

RIVEREAST

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Boating for Boston...East Hampton resident Paula Bosco entered her pontoon boat at the Captain Grizzly Boat Parade held last Saturday on Lake Pocotopaug. The boat's theme was "Boston Strong," and it was a tribute to the Boston Marathon tragedy. In addition, all the sneakers and T-shirts used for the boat were donated to charity after the event. Pictured from left are Captain Paula Bosco, Patty Ballou, Jayme Stewart, April Sinclair, Carrie Malloy, Julie Kelly, Rachel Kaponis and Courtney Parmalee. All but Sinclair are East Hampton residents; Sinclair is from Wolcott. Incidentally, Bosco won this pontoon boat at the 2007 Friends of the Lake raffle, which is held annually at the Boat Parade.

Marlborough Tavern Eyes Triumphant Return

by Melissa Roberto

Bright. Energetic. Youthful. Vibrant.

Those are just some of the words used by two local brothers to define their new business venture, which they hope will breathe life back into a landmark in Marlborough where activity has been stagnant for two years. With an emphasis on the word "new," siblings Marc and Scott DiGalbo are looking forward to providing the town a place of socialization and good eats once again come December, at The New Marlborough Tavern.

In September 2011, popular eatery The Marlborough Tavern at 3 East Hampton Road had fallen victim to the tough economy and increasing sewer fees. A severe tropical storm caused the business to lose power and its produce, which prompted former owners John Spellman and Jim Bradley to close the restaurant's doors even sooner than they had anticipated.

But those unfortunate events haven't put a damper on the spirits of the DiGalbo brothers, who said jointly owning a restaurant has been a goal of theirs since high school. Marc, 36, of Glastonbury, and Scott, 33, of Marlborough, grew up in town, just a mile and a half down the road from the historical tavern.

"We used to go there all the time and loved it," Scott recalled.

The two are RHAM High School graduates, and, combined, appear to have the skills needed to open a restaurant. Marc has worked as an executive chef for Marriot hotels for 13 years. He has traveled as far as South Carolina training chefs and most recently was the head sous chef at Windsor Marriot on Day Hill Road. Scott has a background in business. The younger brother owned both a retail store and a

machinery sales and consulting firm in North Carolina.

"This is a bit more outside of my comfort zone," Scott admitted. "But my brother's expertise in the restaurant business and my management experiences brings both of our styles and personalities into a really good team and partnership."

At 16, both brothers held their first jobs at the Marlborough Eatery, prepping and cooking the food. They also worked at a restaurant in West Hartford. After traveling down south to pursue business ventures after high school, the duo found their way back to the area, and they realized the tavern was quieter than they remembered.

"The tavern was just sitting here empty, and I made a couple phone calls," Scott said, "and here we are."

The brothers have joined forces to establish a new tavern they feel is needed in the area after the demise of the former one. Though they intend to give the building a "100 percent" facelift, the two said they are still dedicated to preserving its historic parts.

The formerly dimmed-lighting and country feel of the tavern will give way to a restaurant that's a bit livelier and brighter, the duo explained. Its layout includes 30-foot cathedral ceilings, an upscale full bar and casual lounge area that will double in size, an expanded fine dining area and an open kitchen, so diners can see the chefs cooking.

Diners will also step into a new entrance and foyer. But in an effort to preserve its old characteristics, the building's chimney and fireplace will be kept, its old wood restored, and ceiling

See Tavern Page 2

Hebron Fundraiser to Benefit 'Wonderful Family'

by Geeta Schrayter

The end of summer is fast approaching, but it's not here yet. That means there's still time to enjoy some outdoor events – and on Aug. 24 that's exactly what the Dapsis Family Fundraising Committee hopes community members will do.

From 4-8 p.m., a concert is being held at Burnt Hill Park as a fundraiser for the Dapsis family. The event will include music, food, games and prizes, with all proceeds going to the Dapsis Family Fund, which was set up shortly after Hebron resident Ross Dapsis was in a serious bicycle accident.

Dapsis, who the committee described as "a much-loved husband, father, son, friend [and] coach" and co-owns Something Simple Café in town with his wife Jessica, was found unconscious on the side of Old Andover Road June 1. Then-Fire Chief Fred Speno was in charge at the scene, and told the *RiverEast* in June it was unknown what he hit or how the accident happened.

Dapsis was taken by LifeStar to Hartford

Hospital where he underwent emergency surgery and was in the Intensive Care Unit for four weeks. He has since been moved to Gaylord Hospital in Wallingford where, according to the committee, he's receiving therapy services. His injuries, however, will require long-term care.

Although his wife declined to comment as to his specific injuries, Jess said this week he was making progress each day.

But "at this time it is still uncertain what the next step will be for him," she continued. "The support of our friends, family, customers and this amazing community has helped each of us to stay strong."

Jess went on to thank the "support, effort and hours" the employees of Something Simple have put in to keep the café, which opened last October, running smoothly.

"They have kept his dream strong," she said, "and are considered our family."

But according to the committee, which is made up of friends, family, customers, representatives from local sports organizations, the

Fire Department, businesses, Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, it's the Dapsis family that has given much to the community through their café and involvement.

"The Dapsises are a wonderful family with numerous family, friends and costumers who truly love them," said committee member Allison Heneghan. "They have given over and over again to the town of Hebron including coaching baseball and basketball, leading a Girl Scout Troop and volunteering at AHM Youth Services Bureau."

In addition, Heneghan said the family has never hesitated to allow non-profit boards to meet in the café or donate items to area fundraising events.

So now, it's time for the community to come together to support them in return. The Aug. 24 event, which costs \$10 to attend per individual or \$25 per family, will include music by the classic rock and blues band Rattlebone as well as other local talents including Jason Castonguay who can frequently be found per-

forming at the café, 66 EAST and By Chance.

Entertainment will also be available in the form of a bounce house, a clown, a baseball/lacrosse throwing contest and various games such as Plink, Flying Chicken, a milk jug softball throw, Tug of War, Ring Toss, a bean bag toss and more.

Those looking for something to eat during the event will also be able to purchase and enjoy hotdogs, hamburgers, pizza, drinks and ice cream.

In addition to the music, food and fun, attendees will also be able to purchase jewelry designed in honor of the Dapsis family and their café. Local artist April Boutin of April's Jewelry Company, LLC designed an aluminum cuff-style bracelet and a dog tag-style key chain with the phrase "life's simple moments" stamped on them. The jewelry will be sold at the event and afterwards in the community; the bracelet costs \$25 and the keychain is \$10. Funds from the sale of the jewelry will also be

See Fundraiser Page 2

Tavern cont. from Front Page

joists reused. The work will be done professionally thanks to lighting specialists and restoration companies to make “the best possible outcome for our restaurant while still preserving its old country charm,” Marc hinted.

But one of the most important aspects of The New Marlborough Tavern is, of course, its food. Marc, who will be the executive chef for the restaurant, coined the menu “new American cuisine,” which will consist of “the freshest quality” meats, chops and seafood. Marc said the restaurant will be familiar to upscale steakhouses in the area and the chef promises to offer “certified angus beef” and fresh seafood.

The brothers also plan to provide “as much local cuisine as possible.” To do so, the duo plans to stock the restaurant with food and beverages – specifically dairy, berries, veggies, wines and beers – coming from local farms, breweries and vineyards.

Additionally, the brothers are leasing the location next door to the 10,000-plus square foot structure. The smaller location, formerly known as It’s So Ranunculus flower shop, will be directly connected to the future restaurant. Though it’s still in the works, the brothers are envisioning a country store to sell local foods, artwork and possibly bottles of Marc’s concoctions. Its name is still to be determined.

“There’s lots of good stuff happening in this plaza,” Scott said.

The co-owners assured the building’s speculations are town-approved. The inside of the building has already undergone demolition, and

once it’s completely empty, improvements will be made to extend its interior. Scott explained the renovations have been a long time coming for the old building; the former owners hadn’t renovated the restaurant in 26 years, he said.

The brothers have high hopes for their new endeavor.

“The support we’ve gotten is incredible,” said Scott. “Everyone seems so excited and so happy the restaurant’s going to be reopened. I don’t think there’s a chance we can fail. I just don’t see that happening.”

For Marc, the last 20 years he’s spent as a chef in the restaurant industry have prepared him for this moment.

“I’ve always wanted to do this,” he said. “It’s a couple months away but it’s finally a reality.”

The brothers have created a Facebook page, “The New Marlborough Tavern,” highlighting the current status of the building and its future, which is up to 1,600 likes on Facebook.

The co-owners shared they are “very excited” to bring a restaurant balanced with modern touches and old tradition. They imagine it will be a “nice, friendly, lively environment.”

The future restaurant also has a website that will be updated in the months ahead. Readers should log on to themarlboughtavern.com to check it out. The tentative opening date for The New Marlborough Tavern is anticipated for Dec. 2. The building is located at 3 East Hampton Rd. in the Marlborough Village Green Plaza.



Local brothers Marc (left) and Scott DiGalbo are co-owners of The New Marlborough Tavern, which they hope to open on Dec. 2. The brothers’ vision consists of an extensive remodel to the former historical tavern that has been vacant since 2011.

Fundraiser cont. from Front Page

donated to the Dapsis Family Fund.

(Anyone who can’t attend the event but would like a bracelet or dog tag can email Embergquist@comcast.net.)

“This event is a great way to showcase Hebron’s beautiful park, our local talent and provide a fun-filled afternoon while supporting the Dapsis family,” Heneghan furthered. “People looking for a good time for a very reasonable price while supporting a great family will find

it at this event.”

Tickets can be purchased at Ted’s IGA or the Savings Institute in Hebron. They can also be purchased the day of the event. Those who cannot attend but would like to donate can send a check to the Dapsis Family Fund, c/o Savings Institute, 115 Main St., Hebron.

For more information, email jfawhen@comcast.net or jvitarelli@sbcglobal.net.

Fireworks Return to Celebrate EH Volunteer Fire Department

by Elizabeth Bowling

The East Hampton Volunteer Fire Department is turning 90 this year, and to commemorate, fire officials were looking for something to do that would, in the words of the department’s public information officer, “blow the lid off this town.”

Restarting the town’s fireworks show – once an annual event – may be just that thing.

The fireworks show, unofficially themed “Over the Top,” will take place tomorrow night, Aug. 17, at the East Hampton Middle School athletic fields.

Staged by Rhode Island’s Ocean State Pyrotechnics, the display is scheduled to start at approximately 9 p.m. and should last about 45 minutes, according to James Burke, the East Hampton Fire Department’s public information officer.

Burke said the town’s annual fireworks show has been dormant for the past eight or nine years. But, he said, hopefully the show will become an annual tradition again starting this year.

“We decided for our 90th we would do something big and blow the lid off this town,” he quipped.

Burke said the fireworks show is “for the good of the community” and for residents to “have some fun, have some excitement.”

The show, which has always been fully funded by donations, will start at 9 p.m., but a food vendor – Frank’s Mobile Kitchen from

Clinton, which will serve pizza, soda and snacks – will be on site starting at 7 p.m.

Admission is free and children ages 12 and under will automatically be given a raffle ticket and one lucky kid will be chosen as the “official fireworks igniter.” The winner will also receive a gift basket from the fire department and VIP seating for the whole family, Burke said.

“Donations will be cheerfully accepted,” Burke said, and can be made either during “Fill the Boot” fundraising opportunities, or checks can be made out to “EHFD Fireworks Fund” and can be sent to 3 Barton Hill Road, East Hampton, CT 06424.

The next (and last) “Fill the Boot” is scheduled for tonight, Friday, Aug. 16, near the East Hampton Stop and Shop. The department is \$2,500 away from reaching its goal of raising \$12,000 for the event, Burke said.

“We’ve had a lot of cooperation and support from residents [and local businesses],” Burke said in thanks.

He said 60 volunteers are helping to make the show possible. Those volunteers include firefighters, fire police, the Ladies Auxiliary, CERT team and the East Hampton Police Department.

Parking will be available on the middle school grounds and no pets or alcoholic beverages will be allowed at the show. The rain date is Sunday, Aug. 19.

Dump Truck Rolls Over on Route 66 in Portland

by Elizabeth Bowling

At 8:03 Wednesday morning, a dump truck traveling westbound on Route 66, in the area of Nichols Bus Yard, rolled over onto its side, causing no injuries, officials said.

According to Portland Police Sgt. Scott Cunningham, the truck’s driver, Bobby Sair, 24, “began to drift off the right shoulder of the road at which time the passenger [Victor Ayala, 21] of the vehicle made a corrective action and cut the wheel back to the left. And the operator, at that point, realized he had drifted.”

Sair then tried to cut the wheel to straighten out but “he overcompensated and he rolled [the truck] over to its right side.”

Cunningham believe the driver was “over tired.” “We believe he may have nodded off,” Cunningham said. He said there were “no signs of excessive speed.”

The truck belonged to All Waste Inc., a residential dump truck company out of Hartford, Cunningham said.

None of the truck’s contents fell out of the truck, but some fluids leaked and were cleaned by All Waste, Cunningham said. The state Department of Transportation then used a sweep truck to sweep the roadway clean of all debris, he said. The clean-up process took about two and a half hours, Cunningham said, adding that while traffic was slow, it never stopped.

East Hampton Substitute Teachers to See Slight Pay Raise

by Elizabeth Bowling

East Hampton substitute teachers got a pay raise for the first time in years, from \$70 to \$75 per day, according to Superintendent of Schools Diane Dugas.

Board of Education Chairman Mark Laraia said it’s been at least eight years since the last pay increase for East Hampton substitute teachers.

The board’s vice chairwoman, Joanne Barmasse, said the board decided to go forward with the pay increase to “stay competitive.” She stressed the importance of having

quality substitute teachers because “substitutes are important.”

Laraia agreed. He said that for substitute teachers, “with the economy the way it is, you’re going to look for the best deal you can.” He added, “The towns around us are paying a lot more for subs.”

Dugas said the pay increases were “done through the budget process last year.”

East Hampton schools have a selection of over 40 substitute teachers, Dugas said. But that doesn’t mean they all sub every day, she noted.

Interim Minister Hopes to ‘Build’ Andover Church

by Geeta Schrayter

There’s a new minister in charge at Andover Congregational Church. With the departure of five-year pastor, the Rev. Ruth Nye, on June 9, the Rev. Ray Kostulias has stepped in as the transitional minister.

Kostulias, a Madison resident, will work to prepare parishioners to receive their permanent pastor once one has been selected. It’s a process Kostulias said could take anywhere from six months to two years, and during his time in town he hopes to bring about some positive change.

Kostulias, whose first sermon in Andover was July 28, graduated from New York’s Union Theological Seminary in 1978. It was his second career choice: Kostulias was at first an actor in the city, where he performed in off-Broadway shows, commercials, and had a small part in a soap opera.

But it was Shakespeare he truly wanted to perform, and he realized “there just wasn’t that much of an opportunity to do good theater.” As a result, he decided to invest his time in something else. He explained he always had an interest in religion, and when he walked into the theological seminary, he knew it was meant to be.

“I knew right away this is what I want to do,” he said, explaining he wanted to deal with and help people.

Before Andover, Kostulias served as a minister in Walpole, Mass., for seven years, prior to which he preached for 20 years at a church in Bergen County, N.J. Although he’s officially retired, Kostulias came to Andover after learning about the position from Tom Clough, the associate conference minister in Connecticut who also happened to bring Kostulias up to Walpole.

“It seemed to be a good match,” Kostulias said of the position, “so I decided to accept the calling and things are going very nicely.”

As minister of Andover Congregational, Kostulias holds office hours Tuesdays and Thursdays, and uses Wednesdays at home to work on his prayers and sermons for Sunday.

“It’s just the right speed for me,” he said.

While in town, there are a few things Kostulias would like to accomplish to help build up parishioners’ confidence – as he put it, “to convince them they can be a strong church even though they’re small.”

Kostulias said he wanted to increase the church’s visibility, programming and the number of members – and community outreach was important.

For example, in Walpole Kostulias started up a weekly community meal that now serves 50-60 people, and saw an increase in the number of church visitors and members – and he believes that’s due to the program.

“I’m looking to increase their community outreach so people know we’re here and committed to people in town” he said, mentioning investing in some advertising is as important as well.

Kostulias went on to say the church already had the food pantry, which is open Monday evenings, going for it, as well as the fact that the congregation is active.

“They do a lot of wonderful things,” he said, mentioning the Sunshine Stampers, a group that creates “beautiful greeting cards,” the sales of which have generated a sizeable amount of money for the church.

In addition, Kostulias wants to build a Sunday school program and get a small youth group going. But he explained almost every penny the church has comes from its members – there are no grants or money from a diocese or conference – “so it all depends on the generosity of members.”

A small church means limited pledging, which in turn means limited programming and in response, Kostulias said he wanted the church to form a “reasonable vision of growth” as far as membership. He went on to say the church already had some attractive attributes to help make that happen.

“It’s a church that values friendship, which I find very helpful,” Kostulias stated. “That’s number one on the list for people looking for a church.”

Before getting into theological issues, Kostulias said newcomers are looking for people they can befriend.

“This church has a head start. They’re friendly and welcoming and welcomed me right away,” he said. “If people come in and experience that, growth is going to come.”

The church’s sanctuary, located on Route 6 next to the town library, is also a draw.

“People probably wouldn’t guess from the outside [that] it’s large and beautiful,” he said. “It’s a very inviting worship space.”



The Rev. Ray Kostulias is serving as the transitional minister at Andover Congregational Church after the departure of Ruth Nye. During his time in town Kostulias hopes to build upon the church’s membership, programming and overall confidence while preparing them for the arrival of their new pastor once one is selected.

Kostulias said individuals should come to the congregation because it’s “very accepting.”

“We don’t ask people to look like us, think like us; we just ask people to explore their faith with us,” he said. “So we are open to all kinds of people. We allow people space to find their own faith rather than make a list of rules and regulations to join.”

Kostulias furthered the church is very thoughtful.

“We put a great emphasis on using our minds as well as our hearts and this affects our view of contemporary questions,” he said. “We respect human intelligence. We think God works *through* human intelligence.”

In addition to the above, as transitional minister Kostulias said it is also his duty to prepare the parishioners for their new permanent minister, by guiding the church through some self-

examination “to see, essentially, where the issues are that would make it difficult for a new pastor.”

“It’s easy for the transitional minister because when all is said and done, I’ll be gone,” said Kostulias. “People have expressed happiness at my being here but [being transitional minister] puts me in a position where I can deliver bad news – ‘look at this,’ [or] ‘examine this’ - so when a new pastor comes he doesn’t have to start from scratch.”

Kostulias said all of the above won’t necessarily be easy for the parishioners, because “whenever there’s a change, especially in a church, resistance develops.”

But “change is on the agenda” he said, adding he had “a good feeling about the future.”

“I feel good,” Kostulias concluded. “I’m very hopeful.”

New Hires, New Office Space for Hebron School Board

by Geeta Schrayter

New hires and new office space were the highlights of the Board of Education meeting last Thursday, Aug. 8.

The school board unanimously approved the hiring of Kristin Hammond as a new speech pathologist, while Taylor Kosakowski was approved as a school psychologist.

Hammond received her Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology at Providence College and her Master of Science degree in speech-language pathology from Boston University. Her clinical fellowship/supervised practicum experience was completed at Norwich Public Schools.

Before becoming the speech pathologist, Hammond worked with the Hebron school district during the extended school year program where she provided speech/language therapy services.

Kosakowski received his Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology from Central Connecticut State University and his Master of Science in school psychology with a clinical child counseling specialization from the University of Hartford. In addition, he received his 6th year

certificate as a school psychology major.

Prior to his position with Hebron, Kosakowski worked as the school pathologist at Ellington Middle and High School during the 2012-13 school year.

The hires were approved 4-0; board members Tina Marie Blinn, Amy Lynch-Gracias and Dominic Marino were not in attendance.

In addition, acting Superintendent of Schools Jeff Newton shared he was finalizing the filling of a vacant technology position and said a new bookkeeper would be starting Aug. 12.

Also at the meeting, Newton brought up the possibility for the reconfiguration of some of the central office space. He explained the central office, which is located at Gilead Hill School, was currently in “tight corridors,” and he was concerned with confidentiality.

“The walls are thin and space is small,” he said, explaining the special education secretary, interim director of finance and operations and two other secretaries are located opposite the wall next to his secretary, Karen Conderino.

Confidentiality has “been a big concern so I

had some thoughts on the reconfiguration of spots across the hall,” he said.

On Wednesday he further explained the situation.

“It’s very cramped. Due to the fact we have to save a number of files for a number of years, we have multiple filing cabinets that have taken up space,” he said. “With people cramped and right next to each other, confidentiality is an issue especially with special education.”

However, Newton said, a currently-empty classroom might help some things.

“Fortunately we have an empty classroom right across that hallway, so that alleviates us having to look back into the town to try to find space or outside the schools,” he said.

The reconfiguration would move two secretaries and the director of special services across the hallway, leaving Newton, Conderino, the interim director of finance and operations, the bookkeeper, and director of curriculum and technology and her part-time secretary in the present location.

“And that’s [still] a number of people for a

very small space but, again, it was an opportune time because the space was open across the hall,” he said.

The reconfiguration doesn’t come without a cost, but Newton noted around \$20,000 in savings had been realized during the hiring process of new employees that would cover most of the expense.

The money would be used to put up some walling and carpeting to help with soundproofing, fire code updates and electrical work.

“We kept it as cheap as we could do it in the space that’s allotted over there,” Newton said.

Board of Education Chairwoman Kathy Shea said at the meeting she would feel comfortable authorizing Newton to move forward with the reconfiguration for a cost up to \$25,000. The other members unanimously agreed, and authorize Newton to spend up to that amount to reconfigure the area.

The next Board of Education meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 12, at 7 p.m., in the Hebron Elementary School music room.

Second Annual Kids Karnival This Weekend in Portland

by Elizabeth Bowling

Chatham Court residents young and old are getting ready for a day of fun this Sunday, as the second annual Chatham Court Kids Karnival will be held, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Chatham Court is a low-income public housing complex under the direction of the Portland Housing Authority.

Resident Dawn Wadding, the tenant commissioner of Chatham Court and a board member of the Housing Authority, said last year's party was "awesome."

"It was a wonderful day," she said about the first Kids Karnival, which drew a crowd of about 200 – including tenants that wouldn't normally come out and socialize, she said. This year Wadding expects 200 again. About 80 children reside at Chatham Court, she said, adding that many of the families cannot afford to participate in the summer programs available in Portland.

Some highlights from last year's Karnival were the children's entertainment and the food. Portland's police and fire departments also stopped by and allowed kids to check out the cars, trucks and sirens, Wadding said.

Also in attendance last year were First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield and members of the Portland Housing Authority board of commissioners. The same is expected for this year.

An 18-foot-wide water slide, which was a big hit at last year's carnival, will make a triumphant return. Another attraction will be an appearance by Tony the Magic Man, a clown.

Lunch – consisting of pizza and ice cream – will be served at noon.

According to Jacqueline Frazee, executive director of the Portland Housing Authority, the local businesses that have already donated to the Kid's Karnival are Bordonaro's Pharmacy, Connecticut Metal & Tool Supply, Crouch & Lagana Memorials, Family Dollar, Gildersleeve Spirit Shop, Gotta's Farm, the Gulf Station, Portland Discount Liquors, Portland Home and Hardware, the Portland Library, Portland Youth Services, Gene's TV and Appliances, White Dog Café LLC – and, of course, the Portland Housing Authority itself.

Frazee also singled out some Portland residents who she said have donated generously to help make the second Kids Karnival possible. Those residents include First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield, Carol Gilbert, Donald Gouin, Doris and Edmund Gyllenhammer, Hedy and Wal Jarvis, Jesse and Marianna Matterazzo, Susan Nellis and Ann Suprynowicz. Frazee has also donated for the event.

"The entire party is run on donations," Wadding said.

These contributions help pay for food, drinks, and rental activities like inflatable water slides, a tent for shade, the clown, a cotton candy machine and ice cream. Anyone else who wishes to donate can send checks, made payable to Portland Housing Authority, to: Portland Housing Authority, 9 Chatham Court, Portland, CT 06480. In the memo, donors should write "Second Annual Chatham Kids Karnival."



A joyful youngster slips down the inflatable waterslide at last year's Kids Karnival. The slide will again provide some refreshing fun at this Sunday's second annual Kids Karnival. The children of Chatham Court can expect a full day of activities.

Colchester Residents Sue Town Over Flood Map

by Melissa Roberto

A Colchester couple is suing the town of Colchester for allegedly refusing to correct a Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) of the town that lists a portion of their property in a flood plain when it is not.

In a complaint dated Feb. 26, the plaintiffs, Victor and Olga Wozniak, are seeking to compel the town, through a court-ordered mandamus, to correct its FIRM, which was last updated in 2011 – and has yet to be corrected after several requests made to the town by the plaintiffs during the last two years.

A FIRM indicates flood zones and it is used to determine when flood insurance is needed and the premium to be applied for.

The Wozniaks live on Middletown Road in Colchester but also own over two acres of land located at 159 Lebanon Ave. The Wozniaks' concerns regarding the parcel on Lebanon Avenue have lingered since March 2011, when Victor Wozniak read a notice published in an area newspaper informing residents the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) – as part of a nationwide Map Modernization Program – was updating the town's map. The notice stated public hearings would be held for residents to review the maps to both become knowledgeable about flood risks in the area and to see whether their flood zone had changed.

Upon reviewing the maps, Wozniak said he learned the FIRM incorrectly placed a sluiceway, otherwise known as Judd Brook, on a portion of the Wozniaks' land.

Earlier this year, the Wozniaks hired a land surveyor from Dutch & Associates of Colchester to survey the land. The survey showed "Judd Brook Channel was not in fact in the location on the FIRM."

Additionally, the complaint states "historical and survey data demonstrated that the sluiceway was located on the abutting property."

According to the complaint, the error negatively impacts the Wozniaks' property. The lawsuit states that, since no revision has been made to the FIRM, the property is "incapable of any reasonable development," because "it is cost-prohibitive."

Wozniak explained, "Because the land is shown to be in a flood zone, if a mortgage was to be applied for to develop the land, flood in-

surance would have to be obtained."

Wozniak said he spoke with a banker about the issue, and learned "the insurance premium could be as much as the mortgage payment."

The Wozniaks' Lebanon Avenue property is for sale, and Wozniak said the error depicted on the FIRM has caused a "considerable amount" of problems with potential buyers, Wozniak explained.

Additionally, Wozniak discovered another error depicted on the FIRM concerning the placement of Judd Brook. He said the FIRM shows the waterway crossing Lebanon Avenue under a bridge though "there is no bridge on Lebanon Avenue." Instead, the landowner explained Judd Brook crosses under Lebanon Avenue via "a stone box culvert."

The plaintiffs gathered correspondence from FEMA that indicates town engineer Salvatore Tassone and First Selectman Gregg Schuster were aware of the error as well.

Since Wozniaks' discovery in 2011, he has conversed with both Tassone and Schuster several times in an effort to get the FIRM fixed. After extensively researching the issue, referring to town and state engineering maps, in addition to hiring a surveyor, Wozniak has learned an application for a Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) needs to be submitted to FEMA by the town so the errors can be corrected.

Attorney Paul Geraghty, the Wozniaks' attorney, said Victor Wozniak has spoken with the town about having the map corrected "but they've told him he can do it on his own" by applying for a Letter of Map Amendment (LOMA). A LOMA was applied for and rejected by FEMA. Wozniak learned FEMA regulations indicate LOMAs can be used for changes to floodplains or flood elevations but cannot be used for requests involving waterway boundary delineations.

Also, the regulations specify a LOMR is the appropriate application to use when requesting changes to waterways, which the town must submit.

In turn, as a mapping partner with FEMA, the town of Colchester is responsible for "initiating LOMRs when Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMS) need to be updated or corrected," the court document states. Additionally, the town is responsible for ensuring the town's flood



Judd Brook – shown here running under a Norwich Avenue bridge – plays a key role in a lawsuit filed against the town by residents Victor and Olga Wozniak. The couple is suing Colchester for failing to correct its Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) that incorrectly places the brook on a portion of their property on Lebanon Avenue.

hazard maps are "accurate and up to date."

Geraghty concluded the Wozniaks' property is not the only property affected by the error Victor Wozniak discovered.

"The big issue is it involves other properties," the attorney said. "The town will have to be the applicant for the LOMR."

The attorney added the incorrect flood map "certainly" makes the plaintiffs' property less valuable and difficult for construction because the owners would have a difficult time meeting proper zoning requirements.

If the town does agree to apply for a map revision, Geraghty's understanding is a public hearing would need to be held to inform all affected landowners.

Wozniak's wife, Olga, commented on how long the error has existed.

"I think one of the most important things is it has never been corrected," she said, "and has always been wrong."

Wozniak stressed the importance of citizens being aware of these issues.

"Other people should know what's going on," he said. "They're going to learn that there are remedies to correct [these errors.]"

In addition to the order of mandamus, the plaintiffs are requesting unspecified monetary damages, as well as an abatement of its tax assessment on the property until the map revision is submitted to FEMA.

The town's flood hazard maps are available for viewing on the Colchester website at colchesterct.gov by clicking "Online Mapping Data" at the bottom of the page.

East Hampton Town Council Waiting to Take Action

by Elizabeth Bowling

The issue of whether a local developer can tap into the town's water system is still unresolved, despite much discussion at Tuesday's Town Council meeting.

Resident Haim Zahavi has been working on developing a condo complex at 13 Summit St. for about two years. He and his architect, John Matthews, approached the board at its June 25 meeting to request access to the village center's water system and followed up Tuesday, but still didn't get the go-ahead.

Town Manager Mike Maniscalco explained that the town operates the village center water system, and that system currently has 7,000 gallons of excess water. Zahavi is seeking 6,625 gallons of water for his development, which would feature 29 condominium units that will be sold, not rented, and an office space.

Council member Ted Hintz expressed concern over tapping into so much of that 7,000-gallon allotment Maniscalco referenced. However, Public Utilities Administrator Vincent Susco explained the water system has a "safe yield" of about 21,000 gallons of water at the village center. If the town delivers beyond the safe yield, then the water would be pumped out of storage – the town has just over 20,000 gallons of water in storage, which would last for about a day and a half – and the system would need to be replenished or the town would be fined. The stations are monitored every day, Susco said.

Susco went on to explain "peak days," which are based on a 24-hour period. The town's peak day for 2012 was about 28,000 gallons of water, he said, while an average day calls for 14,000 gallons.

In its plan, the health department is designed to supply 75 gallons of water per day per person, Susco said.

"Your biggest concerns are your schools," Susco said. "You don't want to be shutting down your schools because of a lack of water."

According to Matthews, Zahavi's architect, the development process should take about two years.

Council member Kyle Dostaler, however, sought a more definitive deadline for the development.

"I'm not comfortable without a deadline," he said.

After the council members debated how to establish a reasonable timeline, they determined they simply weren't ready to move forward with the project despite recommendations from the town manager, the town's engineer and Planning and Zoning, as well as what Maniscalco described as a "lukewarm" recommendation from the Chatham Health District. The council voted unanimously not to move forward with the project until the town manager begins preliminary discussion that addresses safeguards for the town, timelines for water approval and permitting.

"I don't believe that the town should actually move forward with this without concrete plans to fill a larger water system for the village center. I think what we've done is we've put at risk the other residents of the village center...and the children at the schools," council member Derek Johnson said, wary of putting the town in jeopardy. "There's a wide variance between average and peak."

Dostaler said, "I would not feel comfortable at all approving any motion tonight."

* * *

Also at Tuesday's meeting, Maniscalco provided an update on the investigation into the volunteer fire department's awards program, following the resignations of four out of five members of the East Hampton Fire Commission last year.

A third-party investigator, Frank Rudewicz, was recently hired to look into the program. Maniscalco said Tuesday Rudewicz is in the process of conducting interviews and he's looking into all of the blue books for the awards program going back to 2006, as well as reports from the database.

The investigation is active, with no end in sight, according to Maniscalco.

After pointing out that the cost of the investigation (Rudewicz is being paid \$195 per hour) is being taken out of the fire department's operating budget despite the fact that the council "spearheaded" the investigation, Hintz said, "We should probably try to find those funds elsewhere."

Hintz, and the other council members, supported Maniscalco's suggestion to take the funds out of the town council's budget.

* * *

Regarding the second reading of the town's tax deferral ordinance, Cindy Ruth, chairwoman of the Economic Development Commission, said, "We want to keep this moving and we want to get this going quickly."

She suggested working on a tax deferral rather than a tax abatement.

But Hintz said, "I think it's a great thing to have a tax abatement program."

Ruth said the ordinance was intended to give

businesses incentive to open shop in places other than East Hampton's "no-brainer areas."

"We're trying to think creatively and do the best thing for the town but also give some incentive for some business to come in," Ruth said.

Jim Gooch, a member of the Economic Development Commission, said, "We are the masters of the future of our community...We decide what kinds of businesses we want."

Gooch said the tax abatement program was not designed to open the doors to East Hampton and let just any business in. The ordinance would give the town a chance to be selective, he explained.

"I think it should be reviewed by the town's attorney," Johnson said. "It's not ready for a public hearing yet." He furthered, "It's the taxpayers of this town that are, in fact, funding it."

Johnson suggested specifying types of employment and employees – for example, resident employees versus nonresident employees, and length of employment – within the ordinance. "It was behoove us to be a bit more precise as to the length of time [of employment] that's required," he said.

The council decided unanimously to take more time to look over the ordinance.

* * *

Also at Tuesday's meeting, the council decided to hold another agricultural workshop Monday, Sept. 9, at 7 p.m. and plans to mail information regarding the workshop to all livestock farms and tree farms in town, as well as the general public.

The next regularly-scheduled Town Council meeting will be held Tuesday, Sept. 10, at 6:30 p.m., at the East Hampton High School library.

Veronesi Tabbed as MES Interim Principal

by Melissa Roberto

Following Marlborough Elementary School Principal Scott Nierendorf's recent announcement he'd be leaving the school in September to take on another role, Superintendent of Schools David Sklarz has given the school's future much thought, Sklarz told the Board of Education Tuesday.

In response to the sudden news he admitted was "unsettling" because of its timing, Sklarz said it was his job to come up with a plan – a plan he said needs to surpass efficiency and instead meet the "best needs of the school at this point in time." In a special Board of Education meeting Tuesday night Sklarz announced his plan to fill Nierendorf's shoes consists of hiring someone for a one-year interim principal position before a permanent principal is hired.

Sklarz told the school board Tuesday he had made "many" phone calls in search of people who would be interested in the interim vacancy – and one person, he said, strongly stuck out in his mind: Kathryn Veronesi, whose name may be familiar to *RiverEast* readers, as she was principal at Gilead Hill School for several years before serving as acting Hebron schools superintendent earlier this year.

Veronesi was offered the position this week, and accepted it.

Veronesi has lengthy experience in the education field. Her career began in 1999 as an educational diagnostician/consultant teacher in Cheshire before starting her career in administration as an assistant principal at the middle school in Plainville. In 2006, Veronesi entered the Hebron school district. She was the principal of Gilead Hill, a pre-k through second-grade elementary school, for six years until she was hired as acting superintendent of schools in Hebron last December, following the resignation of Ellie Cruz.

Veronesi's contract as acting superintendent ran through June 30. While she was in the running for the permanent superintendent position in Hebron, she ultimately pulled out, and Colchester resident Jeff Newton filled the permanent position July 1.

From the onset of her role as acting superintendent, Veronesi said she had the option of going back to Gilead Hill as principal once the permanent superintendent position was filled. Veronesi, however, sent a letter to the Hebron Board of Education in June announcing her resignation.

Asked why she did not wish to resume her principal position at the Hebron school, Veronesi said she did not feel it was the right move after she had coached Eric Brody in the acting role when she assumed the superintendent's responsibilities.

Though Veronesi admitted she did not initially expect to take on a position one town over from her former school district, she said she is "absolutely thrilled" about the opportunity.

"I know I had the Hebron Board [of Education's] support if I had decided to do that but because Eric Brody had assumed acting principal at Gilead I just didn't feel right taking that job back," she explained. "I don't want people to feel I couldn't go back to Gilead or that I didn't want to. I just felt that was the right thing to do."

The former administrator added she had no intentions of retirement. She furthered assuming the interim principal position at MES is another "right" decision for her.

"I think it's a perfect position for me right now," she explained. "It's the right position; it's the right community. I am so looking forward to working with Dr. Sklarz and the staff there."

She added one more thing she's "thrilled" about: "working with the kids."

"I thoroughly enjoy being around children and I'm looking forward to that," Veronesi said, "and meeting the parents and being a part of that community."

Tuesday's special school board meeting was held so Sklarz could discuss his plan for the interim and permanent position. That same night he also recommended Veronesi for the interim position, whose resume was sent to the board a couple weeks earlier.

A majority of board members agreed with Sklarz's plan and felt confident that Veronesi could fit the bill. A vote to hire Veronesi was not needed because it is an interim position. One member, Mimi LaPoint, however, said she would have liked if the board could meet Veronesi before offering her the position.

Sklarz provided a draft of a principal search timeline. Though he coined it the "first draft," it includes advertising the position for one month, soliciting input from the public via surveys, establishing a school board subcommittee to conduct interviews, and narrowing the candidates down to three by early April with a final decision later that month. Board members expressed their support of the timeline, though it will be voted on in the future.

The superintendent shared his confidence in Veronesi's abilities.

"I think she's just what the faculty, students and parents need this year and they're going to find that out."

Several board members also voiced their support of the recommendation.

"I look at things like previous experience," member Carole Shea said. "[Veronesi] was the principal at Gilead Hill. She has been highly-rated for her performance there and then was acting superintendent of schools. She also worked through a period of time when they implemented full-day kindergarten, which is a

skill we need. She fills the bill."

Board of Education vice chairwoman Betty O'Brien, who assumed the chair position Tuesday in Ruth Kelly's absence also communicated her support.

"I think we lucked out," she said, stressing Veronesi has the experience the district is in need of at this time. "I expect a nice, smooth transition."

Sklarz admitted he feels teachers and administrators will work "harder than ever" in the year to come working towards the future implementations of the Common Core, new teacher evaluation system and a new approach to the Connecticut Mastery Test. Additionally, he highlighted the administration's current feasibility studies of world language and full-day kindergarten that the interim principal will need to assist in – all skills Sklarz said Veronesi is knowledgeable of and has already assisted in at Hebron.

The superintendent added he feels the upcoming school year will be about "defining who we are as an elementary school."

"I see this as a process of coming together, defining ourselves and then defining who will take us from this year into the next decade," he said. "It's a year-long process."

Veronesi's start date and salary were due to be discussed Thursday, after press time. Sklarz anticipates Veronesi will begin to work by Nierendorf's side at the start of the school year before he formally leaves. If Veronesi wishes to run for the permanent position, she will have to reapply and endure the same process as other applicants in the permanent principal search.

An article about the interim principal and the upcoming school year at MES will be published in next week's back-to-school issue.

East Hampton House Fire Causes Extensive Damage

by Elizabeth Bowling

An early morning structure fire last Thursday, Aug. 8, left an East Hampton home burned and smoky, but not destroyed, officials said.

James Burke, the East Hampton Fire Department's public information officer, said in a press release that a neighbor called in the fire to dispatch at around 1 a.m. Aug. 8 and the first engine arrived seven minutes later.

"The bulk of the fire was knocked down in 27 minutes," Burke said. The fire in the three-story, wood-framed residential home of Ed and Cheryl Gioielli, at 64 North Maple St., was declared "under control" within an hour, he said.

Burke said the residents – a family of three – of the home were unharmed by the fire because their smoke detectors' alarms went off and woke them up, allowing them to exit the house before fire crews arrived. Unfortunately, the home is not presently habitable.

According to Burke, both East Hampton officials and State Fire Marshal officials are still investigating the cause of the fire.

"The home was extensively damaged but the final disposition on the structure has yet to be determined," Burke said.

The press release stated that heavy smoke pushed from the front of the home on the first floor, second floor and the stairways. The fire itself was in the basement and "compromised the structural integrity of the flooring on the first story as well as the stairwells leading from the basement and from the first to second floors."

The Glastonbury Fire Department provided aid by manning the East Hampton fire stations. And with mutual aid from several towns, including Marlborough, Portland and Colchester, firefighters worked for roughly an hour to put out the blaze, which they were able to contain to the basement of the home, Burke said. A total of approximately 40 firefighters responded, he said.

Due to the excessive heat, fire crews had to cut holes into the roof for ventilation and to allow firefighters to get inside to extinguish the flame.



The fire that damaged the home at 64 North Maple St. was extinguished within an hour in the early morning on Thursday Aug. 8. The photo above was taken Tuesday, Aug. 13, and shows the aftermath of the fire that left the house indefinitely uninhabitable.

Marlborough Finance Board Debates Over Word in Minutes

by Melissa Roberto

A heated debate broke out at Wednesday's Board of Finance meeting following a concern voiced by alternate member Pasquale Amodeo relating to minutes of the May 8 meeting, which the board had expected to approve that night.

Amodeo's concern was related to a statement made by Town Planner Peter Hughes in the May 8 meeting – a meeting that included discussion with the WPCA and Board of Selectmen to discuss the Phase II sewer project (which was ultimately approved by the board on May 29).

Amodeo recalled a conversation board members had with Hughes on May 8 regarding funding of Phase I of the sewer project, however. The alternate member claimed Hughes used the word "loan" to explain how Phase I was funded. Amodeo said he's tried to make sense of the "loan" Hughes was referring to since the May 8 meeting. He also said he felt the conversation between Hughes and the board regarding Phase I funding should have been included in the May 8 minutes.

Amodeo's concerns were backed by fellow alternate member Lauren Cragg, who also stated she recalled the word "loan" used by Hughes.

In response to Amodeo's concerns, Chairwoman Evelyn Godbout asked members multiple times if the board's intent was to modify the minutes, or to develop an inquiry to the Board of Selectmen so the "loan" in question could be explained. However, the chairwoman

stressed modifying the minutes was not a sensible resolution.

"I know our intent isn't to put every single word in our minutes," said Godbout. "That [conversation of Phase I] had nothing to do with the motion of that night."

Amodeo then mentioned what information he was seeking.

"I think [my intent] is for people to know how this is getting paid for," he said of Phase I. "I think that's part of our role as the Board of Finance – [to know] how things are getting financed."

Amodeo furthered his concerns stemmed from residents outside of the sewer district having to pay "extra" to fund Phase I than it was initially decided upon.

Godbout, however, said she believed the board understood how Phase I was financed and that it wasn't the finance board's responsibility to determine how Phase I would be funded.

"Do those funds go through the Board of Finance?" Hjulstrom then asked Amodeo.

"I have no idea," Amodeo responded. "That's a cop-out, Ken. I'm going to be honest with you... I knew everyone was going to try to weasel out of this..."

Amodeo and Cragg furthered the May 8 meeting was the "first time" they heard about a loan financing Phase I of the project. The two stressed they wanted an answer from Hughes,

adding that on May 8 Hughes promised to send a document to the finance board to show how Phase I is being paid for.

First Selectwoman Cathi Gaudinski then interjected the meeting to make sense of the confusion.

"There was not a formal loan to the WPCA [to fund Phase I]," she stated. "It may have been a mischaracterization of the wording of Peter Hughes. There was the word 'loan' used however there is not a formal agreement from the town to the WPCA in terms of a loan."

After the meeting, Gaudinski confirmed that Godbout was correct in saying Phase I funding is not a Board of Finance issue.

"The chair was correct in terms of saying it really is not a board of finance item. The funding of Phase I was passed at a town referendum and the resolution allows financing to be determined internally by the First Selectman at the time, the treasurer, bond counsel and the WPCA, who are involved in setting the rates."

"I have confidence that everything was followed appropriately," Gaudinski furthered, adding that she was not the selectman at the time of Phase I.

During the discussion of the issue, member Beth Petroni entered the room and was subsequently seated. Petroni was aware of the issue being discussed and yelled her frustration.

"Well, it's outstanding to me how in God's

name everybody on this board could not remember when I said it three times," she yelled, stressing she asked Hughes to provide necessary documents of the Phase I funding to the finance board on May 8. "And we had to have a recording [to prove that?] Are you kidding me? You guys didn't remember? You didn't remember that I had asked for it?"

Godbout asked Petroni not to yell, to which Petroni responded, "I wasn't yelling. I'm loud. You're not."

The board clerk was then asked to read the May 8 minutes, which did not include the Phase I funding conversation.

"Where's the letter?" Petroni yelled once more. "I want what [Hughes] promised me."

From the audience, Gaudinski said she will follow up with Hughes to get the board the information members are seeking. The selectman confirmed this outside of the meeting.

"In the future I would be more than happy to sit down the Board of Finance as an agenda item [to discuss it] because some of the people there weren't on the board when this project was started."

A vote was taken to then approve the minutes as presented without modifications. The board approved the minutes by a vote 5-1, with members Godbout, Hjulstrom, Doug Knowlton, Cliff Denniss and Susan Leser in favor, and Petroni casting the dissenting vote.

Colchester Police News

8/5: Colchester Police said Thomas Tomalski, 21, of 13 Ian Dr., Meriden, was charged with violation of probation.

8/5: Colchester Police said an employee of Reliable Oil located at 522 Norwich Ave. reported that an unknown person or persons punctured the sidewall of a tire on one of their delivery vehicles sometime between Aug. 2 and 5. Colchester Police is currently investigating the case.

8/6: State Police said Robert Teachman, 30, of 296 Quarry Brook Dr., was charged with violation of a protective order.

8/7: State Police said Brett Lechnar, 28, of

191 Walker Hill Rd., Groton, was charged with DUI, making an improper turn, failure to display license plate and speeding.

8/7: State Police said Dwayne A. Shippee, 38, of 20 Lake Ridge Dr., was charged with second-degree threatening and second-degree unlawful restraint.

8/10: State Police said Joseph Hudock, 53, of 711 Old Hartford Rd., was charged with two counts of a violation of a protective order.

8/11: State Police said Ian E. Cole, 31, of 2 Condale Ln., Plainville, was charged with DWI and speeding.

East Hampton Police News

7/28: Brett Michnowicz, 18, of 165 Clark Hill Rd., was involved in a car vs. pole motor vehicle accident at the intersection of Route 66 and Lake Drive, East Hampton Police said. Michnowicz was issued a ticket for possession of less than half an ounce of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia, police said.

8/1: Joseph A. Urbano III, 23, of 15 Elaine Dr., Moodus, was placed under arrest after he was observed driving erratically and charged with DUI and failure to drive right, police said.

8/5: Blaire Ocelik, 31, of 81 Middletown Ave., was arrested for interfering with an officer and disorderly conduct, police said.

8/5: Dwayne Shippee, 38, of 20 Lake Ridge Rd., Marlborough, received a ticket for second-degree harassment, police said.

8/6: William Slater, 61, of 130 Davenport Ave., New Haven, turned himself into the East Hampton Police Department pursuant to an active PRAWN warrant for second-degree failure to appear, police said.

Hebron Police News

8/7: State Police said Paige Rushford, 25, of 136 Deepwood Dr., Amston, was charged with DUI and failure to drive in the proper lane on a multiple-lane highway.

8/11: State Police said Paul W. Stelzner, 27, of 297 Skinner Ln., was charged with DUI and making an improper turn.

Obituaries

Portland

Louis P. Aresco

Louis P. Aresco, 70, of Portland, loving husband of Patricia (Shanahan) Aresco for 44 years, passed away peacefully at home with family Thursday, Aug. 8. He was the son of the late Joseph and Frances Puglisi Aresco.

Louis graduated from Middletown High School ('61), St. Michael's College (BA '65), and Hartford Connecticut State Technical College ('67). He joined Monarca, Aresco, & Mazzotta Inc. Construction Company in 1969 as a bricklayer. He later served as project foreman, superintendent and project manager. In 1988, he assumed the role of president of the business, and changed the name to Aresco Construction Company. In 2013, he turned control of the 66-year old family business over to his son, Joseph.

During his time as President he was proud to have worked on many local municipal and private construction projects, including Middlesex Hospital, Middletown City Hall, and numerous local banks and schools.

His kindness, concern for others, attention to details, respect for his employees and clients, and fair treatment of others led to the growth of the business under his tenure. It was in the same spirit that he lived his personal life with his family, friends, and beloved grandchildren, to whom "Papa" was the light of their eye.

He served in the 76th Division United States Army Reserve Band, was a lifetime member of the Knights of Columbus, the IACO, the Elks Club, and served on the Board of Trustees of Mercy High School, which awarded him the Catherine McCauley Award in 2002 for his lifetime service to the school. He was a longtime member of St. Mary's Parish, Portland. He also enjoyed his years as a member of the Tuesday morning Men's Senior Golf League and Friday night couples golf leagues at Portland Golf Course.

Having lived with cancer since 1995, he lived by the motto "it is what it is." His disease never stopped him from his work, golf, trips to Notre Dame, BC football games, winters spent in Naples, Fla., working in his vegetable garden, or spending time with his friends and family. He firmly believed there is life after cancer diagnosis.

Besides his wife Patricia, he is survived by his son, Joseph D. Aresco and his wife Angela of Portland; his daughter Jennifer Brennan and her husband Peter of Marblehead, Mass.; his sister Antonia Cubeta and her husband Angelo of Portland; his brother-in-law Robert Wimler, and his sister-in-law Jeanne Cullinan.

He also leaves behind his beloved grandchildren: Alysha Ledbetter, Devin and Josh Aresco, and Caroline and Patrick Brennan, as well as many nieces, nephews, cousins, aunts and close friends.

He is predeceased by his sister, Ann Wimler, and brother-in-law Robert Cullinan.

The family would like to thank Dr. Miklos Fogarasi and the Middlesex Cancer Center for their compassion and care during these many years of treatment.

Funeral services were held Monday, Aug. 12, from Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, with a Mass at St. Mary Church, 51 Freestone Ave., Portland. Burial will be in St. Mary Cemetery, Portland. Relatives and friends called Sunday, Aug. 11, at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested that donations be made to Mercy High School, 1740 Randolph Road, Middletown, CT 06457; Xavier High School, 181 Randolph Road, Middletown, CT 06457; St. Jude's Thadeus Shrine, 205 West Monrow Street, Chicago, IL 60606 (please note "for use of the Shrine"); and the Middlesex Hospital Cancer Center, 536 Saybrook Rd., Middletown, CT 06457.

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

East Hampton

Diane L. Frazer

Diane L. Frazer, 58, of East Hampton, died suddenly at home. Along with her lifelong friend, Vicki Adams, Diane leaves behind many family members who loved her deeply.

We are honoring Diane's wishes with a private ceremony for immediate family. Because so many loved her, we encourage you to join us at 13 Mott Hill Rd. in East Hampton Saturday, Aug. 17, from 2-4 p.m., so that we may all come together in peace and love.

Donations in Diane's name may be made to her favorite charity, The Doris Day Animal League.



Colchester

William David Alford

William David Alford, "Alf," 63, of Colchester and formerly of Middlefield, passed away Monday, Aug. 5, at Hartford Hospital. In those 63 years, he lived an adventurous life and enjoyed it to its fullest.

Born May 22, 1950, in Middletown, he was a son of the late Scott and Elizabeth (Hathaway) Alford. Alf was a graduate of Vinal Regional Technical School and went on to work as an electrician for Pratt & Whitney Aircraft.

He volunteered for, and served proudly with, the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War and was a member of the VFW.

In his spare time, Alf was a motorcycle and classic car enthusiast and an avid traveler.

He leaves his son and daughter-in-law, Jesse and Melissa Alford of East Hampton, CT; two granddaughters, Lucy and Eloise, whom he adored; a sister, Margaret "Midge" Sinnamon of Manchester; and a brother and his wife, Robert and Muriel Alford, of Peoria, Ariz.; and numerous extended family members and friends.

In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by two sisters, Patricia Barton and Janet Davis.

The family will receive guests starting at 4 p.m. today, Aug. 16, before a 5:30 p.m. chapel service with military honors at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. Burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the Wounded Warrior Project, 370 7th Ave., Suite 1802, New York, NY 10001.

East Hampton

Robert M. Lawson

Robert M. "Bob" Lawson, 82, of East Hampton, widower of the late Patricia (Prout) Lawson died Monday evening, Aug. 12, at Marlborough Medical Center. Born March 18, 1931, in Hartford, he was the son of the late Frank and Fannie (Ingraham) Lawson.

Bob was a lifelong resident of East Hampton and was a 1949 graduate of East Hampton High School, where he served as class president. He proudly served his country in the Air Force during World War II. Bob had worked as vice president of sales and marketing for INSILCO and MRN Industries.

He was an active member of the East Hampton Lions Club, East Hampton American Legion and the East Hampton VFW. He was a former member of the East Hampton Zoning Board of Appeals and had worked for the former East Hampton Town News. Since his retirement, he enjoyed spending time with family and friends in Connecticut and his home away from home at the lake house in Ossipee, N.H.

He is survived by his son, Christian "Chris" Lawson and his wife Susan of Marlborough; two daughters, Cindy Chasse and her husband Rob of Middletown, Pamela Bogomolny and her husband Mike of Ohio; three sisters-in-law, Joan Lawson, Dorothy Lawson, Doris Lawson, all of East Hampton; his three beloved grandchildren, Haley, Jackson and Chandler Bogomolny; and several nieces and nephews.

Besides his parents and his wife Patricia, he was predeceased by his three brothers Frank, Everett and Kenneth.

Friends called at Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, Thursday, Aug. 15. Funeral services will be held today, Aug. 16, at 10 a.m., in the Spencer Funeral Home. Burial will follow in Lake View Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, 825 Brook St., I-91 Tech Center, Rocky Hill, CT 06067.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Colchester

Alphonse Terni Jr.

Alphonse Terni Jr., 58, passed away Sunday, Aug. 11, after a long and bravely-fought illness. Mr. Terni, a longtime resident of Colchester, was born in Waterbury, the son of the late Alphonse Terni and Alice Marvin.

Al, as he was known, came to live with The Caring Community in 1985 and was universally loved and esteemed by both his peers and staff. He will be greatly missed.

A memorial service is planned for next week.

Portland

Linda J. Nichols

Linda J. (Moore) Nichols, 72, of Portland, wife of Laurence V. Nichols passed away Tuesday, Aug. 13, at home, surrounded by her family. She was the daughter of the late William F. Jr and Irene (Mossey) Moore.

Born Nov. 14, 1940, in Fitchburg, Mass., she grew up in Durham and graduated from Durham High School and has lived in Portland over the last 40 years. Linda would like to be remembered for her love of family, cooking delicious meals and enjoying lively poker games in her home. She hosted Christmas Eve celebrations every year and welcomed anyone who had no place to go. Linda always kept her heart, mind and doors open to anyone who sought help. She raised her three children to follow the Golden Rule, to treat others the way you want to be treated.

Linda was a political activist with strong opinions. In the '60s and '70s, she volunteered for the Democratic Party which included campaigning for Senator Dodd, George McGovern and Eugene McCarthy. Linda participated in anti-war peace rallies to protest the Vietnam War. She worked as a bookkeeper for her husband's business and as a hostess at the Portland Brownstone Restaurant.

Linda had a passion for life and we are sure her strong spirit is starting a party in Heaven. Special thanks to the Middlesex Hospice Home Care Staff for guiding the family through a difficult time.

Besides her husband, she leaves a son, Laurence V. Nichols Jr. and his wife Joan of Portland; a daughter, Kelly Nichols-Johnson and her husband Shelvie of Colchester; a sister, Marilyn Smigel of Higganum; three grandchildren, Kayla Rose Johnson, and Michael and Orlando Casserino III and many nieces and nephews. She also leaves behind her special friend and caregiver, Nancy Gordon.

She was predeceased by a daughter, Michelle Nichols and a brother, William F. Moore III.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, Aug. 17, at 1 p.m., at Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland. Burial will be private. Relatives and friends may call Saturday from noon until the service.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Linda's memory may be made to the Portland Library 20 Freestone Ave Portland, CT. 06480 or to the Portland Food Bank 33 East Main St Portland, CT. 06480.

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

Andover

MaryBeth Bergsten

MaryBeth Bergsten, 59, of Richlands, N.C., passed away Monday, Aug. 5. She was the daughter of Mario and Elsie Klupik Constantine. She was born in Youngstown, Ohio, Nov. 15, 1953.

Marybeth was a 1972 graduate of Ursuline High School in Youngstown, Ohio. She married Robert L. Bergsten Jr. May 26, 1978, and relocated to Andover, where she spent most of her life with her family. Two years ago she moved to Richlands, N.C., to care for her mother-in-law. She graduated from Eastern Connecticut State University with a computer science degree and was employed for many years at Pratt and Whitney/United Technologies in East Hartford.

She leaves behind to cherish her loving memories her husband of 35 years Robert, of Richlands, N.C.; three children, Andrew Bergsten (fiancée Sarah Cooper) of Glastonbury, Alisa (Will) Pegram of Holly Ridge, N.C., Amanda Bergsten of Andover; and two grandchildren, Jonah and Areannah Erazo. She leaves also two brothers, Bruce (Nancy Marzo) Constantine of Lake Milton, Ohio, and Michael (Nancy Kane) Constantine of Ft. Meyers, Fla., and three sisters: Elise Antoinette (Barry) Robbins of Bradenton, Fla.; Paula Kacir of Lowellville, Ohio, and Margaret (David) Bentz of Youngstown, Ohio. MaryBeth will also be missed by many nieces and nephews and great-nieces and nephews.

The Bergsten family would like to thank the Griffin/Lanier family and Pegram/Whatley family for their love and support during this difficult time.

A private family service was conducted by Mr. James Warren Saturday, Aug. 12, on Topsail Island, N.C. There will be a memorial service held at the First Congregational Church of Andover at a later date.

In lieu of flowers contributions may be made in MaryBeth's name to the BACH program in care of Boston Children's Hospital.

Arrangements were entrusted to Johnson Funeral Home, Richlands, N.C.



Colchester

Stephen Bachman Jr.

Stephen Bachman Jr., beloved husband, cherished father and proud papa passed away unexpectedly but peacefully Friday, Aug. 9, while vacationing with his son in Sturgis, S.D.

He was 67 years old. Steve was a motorcycle enthusiast and a seasoned sportsman. He enjoyed hunting and fishing and riding his "bike" with his sons. Steve always had a knack for working on cars and in his youth he restored a '57 Chevy and a '70 Dodge Challenger that he drag raced in Colchester. After graduating from Montville High School in 1966, he honorably served his country in the United States Army and later in the Army Reserves. He was retired from Pratt & Whitney Aircraft in East Hartford where he worked as a machinist for 35 years.

Steve was a loyal friend and a dedicated family man. He was always willing to lend a hand and would have done anything for his kids and grandkids. He was a kind a generous soul who never asked for anything in return.

Steve is survived by his high school sweetheart and beloved wife of 45 years Francine (Fran), as well as his daughter Stacey Lawton and son-in-law Michael, and his son Brian Bachman and daughter-in-law Aimee. His kind and generous heart is survived by his three grandkids, Ashley, Sydney, and Jacob who adored him. Steve is also survived by his mother-in-law, Gisele Grandchamp of Stanstead, Quebec, and Jeffrey Grandchamp who was like a little brother and his wife Karen. He also leaves behind a sister, Diane Haftner, and his much loved Canadian in-laws. Steve was predeceased by his mother and father, Doris Bachman and Stephen Bachman Sr., as well as his half brother William Elliot and father-in-law Harold Grandchamp.

Family and friends may visit at Montville Funeral Home of Church and Allen, 63 Norwich New London Tpke., Montville, today, Aug. 16, from 6-8 p.m. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at St. John Church, Maple Ave, Montville, Saturday, Aug. 17, at 11 a.m. Burial will be private and at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made in Stephen's memory to the Wounded Warrior Project, PO Box 758517, Topeka, KS 66675.

Visit montvillefuneralhome.com to leave an online condolence for the Bachman family.

Marlborough

Walter Gunnard Roberts

Walter Gunnard Roberts, 92, of Middletown, passed away on Friday, August 9th at Marlborough Health Care Center. Born on Saybrook Road in Middletown on Sept. 23, 1920, he was the son of the late Frank and Aleda (Johnson) Roberts.

Walt lived in Middletown most of his life before moving to East Hampton in 2003 and Marlborough in 2009. He was a U.S. Army veteran, serving in the 100th Infantry Division, 325th Medical Battalion during World War II. While in the Army, Walt was a recipient of the Bronze Star. During his working career, he was employed by The Russell Company, Pratt and Whitney and in 1989 retired from Fenner Manufacturing. With 50 years of continuous service to the Moose fraternity, Walt was awarded a Life Membership to The Loyal Order of Moose in Middletown.

In his retirement years, he was an enthusiastic Red Sox fan, avid fisherman and he loved spending as many days as he could on the golf course. Making a hole in one on two separate outings were great moments in Walt's golf exploits. His greatest joy was spending time with family. His daughter, Linda (Suzie) was a shining light in his life and being a grandfather as well as great-grandfather meant the world to him.

Walt is survived by two daughters, Linda Roberts of East Haddam and Karen Ford and her husband, Steve of Hebron; his brother, Earle V. Roberts; three grandchildren, John Ford and his wife Kellie of Manchester, Justin Ford and his wife Gina of Columbia and Dylan Ford of Hebron; three great grandchildren, Sean, Alexandria and Angelina Ford of Manchester.

The family would like to thank the staff at Marlborough Health Care Center for their compassion, kindness and excellent care provided to Walt over the past four years.

A private graveside service will be held in Pine Grove Cemetery where full military honors will be accorded.

In lieu of flowers, friends may make donations in Walt's memory to Disabled American Veterans, 80 Hall Ave., Meriden, CT 06450 or dav.org.

Doolittle Funeral Home 14 Old Church Street, Middletown is handling the arrangements. Messages of condolence may be sent to the family at doolittlefuneralservice.com.

Portland

Debra Marie Serra

Debra Marie Serra, 55, of New Britain, died peacefully after a brief illness Tuesday, Aug. 6, at The Hospital of Central Connecticut lovingly surrounded by her immediate family. Debbie was the daughter of the late Salvatore and Stasia (Deptula) Serra of Portland and lived at home until 1982.

Debbie moved to New Britain and became affiliated with the Central Connecticut Association for Retarded Citizens. She worked for many years at the John McIntosh Workshop in Kensington as a packaging clerk. More recently, Debbie attended the day program at CCARC in New Britain where she cultivated many friendships with clients as well as staff.

Debbie will always be remembered for her infectious laugh and her love of all those around her. Anyone who met Debbie immediately fell in love with her and she returned that love ten-fold. She enjoyed dancing, socializing with her housemates, outings and her afternoon coffee breaks.

She is survived by her sister and brother-in-law, Charlene and Norman Hicks of Durham, who were her guardians and advocates; a sister, Susan and her husband, Michael Watson of San Antonio, Texas; a niece, Meredith (Hicks) Villwock and her husband, Jim of Durham; nephew, Christopher Watson of Virginia, niece, Stacey (Watson) Zuniga and her husband, Leo of San Antonio, Texas; a grand nephew and six grand nieces as well as the kind and compassionate staff at Rocky Hill Avenue, Barbour Road and Oakwood Drive group homes where Debbie resided for 30 years. Her housemates, Mary S., Mark, Jeff, Patsy, Bobby and Jacek, also survive her. Housemates Mary P. and Laura predeceased her.

The family wishes to thank the doctors, nurses and the Wolfson Palliative Care Program team of the critical care unit of The Hospital of Central Connecticut for their kindness, compassion and understanding.

Funeral services were held Monday, Aug. 12, with calling hours prior to the service, at Doolittle Funeral Home, 14 Old Church St., Middletown, with the Rev. Anthony C. Dinoto, interim rector of the Church of the Epiphany in Durham, presiding. Burial will be at St. Mary's Cemetery in Portland at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, friends and relatives may make contributions to CCARC, 950 Slater Road, New Britain, CT 06053 in Debbie's name.

Messages of condolence may be sent to the family at doolittlefuneralservice.com.

Colchester

Colman Dodge Shattuck

Colman Dodge Shattuck, 65, of Martha's Vineyard, Mass., and formerly of Colchester, peacefully sailed into eternal life on Thursday, Aug. 8, at Hartford Hospital surrounded by his caring and devoted family. Colman was the loving husband of 34 years of Elizabeth "Beth" Ann (Lawhorn) Shattuck.

Born in Hartford Aug. 27, 1947, a son of the late Granville and Sylvia Elizabeth (Taber) Shattuck, he had resided in Colchester for 31 years prior to moving to Martha's Vineyard over three years ago.

Colman was a graduate of Granby High School, Class of 1966, and earned his bachelor's degree from Northrup University in Los Angeles, Calif. Prior to his retirement, Colman was an aerospace engineer for 31 years at Hamilton Sundstrand/UTC in Windsor Locks.

A talented woodworker, Colman enjoyed making furniture and other things for his family and friends. He was a musician with the soul of a poet who just completed and released his own CD. He was a lover of nature with a spiritual soul who truly loved the beach and outdoors. Most of all, Colman was a gentle family man who loved spending time with his wife, children, dog, and other family members and friends.

Besides his parents, he was predeceased by a sister, Susan Draper Barry of Jacksonville, Fla.

Along with his beloved wife, Beth, Colman is survived by a son, Samuel "Sam" Taber Shattuck of Martha's Vineyard, Mass.; a daughter, Ashley Elizabeth Shattuck of Martha's Vineyard, Mass.; a brother, William T. Shattuck of Singer Island, Fla.; his mother-in-law, Marguerite (Besneatte) Lawhorn of Canton; a brother-in-law, Eric J. Lawhorn and his wife, Carla, of Bloomfield; a sister-in-law, Jonelle M. Lawhorn and her husband, William Deming, of Avon; his dog, Baldwin; many nieces, nephews, former co-workers; and friends.

Funeral services were Wednesday, Aug. 14, at South Congregational Church, 1301 Forbes St., East Hartford with his dear friend, the Rev. Al Turner, officiating. Private burial will be held at the convenience of the family at Granby Center Cemetery, Granby. Relatives and friends called at the D'ESOPPO-East Hartford Memorial Chapel, 30 Carter St., East Hartford, Tuesday, Aug. 13.

Memorial contributions in Colman's name may be made to a favorite charity of the donor's choice.

Colman's family would like to extend their sincere appreciation and gratitude to Dr. Peter Bloom, Dr. Robert Siegel, Donna and all the staff at the Helen and Harry Gray Cancer Center, along with Susan, Jennifer, Darcie, Diane, and all the nursing staff of the Oncology Unit at the Conklin Building for their gifts of skill, compassion, and kindness given to Colman and his entire family.

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

From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

Hebron residents may recall an accident in early June involving resident Ross Dapsis. He was found lying unconscious on the side of Old Andover Road shortly after 3:30 p.m. Saturday, June 1.

The injuries were apparently the result of a bicycle crash – though fire officials said at the time they didn't know what Ross hit or how the accident occurred. None of that mattered as much, though, as getting Ross the urgent care he needed. Ross was left with a serious head injury as a result of the crash; LifeStar was called and flew him to Hartford Hospital, where he underwent emergency surgery. He remained in the hospital's ICU for four weeks, and was recently transferred to Gaylord Hospital in Wallingford, where he's receiving therapy. He's making progress, I'm happy to report, though his injuries will require long-term care.

If you don't know the name Ross Dapsis off the top of your head, you may be familiar with his work – especially if you enjoy a good meal. He's co-owner of Something Simple Café, a delightful sandwich shop that opened on Main Street in Hebron last year. I remember when reporter Geeta Schrayter wrote about the business shortly after it made its debut. It sounded great, with lots of interesting sandwich choices. While Hebron's not exactly short on places to eat, a casual, soup-and-sandwich, Panera-esque place was missing from the scene – and Something Simple appeared to fill that void.

In March, while at the Maple Fest, I stopped by Something Simple for the first time – and was impressed. I was already quite full from the day's events, so I got nothing to eat. I did, however, get a special they had that weekend, a maple walnut latte – made with real maple syrup. It was fantastic.

How good was it? I was in Vermont recently and stopped by this coffeehouse called Mocha Joe's. I saw a maple latte on the menu, so I ordered one, iced. I figured a place with the name "Mocha Joe's" surely must know their coffee, and getting anything maple from Vermont – which is more famous for its maple syrup than even Hebron is – would be a safe bet. Surely, I thought, this would be one fine cup of coffee.

Nope. There was nothing to it – and quite frankly, it paled in comparison to my Something Simple experience.

I'm sure lots of people in the area have had similar pleasant experiences at the eatery – and now it's time for all of you to band together and help out one of your own, the man who helped make Something Simple possible.

Like I said earlier, Dapsis' injuries will require long-term care, so, with that in mind, a group of people recently got together and organized a "Concert in the Park" fundraiser to benefit the Dapsis family. The event will be held Saturday, Aug. 24, from 4-8 p.m., at Burnt Hill Park in Hebron.

The musical group Rattlebone, a classic rock and blues band, will be the featured artist for the event. Other local talents will also perform, including 66 EAST, By Chance, OFF LIMITS Unplugged – Jason Castonguay, who will be familiar to Something Simple regulars, as he often performs there. There will also be games for the kids, prizes and food.

Tickets are \$10 per individual and \$25 per family. Tickets can be purchased at Ted's IGA or the Savings Institute in Hebron. Tickets will also be available the day of the event.

All of the proceeds from this event will go to the Dapsis Family Fund.

Geeta's got a story all about the event in this week's paper. It sounds like it'll be a great

day at the park, and for a great cause to boot. However, if you can't attend, you can still help the Dapsis family out with a donation. Checks can be sent to the Dapsis Family Fund, c/o Savings Institute, 115 Main St., Hebron, CT 06248.

For more information, email jfawhen@comcast.net or jvitarelli@sbcglobal.net.

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One of the more interesting parts of our nation's history is the Civilian Conservation Corps, or CCC for short. The corps began 80 years ago, on March 31, 1933, as part of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's "New Deal," to help relieve the poverty and unemployment caused by the Great Depression.

The camps, supervised by the U.S. Army, had between 200-250 men each. The men, aged 18-25 (with fathers on relief), enrolled for six months, and worked a 40-hour week for \$30 a month. As part of the arrangement, each person had to send \$25 a month home. However, in return they got food, uniforms and medical care. At first they lived in tents; later they built wooden buildings.

What did people enrolled at the camps do? Lots. The workers built trails, roads, campsites and dams, they stocked fish, they built and maintained fire tower observers' cabins and telephone lines, they fought fires and they planted trees.

The first year, 13 camps were set up here in Connecticut, in various towns and state parks and forests. In subsequent years eight more camps were added – including ones in East Hampton, in the Salmon River State Forest, and Portland, in the Meshomasic State Forest.

Ultimately, the CCC would disband in 1942, as men were needed to fight in World War II.

However, next Wednesday, Aug. 21, the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection will host a reunion of CCC alumni, family and friends at noon at Chatfield Hollow State Park in Killingworth. They will celebrate the 80th anniversary of the founding of the CCC by sharing their stories and pictures of the camps.

East Hampton resident Marty Podskoch will give a short presentation on the history of the CCC camps. Marty knows his history – he leads the monthly "Explore East Hampton" walks, taking residents on a stroll through Belltown's past – so I'm sure his presentation will be an informative one.

If anyone has photos of relatives or friends who worked at the camps, they're asked to give Marty a call at 860-267-2442, shoot him an email at podskoch@comcast.net, or write to him at 43 O'Neill Ln., East Hampton, CT 06424.

* * *

Lastly, the (slightly) shorter days, the appearance of preseason football games, and the notices in the newspaper about upcoming fall fairs all mean one thing: the summer is starting to draw to a close.

With that in mind, the *Rivereast's* annual back-to-school issue will be delivered next week. It's hard to believe, but the new school year is just around the corner, and it's time to get ready. Next week's issue will be chock full of helpful info for students (and parents), ranging from orientation schedules to school lunch price information to letters from superintendents even to school bus routes, so kids will know just where to stand in the morning.

It'll be a helpful issue, for sure, and definitely not one to miss.

* * *

See you next week.