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Signs lined the entrance of Colchester Town Hall this week for Tuesday's highly-anticipated vote on the William J. Johnston Middle School/Community/Senior Center project. The results were tallied later that night – and the 'nos' clearly had it.

Voters Shoot Down WJJMS Project

by Melissa Roberto

The referendum votes were counted Tuesday night, and the message they sent was loud and clear. The \$57.26 million William J. Johnston Middle School/Community Center/Senior Center project in Colchester was shot down by a 1,993-693 tally.

Plans for the project began nearly seven years ago when task forces were formed, studies were conducted and the Board of Selectmen followed with a charge for a Building Committee comprised of volunteers to design the multi-pronged building project that would renovate and add to the existing middle school and also house a senior center and community center.

Various residents – both for and against the project – weighed in after casting their votes Tuesday afternoon. Resident Tom Hardy voted it down because he questioned if the proposal would put kids in danger.

"You're going to be having a lot of people running around there and I don't think it's a great idea for keeping the kids safe and secure," said Hardy.

Resident Cathy Pompei, a former member of the Board of Finance, also voted it down for a couple reasons.

"I think it's way too expensive at this time," she said, "because of the economic situation and I think that a separate senior center and community center is really the direction we should be going in."

Torri Buchwald, who is running as an independent candidate for the Board of Assessment Appeals, also opposed it. She said she feels the three buildings are necessary in town but not all at one location.

"I think some of those [alternative] plans need to be looked at and resurrected," Buchwald said. "This is not something I think the seniors want. I could be wrong but I think as a community we deserve a community space like Glastonbury. I also believe that in this economy the tax impact is too great to everyone in town."

But others stressed what they felt were benefits of the project after they took to the polls.

"I think it's important that the community has a middle school to be proud of and right now I know it's definitely deteriorated," resident Rebecca Meyer said.

Resident Izaskun Larraneta had similar feelings.

"Other towns that are more advanced and offer more services have updated middle schools and community centers," said Larraneta. "I'm just thinking long-term."

Resident Jason Lehmann moved to the town in April. He said he supported the project because he feels all three facilities would make the town a more attractive place for homeowners and future taxpayers.

"What makes a town attractive are school systems and senior centers," he said. "My family and I just moved here and that's exactly what attracted us to Colchester – a strong education system which typically contributes to low crime rates, and into good community support."

Another resident, Montez Johnson, attended a public information session at WJJMS last winter where he was given a tour of the school.

"The windows don't open, the boilers don't work, so they definitely need to fix the school

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Portland Fair Returns Next Week

by Elizabeth Bowling

Portland is getting in the spirit of the fall season with its 14th annual Portland Fair, which will return next weekend, Oct. 11-13, at the Exchange Club Fairgrounds with a slew of fun activities on tap.

According to a press release from the fair organizers, the fun will begin on Friday from 5 to 11 p.m. For the first day, fairgoers can expect opening ceremonies, as well as musical performances by Mystery Tour Band, followed by Paragon.

The fair, and the music, will continue Saturday from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. The music will start at noon with the Michael Cleary Band, followed by Glamour Girls, and Players Club will round off the day's musical entertainment, according to the fair's official website, PortlandFair.com.

Saturday is sure to be entertaining, as the crowd-favorite truck-pull will begin at 4:30 p.m. Registration for the event will start at 1 p.m. or contestants can pre-register via the Portland Fair website. Entry for this event is free.

Doors will open again on Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The final day of festivities will provide the most events, the press release said.

Sunday afternoon will provide musical entertainment by Gunsmoke and The Big Six.

The first event Sunday is a youth talent show that will be held at 11 a.m. All kids in elementary school and middle school may enter. Applications were sent home with students (or they can be found at PortlandFair.com) and may now be submitted through the mail. The first 24 applicants will be accepted.

Also on Sunday, the annual Halloween costume contest for dogs – free to enter – will start at noon. Registration starts at 11 a.m. and there will be special on-site parking for the owners of outfitted dogs. All dogs must be on a leash and have proof of a rabies vaccine.

Throughout the course of the weekend, giant pumpkins and scarecrows will be on display, according to Joyce Murphy, the Port-

land Fair secretary.

Anyone can enter the scarecrow contest, for example as a business or a family. At the end of the three-day fair, the scarecrows will be used to decorate Main Street. The rules for the scarecrow contest can be found in the fair book, which is available at all businesses around town, or at the Portland Fair website.

Murphy said the theme this year, like every year, is agriculture. That's why animals will be on display each day of the weekend-long event.

Organizers are seeking small animals – in addition to the farm animals that go along with the theme – to put on display in their main tent, Murphy said. Specifically, they are seeking guinea pigs, hamsters, gerbils, mice, ferrets, hedgehogs and chinchillas.

Organizers are also seeking volunteers to sell tickets, take tickets, pick up garbage, work in the animal pull rings, park cars, help with stroller detail, and run special events and games, Murphy said.

The organizers, Murphy added, will also

incorporate a baby contest, pie-eating contest, bubble gum-blowing contest or skillet-throwing contest – if they get enough volunteers to run the contests.

One thing that will definitely be a part of the fair, though, is food.

"There's a ton of food vendors," Murphy said, calling the fair food "everything fried that you can imagine."

But despite the abundance of food vendors, Murphy said, "We do need more commercial vendors."

Anyone interested in registering as a commercial vendor should contact Murphy.

Entry into the fair is \$10 for adults, \$6 for senior citizens, and free for children under 10. All proceeds go toward paying for next year's fair, Murphy said.

For more information, visit the Portland Fair website at PortlandFair.com, which, Murphy quipped Monday, is "being updated as we speak." To contact Murphy, email her at jmurphy5_06482@yahoo.com or call 860-342-0188.

WJJMS Project cont. from Front Page

up,” he said. “I voted ‘yes’ because I have three children and coming from New York myself, where there’s tons of community centers, I think it’s really helpful for the kids to have a place to go after school so that they’re not hanging on the green.”

A handful of gasps were heard Tuesday night at the meeting room in Town Hall as the referendum results were announced, and it seems with the project now dismissed, it’s back to square one.

In the last year, concerns were communicated both by town officials and residents about the three buildings in question, which all currently stand on Norwich Avenue. Officials often highlighted deficiencies at the middle school, which include non-compliant doors, broken windows, and the need for a new HVAC system as well as cracks in the masonry walls. Concerns of the condition of the senior center were also discussed in the last year. In an April selectmen meeting, Building Official Tim York deemed the center in “desperate need of repair” during a presentation.

Additionally, the youth center on Norwich Avenue has been communicated as not being in the best location for Colchester’s youth. The community center proposed would have housed social services, Parks and Recreation and the food bank, and would have included recreation space for Colchester’s youth.

At a public hearing held on the \$57 million project last month, Building Committee Chairman Tom Tyler announced if the project fails, the building committee’s duties are complete. It is now up to the board of selectmen to decide what to do next – a point echoed by selectman Stan Soby Tuesday night after the results were announced.

“We’ll have a discussion as to what will be the next steps, how we can move forward, and there will certainly be conversations with the Board of Education in terms of what is needed at the middle school building,” he said.

Additionally, the selectman added the condition of the senior center is also going to have to be discussed.

Though the Board of Selectmen is often referenced as the decision-making body of the town, it seems the conversations about the buildings won’t stop there. School board chairman Ron Goldstein said Tuesday night the board would discuss the needs of the school depending on the outcome of the selectmen’s future conversations – which he assumed the selectmen would begin at their meeting Thursday night, which occurred after press time.

“I think that the Board of Education will now talk about what we can do moving forward,” Goldstein said. “I think people recognized the needs of the school. We just have to come up with a different approach, I think that’s what this [vote] tells us.”

First Selectman Gregg Schuster issued a statement about the project’s failure Tuesday night.

“The community has spoken decisively, and I hope everyone will respect their decision,” he said. “I want to thank the Building Committee and all who worked hard on bringing this project forward and to a vote.”

“As I have said previously, I believe the best course of action is to renovate WJJMS and build a stand-alone senior center at a different location,” Schuster furthered. “The Board of Select-

men will be discussing what path we should take going forward.”

In a press release submitted Tuesday night, current selectman Jim Ford, who is running for first selectman, spoke of what he feels are the next steps.

“The people have spoken and the democratic process has been completed,” he stated. “The needs which this project was to address still remain. Now it’s time to go back to the drawing board, listen to the people, and find the right solution to move Colchester forward. I look forward to being a part of that solution.”

Ford added he planned to propose the scheduling of a tri-board meeting between the selectman, finance and school boards to discuss the next steps in moving forward at Thursday’s selectmen meeting.

Another statement was also released on behalf of the Colchester Independent Party. The party stated the defeat didn’t call for celebration, because “many hard-working citizens have volunteered valuable months, even years, of their time to bring this project to a vote.”

But the release also stated the CIP believes there is something positive.

“The CIP has consistently praised the work of the building committee and there is no need to start from scratch,” the press release said. “As a team, we can take the work that has been done, listen to and answer the concerns that have been raised, and move forward with a revised plan.”

As far as the project’s finances go, finance chairman Rob Tarlov said the financial analysis conducted found the combined proposal to be the most affordable alternative.

The Board of Finance “found the other alternatives of fixing the current school building only or building a separate stand-alone building for the school and senior center to be more expensive and did not solve the youth center or Town Hall issues,” Tarlov stated. “All these problems still exist, and as taxpayers we need to decide which ones must be fixed now, how we want to address those that will have to be done soon and which conditions will just have to be good enough as is.”

For Building Committee Chairman Tom Tyler, Tuesday’s outcome seemed positive, even though the project failed to impress the voters. He expressed appreciation for the opportunities he had to serve the town, which he said allowed him to interact with “really quality people who truly define the essence of Colchester.” Additionally, he highlighted the “tremendous” amount of effort himself and his fellow members put in – time that citizens also voiced appreciation for in recent months.

As far as the vote, Tyler said the voters “very clearly” expressed their opposition Tuesday.

“Overall the result wasn’t what we wanted but the experience was positive and I got to interact with some really wonderful, dedicated volunteers who I otherwise would not have interacted with,” he said. “I guess now it’s up to the Board of Selectmen to develop the new path forward to address the infrastructure that this project was intended to address.”

As of press time, the selectmen’s agenda for Thursday’s meeting did not include discussion of the future of the three facilities. But according to officials, with the project failure, the conversation on the future of Colchester’s buildings will continue.

*From the Editor’s Desk***Observations & Ruminations**

by **Mike Thompson**

As I sit here Tuesday night and wonder when the government shutdown will end and if Republicans will ever stop acting like babies (if a bill gets passed and then signed into law, and if said law is deemed entirely constitutional by the Supreme Court, you don’t literally *HOLD THE GOVERNMENT HOSTAGE* because you don’t like the law), here are some random thoughts....

* * *

The finale of *Breaking Bad* was this past Sunday, and, while I won’t spoil the ending for anyone who hasn’t yet seen it, I’ll simply say that final episode was just about perfect. While I only started watching the show in July – and I’ll admit, still rather pleased with myself I was able to burn through the first four and a half seasons by the start of September – it became one of my all-time favorites. Superbly acted, but also superbly written; there was such cleverness and creativity on display, every single week. I had high hopes for the finale, and, given the quality of the 60 episodes I’d seen before it, I had a pretty good hunch I wasn’t going to be disappointed.

With the entire series now in the books, I encourage any readers out there who haven’t seen the show yet to do themselves a favor and watch it, from the very beginning. I know several people who have been turned off by the simple premise of the show: high school chemistry teacher learns he has cancer and decides to start peddling crystal meth. It’s not an easy sell, I admit. But the show is so much more than just that. The characters are so richly-drawn; the stories are so engrossing. Is it violent? Sure. But never gratuitously so.

The entire series is coming out on Blu-Ray in November, but if you don’t want to drop that kind of money – or if you don’t want to wait that long – then head to the local library and see if they have it, or scope it out on Netflix. It’ll be time very well spent.

In the words of Walter H. White: Let’s cook.

* * *

This past Sunday, I was at Citi Field for the Mets’ last game of the season, something I’ve done frequently in previous years. It’s fun to see the team one final time, wish them well as they enter into a long off-season.

But this year’s final game had extra special meaning: one of my all-time favorites, Mike Piazza, was getting inducted into the Mets Hall of Fame. (He should’ve been inducted into the MLB Hall of Fame too, but I’ve touched on that before.)

I saw Piazza play live many times. I still remember sitting in the den of my parents’ house, casually watching TV, on a May afternoon in 1998, just done with my freshman year of college, when my sister came in, beaming, and announced the Mets just traded for Mike Piazza. Mike Piazza! One of the greats of the game – and he was a Met!

After the shock and thrill wore off and the games begin, I’ll admit it took a bit to warm up to Piazza – through no fault of his own. I was a big fan of the Mets’ current catcher at the time, Todd Hundley, and just because he was currently injured I saw that as no reason for him to lose his job. But before long, Piazza’s achievements hooked me. I fell in love with the guy, and wanted him to stay. (Hundley, meanwhile, came back from injury and attempted to play left field for the Mets, an experiment that proved unsuccessful. He was traded to the Dodgers after the ’98 season, and unfortunately never again saw the success he did with the Mets in 1996 and ’97 – when he hit 41 and 30 home runs, respectively.)

In May of 1999, my sister bought a Saturday ticket plan for the two of us – and I got to see Piazza live on a regular basis. Between that period and Piazza’s final game as a Met in 2005, I saw some tremendous feats: some monster home runs, some great clutch hits, and some very underrated defense. 2002-2004 was a real dark period for the Mets, but it was always a joy to see Michael Joseph Piazza stroll to the plate, as the sounds of Jimi

Hendrix played over the public address system, ready to make an impact with one swing of a bat.

And, though it wasn’t a Saturday, I was at Shea Sept. 21, 2001, when the Mets and Atlanta Braves squared off in the first baseball game in New York City since the terrorist attacks of 10 days before.

There was a lot to take away from that game – such as Diana Ross singing the National Anthem, and Liza Minnelli doing a banging version of “New York, New York” – but it’s Piazza’s contribution to the festivities that is most remembered. In the eighth inning of that game, with the Mets down 2-1, Piazza hit a two-run homer to give the Mets a 3-2 lead – and the crowd went wild. In the 12 years since that day, that home run has been looked at as the moment New Yorkers felt it was okay to relax and smile and laugh again. Yes, life continued – and there was Piazza, leading the way. It was a beautiful moment, and I was thrilled to have been a part of it.

And I was thrilled to be a part of Piazza’s induction on Sunday. He gave a beautiful speech, thanking his fellow players, the fans, even his agent (Piazza quipped if his agent hadn’t played hardball with the Dodgers, he may never have been traded away, and never would’ve wound up with the Mets). He also thanked his family, and got a little choked up in doing so. Piazza’s father, Vince, was sitting by Piazza and began weeping. I admit, I started to get a little choked up myself. It was such a terrific, tender, human moment.

The Mets didn’t retire Piazza’s uniform number (31) on Sunday. Nor, as I said, is he in baseball’s Hall of Fame yet. Those things will come soon enough, I’m sure. And I’m equally sure a ceremony will accompany both.

But it would be hard to top the beauty that was Sunday’s ceremony.

* * *

While the weather this week may have suggested otherwise, it is October – and Election Day will be here before you know it. With that in mind, here’s some deadlines to keep in mind as you write those election-themed letters to the editor.

The Oct. 25 issue will be the last one to feature any letters attacking candidates, or raising new issues. Letters for the Nov. 1 issue should be positive in nature, such as endorsements or just generally encouraging people to get out and vote. Negative letters will not be published that week.

Also, just a gentle reminder, especially for new letter-writers, or those who haven’t written to us in several years. Letters must be 300 words or less; due to the sheer volume of letters I get each week – particularly at this time of year – I can’t make exceptions. Also, include the town that you live in when you send in a letter. And as long as I’m issuing reminders: The deadline for letters is noon Tuesdays. And just like the word-limit, this is a firm rule; no exceptions will be made.

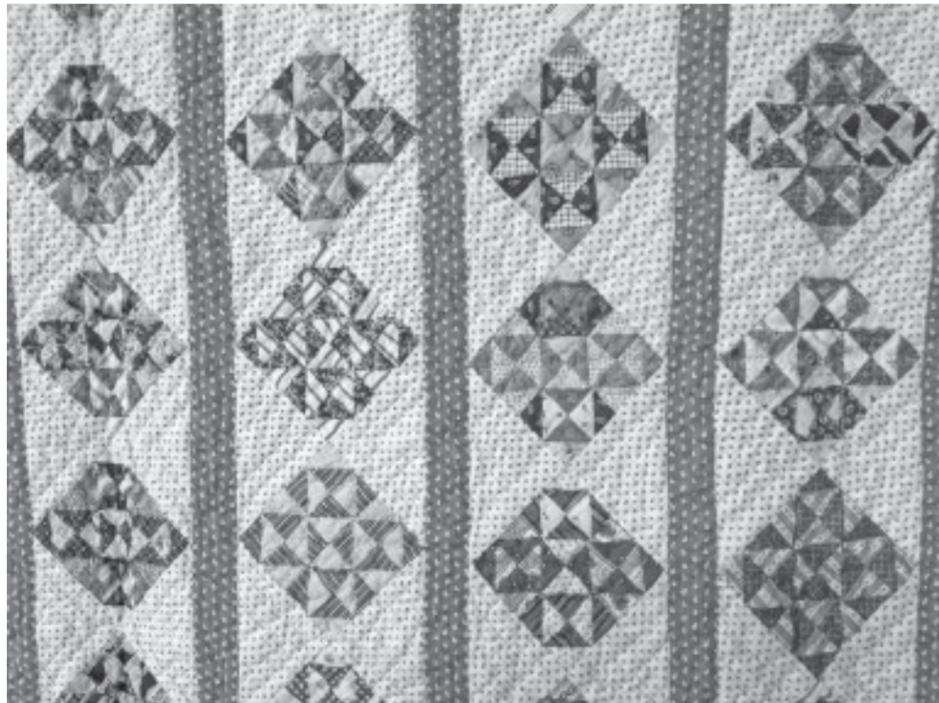
Since it’s getting so close to elections, I’ve also decided to put a moratorium on photos of candidates out and about, doing things in their towns. The other 11 months of the year, I have no problem publishing photos like these, as you all well know, but I don’t feel it’s fair right now to publish them; it seems a little bit like an advertisement for a particular candidate.

* * *

Lastly, over the next few weeks I’ll be receiving a lot of politically-themed letters; that’s fine, and I encourage everyone to submit one if they’re so inclined. But I do have a simple request: if you’re on a board or commission, or you’re a member of a particular candidate’s campaign, please indicate that at the end of your letter. I think, in the interest of full disclosure, it’s a good thing to mention. Obviously, I’ve been around long enough that a lot of names I know – but some I don’t. So if you’re on a board, or involved in a campaign, please do me a favor and just say so.

* * *

See you next week.



Among the many sights to see at this year's Hebron Harvest Fair were two unique quilts. Both heralded from Hebron, but each told a different tale. One had earned second place at the 1920 Hebron Fair and had been a Christmas gift to the late Marie Smith Billard. The other had been crafted by Hebron resident Pam Briggs, was awarded "Best in Competition" and honored the lives lost as a result of the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School last December.

A Tale of Two Quilts in Hebron

by Geeta Schrayter

The annual Hebron Harvest Fair took place during a beautiful weekend filled with warm summer days. A month later, all that's gone: the fairgrounds have been cleaned, and the temperature seems fittingly fall-like since the season's official change Sept. 22.

But cooler weather brings the opportunity to cozy up beneath warm blankets and sip hot drinks. And warm blankets bring to mind two unique quilts that hung on display in the fair's arts and crafts building: one old, one new, both interesting in their own – and very different – right.

First, among the paintings and the photographs, the clothing and other creations hung a quilt sporting such colors as cream, rust, brown, blue and yellow. The quilt had been a 1977 Christmas gift to the late Marie Smith Billard – someone who had been known in town for her own quilting – by her mother.

The quilt, which was made with 6,020 pieces, all hand-quilted together, consists of 176 4" blocks comprised of 32 tiny triangles of fabric.

Although the Smith Billard family doesn't know for sure who made the quilt, it is likely it was made in Hebron by someone in the family, possibly Smith Billard's great-grandmother.

The exact age of the quilt is unknown, but when it was discovered by Smith Billard's family after Marie's death in 2012, it was found with a red ribbon from the 1920 Hebron Fair (the precursor to the Hebron Harvest Fair), and the red fabric used in the sashing dates between 1830-1860.

Ann Lewis, who was one of the judges at the fair, called the quilt a "treasure."

"It was a really wonderful treasure to find,

particularly because it did have that red ribbon on it with a date," she said.

Lewis went on to call the quilt "a piece of Hebron's history."

Like Lewis, Paula Billard, the daughter-in-law of Smith Billard, was also excited about the find.

Smith Billard "was the last one of her generation," Billard said this week, "so to come across that find was really quite exciting."

Although the quilt isn't perfect – the colors have faded and there's a line across the middle from being folded – Billard said the quilt was in "very nice condition."

"It was a wonderful find" by Billard and her sister-in-law Jenny, and now that they know it's there, the Billards have no intention of getting rid of it.

"We're going to keep it in the family," she said, adding in addition to the Harvest Fair it had recently been used in the fourth annual Colonial Day in town.

"We will share it by displaying it when appropriate and will let family members enjoy it if they want to hang or drape it for a while," Billard said. "We're going to try to not keep it in a bag or a closet somewhere. It's just too nice and interesting to do otherwise."

In addition to the old and exciting Smith Billard quilt that hung at the fair, there was also a newer quilt which was awarded "Best in Competition."

There was a story behind this quilt as well, albeit a more solemn one. Hebron resident Pam Briggs, who has been quilting for about six or seven years, said this week she purchases a lot of her fabric online. During a visit to one of her supplier's websites, she saw a suggestion that people from a quilt or church guild ban

together to create something to honor the lives lost at the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting last December. Twenty children and six faculty members were killed at the school that day, along with the perpetrator's mother, Nancy Lanza, at her home.

"I don't belong to any guild," Briggs said, "but I felt driven because I had two grandchildren in first grade at the time. So I thought I'd just do something myself."

And Briggs did just that. Starting in January, Briggs spent six months – including a couple of distractions throughout the process, she said – to craft a quilt paying homage to the lives that were lost.

Lewis called the finished result "very moving."

"I saw the back of the quilt before I saw the front. On the back, it said Briggs was the maker and she had a heart, that was basically a dedication to everyone who died at Newtown," Lewis explained. "And next to that there was a little heart that had 'Nancy Lanza' in it and I thought that was important for everybody to see, because she did die too."

Inside the larger heart on the back of the quilt Lewis described, Briggs had written, "This quilt is dedicated to all the lost souls and their families. God's peace be with you. It is also dedicated to the heroes that answered the call and responded with such acts of selflessness and bravery. Thank you for what you do! God Bless you all!"

On the front of the quilt, that dedication became even more apparent. Thirty fabric hearts had been hand-appliquéd inside pink and blue squares over green school-themed fabric that boasted letters, numbers and tiny drawings. Inside 26 of the hearts were written the names

of each victim, along with a tiny angel button. The other four hearts contained colorful beads that spelled out the school name, the town, the date of the shooting and the phrase "we will never forget."

In addition to receiving "Best in Competition" at the fair, Briggs' quilt was selected to move on to the state competition, which she said is expected to take place sometime in November.

Of her win, Briggs said "I was amazed. I was flabbergasted actually. It was quite an honor."

But when the competition is over, Briggs doesn't plan to keep the quilt, but give it to the first responders in Newtown as a way to honor them.

"I thought they ought to be recognized," she said, "I didn't want them to be forgotten. When all is said and done, when the state competition is over, I'm going to give it to the first responders."

With the two very different but equally special quilts at this year's fair, Lewis expressed her love for the craft, and how it was originally a major focal point of harvest fairs over the years.

"It's fun to see the old quilts and the new, and it's considered a way for people to express themselves," she said. "It's just one more aspect of what used to be found at all the fairs. The Hebron Harvest Fair is not known for that because it's got a million other things going on, but it's near and dear to my heart."

And with quilts such as the two mentioned above, it's an aspect that certainly deserves a few minutes of a fairgoer's time.

Hebron Parks and Rec. Director to Receive Award

by Geeta Schrayter

Hebron Parks and Recreation Director Rich Calarco, who has been with the town for nearly 10 years, will be given the "Outstanding Professional" award at the Connecticut Recreation and Parks Association's (CRPA) 53rd annual Awards and Scholarship Conference Nov. 26.

Calarco, a Brooklyn resident, was nominated by Town Manager Andrew Tierney who said this week Calarco was "well-deserving" of the award.

"Rich has been very active in [the parks and recreation] field, other than just here in Hebron," Tierney said. "He has been respected in his occupation around the state for a long time."

In the nomination packet sent to CRPA by Tierney, many of Calarco's affiliations, leadership roles and achievements were listed.

Calarco is in his second year as president of the Connecticut Park Association and is currently vice president of the New England Sports Turf Managers Association. He is also affiliated with the National Parks and Recreation Association and has been a member of CRPA for over 30 years.

In addition, Calarco has worked in collabo-

ration with the University of Connecticut and the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) to run a workshop at Gilead Hill School on weed control, and taught a program about park maintenance at the 2012 CRPA conference. He has also worked with DEEP regarding state pesticide laws and helps the schools with pest management without the use of pesticides since none are allowed on the grounds of schools that serve students in kindergarten through grade eight.

Tierney went on to say many of the people who knew Calarco referred to him as "Dr. Dirt," because of his grounds keeping expertise.

"He knows so much about growing grass, making grass look good, healing sick grass – he's pretty experienced," Tierney said. "He really knows his stuff, and our fields look really good because of it."

Calarco was also involved with the development of Burnt Hill Park, which, after two years of construction opened in 2009. The park contains 171 acres, as well as the Parks and Recreation building. Tierney said the project was "pretty much his whole undertaking."

Earlier this week, Calarco said he had dedicated his whole life to community service through parks and recreation departments, and called working in Hebron "very rewarding."

"Hebron is a community that clearly gets involved," he said, mentioning the different volunteers who step forward to help the sports leagues or special programming.

"The community comes out and is very supportive," he stated.

As a department, Calarco said Hebron Parks and Recreation is constantly "evolving and changing," and he's working on numerous improvements, including increased access to some of the paths in town that "let people enjoy some of the natural area."

Calarco said he was hoping to develop more trails – possibly connecting from Burnt Hill Park down to the Air Line Trail. And in general, he wants to continue improving the landscape downtown and at the schools to "keep the fields at the highest level for athletes that we can."

Programming was another area Calarco said he was looking to work on: he wants to pro-

vide more family events and hopes to eventually bring back the summer concert series.

Between his involvements, workload and the things he's planning for the future, it's no surprise Tierney called Calarco's work ethic "above and beyond."

"Whether on the grounds with his guys or during budget season, he is a take charge, hands on guy," Tierney wrote in his nomination letter. "He does his homework and never leaves a stone unturned."

Although Calarco said his nomination had been a surprise, he was honored to receive it.

"I didn't know I was nominated," he said. "It's an honor to be recognized by your peers for the work you've done in your career."

"It's great news because [Calarco] is a great guy and well-deserving of it," Tierney said, adding he couldn't see himself working without Calarco as the Parks and Recreation director. "He is truly an asset to the town and specifically our parks and recreations facilities."

Calarco will receive the award at CRPA's Nov. 26 conference at Mohegan Sun Casino in Uncasville.



Local cover band KICK supplied the tunes for the thousands of 57 Fest attendees who flocked to the Colchester Recreation Complex last Saturday, Sept. 28. The band rocked out for two hours and ended by 8 p.m., just before the fireworks show began.



Four attendees of the 57 Fest left in disguise. From left to right are Kayley Moran, 8, of Salem, Ryan Snow, 8, and Jillian Snow, 5, both of Colchester, and Leo Moran, 5, of Salem. The four said the highlight of the fest were the many bounce houses on site.

Colchester 57 Fest Draws Thousands

by Melissa Roberto

Activity at the Colchester Recreation Complex is a familiar sight but last Saturday, Sept. 28, activity was turned up a notch for the ninth annual 57 Fest, where thousands of people of all ages took part in activities that started in the afternoon and carried into the night.

The annual fest celebrates the town's 2005 recognition by *CNN/Money Magazine* as the 57th best place to live in the country. Part of that honor was due to the town's many offerings of health and wellness opportunities, Parks and Recreation Supervisor Anita Pizzutiello said Tuesday, and in accordance, "that's what the event is based on."

One sweeping view of the complex last Saturday proved that the event was well attended. Families were scattered in front of booths, a bit further south people could be seen surrounding the stage, and of course, lines formed in front of the popular food vendors. According to Pizzutiello, nearly 4,500 people were in attendance, at least a few hundred more than last year's fest.

"The turnout was phenomenal this year," Pizzutiello said.

The supervisor added the attendance was

partially due to the weather. Blue skies and 70-degree temperatures proved summer was still lingering, which was highlighted by the band KICK's lead singer, who challenged the crowd with the question "Could we have asked for better weather?"

KICK's performance started at 6 p.m. and provided the crowd with cover songs of popular tunes. The energy surrounding the stage was consistent, as Bacon Academy's dance and cheerleading teams, Alyson's School of Dance, Doreen's Dance Center and the Colchester Continental Fife and Drum all performed for the crowd.

Additionally, games and activities extended much beyond the stage. Inflatable obstacle courses, slides and bounce houses kept the little ones entertained, while laser tag and organized sports were also enjoyed.

Though the festival's theme kept with tradition, Pizzutiello said one thing she noticed this year was that more groups had reached out to Parks and Recreation to participate in the event, instead of the department often initiating those conversations.

"Now we're finding that a lot of groups are coming to us wanting to do an activity to be

involved," she said. "This year we had so much support from school organizations."

Those organizations included the Bacon Academy sports teams, robotics teams and the William J. Johnston Middle School Lego club.

On the health front, a tent was set up dedicated to community and wellness. It featured booths and activities like Children's Dental, Family Physical Therapy, Colchester Dog Park, and the Chatham Health District administered free flu shots.

Though the health and wellness aspect of the fair is its focus, it wouldn't have been complete without some treats, which were the only offerings attendees had to pay for. The food varied from hot dogs and Italian sausages, on-site handmade Subway sandwiches, to lobster rolls and chowder, barbecue, even Indian cuisine, cannolis and fried dough.

Richard Snyder, who attended the event with his wife Loraine, said the lobster roll he consumed was one of his highlights of the night, in addition to watching all of the spontaneity around him. The elderly couple has lived in Colchester for 50 years.

"It's nice just to see the activity," he said. "There's a lot of youth in town."

Snyder added this year was the second year he and his wife has attended the festival, and this year had "more people and more activity."

Colchester resident Barbara Snow seemed to also notice an increase in offerings. She brought her two children, Ryan, 8, and Jillian, 5, as well as Kayley Moran, 8 and her brother, Leo, 5, of Salem. Snow said the kids were quite excited for the fireworks at 8 p.m., and while it was still light outside, the kids were "circulating around all of the inflatables."

"They just love to do all the activities," Snow furthered. "There's a lot here this year."

It seemed there was something for everyone, and like last year, the 57 Fest ended with a bang.

"The fireworks were so great," Pizzutiello said. "I know we say that every year but they were so creative."

With another 57 Fest complete, Pizzutiello said it's already time to hit the drawing board for ideas for next year's fest, which could feature something entirely new.

"Of course next year is going to be our 10th year," she said, "and I'm sure there will be something new and we're already working on that now."

Marlborough School Board Reviews CMT Results

by Melissa Roberto

Marlborough Elementary School Interim Principal Kathy Veronesi took the floor at last Thursday's Board of Education meeting to share with the board the scores of last year's Connecticut Mastery Tests.

And while the new principal kept a positive tone throughout her presentation, the results she shared were decidedly mixed.

The administrative newcomer told the board the presentation was a "broad-level overview" of the results. The CMT is a standardized assessment administered to students in grades three through eight. Of course, at Marlborough Elementary School, third- through sixth-graders took the test, which assessed students in the three content areas of math, reading and writing.

CMT scores are ranked in five categories: below basic, basic, proficient, goal and advanced. On Thursday, Veronesi shared the high and low percentages of grade levels that met or were above goal and compared those scores to other Connecticut towns in its district reference group (DRG), which is comprised of a total of 32 towns with similar socioeconomic statuses.

Of the 32 towns, the principal shared MES' third-graders ranked second within the DRG in mathematics, with a percentage of 92.1 students at or above goal. This was compared to 77.3 percent in Andover and 78.5 percent in Hebron – towns Veronesi said the district likes to look at because they make up the other two

thirds of the tri-town RHAM district.

However, test scores in the fourth and fifth grades tend to dip in each content area, Veronesi informed the board, and then pick back up in grade six. For example, the principal pointed out the significantly low percentage of fourth-grade students that met or were above goal in mathematics at 69.7, compared to Andover fourth-graders at 81.4 percent and Hebron at 83 percent.

"I know that you can see that our score in fourth-grade [math] is something that jumps out at us in terms of its relative low score compared to other scores in Marlborough and the DRG," Veronesi said.

But Veronesi positively announced third graders in Marlborough "significantly outperformed" neighboring towns in writing. She also relayed the school's fourth-graders performed "low" in writing, fifth-graders were "on par" and sixth-graders were also "in the ballpark" compared to other towns.

Overall, Veronesi coined third grade performance "very impressive" in Marlborough and added the dips in fourth grade will be looked at further. The principal was also pleased with the sixth-grade performance.

"Our grade six performance which is very, very impressive is truly the result of how our kids come to school and the work of our kindergarten through sixth-grade teachers and stu-

dents working together," the principal said.

She left the board with a positive note about her perspective of student engagement in classrooms – an aspect of education Veronesi said she felt is necessary when reviewing student performance.

"I have to say as someone who I feel has had quite a bit of experience in terms of observing instruction and talking about instruction that I am tremendously impressed with what happens in this school and what I'm seeing is a solid curriculum," Veronesi expressed. "Additionally I think we have children here who are tremendously interesting and interested."

Citizens in the crowd weren't as pleased, however. Resident Wes Skorski – who is running for the Board of Education – handed out documents to school board and audience members showing the district's CMT results from 2006-13 as well as its per pupil expenditure (PPE) ranking, which shows the amount each school district in the state spends per student. Skorski said his handout shows student performance on the CMTs has dropped over the years.

"The trend is not very good," he said. "The trend is declining."

Additionally, Skorski informed members Marlborough is ranked 168 out of 169 on a 2011-12 graph showing the PPE of every district in Connecticut.

"We're second from last so it's not just a lin-

ear relationship," he said. "There's a big cliff there. We're in that cliff. I think these cuts in the budget – they're going to have a long-term effect. We're at the bottom."

Though Ken Hjulstrom seated in the crowd questioned whether Skorski was comparing "apples to apples." Hjulstrom said the number of schools and costs vary depending on the district. Superintendent of Schools David Sklarz added the PPE is a "confusing number." He noted school districts around the state are unique but admitted "nobody wants to be 168."

Also at the meeting, the board briefly reviewed its guiding principals and assumptions for the upcoming 2014-15 fiscal year budget provided by Sklarz. A timeline of the budget process was attached, showing the board's initial overview of the budget is tentatively scheduled for Dec. 19, and the budget line item analysis is tentatively scheduled for Jan. 23.

Lastly, MES administrative assistant Shirley Chapman was honored for the 30 and a half years she's dedicated to working at the school. Chapman was planning to retire today, but earlier this week said she'd be sticking around until her position is filled.

The next Board of Education meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 24, at 7 p.m., in the MES library/media center.

‘Hey, We’ve Got to Recycle More’ in Marlborough

by Melissa Roberto

Marlborough Elementary School student Jenna Cieslowski is on a mission; a mission that started two years ago. She’s made some headway but realizes she cannot accomplish it alone – which is why the 10-year-old sat down with Principal Kathy Veronesi this week in hopes her mission can soon be executed.

Jenna’s mission? To make Marlborough Elementary School a greener place, by strengthening the recycling program at the school. Her agenda consists of eliminating the current daily routine of students and staff disposing the school’s Styrofoam lunch trays in garbage bins.

According to her mom Shannon, Jenna is a nature-loving young girl who enjoys fishing, walking outdoors, and who believes taking care of the planet is just as important as taking care of oneself.

“She’s just been very aware,” said Shannon. “Anytime she’s walking by the park or lake or beach she’s always picking up garbage and recycling it at home.”

In 2011, when Jenna was in third grade the school’s former plastic lunch trays were replaced with Styrofoam trays. Jenna, a curious third-grader at the time, spoke with a former cafeteria chef at the school about the change, and she learned the plastic trays would return after a brief hiatus. However, that has not turned out to be the case. Two years later, the trays are still being used.

In order to still eat lunch without contributing to what Jenna says are large masses of garbage that form in the lunchroom daily, Jenna began bringing her own plastic tray to and from school that her mom would wash each night. However, one day the chef told Jenna she was no longer allowed to bring her own tray, Shannon said.

Shannon and her husband Rick hadn’t realized how persistent their third-grader was about recycling until they discovered a letter in Jenna’s backpack from then-MES Principal Scott Nierendorf that year. The Cieslowskis learned Jenna would soon start meeting with Nierendorf during lunch to discuss recycling opportunities at MES.

“She took it upon herself to write to the principal,” Shannon explained.

The conversations with Nierendorf continued to fourth grade. Jenna also joined student council and even collected signatures from her classmates to form a petition that highlighted the benefits of establishing a recycling program

at MES. Last April, Jenna submitted a poem to the *Rivereast* about recycling in time for Earth Day. In the letter, she stated she wishes MES wouldn’t use foam lunch trays.

“It is bad for the earth and the environment,” the letter stated. “They sit in landfills and never break down. It also costs my school money because they do not reuse, reduce or recycle them.”

Fast-forward to the present day, and the fifth-grader says she’s still seeking a change though her efforts have been noticed by some.

“Her teachers called and she got a ton of support,” Shannon said of the past. “Nierendorf shook her hand and he approached me. Everyone keeps saying it’s a great idea but it doesn’t seem like anybody wants to do anything about it.”

This week Jenna spoke about her concerns at MES. She said she’s still determined to make a change – for the benefit of MES and the earth in general.

“I like going outside and smelling the good, clean, fresh air,” Jenna said. “Say everyone in the school buys lunch, that’s like 630 students. There are four trash cans in the cafeteria for each lunch wave. If everyone throws away their tray instead of recycling it, that’s a lot of garbage that doesn’t decompose.”

The fifth-grader added she has a difficult time watching hundreds of trays land in the garbage each day.

“I can’t stand it,” she said.

Jenna’s concern is mainly that those who participate in throwing away garbage aren’t aware of the consequences.

“Recycling is very important to me because once we lose our Earth we can’t get it back,” she explained. “No one knows what is going to happen next – that it will be horrible. Someday we’re all going to be buried under 20 feet of garbage if nobody wakes up and says, ‘Hey, we’ve got to recycle more.’”

The fifth-grader said she’d like to see MES either recycle the Styrofoam trays or to invest in biodegradable trays. Asked if she’d be happy if the school went back to its former method of using plastic trays, Jenna admitted washing them daily is “a lot of water wasted.”

Jenna admitted the school does recycle paper, water bottles and milk cartons “a little bit,” but she notices some still end up in the garbage.

Upon hearing about Jenna’s efforts, Veronesi met with her on Wednesday. According to



Jenna Cieslowski, 10, has spent the last two years trying to strengthen the recycling program at Marlborough Elementary School. This year, with the help of new interim principal Kathy Veronesi, she hopes to make a breakthrough in the program.

Veronesi, the two discussed ways of strengthening the recycling program at MES. Veronesi vowed to continue to meet with Jenna and include her in the decision-making process.

Veronesi, too, said she feels strongly about making recycling at the school “more purposeful.” She said during her first week at the school she began asking the school’s head of maintenance, Ken Aveline, for more information about recycling opportunities. She’s explored getting students involved in creating a “green team” and recruited a third grade teacher to help with the process.

Veronesi said she feels Jenna’s determination is “absolutely wonderful.”

“Every child has a voice,” the principal said, “and Jenna knows how to use hers and feel passionately about something, and it is not to be dismissed. It’s not a childish whim. She has a voice and we need to pay attention to it.”

Veronesi admitted she was impressed by Jenna’s knowledge of recycling.

“I’m happy to have somebody at this school who feels as passionately about it as I do,” she said. “In fact, she is probably more knowledgeable.”

The principal added the end goal is to recycle more effectively at the school. She’s already been in talks with cafeteria staff to determine cost alternatives of biodegradable trays, which were found to be more expensive than foam trays. Though, Veronesi said, it seems the foam trays can be recycled.

One thing is still for sure: Jenna isn’t going to give up. Veronesi highlighted one statement Jenna made to her on Wednesday. “She said, ‘There’s more to recycling than throwing things in a bin.’”

Though it seems Jenna’s longtime efforts are starting to come to fruition, the fifth-grader stated her efforts will also continue outside of the school’s hallways.

“I want to encourage recycling everywhere,” she said.

Multiple Black Bear Sightings Reported in Marlborough

by Melissa Roberto

A black bear was spotted in four different areas on Sept. 20 in Marlborough, employees of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection’s (DEEP) Wildlife Division confirmed this week.

According to wildlife biologist Paul Rego, four separate reports had been made Friday morning from residents who spotted a black bear on their streets. Spanning from 7:40 a.m. to 8:50 a.m., Rego said the four sightings occurred on Apache Lane, Denler Drive, Chapman Road and Edstrom Road.

Rego said he wasn’t sure if the four roads were in close proximity, but assumed that if they were, it was most likely one bear making his way around town.

“One bear can move around quite a bit and create a group of sightings,” the biologist said. “If the roads are close together, chances are it’s one bear that was moving around, which isn’t that unusual.”

The four roads are relatively close to each other, with Denler being the furthest away from the pack, but all seem to be within a mile.

But the residents who were either standing outside or peering outside of their houses the morning of Sept. 20 said seeing a black bear in Marlborough was definitely an unusual sight.

Jane Santangelo of 26 Chapman Rd. said she had been opening her front door at about 7:30 a.m. with her dog by her side when she spotted a black bear a mere two steps away pulling at her iron steel bird feeders.

“He looked at me like he couldn’t care less,” said Santangelo.

Santangelo described the bear, standing up on its hind legs, to be between five to six feet tall. Upon her recognition of the bear,

Santangelo said she quietly shut her front door, put on the house alarm and contacted the police. As a result of the bear’s adventures, one of her bird feeders was bent in half. She added she then watched the bear gallop through her woods heading toward the Sachem Village condominium complex. Thankfully, she said, state trooper Randy Ransom arrived to the scene shortly after.

For Santangelo, the event was startling.

“Thirty years I’ve lived here and I’ve never seen a bear,” she said. “Thank God for 911. Trooper Ransom is my savior.”

Russ Salvador of 37 Edstrom Rd. was another citizen who fixed his eyes on a bear in his front yard. Salvador figured the bear was about 150 pounds. He, too, was perplexed by the bear’s arrival.

“It’s quite a surprise to see a bear on your front yard,” said Salvador.

The homeowner said he and his dog were on the front porch watching the bear, which was 10-15 feet away in the center of his yard. He said the bear also made its way to a large glacial rock on the side of his house before running into the woods minutes later.

Salvador, who’s lived in the town for 10 years, also said he’s never seen a bear in Marlborough. The resident said his family often heads up to Moosehead Lake in Maine every summer and they enjoy looking for moose and bears. He said he also enjoys fishing in Alaska, where he’s also seen bears, but there “the bears are just as happy to avoid you as they are to confront you.”

Spotting the bear on his residential property, though, was a bit more concerning, Salvador said.

“Normally you don’t see them in the day-



Jane Santangelo of 26 Chapman Rd. spotted a bear in her front yard Friday, Sept. 20. The picture was taken from her living room, where she watched the bear tear down her bird feeder before galloping across her yard and into the woods.

light,” he said. “I’m more concerned now when I take my dog out at night. I don’t want her to get in a fight with a bear.”

Salvador also was concerned a bear would get into his garbage cans and make a mess but said he has not spotted one since. Nonetheless, Salvador said the return of one still is worrisome.

“With kids and dogs outside it’s a little con-

cerning to have bears in the area.”

Individuals looking to find more information on what to do and what not to do when coming in contact with a black bear can log on to ct.gov/deep and click ‘wildlife’ under the ‘natural resources’ tab on the home page. A ‘Be Bear Aware’ link is listed halfway down on the wildlife page with more information.

Portland School Board Looks into Recess

by Elizabeth Bowling

Superintendent of Schools Sally Doyen informed the Board of Education Tuesday about a new state law that went into effect Oct. 1 and, she said, “puts some parameters around using recess and student activity in different ways.”

The new law requires students to have recess, or some type of similar physical activity, every day. Doyen explained that Portland schools will have a policy in place by November, which the board would need to approve before then.

“It’s one of those things that was done, I know, with very good intentions,” Doyen said, praising the new law’s emphasis on physical activity.

But on the other hand, she said, “It also restricts teachers and the principals in some other ways.”

She gave the example of a student who had been absent from school for a substantial period of time and would need to make up homework or meet with a teacher but couldn’t be kept from recess or the activity period and would thus fall behind academically.

Another problem, she noted, is that the elementary school students do not have physical education every day “so we’re trying to figure

out how to balance an additional activity or exercise period.”

But Doyen said that biggest issue is that sixth-graders don’t get recess “so there’s very little scheduling leeway for the sixth-graders.”

“We are working on it,” she affirmed.

* * *

Also at Tuesday’s meeting, Doyen shared her excitement regarding Portland High School’s impressive SAT scores from last year.

“We were so thrilled,” she said, “with our SAT results.”

According to PHS Principal Andrea Lavery, the school was ranked No. 1 in its District Reference Group, or DRG, for its SAT Reasoning Test scores. The DRG is a group of towns with similar socioeconomic statuses.

Lavery added that out of all 204 high schools in the state, including magnet and charter schools, PHS ranked in the top 13 percent in reading; the top 11 percent in math; and top 18 percent in writing.

Specifically, she furthered, PHS scored averages of 537 for reading, 558 for math and 537 for writing; while the state averages were 508 for reading, 512 for math and 512 for writing.

Doyen said, “Portland High School did re-

ally, really well. Everyone at the high school was very pleased and excited, as they should be.”

* * *

The board also discussed state grants at the meeting. The first grant to be discussed was the open-choice grant – a grant that the state terms “the academic and social support grant,” Doyen said.

It’s for all students to provide them with additional academic and after school programming.

Last year Portland received \$60,000 – an amount Doyen called “substantial.” This year, it is getting \$91,000.

“It’s great news because we’ll be able to do some additional programming and buy some additions materials,” she said. “It was a very pleasant surprise.”

Doyen said the principals and teachers are putting together a plan for how to use this money. One major interest is to bring in tutors during the day to work with students in small groups, she said.

Portland will also receive a state reimbursement grant for school safety security measures that the Board of Education “really has invested

in,” Doyen said. The board hasn’t received the money yet, but will soon, Doyen said.

The board will receive \$24,374 from the state to reimburse it for locks, security cameras and an updated buzzer system at the various Portland schools last year.

The board will further discuss the reimbursement at its next meeting.

Tuesday also marked the start of the breakfast program at Gildersleeve Elementary School.

“Day one was very successful,” Doyen said, noting that 25 children participated in the first day of the pilot program.

“The kids were very excited that they were getting to eat breakfast at school,” she said.

Students enjoyed a simple breakfast of cereal, milk and juice, Doyen said, and they finished eating before school started, which was the goal.

“It didn’t interfere with school time,” she said.

* * *

The next regularly-scheduled Board of Education meeting will be held Tuesday, Oct. 15, at 7 p.m., in the Portland High School media center.

Portland Selectmen Updated on Town Improvements

by Elizabeth Bowling

Board of Selectmen members were presented with a slew of town updates at Wednesday’s meeting.

First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield showed her fellow selectmen a slide show on the progress the town has made over recent years, as well as what still needs to be accomplished.

Regarding progress made to Riverfront Park, Bransfield noted that work on the pavilion started about two years ago. Since then, electricity had been added and now it is used for concerts and other activities.

She also informed selectmen that there is going to be a “scary walk” at Riverfront Park at the end of October in the spirit of Halloween.

She added that the town had made improvements to parking, for example on Brownstone Avenue – Brownstone Avenue also received some fresh paving last month, she said.

Some upcoming additions include signage and a place for some peace and quiet.

Coming soon in the parking lot at the end of Middlesex Avenue will be an “interpretive sign,” Bransfield said, or a directory, similar to that seen in a shopping mall, pointing out where exactly a person is in Portland in relation to various town attractions.

The peace and quiet will come elsewhere, though. The town plans to work collaboratively with Brownstone Quorum to create a labyrinth.

Bransfield called the upcoming labyrinth “an area where you can go and either contemplate or just have some very easy exercise in a peace-

ful area down in our Riverfront Park.”

Bransfield also discussed moving forward with ideas that were pitched to the board by Howard Rosenbaum, a Brownstone Quorum representative who addressed the board at its Aug. 21 meeting, that he thought would “bring the park up to its full potential.”

According to Bransfield, those plans include improved walkways on Brownstone Avenue, bringing water and sewer in the park and the pavilion so there can be functioning bathrooms in the park, upgrades to the stage, outdoor barbeque pits and more tables.

Selectman Mark Finkelstein said, “I like the idea.”

In order to fund those improvements, the board is looking into re-applying for a small town economic assistance program grant for 2014.

Attendance at the Brownstone Exploration and Discovery Park has increased each year since 2007. According to Bransfield, approximately 8,000 went to the park in 2007 and in 2012 that number multiplied and reached approximately 77,000.

“These numbers don’t include the numbers of people that maybe just go to observe or the people that go to the Riverfront Park but its substantially increased every year,” she said.

Statistics are not yet available for 2013, Bransfield said.

Portland receives about 14 percent of the revenue from the park, Bransfield said. And since the town’s contract with the park went into ef-

fect in 2007, Portland received about \$987,000.

“It’s a very successful business,” Bransfield said, “and I think it’s a very successful economic initiative that our town has.”

Also in terms of economic development, Bransfield noted a few local businesses that are in the works or getting a facelift. For example, Chris Cody’s Golf Shop is relocating to 750 Portland/Cobalt Rd. The relocation will allow the golf shop to expand, Bransfield said.

F4 Motorsports will also be expanding on Portland/Cobalt Road, she told the selectmen. Store-U-Self will also be adding buildings, she said. And a gas station will be joining the list of new businesses to town. Other improvements will be made to Cumberland Farms and Arrigoni Winery.

Additionally, “There is a new medical office building that is breaking ground as we speak,” she said about what will become Middlesex Hospital behind Anderson Farm Supplies.

Regarding Parks and Recreation, Bransfield updated the board about the improvements to the Brownstone Intermediate School parking lot.

“We will be putting in planters and benches and a community message board,” she said. “That is an incomplete project at this point, but all the paving has been done, all of the line painting has been done.”

Resurfacing projects were also completed at the library and senior center, she said.

General and ongoing projects include the fiber-optic interconnections installation at Town Hall, Valley View School and Portland High

School and Middle School, “which will allow [for] very fast Internet connection,” Bransfield said of the in-house project.

She also mentioned natural gas furnaces are currently going in to the library and senior center, and have already gone in at Gildersleeve School.

“We expect to save substantially on the cost of heating and cooling,” she said.

She also said that the town is looking to acquire more property – although Bransfield was light on the details.

“We’re looking at the possibility of acquiring riverfront land,” she said. “At this point I can’t say too much more, other than exploration is occurring and once we get more information we’ll share it.”

* * *

Also at Wednesday’s meeting, the Board of Selectmen tree subcommittee updated the board.

Selectman Ryan Curley said the subcommittee looked into renting a stump grinder to remove stumps, as well as planting new trees for about \$250 per tree.

Board member Frederick Knous called the tree stumps a “blight” for the town.

“I think stump removal is critical,” he said. “Having a pleasant landscape is part of economic development.”

* * *

The next regularly-scheduled Board of Selectmen meeting will be held Wednesday, Oct. 16, at 7:30 p.m., at Portland Public Library.

East Hampton's Chatham Party Waiting for Court Decision

by Elizabeth Bowling

After filing a civil complaint against the East Hampton Town Clerk last Monday, Sept. 23, Chatham Party candidates are waiting on a decision from Middlesex Superior Court regarding whether their names will appear on the Nov. 5 municipal election ballots.

That complaint is expected to head to the court next Monday, Oct. 7.

The Chatham Party is East Hampton's minor party and the controlling party of the Town Council. Its candidates mistakenly failed to sign their certificate of endorsement, which was filed to the Town Clerk before its due date of Sept. 4.

Secretary of State Denise Merrill said, "The legal requirement for a candidate to sign the endorsement paperwork for a minor party is not a trivial or technical matter. This law exists so that a candidate for office cannot be nominated by a political party without their knowledge or consent."

But Chatham Party Chairman Kyle Dostaler calls the requirement "discriminatory" because Democratic and Republican party candidates are not required to do the same.

Minor parties have been required to sign their certificates of endorsement since July 2011, according to Av Harris, the director of communication for the secretary of state's office.

The change in question is in regards to state statute 9-452, which states, "A list of nominees in printed or typewritten form that includes each candidate's name as authorized by each candidate to appear on the ballot, the signature of each candidate, the full street address of each

candidate and the title and district of the office for which each candidate is nominated shall be certified by the presiding officer of the committee."

Harris said the secretary of state's office sent a lengthy memo to all the town clerks in Connecticut to notify them of the change when it first happened in July 2011.

However, East Hampton Town Clerk Sandra Wieleba said she did not recall receiving the memo, and neither did a handful of other town clerks in the state.

Regardless, when a Republican from Bethel brought to light last month that several minor parties in Connecticut had not properly filled out the paperwork, individual town clerks decided to not permit those parties' candidates to run for office.

"There is no legal authority for a town clerk to ignore the law and permit a candidate onto the ballot if they or their party have not done what was legally required of them," Merrill said.

Wieleba was no exception. She said last week that "the law is the law" and that the Chatham Party candidates would not appear on the ballot.

But the Chatham Party filed a complaint last Monday, Sept. 23, at Middletown Superior Court, against Wieleba requesting that their names appear on the Nov. 5 ballot.

Each of the 16 Chatham Party candidates that are seeking to run for election is listed as a plaintiff, with Wieleba listed as the only defendant.

The complaint states Wieleba's "decision to

reject the certification was based solely on the technical language of [state statute] 9-452 requiring candidate signatures to be on the certified list, and not on any confusion as to the identity of the candidates or their willingness to accept the nomination."

According to the complaint, "Nothing in the plain language of [state statute] 9-454 prevents correction of technical defects following a timely filing."

It furthered that Wieleba should be prevented from "rejecting the certification because she previously accepted the certification, and the plaintiffs reasonably relied upon that acceptance. The town clerk may reject a technically invalid certification upon its attempted filing, but may not accept that petition, wait until after the filing deadline, and then reverse her ruling to the detriment of the party, its candidates, and the voting public."

All that being stated, the Chatham Party is seeking a temporary order of mandamus that either directs Wieleba "to permit the plaintiffs to sign the certified list and thereby correct the technical defect in the filing" or directs her "to place the plaintiffs' names on the ballot for the November election."

The law firm Livingston, Adler, Pulda, Meiklejohn & Kelly PC, out of Hartford, is representing the Chatham Party in the civil suit.

According to a press release from the secretary of state's office Monday, a minor party in Westport made the same clerical mistake as the Chatham Party. Several candidates from the

minor party, called "Save Westport Now," failed to properly sign their endorsement paperwork.

Like the Chatham Party candidates, the Save Westport Now candidates were initially "not permitted ballot access" for the upcoming municipal election, the press release stated.

However, by order of the Stamford Superior Court, the Westport town clerk placed the candidates on the ballot for the town's Planning and Zoning board commission "despite their failure to comply with the law," according to the press release.

Dostaler expressed relief and optimism regarding the judge's decision for the Westport minor party case.

"I think the court made the right decision and the precedent has now been set," he said. "That's great news."

Merrill said, "It was never the intention of my office or any town clerk to keep candidates from the minor party or others off the ballot this November."

The secretary of state added that her office has no legal authority to "intervene and change the outcome for a minor party or overrule the decision of a town clerk" in a municipal election. Rather, she said, "Courts are the appropriate venue to resolve such cases."

As of press time, the Chatham Party's case is pending and will go to court Monday, Oct. 7.

But the Chatham Party plans to have a "Meet the Candidates" event before its case even goes to court. An optimistic Dostaler said East Hampton residents can meet the candidates Saturday, Oct. 5, at Sears Park from 1 to 4 p.m.

East Hampton Restaurant Reopens After Labor Dept. Debacle

by Elizabeth Bowling

An East Hampton restaurant was closed down by the state labor department for allegedly employing minors illegally.

According to a press release from the Connecticut Department of Labor, Hung Won Restaurant, located at 11 East High St., was closed down Sept. 25 and issued a Stop Work order. But owner Jimmy Chan attempted to re-open the following day.

Investigators shut the restaurant down again, and only allowed it to re-open once Chan was able to show proof of properly placing the employees on the payroll and having obtained worker's compensation.

Hung Won Restaurant was shut down by the Connecticut Department of Labor's Division of Wage and Workplace Standards due to "a number of workplace violations

at the establishment," the release stated.

Wage and Workplace personnel investigated the restaurant. It was determined that Chan had been "illegally hiring minors without the necessary working papers, did not have them on the payroll, had not paid taxes, and had not obtained the required worker's compensation insurance," the press release stated.

State Labor Commissioner Sharon M. Palmer said Chan took "unfair advantage of his employees."

Investigators determined that there were actually five employees involved, the press release said.

Palmer added, "He was also cheating the state by not paying proper taxes or providing the required worker protections."

Missing East Hampton Youth Reported Found

by Elizabeth Bowling

A 12-year-old who was the subject of a Silver Alert earlier this week has reportedly been found.

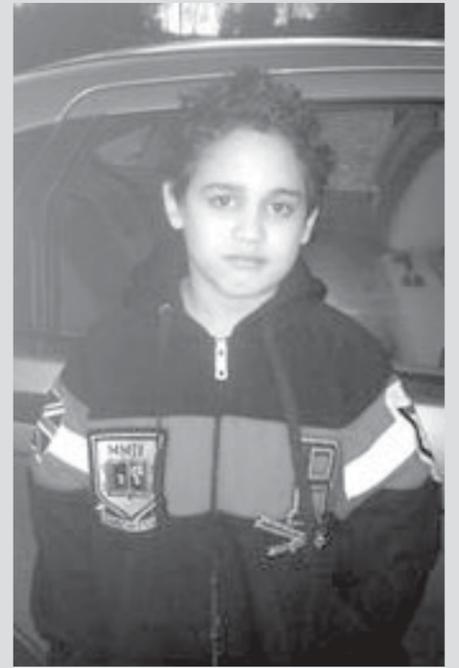
Police had issued a Silver Alert for William Rodriguez, 12, who went missing at around 4:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 30. Rodriguez was seen traveling westbound on Route 66 in Portland, police said in a press release.

The Silver Alert described Rodriguez as approximately 4'10" and 100 pounds. He has brown eyes and brown hair that is styled into a mohawk with a bleach-blond tail.

At the time he was lost, he was last seen wearing a dark-colored hooded sweatshirt, red T-shirt and black shorts, police said.

Rodriguez requires medication, which he was not taking during the time he was missing. Police said they believed the boy left East Hampton on a silver spray painted mountain bike carrying a black and teal backpack, the press release said.

East Hampton Police reported late Wednesday night that Rodriguez was found in Meriden, according to published reports. However, police did not return calls from the *Rivereast* seeking additional details.



William Rodriguez

Silver Alert Issued for Andover Teen

by Geeta Schrayter

A Silver Alert has been issued for an Andover teen after he failed to return home Sunday, state police said.

Jordan Oneill, 16, was reported missing by his mother Monday after he didn't come home when he was supposed to on Sunday, Sept. 29.

Oneill is described as 6 feet tall, weighing 170 pounds with a "short brown shaved head" and blue eyes. He was last seen wearing black skinny jeans, a blue New York Yankees hat, baby blue Jordan sneakers and is possibly carrying a grey and red backpack, police said.

Police stated Oneill has been in contact with his mother since he left, but has yet to return home. Police said his possible destination is somewhere in Manchester.

Anyone with information on Oneill's whereabouts should call Connecticut State Police Troop K at 860-537-7500.

Andover Resident Co-Authors Business Book

by Geeta Schrayter

Seven years ago, Margaret Greenberg and Senia Maymin stood in Greenberg's Andover kitchen baking a blueberry pie. In the midst of mixing ingredients the two, who had graduated the year before with a masters in applied Positive Psychology from the University of Pennsylvania, began discussing all they'd learned.

That conversation led to the question "What if we wrote a book about applying Positive Psychology to businesses?" Greenberg said this week. And after six years of research, writing, editing and working with their publisher McGraw-Hill, the two women who collaborated from opposite coasts have done just that.

Their book *Profit from the Positive: Proven Leadership Strategies to Boost Productivity and Transform Your Business* released in August, and Greenberg, who has lived in Andover since 1985 and runs a consulting firm out of the home her husband built, said she hopes it will help business leaders improve their personal productivity as well as their team's.

The book is built around Positive Psychology, a relatively new science that Greenberg said studies "the positive side to life." However, she was adamant in explaining it's not the same as positive thinking.

"It's not positive thinking or turning lemons into lemonade or yellow smiley faces," she said. "Positive Psychology researchers study topics such as motivation, resilience, optimism – which I studied – and what constitutes excellence in an individual, a community and workplaces – which is [Maymin's and my] specialty."

Greenberg went on to say traditional psychology research tends to examine disease and dysfunction, not things that are going right.

While those areas are rightly studied because "we need cures," Greenberg said, she added "we miss out when we don't study what's going right: successful businesses, happy marriages, flourishing teens – we can learn a lot by studying the positive sides of life as well."

Taking that Positive Psychology research, Greenberg and Maymin worked together to compile 31 specific tools businesses can use to become more profitable. Each tool is backed by specific research and case studies from companies such as Aetna, Amazon, and Google, as well as supplemental tools available on the book's website profitfromthepositive.com.

"The neat thing about *Profit from the Positive* is that there are all these tools – and none of them cost a dime to implement," Greenberg said. "These are all tools businesses can implement today without needing any kind of capital."

The book focuses on how to increase productivity, collaboration and profitability and is

broken up into three sections: the leader, the team and "putting it all together." Within each section there are a number of chapters that highlight different tools. These include, for the leader, "set habits, not goals," "finding solutions not faults," and "know your strengths or no one else will." For the team, tools such as "hire for what's not in the resume," "don't make goals easy and vague," and "give FRE: Frequent Recognition and Encouragement" are explained.

Greenberg said the latter tool has been shown to boost productivity by upwards of 40 percent; after studying the technology department in an insurance company, Greenberg found managers who gave frequent recognition to their team members had greater productivity.

"So it's really an overlooked productivity tool that we don't often use," she stated. "We think 'well, what's going to make people more productive? More money,' but that's been found actually to not be true. But giving people frequent recognition and encouragement really does boost productivity."

However, Greenberg added that recognition needs to be sincere and specific.

In addition to the above, Greenberg said what she considers one of the most important tools provided is "know your strengths or no one else will."

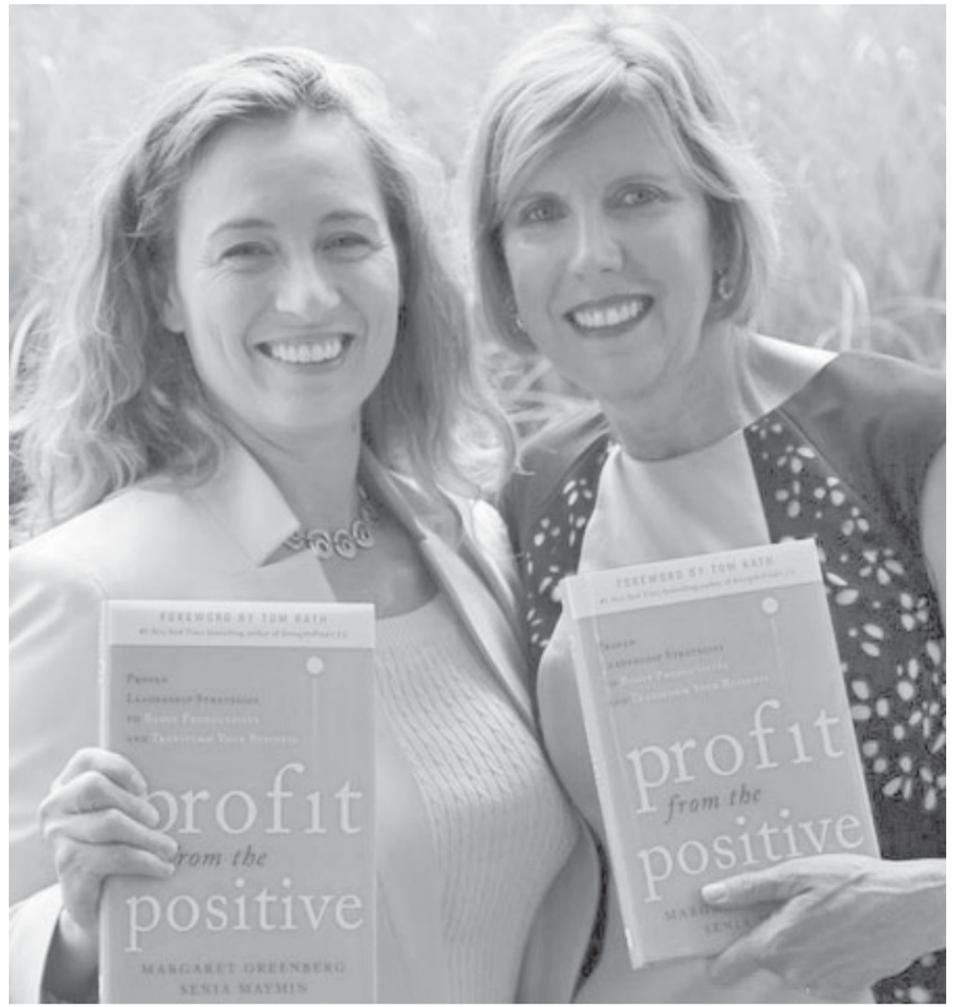
"Employees who have the opportunity to use their strengths every day at work and do what they're really good at are more likely to be engaged," she said, explaining there was a direct correlation between their engagement and productivity.

In addition, when employees are engaged at work they're three times as likely to report a greater sense of wellbeing.

"When you're happy and engaged at work there's a spillover effect to our personal life, and conversely when we're not engaged, there's a negative impact," she stated. "So really knowing and understanding strengths and what employees are really good at and aligning that with the work they do – that's when they're really going to be the happiest" and there will be an increase in productivity.

Greenberg said the tools in *Profit from the Positive* can benefit the leaders of businesses of all sizes. Through her company, The Greenberg Group, Greenberg said she primarily works with Fortune 500 companies, while out in California Maymin works with a lot of entrepreneurs.

"So we have practice implementing these tools both in small start-ups as well as Fortune 500 companies," Greenberg said. "So we know they work, whether it's three or 3,000 employees."



Andover resident Margaret Greenberg, right, recently co-authored the business management book *Profit from the Positive: Proven Leadership Strategies to Boost Productivity and Transform Your Business* with California resident Senia Maymin.

In addition, Greenberg and Maymin have personal experience utilizing the tools in their own businesses and throughout the book publishing process.

"When we first got the idea [to write the book] we put together a proposal and sent it to an agent who had been recommended to us and got back 'thanks, but no thanks,'" Greenberg explained. "So this has definitely been a journey in rejection. One of the chapters is about resilient leaders and we definitely had to apply the tools to ourselves. There was a lot of rejection in this process."

But that resilience and those tools have paid off for the two women, who now have an agent they love, a publishing house Greenberg said

has been "just wonderful," and a book they're hoping will help others "profit from the positive."

Profit from the Positive: Proven Leadership Strategies to Boost Productivity and Transform Your Business is available through Barnes and Noble – both in-store or online – as well as Amazon.com and local bookstores. Individuals looking to stay up to date with Greenberg and Maymin's happenings can "like" their Facebook page at Facebook.com/ProfitFromThePositive.

In addition, Greenberg will be the feature speaker at the Farmington Valley Arts Center, 25 Arts Center Lane, Avon, this Saturday, Oct. 5, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

H

Police News

9/21: State Police said Austin Marlowe, 20, of 13 Spring St., Portland, was charged with possession of alcohol, possession of a narcotic, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession with the intent to sell, possession of fireworks, possession of less than four ounces of marijuana and speeding.

9/25: State Police said Nicholas S. Clement, 20, of 111 Jerry Daniels Rd., Marlborough, was charged with third-degree larceny, operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license and second-degree failure to appear and four counts

East Hampton Police News

9/16: East Hampton Police said they observed a black SUV traveling southbound on Main Street at a rate of speed "well" in excess of the 35 m.p.h. speed limit, and attempted to initiate a motor vehicle stop. The driver, David D. Winslow, 38, of 19 Sunset Dr., failed to obey the officer's signal, engaging him in pursuit, police said. Winslow was finally forced to stop when he made a turn onto a dead-end road. Winslow was charged with traveling unreasonably fast, engaging police in pursuit, DUI, and operating under suspension, police said.

Marlborough Police News

9/28: State Police said Patrick J. Kelaher, 24, of 28 Basswood Rd., Farmington, was charged with DUI and failure to drive in the proper lane on a multiple lane highway.

9/28: State Police said Juan Cardona, 55, of 16 Gunhill Rd., New Britain, was charged with DUI, speeding and operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license.

of first-degree failure to appear.

9/28: State Police said Daniel J. Walz, 27, of 28 Wood Acres Rd., was charged with disorderly conduct and interfering with an emergency call.

9/30: State Police said Chad L. Nadeau, 23, of 294 Boston Hill Rd., Andover, was charged with use of drug paraphernalia, illegal sale of a controlled substance, possession of a controlled substance and possession of weapons in a motor vehicle.

9/17: Ryan Plourde, 29, of 79 Old Marlborough Rd., was issued a summons for operating an unregistered motor vehicle and failure to maintain insurance, police said.

9/21: Kristen Ann Chapone, 23, of 222 Pearl St., Apt. 1S, Middletown, was charged with violating a protective order and disorderly conduct, police said.

9/25: Sarah J. Stannard, 24, of 27 Mallard Cove, was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct and interfering with an officer, police said.

Portland Police News

9/24: Devon Brackett, 22, of 33 Chatham Ct., was charged with criminal violation of restraining order, Portland Police said.

9/26: Christopher Ahearn, 26, of 11 Michelle Dr., was charged with second-degree failure to appear, police said.

9/26: Larry Floyd, 31, of 54 Marlborough St., was charged with two counts of third-degree assault, police said.

Colchester Police News

9/23: Colchester Police are currently investigating a reported burglary/larceny/criminal mischief that occurred at a construction site on Veccadola Drive sometime between Sept. 21-23. Police said forced entry was made into a locked utility trailer and several items were stolen from within. Anyone with information in regards to this case is asked to contact Officer Shannon Owens at 860-537-7500.

9/25: State Police said James A. Strick, 28, of 33 Lake St., Apt. B, Norwich, was arrested on a PRAWN warrant for two counts of second-degree failure to appear.

9/26: Colchester Police said a two-car crash occurred on Prospect Street at approximately 9:13 a.m. Police said Elizabeth Brown, 55, of 84 James St., was found to be at fault and was issued an infraction for failure to grant right of way at an intersection. The driver of the second vehicle, Lisa Martin, 42, of 27 Meyer Rd., reported possible injury and was transported to Marlborough Clinic by the Colchester Hayward Fire Department.

9/26: Colchester Police said Christopher Flythe, 35, of 64 Park Rd., was charged with interfering with an officer, disorderly conduct, third-degree assault and risk of injury to children.

9/26: Colchester Police responded to Cragin Library on Linwood Avenue for a reported trespassing incident. Police said a 13-year-old was issued a juvenile summons in accordance with

a certified letter sent by the library staff to the juvenile's guardian as a result of recent bad behavior.

9/26: State Police said Patrick Audet, 34, of 20 Balaran Rd., Apt. 615, was arrested on a PRAWN arrest warrant for two counts of second-degree failure to appear.

9/27: State Police said Christian Bosque, 33, of 59 Sherwood Rd., New Britain, was charged with second-degree failure to appear.

9/28: State Police said Cierra Jean Straub, 27, of 172 Crystal Ave., Apt. 3, New London, was charged with second-degree failure to appear.

9/29: State Police said Danielle Muscarella, 26, of 204 Middletown Rd., was charged with DUI and failure to grant right of way.

9/29: Colchester Police said a resident of Boulder Road reported that an acquaintance of his was seen driving his vehicle without his permission. The man also told police he did not give the acquaintance his keys. This case is currently being investigated by the Colchester Police.

9/27: State Police said Christian Bosque, 33, of 59 Sherwood Rd., New Britain, was charged with second-degree failure to appear.

10/1: State Police said Shanail W. Williams, 31, of 506 Stafford Rd., Apt. A, Mansfield, was charged with first-degree larceny and unemployment compensation fraud.

Obituaries

East Hampton

Robert Allen Walton Sr.

Robert Allen Walton Sr., loving husband of Marion (Boy) Walton, passed away Wednesday, Sept. 18, with family by his side, after a short illness.

He was the son of the late Harry D. Walton and Cora (Robinson) Walton, born Dec. 16, 1928 in East Hampton, where he lived his entire life.

Robert enlisted in the United States Marine Corps at the age of 17 and served as a corporal during World War II. After an honorable discharge, he returned to East Hampton. He spent the remainder of his career as an operating engineer.

Besides his wife he is survived by his daughter, Cora E. Clebowicz of East Hampton; his son, Robert A. Walton Jr. of East Hampton; seven grandchildren, Martin W. Clebowicz Jr., Nicole D. Clebowicz, Kariann M. Walton, Robert A. Walton III, Allison T. Iudiciani, Kristopher F. Schonagel, Ashley E. Schonagel; and six great-grandchildren.

Robert is also survived by three sisters, Mary, Hazel and Alberta. He is predeceased by two brothers, Harry and Frederick, and one sister, Esther.

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

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Wounded Warriors Program or the National Rifle Association.

Portland

Ronald E. Bourbeau

Ronald E. "REB" Bourbeau, 75, of Tryon Street, South Glastonbury, beloved husband of Patricia (Galipeau) Bourbeau, died Sunday, Sept. 29, at home. Born May 10, 1938 in Taftville, Connecticut, he had been a lifelong resident of Glastonbury.

He was the son of the late Adelard and Marie Anne (Beaudet) Bourbeau. He was a communicant of St. Paul Church. REB, as he was commonly known, was the embodiment of "The American Dream." Straight out of high school with nothing but ingenuity and fierce determination, he focused on the goal of being self-employed. That goal was achieved as he became the founder of REB Industries and Glastonbury Gage, and a land developer, both residential and industrial.

He served as a director of the Glastonbury Bank & Trust, becoming the chairman of the board. He also served as president of the Glastonbury Chamber of Commerce. Always the captain of his own destiny, he retired from most of these obligations in his early 40s, then put all of his passion into his great love of boats and fishing. He became a part owner of Yankee Boat Yard and Marina, as well as Riverside Marina both in Portland and Scott's Lobster Dock in New London.

He spent many joy-filled days on his beloved Down-easter, the Del Marie with his family, friends, and grandkids. He instilled and passed on wisdom, values and passion and became an unofficial mentor to many young people.

Besides his wife Patricia, he is survived by a son, Dean Bourbeau and his wife Kristin, of South Glastonbury and a daughter, Faith and her husband Claus Platt, of Wilmington, N.C. He leaves six grandchildren, Jeremy and Jesse Bourbeau and Morgan, Andrew, Sunny and Owen Platt. He leaves two brothers, Maurice of Glastonbury and Roger Bourbeau of Avon and many nephews and nieces.

He was predeceased by a son, Richard Del Bourbeau, a brother, Roland Bourbeau, sisters Laurette Lewis, Agnes McCaffrey and Dolores Bullock.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at St. Paul Church, 2577 Main St., Glastonbury, at noon Saturday, Oct. 5, with burial to follow at St. Augustine Cemetery in South Glastonbury. Anyone wishing to participate in a celebration of REB's life, to be held at 2 p.m. at the Glastonbury Riverfront Community Center, 300 Welles St., Glastonbury, is asked to contact the family at 860 982-2294. There will be a time to share your memories.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the R.E. Bourbeau Riverfront Park Memorial Fund, in care of Glastonbury Parks and Recreation, P.O. Box 6523, Glastonbury, CT 06033.

For online condolences, visit mulryanfh.com.

Portland

Pamela S. Cyr

Pamela S. (Bakaj) Cyr, 53, of Middletown, formerly of Portland, passed away Monday, Sept. 30, at Hartford Hospital surrounded by her loving family, from injuries sustained in a car accident.

Pamela was born in New Britain June 20, 1960, and was a daughter of Joyce (Bradley) Bakaj and the late Stanley Bakaj. She grew up in Berlin and lived in Marlborough prior to moving to Middletown. She did a lot of volunteer work for her local Kidney Foundation, she enjoyed reading, going to the beach, cooking and trying new recipes. Her true passion was spending time with her family and friends.

Besides her mother, Pamela is survived by her three daughters, Kayla, Molly and Emily Cyr; a sister and brother-in-law, Maryann and Craig Aitken; a brother-in-law, Charlie Freimuth; and many nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by a sister, Sharen Freimuth.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated Monday, Oct. 7, at 10 a.m., at St. Joseph Church, Bristol. Burial will follow in St. Joseph Cemetery, Bristol. There are no calling hours and the Funk Funeral Home, 35 Bellevue Ave., Bristol, is in care of the arrangements.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to the National Kidney Foundation.

Visit Pamela's memorial website at FunkFuneralHome.com.

Andover

Gladys Pinney Castagna

Gladys Pinney Castagna of Manchester passed away after a long illness Monday, Sept. 30, at the age of 91. She was enjoying Palm Coast, Fla., at the time of her death. Gladys was diagnosed with congestive heart failure at the age of 70.

Gladys was the daughter of the late Arthur and Hazel Pinney and was born and raised in Andover on her family's dairy farm, where she enjoyed her childhood with her three late sisters, Eleanor Maloney, Dorothy Lavallo and Ida Campbell, along with her two brothers, the late Billy Pinney and Arthur Pinney who survives her.

She began working during World War II at Hamilton Standard to help support the war effort and then took a job with Travelers Insurance Co. A short time later she met her future husband, the late William C. Castagna Jr. After settling in Manchester, they went on to have five children.

Once her children were in school, Gladys began a 25 year sales career as the Fuller Brush Lady for Manchester and surrounding towns. She was a member of Center Congregational Church and enjoyed getting together every Sunday with her family having dinner and playing cards. She was also a dedicated bingo player.

She is survived by her son David Castagna and his wife Carol of Zephyrhills Fla., her daughter Lorraine Knowlton and her husband Bob of Palm Coast Fla., her son William Castagna III (Chuck) of Vernon, her son Timothy Castagna and his wife Beth of Lawrenceville, Ga., and Scott Castagna of Vernon. Gladys also has four grandchildren, Robert Lucey, Jennifer Laws, Kellie Delgado and Shelby Castagna, along with nine great grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

She was loved and will be missed dearly by her family and friends.

A memorial service will be planned for some time in the future.

Portland

Veronica Snyder

Veronica (Ozimek) Snyder, 93, of Portland, previously of Waterford, died Tuesday, Sept. 24, at Middlesex Hospital. She was born April 26, 1920, in Colchester, to the late Joseph and Anna (Rzesop) Ozimek. Veronica was married to the late Lawrence "Pete" Snyder. Pete and Veronica lived in Rocky Hill prior to retirement and then lived in Waterford for many retirement years.

Veronica worked for UTC prior to retirement. She was very active in her church, St. Paul's of Waterford. Veronica was an avid golfer at New London Country Club with her husband Pete and also after his passing.

Veronica leaves stepsons, Scott, Peter and Michael Snyder; and a brother, Stanley Ozimek of Manchester. Also surviving is Alice Simkins of Portland, who cared for her during the past five years; and numerous grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by five sisters, Mary Mestre, Mollie Urcan, Julia Skowronek, Francis A. Connors and Anna Ozimek; and three brothers, Joseph, Frank and Alphonso Ozimek.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Monday, Sept. 30, at St. Paul Church, Rope Ferry Road, Waterford. Interment followed in St. Mary Cemetery, New London. The family received relatives and friends Monday morning, before the service, at the Thomas L. Neilan & Sons Funeral Home, 12 Ocean Ave., New London.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Maryheart Crusaders, 531 West Main St., Meriden, CT 06451.

Portland

Claude Ronald Tarrant

Claude Ronald Tarrant, 75, of Brandegee Avenue, Groton, passed away Monday, Sept. 30, at his home. He was born Feb. 10, 1938, in Portland, the son of William Porter and Helen Hodge.

Ron married Donna Tarrant Feb. 6, 1976, in Groton. She passed away May 14, 2012.

From 1955 to 1959, Mr. Tarrant served in the U.S. Air Force as an airman second class, and following his honorable service, he worked as a chemical operator at Pfizer for many years.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

A complete obituary will appear in a future edition.

Byles Memorial Home, 99 Huntington St., New London, is assisting the family with arrangements.

Hebron

Mickey Allen Groshart

Mickey Allen Groshart, 72, of Hebron, died at home Thursday, Sept. 26, after a long battle with multiple myeloma. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 35 years, Katrina Withey.

Mick and Trina created a loving family and he leaves behind a son, Chad Groshart and wife Stacey, a son Joshua Richards, a son Stanley Richards, and a daughter Sarah Richards Meshanic and her husband Peter. The greatest joys of Mick's recent years were his grandchildren, Jackson, Hunter and Carter Meshanic, Tyler Richards and Meena and Nandini Groshart. Mick is survived by his brother, Gary and his wife Karin of Illinois. Sisters-in-law Jenny Marks and her husband Jim, and Lorna Kenly and her husband Kim were key sources of love and strength through the recent loss of Katrina and Mickey's illness. Friends we deeply thank include Terry Wagner, Kathleen Housely, Rich Griswald and Pat and Steve Zwerling.

Mick came east from Nebraska to attend Princeton Seminary and briefly served as an ordained Presbyterian minister. He then settled in New Haven and earned a master's in social work from UConn. The following years were spent working as a social worker in the West Hartford school system, raising his blended family in Glastonbury and helping to start a Habitat for Humanity chapter in Hartford. He was an active member of the men's club at Tallwood Country Club.

This year, Mick was awarded the Melvin Jones Fellowship Service Award by the Hebron Chapter of the Lions Club International Foundation for his dedication and service to Lionism.

It was Mick's wish to be cremated. A memory gathering will be held at the village at Loveland Hills Clubhouse in Hebron on Sunday, Oct. 27.

In lieu of flowers, any donations may be made to the Hebron Lions Charities, 347 Gilead St., Hebron, CT 06248.