple Café is open from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday and 8 a.m.-2 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. For more information, call 860-228-2266 or visit somethingimplecafe.com.

Hebron Gets \$500,000 for Main Street Work

by Geeta Schrayter

Main Street in Hebron is set to undergo a number of improvements thanks to a \$500,000 Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grant the town was awarded this week.

Gov. Dannel P. Malloy announced in a Tuesday press release that these funds are awarded to help towns “upgrade infrastructure, strengthen business corridors, and improve public spaces.”

“These projects make us a stronger and more competitive state – they are part of reinventing Connecticut,” said Malloy.

Hebron was one of five towns Malloy announced awards for Tuesday. Tolland and the Borough of Woodmont in Milford were also each awarded \$500,000, while Essex received an award of \$471,500 and Monroe was awarded \$110,000.

Town Planner Mike O’Leary said Hebron’s \$500,000 will be used to assist in the town’s ongoing “beautification, safety and economic development enhancements.” The grant will go toward creating additional parking in the center of town and also add pedestrian crossings, to benefit residents as well as businesses.

“These improvements will enhance the pedestrian environment along Main Street,” he said, adding they would also be an economic incentive for businesses.

State Sen. Edith Prague, D-Columbia, stated in Malloy’s release that the improvements will “strengthen the quality of life for all [Hebron’s] residents,” and on Wednesday, state Rep. Pam Sawyer, R-Bolton, said the award was “very exciting.”

“To me it is one of the final pieces to the puzzle,” she said. “We have a network begin-

ning in downtown for pedestrians, and our high schoolers coming down Wall Street will now have a way to get through to the AHM Youth Service Center.”

Sawyer added the increased parking will be “fabulous” for events like the Maple Fest, book sales at the library and historical programs at the Old Town Hall that draw people into the center of town.

“That, to me, is truly an economic program that’s clearly in the STEAP grant requirements,” she said.

On Wednesday, Board of Selectmen Chairman Jeff Watt called the award “very nice.”

“I think it’s a very good next step,” he said, “and I’m very excited about not only receiving the grant but also how it’s going to help out Main Street in the longer term.”

Watt furthered that O’Leary and the Economic Development Commission had done a “great job trying to push forward to make economic development on Main Street very attractive.”

Town Manager Andy Tierney said Tuesday receiving the award was “great news.”

He said the town appreciated the cooperation of the state in approving the grant and added the funds would make Main Street “more walkable and vibrant for businesses and residents.”

Tierney explained design work for the improvements will take place throughout the winter months, with the hope that the STEAP money will be in hand in early spring to head out to bid and begin construction.

Hebron Resident Swipes Signs Comparing Obama to Hitler

by Geeta Schrayter

Hebron resident Nancy Lack was angry – and it’s that anger which prompted her to take a number of political signs that depicted President Barack Obama in a less-than-pleasing light.

On Thursday, Oct. 11, state police said they responded to a reported disturbance in the parking lot of the Hebron Post Office and discovered Lack, 80, “forcefully took” political signs that had been set up by members of the political action committee LarouchePAC.

LarouchePAC is a committee that promotes the ideas of political activist and past presidential candidate Lyndon Larouche. The committee, among other objectives, seeks to remove Obama from the role of president. The signs they were displaying that made Lack upset showed Obama with an Adolf Hitler-esque mustache.

“The moustaches were very objectionable to me because of Hitler,” said Lack, “and I just got very angry and tried to take down all of them but I couldn’t.”

Although Lack said she supports President Obama, she said the move was out of principle, not political preference.

“It’s just the fact that he’s president, and

whoever the president is should be respected,” she stated, adding “that evil man’s symbol” shouldn’t be put on him.

When Lack was taking the signs, she said she didn’t really think about what the consequence might be, and when a woman started screaming at her and threatened to call the police, she said she didn’t care.

“I said ‘good!’ I wanted to call them myself,” Lack stated.

But there did end up being a consequence, as police charged Lack with breach of peace and sixth-degree larceny. Even so, Lack said there’s not really anything she regrets.

If she could do it again, “I don’t know if I’d do it differently,” she said. “So much was emotional and I can’t go back to that time to see how I’d feel.”

She added she didn’t regret taking the signs, “but I regret the problem it caused for me.”

However, Lack no longer has to worry about any legal action being taken as a result of her sign-swiping. According to a clerk with Rockville Superior Court, Lack’s charges were dropped Tuesday; the clerk did not explain why, and the court prosecutor’s office could not be reached for this story.

East Hampton Police News

10/8: a 13-year-old juvenile of East Hampton was issued a summons for shoplifting/sixth-degree larceny, East Hampton Police said.

10/12: a 15-year-old juvenile of East Hampton was issued a summons for possessing less than four ounces of marijuana, police said.

10/14: Ian MacDonald, 28, of 24 Comstock Trail, was arrested for failure to drive right and DUI, police said.

10/15: Paul W. Banning, 48, of 12 Sherry Dr., was issued a summons for misuse of plates and operating an unregistered motor vehicle, police said.

10/16: Stuart C. Heavisides, 46, of 225 Jones Hollow Rd., Marlborough, was arrested for failure to drive right and DUI, police said.

Portland Police News

10/19: Nicole Klusek, 21, of 67 Park Ave., Colchester, was charged with sixth-degree larceny, Portland Police said.

Colchester Police News

10/16: Mary Soto-Santiago, 21, of 341 Jeffrey Rd., was charged with second-degree failure to appear, State Police said.

10/18: Yexenia Rivera, 24, of Michael Rd., New London, was charged with third-degree assault, using a motor vehicle without permission, failure to renew license, illegal operation of motor vehicle without minimum insurance, improper use of marker, registration or license, and misrepresentation of motor vehicle registration, State Police said.

10/19: Matheau P. Willette, 22, of 25 Victoria Dr., Colchester, was charged with breach of peace, third-degree assault and violation of protective order, State Police said.

10/19: Jason Visneau, 26, of 168 Beeckman Dr., Agawam, Mass. was charged with DWI,

Marlborough Police News

10/22: Matthew D. Blacha, 39, of 26 Spring Garden Ave., Norwich, was charged with weapons in motor vehicle, operation while license or registration is suspended, evading and failure to maintain lane, State Police said.

Hebron Police News

10/19: James O’Connell, 36, of 32 Hazel St., Manchester, was charged with violation of protective order, failure to appear and second-degree failure to appear, State Police said.

10/20: Michael Bergeron, 38, of 541 Wall St., Hebron, was charged with disorderly conduct and interfering with an emergency call, State Police said.

operating without a motor vehicle operator’s license and failure to maintain lane, State Police said.

10/20: James F. Howe, 44, of 45 Fairmont St., Norwich, had an outstanding arrest warrant and was charged with violation of probation, State Police said.

10/21: Markian Winiarsky, 54, of 17 Mt. Sumner Dr., Bolton, was charged with DUI and reckless driving, State Police said.

10/21: Russell Dionne, 65, was charged with DUI, failure to maintain lane, and failure to have devices lit, State Police said.

10/21: Robert Kempesta, 52, of 107 Berry Ln., Colchester, was charged with disorderly conduct and third-degree assault, State Police said.

Obituaries

Portland

Michael McAuliffe

Michael McAuliffe, 64, of Portland, passed away Thursday, Oct. 18, at home. He was the son of the late David and Dorothy (Rau) McAuliffe. Born March 13, 1948, in Middletown, he was a lifelong Portland resident.



He attended Portland Senior High School, MxCC, Central Connecticut State College, and earned his BS from Charter Oak College. Michael worked at Pratt & Whitney for many years until his retirement. He was also a member of the Church of St. Mary in Portland.

He leaves his brother, Kevin McAuliffe and his wife, Joanie of Port Clinton, Ohio; his sister, Karen Labbadia and her husband, Joe of Portland; several nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews. He also leaves special people, the Innes Family and his sister-in-law, Joyce McAuliffe. He also was a friend of Bill W. for 18 years.

He was predeceased by his sister, Maureen Bassett.

Funeral services were held Thursday, Oct. 25, with a Mass at the Church of St. Mary, 51 Freestone Ave., Portland. Burial was in Swedish Cemetery, Portland. Relatives and friends called Wednesday, Oct. 24, at Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Church of St. Mary, 51 Freestone Ave., Portland, CT 06480.

To send an online expression of sympathy, visit portlandmemorialfh.net.

Portland

Rich Darna

Rich Darna, 57, of Portland, died suddenly Friday, Oct. 19, after a short illness. He was born in Middletown June 24, 1955, to the late Bernice and Maurice Darna.



Rich was employed by Wesleyan University as an electrician for the last 30 years and served as volunteer firefighter for the Portland Fire Department for over 20 years. An avid outdoorsman, he loved his vacations to the Outer Banks and Myrtle Beach and his cruises through the country back roads. A big fan of NASCAR, one of Sunday morning's joys was calling to get every one's pick for the race pool. He loved surrounding himself with good people, sharing good stories and delivering the occasional "thumper."

He is survived by his daughter, Katelyn and her fiancé, Paul Holloway, of Windsor, Vt.; his son, Ryan and his girlfriend, Nicole Wright, of Portland; his sweetheart, Janet Johnson of Portland; two brothers, Robert (Bob) Darna and his wife, Sandy, of Punta Gorda, Fla., and Ron Darna and his wife, Debbie, of Boynton Beach, Fla.; his sister, Gail McDowell and her husband, Dr. Bud McDowell, of Higganum; and several nieces and nephews.

In accordance with Rich's wishes and in celebration of his life, the family would like to receive relatives and friends at Ryan Darna's house, 271 Cox Rd., Portland, on Saturday, Oct. 27, between the hours of 4 and 6 p.m. Also, a remembrance service will be held at a future date.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Rich's name to the Portland Fire Department P.O. Box 71 Portland, CT 06480.

To send an online expression of sympathy, visit portlandmemorialfh.net.

Colchester

Sophie Behrmann

Sophie Behrmann, 78, wife of Bruno Behrmann, passed away Friday, Oct. 9, in Colchester.

Funeral and burial services are private; there are no calling hours.

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

Colchester

Patricia MacKay Cronin

Patricia MacKay Cronin, beloved wife of Joseph Cronin, passed away peacefully at home Sunday, Oct. 21, after a courageous battle with cancer.

Patricia (Pat) was born May 4, 1937, in New London, the daughter of Angus and Evelyn (Kilpatrick) MacKay.



She graduated in 1955 from New London High School. On October 23, 1971, she married her loving husband, Joseph. After living in Massachusetts and New Hampshire, they moved to and settled in Colchester in 1978. Pat was one of the earliest members of the Thames Ski Club, based out of New London. From their lodge on what was Pico Mountain, Pat taught her children, Kevin, Tim and Erika, the enjoyment of skiing.

Patricia worked as a paraprofessional at William J. Johnston Middle School in Colchester for the past 15 years. There she met many dear friends that shared her love of knitting. During her lifetime, Pat made countless sweaters, baby blankets and afghans for friends and family. She was an avid UConn basketball fan, cheering on both the men and women. She and her husband Joe made four trips around the country to cheer on the Huskies during their Final Four games. She also had two favorite baseball teams; The Red Sox and anyone that beat the Yankees.

Pat is survived by her husband of 42 years, Joseph. She was a loving and adoring mother to her three children and their spouses, Kevin and Stacey Cronin of Ridgefield, Timothy and Emily Cronin of East Hampton and Erika and Brady Fox of San Diego, Calif.; six grandchildren, whom she passionately loved, Grace, Finn, Teigue, Lily, Stella and Oliver; two sisters and a sister-in-law that was like a sister, Ina Jean MacKay, Nancy Magro and her husband, Wayne, and Barbara MacKay; Joe's brother and sisters and their spouses, Kathleen and Michael Grady, Elizabeth and Robert George, and Timothy and Julie Cronin, all in Worcester, Mass. Her brother, William, whom she adored, predeceased her. She also leaves numerous nieces and nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews and countless friends, especially her best friend of 68 years, Joan McIntire.

Friends called Tuesday, Oct. 23, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The funeral was Wednesday, Oct. 24, at the funeral home. Burial followed in the New St. Andrew Cemetery, Colchester.

In lieu of flowers, please donate in Pat's name to Hospice of SECT, 225 Dunham St., Norwich, CT 06360, or to a charity of your choice.

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Hebron

Memorial Service for Robert Switzer

A memorial service for Robert Gordon "Bob" Switzer, lovingly known as "Pop," 76, of Hebron, who passed away Sept. 30, will be held Saturday, Nov. 3, at 2 p.m., at Gilead Congregational Church, 672 Gilead St., Hebron.

East Hampton

Lucy Almira Barber

Lucy Almira (Lord) Barber of Rockledge, Fla., daughter of Benjamin and Isabelle Lord, passed away Sunday, Oct. 7. Prior to moving to Rockledge, Fla., she lived in East Hampton.

She was predeceased by her husband Robert H. Barber; and daughter Noreen; as well as her sisters Isabelle (Tiny) Staplins, Norma Novotny and Elizabeth (Betty) Brown.

She is survived by her brothers, Benjamin Lord and wife Marion, David Lord and wife Joan; her sons, Robert Barber and wife Louise, Richard Barber and wife Shirley, Ronald Barber and wife Lisa, Randy Barber and wife Dianne; and daughter, Nancy and husband Edward Peteja; 12 grandchildren; as well as many nieces, nephews, friends and relatives.

Lucy was a wonderful mother, sister, aunt, grandmother and friend as well. Lucy was a devout Jehovah Witness attending the Kingdom Hall in Middletown and Colchester before moving to Rockledge, Fla. She will be missed by all those she knew and touched throughout her life.

There will be a memorial viewing at Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton Saturday, Oct. 27, from noon-2 p.m.

Colchester

John J. Olshesky

John J. Olshesky, 97, of Colchester, beloved husband of Sophia (Szegda) Olshesky, passed away in his sleep shortly after midnight Sunday morning, Oct. 21, in his home, peacefully.

Born in Granby, John was the son of Joseph and Helen (Klonis) Olshesky. He formerly resided in Waterford, New Milford, Wethersfield, and East Hartford. A World War II veteran, he served honorably in the U.S. Army as an intelligence staff officer from 1942 to 1946, and as a first lieutenant in the Aleutian Islands in the 768 Anti-Aircraft Artillery Gun Battalion (768 AAA Gun Battalion).

He graduated from Trinity College with the Class of 1937, and continued his education in Civil Engineering with a second BS Engineering degree from the University of Connecticut in 1948, and a certificate in Traffic Engineering from Yale University, School of Traffic Engineering, in 1958. He was proud to be a registered professional engineer and land surveyor in the State of Connecticut. Always an educator, he enjoyed teaching at Yale University's School of Traffic Engineering after he graduated. He served most of his professional career with the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation, beginning in 1963 as a land surveyor and culminating with the appointment of deputy transportation commissioner, Bureau of Planning and Research, on Feb. 18, 1972, a position he held until his retirement in 1974.

During retirement he was very active. He opened his own practice in land surveying and for many years he was on the Waterford Zoning Board of Appeals. He taught the 55 Alive, Safe Driving class for senior citizens. He also enjoyed working on his 1908 three-story Victorian home and maintaining his property on the Niantic River, and attending strength training at the Waterford Senior Center until he was 95 years old.

Besides Sophia, his loving wife of 59 years, John is survived by his two loving daughters, Janice M. Olshesky, AIA, LEED AP, owner of an architectural practice in Alexandria, VA, and Lauren M. Olshesky, RN, and her husband, John Sobanik of Colchester; and numerous extended family members, mostly in Connecticut.

The family will receive guests starting at 9:30 a.m. today, Oct. 26, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester, CT 06415 860-537-9611, before the celebration of the funeral liturgy at 11 a.m. at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester. Interment with full military honors will follow at St. Mary's Cemetery, 600 Jefferson Avenue, New London, CT 06320, 860-443-3465.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Polish National Home, 60 Charter Oak Plaza, Hartford, CT 06106, the Polish University Club of Connecticut, P.O. Box 134, North Granby, CT 06060-0134, or a charity of one's choice.

Colchester

Ronald Dean Eller

Ronald Dean Eller, 65, of Colchester, died Tuesday, Oct. 16, at St. Francis Hospital, Hartford. Ron was born in Grangeville, Idaho, and was the son of the late Clair and Joyce (Cross) Eller.

He attended Bishop Minogue High School in Reno, Nev., and upon graduation he had several scholarship offers but chose the University of New Mexico at Albuquerque as a distance runner, with the ultimate goal of competing in the Olympics in Mexico City in 1968. Unfortunately, an injury forced Ron to pursue another dream as an artist. He grew from a commercial artist to a fine artist the last 10 years.

Ron is survived by his beloved wife, Rose Hernandez-Eller of Colchester; his daughter, Micaela Eller (Thomas Edwards) of Los Angeles, Calif.; his two sons, Karim Klinke Hernandez (Amanda) of Seattle, WA and Sean Eller of Reno, Nev.; his sister, Pat Kimball; his uncle, Richard Eller; and his six grandchildren, Kaleigh and Isabelle (Micaela), Victoria, Michael, Jr., Ronie and Julieann (Michael).

Ron was predeceased by his son, Michael Eller. Funeral rites for Ron were held Monday, Oct. 22, at the United Pentecostal Church, 517 Farmington Ave., New Britain. Committal service and final resting place was in Fairview Cemetery, 120 Smalley Street, New Britain. Relatives and friends called at the Paul A. Shaker/Farmingdale Funeral Home, 764 Farmington Ave., New Britain. Flowers were accepted at the funeral home Sunday morning, Oct. 21.

To extend condolences to the Eller family or to share a memory of Ron, visit shakerfuneralhome.com.

Colchester

Joseph R. Kablik

Joseph R. Kablik, 86, of Colchester, died Sunday, Oct. 21, in Marlborough. He was born May 23, 1926, in Elizabeth, N.J.

Joseph retired from the U.S. Army, having served in both World War II and the Korean Conflict. He served as an MP, a tank mechanic, an electronics technician and as a combat medic in Korea for which he was highly decorated.

He was husband for 47 years to the late Dorothy S. Kablik and is survived by three children, Jeffrey Kablik, Kathy Couture and Kim Kablik; three grandchildren, Dan Couture, Lea Kablik and Jesse Kablik; and his close friend and companion, Sadie Summerlin.

His family received relatives and friends Thursday, Oct. 25, at the Potter Funeral Home, 456 Jackson St., Willimantic, followed by funeral services that afternoon. Burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in his name may be made to the Wounded Warrior Project at woundedwarriorproject.org or Wounded Warrior Project, P.O. Box 758517, Topeka, KS 66675.

Visit potterfuneralhome.com for an online memorial guestbook.

Colchester

Agnes Keller

Agnes (Carlson) Keller, 79, of Palmetto, Fla., formerly of Colchester, beloved wife of 59 years to Hershel Keller, passed away Monday, Oct. 15, at Manatee Memorial Hospital, Bradenton, Fla. She was born July 24, 1933, in Hartford to the late Adolf and Olga Carlson.

Agnes is survived by her husband Hershel; three sons, Hershel (Dale) Keller Jr., and his wife Eleanor (Marvin) Keller of Colchester, Ronnie Keller of Palmetto, Fla. and Ricky Keller and his wife Tammy (Mrowka) Keller of Colchester; three grandchildren, Melissa Couch, Michael Keller and Tyler Keller, all of Colchester; three great-grandchildren; and numerous nephews and nieces; brothers Herbert Carlson of Hartford and Leonard Carlson of Colchester.

Agnes was predeceased by sisters, Doris Levesque, Amy Bennett, Margaret Peck, and brothers Ralph, Harry and John Carlson.

"Aggie" moved to Palmetto, Fla., in 1997, with her husband and son Ronnie. She loved returning to Connecticut and spending summers on the lake at Pachaug Campground with her family and friends.

Memorial services were conducted Friday, Oct. 19, at Piney Point Club House Palmetto, Fla. A memorial graveside service will be conducted by the family in Colchester at a later date.

The family requests that donations be made to the charity of your choice.

Hebron

Eugene Antonucci

Eugene "Geno" Antonucci, 77, of Hebron, beloved husband of Pia (Negrini) Antonucci, entered into eternal peace Monday, Oct. 22, at home with his loving family by his side.

Geno was born in Hartford July 15, 1935, son of the late Pasquale and Maria (D'Amato) Antonucci. He was an avid hunter who loved the outdoors and was a skilled woodworker as well as a fan of the New York Giants. Geno enjoyed reading, especially books about early American history.

He was a proud veteran of the U.S. Army, having served in Germany from 1956-1958. While on leave, Geno visited Italy, where he met Pia and they then came to America in 1958.

In addition to his wife of 55 years, Geno is survived by his son, Phil Antonucci and his wife Terry of Wethersfield; his daughters, Maria Antonucci of Texas and Julie Antonucci of Manchester and his sister, Doris Bevan of Wallingford. He is also survived by his adored grandchildren, Joshua, Roxanne, Erica and Gregory and his beloved great-granddaughter, Jasmine, as well as several nieces, nephews and cousins.

Geno was predeceased by his brothers, Phillip and Donald Antonucci.

The funeral service and burial will be private. Family and friends may visit today, Oct. 26, at the D'Esopo Funeral Chapel, 277 Folly Brook Blvd., Wethersfield.

Donations in Eugene's memory may be made to the Wounded Warrior Project, P.O. Box 758517, Topeka, KS 66675.

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

East Hampton

Diane C. Buzzetti

Diane C. Buzzetti, 60, of East Hampton, formerly of East Hartford, beloved wife of Alan J. Buzzetti, passed away peacefully Wednesday, Oct. 17, at Hartford Hospital. She was born Feb. 5, 1952, in Hartford, daughter of Carolyn (Noble) Johnston and the late Richard Johnston.

Diane grew up and lived most of her life in East Hartford, graduating from Penney High School in 1970. She went on to work for the State of Connecticut, Department of Public Health, for 18 years as a paralegal. She enjoyed traveling and in particular The Virgin Islands and St. Kitts in the Caribbean. Above all, she loved to spend time with her family. She will be remembered for her kind and loving heart, her gift of gentle persuasion, but most of all the care and warmth she shared with her husband, children and grandchildren.

In addition to her husband Al, she is survived by her daughters, Jennifer Wallace and her husband Jeff of Glastonbury, Kimberly Sprague and her husband Darrin of East Hampton, Kristie Sena and her husband Gilbert of Visalia, Calif., Elizabeth Baio and her husband Anthony of Farmington; her mother, Carolyn Johnston; her brother, Craig Johnston; her sister, Debbie Johnston; as well as eight grandchildren, Hunter, Cole, Parker, and Kelsey Wallace, Camryn Sprague, Samantha, Mateo and Alena Sena, with another special grandchild on the way.

Diane's family received friends Monday, Oct. 22, at the Carmon Windsor Funeral Home, 807 Bloomfield Ave., Windsor. Her funeral service will be private.

Donations in Diane's memory may be made to the Connecticut Children's Medical Center. Visit the donation page at: <https://connecticutchildrensfoundation.org/SSLPage.aspx?pid=298>. To make online donations, use the drop-down list to select the Hematology/Oncology Program. Also, specify Diane in The Tribute Information section. Donations by check should specify the tribute to Diane and the Hematology/Oncology Program in the memo field. The mailing address is Connecticut Children's Foundation, 282 Washington St., Hartford, CT 06106.

For online condolences, visit carmonfuneralhome.com.

Marlborough

Dora A. Golembeiski

Dora A. Golembeiski, 88, of Marlborough, passed away Monday, Oct. 22. Formerly of East Hartford, Dora was born Jan. 13, 1924.

Family and friends attended a period of visitation Thursday, Oct. 25, followed by a funeral service that day at Benjamin J. Callahan Funeral Home, 318 Burnside Ave., East Hartford. Services concluded with burial in Hillside Cemetery, East Hartford.

For a complete obituary or to share condolences online, visit callahanfuneral.com.

Marlborough

Frank H. King Jr.

Frank H. King Jr., 87, of Marlborough, formerly of Rocky Hill, entered peacefully into eternal rest Thursday, Oct. 11, after a short illness. Born Aug. 29, 1925, in Rocky Hill, he was the son of the late Frank and Annie King.

After working for Roofing Supplies, Frank owned his own roofing and siding business for over 20 years. He was a founding member and one-time president of the Civitan Organization of Rocky Hill, which did charitable works of a wide variety for those in need. He cherished his beloved wife of 63 years, the late Muriel (Melaven) King, with all of his heart.

He is predeceased by his sister, Dorothy (King) Charbonneau, and his son, David G. King.

He is survived by his loving daughter, Kathleen Doner and her husband Alfred; three grandchildren, Gregory King, Stacy Doner, Frank Doner; and one great grandson, Zachary King.

A memorial service was held at The Church of Saint Andrew the Apostle, 331 Orchard St., Rocky Hill, Monday, Oct. 22. Burial services followed at Rose Hill Cemetery, Rocky Hill. The family received friends at a reception following burial services at Saint Andrew's Parish Hall.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Frank's memory to The Church of Saint Andrew the Apostle.

Portland

Robert DeGraff Sr.

Robert DeGraff Sr., 76, of Middletown, beloved husband of Rosemarie (Jajliardo) DeGraff died Monday, Oct. 22, at Middlesex Hospital, surrounded by his family. Robert was born in Portland, the son of the late Charles E. and Katherine (Sokolowski) DeGraff.

He served with the US Marines and prior to his retirement, he was a quality control inspector and machinist for EIS and New Britain Machine. Robert was a communicant and usher at St. Pius X Church, and a member of the VFW in Middletown.

He enjoyed fishing with his family and friends, was a loyal Yankee and Giants fan, and will be remembered for his avid support for the Lung Cancer Association and Marines for Tots program.

Besides his wife, Robert is survived by his five children, Rosemarie Wiknik of Cromwell, Katherine Palmer of Middletown, Donna Rooslund and her husband Mark of Meriden, Roberta DeGraff of New Hampshire, and Robert DeGraff Jr. and his wife Melinda of Bristol; seven grandchildren, David Palmer, Jennifer Wiknik, Laura Wiknik, Amanda Ross, Brianna Mauro, Michael Mauro and Nicolas Mauro; and a great-grandson, Brandon Muller; also several nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was predeceased by a brother, Charles J. DeGraff, Jr. and a stepbrother, Arthur Sokolowski

Funeral services were held Thursday, Oct. 25, from Biega Funeral Home, 3 Silver St., Middletown, followed by a 10 a.m. funeral liturgy at St. Pius X Church, 310 Westfield St., Middletown. Burial with military honors was at Mount Saint Benedict Cemetery, Bloomfield. Friends called at Biega Funeral Home Wednesday, Oct. 24.

Those who wish may send memorial contributions to the Middlesex Hospital Weiss Hospice Unit, c/o Dept. of Philanthropy, 28 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457.

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

Colchester

Barbara Marie Zimmermann

Barbara Marie (Kaiser) Zimmermann, 81, died in Colchester Friday, Oct. 19. She was born March 7, 1931, in Roselle, N.J., the daughter of George and Bertha Kaiser.

Barb grew up in Cranford, N.J., and was a 1952 graduate of Bouv   Boston School of Physical Education. She found her calling while working as a physical therapist for children stricken with polio.

When she married Harold Zimmermann in 1956, his job brought excitement to the newlyweds as they enjoyed a nomadic life for almost 10 years, living in 37 of the 50 states. In 1965, Barbara and Harold built their home in Ledyard, where they lived and raised their family for 34 years. Later, they purchased a condo in the Whitehall community in Greensboro, N.C., which was their home until 2009, when Harold passed away. Since then, Barbara has lived in Connecticut near her family.

Barb was a doting wife, mother, culinary wizard, amateur wildflower/plant enthusiast, ingenious crafter, and an avid UConn Huskies basketball fan. She enjoyed teaching Girl Scouts to cook on a campfire and how to make something beautiful from discarded items. Barbara is remembered by many for her Chinese cooking classes through adult education at Stonington High School. For many years she brought her vast knowledge of and passion for cooking to her co-workers and customers at Just the Kitchen.

Barbara is survived by her two daughters, Audra Zimmermann of Colchester, and Heidi Clement of Canterbury. She was patient with and devoted to her beloved granddaughters, Emily and Lindsey, who will miss "Mum" and her hummingbirds. Also surviving is Barbara's brother and dance partner, George C. Kaiser of Webster Groves, Mo. Aunt Barb's extended family of nieces and nephews will miss her gentle smile, quiet kindness, and all the thoughtful ways she let them know she was thinking of them.

A private memorial service will be planned.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that contributions be made to the Alzheimer's Association, alz.org.

The Belmont/Sabrowski Funeral Home of Colchester is assisting the family.

Andover

Paul David Gustafson

Paul David Gustafson, 60, of Andover, entered into rest Monday, Oct. 22, at his home. Born Sept. 11, 1952, son of the late Arthur Gustafson and Barbara (Sage) Gustafson of Niantic, he was raised in Manchester and had been a resident of Andover since 1986.

He is survived by his beloved wife Carol (Champlin) Gustafson; his two children, son Robert Gustafson of Andover and daughter Ashley Gustafson of Rocky Hill; two older sisters, Joanne Richard and her husband Clyde "Rick" of Annapolis, Md., and Barbara "Babs" Canning and her husband Pete of Manhattan, N.Y.. He also leaves behind his granddaughter Adriana, who he loved and adored.

His passion was buying and collecting antiques, hunting and fishing. The family would like to give a special thanks to Dr. Michael E. Keenan and Dr. John Polio.

Memorial visiting hours will be held Saturday, Oct. 27, from 2-4 p.m., at the Holmes Funeral Home, 400 Main St., Manchester. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Liver Foundation, 414 Skytop Lane, Fairfield, CT 06432.

To leave a condolence message, visit holmes-watkinsfuneralhomes.com.