

**RIVER EAST**

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East Hampton's Old Home Days are due to make their glorious return next week. The three-day event features a spate of activities, culminating with the annual parade Saturday, July 13. Shown here at the 2010 parade, Riley Briggs, Carli Villa, Shayla Belanger and Nate Abraham (pictured from left) perform the song "Prince Ali" from *Aladdin* on the Young People's Center for Creative Arts float.

Marlborough Native Turns American Composer

by Melissa Roberto

Charles Denler remembers growing up watching his dad build houses in his quaint hometown of Marlborough.

The vivid memories of his dad in a hard hat are faint, however, compared to his memories of constantly pulling out his notepad from his back pocket, and incessantly jotting things down whether it was atop of a roof or in someone's future front yard.

"It was everywhere," he said of the places he brought his notepad. "Literally everywhere."

Inside of young Charles' notepad weren't stories, his homework or his spelling words of the week. Instead, the pages of his notepad were filled with melodies and lyrics, an activity that he's since made a career out of: writing music.

Flash forward to 2013, and Denler is an American composer who writes film and concert music for movies, television shows and his latest achievement was writing his first symphony. These days, his music is witnessed by crowds much larger than just his family members. It can be heard all over the world, in movie theaters, family rooms, even concert halls.

Denler's first experiences with music came within the halls of Marlborough Elementary School, where he started playing the trumpet

in fourth grade. From the first day he picked up the instrument and learned how to read music, he started writing "immediately," he recalled.

At RHAM Middle School, Denler was introduced to the piano, and from then on, his music notations became "heavy," he said. Denler started "tinkering" with symphonies in the ninth grade, and was so inspired he became a part of the wind ensemble, brass quintet and jazz band at RHAM – music programs he said he "loved."

It was from there he started taking music seriously, learning how to play instruments of all kinds: strings, woodwinds, brass, and all of the pitches and techniques that went along with them. He received scholarships to go to Berklee College of Music in Boston, where he studied jazz. In 1984, during his freshman year, however, Denler said he cut his education short after his brother, Scott, was tragically killed in an accident.

While Denler's time at Berklee satisfied his longing to be surrounded by music, he found that it was classical orchestras – not jazz – that he fancied the most.

"I was always longing of being in front of an orchestra," Denler explained.

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Old Home Days Return Next Week

by Elizabeth Bowling

It's time for another "glorious celebration" in Belltown, as East Hampton's 35th annual Old Home Days will start Thursday, July 11, and run until Saturday July 13.

The three-day celebration will begin at 6 p.m. Thursday, with \$15 "all-you-can-ride" wristbands that allow entry into the evening's carnival, which will be held on the Center School grounds. The one-day wristbands can be purchased at one of two ticket booths on the school grounds, and will be valid until 10 p.m. Thursday.

The "all-you-can-ride" wristbands will continue throughout the celebration. Friday's wristbands, which will be valid from 6-11 p.m., will cost \$20 each. Saturday, meanwhile, will require two wristbands, one for the morning, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and one for the evening, from 5-11 p.m. The Saturday tickets will cost \$20 for the morning session and another \$20 for the evening session.

A different company is putting on the carnival this year, according to OHD Association member Steven Kelley. Rainbow Amusements, from Sandy Hook, will provide 15 carnival rides.

"It's sure to have more thrills than we've had in the past," Kelley said.

Another thrilling activity will come in the form of the 15th annual Glorious Gallop 5K road race, which is scheduled for Friday, July 12, at 7:15 p.m. The race will start at Seven Hills Crossing and continue down Mott Hill and around Lake Pocotopaug to the finish line at

Center School.

Runners can pre-register by mail or online. For more information on how to register, visit easthamptonoldhomelights.blogspot.com. Runners can also register in person before the start of the race. In-person pre-registration and bib pick up will be Thursday, July 11, from 6-10 p.m. on the Center School grounds. Pre-registered runners have to pay a \$15 fee.

Runners can also register the day of the race, on the Center School grounds, from 5 p.m. to 6:43 p.m. and will have to pay a \$20 fee. Children ages 12 and under can enter the race for \$10.

Shuttle bus service from the Center School grounds to the starting line will run from 6 p.m. to 6:43 p.m.

According to Sheila Oakes, the race chairwoman, over 100 people have registered for the race as of this week, but because there were about 500 runners last year – and because "this is the best race in the world," she quipped – she expects between 500 and 1,000 runners this year. However, she added, "It's hard to know [for certain] because most people don't register until the day of the race."

The Old Home Days weekend-long celebration will include the largest parade in Middlesex County Saturday at 11 a.m. This year's theme is "Parade of Broadway Musicals." Townspeople voted on the theme, like they do every year, according to Pamela Joslyn-Greenwald, the president of the OHD Association.

Joslyn-Greenwald said that the South Phila-
See Old Home Days Page 2



Marlborough native Charles Denler sits in his studio inside of his Colorado home, where he writes film and concert music for large networks and productions. Denler is an American composer who writes scores for movies, television shows and just recently premiered his first symphony in Colorado on May 31.

Composer cont. from Front Page

Denler plays the piano within the Boettcher Concert Hall on May 31, where his first symphony "Portraits of Colorado" premiered. The symphony was played by 70 musicians, and sung by 100.

After dropping out of Berklee, the composer recalls the following year as a year of "healing." While coping with his brother's sudden death, Denler was able to focus on orchestral music, and was taught how to read – not write – scores, by his teacher Wess Ross.

Though he never received formal training to write music, Denler used his spare time growing up listening and dissecting symphonies from the greats, like Mozart and Beethoven. And Denler admits he still does that today.

"I've always dedicated the first hour or so of every single day for the last 30 years listening to other composers," he explained.

When it comes to writing music, Denler admits he's "pretty much" 100 percent self-taught. After staying at Berkshire Christian for one year before the school closed, Denler began his career in the industry as a music director for churches around the country, mostly in Connecticut and Arizona.

For 14 years he worked for churches but was often told by churchgoers who listened to his music that there was something "weird" about it, he said.

"I was told my music sounded like film music," he explained.

Little did he know then that those comments would soon become true. Though already having wet feet in the industry, Denler made a splash in the musical world after building something his father was intrigued by: a baby grand purple piano. In the late 1990s, Denler said he had a dream about a purple piano and woke up with a gut feeling to build one. The result was a baby grand piano he painted purple with a keyboard inside that played classical, electric and even acoustic notes.

Along with the piano came his first album titled "Purple Piano" but it was the actual piano that got the most attention and launched his career. The piano showed up in magazines, on TV, and soon caught the eye of National Geographic producers in 2000.

For Denler, the beginning of the 21st century brought a whole new career. He was hired by National Geographic to write music for a handful of its films, and then went on to do the same for NBC, PBS, History Channel, Animal Planet and the Discovery Channel. He also composed pieces for Honda and Coca-Cola commercials, the Oprah Winfrey show, *Dateline* – and even major films.

Just two weeks ago, Denler finished up music for a film featuring Richard Gere coming out later this year called *Henry and Me*. Before that, he did music for a Burt Reynolds film. His music has appeared in films featuring Richard Dreyfuss, Richard Gere, Burt Reynolds, Susan Sarandon, Daryl Hannah, Louis Gossett Jr., Chares Durning, and more. His music has also been featured on works by such artists such as Creed, Cyndi Lauper and Jose Feliciano.

Denler's work has netted him two Emmy awards, two gold medals from the Park City Music Film Festival, several TELLY awards and various international acclaims. However, one of his most recent accomplishments made its debut not at the movies or on a TV screen. On May 31, "Portraits of Colorado," the first symphony Denler's ever written, made its premiere

in Colorado, performed by the Colorado Symphony Orchestra and Chorus.

Denler has performed in and written music for over 2,000 concerts, playing as far away as Prague, but "Portraits of Colorado" was the largest premiere of his concert music. A symphony of 10 movements played by 70 instrumentalists and sung by 100, "Portraits of Colorado" hit close to home for Denler, who has called Colorado his home for the past 10 years.

The symphony was inspired by paintings done by American painter Jerry Malzahn, whose work Denler often downloaded from the Internet and hung up in the studio of his Denver home. Malzahn's paintings featured Colorado scenes – paintings that sell for as much as \$65,000.

"I was drawn to his works immediately," Denler explained.

As he looked at the paintings for inspiration to write music about the place he calls home, Denler said he felt guilty for using the prints as inspiration, so he reached out to Malzahn via telephone. Little did he know, until he spoke to the painter himself, that Malzahn had actually been using Denler's music as inspiration to create his art.

Denler describes that moment as "very serendipitous." The two – composer and artist – met, and on May 31 at the Boettcher Concert Hall, "Portraits of Colorado" was performed and in the hall hung Malzahn's art.

While coming across his music on TV sometimes comes as surprise, Denler said watching people in the audience on May 31 in tears was something special. Even more special, was that Denler's father was there to witness it.

Denler's father, Charles Denler of Marlborough, said he and his wife, Beverly, looked at the music industry as "tough" to get into, but encouraged their son to go after what he loved.

And now, since his dream of writing music has become his full-time job, Denler said he "never" worries that he'll run out of ideas, for his inspiration for symphonies and grand film music "always comes from the subject matter."

He added that whether he's in Europe speaking to translators, in his home studio or in Los Angeles writing scores for a film, the "emotional response is always the same."

"The cool thing about music is it's universal," said Denler. "The greatest honor is sharing what you have written with people who cherish it."

Though Denler lives in Colorado with his wife, Kay, 17-year-old daughter, Moriah, and his 12-year-old son, Jack, he says every few years he makes sure to come back to pay his hometown of Marlborough a visit. He added that a goal of his is to hopefully team up with the Hartford Symphony Orchestra, and write a symphony titled "Portraits of New England."

According to his dad, however, Denler isn't too far from home; the elder Denler said he falls asleep to his son's music every night.

The "Portraits of Colorado" album with Denler's symphony will be released in stores and online nationally on Sept. 10. To learn more about Denler readers can check out his personal website at charlesdenler.com.

Old Home Days cont. from Front Page

delphia String Band – also known as "Mummers" – and the Shriners – fan favorites that wheel around in miniature cars – will once again appear at East Hampton's Old Home Days parade this year.

According to Oakes, over 70 units were already signed up for the parade as of this week, but she expects at least a dozen more, including local politicians, to sign up in the next week.

East Hampton's parade will be graced by the presence of Mrs. Connecticut America Lori-Ann Marchese and Miss Teen Connecticut USA Kendall Leary. Alas, Miss USA Erin Brady – an East Hampton native – will be unable to attend, Oakes said.

Regardless, Oakes said she is looking forward to the parade. "It's a great day and a great weekend," she said. "Everybody looks forward to it. I guess we're just crazy because we love it so much!"

After the parade, Mummers will do an encore performance. Other performers will include MOTO (offering "smooth sounds of the Caribbean," including Soca and Reggae), World Beatniks (original compositions that feature a worldwide variety of styles), The Neybas (rock hits and obscurities from the 60s and 70s) and KICK (a premier party band).

Other entertainment will include a magician act and a dance party on Thursday. And on Friday, there will be musical performances by Four Barrel Billy and Jeff Pitchell & Texas Flood, who will be joined by The Jeffettes.

The raffle drawing will be held on Saturday. This year, there will be 12 prizes: first prize is a 21 HP 46-inch Husqvarna Lawn Tractor; second prize is a Weber Spirit SP 310 gas grill; third and fourth prize is a \$500 Stop & Shop

gift card; fifth prize is a \$500 Verizon Wireless Zone gift card; sixth prize is a \$400 Belltown Tire gift card; seventh prize is a \$350 gift certificate, donated by Happy Paddler, for a one hour Lake Pocotopaug Cruise for 10, which includes appetizers donated by Chatham Catering; eighth prize is a \$300 Citgo gift card; ninth prize is a \$200 gift certificate for deluxe auto detailing at Belltown Auto Sales & Rental; 10th prize is a \$100 Angelico's gift card; 11th prize is a \$100 Loco Perro gift card; and 12th prize is a \$100 Rosini's gift card.

Tickets are \$10 each and usually sell out by Saturday afternoon, according to Joslyn-Greenwald. Winners will be pulled and announced at 8:10 p.m. Saturday on the Center School grounds, though they don't need to be present to win.

Raffle tickets can be purchased at the local Verizon, Ace Hardware, Fit Trix, Salon Ferrara, Citgo Food Bag, Saving Institute Bank and Trust and East Hampton Public Library; a total of 1,200 tickets will be sold.

The shuttle bus service will run the same as last year. Parking for all of the activities at Center School is at the high school on North Maple Street, and a shuttle bus will arrive every 30 minutes to bring people to the fair. The shuttle will begin at 5 p.m. each night.

Also like last year, each day of the celebration will feature a bike giveaway. Tickets will be handed out each night from 6-8 p.m. to children up to age 13 and at approximately 8 p.m., donated bicycles will be given away to 20 lucky ticket holders.

For more information on the 2013 Old Home Days, you can check out their Facebook page or visit easthamptonoldhomedays.blogspot.com.

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

by Mike Thompson

Readers of this column no doubt noticed I was away on vacation last week, and reporter Geeta Schrayer did a fine job of editing in my absence. But now I'm back.

I know you're all wondering (humor me): where did I go? Down to The Happiest Place on Earth, Walt Disney World, for the wedding of a good friend of mine from college. It was a grand wedding, and a great week all around.

Before heading to Disney, though, I first made a pit stop in Savannah, Ga., on Tuesday, where I met the soon-to-be-groom at the airport, headed back to his place – just over the border in South Carolina – and dropped off my things, and then returned to Savannah to walk around and hang out for a few hours.

It was my first time in that historic city, and let me tell you it was beautiful. My friend and I walked down the cobblestone streets to the river, visited Savannah's Candy Kitchen, which wasn't just a candy shop but a candy factory as well, with patrons able to watch taffy being made and pralines being assembled. (There were also free samples of the pralines – the best pralines I have ever tasted. Just melt-in-your-mouth delicious.) After I marveled at a few more historic buildings, it was off to grab dinner at a tasty Mexican restaurant to cap off the night.

Then we were up bright and early the next morning to drive down to central Florida to meet the groom's fiancée, who was staying with her parents at The Villages, an absolutely huge retirement community, containing close to 100,000 residents. I've seen several 55-and-over communities, but never anything nearly that huge. And what a beautiful development! There are clubs and activities galore, expertly-manicured grounds, golf courses galore, a bowling alley, a concert hall, two movie theaters, and loads of stores and restaurants. Plus, it's a gated community, and very safe.

After looking at The Villages for a while, I was not surprised that the area's grown so much in recent years. (Indeed, *Forbes* magazine in 2012 rated it the fastest-growing city in the country, with its population climbing from 72,000 in 2007 to 93,000 in 2010.) Anyone in Riviera Beach aiming to retire soon and head down south – I'd strongly encourage you to check it out. Heck, after a few minutes there I wanted to move in. Alas, I'm a little bit too young.

The Villages is less than an hour from Disney World, so after staying the night there, it was just a short trip down to our ultimate destination. I'd been to Disney before, but not

since 2001 – and never for a wedding. It was a fantastic time. As one of the groomsmen, I was in a spate of really fun pictures to take, and then of course was up at the altar in a very nice chapel, getting a close-up view as this couple, who are so right for each other, who are the definition of each other's best friend, exchanged their beautiful vows and became man and wife.

After the wedding, and a few more photos were snapped, it was off to the reception. There were the standard introductions, speeches by the best man and maid of honor, a nice buffet meal and, of course, lots of dancing. But, since the wedding was at Disney, there was an added twist.

Both the bride and groom were fans of Disney villains – the bride in fact wore a beautiful black dress, with white along the edges – so a couple of appropriate "uninvited guests" stopped by. The first was the Evil Queen from *Snow White and the Seven Dwarves*, who arrived to take pictures with the couple, and then with anyone else who wanted photos snapped with her. Whoever was playing the queen did a great job; not only did she look the part, but she never broke a smile even once – instead standing there, arms folded, passing judgment on all those gathered. I was impressed.

About a half hour after the Queen exited came Gaston, the villain from *Beauty and the Beast*. He also posed for photographs, showing off his biceps, flashing an arrogant grin. Like the Queen, whoever was playing Gaston knew his role very well.

That evening, several members of the wedding party and their guests gathered for drinks and dinner at Downtown Disney, and then the next day a bunch of us also headed for the Magic Kingdom, for a day soaking up everything that park had to offer. There's so much to see at the Magic Kingdom – as anyone who's ever been there knows, rides are only half the story. There are attractions galore – including a newly-expanded Fantasyland featuring sights inspired by *The Little Mermaid* and *Beauty and the Beast*, including a restaurant apparently designed to resemble the castle of the latter film. (You needed reservations to go inside – which we did not have.)

Simply put, visiting the park was a ton of fun – and the perfect way to end what had been a wonderful, magical past few days.

It was a fantastic time; I was honored to be a part of it all.

See you next week.

Portland Fireworks Return Next Weekend

by Elizabeth Bowling

Portland's annual fireworks display is scheduled for next Saturday, July 13, at the Exchange Club Fairgrounds on Route 17A, right along the Connecticut River – and this year's show is being held in memory of five longtime residents who have passed away in recent years.

This year marks the 21st anniversary of the fireworks show – although that number includes 2011, the only year the show was canceled due to inclement weather.

This year's 40-minute show is dedicated to five members of the community who passed away during the past year and are "sorely missed by all who knew them," according to Sharon Hoy, a member of the Portland Fireworks Committee.

The community members to whom the show is dedicated are: Jarvis Barton, Ed Dunham, Paul Ghent Sr., Ralph "Mickey" Paley and Ed Sharr Sr.

Barton, who served in the U.S. Navy, purchased the Holter's Boat Yard upon his return from the service. Holter's Boat Yard, which was later named the Portland Boat Works, became a mainstay in the community, Hoy said, housing and servicing hundreds of boats over the years. Barton was known for building strong relationships with his customers, she added.

Dunham was a former chairman of the Portland Fireworks Committee. As chairman he strived to provide the best fireworks display in the state, Hoy said. He was a licensed pyrotechnic engineer for the Dapkus Fireworks Company and the owner of Haunted Star Productions, which provided sound and lighting for numerous public events. He was also a member of the Portland Fire Department and served on the Portland Fair Committee. Dunham was also the owner of Fredrico's Catering Service.

Ghent, after serving in the U.S. Army, worked



Jarvis Barton

for Pratt & Whitney for 25 years before working for the Town of Portland in the Building Maintenance Department. Ghent was involved in Portland Little League, Portland Board of Finance and the East Hartford Aircraft Federal Credit Union Board.

Paley was a lifetime resident of Portland and he and his wife Sara raised their three children in the town he loved. He and his brother founded Paley Brothers Hay and Shavings, which they ran in Portland for more than 50 years.

Paley anonymously donated to many people and organizations in town, Hoy said. She described him as kind and helpful to friends, family and strangers, and said he was a generous supporter of the Portland Fire Department, Portland Sideliners, Portland Fair and the Portland Library. He was also a sponsor of the Portland Little League and the Portland Soccer Club, Hoy said – but added Paley's greatest enjoyment was spending time with his family.

Sharr worked in the food industry. He bought Tri-Town Foods in Westchester and expanded the company into several other locations. He was a member of the Connecticut Food Association Board of Directors and was named its "Man of the Year" in 1989.

Sharr was a charter member of the Knights of Columbus Council 3544 in Plainville; a Charter Member of the Colchester Business Association; a former member of the Board of Directors of Glastonbury Bank and Trust; a former Director of South Eastern Connecticut Chamber of Commerce and a former Director of Allied Grocers Co-operative, Inc. He served on the advisory board for Bacon Academy and was instrumental in establishing Colchester's first newspaper, the *Regional Standard*. In 1992, the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International named him a "Paul Harris Fellow." He was also



Ed Dunham

involved with the Boy Scouts for many years and in 1994 was named the first "Distinguished Citizen" by the Indian Trail Council in recognition for his many scouting and civic involvements.

Without giving away too many details about the show, Hoy said, "It has a grand finale that includes a Wall of Fire, which is unique to Portland."

She went on to say the show will have a "surprise ending that the spectators will feel as well as see."

Ocean State Pyrotechnics, a company from Rhode Island, is putting on the display, which is scheduled to start at 9:30 p.m., but gates will open at 5 p.m. for pre-show entertainment.

Starting at 5 o'clock, people can enjoy a live local band and DJ and food vendors serving hot dogs, hamburgers, drinks, popcorn and fried dough, Hoy said. There will also be glow-in-the-dark novelty items for sale, she said.

Like in past years, the fireworks event will also feature a tribute to the troops, Hoy said. Music from each branch of the service will be played and veterans will be asked to stand up and be recognized by their community.

The Portland Fireworks are "planned and managed by a small group of volunteers," Hoy said of her 13 fellow committee members. In case of bad weather, Hoy said, the committee will make its final decision to go on with or cancel the show by early next week.

"We will try to reschedule depending on the weather," Hoy said. "We just don't know when" the rain date will be.

Regardless of cancellation, raffle winners must be drawn at 9 p.m. on July 13. If the event is canceled, tickets will not be sold that day, so anyone who buys their tickets ahead of time will have an increased chance of winning, Hoy explained.



Paul Ghent Sr.

In addition to the annual raffle, two 50/50 raffles will be held. There will be 12 prizes: first prize is a Chartered Fishing Service; second prize is a Sharp 42" LED TV; third prize is a \$250 gift certificate for Angela's Fine Jewelry; fourth prize is a gift certificate for four at Quarry Ridge Golf

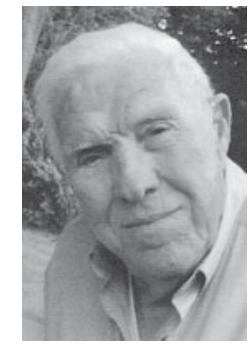
Course, which covers green fees; fifth prize is 50 gallons of fuel oil from Daniels Energy; sixth prize is four tickets to Brownstone Exploration and Discovery Park; seventh prize is a lobster dinner for four from Tri-Town Foods; eighth

prize is a \$50 gift certificate for The White Dog; ninth prize is a gift basket from Bordonaro's Pharmacy; 10th prize is four tickets to the 2013 Portland Agricultural Fair; 11th prize is a \$30 gift certificate for Portland Restaurant; and 12th prize is a T-Shirt from Main Street Cycle.

Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased in advance at Bordonaro's Pharmacy, Farrell's Restaurant, Bud's Café, TopDog and Tri-Town Foods.

Because the Portland Fireworks are made possible each year through donations, donations will be accepted up to and during the event. If you would like to donate to the show ahead of time, you can send a check payable to "Portland Fireworks," to Portland Police, 265 Main St., Portland, CT 06480.

To find out if the show will go on as scheduled, call the Town's Parks and Recreation hotline at 860-262-7234.



Mickey Paley



Ed Sharr Sr.

Corsa Named New Public Works Superintendent in Marlborough

by Melissa Roberto

Following the reorganization of jobs at the Public Works Department, the Board of Selectmen appointed long-standing Public Works employee Chris Corsa to fill the new role of the Superintendent of Operations.

Corsa has served the Public Works Department since he was hired by the town in August 2004 as its physical services foreman. Since, he took over the role as the buildings and grounds supervisor. When the former highway and fleet supervisor left in April 2012, however, Corsa took on both supervising roles for the town, which included the combined duties of overseeing the town's buildings, including Marlborough Elementary School, as well as highway services.

In his new role as superintendent, Corsa will continue what he's taken on over the last year, as the new superintendent role is a combination of both highway and fleet and building and grounds – all duties he's already been exposed to.

Along with the creation of the superintendent position, came another new mid-level job at the department: the Public Works unit supervisor. After a committee was hired and an interview process was conducted, Eric Ramm was hired to fill the new mid-level position in May. Ramm brought with him 20 years of experience working as the equipment operator for the city of New Britain.

As the department's superintendent, Corsa's

responsibilities include scheduling the maintenance staff; ensuring proper timing of projects, training employees, coordinating with the first selectman to schedule projects, assisting in budget development, and assisting in the planning and coordination of building or capital improvement projects, and more.

In Ramm's new role, he will be responsible for supervising and participating in assigned public works operations, including road/drainage maintenance, catch basin and drainage repair, as well as using heavy and light vehicles to perform work. In addition, Ramm is responsible for supervising and training employees as needed. He will also advise Corsa of the status of projects in addition to several other duties.

Though Corsa's new role is similar to the duties he's been responsible for over the last year, his appointment was questioned by some in town, including a current Public Works employee. According to the June 18 Board of Selectmen minutes, available online, First Selectwoman Cathi Gaudinski requested the board to appoint Corsa as the superintendent, but due to a request made by selectman Mike Gut, the vote was tabled to Tuesday night's meeting.

At the June meeting, Gut explained that he'd like the board to give some thought before hiring Corsa to ensure that his qualifications were aligned with the superintendent duties. At the

same meeting, Public Works employee Brian Reynolds stood before the board during public comments voicing concerns of the possible hiring of Corsa for the new role. Reynolds told the board he did not believe Corsa was a "good candidate" for the position, according to the minutes.

On Tuesday night, Gut stuck with his initial beliefs. The selectman stated that he wasn't entirely positive that Corsa's qualifications matched up with the new role – a role that he said needed a "very, very strong person" to fill.

"I'm not completely certain he has all the maintenance, construction and engineering background that this position requires," Gut explained. "And we did not test the market as to see who's out there to fill the position so I have a concern whether or not Chris is the right person for that job."

Gut added that he has "nothing personal" against Corsa, but that his stance is based upon "solicited and unsolicited" feedback he's received from others in town.

Selectman Dick Shea and Gaudinski, however, voted in support of hiring Corsa. By a 2-1 vote, Corsa was hired Tuesday night.

Before the vote was taken, however, Shea explained that he did listen to various viewpoints, but believed there was no "clean shot" that will satisfy everyone.

"We are faced with a situation where we need

to maintain and improve on the services to the town and we currently have a substantial amount of public work projects in progress," Shea explained.

The selectman added that he hopes the Public Works Department can become "a team" while adding that moving forward with Corsa is "probably the most reasonable approach."

Gaudinski informed Gut that his concerns were noted and that she feels confident moving forward with Corsa as the superintendent since his duties are similar to ones he's been exposed to for the last year.

Corsa's new role goes into effect immediately.

Also at Tuesday's meeting, the selectmen awarded Saltmarsh Industries of Granville, Mass. as the contractor for the North Main Street culvert project – the same contractor who is currently constructing the new sidewalks on North Main Street. The project will replace an underground pipe that is rotting and collapsing in addition to new culverts. The construction will take place from the intersection of North Main Street and Lakeridge Road to North Main Street and Chapman Road. The bid was awarded at \$30,890.

The next Board of Selectmen meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 16, at 7 p.m., at Town Hall.

Big Crowds, Beautiful Weather for Hebron Fireworks Return

by Geeta Schrayer

Last year the Hebron Lions Club decided not to hold its annual fireworks show due to budget issues. As a result, the sky over the fairgrounds remained dark as the Fourth of July drew near. But this year, once the sun set last Saturday, June 29, the sky was illuminated with bursts of color accompanied by loud “booms” as the fireworks occurred once more.

Despite the potential for thunderstorms – a weather forecast that’s been quite common of late – Fireworks Committee Chairman Bob Schadtle said the decision was made to go ahead with the display. He explained making the call to cancel the show would have needed to happen before 7:30 a.m. Saturday.

“Once the fireworks leave New Hampshire, you own them,” he said.

Schadtle said the show could have been postponed to the following day, but once the fireworks are placed in the mortar, the only way to get them out is to shoot them off.

“So by 7:30 the weather said it would be ok, so we went ahead with it and just crossed our fingers,” he said.

That decision proved the right one to make, as poor weather in the morning gave way to a blue sky afternoon and a bright evening sunset.

“It was awesome,” said Schadtle. “The weather was horrible in the morning but it became beautiful.”

Hebron Lions President John Johnson Jr. felt similarly.

“We had probably the best weather for the event we’ve had in a long time,” he said, explaining there was a “beautiful, clear sky” and a slight breeze that kept the smoke away from the spectators.

“It’s pretty much the only show that’s gone off nicely,” he laughed.

As far as attendance, both Schadtle and Johnson agreed it was possibly the largest crowd they’d seen.

“The parking guys said we parked more cars than we ever did before,” said Schadtle.

“We’ve had probably our biggest crowd for the fireworks,” Johnson added. “We’re looking at somewhere between 1,400-1,500 cars.”

And new this year, all those cars got to park

for free.

Typically, Johnson explained, the event has relied on sponsorships and parking revenue to pay for the fireworks.

“This year we wanted to kind of give back to the community,” he said.

And so, the Lions worked with Altas PyroVision, the New Hampshire company that puts on the show, for a display that cost a little less money to mount.

“But we still thought it was a nice, decent show to come out and watch,” said Johnson. “So there was a little decreased cost on the show, and we relied solely on sponsors” and were able to offer free parking.

Johnson said just under \$7,000 was raised from sponsors, which covered about 90 percent of the bill for the fireworks.

“We had never seen the fireworks as a money-maker,” Johnson furthered. “For us it has always been a ‘break even’ event at best, or a little bit of a loss. It’s always been about a community event for us. So to be able to hold the event this year without charging [for parking] and breaking even, we’ve met our goal, and helped the community have a nice event.”

“The goal has always been to have a good show for the people in town,” added Schadtle. “We thought we could do the show and break even and have no cost, and I think it worked out really well.”

Board of Selectmen member and Deputy Fire Marshal Dan Larsen agreed.

“I thought it was a fantastic day,” he said. “The crowds kept coming in right up until the time they actually set off the fireworks. Everybody seemed to have a good time. It was a very good day for Hebron.”

And everyone in attendance seemed to highlight that. The festivities began in the parking area, where some people chose to remain by their cars and tailgate. Others set up closer to where the fireworks would be set off and enjoyed their own picnic or some of the available concessions like fried dough, sundaes, pulled pork sandwiches, lemonade and smoothies.

Attendees also had the opportunity to listen to the band Uninvited Wilson play throughout the afternoon.



A large crowd – possibly the largest yet – turned out to watch the fireworks display put on by the Hebron Lions Club June 29. Spectators lounged around, socialized, enjoyed live music and treats like fried dough and sundaes before the sun went down and the anticipated show lit up the sky.

(Their performance included a few songs by the band Florida Georgia Line, who will be headlining at this year’s Hebron Harvest Fair. Coupled with pamphlets on the fair that were handed out at the entrance Saturday, they served as teasers for the next – and biggest – event put on by the Hebron Lions, which is scheduled for Sept. 5-8.)

In addition to music, entertainment could be found via the rock wall, inflatable bounce houses or hayrides. Baseballs and footballs could also be seen being tossed around, while some kids settled for a game of tag and others walked around and socialized.

Then, for those who were feeling lucky, there was also a Cow Chip Raffle, judged by Mapleleaf Farm owner Ned Ellis.

Until about 7:30 p.m., individuals had the opportunity to “buy” one of 500 squares of grass that had been marked off in a fenced area. After ticket purchases came to a close, a cow was

released into the area and monitored by Ellis to see where she’d use the bathroom. Whoever owned the square she chose as the ladies’ room won the raffle. The proceeds, which ended up being about \$2,500, went toward the purchase of a new playground at Gilead Hill School.

“It took a long time,” Ellis laughed. “I think it was about two hours,” he said, noting the cow seemed unfazed by the fireworks, and waited until the show was over before leaving a “cow chip.”

“She didn’t get nervous when the fireworks went off,” he said.

That event took place when the sun finally set and the sky darkened enough. The lights on the grounds were then extinguished amid the cheers of the spectators and the anticipated show began. Faces turned skyward as the colors erupted, serving as the end to an enjoyable afternoon, and the start of celebrations for the Fourth of July.

East Hampton Democrats Announce Slate of Candidates

by Elizabeth Bowling

The East Hampton Democratic Town Committee announced its candidates for Town Council, Board of Education and Board of Finance for the November election. The committee made its big announcements June 20 at Angelico’s Lake House Restaurant.

Officially, the caucus isn’t until July 18, but the Democrats are seeking to optimize their time and publicity, according to committee chairman Red McKinney.

The Town Council is the “big enchilada,” according to McKinney. It has five open seats and five Democratic candidates this year. Democrats are running for each open seat in the Board of Education and Board of Finance, too.

Town Council members Barbara Moore and George Pfaffenbach – the only two Democrats on the council – are seeking re-election, while Tim O’Brien, Philip Visintainer and Kevin Reich are also seeking council seats.

O’Brien, who owns Blue Heron Travel in town, is a member of the Board of Finance, and also the treasurer of the Democratic Town Committee.

“He’s a hard-working guy when it comes to an election,” McKinney said about O’Brien.

Pfaffenbach is a former member of the Board of Finance, the secretary of the Rotary Club and a realtor for Prudential Realty.

Moore is chairwoman of the Democratic Town Committee, and is also president of the Rotary Club. She owns Chatham Caterers in town.

Visintainer has been an officer at the East Hampton volunteer fire department for 53 years, for 20 years he served as chief and for 22 he was fire marshal. He also served as zoning enforcement officer.

Reich is the part-time operations manager of East Hampton schools. Prior to that, he was assistant superintendent, acting superintendent, director of administrative services and curriculum, Board of Education business manager and

a teacher.

“We’ve talked to a very extensive number of candidates for the board positions being offered,” McKinney said. “We’ve had more names than we have positions... We have a full slate of candidates.”

McKinney said the Democratic candidates are capable of more than just “warming a chair” and they’re all “eager to serve East Hampton.”

“Make no mistake,” McKinney said, “The Democratic Party in East Hampton is alive and well.”

The five Democrats running for the Board of Education are Jeffrey Carlson, Steven Kelley, Karen Terry, Roy Leonardi and Chris Goff. None currently have seats on the board.

Carlson is the vice president of Young People’s Center for Creative Arts. He’s also a senior design consultant for a commercial construction firm and a father.

Kelley is a recent East Hampton High School graduate. He will attend Manchester Community College and the University of Hartford in the fall. He serves on the Old Home Days Association and works at the Parks and Recreation afterschool program.

“[Because I’m a recent graduate] I have a different perspective on the way the school system runs,” Kelley said. “It’s crucial to have that youth perspective on everything.”

Terry will also provide a unique perspective because she has lived in East Hampton for 18 years and has two children in the town’s school system. She recently worked on the high school renovation project. “I’m really excited because I think we have a lot of positive momentum going toward the school system,” Terry said.

Despite the fact that this is Terry’s first time running for the school board, she said, “I think I have a lot to bring to the table” because she has experience in both business and management. She is currently the assistant managing director of LIMRA, a trade association for market research.

Leonardi is a retired educator but still works



The Democratic Town Committee has announced its slate of candidates. Pictured from left are Town Council hopefuls Kevin Reich, Tim O’Brien and Philip Visintainer, as well as George Pfaffenbach and Barbara Moore, who are each seeking re-election to the council. Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 5.

in Meriden. He focuses on special education and positive behavior reinforcement.

Goff, who’s actually a former member of the Board of Education, is also a former chairman of the Town Council. He has three children and is retired from the field of social work.

The four Democrats seeking Board of Finance seats are Alan Hurst, Jack Solomon, Dean Markham and Mark Vickery. While all would be newcomers to the board, they certainly aren’t newcomers when it comes to local politics.

Hurst is a former chairman of the Board of Education, a former member of the Town Council and a former district governor of the Rotary Club.

Solomon is a former member of the Economic Development Commission and, a past president of the Rotary Club. He is the owner of Laurel Island.

Markham is a realtor for Prudential Realty. He is a former state representative for the 34th Assembly District.

Vickery, the final candidate, is a member of the Parks and Recreation Board and is a senior loan officer at Liberty Bank.

As the caucus draws nearer, the candidates are sure to provide more information and insight into their campaigns.

Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 5.

Local Therapy Dog is ‘Snow Angel’ in East Hampton

by Elizabeth Bowling

“She’s very quiet and gentle,” Michelle Arcidiacono said about her 75-pound Great Pyrenees named Snow. That quiet and gentle demeanor is what made Arcidiacono realize that her dog could be a therapy dog and the two have been working as a therapy team ever since.

Snow, who will be four years old in September, was driven up to Connecticut from Tennessee and adopted by the Arcidiacono family of East Hampton approximately two years ago through adoptapet.com.

Arcidiacono, a stay-at-home-mother of four and local substitute teacher, said she didn’t plan to certify Snow – who she calls “an angel” – as a therapy dog, but it was “heaven-sent.”

The two got certified as a therapy team last September through Therapy Dogs Inc. and currently volunteer about once a week at Connecticut Valley Hospital in Middletown where they work alongside occupational therapist (OT) Karen Kaminsky. During a typical weekly visit, Snow meets with three patients individually over the course of two hours.

“Through relaxation techniques that the OT does with them and through being with Snow and the way she makes them feel, [patients] really get to connect,” Arcidiacono said about her experience with animal-assisted therapy.

“Snow is a therapeutic tool,” Kaminsky said. “[Patients] are able to form initial bonds and practice ways to manage themselves and interact with others.”

Snow specializes in working with patients that suffer from mental and emotional illnesses, like schizophrenia, anxiety and depression, Kaminsky explained.

“The patients connect with Snow. Then once they have a bond with Snow they can transfer that to other people,” Arcidiacono said. “Depending on the patient, she definitely reads into what they need.”

“An animal provides comfort without talking,” she added.

Kaminsky said that Snow is not only beneficial to the patients, but to the staff, as well.

“It’s one of the best times of my week,” she said.

Kaminsky called working with Snow and Arcidiacono a “true blessing.”

“I’ve always wanted to volunteer there,” Arcidiacono said about Connecticut Valley Hospital. “Maybe someday we’ll branch out to Connecticut Children’s Medical Center.”

However, she said it’s difficult to get a foot in the door in terms of animal-assisted therapy unless you have a contact, like she did at Connecticut Valley Hospital.

“I had to do it on my own,” she said. “It would be great to have a database [to match therapy dogs to places that need therapy dogs].” But, she said, that doesn’t exist yet.

To read more about Snow, check out an article about her that will appear in an upcoming issue of *Therapy Dog International Magazine*.



Michelle Arcidiacono of East Hampton and her dog Snow have been working as a therapy team at Connecticut Valley Hospital for almost a year.

Hebron Residents Run Relay for Boston

by Geeta Schrayer

In response to the bombings that occurred during the 2013 Boston Marathon, three runners from the United Kingdom – Kate Treleaven, Danny Bent and Jamie Hay – decided to show their support by organizing One Run for Boston, the first ever non-stop running relay across America.

The 3,300-mile relay left Los Angeles at 10 a.m. June 7 and began making its way across the country. With the help of hundreds of runners, the relay continued around the clock through 14 different states and came to an end June 30 at the finish line of the Boston Marathon.

In a press release about the event, it was explained donations were collected from each participating runner as a way to raise money for The One Fund Boston, a fund set up by Boston Mayor Thomas Menino to assist the victims and families most seriously affected by the bombings.

“One Run for Boston is a chance for runners to come together and show solidarity in a really dynamic way,” Treleaven said in a release. “It’s a chance to be a part of something remarkable, to demonstrate the strength of the human spirit and send a powerful message of support to the city of Boston and those whose lives were changed on April 15.”

The relay was broken down into 319 separate stages. At the end of each stage, a custom-designed baton that garnered the nickname “Miles” was passed along to the runners of the next leg.

And the final day of the relay, one of those exchanges occurred in Hebron.

Hebron resident John Mullaney, who has been running for about 11 years, led the four-person team in town. Mullaney said he joined the relay because like many, he wanted to do something to help – particularly since he was a participant in the Boston Marathon this year.

“I actually finished about an hour and 10 minutes before the bombings happened,” he said, explaining he was back in his hotel with the group of runners he’d traveled with from the Hartford Track Club when he heard the news.

“We had just gotten cleaned up a bit and were sitting down to eat something in the hotel bar when we heard something had happened,” he stated.

Mullaney said the hotel was about a block and a half away from the marathon’s finish, where the bombings occurred.

“It was kind of a strange day in a lot of ways,” he said. “It was a really good day up until all these things happened.”

While everyone in Mullaney’s group was unharmed, he said two of the people in their group had close calls.

“One of the guys I sat with on the bus. He said he had gotten knocked over by the blast, so he was right there just about to finish,” stated Mullaney.

Although speculations swirled while the group was in the city, and the explosions meant the group had to walk a mile or two around the roped-off area to catch their bus, the gravity of the situation didn’t really hit Mullaney until he was home.

“That was when it really kind of sunk in,” he said. “I realized just how tragic it was and what had happened.”

Mullaney said when he thinks about that day, he thinks about how close he was to where the bombs detonated.

“I guess the thing I always remember thinking about it is realizing I had run within 30 feet of both of those spots [where the bombs went off],” he said.

His thoughts also turned to those who were affected, and when he found out about One Run for Boston and the fact it would be passing through the town he’s lived in for the past 18 years, he decided to participate. Mullaney ran an 11-mile segment with Hebron residents Joe Brosseau and Debby Potticary and West Hartford resident Tom Menner that went from Hebron, up the Airline trail and ended in Willimantic.

The event “was really interesting,” Mullaney stated. “It was kind of a nice gesture because it got people from all over the country to think about the event and support it,” he said. “I was there so I kind of understand it but for all the other runners it gave them a way to be involved, and it formed kind of, a community, along the way.”

Mullaney’s leg was originally supposed to start around 3 a.m., but due to some delays throughout the journey, “Miles” reached his hands at around 7:45 a.m. and was actually passed off by another Hebron resident, Jenni-



Hebron resident John Mullaney led one of 319 legs of a cross country running relay to raise money for those affected by the Boston Marathon bombings April 15. Joining him were Hebron residents Joe Brosseau and Debby Potticary and West Hartford resident Tom Menner. Shown here from left are Brosseau, Potticary, Menner and Mullaney.

fer Barrett.

Barrett, who has lived in Hebron for nine years and been running off and on for the past 18, is also a part of the Hartford Track Club and participated in this year’s marathon.

Like Mullaney, she too finished the race before the bombings.

“It was really surreal,” she said, explaining when a runner finishes a marathon, their emotions are usually all over the place. “You’re exhausted physically and mentally and thinking about your results.”

But after word got out about what had happened, all that took a back burner.

“When you found out, nothing mattered except what was going on there,” she said. “It was hard to believe. It was just a shock.”

Like Mullaney, Barrett said she decided to join the relay because the bombings at the marathon hit “so close to home.”

Barrett also led a leg that was about 11 miles

that traveled from East Hampton to Hebron. In order to counteract some of the relay’s delay, and despite the weather being “humid and disgusting,” she ran the segment at a 7:55-minute pace, getting “Miles” to Mullaney in about an hour and 28 minutes.

“It went really well,” said Barrett.

The relay reached its destination Sunday night, and as of Wednesday, the event has raised \$80,914 for the One Fund. Anyone who would like to increase that number or learn more about the relay can go to onerunforboston.com.

And as for Mullaney and Barrett, both said the events of April 15 haven’t deterred them from running. Although it’s still a ways off, both hope to run in the 2014 Boston Marathon.

“The best thing you can do is just keep going. That’s what [terrorists] want to do – they want to scare you,” said Barrett. “I’m definitely coming back to Boston next year. Runners are a tough crowd. You can’t mess with us.”

Two Colchester Men Face Multiple Firearm Charges

by Melissa Roberto

Two Colchester men are facing multiple firearm charges after they allegedly shot pellets at several businesses in town in early April, Colchester Police said.

The accused, Ryan J. Startz, 18, of 24 Novelli Place, and Joseph Paul Hager, 20, of 96 Hammond Court, are each facing two counts of first-degree criminal mischief, two counts of first-degree conspiracy to commit criminal mischief, three counts of illegal possession of a weapon in a motor vehicle, three counts of illegal discharge of a firearm, two counts of illegal discharge of a firearm on a public highway, two counts of first-degree reckless endangerment, one count of second-degree criminal mischief, and one count of second-degree conspiracy to commit criminal mischief, police said.

The two were arrested last month with the charges – which include three felonies, four misdemeanors and one violation – based on arrest warrants issued by the Colchester Police for incidents that occurred in early April, when Colchester businesses reported to the Colchester Police that unknown persons had shot pellets at their businesses and cars in their parking lots.

Colchester Police Sergeant James Keeney said the accused were issued several counts of the same charges due to targeting multiple businesses in town. According to news releases on file at Troop K in Colchester, Startz was located in Colchester and arrested on June 13, June 16 and June 26, while Hager was located in town and arrested on June 12, June 16 and June 26 – some instances where the two were identified together.

According to Keeney, only businesses were targeted, adding that commercial business windows, vehicles and the actual buildings of the businesses were shot at with pellets.

Keeney said, “to his knowledge,” he does not believe any residences in town were targeted.

Keeney described the streak of incidents as a “rash of vandalism including a firearm.” The sergeant added that a pellet gun is a firearm with “a very small projectile coming out of it,” but that a pellet has the potential of injuring someone to the point of possible death.

“It’s pretty serious,” said Keeney about the potential injuries regarding pellets. “If it’s in close range, it could do some serious damage” – such as taking someone’s eye out or a pellet becoming embedded in a person’s brain, which could lead to a fatality, he said.

Though no one was injured in any of the instances, Keeney explained that the two are facing both felonies and misdemeanors, pointing out that if a person is found guilty of a felony they could face up to “at least” one year in jail.

Keeney also said Troop E of Montville issued arrest warrants for the two men, stemming from similar incidents taking place at Mohegan Sun Casino in Uncasville. Due to video surveillance obtained from the casino, and further investigations done by the Colchester Police, the two were identified and related to the crimes in Colchester, Keeney said.

According to the state of Connecticut judicial website, the two men have already pleaded not guilty to two charges each, one count each of first-degree criminal mischief and one count of illegal discharge of a firearm, that were issued by Troop E.

The two are each scheduled to appear in Norwich Superior Court on different days for charges from Troop E and the Colchester Police. Startz is scheduled to appear in court on July 10 and July 11 while Hager is scheduled to appear in court on July 26.

Suspected Human Remains Found

Officers from East Hampton and Portland police Tuesday afternoon responded to a report of possible human remains found on the banks of the Connecticut River, near St. Clements Castle.

Upon arrival, police located the possible human remains on the portion of the property that is in East Hampton, East Hampton Police said.

Detectives from the Connecticut State Police Major Crime Squad and the State's Attorney's Office also responded to the scene

to aid in the investigation Tuesday, officials said, along with troopers from the State Police Emergency Services Unit, Canine and Dive Team and officers from the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

The suspected human remains were transported to the Chief Medical Examiner's Office for confirmation and the investigation is active and ongoing at this time, officials said.

In regards to what kind of body part was found, East Hampton Police Chief Sean Cox said, “There’s no confirmation yet.”

East Hampton Police News

6/15: East Hampton Police reported responding to a two-car motor vehicle accident in the area of Hurd Park Road. Andrea Danaher, 31, of 116 Hurd Park Rd., had lost control of her vehicle while traveling south on Hurd Park Rd. and collided with 50' of vinyl fence and into a parked vehicle. Danaher was arrested for DUI and failure to drive right, police said.

6/15: Scott A. Palmer 35, of 16 East High St., was issued a summons for misuse of marker plates, operation with an expired license, operation without insurance and operating an unregistered motor vehicle, police said.

6/22: Emily Denicola, 19, of 4 Algonquin Tr., Moodus, was pulled over after police said she was observed traveling at a rate of speed “well over” the posted speed limit of 45 m.p.h. and crossed the double yellow center line twice. Denicola was arrested for DUI and failure to drive right, police said.

Portland Police News

6/24: Amy Mogulnicki, 36, of 6 Jordan Lane, was charged with DUI, driving without insurance, operating an unregistered motor vehicle and operating a motor vehicle under suspension, police said.

Marlborough Police News

6/27: State Police said Francisco Franceschini, 19, of 155 Lawrence St., Hartford, was charged with failure to drive in proper lane on a multiple lane highway, illegal sale of a controlled substance, interfering with an officer, operating a motor vehicle without a license and reckless driving.

6/30: The Marlborough Resident Trooper's office is investigating a residential burglary that occurred on Jerry Daniels Road sometime between 6/28 and 6/30. Police said door-to-door salespeople were seen in the area during this time. If anyone has any information at all of suspicious people or vehicles they are asked to contact Trooper Jeff Dunshee at 860-537-7555 ext. 4019.

Colchester Police News

6/24: State Police said Lance Jacobik, 19, of 156 Middle Rd., Preston, was traveling on the Route 2 westbound on ramp from Route 16 when he lost control of his vehicle. Police said Jacobik was found to be traveling too fast and was transported to Hartford Hospital for possible injuries.

6/24: Colchester Police said at approximately 12:30 p.m. a burglary occurred at a residence on Old Hartford Road. Police said forced entry was made through a rear window. Anyone with information about this incident is asked to contact Officer Jonathan Goss at 860-537-7555 ext. 4083.

6/25: Colchester Police said a resident of Middletown Road reported a burglary from the basement of his home. Police said several tools were stolen. Colchester Police are currently investigating the case.

6/26: Colchester Police said Joseph Serra, 55, of 158 Grayville Rd., Amston, was charged with DUI.

6/28: Colchester Police said a resident of Miller Road reported that an unknown person(s) attempted to break into his residence. The victim reported that his kitchen window had been removed but nothing was found to be missing from the residence. Colchester Police are currently investigating the case.

6/28: Colchester Police said sometime between 1-2 a.m. unknown person(s) forced entry into a store front window at Mackey's Agway at 132 Linwood Ave. and forced entry into a safe. Police said approximately \$2,500 cash, an LG 32-inch flat screen LCD TV and numerous knives were taken. Video surveillance depicted what appeared to be two white males entering the store and leaving on foot, Police said.

6/30: Colchester Police said a 16-year-old juvenile was arrested for possession of drug paraphernalia at approximately 6:15 p.m. on Skinner Road.

Obituaries

East Hampton

Myrna J. Bell

Myrna J. (Cartwright) Bell, 66, formally of East Hampton and Colchester, took the hand of god and was lead safely home on Saturday, June 29, in her home in Fairhope, Ala. Myrna, or "Mickey," was born the youngest of six children to the late Ralph Sr. and Mildred (Wellstood) Cartwright. She was predeceased, all recently, by her beloved husband and friend Nicholas J. Bell, her daughter Starr, her son Brent, sister Marylu, brother Ralph Jr., a very special nice Joie and, just recently, her two and a half year old great grandson Hunter.

In 1985 Myrna, her husband and family left East Hampton to Gulfport, Fla., then to Alabama to be close to her son's children.

Myrna's main occupation in life was serving others. She made everyone her friend of importance. Some of her servings to the world were opening her door to everyone so that no one was alone on Thanksgiving. Both she and Nick served in soup kitchens, especially on holidays.

One time while headed on an errand, she noticed families that were homeless under an overpass. Myrna went back home, made over 100 sandwiches, brought them back and served lunch. She always had a desire to open a restaurant because of her baking and cooking expertise. She never wanted anyone hungry.

Myrna and Nick were advocates for the tiniest souls that were not permitted to be born.

Where and whenever Myrna and/or Nick heard "their song," they stopped and danced.

She loved her family to no end, wildflowers, music, children and people in general. Real love, laughter and joy is what she brought to this world.

Her ultimate love was for the Lord Jesus Christ. She had mentioned the Book of Ruth and how she loved it. Her favorite songs were "When We All Get to Heaven," "Amazing Grace," and "I Can Only Imagine."

So many hearts that she touched will miss her tremendously and will know that she will forever be in the presence of god. Oh! The rapture of that meeting and the overwhelming joy to see her coming (E-R-KEY) brightens our hearts.

Myrna is survived by her daughter, Kim Torres and granddaughter Michele Kauffman that resided with her in Fairhope, Ala.; grandchildren April, Angel, Crystal, Brent, Matthew, Tabitha, Trevor and Kathrine; numerous great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins and friends; her only living uncle James Wellstood, brother Jimmy Cartwright of Gulfport, Fla.; sisters Mitzie Weil and husband John of San Antonio, Texas, Lottie Burger, Leanna Lavigne of East Hampton; extended family Terri Cartwright, Kathrine Cartwright, Patsy, Doreen, Melissa and Johnny.

A celebration of life will take place at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be sent to charities close to Myrna's heart: pancreatic cancer research, Muscular Dystrophy or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 262 Danny Thomas Place, Memphis, TN., 38105.

Condolences can be sent to 21400 State Highway 181, Lot 12, Fairhope, AL, 36532 or Burger, P.O. Box 194, East Hampton, CT 06424.

Colchester

Rita St. John

Rita St. John, 89, passed away Wednesday, June 26, at Harrington Court in Colchester. She was born Sept. 8, 1923, in Quidnick, R.I., daughter of the late Jean Baptiste and Melodie (Cotnoir) Messier.

She married Edward R. St. John Sr. on June 7, 1947, at St. Mary's Church in Jewett City. He predeceased her March 31, 1980.

Rita was a graduate of Coventry High School in 1941. After high school, Rita moved to Jewett City where she was employed as a secretary to the purchasing agent of the Aspinook Cooperation and later, she worked in the main office of Plastic, Wire, and Cable. In addition, Rita was head librarian of the Slater Library in Jewett City for 20 years before she retired in 1988.

Involved within the community, Rita was a communicant of St. John the Apostle Church in Plainfield, a member of Our Lady of Fatima Rosary Guild, and the Plainfield Senior Citizens.

She is survived by her sons, Edward St. John Jr. of Plainfield and William St. John of Coventon, Ten.; daughters, Marie Rodriguez-Fletcher of Portland, Betty Ann St. John of Norwalk, Beverly Boyd of Moosup, Linda St. John of Buford, Ga., Sally Crosby of Charlotte, N.C., and Theresa Lambert of Lilburn, Ga.; brothers, Andre Messier of Plainfield, Joseph Messier of N. Fort Myers, Fla., and Norman Messier of Fort Myers, Fla.; and numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

In addition to her spouse, Rita was predeceased by her son, Robert St. John; brother, Agenor Messier; and sisters, Flore LaChapelle and Annette St. John.

Family received relatives and friends Sunday, June 30, at Leffler Funeral Home, 30 N. Main St., Jewett City. The funeral assembled Monday, July 1, at Leffler Funeral Home, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial that morning at St. John the Apostle Church, Plainfield. Interment was after church services at St. Mary's Cemetery, Griswold.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Plainfield Senior Citizen Center at 482 Norwich Rd, Plainfield, CT 06374 or at plainfieldct.org/seniorcenter.asp.

For the online memorial and guestbook, visit lefflerfuneralhome.com.

East Hampton

John B. Hensel

John B. Hensel, 82, of East Hampton, husband of Shirley (Smith) Hensel, died peacefully at Marlborough Health Care Wednesday, June 19, with his wife by his side. Born March 2, 1931, in Hannibal, N.Y., he was the son of the late George and Olive (Knotts) Hensel.

John had lived in East Hampton for most of his life and had served his country in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. He was the owner and operator of Y&M Services Plumbing and Heating of East Hampton. John was a member of the East Hampton Lions Club and the VFW Post 5095 of East Hampton.

Besides his wife, he is survived by his sons, John Hensel Jr. of Pennsylvania, Thomas Hensel and his wife Judith of Colchester; two daughters, Brenda Vecchito of New Jersey, Bridget Breen and her husband Dave of Lebanon; a brother Chester Hensel of New York; three granddaughters, Shannon Burkle, Melissa Spencer and April Breen.

The family received relatives and friends Monday, June 24, in the Spencer Funeral Home 112 Main St. East Hampton. Burial was private at the convenience of the family in the Connecticut State Veteran's Cemetery in Middletown.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association Connecticut Chapter, 2075 Silas Deane Highway, Suite 100, Rocky Hill, CT 06067, or to alz.org/ct.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

East Hampton

Wayne M. Powell

Wayne M. Powell, 67, of East Hampton, beloved husband of Kathryn (Nichisti) Powell, died Monday, July 1, at his home. He was born in Rumford, Maine, son of the late Orvis and Lillian (Witas) Powell.

Wayne was a veteran of the Vietnam War serving with the United States Air Force. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Post University in Waterbury in 2003. He was an engineer working for Pratt & Whitney in East Hartford.

Besides his wife Kathryn, Wayne is survived by his son Mark Powell of Portland; his daughter Amy Hemenway and her husband Kirk of Middletown; a brother, Gary Powell and his wife Gail of Wallingford, two adored grandchildren, Stephen and Adam and several nieces and nephews.

His funeral liturgy will be held Saturday, July 6, at 10:30 a.m. at St. Francis Church, Elm St., Middletown. Burial will be in Calvary Cemetery. Friends may call prior to the service on Saturday from 9-10 a.m. at Biega Funeral Home, 3 Silver St., Middletown.

Those who wish may send memorial contributions to the VFW in East Hampton, 20 North Maple Street, East Hampton, CT 06424.

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

Marlborough

Charles J. Koblinski

Charles J. Koblinski, 90, of Marlborough and Marco Island, Fla., husband of Theresa (Gerbes) Koblinski, died Friday, June 28, at Hartford Hospital. Born March 2, 1923, in Millers Falls, Mass., son of the late John and Helen Koblinski, he had lived in East Hartford and Glastonbury for many years before moving to Marlborough 10 years ago.

He was an Industrial Engineering Manager for Pratt & Whitney, retiring in 1984 after over 30 years of service. He was a graduate of Colgate University, which he attended on an athletic scholarship. He played football and baseball in college and high school and was named Western Massachusetts Player of the Year in football in his senior year of high school. He played professional baseball in the Brooklyn Dodgers organization. He was a charter member of the Glastonbury Hills Country Club and served in the U.S. Army during World War II.

Besides his wife he is survived by a son, Charles J. Koblinski Jr. and his wife Carolina and their sons Kyle and Alex of Pickerington, Ohio; his stepchildren and their spouses, Kathleen and Charles Lawes and their children Sam, Emma and Abby of Glastonbury, Thomas Docherty of Friendswood, Texas, William Andrew and Donna Docherty and their children Connor, London and Brooke of Fairfax Station, Va., a sister Eleanor Cherwa of Turners Falls, Mass., and several nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his siblings Chester Koblinski, Ray Koblinski and Jean Rurak.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, July 2, in the Mulryan Funeral Home, 725 Hebron Ave., Glastonbury. Burial with full military honors followed in Green Cemetery, Glastonbury. There were no calling hours.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to the American Cancer Society, 825 Brook St., Rocky Hill, CT 06067.

For online condolences, visit mulryanfh.com.

Portland

Sebastian "Barry" Daniels

Sebastian "Barry" Daniels, 88, of Portland, passed away Sunday, June 30, peacefully in his home. He was the beloved husband of the late Rose (Conti) Daniels.

He was a loving husband, father, grandfather, uncle, great uncle, cousin and friend. His adoring grandchildren gave him the affectionate title of "Bepa," a name that he was called by many.

He was born Jan. 11, 1925 in Middletown, the son of Dominic and Biagia (Magnano) Daniele of Melilli, Sicily and Middletown. Barry was a member of the Middletown High School class of 1942 and attended Wesleyan University before enlisting in the U.S. Army. He served in both Europe and the South Pacific during World War II and was very proud to be a veteran. Upon returning from the war, Barry went to work for his father at Daniels-Scripo Coal and later served as the president of Daniels Oil Co. Inc. from 1961-2005. Even after turning the business over to his sons, he still worked at Daniels Oil every day, until his passing. Barry was a life member of both the Elks and the Knights of Columbus.

He is survived by his three sons, Barry of Westbrook, Robert and wife Teresa and David and wife Carolyn Daniels, all of Portland. He also leaves behind one grandson, John Daniels, and five granddaughters, Nicolette Daniels Andolfo and husband Matthew, Lauren and fiancé Jonathan Geary, Cara, Morgan and Alisa Daniels. He was the brother of Gloria Godding of Portland and Dominic Daniels Jr. and his wife Betty of Westbrook and also the brother-in-law of Mary Distefano of Middletown.

He will forever be remembered for his unconditional kindness and will be truly missed by all those who knew and loved him.

Funeral services will be today, July 5, at 10 a.m., at D'Angelo Funeral Home, 22 South Main St., Middletown, followed by a Catholic Mass at Saint Mary Church in Portland at 11 a.m. and a burial at Saint Sebastian Cemetery in Middletown. Friends called at the D'Angelo Funeral Home Wednesday, July 3.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Saint Mary Church in Portland or to the Rose C. Daniels Memorial scholarship fund at Mercy High School in Middletown where his granddaughters attended.

Portland

Frances Rogalsky

Frances Rogalsky, 86, of Portland, wife of the late Stanley J. Rogalsky, died Sunday, June 30, at her daughter's home. She was born in New York City, N.Y., the daughter of the late, Anthony and Rose (Valenti) Cuccia.

Frances was a parishioner of St. Mary Church, Portland, a member of their Ladies Guild and a member of the Hemlock Grange, Portland. She was a kind and compassionate person who loved her church, quilting, helping others and spending time with friends and family. She will be missed.

Frances is survived by her daughters, Rosemarie Rogalsky of Meriden, Theresa Bellobuono and her husband Michael of Portland, Joanne Rogalsky of North Augusta, S.C.; her brother, Jack Cuccia of New Jersey; sisters, Pauline VanNess of New Jersey, Vivian Santoro of Connecticut; five grandchildren and nine great grandchildren; also several nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her three sisters and two brothers.

Her family gives special thanks to all her caregivers, especially Jessica, Michelle, Gina, Tom, Darlene, Teresa and Lorraine.

Her funeral liturgy will be held Saturday, July 6, at 11 a.m., at St. Mary Church, Freestone Ave., Portland. Burial will be in Calvary Cemetery, Middletown. Friends may call at the church on Saturday from 10-11 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. Mary Church, 51 Freestone Ave., Portland, CT 06480, the American Heart Association , 5 Brookside Dr., PO Box 5022, Wallingford, CT 06492 or to Middlesex Hospital, 28 Crescent Street, Middletown, CT 06457.

Biega Funeral Home has care of the arrangements. To share memories or express condolences online, visit biegafuneralhome.com.

Amston

Jean Margaret Shute

Jean Margaret (Rosner) Shute, 86, of Amston, left this world gracefully and peacefully on June 30. Beloved mother, grammie, sister and aunt, Jean lived a life that would leave meaning to those who were privileged enough to know her.

As a first-generation American, a shy Jean and her sister Harriet Stanek, of East Hartford, were raised in Connecticut and graduated from Buckley High School in Hartford. After Jean married her former husband John Shute, she would prevail through her shy nature to raise three lovely children through numerous moves to different states due to the nature of her then chemist husband's employment transfers, and supporting him through his graduate education at Trinity College.

After experiencing divorce, Jean returned to Connecticut and used her inner strength and resiliency to make a life for herself and her family as a single parent. Jean worked at Phoenix Mutual Insurance Company in Hartford, and retired after 14 years of work to immerse herself into her role as grandmother and caregiver for her two grandchildren.

Jean was a wonderful woman who was always there and put others first. She inspired values of love and family with her years of nurturing. She encouraged kindness, patience, and acceptance through her everyday life. All would be qualities and values that her family and friends would continue to live by from her example. Jean was a woman whom despite having a shy nature graciously demonstrated her talents and interests of music, love of animals, gentle sarcastic humor, and excellent cooking for her family and friends.

She leaves behind her three loving children: daughter Valerie and her husband Garry Borgeson, her son Stephen Shute, and her daughter Barbara Shute; her two granddaughters Ashley and Allison Borgeson; her beloved sister Harriet Stanek; her niece Veronica Stanek, her nephew Karl Stanek and his wife Cynthia Stanek, her nephews Martin Stanek and Robert Stanek; and her great nephew and niece Karl Stanek Jr. and Amanda Stanek.

There will be a funeral service at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, July 6, at the Rose Hill Funeral Home, 580 Elm St., Rocky Hill, with burial to follow in Rose Hill Memorial Park, Rocky Hill. Calling hours will be held Saturday, July 6, from 9-10:30 a.m., just prior to the service.