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Hundreds gathered by water and land on the Connecticut River and at the Portland Exchange Club fairgrounds to watch the annual Fourth of July fireworks show Sunday. The event was particularly enjoyed because residents missed out last year when the event was canceled due to weather.

Portland Fireworks Prove Dazzling

by Katelyn Kelleher

Bright skies at night were a sailor's – and land dweller's – delight as Sunday's 20th anniversary of Portland's fireworks colored the skies over the fairgrounds and the Connecticut River.

Hundreds attended the Fourth of July celebration, either setting up lawn chairs and blankets on the Portland Exchange Club fairgrounds or watching by boat on the river between Portland and Middletown.

While the display was originally set to go off on Saturday, threats of foul weather postponed the event to its Sunday rain date. "We postponed due to the threat of terrible severe thunderstorms and then nothing happened," Fireworks Committee Treasurer/Secretary Sharon Hoy said with a laugh.

"We had to protect the public. It's an open field, you're along the river, there are metal buildings back here and if there was a severe thunderstorm people would have had no place to go," Hoy said. "We just couldn't risk it. And the forecast said it was coming right over Middlesex County."

Sunday went off with out a hitch, aside from a slight change in plan, with the fireworks show starting a little earlier than expected.

It was certainly better luck than last year, when inclement weather cancelled the fireworks show completely. "Because of Mother Nature we had to cancel last year," Hoy said. "The first [show], we had like a six-inch rainstorm in July

and the second one was Aug. 27 and the hurricane hit."

Though unfortunate to those looking forward to the 2011 fireworks show, the 10-member Fireworks Committee was at least able to put funds from last year's show toward this year's, easily reaching its \$30,000 goal.

The funds not only cover the costs of the fireworks, but a portion of the vendors' profits go to the Fireworks Committee that then gives a portion to the Exchange Club for the use of the fairgrounds. It also must cover the costs of fire and police crews, from Portland and other area towns. Hoy said there was even a fire crew on the Connecticut River, where many people watched the fireworks from their boats.

The committee has begun work on next year's show, walking around collecting donations for what Hoy called the "first official collection" for the 2013 show.

"It's always ongoing; we never stop. We do fundraisers the whole year, we do bake sales, we do raffles, we sell pies at the Portland Fair in the fall," she said, adding the donations are to thank for allowing the shows to continue. "It's all the public."

Hoy's nephews, Jarod and Zach Pfaunmiller, were right alongside the committee members, wearing novelty goggles and light-up hats and carrying donation buckets through the crowds.

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Touring the Country on Bikes – and a Big Bus

by Geeta Schrayter

After finals, most college students pack up their belongings and head home for a summer of work mixed with a bit of fun. But for Hebron resident Billy Czaja, the "work" part was postponed and summer started with a journey across country to visit some of the best mountain biking spots North America has to offer.

The trip wasn't your usual pack-up-the-car-and-hit-the-road kind of journey either. Rather, it was a buy-an-old-school-bus-and-fix-it-up sort of adventure.

Czaja, along with three friends, fellow bikers and University of Connecticut students – Greg Williams of North Branford, David Gambardella of East Haven and Scott Whynall of Killingworth – decided they wanted to go on a biking trip. They'd seen an online movie series where another group had gone on a similar trip in a bus – and Czaja and his friends decided they wanted to do the same. So they perused the online classifieds website craigslist.org and found a full-size, 72-passenger, 1991 school bus. It became theirs for \$2,000 last September, and from November through April, the group worked nearly every weekend to transform the bus from a pink, graffiti-covered mess into a customized camper.

"Aesthetically, it looked very poor," Czaja, who will be a senior at UConn in the fall, ma-

joring in mechanical engineering, said Wednesday.

But by the time the guys were done with it, the inside had been refurbished to include carpeting, couches and bunk beds. A fridge was installed, a grill was attached that folded off the rear, along with an outdoor shower, bike racks, a teak boat platform – and even a megaphone.

Then, with the help of Whynall's graphic designer sister, the outside was given a new paintjob complete with stars and stripes and no more pink (apart from an inside air vent cap for souvenir).

And it was all done on a college budget.

"Fixing up the bus was able to be done with little money," said Czaja, explaining a lot of time was spent looking around for free items and materials. The group got creative with the resources they had, tried to let nothing go to waste and "had help and support from our friends and family throughout the planning process."

But initially, not everyone thought the group – who became friends on the UConn cycling team, of which Czaja is president – was serious.

"When we first bought the bus everyone either didn't believe it, doubted its ability to make

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Hebron resident Billy Czaja pushed back the start of his internship and pushed off on the pedals of his bike instead, as he and three friends began summer with a mountain biking excursion across country in a customized school bus. Pictured from left are David Gambardella, Greg Williams, Czaja and Scott Whynall.



Brothers Zach (left) and Jarod Pfau help their aunt Sharon Hoy, of the Portland Fireworks Committee, collect donations for next year's fireworks show. The two travel each year from Pennsylvania to help out at the event.

Fireworks cont. from Front Page

The two visit each year from Pennsylvania to see the fireworks.

"We had a little bit [of money for next year already] but with the money we collect tonight we'll have a pretty good nest egg for next year, and that helps," Hoy said, adding any donation is appreciated. "It's really hard. The economy's bad, a lot of people don't have jobs and we don't care how much they give, just give something. We accept a few pennies; we accept hundreds and thousands of dollars."

The money goes not just toward the fireworks, but for an entire event lasting several hours. The fireworks were set off a little after 9, but the gates opened at 5:30 p.m. at the Exchange Club Fairgrounds.

"We build it so it's a whole evening of fun. It's a family event," Hoy said. "Everybody can bring some chair out here, [there are] food vendors; they don't even have to cook. They can just have their hamburgers, hotdogs and ice cream and we sell the novelty stuff."

Aside from the food and plenty of games of Frisbee, there was a raffle and live entertainment from musicians Tony Rome and Swagger and Zander Garfunkel with his band, What Is It.

"Tony Rome is local. He doesn't charge us anything to do this; he does it out of the goodness of his heart," Hoy said.

The fireworks show itself was a little more extravagant than usual. To celebrate the 20th anniversary of the event, the fireworks went on for about 40 minutes instead of its usual 30. A pyrotechnic American flag was displayed at the beginning of the show while the national anthem played, and "rockets" were sent up into the air during the line, "rockets' red glare."

At another point in the show, another ground display showing "20 years" was lit, acknowledging the second decade of the event. Featured in the grand finale was a wall of fire. "You can feel it; it's just incredible," Hoy said.

Rhode Island-based Ocean State Pyrotechnics put on the display and has done so for Portland in previous years. "They do a phenomenal job," Hoy said, adding that the outfit comes up



Tony Rome of Tony Rome and Swagger took the stage before Portland's annual fireworks show Sunday.

with a different show each year. "We wouldn't hire anybody else."

It seemed the crowd appreciated the efforts, with every neck craned up toward the sky, exclaiming "ooh!" or "wow!" after each explosion.

Youngsters Leanna and Ella Royea and their cousin, Jocelyn, come to the fireworks regularly and were looking forward to the night's main event. What they liked best about fireworks is seeing all the bright colors against the night sky. Jocelyn was quick to offer up her favorites. "I like the orange and the pink," she said.

Unfortunately for Jocelyn, she didn't get her wish; there were no orange and pink displays Sunday night. But there's always next year.



A full-size, 72-passenger, pink 1991 school bus was transformed into a customized camper and received a new paint job before traveling across country with Hebron resident Billy Czaja and three friends on a 10,000-mile mountain biking adventure.

Big Bus cont. from Front Page

it across the country, or thought it was the craziest, best idea ever," Czaja said.

But, they did it. Along with preparing their ride, the group also put together a plan of action.

"We spent a lot of time looking at biking places, photos and videos [that we liked]... and found out where these trails were [that were in them]," stated Czaja.

The group also used their connections – asking older friends who had gone on similar trips and looking for assistance from some of the bike shops or locals they encountered along the way.

Then, on May 18, they started their adventure, and "living the dash" as they called it. The trip took them diagonally down to New Mexico, up through Colorado and Utah, down to Las Vegas in Nevada and Laguna Beach in California, then back up through San Francisco, Oregon, Washington and Vancouver, Canada.

Czaja said they were well prepared for the 10,000-mile trip and life on a bus, and they brought along a number of tools that might be needed during the journey. But the only hiccup experienced was a leak in the radiator, which they patched and managed to get by without replacing it for seven more weeks.

The guys biked every day, and Czaja said there was never a dull moment.

"It was always crazy," he said. "I mean, it was four guys traveling across country in a bus!"

Czaja added everyone they met along the trip was extremely helpful.

"We didn't meet anyone that wasn't willing to lend a hand," he said.

While in Utah, Czaja shared the guys decided to paint "Honk for America" on the backdoor of the bus, "and that got a lot of response. Lots of people were honking down the highway."

"We definitely liked Utah," he added, calling it an "outdoor enthusiast's dream," where they took part in their "most amazing" ride. It was called "The Whole Enchilada," and con-

sisted of 26.5 miles with 7,000 vertical feet of downhill. On the Utah Mountain Biking website, "The Whole Enchilada" is described as "an unforgettable epic experience, but is only for strong, skilled, and adventuresome riders."

"You start in ice and snow and end in a 105-degree desert," furthered Czaja, adding he liked Canada as well.

And for Czaja, that's where the adventure came to an end. He flew into Hebron on June 25 to start his summer internship; the other three adventurers are coming back to Connecticut in the bus, and are expected to arrive home today.

Now that he's back in the real world, Czaja said it's the freedom he misses most.

"I definitely miss waking up every morning and being able to choose what I want to do that day," he said. "We got to wake up and say, 'we want to do this, we want to go there.' There was no 'you have to be here at this time.' It definitely beats the fast-paced American, New England lifestyle."

But although Czaja is now partaking in the usual responsible-summer activities, the experience of and lessons learned by "living the dash" are ones that won't soon be forgotten.

"If you follow a passion of yours it can take you anywhere," he said. "Ours took us throughout the entire U.S. and Canada. Now we are all looking forward to where it can take us next in the world."

Czaja shared he and his friends never thought mountain biking would get them to where they ended up throughout the trip.

"We originally were calling this the trip of a lifetime," said Czaja, "but we were informed by one gentleman that it is by no means the trip of our lifetime. It is rather just the first trip we are taking to get a taste of all the places we will be visiting for the rest of our lives."

He added some other, younger students have expressed interest in going on the trip themselves. So, Czaja said, he's "already in the planning for round two next summer."

Police Investigating Colchester Structure Fire

by Katelyn Kelleher

Police and the town fire marshal are investigating a fire in a building at the rear of the Lincoln Lake Lodge property.

The Colchester-Hayward Fire Department responded to a structure fire on Levy Road at 3:48 p.m. last Thursday, July 5, police said. The fire was extinguished within 10 minutes

and no injuries were reported; however, fire crews determined the cause of the fire to be suspicious in nature and the case remains under investigation, Colchester Police said.

Police and the fire marshal's office could not be reached for further comment.

Gas Spill Closes Colchester Shopping Plaza

by Katelyn Kelleher

A gasoline spill closed down a strip mall and gas station on Middletown Road for nearly three hours last Monday, July 2.

Colchester-Hayward Fire Department Fire Chief Walter Cox said 40 gallons of unleaded gasoline had spilled onto the ground when crews arrived at the Valero station at 738 Middletown Rd. at 5:53 a.m. The gas station and nearby strip mall were shut down and the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection was called to the scene.

Class B foam was put on top of the gasoline. "Class B foam goes on top of fuel spills that emit vapors," Cox said. "With unleaded gasoline, any ignition source could light

that off."

Fire crews were on the scene continuously coating the gasoline spill with Class B for about two hours, when Kropp Environmental Contractors arrived to continue the clean up. The gasoline had started to run down the parking lot, so crews used absorbent pads to soak up the spill.

Fire crews left the scene at 8:40 a.m.

Cox said it is not clear what happened, adding if someone pulled away with the gas pump in their car and actually ripped the hose off, the gas would shut off. The nozzle is also supposed to release and stop when placed back. The cause is still under investigation.

Hebron Resident Bringing Creativity to the Classroom

by Geeta Schrayter

For Hebron resident Susan Lattanzi Roser, creativity is key in both her personal and professional life. As a Responsive Classroom consultant, Roser works to bring creativity into the classroom setting – and has recently published a new book on how to do just that.

“I’m all about incorporating the arts into teaching and helping teachers know that children don’t have to sit at desks all day long,” Roser said Tuesday.

Responsive Classroom is a research-based approach to teaching that, according to responsiveclassroom.org, “increases academic achievement, decreases problem behaviors, improves social skills and leads to more high-quality instruction.” The approach uses various classroom practices with such names as “Interactive Modeling,” “Guided Discovery,” “Collaborative Problem Solving” and “Morning Meetings,” and is based on the view that children learn better when they have both academic and social-emotional skills.

For the past 14 years, Roser has worked as a consulting teacher for the company. She trains teachers in the Responsive Classroom approach and said she “helps transform schools into development-appropriate learning environments with a joyful classroom where children are challenged and excited to learn.”

And in her latest book, *80 Morning Meeting Ideas for Grades K-2*, Roser shows how teachers can make that happen utilizing morning meetings – which Roser writes are “a fun, friendly, and powerful way to get each day off to a great start,” it’s explained in the book. “These 20- to 30-minute daily whole-group gatherings help create community and reinforce academic and social skills in lively ways.”

When the morning meeting is used consistently, “a safe, joyful community is created,” said Roser. “Teachers who have never done it, then do it, see a significant change in a positive way.”

There are four components to a morning meeting: greeting, sharing, a group activity and a morning message. In her book, ideas for 20

of each component are included, along with “practical tips and variations” to help teachers plan a successful meeting.

Roser said it’s her hope and dream that eventually, every classroom starts its day with a morning meeting – even if it’s only 10 minutes long.

“I love them so much,” she said, adding she even utilizes the idea with adults at formal business meetings and at the start of her meetings with the education committee at Church of the Holy Family.

“I think if there was a safe community built within our adult settings we’d get a lot further, faster,” she said – and morning meetings can help accomplish that.

In classroom settings, the benefits of the meetings include, Roser explained, “the consistency of it for students, the fact that students basic needs of belonging, significance and fun are met in the first 20 minutes every single day, that it’s varied, that children get to know everybody in the class not just their best friend, that teachers are a part of the meeting” and that academics can be incorporated as well.

Copies of *80 Morning Meeting Ideas for Grades K-2* – along with those of Roser’s first book *Energizers! 88 Quick Movement Activities That Refresh and Refocus K-6* – sold at responsiveclassroom.org and such bookseller sites as amazon.com. The book is selling well, Roser said, and added, “I’m thrilled about that.”

The writing of *Energizers!*, which came out in 2009, was initiated by Roser after teachers continuously asked her to put together a book with “the wonderful songs and chants” taught as part of the Responsive Classroom approach. Then, after the first book became successful, the company behind it, Northeast Foundation for Children Inc., asked her to write another one, leading to *80 Morning Minutes*.

Before working with Responsive Classroom, Roser held such positions as master teacher of the kindergarten program with the University of Connecticut Child Development Laboratories and a multi-age classroom teacher at the

Regional Multicultural Magnet School in New London.

It was at the latter that she was first introduced – and made the transition – to Responsive Classroom.

“Our school, like many schools, was taking on Responsive Classroom and was looking for trainers within the building,” said Roser. She volunteered to be one such trainer, and through that experience and the feedback she received she realized “people wanted to learn from me.”

And so, Roser let Responsive Classroom know she was interested in the program, and they told her to consider being a consultant – which she did.

“I found I thoroughly enjoyed it and my positive impact would reach thousands rather than just those in the classroom,” she said.

Roser now visits schools all over the country teaching the approach; in rural and suburban settings, at high-poverty, private and charter schools. During the summer, she also travels for various workshops and conferences. This year, her summer stops include Washington D.C., Maine, Connecticut and New York, where she was situated this week and had the role of lead presenter.

“I feel really lucky to see so many different educational settings and work with teachers,” she said.

When she isn’t working, Roser spends time at home with her family, where creativity is similarly fostered. Although her two sons are currently in Hebron schools, they were previously enrolled in a Montessori school. Both boys play instruments along with their parents, and as a family the Rosers enjoy hosting exchange students, owning and exercising sled dogs, and are “nature people” who like to bird watch. Roser added she has “a very exciting family life.”

“We’re all about being creative and playful and inventive together,” she said, just like at work.

Moving forward professionally, Roser said she’ll probably take a year off from writing.

“But I have a couple ideas for my next book,”



Resident Susan Roser has written a new book on Responsive Classroom, a research-based approach to teaching.

she added, saying she had started to take notes on one that would examine how to take the Common Core Standards and incorporate the arts into them “in a manageable, creative way so students can express themselves and achieve their learning.”

Until then, Roser will continue to focus on teaching the Responsive Classroom approach – something she said she finds very rewarding, particularly because it makes a difference.

“What’s most rewarding for me is knowing I’m making a positive impact across the nation for elementary teachers – [by helping them] to incorporate movement, creativity [and] development appropriate teaching practices.” Additionally, Roser said she liked that teachers are open to the approach “and that they’re excited about it.”

To learn more about Responsive Classroom or Roser’s books, visit responsiveclassroom.org.

Maniscalco Welcomed, Blight Discussed by EH Town Council

by Joshua Anusewicz

Not “Acting.” Not “Interim.” Just plain old “Town Manager” Michael Maniscalco. Has a nice ring to it, doesn’t it?

The Town Council and those in attendance at its meeting on Tuesday night sure thought so, as they rose to their feet in applause for the town’s first permanent town manager in almost two years, Maniscalco, who officially took over the position on Monday.

“I’m very proud to take this position and very excited,” said Maniscalco, who was supported by his wife Sabohat, his mother Donna and his grandmother Beverly, all in the audience.

Maniscalco, 30, comes to East Hampton by way of Illinois, where he most recently served as the executive director of the Lincoln and Logan County Development Partnership (LLCDP). The Trumbull native and University of South Dakota graduate was chosen from a field of 30 candidates, who had been vying for the town’s most prominent office for months.

Since the council announced last month that it had unanimously chosen Maniscalco, the response from the town has been one of relief and hope that solidifying the town manager position will help usher in civility in East Hampton and put the tumult of the past several years in the rear view mirror. Chairwoman Sue Weintraub might have best described that hope in introducing Maniscalco; earlier on Tuesday, Weintraub said she had been searching for how to welcome the new town manager when she came upon a billboard that said “Dream. Achieve. Succeed.”

Fitting, she thought. “That’s what I know you’re going to help this town do,” Weintraub said optimistically.

Maniscalco admitted that he’s had a busy first few days, filled with briefings of town matters and meeting with various department heads and town employees, but that he’s had the same words to say to everyone: he’s “dedicated to efficient, effective government.” He spoke to the audience of being “responsive and open,” providing a “respectful workplace” for town employees, and having constructive discussions with the council, all with the most important goal in mind – the town.

“We all have the best interests of East Hampton at heart,” he said.

If Maniscalco sounds like a superhero prepared to save the town, the idea wasn’t lost on Vice Chairman Glenn Suprono, who stated as much after the town held an open forum to discuss town manager candidates in January. With all of the qualities the residents sought in a new town manager, Suprono remarked at the time that the individual should “wear a red cape.” That line made it into the newspaper, which was picked up by one of the 30 candidates, who in turn presented Suprono with a red cape during his interview.

Known to bring humor to council meetings, Suprono saw it fit to present Maniscalco with the red cape, which was even adorned with a small Superman logo on it.

“Good luck; don’t fly too high,” Suprono said amidst laughter from the audience.

Maniscalco, also laughing, said he’d keep the cape in his desk drawer and “only use it in emergency situations.”

Tuesday’s meeting was also marked by a council discussion on a possible blight ordinance in town. During the discussion, Councilor George Pfaffenbach presented the other council members with a copy of Portland’s blight ordinance, which was recently approved after a lengthy process.

Pfaffenbach felt that Portland’s ordinance, which was modeled from South Windsor’s, was sound and could be used in East Hampton. “There’s no point in reinventing the wheel here,” he said of using the same ordinance. “It’s about time we get on the bandwagon [and adopt an ordinance].”

If the town adopted an ordinance, the biggest issue, Pfaffenbach admitted, would be enforcement, most likely by an existing town official. Pfaffenbach said that because Portland’s ordinance is fairly new, there hasn’t been an opportunity to test out the enforcement, so the council was unable to gauge its effectiveness.

It seemed unanimous, however, amongst the council and the residents that the town needs to address the blight in town. Two residents, Rebecca Hodge and Sharon Goodwin, both of the Cobalt section of the town, addressed the council in support of a blight ordinance, both targeting a particular residence located at 17 Depot Hill Rd. Hodge, who lives within view of the property, said the structure “should be torn down,” as it has been in severe disrepair for over 30 years.

“My property value has reduced considerably,” she testified. “I’m not sure I could even sell my house if I wanted to.”

Goodwin agreed with the condition of the particular residence, adding that debris often fell into the road and multiple stray cats called the residence their home.

“It’s a safety hazard and a health hazard; it’s not safe for anybody,” she said, adding that resi-

dents of Cobalt felt overlooked by others in the town and that the people there “need help” with the considerable blight.

Jim Carey, the town’s building administrator, was on hand to discuss the issue of blight, which he called the “the stickiest issue” that his office faces. “What we see that looks like blight is treasure to other people and they’re desperate to keep this stuff,” he said.

Carey said he’s well aware of the issue at 17 Depot Hill Rd. and has been working for over 20 years to rectify the situation. He said that the town has pursued legal action in the particular case, which he called “contentious” and has cost the town a good amount of money to battle. But, Carey said, each time the situation seems to reach a resolution, the town has been stonewalled by the courts or the property owner, who has gone as far as purchasing antique vehicle plates for the over 30 vehicles on the property.

As of right now, Carey said the town does have a “housing code” within its laws, which he called enforceable and “very comprehensive.” But the issue, as Pfaffenbach stated, is enforcement, as well as a way to pursue punitive measures in difficult cases.

The discussion was tabled for a future meeting, but the council seemed in agreement that something needed to be done. “I think we can really improve the system by having local control,” said Weintraub.

The next regular meeting of the Town Council is scheduled for Tuesday, July 24, at 6:30 p.m. at East Hampton High School, 15 N. Maple St.

EH Motorcycle Raffle Target of Police Union Complaint

by Joshua Anusewicz

For the first time in 17 years, the East Hampton Police Union will not hold its annual motorcycle raffle at this weekend's Old Home Days Glorious Celebration.

It's not for a lack of interest or resources, however; the issue lies in the inability to store the motorcycle in the police department's sally port, which is at the center of an official complaint the union filed against the town on June 25 to the state's Board of Labor Relations.

According to the complaint, submitted by union president Michael Salafia, the issue arose April 30, when Police Chief Matthew Reimondo issued a memorandum to the department that all "external debris" needed to be removed from the sally port, which is a garage that is used to transport prisoners in and out of the building. The area, Salafia states in the complaint, had been used to store gym equipment and various other items, but also the union's raffle item in the week's prior to Old Home Days.

"We had already ordered the bike," Salafia

said Wednesday, "and then were told we couldn't keep it in the sally port."

Thus, the raffle had to be canceled, Salafia said.

The reason for the memorandum, however, stems back to a previous concern from the union, Reimondo said Wednesday. The measure of cleaning out the sally port was recommended last November by then-Interim Town Manager Anne McKinney.

"It makes it unsafe," Reimondo said. "It's unfortunate they had to cancel the raffle, but they had the chance to look into other options. I didn't say they couldn't store it somewhere else. It's disheartening."

Salafia, however, said it's not a matter of storage, as many officers have residences in town where the motorcycle could have been kept. The problem lies, he said, in the fact that the motorcycle is uninsured, which means it would have to be kept locked up to avoid theft or vandalism, which the union would not have the money to cover. Salafia also said that keeping the mo-

torcycle at the police station gives the union the opportunity to display the prize at a central location that will draw more attention to the raffle.

"When you have a raffle item like this, you have to show it off and get people interested," Salafia said, adding that not all of the tickets for the raffle were sold last year.

In the complaint, the union also mentions a particular period in May when employees in the Public Works department were permitted to store boxes of documents in the sally port to be shredded the following day. Salafia said the sally port was left open during this time and wondered why storing the motorcycle would be any different.

"It doesn't make any sense to us," he added.

Reimondo, however, said the documents "didn't hinder access" in the sally port and the space was used by multiple town employees that day to easily reach the shredding truck that was located in the police department parking lot. He added that public works was permitted

to store the boxes there overnight, as no employees would be present to bring them from the public works building the following day.

Regardless of which side of the argument is deemed correct, the union has canceled the raffle, which has regularly fetched up to \$4,000 for the organization – money that is donated to scholarships, Project Graduation, the East Hampton Food Bank and local Little League teams, among others. Salafia said fundraising has been "put on hold" as the union explores additional options to raise money for the various programs.

"We've got to make the money somehow," he said.

The complaint will now head to a hearing in front of the Board of Labor Relations next month, Salafia said. To remedy the situation, the union has sought to "make all affected parties whole" by allowing for storage in the sally port, as well as payment of the union's attorney fees.



Just weeks ago, Todd Johnston's home on Breezy Corners Road was hard to see, shadowed by an overgrown tree, left, in the garden in front of his house. But thanks to the Boy Scouts from Troop 42 in New Fairfield, who were part of a group of 20 volunteers that came to Johnston's home on Saturday, June 30, the gardens have been clipped, pruned and landscaped to perfection, giving the rustic country home its luster back. Johnston, who is confined to a wheelchair due to a motorcycle accident, called the work of the volunteers "wonderful."



Portland Man Gets Many Helping Hands

by Joshua Anusewicz

Todd Johnston lives in a quiet, peaceful section of Portland, off Breezy Corners Road, tucked away in a lot that abuts a thick forest, home to deer and other woodland critters that regularly pass through his yard. The trees run right up to a small natural pond, which his neighbor – the owner of the pond – keeps stocked with sizable fish that regularly splash the surface of the water to make their presence known. The front and side of the yard is boxed in with a fence befitting of a Great Plains cattle ranch, giving the land a truly rustic feel.

Johnston's house is rustic in its own right. The reddish-brown colors of the wood frame the impressive windows that cover the entire front of the home, reaching up to the cathedral ceilings above. The wood and the gray-shingled roof stand out profoundly against the bright greens that surround the residence, making for a beautiful sight on a sunny day.

Up until a few weeks ago, however, somebody passing the house probably didn't notice it was there at all and, if they did, might have turned up their noses at the sight they saw. Weeds and overgrown bushes took over the landscape, with a particularly overgrown tree blotting out the entire front of the home. The sight made the home look abandoned and neglected, which couldn't be further from the truth.

"I can mow the lawn," Johnston said, "but I can't do the weeding and pruning." When he

was just 21 years old, Johnston was involved in a motorcycle accident that left a fracture in his vertebrae, which left him wheelchair-bound, and without vision in his right eye. Now in his 50s, Johnston is able to do most everything he could when he was younger, including mow the lawn with the help of an adapted riding tractor.

But the matter of the rest of his picturesque property was a different story until last month. As Johnston tells it, he was recently speaking with his old high school friend, Brenda Lowry, from his hometown of New Fairfield. He said that he had invited her and her family out to visit his house on several occasions, but it had never worked out.

The conversation soon meandered towards his overgrown gardens, which struck a chord with Lowry. Thinking of ways she could help, Lowry sought to enlist the help of her son and his friends, the Boy Scouts of Troop 42 in New Fairfield, to come together and help Johnston, who had risen to the level of Eagle Scout as a member of Troop 42 in his youth.

Johnston didn't even bash an eyelash before agreeing. "It was a no-brainer," he laughed. "I said, 'yeah, let's make this happen!'"

So with the help of troop leader Doug Dorsey, a group of roughly 20 volunteers – current and former scouts, scout leaders and parents – showed up at Johnston's home on Saturday, June 30, in what Dorsey referred to as "doing something for the brotherhood of scouting,"

Johnston said.

For seven straight hours, the volunteers worked cutting back bushes, plants, and hedges, while spreading out 15 yards of mulch in the gardens, which was donated by Johnston's friend Jim Landry of Evergreen Landscaping. Lowry was there, too, handing out drinks and snacks for the hard workers.

"I understand how something like this could happen, but I just never imagined it would turn out the way it did," Johnston said with a smile, reflecting on the work that was done. "The result is unbelievable. Every time I look at it, I'm amazed. It's just a total transformation."

Speaking with Johnston, you can see the profound effect the act of volunteerism had on him, and it shouldn't come as a surprise. Despite his handicap, Johnston has dedicated most of his time to volunteering, becoming very active in the Connecticut Chapter of the National Spinal Cord Injury Association and Team Reeve Connecticut, both foundations that provide programs and assistance for those affected by serious spinal injuries and paralysis. He has also helped with a program called Powerful Tools for Caregivers, which helps the family and friends of those with paralysis learn to take care of themselves while caring for others.

"These people [the caregivers] spend so much time with the injured," Johnston said, "and now finally we are helping those who help

us." He's also remained physically active, volunteering with Sail Connecticut Access, the Wheeling and Able Shelton Riverwalk Wheel/Walk for Fitness, and Moving With Hope, a program that provides physical education for those of "all ages and abilities."

Despite all of the work he does for others, however, Johnston has been without a job for almost two years. He was most recently employed at Ability Beyond Disability in Bethel, where he worked as an employee services manager, reaching out to businesses to help diversify their work force by hiring disabled people. But instead of getting down on himself after losing his job, he's continued to help others, hoping that another opportunity will come about while he works "for the benefit of others."

But in between volunteering and searching for a job, you could probably find Johnston and his guide dog Madden, a young golden retriever that he calls "a dream," perusing his newly-landscaped yard, admiring the hard work of some caring volunteers. Passersby might just slow down now and admire the beautiful sight of his home on Breezy Corners Road, with the manicured grass and gardens, the rustic brown home, and the quiet pond in the backyard, admiring the work that has been done.

And if you don't, rest assured that Johnston will. "It's amazing what you can do for others," he says of his home. "It's just wonderful."

Appropriation for Water Project Sent to Marlborough Town Meeting

by **Katelyn Kelleher**

Residents barraged town officials with questions this week on the possible public water project in the center of town. Ultimately, the Board of Finance sent a recommendation to appropriate \$50,000 for the project on to a town meeting.

The senior center was packed Monday night with approximately 50 residents and town officials in a public hearing on the appropriation. While dozens had questions about the uncertainties of the project, others implored residents to oppose or support the initiative.

The town is applying for a \$500,000 Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grant to fund a 3,200-foot water system in the center of town. The grant application is due Aug. 1.

The town is required by the state to work with Connecticut Water Company, who will contribute \$50,000 toward engineering costs and drill at least two and up to three wells to tap into a water source.

The \$50,000 appropriation is contingent upon receiving the grant and would be the last of the funds spent. If the town doesn't receive the entire \$500,000 grant, the project will be scaled down accordingly or, if the grant money received is too low, may be combined with a future grant.

Town officials called this "the first phase" of the project. To accommodate a future fire system, 12-inch pipe will be laid down. Connecticut Water will conduct the three test drills prior to receiving any grant money, so the town will have a better idea of the water supply available beforehand.

The town is looking for letters of commitment from property owners in the center of town, who would put forth funds for the project

and in turn be connected to the water system, allowing a greater opportunity for commercial development.

The residents, however, will decide in a town meeting July 23 whether or not to appropriate \$50,000 from the town's undesignated fund balance for the project. The purpose of doing so is to strengthen the town's application for the grant, by showing that the town is willing to invest in the project.

"What it really boils down to is if you don't make a case for your share [of grant money], then you're giving it to somebody else," selectman Dick Shea said. "Instead of Marlborough having a water system, East Hampton will have a carousel in their park. It doesn't go to reduce your debt, it doesn't go to reduce your taxes; it just goes to another town."

Many residents had concerns over using town money to fund a project that will be constructed and maintained by Connecticut Water, a for-profit company. Board of Finance member Cliff Denniss reminded residents that Connecticut Water, of course, will profit from the project, but it gives the town the opportunity to as well, because commercial development could bring additional taxes to town.

"I've come to the conclusion that the people of Marlborough do want businesses to move in, but they don't want a public water system, no increase in traffic, no increase in population and no new school-aged kids. I don't know how to do that," Denniss said with a laugh.

Resident Bill Mogensen said Marlborough has "probably the weakest commercial center in all the communities in eastern Connecticut."

"I've lived in Marlborough since 1978. When I moved here we had a supermarket and a pharmacy," said Mogensen, who works in commer-

cial real estate but said he has no commercial interest in the town. "I've developed over a million square feet in Glastonbury...None of that would've happened without sewer and water. They would have passed Glastonbury and gone on to another community that had sewer and water. You need the infrastructure to get the commercial development. We may not get a supermarket or pharmacy or anything of national quality unless you have water."

He added Marlborough is falling behind without basic services and asked residents not to "let the sewer [project] color this decision."

The \$12.02 million first phase of the ultimately-controversial town sewer project was first passed by Marlborough voters in 2002 by a referendum vote. Construction was stalled from 2002-06 when the state's Clean Water Fund, which partially funded the project, was canceled. By 2007, the size of the project decreased by about half and the price of sewers for residents inside the district went up, because there were fewer people to share the cost.

Residents began hooking up to the sewers in 2010 – albeit some were very reluctant to do so. Increased sewer fees have since been blasted by many, and the former owners of Marlborough Tavern have said they played a role in the fall 2011 closing of the landmark eatery.

Resident Gordon Isleib told others at Monday's meeting to listen to what Mogensen said the town needs in order to be successful in commercial development. "Residential housing is not going to do it," he said, adding the town would be in trouble without the commercial real estate it currently has on North Main Street.

Karen Currier said the grocery store and pharmacy the town once had left for reasons other than the lack of public water system. "The

grocery store where the Marlborough Commons was 30 years ago had their own well," she said. "And I think you're rushing into this project."

Currier said the town purchased property, including some of her father's land, over four years ago and put over \$2 million into it for development and "nothing has become of it."

"I think you need to slow down and do this right," she said. "This [grant application] has to be in in a couple weeks; I say put the STEAP grant aside and not waste \$50,000."

Residents expressed concerns about salt contaminating the water, environmental effects and digging up the roads.

Others opposed the potential for a population increase in town, with the costly effects of families putting children through the school system. Board of Finance member Doug Knowlton said that would not happen overnight.

"This initial phase will not support housing expansion," he said.

Board of Finance Chairwoman Evelyn Godbout said the town cannot afford to do the project on tax dollars alone, and "this may be our one opportunity to get a water system."

Board of Finance member Ken Hjulstrom had a similar view, and said the town missed out once before.

"In the 1970s Marlborough passed up an opportunity for state funding of 80-90 percent for a sewer system," he said. "History may now repeat itself if voters fail to support the water project. We have a good chance of obtaining the STEAP grant for this desperately-needed project with minimal impact on our taxpayers."

A town meeting will be held for residents to vote on the \$50,000 appropriation Monday, July 23, at 7 p.m. at the Marlborough Elementary School cafeteria.

Andover Restarts Bridge Rehab Project

by **Geeta Schrayter**

At Wednesday's Board of Selectmen meeting, board members discussed the inspection and changes that need to occur to the bridge on Times Farm Road due to its present deteriorating condition.

First Selectman Bob Burbank explained that, during former First Selectman Ed Turn's administration, a subcommittee had been put in place to examine the possibility of replacing the bridge, which is located over the Hop River on Times Farm Road. At the time, the state had rated the bridge in "poor" condition, and the subcommittee hired an architectural firm – CME Associates, Inc. – to do some of the engineering work that was required.

But in 2006, when Burbank took office, the project was examined and it was discovered money for the work had never been budgeted. That, combined with the fact the town was just coming out of a deficit, meant the project needed to be put on hold.

"We had basically no fund balance at the time and no way to fund it," Burbank explained. "Because the bridge was not in critical condition we basically put a stop to the project and left it there."

Burbank added the bridge was inspected every year, as required by the state, and the condition remained the same. But after the 2012 inspection, the bridge had shown more degradation and again received a "poor" rating – but this time it was closer to the side of "critical" than it had been before, Burbank said.

"We know that at this point the bridge has a limited life expectancy," he said, adding, "It became quite obvious we need to address it."

So, while there's no money for the project in

the 2012-13 budget, Burbank asked the selectmen's approval Wednesday to reinstate the project, and apply for a Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grant to fund the 20 percent of the total costs the town will need to pay. The remaining 80 percent will be paid for by the federal government through the Local Bridge Program, a program that "provides for state grants and loans to municipalities for the removal, replacement, reconstruction and rehabilitation of local bridges," according to the state government website, ct.gov.

Thirty percent of the design work for the bridge was completed when the project was halted. The total estimate for the remaining work, including the construction, was presented at the meeting at \$580,000; however, Burbank said it could cost as much as \$700,000 realistically.

Burbank furthered he was asking for permission to move forward with the project and apply for a STEAP grant – particularly because he only had until August to do so.

If the STEAP grant isn't received, he added he would then request to utilize the town's remaining Local Capital Improvement Program (LoCIP) money, of which there is about \$70,000 left.

"Plus, we will be getting an additional \$27,000 this year, so we'll have all together, approximately \$100,000," Burbank said. "We can utilize that and not have to go to the taxpayers for the money."

Burbank added that the town would need to spend the money up front, "but as the bills come in and bills are paid, I apply for reimbursement from the state" – and the town would receive

80 percent of the amount back. "So we don't have to take \$580,000 out of pocket," he said, adding the fund balance in town "is capable of handling the project."

Federal Local Bridge Program Liaison Engineer Joseph Scalise was present at Wednesday's meeting, and he explained just what the changes were that needed to occur.

"In this particular case," he said, "you are not building a bridge, you're replacing the superstructure."

Scalise said the reports indicated the substructure – which includes the concrete abutments – is in good condition.

"You can save money and construction activity in that they're in good shape," he said.

So instead of having to build an entirely new bridge, the bridge part (the deck and beams) will be lifted off and a new platform and superstructure will be put in place.

Scalise added, as Burbank had said, the actual costs may be higher than the estimated \$580,000 that was provided by CME Associates, Inc.

"I really think your whole number at the end of the day for design services, construction and completion will be approximately \$750,000, or somewhere in that ballpark – for which you will pay about \$150,000," Scalise said.

But he continued to say if the condition of the bridge got worse, and was downgraded to "critical," items of particular concern would be identified, and the bridge would be shut down until they were fixed. And if it got to that point, the changes "would unfortunately be paid for 100 percent by the town," he said.

"The bottom line is, we have a responsibil-

ity there," said selectman Jay Linddy. "We have families there, and buses and the fire department" who use the bridge. Plus, he noted, "the Channel 3 Kids Camp."

Linddy then made a motion to approve the request for Burbank to apply for a STEAP grant in the amount of \$175,000 – he added he selected that particular amount "so we'll be okay even if [the cost] goes to \$800,000."

"We all know that we have obligations to the people that live on that road, not to have the bridge ever shut down," said Linddy. "And our school has many kids there. I would urge everybody to approve the request."

The motion passed unanimously.

Edward Walz, a representative from CJM Engineering, the firm that assists the state Department of Transportation in managing the many bridges in the Local Bridge Program, told the selectmen authorization was received from the federal government to move to the final design of the bridge back when the project was initially started. The next step should have been for the town to authorize CME Associates, Inc. to move forward, he said, but that never happened – and was therefore the town's next step.

Another motion was then made to authorize a letter be sent to CME Associates, Inc. within the next two weeks to restart the engineering for the final design of the bridge.

The motion passed unanimously, and completion of the project is now expected to be fall 2014.

The next Board of Selectmen meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Aug. 1, at 7 p.m., at Town Hall, 17 School Road.

Colchester School Board Adjusts AP Weighting Change

by Katelyn Kelleher

At its meeting Tuesday, the Board of Education tweaked a change to the advanced placement course weighting system originally voted on last year to begin with the class of 2013.

The new system, originally passed by the board in January 2011, gave AP courses greater weight on a student's class rank, than non-AP courses. The change would begin with the Class of 2013, who were then sophomores. Superintendent of Schools Karen Loiselle-Goodwin explained the reason for the change was to encourage students to take more challenging courses and "to raise the bar."

Students in their sophomore year only have the opportunity to take at most two AP courses, geography and biology. More AP courses become available during students' junior year. Loiselle-Goodwin explained the board didn't want to wait to raise the bar, which is why the decision was made to put the new weighting system in effect for the Class of 2013 going into their junior year.

The results of the change have been measurable. Loiselle-Goodwin said 25 more students had signed up for AP Statistics than in the previous year. Director of Curriculum Barbara Gilbert said 80 more students took the AP exams and 190 students scored a 3, 4 or 5.

However, resident Peter Siver brought to the board's attention that the new system would change the weight for courses the Class of 2013 chose for their sophomore year, before the policy change.

"I'm not here to argue the increase in the

weighting. The issue is how the weighting system was applied to the Class of 2013," he said. "You applied new weights to courses taken before the policy was passed, which I think is highly inappropriate."

Siver added students and parents may have made different course choices based on a different weighting system and said it should not be retroactive to the class of 2013's sophomore year.

Loiselle-Goodwin said an attorney determined the board had the right to make the change, but the issue might lie in the notice, the program of studies. The Class of 2013, when it entered its sophomore year, had a program of studies with the old weighting policy. Going into junior year, the program had the new system.

"That was something [the attorney] felt the board should take into consideration," Loiselle-Goodwin said. "She felt when people made the decision, it was based on a particular policy at the time."

As a result, the board passed a motion to not apply the new weighting system to the Class of 2013 for AP courses taken during their sophomore year. The policy will apply for all grade levels in the Class of 2014 and thereafter.

Also at the meeting, Loiselle-Goodwin shared with the board that Colchester has been selected to receive a Literacy Partnership grant of \$50,000 from the William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund. Colchester was one of six of

60 eligible communities to receive the grant.

A 12-member team went through a 2.5-hour interview to receive the grant. Loiselle-Goodwin said the grant will be used to improve reading performance up to grade three. Although there has been an increase in preschool enrollment and an improvement in grade three reading performance since 2006, "it's not at the level we need it to be."

Board of Education Chairman Ron Goldstein said it was an honor to be part of the team, adding during the interview, "we filled the room."

The board also voted to approve the director of educational operations job description, which still needs to be discussed with and approved by the Board of Selectmen. This will be the new title for Facilities Director Greg Plunkett, whose position, starting with the 2014-15 fiscal year, will be fully funded by the Board of Education. Currently, the position is split between the town and the school.

The board also voted to combine two part-time paraprofessional positions, each 3.25 hours per day, at Jack Jackter Intermediate School into one.

"We had a math opening and the part-time reading person applied and got it," Loiselle-Goodwin said. "She literally had to go home for an hour in the middle of the day and not take a lunch because she had two separate part-time jobs."

The employee signed a waiver to not take medical insurance, Loiselle-Goodwin said, and the financial impact of combining the positions

is an increase of \$1,331.

The resignations of teachers Janet Kelly and Judy Ports were accepted, as were the disposals of old books, chairs and outdated math materials.

The board celebrated Jack Jackter Intermediate School paraprofessional Debra Stevenson's selection as a semi-finalist for the Connecticut Paraprofessional of the Year. Stevenson has worked as a paraprofessional for 29 years, and will be interviewed, along with five other finalists, Aug. 24.

The board then had a celebration of its own, noting that the 2012-13 Board of Education budget passed at a third referendum June 28. Goldstein thanked union members, staff and board members for their efforts in getting the budget passed. "We had a challenge to get the right information out and meet the community's expectations," he said.

Board of Finance Chairman Robert Tarlov and Vice Chairman Rob Esteve attended the meeting, and board members were appreciative of the Board of Finance reducing \$23,000 between the second and third referendum.

"Thank you guys for the faith you showed in us and faith you showed in the community," Board of Education Vice Chairman Donald Kennedy said.

Loiselle-Goodwin said she thinks the small cut sent a message to the community. "They recognized the next time was going to be deep," she said.



Formerly the Norton Paper Mill, this abandoned building caught fire late Saturday night. The cause of the blaze has not been determined, fire officials said, although fireworks are considered a possibility. Officials are determining whether or not the building is structurally sound.

Abandoned Colchester Paper Mill Damaged by Fire

by Katelyn Kelleher

An abandoned mill on Route 149 caught fire Saturday night, possibly because of fireworks.

Colchester-Hayward Fire Department Fire Chief Walter Cox said crews were dispatched at 11:32 p.m. July 7 to the old Norton Paper Mill on 139 Westchester Road, where flames were coming through the roof upon the arrival of the first unit. Fireworks set off in the area are considered a possible cause for the fire, though nothing has been determined. "It was apparent that there were a lot of fireworks in

the area," Cox said.

No injuries were reported and residences nearby were not harmed, Cox said.

The building has been abandoned for at least 25 years and had a collapsed roof, Cox said, so fire crews took a "defensive attack." Instead of firefighters entering the building to put out the fire, they poured "copious amounts of water on it."

"We were drafting out of what we call portable water pools," Cox said. "We were draft-

ing from close to where Route 16 is from a dry hydrant and a pond."

Crews also had to come in through the town of Colchester and fill up tankers from pressurized hydrants.

The Department of Environmental and Energy Protection and the state fire marshal's office were notified, and Cox said mutual aid was received from a Statewide Disaster Rescue Response Team, used "when a situation gets large and difficult to manage."

A regional fire coordinator handled requests for more tankers and personnel.

The last unit cleared the scene at 5:07 a.m.

The mill is now boarded up and blocked off by chain-link fence. Cox said the building is now being looked at for its structural integrity. The Jeremy River flows right next to the mill with a dam. "The dam was used with the water and diverted it in to run the pumps and the mechanical machines," he said. "The water keeps on flowing under the foundation of that building."

Obituaries

Marlborough

Janice M. Marcue

Janice M. (Parkes) Marcue, 74, of Marlborough, entered into eternal peace Tuesday, July 3. Janice was born May 30, 1938, in Hartford.

Janice enjoyed being a waitress for the Pagani Family for many years and most recently at Gina Marie's in Hebron. She loved country music, baking and parties. She resided at Florence Lord Senior Housing in Marlborough for the last 17 years where she had many dear friends.

Janice was predeceased by her parents, Alfred and Elizabeth (Thompson) Parkes, and all of her siblings.

Her memory will be forever treasured by her four children, Peter Marcue III and his wife Sandra Hahn, Susan Stratton and her husband Steven, Donna Woodis and her husband Daniel and Trisha Maxwell and her husband Todd Wheeler; five grandchildren, Shelia Then and her husband James, Stephanie Mondoux, Selina Stratton, Danielle Marcue and Peter Marcue IV; three great-grandchildren Jordan, Riley and Jakob; and several nieces and nephews.

Friends and family called at Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., Monday, July 9. Funeral services were held Tuesday, July 10, in Spencer Funeral Home, with burial following in Marlborough Cemetery.

The family would like to say a special thank you to the staff in the Hospice Unit at Middlesex Hospital for taking such wonderful care of our beloved mother and grandmother.

The family requests memorial donations be made in Janice's name to the Food Pantry of Marlborough, 3 Wilhenger Dr., Marlborough, CT 06447.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Colchester

Mariel Bochain

Mariel (Jonah) Bochain, 91, of Middletown and formerly of Colchester, widow of the late Matthew Bochain, passed away Thursday, July 5, at the Middlesex HCC in Middletown. Born Oct. 22, 1920, in Norwood, Mass., she was the daughter of the late Ira Jonah and Ada Claire (Boulter) Kramer.

She was the devoted mother of Mark of Spring, Texas, Russ of East Haddam, Craig of Norwich and Dena of Middletown; grandmother of, Brit Heidi, Ian, Amber, Jay, Heather, Ashley and Courtney and great grandmother to several children. She was sister of Malcolm Jonah of Glastonbury.

In addition to her husband and parents, her stepfather, Charles Kramer, and a brother David Jonah predeceased her.

Mariel lived for many years in Middletown, and was a source of support and great baking to all she knew.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the Connecticut Audubon Society in support of the Harlo N. Haagenson Preserve located in East Haddam (ctaudubon.org).

Care of private arrangements has been entrusted to the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester. Funeral arrangements are private and at the convenience of the family.

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Marlborough

Janet Crealey

Janet Crealey, 82, of Manchester, passed away Tuesday, July 3, at Marlborough Health Center in Marlborough. She was the wife of the late John Crealey. Born in Manchester, she was the daughter of Julius and Minetta Bratsnyder. She is survived by her sister, Edith Tracy of Broad Brook.

Janet graduated from Manchester High School with the Class of 1947 and Hartford Hospital School of Nursing. She worked as a nurse in the Manchester area and was a school nurse in the Manchester Public Schools system before her retirement in 1989.

She was a devoted mother to Jayme Guessner and her husband Bob of Hebron, Janet Skolnick and her husband Daniel of Rowley, Mass., and Kim Rouillier and her husband Leon of Wakefield, R.I. She was grandmother to Laura, Brian, Brad, Devin, Ryan and Connor.

Her burial will be private in the Wapping Cemetery. In lieu of flowers donations can be sent to the Multiple Sclerosis Society, 659 Tower Avenue, First Floor, Hartford, CT 06112.

The family would like to thank the staff at Marlborough Health Center for the care and support offered to Janet and the family.

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

Portland

Peter W. Connolly

Peter W. Connolly, 73, of Portland, beloved husband of Jeanette (Benoit) Connolly, passed away peacefully in the arms of his family Monday, July 9, at St. Francis Hospital.

Born March 30, 1939, in Hartford, son of the late John J. and Harriet (Gadd) Connolly, he had lived in Portland for the past 23 years and previously had lived in East Hartford for 25 years. Prior to his retirement in 1997, he was purchasing director for the State of Connecticut.

Peter was a graduate of Fairfield University, and a member of the Purchasing Association of Connecticut and was a parishioner of St. Mary's Church in Portland. He was an avid golfer and helped start the golf league at the UConn Health Care Center. He enjoyed traveling and spending time with his family and grandchildren.

Besides his wife, he is survived by his children and their spouses; Karen Romejko of South Windsor, Patricia and Gary Babick of Hebron, Peter and Elaine Connolly of Ellington, his brother David Connolly and Isabelle Hilton of Rocky Hill, 5 grandchildren Alex and Dylan Romejko, Olivia, Colin and Garret Babick and several nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by a brother, John Connolly.

The funeral service was held Thursday, July 10, departing from the Mulryan Funeral Home, 725 Hebron Ave., Glastonbury, to St. Mary's Church, Portland, for a Mass of Christian Burial. Burial followed in Holy Cross Cemetery, Glastonbury. Friends called at the funeral home Wednesday, July 11.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to St. Mary's Church, 51 Freestone Ave., Portland, CT 06480 or to St. Francis Care Cancer Center, 114 Woodland St., Hartford, CT. 06105-9985.

To share a memory, visit mulryanfh.com.

Portland

Barbara H. Binnington

Barbara H. Binnington, 92, of Portland, wife of Gerald "Pop" I. Binnington, passed away Thursday, July 5, at St. Francis Hospital in Hartford. Born Oct. 2, 1919, in Portland, she was the daughter of the late Robert N. and Irene (Dower) Howard.

She was a Portland High School graduate and a member of the National Honor Society, as was her great-granddaughter, Bree Currier, graduating in 2012. She enjoyed being a Girl Scout and being a Girl Scout leader. She attended school in New Haven for physical therapy, and was a Treasurer District Nurse for many years. She started the Trinity Church Thrift Shop with Mary Gildersleeve, and was active with Trinity Church, the Altar Guild, the church school and was the Sunday School Treasurer.

Besides her husband, she leaves her children, Gerald Binnington Jr., Candy Valk and her husband, Tom, Robert Binnington and his wife, Karen, and Marisa Aletta and her husband, Frank; eight grandchildren, Alicia Currier, Thomas Valk, Jennifer, Matthew and Courtney Binnington, and Michael, Danielle and Brett Aletta; 10 great-grandchildren; and a cousin, Walter Dower and his wife, Vivian.

Funeral services were held Monday, July 9, at Trinity Church, 345 Main St., Portland. Burial was in Trinity Cemetery, Portland.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Portland Fire Department and to the Trinity Church Book of Remembrance, 345 Main St., Portland, CT 06480.

The family would like to give a special thanks to the Portland Fire Department for their quick response and to the staff of St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center in Hartford.



Andover

Robert Paul Edwards

Robert Paul Edwards of Andover died peacefully at home in the company of family Thursday, July 5. He was born to Paul Covell Edwards and Marion Lampright Edwards in Hartford on May 26, 1937.

He grew up in Manchester, first on Hartford Road and then on Keeney Street. After attending Manchester public schools, he joined the U.S. Naval Reserve in 1954 and graduated in 1957 from Howell Cheney Technical School, where he learned the machinist trade. After working for independent machine shops like Purdy Corporation, Bob joined Pratt & Whitney Aircraft of East Hartford in 1960. He was honorably discharged from the Naval Reserve in 1962 and worked his way up to all-around machinist, labor grade one, at the Aircraft, first in the famed Department 96 and then in Department 954 and Experimental. A conscientious, award-winning employee for 33 years, he had to retire after a second major heart attack in 1993.

Bob was a devoted father to his four children. They share many great memories of summers at the family cottage on Coventry Lake. He had a great sense of humor that enlivened his Thursday setback club and their hunting trips to Vermont. Ever ready with a joke or funny story, Bob was often asked to hold forth at gatherings of friends and the Lions Club of Bolton, in which he held the post of Tail Twister. He was proud of his long service with the Bolton Lions Club and enjoyed working at the Club's popular pasta dinners. His pink-frosted chocolate cake with cherries on top was a legend at the dessert table, over which he generously presided.

Although prevented from strenuous activity in retirement, Bob always found plenty of projects to keep him busy. He designed and oversaw the construction of his house in Andover and was always willing to help friends and family with small repairs and odd jobs. He lived well, laughed well and loved well.

He will be missed by many, including his devoted partner of many years, Florence Nixon of Andover; daughter Laura Webb and her daughter Jessica of Manchester; daughter Charlene Minicucci, her husband, Charlie, and their daughters, Samantha and Ashley of Andover; son Robert C. Edwards, his wife, Joyce, and their children, Camilla and Paul of Trumbull; son Andrew Edwards, his wife, Amy, and their children, Sophia and Cole of Canton; stepdad Allen Ward Sr. of Manchester; step-brother Allen Ward Jr. and his wife Carol of Manchester.

In addition to his parents, Bob was predeceased by a granddaughter, Lori Edwards.

The family would like to thank Dr. Steven M. Horowitz of Hartford for enabling Bob to maintain a quality of life far better for far longer than anyone expected.

Funeral services were held Monday, July 9, at Holmes Funeral Home, 400 Main St., Manchester. Burial will follow in East Cemetery, Manchester. Calling hours were held Sunday, July 8, at the funeral home.

Memorial contributions designated for "eye and hearing research" may be made to the Bolton Lions Club Inc., c/o Robert Lessard, 15 Converse Rd, Bolton, CT 06043.

To leave an online condolence, visit holmes-watkinsfuneralhomes.com.

East Hampton

Dariusz Czarnota

Dariusz Czarnota, 37, of East Hampton, passed away unexpectedly Sunday, July 1, in Chester. Born in Poland, Dariusz and his family immigrated to the United States at the age of 5 and established residence in New Britain.

He was a graduate of Quinnipiac University, obtained his master's degree at the University of New Haven, and was employed at Yale University. His hobbies included playing basketball, fitness, tennis, roleplaying gaming with his friends, playing poker and boating with his family. He was an avid fan of the New York Yankees and the San Francisco 49ers.

He was a devoted family man and leaves behind his wife, Athena (Nizielski) Czarnota; and two children Ashley, 17, and Nikolaus, 11, both of whom he loved very much and was extremely proud of; parents Danuta and Ryszard Czarnota of New Britain; a brother, Conrad Czarnota; grandmother Helen Czarnota; mother-in-law Krystyna Pytko; father-in-law Andrzej Nizielski; brother-in-law Jason Nizielski; sister-in-law Stacey Nizielski; and leaves behind many aunts, uncles, cousins in both the United States and Poland, and close friends.

Calling hours took place Sunday, July 8, at the Venskunas Funeral Home, 670 Stanley St., New Britain. A Mass of Christian Burial was held at Sacred Heart Church in New Britain Monday, July 9. Burial followed in Sacred Heart Cemetery in the family plot.

To send online condolences, go to venskunasfuneralhome.com.

Colchester

Dolores Dickinson

Dolores Dickinson, 83, of Hale Haven Court, Uncasville, passed away Monday, July 9, at Harrington Court in Colchester. She was born April 12, 1929, in Norwich, the daughter of the late Michael V. and Rose Marie (Barber) Diodato.

She married the late Warren B. Dickinson Sr. at St. Mary's Church in Greenville on Nov. 25, 1947. He passed away Jan. 27, 2011.

She was a very loving and caring person who took care of others who needed help. She also loved to cook and was an avid homemaker.

She is survived by her sons and caregivers Michael D. Dickinson and David K. Dickinson. She is also survived by her brothers Tony, Mike and Dan Diodato, sister Jeanette Driscoll and grandson Warren Dickinson III.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was predeceased by her son Warren Dickinson Jr., brothers Vincent and William Diodato and by her granddaughter Mary Beth Roush.

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

Donations in Dolores Dickinson's memory may be made to Hospice of Southeastern Connecticut.

The Montville Funeral Home of Church and Allen, is assisting the family with arrangements. Visit montvillefuneralhome.com to leave a message of condolence for Dolores' family.

Colchester

Elizabeth Elwell

Elizabeth (Taylor) Elwell, 86, of Norwich, widow of the late Ernest Elwell, passed away Friday morning, July 6, at the Harrington Court GHC Center in Colchester. Born Nov. 13, 1925, in Norwich, she was a daughter of the late Leroy and Irene Taylor.

She was the devoted mother of her seven children, whom she leaves: Irene Taylor and Louis and Charles Durgin, all of Texas, Freda Taylor of Georgia, Gerald Durgin of Oklahoma, Elizabeth Keck of Norwich and Mary Florence of Griswold; and numerous grandchildren, great grandchildren and extended family members and friends.

The family would like to thank the staff at Harrington Court as well as Hospice Southeastern Connecticut for the compassionate care given to Elizabeth and shown to them during her time there.

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

Hebron

Patricia L. Peterson

Patricia L. (Vicorito) Peterson, 74, of Windsor, formerly of Hebron, wife of the late William L. Peterson, died Monday, July 2, at an area convalescent home.

Pat was born in Hartford Dec. 30, 1937, daughter of Louis and Doris (Woods) Vicorito. She was raised in Hartford and was a graduate of Buckley High School. She resided in Hebron, Manchester, and Vernon, and had been a resident of Windsor since 2007. Pat was an avid reader, enjoyed taking walks, but most of all loved being with her family.

She is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Kimberly and Dan Culver of South Windsor; four grandchildren, Christopher, Ashley, Shannon, and Matthew Culver; a great-grandson, Kaden Meriez-Culver; her sister, Debbie Jordan of Ormand Beach, Fla., a niece, a nephew and her husband's children, William Peterson and Kathy Lowry.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Saturday, July 7, at the Church of the Assumption, 29 South Adams St., Manchester. Burial followed in the East Cemetery in Manchester. There were no calling hours.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association Connecticut Chapter, 2075 Silas Deane Highway, Suite 100, Rocky Hill, CT 06067.

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

Obituaries continued

Portland

Marie Fragilio

Marie (Pizzorusso) "Russo" Fragilio, 92, of Portland, beloved wife of Santo F. Fragilio died Sunday, July 8, at Middlesex Health Care. She was born in East Hartford, the daughter of the late Vito and Maria (Loungo) Pizzorusso. Marie enjoyed her family and loved listening to her husband play the violin.

Besides her husband, Marie is survived by two sisters, Theresa Dyke of South Windsor, Josephine Warshavsky and her husband Sanford, of South Windsor; a sister-in-law, Emma Pizzorusso of Middletown; several nieces, nephews, and cousins. She was predeceased by a brother, Rocco V. "Rocky Russo" Pizzorusso, four sisters, Rose DiSipeo, Angie Colla, Carmella "Millie" Van Gasbeck, Maria "Jennie Russo" Pizzorusso.

Funeral services were held Thursday, July 12, from the Biega Funeral Home, 3 Silver St., Middletown followed by funeral liturgy later that morning in St. Mary Church, Portland. Burial was in St. Mary Cemetery, Portland. Friends called at the Biega Funeral Home Wednesday, July 11.

Those who wish may send memorial contributions to Portland Fire Department EMS, P.O. Box 71, Portland, CT 06480, or St. Mary Church - Music Fund, 51 Freestone Ave., Portland, CT 06480.

Portland

Angela Arcidiacono

Angela (Amenta) Arcidiacono, 99, of Cromwell, wife of the late John Arcidiacono, died Thursday, July 5, at Middlesex Hospital. She was born June 18, 1913, in Middletown, daughter of the late Antonino and Lucia (Rosano) Amenta. She was a member of St. John Church, Cromwell.

She is survived by two daughters, Lucille Wilson and her husband, Donald, of Portland and Mariann Libertini and her husband, Dr. Robert Libertini, of Sudbury, Mass.; a brother, Sebastian V. Amenta, of Cromwell; five sisters, Minnie Marino, Connie Halstead, Jennie Amenta and Lillian Cota, all of Cromwell and Marie Milardo, of Portland; six grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

The family would like to give a special thanks to doctors Arthur McDowell III, Ray D'Amato and David Gallo for the special care that was given to Angela, and also a special thanks to the staff of Portland Care and Rehabilitation Center for their kindness and compassion shown to her during her stay; it is greatly appreciated.

Funeral services were held Monday, July 9, at the D'Angelo Funeral Home, 22 South Main St., followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at St. John Church, Cromwell. Burial was in the family plot in Calvary Cemetery, Middletown. Relatives and friends called at the funeral home Sunday, July 8.

Online condolences are available at dangelofuneralhome.com.

Colchester

Charles David Canfield Sr.

Charles David Canfield Sr., 80, of Colchester, devoted husband of Elaine (Powers) Canfield, passed away Wednesday, July 4, at home. He was born in Hartford, a son of Thomas and Bertha (Morgan) Canfield. Charles served his country proudly in the US Army.

Besides his wife Elaine, Charles leaves his children Steve, Charles Jr. and James Canfield, Arthur Layman-Dionne, Debra Sanger, Cheri Chobot, Linda Garrity and Roxanne Molina. He also leaves his siblings George, Emily, Bertha and Lois, and several grandchildren.

Charles' greatest joy was being at his home by the lake.

Calling hours will be today, July 13, from 4-7 p.m., followed by a funeral service at 7 p.m., at the Rose Hill Funeral Home, 580 Elm St., Rocky Hill. Burial will be private and at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Middlesex Hospice, 28 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457, or to an animal shelter of the donor's choice.



East Hampton Police News

6/25: Vanessa St. Pierre, 26, of Plainfield, was issued a summons for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license and failure to drive right, East Hampton Police said.

6/29: Melissa L. Gamache, 36, of 191 Stanavage Rd., Colchester, was issued a summons for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license, police said.

7/3: Anita Marie Ackerman, 27, of 80 Middletown Ave., was arrested for illegal storage of narcotics, police said.

Portland Police News

7/2: Patricia Romero, 59, of 31 Hurd Park Rd., East Hampton, was charged with DUI, Portland Police said.

7/2: Douglas Russell, 68, of 1 Brush Pasture La., was charged with DUI and failure to obey control signal, police said.

7/7: Jonathan Clark, 22, of 75 East Main St., was charged with third-degree assault and disorderly conduct, police said.

7/7: Kyle Lapidus, 19, of 8 Arvid Rd., was charged with third-degree assault and disorderly conduct, police said.

Reported Virginia Larceny Led to Hebron Fugitive Charge

by **Katelyn Kelleher**

A Hebron resident arrested recently as a fugitive from justice at Troop K in Colchester was wanted in Virginia on charges of grand larceny.

Ryan Estby, 21, of 10 Carolyn Rd., arrived at Troop K just before 10 p.m. June 24 to speak with police regarding an unrelated incident, according to a State Police investigation report. Estby was determined to be a fugitive from justice from Nelson County, Va., and was taken into custody.

State Police contacted the Nelson County Sheriff's Office, where the felony warrant for grand larceny was confirmed active and extraditable, according to a police report on file at Norwich Superior Court.

The charge was for the theft of copper tubing, scrap metal, a tool box and a gas generator valued at \$200 or more, Virginia Police said. According to Virginia Police, the inci-

dent occurred between Nov. 1 and Dec. 31, 2011. A warrant for his arrest on the charges was issued March 1.

Estby was held by Connecticut Police on a \$500,000 bond. An arrest warrant for Estby for the fugitive from justice charge was submitted to Norwich Superior Court by Virginia Police on June 25.

According to the Nelson County Sheriff's Office, "the warrant charges Estby with a class U felony which is punishable by up to 20 years in prison but no less than one year."

Estby pled not guilty at Rockville Superior Court Monday to four unrelated charges, which included second-degree breach of peace, third-degree assault, second-degree strangulation and first-degree unlawful restraint, according to the state judicial website.

Estby's next court date is Wednesday, July 25, at 10 a.m. at Norwich Superior Court.

East Hampton Police Catch Two Burglars in the Act

by **Joshua Anusewicz**

Working on a tip from a vigilant passerby, East Hampton Police said they arrested two would-be burglars at a local auto repair shop early Monday morning.

According to Sgt. Paul Battista, the incident occurred at roughly 2:20 a.m. Monday, July 9, when officers Jason Wishart and David Gionfriddo responded to a "report of suspicious activity" at Classic Auto on East High Street. Battista said that upon arrival at the scene, the two officers witnessed a burglary in progress and swiftly apprehended the two suspects as they allegedly attempted to escape out of the rear of the building.

The two suspects - Donald Powell, 43, of East Hartford, and Katelyn Cook, 19, of East Hampton - were each charged with second-degree larceny, second-degree conspiracy to

commit larceny and third-degree burglary. Additionally, Cook was charged with possession of less than four ounces of marijuana and misrepresentation of a substance as a controlled substance.

Battista stated that Powell and Cook appeared to be in the process of "stealing tools and cash" from the auto shop.

The two were held on \$50,000 bond and are scheduled to appear in Middletown Superior Court, Cook on Wednesday, July 18, and Powell on Wednesday, July 25, both at 10 a.m. According to the state's judicial website, both Cook and Powell are scheduled to appear in court over the next month for separate alleged crimes: Cook for larceny and trespassing charges; Powell for possession of narcotics charges.



Donald Powell



Katelyn Cook

Colchester Police News

7/3: Richard Miller, 52, of 793B Norwich Ave., was charged with DUI, towing an unregistered motor vehicle, failure to drive right, operating a motor vehicle without tail lights, operating a motor vehicle with an unsecured load, and operating a motor vehicle without a license, State Police said.

7/3: Richard Parker, 20, of 688 Middletown Rd., was charged with possession of alcohol by a minor, possession of controlled substances and possession of drug paraphernalia, State Police said.

7/3: David Sweet, 54, of 23 Landing Hill Rd., was arrested on a warrant for charges from May of second-degree reckless endangerment, breach of peace, and third-degree criminal mischief, State Police said.

7/4: Sabina Zygmunt, 23, of 47 Westerly Ter., was charged with operating a motor vehicle with a refused/suspended/revoked license, DUI, failure to drive in the proper lane, violation of a controlled substance label, possession of drug paraphernalia, and possession of less than half an ounce of marijuana, State Police said.

7/4: Leslie Khan, 20, of 700 Maple Ave., Apt. 206, Hartford, was charged with reckless driving greater than 85 miles per hour and motor vehicle license violation, State Police said.

7/5: Justin Warren, 22, of 137 South Main St., Marlborough, was charged with operating a handheld device while driving, failure to have vehicle lights lit, possession of drug paraphernalia and illegal possession of narcotics, State

Police said.

7/6: Karina Francis, 28, of 29 Westchester Hills, turned herself in on active arrest warrant for second-degree failure to appear in court, State Police said.

7/6: Nicholas Viccaro, 33, of 87 Bulkeley Hill Rd., was charged with DUI and failure to drive right, State Police said.

7/7: During a domestic dispute, Tristan Tudisca, 33, of 15 Stanavage Rd., Apt. 2, was charged with disorderly conduct, third-degree assault and possession of marijuana. Amy Parciak, 26, of the same address, was charged with disorderly conduct and third-degree assault, State Police said.

7/8: Lynette Patrice Wiggins, 31, of 6 Arvid Rd., Portland, turned herself in on arrest warrant for sixth-degree larceny, State Police said.

7/8: Melissa Fox, 54, of 11 Cardinal Rd., was charged with DUI and making an improper turn, State Police said.

7/9: A burglary was reported at 6:30 p.m. at a residence on Pickeral Lake Road. The owner found the back door kicked in and several items missing, including DVDs, Xbox games, a laptop computer and a video camera among other items. Anyone with information is asked to call Officer Jonathan Goss at Troop K at 860-537-7500 ext. 4083.

7/10: Thomas Pagley, 58, of 59 East Shore Dr., East Haddam, was charged with failure to appear in court, State Police said.

Marlborough Police News

7/5: Martin Rodriguez, 26, of 25 Juliette St., Chicopee, Mass., was charged with violation of probation, State Police said.

Hebron Police News

7/5: Peter Fusco, 26, of 20 Brook St., Hamden, was charged with DUI, State Police said.

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

I wrote at length last week about CNN's gaffe related to the Affordable Care Act. But let me touch on my opinion of it – and, specifically, the Supreme Court upholding the individual mandate: I like it.

That should come as no shock to regular readers of my column. I've long since been in favor of the mandate. As I've written in this space in the past, if drivers have to have car insurance, why shouldn't people have to have health insurance?

Plus, it moves us as a nation one step closer to universal health care. I was looking at a map recently of all the developed countries in the world that offer a public health care option. The United States' lack of inclusion on that map is nothing short of embarrassing. The Affordable Care Act isn't exactly a public option – it's forcing people to buy insurance, basically – but by forcing all of us to have it, it's, like I said, closer to universal health care than we've ever been before.

And as for that “buy insurance or pay a penalty,” and people's reactions to it: aren't the reactions just a little extreme? From the way some are acting, you'd think the government's never forced us to buy anything we don't want to buy before. But really, have they ever looked at your pay stubs? From the very first time I drew a paycheck, I've had money withheld for both Medicare and Social Security. And while I may be older than I've ever been – and now I'm even older – I'm still many, many years away from being eligible for Medicare. Ditto for Social Security – and who's to say that program will even be around when I'm old enough to start collecting from it?

The Medicare and Social Security withholdings apply to me, and to you, and to everyone who draws a legal paycheck. And people have just basically put up with it, despite them being sometimes decades away from seeing any kind of personal benefit from all those withholdings. But now the idea that they may be forced to pay for something that *will* directly benefit them, and right away, has them up in arms?

And let's not forget there's more to the Affordable Care Act than just the mandate

end of it. There are a lot of parts that are very, very nice (some of which have already taken effect). Among them:

Insurance companies can no longer tell children with preexisting conditions that they'll insure them – except for that preexisting condition. According to Maura Calsyn, the associate director of health policy at the Center for American Progress, this has already stopped 17 million children from getting insurance denied.

Insurance companies can also no longer put lifetime caps on people's insurance, guaranteeing coverage will continue for people despite catastrophic injury or illness.

People can stay on their parents' insurance until they're 26.

As for seniors, the Affordable Care Act allows for free annual wellness visits and other free preventive services for those with Medicare. And speaking of Medicare, the infamous “doughnut hole” in coverage has now been closed, thanks to the Affordable Care Act. Calsyn said this change has already saved over five million seniors an average of \$600.

Things get even better in 2014, when – in addition to the new insurance exchanges offering the currently-uninsured new, affordable plans to choose from – other protections kick in, such as prohibiting insurance companies from discriminating against the 129 million Americans with preexisting conditions.

In short, there's an awful lot to like about the Affordable Care Act. I'm glad the Supreme Court upheld it as constitutional – although the move was, predictably, blasted by Republicans. As they so often do when they don't get their way, the GOP cried foul, and now they're trying to repeal the act. They're offering no other alternatives, of course; they just don't like the bill and want it gone.

A repeal would be quite unfortunate – taking away the very real benefits I listed above – and I wish the Republicans would stop complaining and just accept the Affordable Care Act. Accepting reality has never been the Republicans' strong suit, I know, but it's time to let it go.

* * *

See you next week.