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East Hampton's 2013 Old Home Days Parade theme was "Parade of Broadway Musicals." East Hampton's Mom's Club created a float, pictured above, inspired by "Singing in the Rain," a musical as glorious as the weekend itself.

Old Home Days Parade Glorious as Ever

by Elizabeth Bowling

Last weekend was a glorious weekend in East Hampton with Old Home Days festivities running from Thursday to Saturday between Center School and the Village Center.

The three-day event kicked off with a carnival and live entertainment Thursday. It started with a magician act by the Amazing Andy and continued with music by River City Slim and the Zydeco Hogs.

Then, Friday was highlighted with the 15th annual Glorious Gallop 5K road race that began shortly after 7 p.m. While the past couple of years have shown a pattern of decline in race participation, 405 people still came out to start their weekend with some exercise this year, explained race coordinator Sheila Oakes.

"Maybe next year [race registration] will be up," Oakes said. "The weather may have had something to do with it because it was really humid."

But the humidity couldn't keep the race's winners down: the winner for the men's division was Nicholas Blanchard, 18, with a time of 15:38.62. Sarah Ports, 24, finished first in the women's division and 13th overall with a time of 18:10:52.

Oakes said photos of the 381 runners that crossed the finish line will be posted on the event's web page easthamptonoldhomedays.org.

Friday also showcased the musical talents of Jeff Pitchell. Four Barrel Billy opened up for Pitchell and his backup band, Texas Flood and back up singers, The Jeffettes.

"Jeff Pitchell was a tremendous hit Friday night," Jim Vick, the entertainment coordinator, said. "It was a real treat having him and his band play. It was a real treat having everybody play this weekend."

Linda May, vice president of the OHD Association, said the community's support of the raffle was "tremendous." Every year, she said, 1,000 raffle tickets get sold out so this year the OHD Association decided to increase the amount of tickets to 1,200 and they still sold out.

"It's just an indicator of the tremendous support we have from the community," she said and expressed her gratitude for all the donations.

She said she was also very pleased with the community's involvement in choosing the parade theme.

"I think the last couple of years the themes have been better than ever and that's thanks to the community," she said.

In the hours leading up to 35th annual Old Home Days parade, the sky was gloomy, and a mist in the air posed a threat of rain. But almost on cue, when the parade stepped off at 11 a.m., the weather cleared up and remained glo-

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Upcoming AHM Performance Looks to Uplift

by Geeta Schrayter

For the next week, area students participating in AHM's Summer Youth Theater program will spend most evenings at RHAM High School rehearsing – over and over and over again – for their upcoming performance of the Broadway hit "Godspell" which will run July 25-27 at RHAM High School.

The students have been practicing the show since June, and Director Mary Rose Meade said this week she's excited for the finished result.

"It's going to be a great show, it really is," she said.

"Godspell" debuted off Broadway in 1971 and, most recently performed on the Great White Way last year. The musical from Stephen Schwartz, the Grammy and Academy Award-winning composer of "Wicked," contains popular musical numbers such as "Light of the World," "Turn Back, O Man" and "Day by Day."

"Godspell" is based loosely on the Gospel of Matthew and is about a group of people searching for meaning in their lives. Although the chosen production has religious undertones, Meade said it was selected for its overall themes.

Meade referenced recent tragedies such as the Newtown school shooting last December, the bombing at the Boston Marathon April 14, and the May tornadoes in Oklahoma as a reason to put on a show with a positive message.

"I wanted to do a show that had a redemptive quality, and a very upbeat, positive message," she said. "'Godspell' is really about building community, and really, community has been what kind of sustained all of these different towns and states through really difficult and trying times."

Meade said while she knew this was the right show to do, after she made the call she began to have reservations, wondering if people would like it, or if it would be considered passé. But as word on the upcoming show spread, Meade said the reactions have been of excitement, which reaffirmed her choice.

And now, she said, "it's really exciting to be able to introduce a whole new generation to this musical."

But those attending the upcoming performance who are familiar with the Broadway version shouldn't expect an identical show. In order to accommodate a cast much larger than originally intended, Meade has tweaked the script, and created a rendition that allows the entire cast of about 60 to be involved.

"I visualized [the show] and took a point of view that made every single cast member have a part that was meaningful, so I kind of changed up some of the way that it's been done originally, but on the flipside, I think it's really working."

In addition Meade explained multiple reli-
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Members of the AHM Summer Youth Theater program have been working hard this summer in preparation for their performance of the Broadway hit "Godspell," running next Thursday-Saturday, July 25-27 at RHAM High School. Photo by Matthew Troy.



Jesus and John the Baptist, played by Andrew Hawes and Dan Busa, take the stage during rehearsals in preparation for AHM Summer Youth Theater's performance of Godspell next week. Photo by Matthew Troy.

AHM Performance cont. from Front Page

gions are going to be represented on the stage, which was different from how the show is typically done. That decision, Meade said, was inspired in part by a piece of art by Irving Amen entitled "In My Father's House There Are Many Mansions."

"I just love it," she said. "I explained it to the kids: it doesn't matter if you think Jesus was God, if you think he's a prophet, if you think he's just some guy that came and changed history a bit - there's no denying that his message is really an important one. And we talked about that message, of love and kindness and community and compassion."

Those involved with the production latched on to the idea, Meade explained, and feel similarly about what it depicts.

Andrew Hawes, who will be a senior in the fall, plays the role of Jesus, a part he said he was "thrilled" to receive. Although he said he's not a "hugely religious person," it was interesting to learn about his character.

Hawes said people should watch the show for the music, the dancing, the finale - which he said he likes because "it carries a lot of weight" - and the show's message.

"It's an exciting experience in general, and in the world today it's always good to have something to cheer you up - just, something to rejuvenate your positive feelings about the world and how the world is a positive place," he said. "It carries a good message: it's kind of a mood booster."

Dan Busa, who will be a senior come fall and acts as John the Baptist, said this week he didn't know much about the show prior to getting started, but like Hawes he's come to enjoy the music and the message.

"It's very cool, very intense, and could very much move anyone who is coming to the show," he said.

For both Hawes and Busa - and the rest of the cast - preparing for the performance has meant learning lines, song lyrics and dance routines in just six weeks. For both men, it was the tap dancing that proved most challenging, but they had the help of two past AHM Youth Theatre participants to guide them through it.

Libby Quesada and Morgan Holtsclaw participated in the program from 2006 through the summer after high school graduation in 2011 and 2012 respectively. Yet even though they "aged out" and can no longer act in the performances, the program meant so much to both girls they came back to choreograph this year's

show.

"I absolutely love the community and dance is very important to me," said Quesada. "So when I was asked to come back as a choreographer there was no way I could say no."

Holtsclaw felt similarly. She explained she loves teaching dance and working with kids, so helping with the show made perfect sense. In addition, she said "I don't know if I could let go of the [AHM Summer Youth Theatre] family quite yet."

And for Meade, the fact the program is so meaningful past participants want to come back to help is one of the best parts.

"Having them work here with us and add their energy and enthusiasm, and leadership and mentorship, and wonderful experience - they're supportive of the cast and added so much of their time and energy - it means so much," she said. "I'm touched by that to be perfectly honest."

In addition, having a cast Meade said is quite possibly the smartest one she's ever directed has also made this summer rewarding.

"This is probably the smartest cast I've ever worked with," Meade stated. "They are so focused and they're just smart kids - they're really smart. You give them a direction and say 'we don't have a lot of time to practice this; this is what I want you to do,' and they get it the first time."

Meade added the cast consists of "great kids" who are truly talented.

"These kids know music and you will know when you see the show: these are really talented kids."

The public will be able to witness those talents and the result of the hard work of all involved, during what Meade hopes will be an uplifting experience next week.

"Ultimately this is a very uplifting show," she said. "I hope people come out and see it because I think they'll really be happy they did. They won't regret it."

"Godspell" will be performed in the RHAM High School Auditorium, 85 Wall St., Hebron, Thursday through Saturday, July 25-27 at 7 p.m. Ticket prices are \$9 for adults and \$6 for senior citizens and children under 12. Tickets are available at the Hebron Town Clerk's office in the Town Office Building, 15 Gilead St. Tickets will also be available at the door. For ticket information, contact AHM Youth Services at 860-228-9488.

Old Home Days cont. from Front Page

rious and the crowd filled the sidewalks and open spaces along Route 66.

Helping kick off the largest parade in Middlesex County was the East Hampton High School band, followed by Principal John Fidler.

U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal, Lt. Gov. Nancy Wyman, State Rep. Melissa Ziobron and State Sen. Art Linares marched by next with friendly smiles and waves, followed by the State Police Color Guard and the Governor's Foot Guard.

After the ancient mariners sounded off a few cannons and a man dressed as an imprisoned pirate fell to the ground, master of ceremonies Red McKinney joked, "just another day in East Hampton, folks. No need to get nervous."

Town officials, including Mike Maniscalco—who celebrated his first year as town manager last week—were next to grace the crowd with their presence. Maniscalco marched alongside new Superintendent of Schools Diane Dugas and Chief of Police Sean Cox; both were making their first appearance in the Old Home Days parade.

Keeping to this year's theme, "Parade of Broadway Musicals," the floats that passed by were inspired by musicals such as "Grease," "Mary Poppins" and "Les Miserables."

The parade judges awarded bells donated by Bevin Bells Manufacturing Co. to six of the floats. The winners that really kept to the theme were Epoch Arts, East Hampton's Mom's Club, YPCCA (Young People's Center for Creative Arts) and Cub Scouts Pack Eight.

Members of Epoch Arts marched in costumes and carried balloons and signs that celebrated Broadway. The group is made up of young people who put on plays, according to parade judge Nikki O'Neill.

The East Hampton's Mom's Club sponsored a float inspired by "Singing in the Rain" and YPCCA members sang "All That Jazz" from the Broadway show "Chicago."

(The YPCCA is putting on a performance of "Chicago" Aug. 25-28. A story on the performance appears elsewhere in this issue.)

Then, the Cub Scouts Pack Eight dressed up and played pirates on a "Peter Pan" inspired float.

The other two winners were important to the town, too, said O'Neill. They were CHAMPs (Citizens Helping Military Personnel) and Paul's & Sandy's Too, Inc.

CHAMPs' float featured three veterans: Arron McLaughlin, a veteran of Iraq and Purple Heart recipient in Afghanistan; Chris Abbot, a veteran of Afghanistan; and Matt Alo, a veteran of Iraq.

And as Paul's and Sandy's Too made its way through the streets they gave away hundreds of plants.

"They're just so generous to this town," O'Neill said.

In addition to the free plants from Paul's and Sandy's Too, members of the crowd were given T-shirts and, of course, there was candy for the children.

Other notable parade inclusions were the Shriners—whose members drove by on miniature cars and motorcycles—and the Yellow Ribbon Welcome Home Committee, which was another unit in the parade that celebrated veterans.

Some noteworthy faces include Old Home Days Member of the Year Shelly Gredzinski and the East Hampton Citizen of the Year, former State Rep. Gail Hamm. Also in attendance were Miss Teen Connecticut USA Kendall Leary and Mrs. Connecticut America Lori-Ann Marchese.

A highlight of this year's parade came in the form of a new addition, the Seventh Regime from the Union Corp. of New London. The national championship-winning drum line got the crowd excited.

A more local highlight was Defensive Edge Kids Karate, which, according to McKinney was one of, if not the biggest, group in the parade. Kids wore their uniforms and showed off their karate skills as they marched by.

Of course another highlight was the crowd-favorite South Philadelphia String Band, also

known as the Mummies. The group, dressed in bright and fun costumes, brought people from the crowd into the street to dance with them. The musical act also had an encore celebration after the parade.

Other musical acts Saturday were MOTO, World Beatniks, The Neybas—who were joined by Pedormo—and KICK. All of the performances varied in genre from reggae to rock.

But one thing The Neybas and KICK had in common was their guest appearance from the lead singer of a Led Zeppelin cover band called Physical Graffiti.

As the lively parade came to an end Saturday, and the music of the day finished, the 2013 Old Home Days celebration concluded. But next year will be here in the blink of an eye, and is sure to be just as glorious.

Colchester RTC Endorses Slate of Candidates

by Melissa Roberto

When it comes to Colchester's Republican slate of candidates for this fall's election one thing is for certain: if elected, it wouldn't be the first time each candidate has served the town as an elected official.

A majority of the Republican candidates that were endorsed Tuesday night by the Republican Town Committee (RTC) at its caucus in Town Hall are seeking re-election for the boards they currently serve. There are also other familiar faces who are looking to take on new positions.

First Selectman Gregg Schuster is among the list of veterans, as he's kept the First Selectman seat warm for two terms since 2009. Schuster was endorsed Tuesday for a third term. Before taking the selectman's seat in 2009, Schuster served on the Colchester Business Development Task Force, the Colchester Zoning Board of Appeals and was the RTC Chairman. The current selectman was born and raised in Colchester and is now raising a family of his own in town. He currently lives with his wife Faith, daughter Leah, and son Brett.

In a press release issued earlier this week, Schuster communicated his excitement about the entire Republican slate.

"I'm very excited about the strong team we've put together," the press release stated. "Most of our experienced members are running again and I hope to continue the progress we've made over the last four years."

Stan Soby is another selectman who wishes to stick around. Soby has served as a selectman since 2006. During his first term he took over for First Selectwoman Jenny Contois when she resigned in February, 2007. He remained in the position until November when Linda Hodge was elected as First Selectwoman for one term.

Along with the Republican slate of experienced candidates also comes some changes. Current selectman Greg Cordova, who has served as a selectman since 2005, is not seek-

ing re-election. Instead, Cordova will run for Town Treasurer. Before he was a selectman, Cordova was a member of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

RTC chair Brendan Healy is confident in Cordova's choice.

"He knows the ins and outs of our town very well and I think he would do a great job as town treasurer," Healy said. "As a treasurer he'd work closely with the Finance Department and I know he has a good working relationship with town employees including employees in the Finance Department."

Additionally, Denise Mizla, former Zoning Board of Appeals member and former Registrar of Voters will run for a Republican seat on the Board of Selectmen. Healy said he's known Mizla for "many years" and said she has worn many hats in town. According to Healy, Mizla has volunteered for the RTC and was a "great" registrar of voters.

"She is a fair-minded person and cares a lot about Colchester," said Healy. "I think she would be a great addition to the Board of Selectmen."

Current Board of Finance Vice Chairman Rob Esteve is seeking re-election to serve a second term on the finance board. Additionally, Healy said a placeholder has been put on the ballot for former Board of Finance member Cathy Pompei who recently resigned from the board. Healy said the committee is currently conducting interviews for the slot.

Republican candidates for the Board of Education will look familiar as well. Current chairman Ron Goldstein and members John Reever and Mitch Koziol are seeking re-election for the school board. Healy believes all three are "great" candidates who have donated their time to the Colchester school district.

"They've continued the great tradition of keeping the schools stronger and competitive within the district. My understanding is that they work well together and have gotten a lot accomplished. I look forward to seeing that



The Republican Town Committee held its caucus Tuesday night at Town Hall to endorse its candidates for the upcoming fall election. From left to right are John Reever, Rob Esteve, Ron Goldstein, Denise Mizla, Stan Soby and Gregg Schuster.

continue."

There also won't be any surprises to the Board of Assessment Appeals candidates. Current members Dave Anderson and Jeff Brainard are seeking re-election. Anderson has served on the Board of Assessment Appeals since 2003. Brainard was first elected to fill a vacancy on the board in June 2010, and ran again in 2011.

Healy called both Board of Assessment Appeals candidates "fair-minded."

The Board of Assessment Appeals is "an

important function in the town and they do a good job," Healy furthered.

As a whole, Healy felt confident about the slate of Republicans for the November municipal elections.

"We're very selective in who we seek out and ask to serve on these boards so we are very comfortable with the folks we've put up for these positions," she said on behalf of the RTC.

Elections will take place Nov. 5. Polling locations for each of the town's four districts are posted on the town website at colchesterct.gov.

Colchester Tax Collector Apparently Failed to Declare Home Improvements

by Melissa Roberto

Records on file with the town seem to indicate that Tax Collector Tricia Coblentz failed to declare improvements to her home which would have increased the property assessment.

A recent realtor.com advertisement for Coblentz's home at 95 Lindsey Rd. in Colchester lists a "partially-finished basement" as being among the features. However, town records indicate that no permit was ever taken out for such improvements and that the basement is unfinished. The tax rate on the property reflects that assumption.

Town records indicate this is the third time work has been done on the property without benefit of a permit.

Colchester Tax Assessor John Chaponis said recently that a property record card on file in his office, based on the last inspection of the home, does not indicate any improvements to the basement. "No, we have it as an unfinished basement," he said.

Asked if Coblentz's taxes would rise if the basement were designated as being partially finished, Chaponis replied, "Absolutely."

"Taxation in Connecticut is 'ad valorem,' or 'according to value,'" the assessor explained. "Anytime a property owner makes improvements to a property or adds square footage of living area, the value goes up."

After viewing the realtor.com advertisement that stated the basement was "partially-finished," Chaponis said his office apparently "missed the finished basement" because there was no building permit for the work on file.

"The assessor files an annual grand list every January and adds any new construction to the list," he said. "As part of this process, the assessor goes out and inspects every property that has been issued a building permit and while doing so, drives down every street in town annually also looking for work completed with-

out permits."

A building permit is issued to a property owner by Building Official Tim York, once the permit has been applied for and meets all building codes. York explained that a building permit allows a property owner to "build or construct or remodel whatever it is they're applying for."

York added that by state statute a property owner must apply for a building permit before completing structural improvements or adding square footage to a home. After the work is inspected and meets both building codes and Chatham Health District health codes, the property owner is issued a certificate of occupancy. This allows a property owner to "occupy the house or room or space" that was improved, he explained.

A check of the building file for 95 Lindsey Rd. in the Building Department records indicates there is "no building permit" for a basement remodel for Coblentz's home, said York.

If work was done on the basement without a permit, this would be the third time such an issue involving Coblentz has arisen since she has been in office, according to Chaponis.

On March 10, 2008, Coblentz took out a permit for "propane lines" to be installed in her home. According to Chaponis, installation of the propane lines would have no effect on her taxes because it would not increase the value of the home.

However, when the propane line work was inspected in August 2008, it was found that a "12-foot x 18-foot rear wood deck" had been added to the house without benefit of the proper permit. "We added that to the 2008 Grand List," Chaponis said of the deck.

Though Coblentz is currently paying proper taxes on the deck, the Building Department still

does not have a building permit on file for the deck. "I have nothing that said the deck was done," said York.

The following year, in 2009, it was discovered that a room over the garage at Coblentz's residence had been finished into a living area—again with no permits. That improvement impacted her taxes by \$500 per year, said Chaponis.

He said he estimated the room over the garage had been in existence "two to three years" before it came to the town's attention, adding that it is "impossible to tell for sure because the property owner did the work themselves."

Chaponis said that when he discovered in 2009 that the room over the garage was completed, he was "extremely upset" to learn it had been done without a permit. "I told her that she needed a permit for anything she did to her house," the assessor asserted.

On March 9, 2009, a building permit and certificate of occupancy was issued for the room over the garage, according to the building file in the Building Department.

Though the work had already been done before the permit was issued, York explained that has been a "common occurrence" during the last 20 years he's worked for the town.

He added that he's "never" taken anyone to court for the state statute violation of failing to take out a permit before the work is done. "It is technically illegal, but the whole process is trying to get compliance with a building code," he explained.

"That's my job – to get compliance with a building code," he added. "Nine out of 10 times the judge [if taken to court] says 'issue a permit,' so I issue a permit and I get them to comply [without going to court]."

York said he will send a letter to Coblentz

notifying her that an inspection needs to be done on the deck and the basement to "make sure it's in compliance with the building codes."

Both York and Chaponis strongly denied that Coblentz had received any preferential treatment due to her position as tax collector.

"Not a single person in this Town Hall has ever been given preferential treatment by me," York stated. "I have written up the Town of Colchester before for building code violations."

Chaponis concurred. "Our track record proves there was no preferential treatment being given to this individual or anyone else," he said. "Colchester property owners should know that my records are open for public inspection and anyone is welcome to stop in our office and look through the books at anytime. We have nothing to hide."

According to Jack Faski of Skyview Realty, the listing office for the home at 95 Lindsey Rd. was recently taken off the market as a matter of routine. "It was set up to expire after a certain amount of time," said Faski. "It has nothing to do with this. It's just been taken off for the summer."

Coblentz was first elected as the tax collector for Colchester on Nov. 19, 2007, for a four-year term. On Nov. 21, 2011, she won re-election by a narrow margin.

According to the tax collector's mission statement available for viewing on the Colchester website colchesterct.gov, "The mission of the tax collector is to collect all tax revenue through the diligent application of state statutes. We are responsible for the billing and collection of all real estate, personal property and motor vehicle taxes."

Rivereast contacted Coblentz last week, but she declined to comment on the permit situation.

Colchester to Go Under the Sea

by **Melissa Roberto**

Now that it's mid-July, it's likely most of the students in the area have entered into summer relaxation mode.

But for the kids participating in the Colchester Community Theatre (CCT) summer workshop, the last two weeks have consisted of acting, singing, dancing and learning, too.

From July 8 through today, second through 12th-graders from Colchester and the surrounding towns filled the Bacon Academy auditorium each morning for three hours to rehearse CCT's summer workshop production of "The Little Mermaid". Their efforts come to fruition tomorrow, Saturday, July 20, when the show is performed at the high school at 2 p.m.

The show is a blend of Disney's 1989 cartoon version of "The Little Mermaid" and the Broadway version that was performed from 2008-09 explained Wallis Johnson, the show's director.

The 74 young cast members participating in the summer workshop will channel their inner sea creature personalities to retell the love story about a young mermaid, Ariel, who makes a bargain with an evil sea creature to meet a human prince on land against her father's wishes.

The production features young voices singing popular songs like "Part of Your World," "Under the Sea," and "Kiss the Girl."

And after 30 hours of preparation, the young group is ready to showcase all they've practiced, Johnson said. The director pointed out that CCT's annual summer production is different than its large production that takes place each winter. Instead of a show that features individuals of all ages including adults, and large, elaborate sets and costumes, Johnson described the two-week long summer program as a "workshop for children." During the program, the children are taught all aspects of theater from auditioning, making sets and props to character development, singing and learning choreography.

"They do all this through the workshop," Johnson furthered.

The result is then a performance for the community. This summer's production will show the young cast members diving into a land under the sea, where they will embody fish, various sea creatures and, of course, a mermaid, and a prince.

But no matter what role they play on stage, both Johnson and CCT President Diane Ozmun agreed this year's group is made up of individuals who, off the stage, are "role models" to others in the community.

"We've both really noticed that the level of politeness and respect between the actors – to

each other and to the adults – is outstanding," said Johnson. "They've worked so hard to put this show together in two weeks [that] it's mind boggling. They are absolute role models."

Each three-hour practice consisted of rotations. While one group was on stage practicing a scene, another group was in the hallway making props and sets. Additionally, each year, the summer workshop includes an educational component.

On Monday, Bacon Academy teacher Joe Hage conducted a presentation to the young actors on lobstering, which ties into "The Little Mermaid" theme. Hage brought in live lobsters and taught the kids about their habitat.

The week prior, Geoff Kaufmann, a historic interpreter and shantymen for Mystic Seaport ventured to the high school to teach the kids the history of sailor work. He engaged the children in singing songs and brought instruments that used to be taken aboard ships in the old days.

Also, Johnson said when the children were not on stage rehearsing they were given lessons on choreography, sound amplification and taught how to use a microphone.

"The Little Mermaid" consists of children as young as six to age 18 – a mix of children who have performed in plays before and others who will step onto a stage in front of an audience for the first time.

The lead role of Ariel will be played by 11-year-old Colchester resident Maggie Eberle. Eberle has been cast in previous CCT shows like "Cinderella", "101 Dalmatians" and "Nowhere to Hide" but she said this will be her first time playing a lead role.

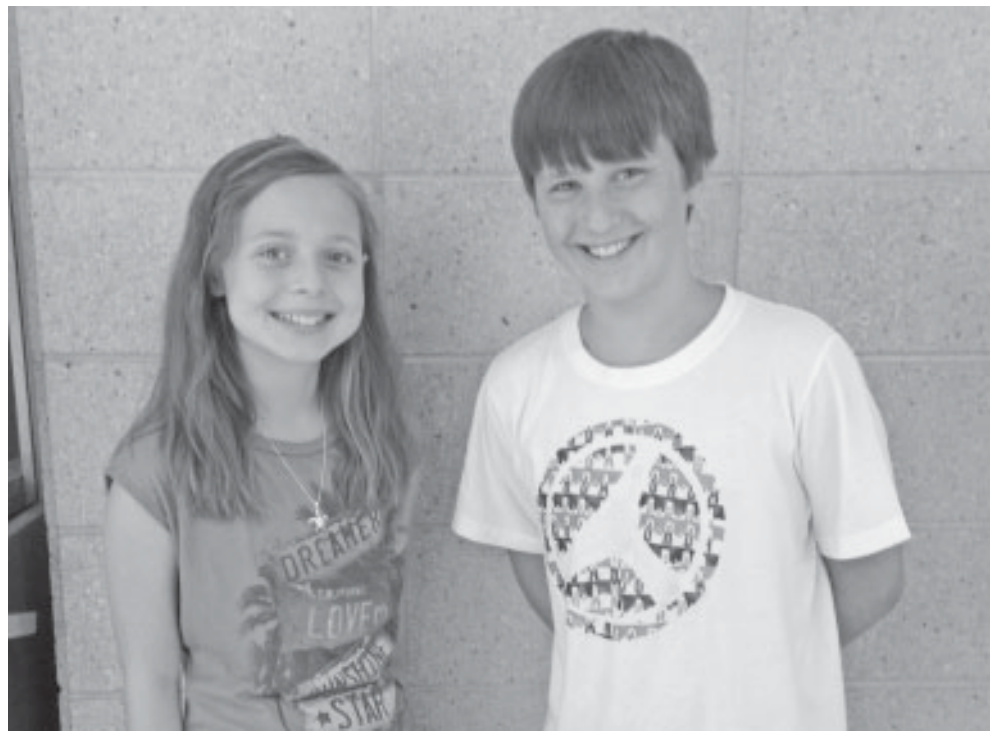
And so far, the 11-year-old has enjoyed each minute on stage.

"I love getting all the attention, I have to admit," Eberle said with a laugh. "I do like learning all these lines and I like the feeling of knowing them all."

Eberle said she's practiced her lines for an hour each day at home outside of rehearsals. She added that playing Ariel is particularly fitting because when she was six years old she dressed up as her for Halloween.

Also, Eberle is looking forward to singing for an audience during her solo for "Part of Your World."

For 12-year-old Hebron resident Joe Czapiga, however, "The Little Mermaid" will be his first show with CCT though he was cast in a play at Hebron Elementary School earlier this year. The 12-year-old said he's excited to play the role of the "rambunctious" crab, Sebastian.



Eleven-year-old Maggie Eberle of Colchester (left) and 12-year-old Joe Czapiga of Hebron will play Ariel and Sebastian in the CCT's summer workshop production "The Little Mermaid." The show will be performed by 74 cast members from Colchester and surrounding towns on Saturday, July 20, 2 p.m. in the Bacon Academy auditorium.

"I really like how I get to act as a whole new person and have a whole new accent," Czapiga explained, adding that he tries to impersonate a Jamaican accent on stage.

The 12-year-old furthered that his singing voice – which he usually only showcases "in the shower," – will be heard in a solo during "Under the Sea." And even though he will be sporting a "really embarrassing" crab hat, Czapiga said he can't wait to take the stage.

"I'm really pumped up," he said about the show. "I just like being in front of people and acting in front of people. It's kind of a good feeling for me."

Colchester resident Angela Plourde, however, will take the stage Saturday in a role unlike any she's ever played: the 12-year-old will embody the evil sea hag, Ursula.

"It's so much different than what I've had to do before," Plourde explained, adding that her character has a "terrible" personality.

On Monday, Plourde managed to belt out an evil laugh as Ursula but once she stepped off the stage her tone changed completely.

"I like making that little switch," Plourde

explained. "[Ursula] doesn't care about anyone but herself and she wants to be famous and be the queen of the sea. I'm not like her at all in real life."

To see the kids make a splash on stage anyone is welcome to attend "The Little Mermaid" on Saturday, July 20 at 2 p.m. in the Bacon Academy auditorium. Tickets for the production are \$4 each for adults and children and can be purchased at the door on the day of the performance.

CCT has continued its partnership with Make-A-Wish of Connecticut (since "Cinderella" in February) for this production. Audience members will have the opportunity to purchase a star for the suggested donation of \$2, which will benefit a child in the Make-A-Wish program.

Online donations are accepted at friends.wish.org/054-000/page/Colchester-Theatre/Colchester-Community-Theatre-For-Wishes!.htm.

For more information, call Johnson at 860-267-1023 or Laura Brown at 860-537-3259. CCT is sponsored by Colchester Parks and Recreation Department.

Portland Board of Education Discusses Security

by **Elizabeth Bowling**

The Portland Board of Education had its July meeting Tuesday evening to discuss its summer progress. While most of the board's summer projects are on schedule, one problem arose regarding renting out the high school auditorium.

"We've had problems this year already twice with dance companies," Superintendent of Schools Sally Doyen said. One company "rented the auditorium and left the rooms in the auditorium a mess." Things were stolen out of the chorus room and "there was no supervision of the kids" to the point where the school's custodians had to act as supervisors, she said.

Another company "left the place in good shape," she said, but "none of their checks cleared." That company still owes the board \$750 of its original \$1,500 debt, Doyen said. The board decided against taking the dance company to small claims court.

"I've felt this spring that we've been taken advantage of by these groups," Doyen said.

Board member Benjamin Srb added, "I don't want to be walked all over."

Doyen suggested limiting the groups to whom the board rents out the facility to or increasing the rental fees. But some board mem-

bers, including Betsy Smith, MaryAnne Rode and Chairman Christopher Phelps expressed concern about what that might do to the board's public relations.

"The goal is to have these facilities be available for the benefit of the community," said Phelps.

Phelps recommended having the board's policy subcommittee look into the matter and compare Portland's rental fees to that of other towns and school districts.

Also at Tuesday's meeting, the board agreed to submit a request for a security grant from the state. More specifically, Portland will apply for Connecticut's School Security Competitive Grant Program, which is funded by the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection.

The submission for the grant is due July 29 and would partially cover the costs associated with the three elementary schools' door locks, the security cameras at the high school, Gildersleeve School's indoor and outdoor cameras, and the Valley View buzzer system.

Business manager Laura Webb said the grand total for those four purchases was about \$48,000.

According to Doyen, Portland has a 52 percent reimbursement rate so "we will get a substantial amount of money back if we get the grant."

Along the same lines of security and safety at school, the board agreed to send a letter to First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield—who also wears the hat of Chief of Police—regarding police presence at Portland schools for the upcoming school year.

Doyen explained that after the Sandy Hook tragedy last year, the Portland police force increased its presence at the schools. "They just worked it into their daily shifts," she said.

According to Rode, the increased presence was appreciated.

"We've appreciated it. It's been well received by the students and the parents," she said.

The letter will be sent to Bransfield on behalf of the Board of Education and will request that the police presence continues, Phelps said. It would also ask what her plans are moving forward and how the continued police presence would be funded.

"We would like to work with the town to keep up the service," Phelps said.

Rode explained that once the board members

know the cost of continuing the police presence—if there is any cost to them—they will discuss the matter further.

"I think the letter starts the conversation and we can then go from there," she said.

But for now "it's like the big elephant in the room," she said. "Are [the Portland police] going to show up the first day of school?"

Other concerns regarding showing up for the first day of school are related to half-time positions that have not yet been filled. The half-time world language teaching position and the half-time physical education and health teaching position at the high school are still open.

But Doyen said confidently, "We're in good shape at this point in the summer. I'm optimistic we'll get those positions filled."

She's also optimistic about this year's upcoming field trips for PHS students.

The board unanimously approved the high school field trips to the Big E and Virginia Beach.

The next Portland Board of Education meeting is scheduled for Tuesday Aug. 20 at 7 p.m. at the Portland High School media center.

Portland Selectmen Discuss Town Projects

by Elizabeth Bowling

Portland was recently offered the opportunity to collaborate with Middletown to light the Arrigoni Bridge, First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield said at the Board of Selectmen meeting Wednesday.

The \$3.5 million project calls for “quite an elaborate lighting plan” that would use LED (light-emitting diode) lights to decorate the bridge, Bransfield said. But it could be scaled back some, and Portland would only pay for a portion of the project, she furthered.

“It’s an idea that I thought is certainly worth exploring,” Bransfield said, assuring that the town hasn’t committed to anything and that “there’s no set plan.”

Middletown’s city planner still needs to look into the project further to determine if it would be worthwhile in terms of economic development.

Selectman Kathleen Richards said the cost of the project was “a little steep.” Her concern was matched by other members of the board

including Carl Chudzick, who suggested the project is “maybe something for the future.”

Bransfield reassured members the lighting isn’t something that would take effect immediately, saying in fact, “all of this is a thought. It’s not a definitive matter.” But if it ever does come to fruition, Bransfield said she’d suggest offsetting the cost and energy usage from other areas of town.

Selectman Ryan Curley—though he agreed the cost was too “steep”—said, “I think this [idea] is phenomenal.”

Curley said when the bridge was built about 75 years ago, it was rated “the best looking steel structure in the country.”

“It’s one of our best assets,” he said. He was keen on the idea of eventually working with Middletown to make something exciting happen to the bridge the two towns share.

Also at Wednesday’s meeting, Bransfield confirmed a cooperative project between the

Board of Selectmen and Board of Education is underway. The project will connect all the town’s buildings underground—with the exception of Gildersleeve School—via fiber to ensure fast internet and phone service.

The Board of Education is required to implement this fiber project because students will be required to take standardized tests online and complete teacher evaluations online, Bransfield said.

“It’s a very worthwhile project,” she said.

One project that some Portland residents *don’t* consider worthwhile is the chip sealing road maintenance program.

Twelve of the 19 properties on Carousel Drive signed a petition requesting the town cancel its scheduled chip sealing of that road, which was scheduled to begin yesterday.

The petition read, “We have many reasons for not wanting chip sealing including our children’s safety while riding bicycles and dam-

age to our automobiles.”

Other maintenance options, including milling and repaving roads, are “much more expensive,” Bransfield said.

According to Director of Public Works Richard Kelsey, chip sealing Carousel Drive would cost \$960 and the cost to mill and pave the same road would cost \$11,625. He called chip sealing “cost effective.”

The board decided to work for “the will of people,” as Curley put it. He motioned to wait one year before chip sealing Carousel Drive with the understanding that the town will chip seal the street in one year’s time, provided that the town will have the money.

The board unanimously approved his motion.

The next Portland Board of Selectmen meeting is scheduled for Aug. 7 at 7:30 p.m. at the Portland Public Library.

Marlborough Selectmen Discuss Possible Charter Review

by Melissa Roberto

During the Tuesday night meeting, the Marlborough Board of Selectmen discussed the possibility of reviewing the town charter.

First Selectwoman Cathi Gaudinski led the discussion by explaining to her counterparts, Mike Gut and Dick Shea, that she wanted to see how the board as a whole felt about a charter review before she began researching the process.

The responses of both members were in favor of the possibility.

Gaudinski explained to the selectmen that conversations during the budget process for the 2013-14 fiscal year was one reason she decided to include the discussion on Tuesday’s agenda.

“It’s been a little while after the budget passage,” Gaudinski explained, “and there was conversation during the process [from citizens] about voting [on the annual budget] in referendum instead of a town meeting.”

The selectwoman added she believed the town charter hasn’t been revised since 1985. She did, however, note the 2002 vote on the town charter revision that had been shot down.

One citizen in the audience, Richard Denno, said he was on the charter review committee back in 2002 and shared with the selectmen that the First Selectman at the time, Howard Dean, wanted the revised charter to be voted on in its entirety instead of each section being voted on separately.

“Howard said it’s all or nothing,” Denno explained. “But some people didn’t want that... That’s the reason it went down. It was a shame because a lot of work went into [the revisions].”

Gaudinski furthered Denno’s thoughts by stating the process involves the formation of a charter review committee. Also, Gaudinski said she believes the revision is an 18-month process from the time the committee is formed to when the vote is taken to approve or disapprove the changes.

The selectwoman said she thinks “prelimi-

nary work” is needed before making a final decision to go through with the process and both Gut and Shea agreed.

“I’d like to learn more about the process,” said Gut.

Shea also seemed on board. He asked Gaudinski if she could research what state statutes apply to town charter revision for their knowledge.

Gaudinski said she’d already been in talks with nearby town managers, like Andy Tierney of Hebron, who suggested that a consultant be hired if the town decides to go through with the charter revision. Because it’s something that hasn’t been done since 1985, Gaudinski said hiring a consultant could be a part of the plan.

But for now Gaudinski told the board she will begin researching what state statutes require in regards to a revision. The topic will be discussed at a future selectmen meeting.

From the audience, Denno thanked the board for discussing the idea.

“I think it’s an important thing that should be addressed and I think taking a proactive stance is very good,” he said.

Also at Tuesday’s meeting, Town Planner Peter Hughes relayed information to the selectmen about an ordinance that he’s helped develop that will allow an architectural design review board to be formed in town.

Hughes explained architectural design review boards exist all over the country but he specifically looked to Connecticut towns to conduct his research. Towns like Stratford, Kent and Avon have similar boards, Hughes said. He added he believes the formation of a board in Marlborough would provide guidance in regards to the design of buildings, structures, landscaping and site layout for commercial, industrial, institutional and multi-family residential developments in town.

Hughes explained future applicants wishing to build in town would be able to seek guidance from the board about their site designs.

He said he feels this additional board would help avoid confusion from residents and applicants. Hughes also said the board would save the applicant time and money.

The board would be able to relay information to the applicant about what the town does and does not allow before they head before the planning and zoning commissions, he explained, where whether or not an applicant can build or remodel a structure in town is ultimately approved.

“Most importantly, this sets the town’s tone to have this be the first party that people see, instead of a regulatory commission, to get a feel of what’s going on,” Hughes said.

The town planner added books have been created that contain information on site design in Marlborough that the architectural design review board would use. Hughes told the selectmen the books will be available for review Monday, July 22. Information on town regulations for site design, building design, lighting, street treatment, sidewalks, benches, stone walls and more will be included in the books, he furthered.

A draft of the ordinance states that the board would consist of five members – spots that Hughes said would be “open to everybody” instead of a selective pool. However, due to a conflict of interest, the draft states no member of the board should include a member of the planning and zoning commissions, or the zoning board of appeals.

The selectmen agreed they will review both the book and the ordinance. They also hope to schedule a public hearing on the matter sometime in September, when a majority of citizens are not on vacation and will be able to attend.

Selectman Shea said he believes the formation of the board would be helpful.

“It’s nice to have some leverage early on,” said Shea. “Any insight you can have of what the town is looking for before you get to the formal stuff is just super valuable.”

Miss USA Coming to Portland

by Elizabeth Bowling

Erin Brady, who was recently crowned Miss USA, will return to her “alma mater” July 23, according to Portland’s First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield.

Brady, 25, graduated from Portland High School in 2005 and will return to her hometown to tour the Brownstone Exploration and Discovery Park around 4 p.m.

“To welcome someone home, you bring them back to their roots,” Bransfield said.

At 6:30 p.m., Brady will attend the outdoor concert—the Michael Cleary Band will perform—at Riverfront Park on Brownstone Avenue. Members of the public are welcome to come by for the concert and take part in a Q-and-A with Miss USA.

“We’re looking forward to welcoming her home,” Bransfield said. “We’re so proud of her.”

Phase II Sewer Construction Set to Begin in Marlborough

by Melissa Roberto

In Tuesday night’s Board of Selectmen meeting, First Selectwoman Cathi Gaudinski announced construction will soon begin for one portion of Phase II of the town’s sewer expansion project.

Phase II, which was overwhelmingly approved in the June 19 town meeting by a vote of 113-14, will pick up where Phase I left off, at the intersection of Lakeridge and Cheney roads. The construction will continue down Cheney Road to the intersection of Park Road and then up Beverly Lane. It will also hook up five houses on North Main Street to the sewer line that already exists from Phase I.

The second portion of the project consists of a sewer line extension to hook up the

Marlborough Health Care Center (MHCC) on Stage Harbor Road. Gaudinski said Tuesday night the construction for the MHCC portion – which is being paid for by the MHCC and not the town – will begin on July 24.

As for the town’s portion, Gaudinski said before construction begins the town will apply for clean water funds from the state, which would significantly lower its cost to taxpayers. Gaudinski told the selectmen that just one more document needs to be completed by an attorney before the application is submitted to the State Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

She expects the application to be submitted to the state soon.

Portland Police News

7/5: Gary Bailey, 54, of 4 Grove St., was charged with DUI and failure to drive right, Portland Police said.

7/6: James Daniels, 48, of 10B Riverside St., was charged with DUI and failure to drive in the proper lane, police said.

“Chicago” Comes to East Hampton

by Elizabeth Bowling

Not even the recent heat wave that saw temperatures over 90 has been able to slow down one local theater group’s intense rehearsal schedule for its production of the Broadway musical “Chicago.”

East Hampton’s Young People’s Center for Creative Arts (YPCCA) has been working through the heat for four weeks to ensure a great show.

From Thursday July 25 to Sunday the 28, 75 cast members ranging in age 12 to 18 will perform the Broadway-musical-turned-Hollywood-movie at the East Hampton High School auditorium. The kids come from various towns in Connecticut, but most are from East Hampton and Portland.

“Chicago” is a musical about two murderesses in 1920s Chicago. Roxie Hart hopes to become a star and kills her lover after he admits he can’t make her famous. She convinces her husband, Amos, to take the blame for the murder, but when he realizes she’s been cheating on him, he refuses to take the fall. She ends up in jail with her idol, Velma Kelly, a Broadway star who is on trial for murdering her husband and sister because the two were having an affair.

Roxie and Velma are determined to use their murder cases to fuel their fame. Roxie gets Velma’s lawyer, Billy Flynn, to defend her. He defends both women, helping them get their 15 minutes of fame. But their infamy dwindles as another murder gains popularity and they realize their big break was short lived at best.

The roles of Roxie and Velma were double cast for the summer production. The female leads will be played by 17-year-olds Jenna Cordeiro of East Hampton, who will play Roxie in the Thursday and Saturday performances, and Alison Luther of Durham, who will take on the role for the Friday and Sunday shows. Then, Arlene Flannery of Bristol will play Velma Thursday and Saturday while Brynn Owen of East Hampton will take over the role Friday and Sunday.

“We couldn’t just give it to two of the girls,” director Rachel Mansfield said. “We had four phenomenal girls.”

Luckily, the foursome has been “very supportive” of one another, Mansfield said.

The set-up also comes with some fashion

perks.

“We get to share costumes,” Owen explained. “It’s like having a sister!”

The male leads will be played by 15-year-olds Justin Keib of Killingworth, who plays Billy Flynn, and James La Bella who acts as Amos.

Mansfield has been the director of YPCCA’s productions for 15 years. She directed shows ranging from “Legally Blonde” to “Les Miserables,” and said this year’s show is special because it doesn’t necessarily have a showy set.

“This show’s great because [the set] is very bare bones,” she said. “It’s much more about the story than the scenery.”

But a “static set” calls for engaging costumes—like skimpy, sequined-covered dresses—and big dance numbers. That’s why choreographer Jen Friday “has been going all day, every day” to keep the dance numbers as close to the original Bob Fosse choreography as possible, Mansfield said.

Fosse choreography is known for being sexually suggestive and using moves like forward hip-thrusts, hunched shoulders and turned-in feet.

“For a lot of the signature pieces, we are trying to stay true to the Fosse field,” Friday said.

She called the choreography “good exposure” for the cast members, as some of them will go on to study theater and perform at a higher level.

Cordeiro, one of the Roxie leads, said her favorite part of the show is the dancing because she’s primarily a dancer. “It’s really fun to do a show that is so dance-heavy,” she said.

The dancing has been the biggest challenge associated with this summer’s production, according to the director, the choreographer and a few of the other leads.

Yet despite the challenge, or maybe because of it, Luther, the other actress who plays Roxie, agreed with Cordeiro and said the dancing is her favorite part.

Owen, who plays Luther’s counterpart Velma, agreed.

“[Fosse choreography] is my favorite part of Broadway,” she said.

Owen said she doesn’t have as much dance experience as the other three female leads, so the dancing was her biggest challenge.

But Friday spoke of all of her dancers



The Young People’s Center for Creative Arts in East Hampton is putting on “Chicago” next weekend, July 25-28, at EHHS. Pictured above (from left) are female leads Alison Luther, Brynn Owen, Jenna Cordeiro and Arlene Flannery.

proudly.

“It’s amazing when kids are motivated what they can get done,” she said.

Friday has been involved in YPCCA for 31 years. She said the process is really a team effort and because the team only has 17 days to put together a great show, the pressure is on.

“We try to never make it look rushed,” she said. “We do a full-scale musical.”

She also noted the importance of “balancing the professionalism with having fun and enjoying each other.”

In regards to the “adult” choreography and storyline of “Chicago,” Mansfield said, “it’s a farce. It’s making fun of the idea of working the system to be a celebrity.”

YPCCA put on “Chicago” back in 2007, too. Mansfield said there was some “push back” from parents when they did the show five years ago because of the “mature themes,” but this year there haven’t been any issues.

“We chose to do the show even though it’s so adult,” Mansfield said.

Flannery said the timeless plot was actually one of her favorite aspects of the show. “I like that even though it’s set in the ‘20s there’s still a lot of situations that can happen today,” she said, for example “sensationalizing the media.”

Flannery said her greatest challenge was “stepping into this role of someone who always has control and is always very confident.” But in taking on the role of Velma, she said, “it’s nice to step out of my comfort zone.”

Cordeiro added that having a lead role, regardless of the character, is her biggest challenge.

“It’s really fun to have a larger role, but it’s also a big responsibility,” she said.

But despite any nerves, the show must – and will – go on.

“Chicago” will run Aug. 25-27 at 7 p.m. and Aug. 28 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$10 for seniors and children under 16 and can be purchased by going to ypcca.org or calling 860-267-2911. Tickets can also be purchased at the door.

East Hampton Police News

7/4: Julian Clark, 27, of 220 Middlesex Ave., Chester, was arrested and charged with DUI, traveling unreasonably fast, possession of less than one half ounce of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia, East Hampton Police said.

7/4: Todd Bower, 24, of 230 Old West High St., turned himself into the East Hampton Police Department pursuant to an active PRAWN warrant, police said.

7/5: Raymond Nadeau, 33, of 3606 Carrollwood Place, Tampa, Fla. was placed under arrest pursuant to a warrant. Nadeau was charged with third-degree accessory to larceny stemming from a 2011 incident, police added.

7/8: Samantha Lynn Strickland, 20, of 10

Starr Place, was issued a summons for speeding and failure to renew registration, police said.

7/8: Anthony J. Christiana, 20, of 71 Cherry Swamp Rd., Moodus, was issued a summons for speeding, police said.

7/9: Deborah Taylor, 60, of 208 Main St., Portland, turned herself in pursuant to an arrest warrant for violation of a criminal protective order, police stated.

7/11: Michael J. McLaughlin, 19, of 87 Main St., Apt. 2, was issued a ticket for possession of less than one half ounce of marijuana, police said.

7/12: Tracey Holton, 48, of 4 Abbey Road, was arrested for disorderly conduct and third-degree criminal mischief, police said.

Colchester Police News

7/9: State Police said Ward J. Gorman, 48, of 108 Falls Rd., Moodus, turned himself into Troop K on a PRAWN warrant for second-degree failure to appear.

7/9: Colchester Police said Timothy Baillergeon, 30, of 75 Cemetery Rd., was charged with two counts of second-degree failure to appear.

7/9: State Police said Joseph James Termini, 27, of 23 Glen Dr., Sound Beach, New York, was charged with second-degree false statement, second-degree falsely reporting an incident, interference with a police officer and insurance fraud.

7/10: Colchester Police said Steven Taylor, 44, of 544 Norwich Ave., was charged with DUI and restricted turns.

7/12: State Police said Elton Knowles, 51, of 105 Harbor Rd., was charged with DUI and failure to have lights illuminated.

7/12: Colchester Police said Johnathan Adams, 20, of 335 Lebanon Ave., was charged with drug paraphernalia and illegal possession of a narcotic.

7/12: State Police said Michelle Adams, 41, of 7 Ivy Ct., was charged with burglary and third-degree larceny.

Marlborough Police News

7/12: State Police said Nicholas Cardaropoli, 30, of 61 Oak St., Windsor Locks, was charged with reckless driving, DUI, failure to carry registration and failure to renew registration.

7/14: State Police said Katherine E. Walkama, 23, of 218 Sterling Dr., Newington, was charged with DWI and reckless driving.

Marlborough Awarded \$500,000 STEAP Grant

by Melissa Roberto

Governor Dannel P. Malloy announced Wednesday that Marlborough is one of 14 Connecticut towns being awarded a grant under the state’s Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) to be utilized for capital improvement projects.

For Marlborough, that means it will be able to expand its existing municipal water system that currently services the Senior Center, Cragin Memorial Library and Marlborough Elementary School. The public water system will now include all properties in the Marlborough Village Center.

First Selectwoman Cathi Gaudinski said the town center is about a 3,400-foot loop that begins at the intersection of School Drive and South Main Street and continues to the intersection of Route 66, South Main Street and North Main Street. It also continues about 500 feet up North Main Street, she said.

Gaudinski was “very excited” about the good news Wednesday.

“I am really happy that we’ve received it especially because it’s in the full amount that we applied for,” she said. “I find that encouraging.”

Work had been conducted last winter on the Marlborough Elementary School property located at 25 School Dr., which is owned by the town. Three wells were drilled on the property and results showed that the town has a “sufficient supply of water” to expand the system to the center of town, Gaudinski explained.

The town will now enter into an agreement with Connecticut Water Company, who will

be responsible for the engineering, design and site work.

Now that the town has received the STEAP grant, \$50,000 will come from the town’s undesignated fund balance to fund a portion of the project – a decision approved by Marlborough citizens in a town meeting last July.

Additional funding will come from the CT Water Company due to its agreement with the town.

The expansion of the public water system is believed to attract additional retail businesses to Marlborough, Gaudinski said.

According to a press release issued by the Governor’s office, State Sen. Cathy Osten feels this project is significant to the town.

“The expansion of the public water system in Marlborough is an economic development need, pure and simple. It’s vitally important for Marlborough’s town center,” she stated.

State Rep. Pam Sawyer felt similarly.

“STEAP grants were originally created to aid small towns in projects like this,” she stated in the release. “A water supply for Marlborough will allow the town to carefully plan their future, and the economic aspects will help the town financially.”

Other STEAP grants were awarded to Bolton, Branford, Burlington, Chaplin, Columbia, Durham, East Lyme, Granby, Kent, North Haven, Old Lyme, Trumbull and Union. The grants are awarded to towns for certain capital improvement projects like road and bridge upkeep and other municipal facility projects.

Obituaries

Portland

Charlotte (Larson) Hanson

Charlotte (Larson) Hanson, 95 of Middletown, formerly of Portland, passed away Friday July 12 at Wadsworth Glen. She was married to her loving and devoted husband, Norman P. Hanson, for over 72 years.

Born June 10, 1918 in Middletown, she was the daughter of the late Charles and Millie (Bengston) Larson. The town welcomed Hanson as Portland's first war baby, as her father was in the U.S. Army serving in France during WWI. She attended Portland schools and graduated from Portland High School as a member of the National Honor Society.

She was a lifelong member of Zion Lutheran Church in Portland, served as a Sunday School teacher and was past president of the American Legion Auxiliary. She spent all of her working years with Middletown Savings Bank, now Liberty Bank. She enjoyed traveling stateside and abroad with her husband, Norman. Family gatherings were great events and her family was important to her.

Besides her husband, she leaves her sister, Beatrice Hummel of Portland and 14 nieces and nephews whom she clearly loved and found interest in their careers and achievements. She was predeceased by her sister, Anna Olson.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, July 16, at Zion Lutheran Church, 183 William St., Portland, with the Rev. James Reemts officiating. Burial was in the Swedish Cemetery, Portland.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Zion Lutheran Church 183 William St Portland, CT 06480.

To send an online expression of sympathy, please visit portlandmemorialfh.net. Portland Memorial Funeral Home 231 Main St Portland has care of arrangements.



Portland

James (Jim) Keating Tierney

James (Jim) Keating Tierney, 66, of Portland, passed away July 12 at his cottage in Clinton, Conn. He was the son of the late Vincent and Mary (Sullivan) Tierney of Portland.

James was a life-long resident of Portland who was born February 8, 1947. He graduated from Portland High School and The Hartford Institute of Accounting. For many years, he was employed by The Hartford National Bank in Manchester and East Hartford. Along with his brothers, he owned Tierney Brothers Package Store in Portland.

Jim was very proud of his Irish heritage, and was named the Hibernians' Irishman of the Year in 2005. As a young man, Jim raced his car #44 at the Waterford Speed Bowl, developed a love of NASCAR racing, and became a member and sponsor of the Etheridge Racing Team. Each February for 30 years, Jim attended the Daytona 500 in Florida. He was also an avid fan of the NY Yankees and the NY Giants.

He was a parishioner of St. Mary's Church of Portland, a member of the Portland Volunteer Fire Department Co. No. 3 and later, the Portland Fire Police. He was also a member of Connecticut Cellar Savers Fire Museum, the St. Francis Society, the Middletown Elks Lodge #771, and the Ancient Order of Hibernians.

Jim is survived by a sister Eileen, her husband Carl, and their son William of Glastonbury; a brother Tom, his wife Peggy, and their sons Michael and Patrick of Portland; a brother Jack, his wife Gerri, and their children Melissa and her partner Meghan, Frank, Calee, and Julee of Cromwell and Portland. He is also survived by a long time friend Maria Easter, several cousins, and many friends.

Visiting hours were held Tuesday, July 16 at the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland. The funeral procession took place Wednesday, followed by a Mass of Christian burial at St. Mary's Church. Burial followed at St. Mary's Cemetery.

The family wishes to express their deep appreciation to the Clinton Fire and Police Departments for the respect shown to them during a very difficult time.

Memorial donations can be made to Connecticut Cellar Savers, 634 Main St., Portland, CT 06480; the Portland Fire Department, 33 East Main St., Portland; the Clinton Fire Department, 35 East Main St., Clinton, CT 06413, or St. Mary's Church, 51 Freestone Ave., Portland.

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

Portland

Walter H. Eger Jr.

Walter H. Eger Jr, 79, of Portland, passed away peacefully at St. Francis Hospital Saturday, July 13. He was the son of the late Walter H. and Ethel (Benoit) Eger.

Born Feb 1, 1934 in Nantucket, Mass., he was raised in New Bedford, Mass. and graduated from New Bedford High School, served in the United States Air Force, attended McNeese State College in Louisiana. and graduated from Wentworth Institute of Technology in Massachusetts with a degree in engineering. He moved to Connecticut in 1966 and worked at Connecticut Yankee Nuclear Power Plant for over 25 years.

He was active his entire life until his health started to decline one and a half years ago. His passions were many; he was an avid dancer and thoroughly enjoyed attending Polka dances at the Polish National Home in Colchester and other venues with his special friend of many years, Nilda Grenier.

His love of building and carpentry projects was evident by the numerous projects he would engage in at his home. He loved his John Deere and Ford Jubilee tractors and found innumerable ways to use them from taking down trees for firewood, building stone walls and other projects around his property.

He loved working in his large garden by the brook and was so proud of the numerous vegetables it would produce and donated the excess to local food banks. He loved to be physically active, enjoyed skiing, ice-skating and basketball. He was a lover of nature, wildlife and his beloved pets including his dogs over the years, Brownie, Freddie and recently, 'The B.'

Walt was loved by many and will be deeply missed.

He is survived by his son, Craig Eger and wife, Stephanie of Huntsville, Ala., daughter, Suzanne Roberts of Portland, and brother-in-law, Noah Vieira of Willimantic. He also leaves behind his companion of many years, Nilda Grenier of Middle Haddam. He was predeceased by his sisters, May Silveiras and Dolores Vieira.

Special thanks to Dr. Gladys Kagaoan and Dr. Lorraine Trow for their compassionate care and support.

Graveside service and burial will be held Saturday, July 20 at 10 a.m. at St. Mary's Cemetery, Marlborough St., Portland.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Walt's memory to Protector of Animals, P.O. Box 24, South Glastonbury, CT 06073 or to the American Lung Association, 45 Ash St., East Hartford, CT 06108.

Portland Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland has care of arrangements. To send an online expression of sympathy, visit portlandmemorialfh.net.

Andover

Kathryn Murray

Kathryn Murray, 52, of Middletown and formerly Andover, died Tuesday, July 9 at Middlesex Hospital in Middletown in the presence of her family. She was predeceased by her sister-in-law Darlene Wordsworth.

Kathy was born in Hartford and spent her early years in Andover. She had a life full of love and kindness that she shared with so many people and animals alike.

She moved to the Connecticut shoreline in August 2007 and loved spending time on the Long Island Sound and taking trips to Block Island.

She lovingly leaves behind her son Zack Murray who is currently attending the University of Rhode Island, and her daughter Rachel Murray, a recent graduate of Morgan High School in Clinton; her parents Watson and Marilyn Wordsworth of Sandwich, Mass.; her sister and brother-in-law Lynne and Walter Hall of Andover; her brother Robert Wordsworth of Vernon; her nieces and nephews Matthew, Wesley, Kyle, Chelsea and Emily Hall and Ashley and Brittany Wordsworth; her conservatee Eddie Lawrence; and her beloved and faithful pets Mariah and Buddy; She also leaves behind her lifelong friends Donna Hewitt of North Port, Fla. and Pat Dawson of Windsor.

A gathering to celebrate her life and remember her as a daughter, sister, mother and friend took place at Swan Funeral Home, 80 E. Main St, Clinton on Thursday, July 18. The family will hold a private ceremony on Block Island Saturday.

Any donations for the children, instead of flowers, will be gladly accepted and greatly appreciated.

All of your family and friends wish you a warm and loving goodbye our little dragonfly.

The Swan Funeral Home, 80 E. Main St., Clinton, CT 06413 is in charge of arrangements.

Colchester

Elizabeth "Betsy" (Markham) Bochain

Elizabeth "Betsy" (Markham) Bochain, 91, of Mystic and formerly Colchester, passed away gracefully Monday morning, July 8, at Westerly Hospital.

Betsy was the daughter of John Markham and Alice (Bragaw) Markham. She was born in 1921 in Hartford and moved to Westchester as an adolescent. She married Air Force Lieutenant Alex Bochain in 1944 and they settled on South Main Street in Colchester. There she had four children before entering the workforce as a real estate developer in 1957. She was the co-developer of the Amston Lake project, among other projects, and a charter member of the Southeast Connecticut Association of Realtors and the Colchester Development Commission.

Betsy retired to Latimer Point, Mystic and Jupiter Inlet Colony, Fla. in 1973. She spent her final years in Academy Point, Mystic.

Betsy was a well-known and well-loved member of the Latimer Point community, swimming from early spring to late fall each year. She was an excellent conversationalist, with an extraordinary sense of humor, which was evident until her final hours. Betsy was an avid bridge player, belonging to a bridge club that lasted over 60 years.

Betsy is survived by her sons Kip, his companion Ellen Dodge and son Kipper of New London and John and his wife Veronica, of Eleuthera, The Bahamas; John's daughters, Alexis Arlander and her husband Nat, of Beverly, Mass. and Amanda of Poolesville, Md.; her daughter, Elizabeth Bochain, husband Andy Feinstein and their grandson, Jacob Feinstein, of Latimer Point, Mystic, and Andy's daughters, Katie Feinstein of New London and Zoey Feinstein of Fortuna, N.D., and her son, Theodore Bochain, his wife, Deb, and their son, Thaddeus of Lebanon. She is also survived by her beloved sister, Dolly Bochain of Moosup, and many nieces and nephews.

A celebration of her life in song and memories will be held Sunday, July 21 at 5 p.m. at the Circle at Latimer Point, Mystic. If the weather makes an outdoor service uncertain, contact Belmont Funeral Home at 860-537-2900 for further information.

Participants should be aware the launch of the whaling ship Charles W. Morgan at the Mystic Seaport may make traffic challenging July 21.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Cragin Memorial Library in Colchester.

Colchester

Matthew T. Brown

Matthew T. Brown, 20, of Colchester passed away unexpectedly Friday, July 12. Born in Manchester Sept. 5, 1992, Matthew resided in Colchester with his family.

Matthew graduated from Bacon Academy in Colchester, Class of 2010, and worked at Parker X-Ray in East Hartford.

From the time Matt was born, he enjoyed spending countless hours at his favorite place, Amston Lake. He loved fishing and spending time there with his father, Thomas, and two brothers, Collin and Conor. Matthew took great pride in being a big brother and loved to play football and watch the Green Bay Packers with his brothers. At age six Matthew starting playing football for the Colchester Cougars and went on to play at Bacon Academy where his dad stood by him as a coach and best friend.

Matthew was predeceased by his loving father, Thomas A. Brown; and three great-grandmothers, Frances (Cosgrove) Cwikla, Frances M. Skut, and Helen E. Zagaski. Matthew loved playing Bingo with Grammy Skut and hearing old family stories from Grammy Cwikla. Matthew and his father shared an inseparable bond.

Matthew is survived by his devoted mother, Nicole M. Brown, who always stood by his side; two brothers, Collin P. Brown, and Conor N. Brown; an aunt, Erin S. Zagaski with whom he shared many wonderful memories; two beloved grandmothers, Susan M. Skut (Mimi) and Judy N. Brown (Grammy Judy); two grandfathers, Richard E. Zagaski and wife Judy, Thomas F. Brown and wife Grazina; great-grandmother, Dorothy (Lanagan) Brown; great grandfather, Edward P. Zagaski; numerous great-aunts and uncles, cousins, extended family, and best friend from high school Evan Wojcik.

Visitation was held at the Belmont/Sabrowski Funeral Home, 144 South Main St., Colchester on Thursday, July 18. A Catholic Memorial Service will be held today, July 19, at 10 a.m. at St Andrew's Catholic Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester immediately followed by a reception at St. Joseph's Polish Society, 395 South Main St., Colchester. Burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers and at the request of the family, memorial donations towards Collin and Conor's education can be made to the Matthew Brown Memorial Fund at Liberty Bank, 219 South Main St., Colchester, CT 06415.

Colchester

Peter L. Eldridge

Peter L. Eldridge passed away June 26 surrounded by his loving family. He was born in Roslindale, Mass., Dec. 4, 1942, the son of the late Lloyd and Edith Eldridge.

Peter joined the U.S. Navy in 1961 and completed the U.S. Naval Submarine School in Groton. In 1984, MSSC Eldridge retired off the USS Tullibee SSN 597 on which he served as chief. Peter then worked the next 20 years as a security supervisor for General Equities.

In November 1961, he married his high school sweetheart, Nora L. Gifford.

A memorial service celebrating his life will be held at 3 p.m. today, July 19, on the pier of the USS Nautilus Submarine Force Museum, 1 Crystal Lake Road, Groton, CT 06340.

Colchester

Steven A. Orvis

Steven A. Orvis, 43, of Colchester, loving husband of Beth (Gogley) Orvis, passed away Thursday, July 11. Born in Hartford, Feb. 10 1970, the son of William J. Orvis of Farmington and the late Sandra E. (Peterson) Orvis, he was a graduate of Farmington High School, Class of 1988.

Steven was currently employed at Whole Foods as a Food Preparer. He was a prolific comic book collector and aficionado, especially of the Superman series. He was a constant entertainer and greatly enjoyed writing and acting. Steven was an avid Yankee's fan and was a devoted, sincere and honest man.

Besides his wife and father, he is survived by his step-daughter, Jenavieve Ryan; his sister, Lisa A. Jones and her husband Steven of Norfolk, Va; his maternal grandmother, Margaret A. Hein of Farmington, his nephew Brody Jones; best friends, Steven Lazorcik, Francis Willoughby and Andrew Tierney and many aunts, uncles and cousins.

There will be no calling hours. Funeral services and burial will be private at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial contributions be made to the Colchester Food Bank, 127 Norwich Ave., Colchester, CT 06415. Arrangements are being handled by The Ahern Funeral Homes, Inc., ahernfuneralhome.com.

Colchester

Archie W. Miraldes

Archie W. Miraldes, 83, of Marlow, Ala., Rhode Island and formerly Colchester, passed away June 7.

He is survived by his wife of 59 years, B. Maxine Miraldes; a son Ted Miraldes Sr. and wife Frances; daughter Linda and husband Bob Cox; grandson, drill sergeant Ted Miraldes Jr. and wife Katharine; three granddaughters, Sarah Miraldes, Victoria and Rebecca Cox; four great grandchildren, Jorja, Michael, Molly, and Aiden Miraldes; a niece and nephew and several cousins.

A memorial event honoring Miraldes will be held July 27 from 1-3 p.m. at the Wooster Lodge #10 (Masonic Lodge), 206 S. Main St., Colchester.

Portland

David Jon Slym

David Jon Slym, 61, son of the late David E. and Sybil (Fischer) Slym, lost his long battle with acute myeloid leukemia July 17 at Middlesex Hospital in Middletown. He was born in Wolverhampton, England, May 21, 1952, and moved to Portland in 1998.



He is survived by his loving wife, Paula (Kunsey) Slym of Portland. He also leaves behind his daughter and son-in-law, Jessica and Ben White, and his newborn grandson Oliver David White of York, England; his daughter, Katie Slym and her partner Jonathan Vessey, also of York, England; and his stepdaughter, Amanda Rasch and her partner, Reed Hansen of Bristol.

In addition, he is survived by his siblings, June (Slym) and Robert Brooks of Cass City, Michigan, and Ron and Helen Slym of Tuggerah, New South Wales, Australia.

David was formerly employed by Hudson Seating and Mobility in Newington as a service coordinator. He spent many happy hours with the employees there and spoke highly of the company.

Memorial services will be held Sunday July 21 at 4 p.m. at Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland. Burial will be private. Relatives and friends may call Sunday from 2 p.m. until the service.

The family wishes to extend its appreciation to the staff of Middlesex Oncology in Middletown, in particular for the kindness of Dr. Robert Levy who has cared for David over the last 10 years.

In lieu of flowers, it is requested that donations be made to the American Cancer Society 1075 Chase Pkwy #4 Waterbury, CT. 06708.

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

From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Geeta Schrayter

Well, Mike Thompson is enjoying another week of summer some place other than the office and so, I've taken the reigns once more.

Considering the season, it seems fitting I share some conclusions I've made regarding summer, children, play and technology based upon conversations with friends, research and recollections of my own childhood which wasn't *too* long ago.

First of all, summertime should be a time to play outdoors. When I'm going for walks with my boyfriend, we often remark upon kids we see riding their bikes or playing jump rope or hopscotch. These sights are notable to us because they don't seem as common as they once were. More frequently we see kids sitting around and talking while staring at their phones or worse, not talking at all, just sitting near each other and staring at their phones. Or, we hardly see kids at all.

"Where are all the kids?" we'll wonder, and can only assume they're being occupied with some other form of entertainment such as Snapchat or Instagram, Vine, Angry Birds, Candy Crush or whatever the app du jour is for their iPads or iPhones, or whatever the latest video game happens to be for their Xbox or Wii. I'm not against technology or these kinds of amusements in moderation, but I think they have their place and time.

Summer is not that.

Summer is for hopscotch, jump rope, hula-hooping, Horseshoes, tag, Four Square, Tetherball, Badminton, Marbles, Touch Football, Hide and Seek, Marco Polo, Capture the Flag, Duck Duck Goose!, Hot Potato, I Spy, swimming, exploring or just a good use of imagination (to name a few).

I cringe to think some kids might not even know what some of those games are. Point in case: a couple of years ago I suggested to my young cousin that we play pretend. We turned into sisters, it turned into her birthday, and I threw her a birthday party where she was given all kinds of "gifts" that had been found outside. She talked about that day and how fun it was on more than one occasion after that and I was surprised at the impression it made. That sort of activity had been a frequent childhood pastime of mine, but for her not so much, and I think it's a definite shame.

I think more kids should be tossed outside – while their electronics are kept *inside* – to take part in some of the above activities. After all, apart from the occasional concern a kid might get hit in the head during kickball or what I consider the unfounded view Red Rover is too rough, I think these pastimes, almost all of which include some form of running, jumping, hopping, twirling, in-person socializing or brain usage, are nothing but beneficial.

Summer is also for playing in the dirt. Dirt is good. I don't know how the majority of society has gotten fixated on being 100 percent germ free and keeping children away from every dirt speck and bacteria particle, but that mentality can actually make kids more prone to sickness. I remember making mud pies and stomping in almost-dried up puddles with gobs of squishy mud on the bottom as a child, and I seem to remember my sister sampling dirt on more than one occa-

sion and we lived to tell the tale. In fact, I rarely get sick.

Researchers actually recommend letting kids get dirty to help boost their immune systems; if you limit a kid's exposure to natural organisms that help them build a healthy and strong immune system, there's a greater risk for autoimmune diseases in adulthood.

(This goes for adults too. Excessive use of instant sanitizer and the like means good bacteria is wiped out along with the bad. Sanitizer doesn't differentiate between the "good guys" and the "bad," and without the former, you no longer have troops on hand to defend against the latter.)

In addition, studies indicate playing outdoors and getting messy can decrease stress, anxiety, obesity and ADHD and quite simply lead to happier children.

I'm not suggesting kids be allowed to go bath-free for the rest of their childhood, nor am I suggesting tossing a kid in a mud puddle if they've their own aversion to dirt, but making the bath a bit more worthwhile by letting them get dirty earlier in the day and allowing and encouraging them to make a batch of mud soup or pretend to be an archeologist and dig for dinosaurs can't be a bad thing.

Circling back to technology, its excessive use, particularly in social situations, is an adult issue, too. I admit to being on my phone too much sometimes, but I've taken steps to remedy that, by deleting some of the apps that seem to eat up most of my time (at least until I finish my next novel). I also make a conscious effort not to use it in social situations... you know, so I can actually socialize.

And along those same lines, that includes socializing with babies. In a recent article by linguist Nishant Choksi, he commented on the changes he saw while taking his baby grandson for a walk. When he went on walks with his own son, parents spoke to their babies about what they saw during the excursion. But now, he said, many parents push their babies while engaging in one-sided conversations on their cell phones or texting in silence. Since the technology is still relatively new, he pointed out research on the impact this could have is scarce, but he said research on the effects of adult-child conversation makes "a strong case for putting cell phones away when you're around children."

Choksi referenced a study by the journal *Pediatrics* in 2009 that showed children who were exposed to more conversational give-and-take scored higher at every stage of language proficiency. He also mentioned another study by the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* that showed babies whose parents responded to their babblings with smiles, touches and moving closer learned to vocalize more, with more complex sounds and articulated more accurately than babies whose parents did not react.

In short, to quote a quote, Choksi mentioned one of the authors of the *Pediatrics* paper as saying "you can only do one thing at a time: talk to the baby or talk on the phone."

Here's to a summer filled with old-fashioned games, dirt and discussions.