



RIVEREAST

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Amber and Tony Ditomasso of T & A Concessions were on scene at the Hebron Lions Fairgrounds Tuesday giving their booth a makeover. When the 43rd annual Hebron Harvest Fair returns next week, the couple will be selling treats like apple crisp, beer battered apple rings and Zepolle, an Italian fritter with ricotta cheese, to hungry fairgoers.

Hebron Harvest Fair Returns Next Week

by Geeta Schrayter

Signs of things to come could be found at the Hebron Lions Fairgrounds Tuesday. A truck for The Texas Grill touting ice cold lemonade and eats like fajitas and onion blooms was parked by the Lion's Den; the owners of T & A Concessions took paintbrushes to their vendor space on Manchester Street, while signs marked off the locations of other vendors, and employees from a rental company worked together to set up giant tents.

Fair superintendent Adam Miclette explained Tuesday was "tent day," when the structures are set up, wired for lights and inspected.

"It takes about a week for the tents to get ready to roll" he said.

Meaning they'll be ready just in time for the 43rd annual Hebron Harvest Fair – themed "Cowboy Boots and Country Roots" – returning next Thursday-Sunday, Sept. 5-8.

Although the grounds were rather empty aside from the above activity Tuesday, the commotion will only increase as the days pass and the fair approaches; it will be the culmination of work Miclette said began shortly after last year's fair came to an end.

Each year, Miclette explained, the Hebron Lions' budget is prepared not long after the annual September fair closes, which means thoughts turn to the following year, and how much money needs to be allocated. Then, in November or December, there's the International Association of Fairs and Expositions Convention to attend, which is where, Miclette

said, acts like the crowd-favorite DockDogs have been found, along with one of this year's musical acts, Kari and Billy.

"So we're already thinking about the fair pretty much 12 months ahead," he said. "Everything really kicks up once the snow melts and the flowers come up but there's a lot of closed-door stuff before that."

Now, with the fair less than a week out, all the major projects are done. Miclette said there's only some beautification work remaining like mulching, putting in some flowers and tidying up the grounds.

Reithoffer, the company who brings in the carnival, came to the fairgrounds Wednesday to layout the rides – they'll return next Tuesday to set up, bringing 38 attractions which Miclette said he was "pretty confident" is the most of any fair in Connecticut.

Fairgoers who plan to go on as many of those rides as possible can purchase Pay-One-Price ride wristbands for \$20 until Sept. 4 and \$25 afterwards. The advanced wristbands (and fair admission tickets or ride ticket sheets) can be purchased on the fair website, hebronharvestfair.org. Advanced tickets can also be purchased at Ted's IGA in Hebron or any Walgreens pharmacy.

And there are plenty of tickets to be had, Miclette said, despite rumors going around claiming the fair had sold out for Sunday.

"There's a rumor going around that we're

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Small Towns, Great Places to Live

by Melissa Roberto

Money Magazine released its annual list of the best places to live in America last week – and two *Rivereast* towns made the cut.

Colchester and Portland were each listed in the "Least-Crowded Towns" category of the list, thanks to their open spaces where countryside solitude and all-encompassing views are not hard to find.

Colchester, ranked No. 8 on the list, and Portland, which made No. 18, were two out of 20 small towns in the country chosen for having lots of room to breathe. Each year, the publication uses statistics from Onboard Informatics, a data services company, to rank small towns all over the United States based on categories like demographics, finances, education and quality of life.

For the least crowded towns category, the publication took population and people per square mile into consideration. Colchester was listed with an overall population of 16,227, with 332 people per square mile. Portland's population came in a bit lower at 9,720, with a higher amount of people per square mile, at 416.

The recognitions mark the second time both Connecticut towns have been honored by *Money Magazine*. In 2005, Colchester ranked

57 in the "100 Best Places to Live" list – a distinction that spearheaded the town's annual "57 Fest." In 2011, Portland was ranked 88 on the same list.

Aside from each town's rural charm, according to money.cnn.com, it seems their outdoor offerings played a factor in the rankings. Colchester, often referred to as a "bedroom community" for its easy access to major state highways, is home to several farms, nature trails and parks. The magazine noted the town's "sweeping" views, as well as the Air Line Hiking Trail. The trail used to be a railroad track that ran from New York to Boston in the 1800s. Nowadays, bikers, walkers, runners and hikers – and even horseback riders – take advantage of it.

Two state parks (Day Pond and Salmon River) can also be found in Colchester, the website states, which give residents "plenty of ways to enjoy the great outdoors." But for the less adventurous who prefer a day of unwinding, Priam Vineyards – New England's first completely solar-powered winery – was also listed as a place of enjoyment in Colchester, with what the magazine described as an "impressive" 35-mile view of the countryside.

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Colchester is one of two *Rivereast* towns recently honored by *Money Magazine* as one of the best places to live in America in the "Least Crowded Towns" category. The publication credited Colchester's open space and sweeping views, which is noticed in the picture above of the spacious town green. Portland also made the list.

Harvest Fair cont. from Front Page

sold out,” he said. “We are not.”
 The rumor stems from the fact Sunday’s headliner is the country duo Florida Georgia Line. Miclette said he’d hit the lottery when he booked the group back in January because of their popularity.

The duo, made up of Brian Kelley and Tyler Hubbard, soared to fame last year when their song “Cruise” became the fastest debut single to reach Billboard’s country Top 10 (after 14 weeks) since Brooks & Dunn’s “Brand New Man” in 1991.

“Cruise” went on to set the record for the longest number one song on Billboard’s Hot Country Songs after it was remixed featuring hip-hop artist Nelly, and became the third best-selling digital track ever. The remix also made the tune a crossover hit on pop radio, and peaked at number four on the Billboard Hot 100.

In addition, the group’s album *Here’s to the Good Times*, released last December, has since gone platinum, and peaked at number one on Billboard’s Top Country Albums list; it also hit number four on the Billboard 200, which charts albums across all genres.

But Miclette said it was important to understand the tickets people were purchasing were for fair admission, not a concert. The tickets don’t guarantee being able to view the band, and the area by the stage where the band will be performing can accommodate about 9,000. As a result, there will be some obstructed viewing, but Miclette said the music can be heard throughout the fair.

The popularity of Florida Georgia Line – which Miclette estimated could bring in a crowd of around 25,000 people – has made some extra planning for parking and security necessary. But Miclette said everything had been arranged, and those in charge were ready for the influx.

“Everything has pretty much been set up,” he said. “We have a good plan in place for public safety, security – the whole nine yards.”

There will be additional security guards, bag checks, additional emergency response vehicles and three lanes of traffic that day. Off-site park-

ing had also been set up with shuttle buses to transport people to the fairgrounds. Miclette noted the off-site parking organized by the Lions will be free, but he added others in town may be setting up their own paid parking areas.

Hills Farm is one such location. For \$5, people can park at the farm beginning at 9 a.m. Sunday and take a shuttle bus to the fair. In a news release, the farm said it was “the closest offsite parking with a shuttle and will alleviate waiting in traffic to enter and exit the fairgrounds.”

Although the crowd expected Sunday may be double the normal attendance for Sundays, Miclette said he’s hoping for a large turnout all four days – and there’s sure to be something for everyone whatever day they choose.

In addition to the carnival and the above mentioned musical acts, The Farmer’s Cow is putting on the first annual Country Music Showdown Saturday, where six area bands will battle to be crowned “Best Country Band in New England.”

Also new this year will be Circle K petting zoo and pony rides and The Barnyard Crackle Review, which Miclette said contains animated chickens similar to the scene found at the grocer Stew Leonard’s.

In addition to the canine aquatics competition DockDogs, returning favorites include the demolition derby Thursday and Friday and tractor and truck pulls Saturday and Sunday. There will also be animal pulls and exhibitions, arts and craft exhibitions, a horseshoe tournament, informational booths and vendors selling an array of items and services from jewelry to photography, home goods, home improvement, airbrush tattoos, tarot cards, getaways and clothes.

And then, of course, there will be food.

Tony and Amber Ditomasso of T & A Concessions were on-site Tuesday painting their booth. When the fair arrives, they’ll be offering warm apple crisp, beer-battered apple rings called Appleflappen and Zeppole, an Italian fritter with ricotta cheese.



The Lions Fairgrounds were empty this week, a scene drastically different from the one that will be set when the Hebron Harvest Fair returns next week, bringing with it a carnival, hundreds of vendors, plenty of events, a plethora of animals and thousands of fairgoers to go with it.

In addition, options will be available to satiate any appetite (except perhaps someone on a strict diet), including burgers and hot dogs, pizza, baked potatoes, ice cream, kettle corn, roasted nuts and plenty of fried items along with the typical fried dough like cheese cake, cheese curd, Twinkies and Oreos, pickles and veggies.

There will also be a variety of sandwiches like pulled pork or chicken, barbecue beef brisket and Miclette’s favorite, the Gobbler Turkey, which includes turkey, gravy, stuffing and cranberry sauce on a roll.

All in all, whether attendees are coming for the entertainment, the rides, the food an excuse to get outside before summer fades into fall or all of the above, Miclette said he’s hoping to provide an event that offers “family value and

entertainment.”

“We still want to be that country fair with family values,” he said, adding he was hoping for four days of “good weather and happy fairgoers.”

The Hebron Harvest Fair runs Thursday, Sept. 5 from 4-10 p.m., Friday Sept. 6 from noon-11 p.m., Saturday Sept. 7 from 9 a.m.-11 p.m. and Sunday Sept. 8 from 9 a.m.-8 p.m. General admission tickets are \$12 (\$13 on Sunday); seniors get in for free before 4 p.m. Saturday, and those anxious to attend as soon as the fair opens can get \$2 off admission Thursday when they bring three non-perishable items to be donated to AHM Youth and Family Services.



Portland’s Riverfront Park, shown here, is just one of the many places where you can find a pleasant view of the riverside town. *Money Magazine’s* description of Portland touts its quarries, parks and other highlights.

Small Towns cont. from Front Page

Colchester First Selectman Gregg Schuster said he was “very happy” Colchester was nationally-ranked by the publication for a second time.

“This recognition belongs to the entire community as they work hard to make this a great town to live in,” he said.

Money’s ranking also highlighted the quaint riverside town of Portland, which offers a host of recreational activities. *Money* described Portland as a town where “there’s no such thing as a bad location.” The small town is nestled in between the Meshomasic State Forest and Connecticut River, which offer countless riverfront views.

The website also touches upon the town’s historic brownstone quarries, specifically its outdoor sports park, Brownstone Exploration and Discovery Park where zip lining, rock climbing and other activities await. Acres upon acres of Portland also make up its three golf

courses.

Portland First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield said the town certainly satisfies its outdoor enthusiasts, and was pleased the town was recognized for its open space.

“We’re very honored to once again be recognized by *Money Magazine*,” she said. “Many people who choose to reside in Portland enjoy the open space that’s available to them.”

The selectwoman added she feels it’s a “very pleasant place for recreation and for people to relate with nature.”

Upon entrance into Colchester off of Route 2, visitors are reminded the town is a place “Where Tradition Meets Tomorrow,” while Portland welcomes all to “Come On Over.” Though the two *Rivereast* towns were highlighted for their open space and scenic views, *Money Magazine* reminds us that Colchester and Portland each have a balance of pastoral bliss and outdoor recreation.

Making a Difference in a Colchester Family's Lives

by **Melissa Roberto**

Lifelong Colchester resident Tracy Berube was a loving mother, wife, daughter, niece, friend and volunteer.

On July 23, at the age of 40, Tracy suffered a fatal asthma attack. The stay-at-home mother left behind five daughters, ranging in age from 2 to 16. Coping with her sudden death has not been easy, Joe Berube, Tracy's husband of 18 years, said, but, with help from friends and acquaintances within the Colchester community, the Berubes have managed to get through the tough times this summer.

Four of the daughters started a new school year this week. Joe said that, thanks to donations from teachers of Colchester Elementary School and Jack Jackter Intermediate School, and members of Colchester Youth Services, the family was able to afford clothes for the upcoming school year and was given school supplies and groceries.

"We've received a lot of support," Joe said. "It's greatly appreciated."

Joe works at Marlborough Pizza, where he assumes several responsibilities, including prepping and cooking food. Before Tracy's passing, Joe worked 15-hour shifts six days a week to support his family. Following the family tragedy, he switched to part-time. When Joe is working, 2-year-old Ariana is taken care of by Tracy's mother, Marilyn Wroblinski, who had already been living with the family in their Colchester home.

While the community has shown an outpouring of support to keep the family well-fed and taken care of in the last month, Tracy's aunt, Penny Rorrio of East Hartford, is concerned about the children's futures, which is why she set up five Connecticut Higher Education Trust (CHET) funds for each of the girls in the hopes that one day the girls will be able to afford college.

"This family doesn't have a lot," Rorrio said. "I just want the girls to have more of a future and I'm a big believer of education. I want these girls to have an opportunity to do something

with their lives when they are older."

Brittany Berube, who will turn 17 in September, is currently a senior at Lyman Memorial High School in Lebanon. She is heavily involved in the school's Future Farmers of America agricultural program and dreams of one day becoming a veterinarian. Her sister, Kailee, 9, is enrolled in fourth grade at Jack Jackter Intermediate School. She is known for having the "sweetest personality," her great aunt says. Melanye, 6, a second-grader, goes to Colchester Elementary School, in the same building as her 4-year-old sister Miley, who just began full-day preschool.

With a focus on the girls' future, specifically their education, Rorrio has established 529 CHET funds, or college savings accounts, with the help of First Niagara Bank. Rorrio is the owner of the accounts, but each child is the beneficiary of their individual account. The great aunt confirmed the money can only be used for education; if one child does not pursue higher education, the amount can be transferred to another one of the daughters' accounts.

Rorrio recalled her niece Tracy as a "wonderful mother" who, by Joe's side, "created a very stable home life."

Joe recalled Tracy's constant visits to the local Colchester schools. He said she often volunteered at CES and JJIS assisting teachers and faculty. Every Wednesday, Tracy would take turns going to each of her daughters' schools to have lunch with them in the cafeteria.

"One week she'd go to one school; the next week she'd go to another," Joe said. "She did a lot with the kids."

Like Rorrio, Joe said he is passionate about sending his girls to college one day, adding "if you don't have a college degree these days, you can't get a job."

The father of five added Colchester – where he's lived since he was "5 or 6" – is a tight-knit community, which he said he's realized "more and more" since his wife's passing.

Rorrio said she's begun her goal of raising money to send the "little girls" off to college in



The Berube family stands outside of the Colchester Hayward Fire Department this summer, just weeks before mom Tracy suddenly passed away. From left are Tracy and her five daughters Brittany, 16, Ariana, 2, Miley, 4, Melanye, 6, and Kailee, 9. Since Tracy's passing, her aunt Penny Rorrio of East Hartford has opened five CHET funds for each of the girls. With enough donations, Rorrio hopes the girls will be able to afford college.

the future but she admitted she cannot do it alone.

"The community has been wonderful with donations to the family but my goal is to focus on their future," Rorrio said.

To donate money to the CHET funds of the Berube girls, individuals are asked to make checks payable to "CHET Advisor" and send them to: Penny Rorrio, 34 Joanne Dr., East

Hartford, CT 06108-1238. Donations are Connecticut tax-deductible, and 100 percent of the costs will be deposited into the individual accounts.

The Colchester Fish and Game Club is also hosting a benefit dinner for the Berube family on Sept. 8 from 1-6 p.m. It will be held at the club, located on Old Amston Road in Colchester.

New Afghan Will Keep Andover Resident Nice and Toasty

by **Geeta Schrayter**

Although there still seems to be hot and humid weather aplenty, there's no denying fall is just around the corner. And after fall comes winter – one *The 2014 Old Farmer's Almanac* is forecasting will be "frigid" this year.

But over in Andover, one senior citizen has a new afghan to help keep her warm.

On Wednesday, Freda Wanegal was presented with a colorful afghan by First Selectman Bob Burbank and Senior Coordinator Cathy Palazzi. The afghan, or blanket, was made of crocheted squares in colors such as cream, blue and yellow by former resident Donna Russell.

Palazzi explained this week Russell had wanted to dedicate the afghan in memory of her deceased mother and brother, Lois and Scott Russell.

"She had made two blankets and she had already had one of them dedicated in memory of [another] brother," Palazzi said. "But she lost her mom several years ago and she lost one of her other brothers so she wanted to dedicate this blanket in memory of them."

As far as the choice of Wanegal, Palazzi shared she was one of the oldest seniors in Andover – clocking in at 93 – and had done a lot for the town over the years.

For example, Palazzi, who called Wanegal an "awesome person" and "a very sweet senior," said she used to help clean at the senior center and would send birthday and get well cards out to other seniors.

At the presentation held in Wanegal's home, Burbank called it a privilege to present her with the afghan.

"It's a privilege to present this for all the years of things you've done for Andover," he told Wanegal. "I hope it keeps you warm for many years."

And "many years" is what Wanegal – who moved to town in 1963 – has already had in Andover.

"I kind of wonder where the time has gone," she said. "The older you get the quicker it goes."

Wanegal had nothing but nice things to say about the town and those who lived in it.

"Andover is a great town. Everybody is kind of knit together," she said, "everybody is so friendly."

Wanegal said she liked getting together with people – "I just like being with people" – and to attend the senior luncheons in town – "they're so good!" – and go to church. She added having rides arranged on the senior van was what allowed her to continue to do those things, despite her age and needing a walker to get around.

"It's great having the van. It's such a big help and there are such wonderful van drivers," she said.

While Wanegal had plenty of nice things to say about the town, she was a bit more modest about her own qualities, summing up how she assisted the seniors by saying she just did "whatever they needed help with," and sharing her surprise – and gratitude – over being selected for the blanket.

"I feel honored that they chose me," she stated. "I said 'Why me?' and they said 'You deserve it,' and" – she added with a laugh – "I said 'I'm glad you think that way!'"

"I'm just happy for Freda," Burbank furthered. "She's done so much for the seniors and the town of Andover. Often times things are overlooked, so it's nice to have something to present: a small token of appreciation."

And it's a token that will help keep her toasty when that winter weather rolls around.



Andover resident Freda Wanegal, center, was recently presented with a new afghan by Senior Coordinator Cathy Palazzi, left, and First Selectman Bob Burbank. The afghan was created by former resident Donna Russell, who dedicated the work in memory of her late mother and brother.

Annual Portland Fireworks Show is Back – Finally

by Elizabeth Bowling

The 21st Annual Portland Fireworks Show, which was postponed from earlier this summer due to weather, will be held tomorrow, Aug. 31, at the Portland Exchange Club Fairgrounds on Route 17A. Gates open at 5 p.m. for the community event and the fireworks show is scheduled to begin at 8:45.

“We’re excited that the weather forecast for this weekend is sunny and bright,” Sharon Hoy, a member of the Portland Fireworks Committee, said. “We’re looking forward to a record crowd. It’s a great way to start off the school year and a grand finale to the summer.”

Hoy said that starting at 5 p.m., families and friends are welcome to come by the fairgrounds to socialize and try the different food vendors

that will be selling hamburgers, hotdogs, popcorn, fried dough, ice cream and drinks.

Members of the community are also welcome to purchase raffle tickets for the two 50/50 raffles; the first raffle will run from 5 to 7 p.m., and the second from 7 to 8:45 p.m. Tickets will be \$1 each. Additionally, the Fireworks Committee will sell novelties and all proceeds will go toward the 2014 fireworks display, Hoy said.

Two musical groups will provide entertainment prior to the fireworks. Portland’s own The Great Hill Mountain Band features five male musicians on a range of instruments, including guitar, mandolin, banjo, slide, blues harp, drums and dobro.

The other musical group, according to Hoy,

will be the 94th Army Reserve Band “The Stripes,” an Army Reserve band based out of East Windsor that has served the nation since 1943. The band plays a variety of music – from today’s radio hits to military music.

The event will also feature its traditional Tribute to the Troops, as well as a brief memorial to five longtime Portland residents who have passed away in recent years.

Ocean State Pyrotechnics, Inc., will put on the fireworks display with special support from Michael Dapkus, Hoy said.

No alcohol, illegal drugs, pets, grills or open flames are permitted. Following the event, pedestrians will exit first and will walk on the roadway. For safety reasons, all cars in the park-

ing lots must wait approximately 30 minutes before exiting or until all foot traffic is off the roads and the police have directed you out of the area.

Handicapped parking is available. General parking is available for free on a first-come, first-serve basis.

The show’s rain date is Sept. 1, at the same time and place. However, Portland had approximately two inches of rain Wednesday afternoon, Hoy said, making the field quite wet. She said parking is now limited and added that should the town get another rainstorm, the fireworks may be canceled. Call 860-262-7234 for information on any weather-related changes.

Chatham Party Announces Slate of Candidates

by Elizabeth Bowling

The Chatham Party announced its slate of 15 candidates – more candidates than any prior election – last Wednesday, Aug. 21, for the municipal elections Nov. 5.

Each incumbent Chatham Party member on the seven-person, Chatham Party-controlled Town Council will run for re-election, including chairwoman Sue Weintraub.

“The budget and high school referendums were tremendous votes of confidence from our community,” Weintraub said. “We need to keep moving our town forward.”

Weintraub has lived in East Hampton since 1989 and is running for her fourth consecutive term on the council and her second as chair.

“This is my fourth term and I’ve been so inspired by the staff and the other community members that I’m working with in town government,” she said. “We’re at a critical crossroads going into our next administration at our next election.”

Her priorities include planning for the future in terms of public safety and town facilities like Town Hall, the senior center and the library. She also stressed the importance of improvements to the police department, as it does not meet state mandates presently.

“We need to do something very expediently,” she said. “We need to do something to provide the best facility for our police department.”

If elected, she would also seek to review options regarding infrastructure in terms of water at the Village Center, and energy efficiency – for example, at the high school.

“Another priority will always be looking at our quality of life,” Weintraub said. “East Hampton should be a destination for both tourists and residents.”

She said that East Hampton’s best resources are its people, as well as its natural resources including the Air Line Trail, Lake Pocotopaug, the Salmon River, and the farm and forestry businesses in town that “need to be protected.”

Weintraub said that if elected, she’d be excited to work with so many new staff in town, including the town manager, police chief, public works director and superintendent of schools.

Also up for re-election to Town Council are Kyle Dostaler, Derek Johnson and Glenn Suprono.

Dostaler, who is also the chairman of the Chatham Party, served on Town Council from 2005 to 2007, and again from 2011 to 2013. He is running for his second consecutive term, but third term total. He said he’s running for re-election to ensure that the town continues to move in a positive direction.

“I want to see the town continue to move forward in a positive manner and I want to see the projects that have been started in town continue without interruption or interference,” he said.

An East Hampton resident since 1998, Dostaler said the projects he particularly wants

to see to fruition are the high school renovation project and the Epoch Arts roof replacement project.

Suprono, who is running for his second term, said, “I’m running for re-election because we’re not done yet. There’s more to do.”

“I think the past two years have been very progressive. We’ve gotten an awful lot done and I think the town sees that and respects that,” Suprono said.

But if elected, the East Hampton resident of 32 years said he’d like to work toward making improvements to the town’s police department building, making it “just a better building in general.” He noted the importance of providing better safety to the officers and staff within the police building so they can “work well and work safe.”

Johnson is also seeking his third term on the council; he was unavailable for comment for this story.

Also endorsed for Town Council at the Aug. 21 caucus was Angela Sarahina, who said she’s running for election as a Chatham Party candidate because the party is “continuously doing good things for the town and moving it forward.”

Sarahina ran for Town Council in 2011 but was not elected. She said she decided to run again this year in an attempt to become a voice for the people. “I think what voters should know about me is I’m here to be a voice for them,” she said.

Sarahina, who has lived in East Hampton “off and on” her entire life, said that if elected she’d like to help the Chatham Party continue to move the town forward. Specifically, she said she is very supportive of the high school renovation project, as well as the passage of a Right to Farm ordinance, which is still in the workshop stage.

“I would love to see the farm ordinance go through,” she said. She explained that it would “let people know that this is a farming community and farmers do have fair rights under state regulations.”

With the intention of giving back to the community, Sarahina said, “I’d like to help move public safety forward” in terms of the police department and fire department.

According to a press release, the Chatham Party was formed in 2005. The release said the party’s mission is to “put community first and consistently represent the best interests of East Hampton.”

On the school board side, three Chatham Party members are running for seats on the Board of Education. The candidates are Joelyn Leon, Liz Whitty and Peter Levy.

Leon has a vested interest in the board because she has two children in the East Hampton school system – one in seventh grade and one in second. Leon ran for the Board of Education for the first time two years ago but was not elected. Regardless, she has about 20 years

of experience in politics, particularly at the state level, she said. She previously worked for Lt. Gov. Nancy Wyman and in the state capital. She currently works full-time for United Auto Workers.

The 11-year East Hampton resident said she hopes to facilitate more dialogue amongst the school board and the community.

“I feel I can be a good voice for the parents in town,” she said.

Leon also acts as treasurer of EHHS Renovate to Educate, a political action committee that pushed for the high school renovation project. Regarding said project, Leon said, “I’d love to see that project done in a timely manner.” She said that she gained a lot of experience working on Renovate to Educate because its members were very politically diverse, but were able to work together for “the betterment of the community.”

In addition to the high school renovations, Leon said the Chatham Party’s platform includes working toward full-day kindergarten, as well as technology upgrades.

Whitty emphasized the importance of education, calling it “life-changing.”

“Education is hugely important,” she said. “It’s the only thing we all have access to.”

Whitty, having been “born and raised” in East Hampton, went through the town’s school system. As did her daughter, her nieces and nephews. “I’m very familiar with our great schools,” she said.

Whitty ran for a seat on the Board of Education two years ago, too, and though she doesn’t have experience on any town boards, she said she does have experience on professional boards. She is the director of development for the school of dental medicine at the UConn Foundation.

Regarding her fellow Chatham Party candidates, she said, “We’re all residents who care about our community and we want to help our community.”

Levy, the final Chatham Party Board of Education candidate, is also seeking to help. He said he’s been “sitting on the sidelines” for the past eight years that he’s lived in East Hampton but now it’s time to “get in the game.” He said that if elected, he would utilize his knowledge and experience as a “semi-retired” special education teacher.

“I would like to do what I can to help the special education in East Hampton,” he said. “I really hope that we’re going to move things forward. I’m working to support the school system.”

Levy has two daughters; one is 12, the other is 10. This year is both daughters’ second year at the environmental magnet school in Hartford. He said he entered them in the magnet school “for the educational opportunities.”

He said his daughters had great teachers during their years in East Hampton schools but, he

added, “I would like to see the schools better run.”

Specifically, Levy said his main concern would be the high school renovation project. Because it costs million of dollars, “it really has to be done right – on time and on budget.”

Of course budgeting will also be a major concern for the Board of Finance. The board has three Chatham Party candidates running for seats.

Paul Hoffman is a newcomer to the Board of Finance, but he does have experience in other areas. He has been a town moderator at referendums for almost two years, plus he served on the Planning and Zoning Commission since March of last year.

He said he’s running for a seat on the Board of Finance because he wants to give back to the town he’s lived in since 2001.

“I wanted to give something back to the community,” he said, adding that he thanks East Hampton and its school system for the success of his daughter, who is now in college.

He said his goal, if elected, would be to “make decisions for the benefit of the town.” He furthered that he’d want to make recommendations to the Town Council that go along with the Chatham Party platform. The registered Democrat said he’s always supported independent voices, and said he’d like to bring change to the Board of Finance.

He said, “The statements coming from various [current] board members seem far too partisan and far too inflexible.”

“It’s our job to make the right recommendations,” he said. “My heart is in the right place.”

Pat Gauthier is running for a seat on the Board of Finance, too. This is her first time running for a seat in any elected position, but she said she’d be “well-placed” on the board. She said, “I think the Chatham Party needs candidates on the team and I think I can serve to do a good job there.”

Gauthier is a retired teacher and now the owner of Patrician Pet Care, a small local business that provides pet care and pet training. She’s been in business for about a year and half.

“I think I’m fiscally conservative but I’m very moderate and I know how to prioritize spending,” she said.

Gauthier has lived in East Hampton since 1971. She said, “I think that East Hampton is a wonderful town; the people are fantastic. It’s a very diverse town and I love it.”

Scott Sanicki is throwing his hat into the ring, as well, for a seat on the Board of Finance. He could not be reached for comment for this story.

Also endorsed at the Aug. 21 caucus were Barbara Suprono and John Hines for the Board of Assessment Appeals, and Lois McCutcheon and Carolyn Beamer for the Zoning Board of Appeals. Elections are Nov. 5 at the East Hampton High School gymnasium from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

New East Hampton Public Works Director Seeks Collaboration

by Elizabeth Bowling

The East Hampton Public Works Department has gone without an official director since the spring, when Keith Hayden resigned. But the vacancy has been filled.

Phil Sissick, 47, of Shelton, has stepped in to take over for former foreman Pete Johnston, who had officially retired several months ago but stayed on part-time as the acting director for the Public Works Department. Sissick started Aug. 15 and Johnston stepped down completely Monday, Aug. 26, Sissick said.

"It forced me, and not in a bad way, to take on those responsibilities a week sooner than I thought," said Sissick, who thought Johnston would stick around until today, Aug. 30.

Sissick is now two weeks into the job and has already cleaned out 60 to 70 catch basins immediately around the lake area, he said. Additionally, he saw to it that some minor repairs were made to the truck that cleans the catch basins.

"I jumped in," he said.

Another project he'd like to tackle is mapping out each catch basin in town, because he's not sure how many there are exactly.

Sissick said he gained a lot of experience over the course of his career, starting in college, when he studied landscape architecture at the University of Connecticut. Upon graduating, Sissick took to working for himself for 10 years.

He said he had a "non-linear career path," that started right after graduation with his own business out of Trumbull, to Frank's Nursery and Crafts (a retail-oriented company), to the Brickman Group (in the corporate and commercial realm), finally bringing him to a municipality.

His municipal work experience started in Stratford, where he was the superintendent of parks. He said working for a town helped him learn more about developing his skills in pub-

lic spaces, rather than privately owned spaces.

Sissick called himself a "lifelong learner," which is why he went back for another degree from UConn.

"When I left the town of Stratford, I did a year in private industry again and then went to work for Yale University. At that point I decided it was time to get a degree in occupational health and safety [from UConn in 2010]," he said. "And it's helped to really carry out a conversation about safety in the workplace."

He said that all of his experience building up to his current role as East Hampton's director of public works has "absolutely" prepared him for the job.

Sissick will have the job for at least three years, because he signed a three-year contract with a two-year potential extension that starts at \$92,000.

Some of Sissick's new responsibilities involve road projects, snow and storm clean up, and storm water maintenance.

He predicts that a big focus will be on water quality and handling.

"In a town like East Hampton, that doesn't have a public water supply, my belief is that people would be concerned about water quality and how it's being handled," he said. "The people who live in the town are the ones who really set the priorities."

He said he's hoping to "create a system that takes care of the day-to-day maintenance activities so that it becomes much more planned than it's been." That way if an employee retires, for example, there will be a succession plan in place "not only in people, but also in the processes," he said.

Sissick said he is confident in the decision he made to take the job because of the town itself.

"I love the town," he said. "There's a character in East Hampton that I see as being classic



Phil Sissick, pictured above, took on the role of East Hampton's Public Works Director two weeks ago and has jumped right in. Over the course of the next three to five years, he hopes to make collaboration among public works employees a norm.

Connecticut."

He said his appreciation of Belltown is constantly reaffirmed by the friendliness of the people he sees around town.

He's also very pleased with the other public works employees because "they're a cooperative group."

"Everyone seems to know their job very well and everyone is willing to share their opinions," he said. "What I want to do here is create a

group that is very willing to collaborate on projects because oftentimes ideas come from people who have seen the issues for years."

He said collaboration will help build a sustainable program.

"My focus is going to be on trying to build programs that can be sustaining and, in a lot of ways, self-sustaining for a very long time," he said.

New Daycare to Open in East Hampton

by Elizabeth Bowling

A First Start Preschool will be East Hampton's newest and only daycare that focuses on teaching children about gardening and farming.

The owners and co-directors are sisters, Cheri Kelley and Jamie Davidson. Kelley will act as head teacher and Davidson will be the only other teacher.

"We are bringing together art, nature, music, movement and early education foundational skills in a safe, family-friendly environment," Kelley said.

The daycare will be located at 17 Haddam Neck Rd., in the basement of the Haddam Neck Covenant Church – though there will be no religious affiliation. The owners are now registering children ages 3 and older.

"We decided on the location at Haddam Neck Covenant Church after going to several of their neighborhood block parties," Kelley said. "The folks at the church are so kind and interested in real community so we thought it was a great spot to move our school to. It is a beautiful location with the draft horse farm down the road and Hurd Park nearby."

Kelley said she and her sister, originally from East Hartford, moved to East Hampton one and a half, and three and a half years ago, respectively.

"We both bought houses in East Hampton and are raising our families here," she said.

Both are mothers of young children. Kelley has a 4- and 6-year-old; Davidson has a 3-year-old.

Kelley said, "We had the preschool at a different location – in East Haddam – but then decided to move it to East Hampton because this is where our families are and we want to have roots in the town. We also wanted to expand and have a before and after school program."

The new location will allow for some program expansions, including the incorporation of a raised garden bed and a compost bin.

The raised garden bed will be "a project that we work on throughout the year," Kelley said. "We're going to put it together in the fall while

it's still warm."

The garden will be contingent upon the compost bin, which will serve as a learning experience during snack time clean up, Kelley said.

Kelley said she will take the compost bin home every day and combine it with her own compost at her house. Over time, as the compost becomes soil, she will bring in soil samples for the kids to see. She said the project will give the kids a chance to understand "how rich the soil becomes through this process."

Soil will then be added to the raised bed so kids can "see that whole process in real life," she said.

Another major learning opportunity is thanks to Kelley's home's now-close proximity to the daycare.

"I have 14 chickens at my home, which is located close to the school," Kelley said. "We will be bringing in one of our hens to introduce her to the kids. They will be able to feel, see and taste the difference between fresh eggs and store bought. The kids will have a couple of opportunities throughout the year to interact with the hens. We are also looking into having preschool family 'field trips' to local farms to potentially meet the animals and pick farm fresh produce."

A First Start Preschool will offer preschool for 3- to 5-year-olds on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to noon.

It will also offer a before and after school program for children in kindergarten and older. The program will run Mondays through Fridays and the before school program hours are 7 to 8:30 a.m.; the after school program hours are 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Kelley earned her masters' degree in education at Goddard College in Vermont. Additionally, she is certified through the state of Connecticut as a head teacher. (That certification process entails taking a certain amount of early childhood education courses and completing a certain number of hours working at a daycare center. Kelley got that experience working at KinderCare in Rocky Hill, as well as working for a year at A First Start Preschool's previous location in East Haddam.)



Jamie Davidson, left, and Cheri Kelley are the owners of East Hampton's newest daycare, A First Start Preschool. The women, who are also sisters, hope to open the daycare by the end of September and are currently taking enrollment.

Davidson has a Bachelor of Science degree in exercise science from Southern Connecticut State University.

Kelley said Davidson "brings a lot of movement. The kids love her animal yoga." Animal yoga is a more "kid friendly" type of yoga, Kelley explained. The positions are fun; for example kids act like elephants or giraffes. The new location also provides enough space and equipment to allow the kids to do Zumba.

Because Kelley's undergraduate degree is in creative arts and creative writing, the daycare is an "arts-based, play-based program."

After seeing success in their daycare busi-

ness in East Haddam last year, the sisters are excited to open at their new location and see their expansions in action.

"We're taking enrollment now," Kelley said. "Our goal is to [be] up and running for the end of September or early October."

"There aren't a lot of options for families that need before and after care on this side of town and we thought that we could fill that need," she added.

Parents can call 860-202-0999 to set up a tour of the facility. For further information, parents can search for "A First Start Preschool" on Facebook.

Board of Ed is Ready for School in East Hampton

by Elizabeth Bowling

With the start of school just days away – Belltown schools opened their doors to students yesterday – there was a certain excitement in the air at Monday’s meeting of the Board of Education.

New Superintendent of Schools Diane Dugas said, “We’ve been busy all summer in preparation and it’s nice that the opening [of school] is here.”

One part of the school year that Dugas is particularly looking forward to is the implementation of professional learning communities, which call for “great teamwork” and “thinking outside of the box,” she said.

Another chance for “great teamwork” will be between Dugas and new Assistant Superintendent of Schools Tim Van Tassel, who Dugas said has “hit the ground running.” Monday was Van Tassel’s first East Hampton Board of Education meeting.

Also at Monday’s meeting, Dugas announced that the board received a \$10,000 school readiness grant from Middlesex United Way that supports early identification and intervention for kids up to 5 years old with a variety of is-

sues.

“We’re really excited about that,” she said.

Another item of excitement is the Connecticut State Department of Education technology investments grant proposal, which the board unanimously approved Monday.

Regarding the \$101,000 technology grant application, board member Scott Minnick said, “I read it over. I think it’s great.”

Specifically, Minnick said he supports the district’s choice in purchasing 100 Samsung Chromebooks at \$280 per unit, calling it a “great choice” because the Chromebooks can be utilized in a variety of teaching and learning, including taking the Smarter Balance Assessment, which is an online test.

He also said the Chromebooks are more versatile than Apple products, for example.

The purpose of the grant is to support transitions to digital literacy, the Common Core State Standards and the new educator evaluation system. The grant proposal includes the purchasing of a firewall, fiber transmission lines, 100 Chromebooks, as well as four Chromebook mobile labs.

Also at Monday’s meeting, the board unanimously approved the senior class trip to the District of Columbia from Oct. 8 to Oct. 11. Of the 124 seniors, 110 are going on the trip, which costs \$600 per student.

East Hampton High School Principal John Fidler explained that each student has an individual fundraising account starting in freshman year “so some students raise more money than others.”

Minnick expressed some concern regarding the field trip.

“There’s a lot of liabilities for us,” he said. But “it’s a wonderful trip and a great learning opportunity.”

Board of Education Chairman Mark Laraja suggested having students come to a school board meeting upon returning from the District of Columbia, to discuss the trip with members of the board.

School board member Josh Piteo requested more information in another area – all-day kindergarten classes, for which children are currently selected by lottery. (All-day kindergarten may be expanded to the whole district for

the 2014-15 year.) He asked to see a presentation on the lottery system regarding “who gets chosen, who doesn’t, is there some kind of rhyme or reason?”

Dugas said she would present to the board the feasibility study plan for possible all-day kindergarten in the future at an upcoming meeting.

Because Monday’s meeting wrapped up the summer, Operations Manager Kevin Reich gave a presentation to the board regarding the success of the schools’ summer maintenance. He praised the maintenance team saying the buildings “are neat, they’re clean, they’re in good repair.”

“During the summer we did a number of projects,” Reich said. Those projects included resurfacing the gymnasium floors, installing seven smart boards across the district, resurfacing chalkboards into whiteboards, among others.

The next Board of Education meeting is scheduled for Monday, Sept. 9, at 7 p.m. at the East Hampton High School library.

Potential Lights Installation Project Moves Forward in East Hampton

by Elizabeth Bowling

A proposal to install lights on East Hampton High School’s soccer field for \$300,000 as part of the high school renovation project’s bonding package was rejected in June.

But the Parks and Recreation Department sought a feasible alternative to install those lights, and did so for \$100,000 less than the original plan.

According to Board of Finance member Tom O’Brien, the Parks and Recreation department presented a financial plan for the installation of the athletic lights at the last Board of Finance meeting, which was last Monday, Aug. 19. The board unanimously approved the project’s financial plan.

Board of Finance Chairman Matthew Walton said if the project is approved, the lights will be installed by this coming spring, 2014.

“They got all their homework done,” O’Brien said of the Parks and Rec. Department. The department maintains all the school grounds in town; that’s why when the light installation was rejected as part of the high school renovation project, Town Manager Mike Maniscalco put

Parks and Rec. Director Ruth Checko in charge of finding an alternative. Checko’s alternative project calls for the allocation of \$200,000 – down from the original \$300,000 projected cost.

The money for the project would be transferred from the unassigned general fund balance for the town to the capital reserve fund, O’Brien said. If all of the necessary approvals go through, the project won’t go back to the Board of Finance.

Checko said that if the project is approved, it would go out to bid for a contractor who would install the lights, which will be bought from Musco Lighting – a “very reputable” lighting company, Checko said.

First the Planning and Zoning Commission would need to approve the plan, then the Town Council, O’Brien said.

“Then it’ll be ready to go,” he said. “It’s going to be a pretty streamlined process.”

According to Checko, an engineer from Musco Lighting will give a presentation at the Wednesday, Sept. 4, Planning and Zoning Com-

mission meeting. Then, Checko anticipates that a public hearing would occur at the commission’s next regularly scheduled meeting Wednesday, Oct. 2.

Meanwhile, Checko said an engineer from Musco Lighting would give another, slightly shorter presentation at the Tuesday, Sept. 24, Town Council meeting – it would be the Town Council’s first reading of the proposed project.

Checko said that hopefully by the council’s following meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 8, the council would have its second reading of the project. If the council approved the project, the members would set a date for a town meeting (likely for the week of Oct. 21). If the council does agree to schedule a town meeting, then all tax-paying residents could attend, Checko said, and then the residents would vote to approve or reject the project.

But the process wouldn’t end there. If all the necessary parties make all the necessary approvals, a building committee made up of East Hampton residents would need to be set up to

go forward with the project, Checko said.

One resident, East Hampton Soccer Club President Marc Lambert, expressed an interest in the installation of the athletic lights.

He said that when the kids that go through the soccer program reach high school, “the excitement of playing in night games is significant.”

He called night games “a great opportunity for the kids who work really hard.”

But the soccer players aren’t the only ones who would benefit from hosting night games. “It’s great for the community,” Lambert said.

He said more parents and community members are available in the evening, rather than the afternoon, to come out and watch a game. He added, “By bringing people into the community, you do generate some economic impact.”

Checko said, “It definitely seems like the timing is right. The Board of Finance unanimously voting to allocate \$200,000 in one meeting was pretty exciting.”

Finance Award Received, Interim Director Praised in Hebron

by Geeta Schrayter

The town of Hebron and the finance department have reason to feel good about their financial reporting, as the town was recently awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA).

The award was given for the town’s comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR) which interim finance director Elaine Griffin explained this week is a breakdown of all expenses and revenues that occurred in the town for the previous fiscal year. This year’s award is for the report documenting the July 2011-June 2012 fiscal year which was prepared by Griffin and her staff along with the town’s auditor, Grant Thornton.

On its website, gfoa.org, GFOA explained the award was established in 1945 “to encourage and assist state and local governments to go beyond the minimum requirements of generally accepted accounting principals to prepare comprehensive annual financial reports that evidence the spirit of transparency and full disclosure and then to recognize individual gov-

ernments that succeed in achieving that goal.”

And in Hebron, the finance department has been going “beyond the minimum” for some time; this is the ninth consecutive year the town’s received the award, which Town Manager Andy Tierney called “an absolute great thing.”

“It’s a wonderful award for any town to receive – it’s the highest award a finance department can get,” he said.

Both Tierney and Board of Selectmen Chairman Jeff Watt felt procuring the award had a lot to do with the finance team the town has in place which includes Griffin, who has been acting as interim finance director since the January 2012 resignation of Lisa Hancock (prior to which she was financial administrator).

“There’s been one steady over the years we’ve gotten the award: Elaine Griffin and her team have been a constant even though there have been many changes above her,” Watt said. “That’s such a tremendous credit to her attention to detail, communication with the audit group, staying on top of any changes that need

to take place and her dedication.”

Tierney agreed, saying Griffin had really “stepped up to the plate.”

“We got the award under the capable direction of Elaine Griffin,” he said. “The award is not something new for the town of Hebron. We’ve received multiple awards but Elaine really stepped up to the plate during her 18 months as interim finance director.”

Tierney went on to explain the award showed the town was being fiscally responsible, following the practices they were supposed to and “using tax dollars appropriately.”

Griffin furthered that point, calling the award “prestigious” and explaining it proved the town was following the Generally-Accepted Accounting Principles and the policies and procedures set forth by the Government Accounting Standards Board – something she felt was important for residents to note.

“We’ve had some accusations in the past from some of our residents about transparency and how tax dollars are being expended and

this proves we are legitimately expending our monies for what we budget for and disclosing that information,” she said.

Like Griffin, Watt felt the award was important for residents to acknowledge.

“It’s important for every town, from a financial standpoint, to get our citizens feeling like there’s some credibility – like there’s someone really looking over all the tax dollars that are being given.”

The award, Watt continued, “gives taxpayers a much greater feeling of comfort that the town really is trying to do the best they can with the tax dollars given to them.”

A congratulatory letter sent to Tierney and Watt Aug. 20 said attaining the award “represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.”

“We hope that your example will encourage other government officials in their efforts to achieve and maintain an appropriate standard of excellence in financial reporting,” the letter finished.

Police Looking for Hit-and-Run Driver in Hebron

by Geeta Schrayter

The search is on for the driver of a vehicle involved in an apparent hit-and-run in town last Friday, Aug. 23, that sent a bicyclist to the hospital.

State Police said Hebron resident John Schaeffler, 42, was riding his bike on the west-bound lane of London Road in Hebron around 6:30 p.m. when he was struck by a vehicle.

The vehicle was most likely traveling west-bound, police said, and hit Schaeffler from behind just after he crested the hill by the road's intersection with Jan Drive. The vehicle fled the scene of the accident but police said pieces of plastic debris with a Ford etching were left behind.

Schaeffler, who was not wearing a helmet, was thrown from his bike and transported to Hartford Hospital.

On Tuesday, Schaeffler's aunt, Natalie Wallis, said her nephew had been thrown 20 feet and sustained a fracture in his neck, a herniated bladder, a fracture in his pelvis and a crushed ventricle in his kidney. He currently remains in the hospital.

Schaeffler's wife Melanie added Thursday the C-11 vertebrae in his lower spine was compressed and he had a torn ligament in the front of his pelvis. She said she was uncertain how long Schaeffler would be in the hospital but "he will eventually be able to walk again."

"He stays healthy and goes for a bike ride to stay out of the hospital, and now he's in the hospital for who knows how long," she said.

Last week's incident is the second involving a bicycle in Hebron over the summer. On June 1, resident Ross Dapsis was involved in a bicycle crash and found unconscious on the side of Old Andover Road. Dapsis was taken by LifeStar to Hartford Hospital and remained in the Intensive Care Unit for four weeks. He is currently in Gaylord Hospital in Wallingford receiving therapy services.

The cause of Dapsis' accident remains undetermined. With Schaeffler, however, the cause is known, and the hope is the driver will be apprehended.

Using the fragments that had been left behind, police said it was determined the vehicle was a 2012-14 Ford Explorer with damage to the front right headlight and grille. Schaeffler's wife said she called the dealership where the fragments were analyzed and added there would be damage to the side passenger mirror as well.

Wallis said she's planning to put signs up around town about what happened in the hopes anyone with information will call the police.

"It would have to be somebody like a kid going fast who freaked out and didn't stop or someone that was drinking or texting or whatever and just didn't stop," Wallis mused about the driver, "because somebody with any con-



Hebron resident John Schaeffler remains in the hospital after he was reportedly hit by a car while riding his bicycle on London Road near the intersection of Jan Drive, shown here. The driver fled the scene, state police said.

science or scruples or dignity would have stopped."

Melanie Schaeffler added one of the worst things was not knowing who was responsible.

"I try to put myself in the situation. Yeah, the thought [of leaving] may cross your mind be-

cause you may get in trouble but it was an accident," she said. "I don't even know how this person is feeling knowing what they did; there's no way they could not know."

Anyone with information should call State Trooper Gregory DeCarli at 860-537-7500.

Marlborough Day Reels In 'Great Crowd'

by Melissa Roberto

Bright sunny skies and scattered tents offering up local goods were the backdrop of last Sunday's Marlborough Day, which attendees labeled a successful event due to "great weather" and a "great crowd."

An annual tradition for over a quarter of a century, Marlborough Day, a free carnival-like event open to the public, is held each year in Blish Park, and is an effort for local businesses to give back to the very community that keeps them alive and thriving.

Marlborough Day used to be put on by the town until it took a brief hiatus in the early 2000s. For the last seven years, including this year, the Marlborough Business Association (MBA) has handled the event. Each year, member businesses designate a spot on the grass to set up their booths and sponsor activities that take place throughout the day.

Because the event is not tailored to a specific age group, Marlborough Day is always packed with a little something for everyone. 46 vendors lined the park Sunday, offering up a range of goodies from giveaways sponsored by local politicians to activities like spray-on tattoos and on-site massages.

As attendees walked from booth to booth, a trackless railroad train sponsored by Middlesex Hospital Rehabilitation Services and Hand Therapy transported young ones through the park as they waved at onlookers. A mobile arcade trailer was stationed on site to occupy the older children, sponsored by Paul's and Sandy's Too.

Just past the booths was the pavilion where live music escaped its open corridors. The pavilion featured seating for those interested in listening to local musician Jim Ferguson, who kicked off the event at 11 a.m. and followed into the afternoon; local band Dino and the Nones, who played once in the morning and wrapped up the event at the end of the day; as well as The Modern Riffs and a folksy country music trio, Seat of our Pants.

At 2 p.m., the pavilion was the heart of entertainment as attendees gathered to watch girls and boys of all ages from Hot Stepz Dance Academy perform. The dance ended in a conga line that members of the crowd were invited

into, which was backed up with vocals and instrumentation by The Modern Riffs in a rendition of Gloria Estefan's "Conga."

But the entertainment didn't stop there. A Marlborough Day first this year was its very own "Marlborough Idol," which featured six contestants in two different age groups who sang tunes they chose themselves. The event's three winners all received iTunes gift cards, and the runners-up received flower bouquets from It's So Ranunculus Flower Shoppe.

MBA executive Jessica Olander, who is responsible for planning the event, explained this year's set-up differed from last year. In 2012, the booths surrounded the pavilion, she said, and booth workers complained it was hard to hear attendees. This year, the booths were scattered along the perimeters of the park away from the pavilion, which made the event feel less crowded.

"It was more spread out" this year, Olander said, "and it helped with foot traffic."

The extra open space turned out to be fitting for another reason, Olander said. This year's Marlborough Day attracted over 100 more people than last year, totaling about 750.

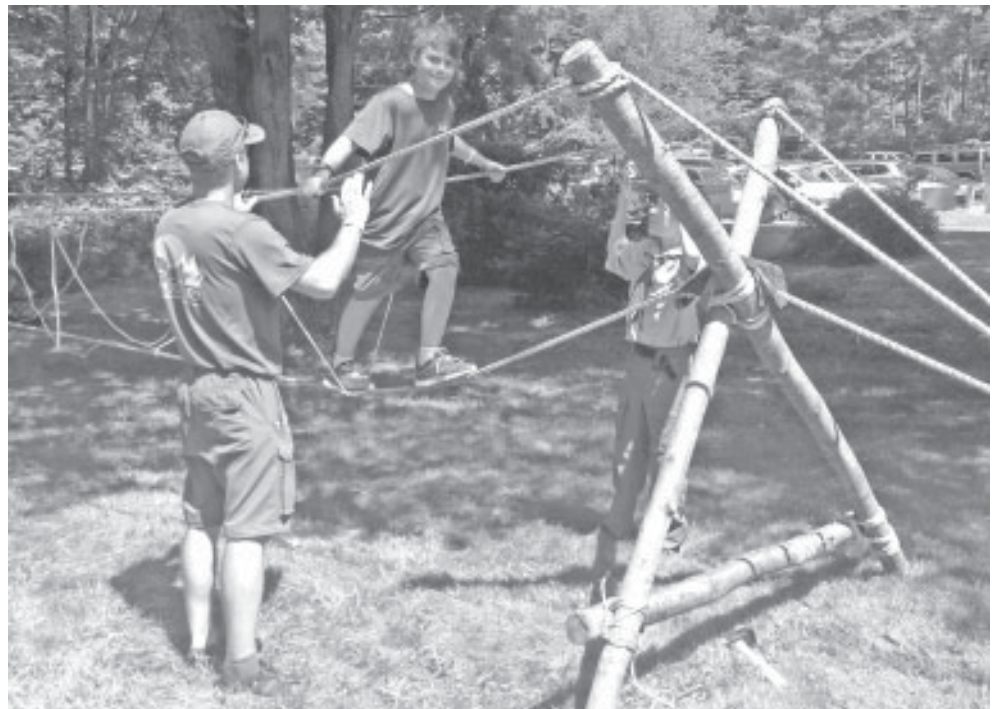
"It was beyond my expectations," Olander said of the event as a whole. "It was great. From the attendance, the feedback from the vendors to the entertainment, everybody was extremely happy and pleased."

The event is held each year rain or shine. The MBA executive added this year's 80-degree temperatures and clear skies had "a lot" to do with the great turnout.

Like years past, this year's hot spot seemed to be the shore of Lake Terramuggus. Attendees either plunged into the water in kayaks and tubes, or were seen basking in the sunshine with a book in hand or relaxing under a tree looking out onto the water.

A family favorite, though, was the fire hose demonstrations put on by fire fighters from the Marlborough Volunteer Fire Department. Cody and Courtney Larson, alongside their mom Karen, said learning how to hold a fire hose was their favorite activity of the day.

"It was my first time," 10-year-old Cody said. Six-year-old Courtney shook her head in agreement. The two added the mist from the



Troop 39 Boy Scout Noah Kaiser, 11, walks across the troop's hand-made "monkey bridge" while assistant scoutmaster Todd Gianetti, left, and scout Nick Hale, 11, stand by for support. The scouts built the bridge earlier that morning and Gianetti said the bridge can typically be used for crossing over rivers and streams.

heavy water that jetted out onto the lake was a great way to cool off.

Other risk-takers were found near the Cub Scout and Boy Scout troops. Marlborough's Troop 39 Boy Scouts set up their annual "monkey bridge," made of wooden poles, ropes and stakes where attendees as young as three to adults made walked across a rope.

Of course, the small-town fair wouldn't have been complete without hot dogs, cheeseburgers, cheesesteak sandwiches, cotton candy and fried dough. Five-year-old Brayden Jones made his way around the park sipping on a slushy, which he said was one of his favorite treats of the day.

The day ended at 5 p.m. with the announcement of two grand prize winners, who went home with an iPad mini and a Nook reading tablet.

Once again, Marlborough Day's entertainment, hands-on activities, and booth presentations left attendees with a smile, and possibly more items in their pockets than what they came with.

The only profit the MBA makes off of the event comes from its grand prize raffle tickets and food sales. Usually a "break-even" event for the MBA, Olander said this year the MBA made out with a profit – although the total amount had not been figured as of press time. Olander said the MBA will donate \$100 to the Marlborough Food Bank, however, and the rest of the profits will be used for scholarship money given to deserving Marlborough residents and/or students.

The MBA will start planning next year's Marlborough Day in January.

Superior Court Rules in Marlborough WPCA's Favor in Sewer Suits

by **Melissa Roberto**

Last week, New Britain Superior Court ruled in favor of Marlborough's Water Pollution Control Authority Commission in five separate lawsuits filed by property owners in December 2010 regarding Phase I of the town's sewer project.

A total of seven suits were filed that month by property owners, who claimed the costs of the sewer benefit assessment related to the project was "unreasonable" and "incorrect." Two of the suits came from businesses, Country Barn Properties, LLC and NRBZ LLC, but both reached amicable court agreements with the WPCA within the last two years, Town Planner Peter Hughes said.

The remaining five lawsuits that were decided on last week were filed by four residents at the time – Stacey Francoline, Louise Fortier, Pasquale Amodeo and David Durel. The fifth lawsuit was filed by an out-of-state owner of High Hill Farm, LLC. All five of the residential suits appealed the benefit assessment, and two property owners, Durel and the owner of High Hill Farm, also appealed the connection order.

Each home was charged \$12,054 for the sewer benefit assessment, to be paid over 20 years, which comes to \$603 per year. Each building was assessed at one equivalent dwell-

ing unit. The connection orders were issued to all residents and businesses within the sewer district in November 2010. The district includes the streets around Lake Terramuggus, School Drive and parts of Route 66 and North Main Street.

The plaintiffs' appraiser, John Lo Monte, prepared five appraisal reports that showed each residence was of higher value before the installation of sewers, the court document states. These devaluations ranged from \$20,000-\$30,000.

The document stated how Lo Monte came to this conclusion.

"Lo Monte employed a comparable sales approach as set forth in his five appraisals to arrive at the values of the properties before the town placed the assessment," the document read. "He did not establish the after values by consulting the market, but determined the after values by taking into account the injury to the realty caused by the installation of the grinder pump and the associated agreement."

Each homeowner testified multiple concerns regarding the grinder pump installation. A majority testified their septic systems had been adequate, the document states. Additionally, concerns of power outages and the costs of the benefit assessment and an additional annual user

fee were also residents' concerns.

One plaintiff, Francoline, testified her home had been damaged because of the grinder pump. She said a malfunction occurred during hurricanes within the last two years that caused "damages to the interior of her home," the document states. This week, Francoline stated the court "didn't factor that into their analysis."

Francoline said she believed the court ruling "wasn't fair."

The homeowner furthered she "would have been happy with just a reduction in the benefit assessment."

According to the document, the town's appraiser Richard Silverstein showed differing results than the plaintiffs' appraiser. Silverstein's evidence showed that each home gained value after the sewer installations by at least \$12,000.

"According to Silverstein, the market justifies finding a benefit from the sewers," the document states.

The court document furthered that Silverstein used "two Marlborough-comparable sales" as the basis of the \$12,000 benefit conclusion.

The court judge, Henry S. Cohn, referred to *Shoreline Care Ltd. Partnership v. North Branford* and *Gaynor-Stafford Industries, Inc. v. Water Pollution Control Authority* to evalu-

ate both the appraisers' evidence. He concluded that "the plaintiffs' appraiser failed to use the correct methodology" because "he did not find the 'after-assessment' values for the properties in terms of the market."

"Instead, Lo Monte found the 'before' values and to determine the 'after' values, he took into account the costs of having the sewers over the septic systems," the document states.

However, the towns' appraiser used market values to determine the values before and after the sewer installations, according to the document.

Additionally, the second count against the WPCA made by Durel and High Hill Farm regarding the connection order by the town also resulted in favor of the WPCA. The document states the two plaintiffs "have not proved that there was a violation by the town that requires the court to block the town's project."

The document added that the two plaintiffs' "dislike" of the sewers was not a sufficient reason to not hook up to the system.

Murray commented on the court ruling earlier this week.

"I'm happy that the matter is finally resolved," he said. "It was going on for about three years."

Rollover Crash Closes Route 16 in Colchester

by **Melissa Roberto**

A motor vehicle collided into a utility pole on Route 16 last Sunday, Aug. 18, and the resulting downed wires caused the road to be closed for about two hours.

Colchester Police responded to the scene at about 3:30 p.m. where, they said, they found Corinne M. Ciochini, 25, of 64A North Main St., East Hampton, standing outside of her vehicle that was flipped over onto its roof.

Officer Craig Scheel said the Colchester Hayward Fire Department responded to the scene with an ambulance – a common procedure when a rollover crash is reported, he said

– but Ciochini did not report any injuries and did not seek medical attention.

Downed wires blocked the "entire" roadway, according to a news release from Troop K. CL&P responded to the scene to secure the downed wires and remove the pole, Police said. In the meantime, a detour was set up on Windham Avenue so people could divert around the scene. Scheel said the rollover did not cause any traffic to build up in the area.

The roadway opened back up at about 5:30 p.m., he said. Police said Ciochini was issued an infraction for traveling too fast for conditions.

Bar Fight Leads to Arrest in East Hampton

by **Elizabeth Bowling**

An East Hartford man was arrested for his involvement in a bar fight at Smokey O'Grady's last week, officials said.

The man reportedly threatened to use a gun in the fight, and the other man attempted to leave the bar.

According to a press release from the East Hampton Police Department, officers responded to a report of a two-person fight at Smokey O'Grady's, located at 227 West High St., on Monday, Aug. 12. The fight was in

progress when police arrived.

The press release stated that Elijah M. Laraba, 22, of 42 Lafayette Ave., East Hartford, was arrested for second-degree threatening and second-degree breach of peace. Mitchell Anderson, 23, of 24 South Main St., East Hampton, was issued a summons for second degree breach of peace.

Both men appeared before the Middletown Superior Court Tuesday, Aug. 20 at 9 a.m.

Colchester Police News

8/20: Colchester Police said a 42-year-old woman reported an unknown male approached her in the parking lot of Phillips 66 on South Main Street. The victim reported the male pulled her purse out of her hand and then took off in his vehicle. This case is still being investigated by the Colchester Police.

8/21: Colchester Police said Andrew Currier, 20, of 9 Windham Ave., was charged with fourth-degree criminal mischief and third-degree assault.

8/22: State Police said Jason E. Mortensen, 36, of 75 Elmwood Heights, Apt. B, was charged with second-degree failure to appear.

8/22: State Police said Jenna L. Jackson, 25, of 280 Jasper St., Springfield, Mass., was charged with second-degree failure to appear.

Hebron Police News

8/20: State Police said Aaron Bastiani, 41, of 120 Gilead St., was charged with third-degree assault and disorderly conduct.

Andover Police News

8/25: State Police said John O'Connor, 29, of 24 Wolcott Rd., Wethersfield, was charged with failure to display plates, operating a motor vehicle without a license, operating an unregistered motor vehicle and illegally operating a motor vehicle without minimum insurance requirements and speeding.

Portland Police News

8/14: Han Occallog, 18, of 20 Blueberry Ln., Glastonbury, was charged with simple trespass, Portland Police said.

8/16: Joseph Suchoski, 29, of 85 Midwood Farm Rd., East Hampton, was charged with second-degree failure to appear, police said.

8/16: Nicholas Ray, 19, of 24 Summit St., East Hampton, was charged with simple trespass, police said.

8/16: One 16-year-old female along with a 17-year-old male were arrested for simple trespass, police said.

Marlborough Police News

8/22: State Police said Scott Baker, 51, of 76 Stage Harbor Rd., was arrested on a domestic violence arrest warrant for the charges of DUI, risk of injury to a child, third-degree assault and second-degree strangulation.

8/26: State Police said Tyler Reilly, 21, of 25 Stony Brook Dr., was charged with second-degree failure to appear.

East Hampton Police News

8/12: Steven J. Foster, 32, of 212 Middle Haddam Rd., was issued a summons for traveling unreasonably fast (41 m.p.h. in a 25 m.p.h. zone) and operating an unregistered and uninsured motor vehicle, East Hampton Police said.

8/17: Austin Wosleger, 19, of 75 Childs Rd., was issued a summons for traveling unreasonably fast, (70 m.p.h. in a 45 m.p.h. zone) and misuse of a marker plate, police said.

8/20: Police responded to a Main Street address to a report of a suspicious person roaming about the property. Brooke D. Tegge, Jr., 19, of 5 Niles St., was located at the property and charged with illegal possession of a prescription drug, police said.

Obituaries

Marlborough

Doris Heislemann

Doris Heislemann, 92, of Marlborough, formerly of Colchester, beloved wife of the late Joseph Heislemann, died peacefully Thursday, Aug. 8, at Middlesex Hospital. She was born Aug. 23, 1920, to the late Ida and Richard Oakley in New York.

She was married to Joseph Aug. 19, 1945, until his death in 1970.

She was also predeceased by her daughter, Frances Sozansky, who died in February 1991 and lived in Mesquite, Texas.

Doris's most cherished work was as a mother, and grandmother. She will be greatly missed by her son, Joseph Heislemann and his wife Joan Heislemann, and also a daughter, Christine Ragusa, and her husband Robert Ragusa. Her pride and joy were her grandchildren: Joseph V, Lisa Lindborg, Hayne Heislemann, Wendy Kane, Sandra Gantt, Adam Ragusa, Phillip Sozansky, Tracy Nash, and Christopher Sozansky. Doris will also be lovingly missed by 11 great-grandchildren.

In Doris's time living at the Florence Lord Senior Housing in Marlborough, she became known for her sense of humor by fellow residents and many others who came in contact with her. Many have commented the world is a better place because of Doris.

Doris enjoyed baking in her younger years, and up until the time of her death took the role seriously of remembering birthdays with a greeting card to express her love and devotion. She loved Cape Cod, and greatly enjoyed vacations on the Cape. Doris possessed a keen mind with a sharp memory. She was generous in many ways to her family.

A celebration of Doris's life will be held Saturday, Aug. 31, at 10 a.m., at St. John Fisher Catholic Church, 30 Jones Hollow Rd., Marlborough.

Portland

Jean Farrell

Jean Farrell of Portland died peacefully Tuesday, Aug. 20, surrounded by her family.

Jean was born in 1928 in Brooklyn, N.Y., where she met the love of her life and husband of 62 years, Jack Farrell. They raised six children and had sixteen grandchildren. Jean and Jack moved to Connecticut in 2003 and they are known throughout Glastonbury and Portland for their loving relationship and constant companionship. She was a devout Catholic and her faith was a loving example for her entire extended family.

She was predeceased by her son John and leaves behind his wife Marge. She also leaves behind Jeanne and Rich Sandrib of Litchfield and their four children (Peter, Brian, Eric, Meghan Jean). Kevin Farrell of Orangeburg, N.Y., and his three children (Nicole, Lauren, Christina), MaryLou Farrell of Lakewood, Colo., and her three children (Nicholas, Sean, April), Stephen and Michele Farrell of Hamilton, N.J., and their two children (Ashley, Kaeley) and Mike and Christine Farrell of Glastonbury and their four children (Megan, Caitlin, Connor, Matthew).

Portland

Hazel E. Robinson

Hazel E. Robinson, 90, of Portland, passed away Monday, Aug. 26, at Middlesex Hospital. She was the daughter of the late Howard E. and Gertrude H. (Palmer) Robinson.

Born July 13, 1923, in Portland and a lifelong resident, she worked at Connecticut Bank and Trust for many years until her retirement. She was a lifelong member of the Trinity Episcopal Church in Portland, and also a member of the Hudson Club and the Portland Historical Society.

She leaves her cousins, Ruth Hopkinson of West Hartford and Allan C. Robinson Jr of Roanoke, Va.; and close friends, Kathleen Gaudet and Eileen Mann and William and Wendy Penkes, all of Portland.

She was predeceased by a brother, Raymond Robinson.

Funeral services were held Thursday, Aug. 29, at Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland. Burial was in Trinity Cemetery, Portland. There were no calling hours.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to Middlesex Hospital c/o Philanthropy Dept., 28 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457.

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

Marlborough

Richard Albert Proch

Richard Albert Proch, 87, of Marlborough, died Tuesday, Aug. 20, at his home, surrounded by his loving family. Born Oct. 31, 1925 in Bristol he had lived in Terryville and East Hartford before moving to Marlborough in 1972. He was the son of the late Albert and Ethel (Nyborg) Proch.

Richard had served his country as a Staff Sergeant in the Army Air Corp. during World War II and was awarded the Purple Heart for injuries he received. He was part of the famed 390th B17 Bomber Group that bombed Germany. He flew six missions before being shot down and badly wounded, taken prisoner and gotten out of Germany by the Italians. His hobbies were collecting vintage Cadillac cars and writing books on his experiences in the war. He was retired from Pratt & Whitney where he had worked for 30 years as a tool designer.

Richard was a member of the East Hampton VFW Post, the Marlborough American Legion Post and the Marlborough Moose Lodge. Richard was a disabled American veteran.

He is survived by his son James R. Proch and his wife Maureen of Bristol; a sister, Janice Tompkins of Bristol; and a grandson, Barron A. Proch.

He was predeceased by a grandson James R. Proch II.

The family will receive friends Saturday, Aug. 31, from 10-11 a.m. in the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton. Burial will follow in Marlboro Cemetery with military honors.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations 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.

Andover

Lora Lee Liappes

Lora Lee Liappes (Orcutt), 59, of Tolland, formerly of Andover, loving mother and daughter, passed away Friday, Aug. 23, at Manchester Memorial Hospital, after a courageous battle with cancer.

Lora Lee was born Sept. 14, 1953, in Manchester, to parents Edward and Joyce Orcutt, who currently reside in New Hampshire, previously of Andover. She grew up in Andover and attended RHAM High School, Class of 1971. She continued her studies in art education at Northwestern Connecticut Community College in Winsted. She was a gifted artist and floral designer; her work has won awards and can still be found in various schools and businesses around the state. She was also proud of her job as research analyst at Cigna Healthcare, where she worked until 2005.

Lora Lee acted as sponsor and counselor to many people in the Narcotics Anonymous program in which she belonged for the past 18 years. She had a passion for the program and its members.

In addition to her parents, she leaves her daughters Sarah Liappes of Manchester, Samantha Liappes of Hebron, and Felicia Roberts, whom she loved as her own daughter, of Manchester; sister Kathleen and husband Rick Cardillo of East Hampton; brother Edward Orcutt Jr. and wife Leann of Northfield, Mass.; and brother Frank Orcutt and wife Vonna of South Hadley, Mass.

She also leaves her nieces and nephews, Michael Martucci, Martina Martucci, Amber Orcutt, Desiree Orcutt, John Edward Orcutt, Dustin Orcutt, Colby Orcutt, Godson Christopher Roberts, aunts and uncles David and Sandra Orcutt, John (previously deceased) and Mary Orcutt, and William and Lila Orcutt.

Memorial services will be held Friday, Sept. 6, at the Church of The Living God, where she was an active member, 199 Deming St., Manchester. Calling hours are from 10-11 a.m., and the memorial is from 11 a.m.-midnight. Donations toward the church are welcomed.



Colchester

Mary Elizabeth Desrosiers

Mary Elizabeth (Perry) Desrosiers, 76, of Colchester, beloved wife of Raymond Desrosiers died Sunday, Aug. 18, at Marlborough Health Care Center. Born Nov. 12, 1936, in New Bedford, Mass., she was the daughter of the late Louis Perry and Florence P. Alley. She had lived in Hartford before moving to Colchester three years ago.

Mary attended Hartford College for Women and had a passion for learning, especially all things historical. She was an avid reader and researcher, and loved to engage in lively discussions on her findings. Her passions also extended to music and the arts. She was a loving wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother and her memory will be cherished by all who knew and loved her.

Besides her husband Raymond of Colchester she is survived by two sons, David Desrosiers of New Hartford and Rodney Desrosiers and his wife Liz of Enfield, and her daughter Rosemarie Lorentson and her husband Bob of East Haddam; two brothers, Stephen Alley of Westport, Mass., and Robert Alley of California; and two sisters, Rita Reynolds of Massachusetts and Winnie Drake of Massachusetts; 12 grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

She was predeceased by her sister Judith Kamrowski.

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

The Spencer Funeral Home at 112 Main St., East Hampton, has care of arrangements. To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Colchester

William Arthur Williams

William Arthur Williams, "Bill," 82, a resident of Colchester since 1967, passed away Saturday, Aug. 24, at the Wm. W. Backus Hospital in Norwich. He was the widower of the late Catherine "Kay" (Borys) Williams, who predeceased him July 16, 2011, after 53 years of marriage.

Born April 18, 1931 in Blakely, Pa., he was a son of the late Harry and Ethel (Whiting) Williams.

A proud Navy veteran, he served during the Korean War and was active with the Antique Veterans of Colchester Honor Guard. Mr. Williams worked as an electrical engineer for Pratt & Whitney, then following his retirement, he worked as a consultant for Hamilton Standard.

He is survived by three children, Robert A. Williams of Colchester, Bruce A. Williams and his wife, Denise, of Alvin, Texas, and Pamela A. Green of Belmont, Maine; four grandchildren, Bob Williams and his fiancée, Dorothy Nowak, Jackson Green, Matthew Green and Michelle Gerami and her husband, John; five great-grandchildren, Kaylie Green and Thomas, Benjamin, Cody and Morgan Gerami; three siblings, Earl Williams of Tunkhannock, Pa., Peggy Thomas of Shaverton, Pa., and Patsy Crisman of Pittston, Pa., and numerous extended family members and friends.

Friends may call starting at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 31, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. A Panahyda Service will be observed at 10:30 a.m. at the funeral home. Committal with full military honors will follow in the State Veterans Cemetery, Middletown.

Donations in his memory may be made to the Antique Veterans of Colchester, P.O. Box 54, Colchester, CT 06415.

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.



Colchester

Virginia Hazel Timmins

Virginia Hazel (Davis) Timmins, almost 90, a longtime resident of Colchester Commons, passed away at The Hampton Manor Assisted Living Facility in Belleview, Fla., Friday, Aug. 23. She was born in North Adams, Mass., on Oct. 1, 1923.

Virginia was predeceased by her late husband, Elmer Timmins. She had no children, but was blessed with and leaves behind four generations of nieces and nephews.

She was also predeceased by her parents, Howard E. Davis Sr. and Dorothy (Johnson) Davis, and by all of her siblings: sisters, Wetona Fravezzi of Florida, Lillian Jasman of Massachusetts, and Shirley Hamer of Connecticut and recently by her brother, Howard E. Davis Jr. of South Carolina.

She leaves behind some very dear and caring friends.

Virginia was an LPN and worked 25 years for the State of Connecticut as a nurse.

She loved family, holidays, music, crafts, baking, animals, fishing and singing karaoke!

We are all going to miss this wonderful, witty, fun-loving and always-laughing lady, so much. We had hoped she could have lived to see her 90th birthday.

Visitation will begin at 12:30 p.m. today, Aug. 30, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester, before a 1 p.m. chapel service. Burial will follow in the Timmins family plot in the Old Willimantic Cemetery.

Donations in her memory may be made to the CT Humane Society, 701 Russell Road, Newington, CT 06111.

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Portland

Virginia D. Ogren

Virginia D. (Suchoski) Ogren, 88, of Portland, wife of William C. Ogren passed away Monday, Aug. 26, at home.

Born April 17, 1925, in Portland, she attended Portland schools and worked at the F.W. Woolworth Co. for many years, where she met her husband of 58 years. She retired in 1990 as a clerical office worker from Standard Motor Products then located in Berlin. She was also a member of St. Mary Church in Portland.

Besides her husband, she leaves her daughter and son-in-law, Dianne M. and Lawrence E. Wilcox of Middletown; a granddaughter, Tiffany Caplette; a grandson, Todd Wilcox; and a great-grandson, Macklin Davis.

She was predeceased by her brothers, John, Edmond, Theodore (Teddy), Edward, Zigmond, Frank and Charles, sisters, Wanda Zalewski, Helen Pierce and Josephine Foster.

The family would like to give thanks to the Middlesex Hospice and Palliative Care.

Funeral services will be held today, Aug. 30, with a Mass at 11 a.m. at St. Mary Church, 51 Freestone Ave., Portland. Burial will be in St. Mary Cemetery, Portland. Relatives and friends may call today at Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., prior to Mass.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Middlesex Hospital Hospice and Palliative Care, 28 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06479.

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

Colchester

Ellis Tracy Smith

Ellis Tracy Smith, 91, of Colchester and formerly of Oakdale, widower of the late Esther (Marsh) Smith, passed away Wednesday, Aug. 28, at Apple Rehab in Colchester, where he had been a resident for the past 19 years. Born May 14, 1922 in Bozrah, he was the son of the late George and Shirley (Miner) Smith.

Mr. Smith worked as an assistant extruder operator for Gilman Bros. for many years before his retirement in 1982. Ellis was one of Jehovah's Witnesses, and was a member of the Oakdale congregation.

He is survived by three stepchildren, Howard O. Smith of New London, Alice Poirier of Dover, N.H., and Ann Gottier and husband John of Mocksville, N.C.; eight grandchildren; and several great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

He was predeceased by one grandson, Daniel S. Gottier.

Donations in his memory may be made to Apple Rehab Recreation Dept., 36 Broadway, Colchester 06415.

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

Colchester

Pauline Mary Foote

Pauline Mary Foote, 74, of Colchester and formerly of Warwick, R.I., widow of the late Norman C. Foote Sr., passed away Monday, Aug. 26, at the Wm. W. Backus Hospital in Norwich. Born March 1, 1939, in Derby, she was the daughter of the late Andrew and Nellie (Pristosh) Waradzin.



She was the devoted wife of Norman for 42 years and loving and dedicated mother to their six children, five of whom survive her: Bonnie Petro of Colchester, Debra Bellucci of East Greenwich, R.I., Norman Jr. and wife, Sue, and Christine Ferraro and husband, David, all of Bristol; and Cynthia Lewis and husband, Tim of Maine. She also leaves 10 grandchildren, Robert, Mike, Joshua, Paul, Patrick, Carmelo, Angelina, Tim, Andrew and Julie; two brothers, George of Warwick, R.I., and Eugene of Ridgefield; and numerous extended family members and friends.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was predeceased by a daughter, Nancy Weis; a son-in-law, Peter Petro; and two brothers, Richard and Robert.

Friends may call 5-7 p.m. today, Aug. 30, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The funeral liturgy will be celebrated at 8 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 31, directly at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester. Graveside services will be observed at 10:30 a.m. at Pawtuxet Memorial Park, 100 Harrison Avenue, Warwick, RI 02888.

Donations in her memory may be made to DaVita Dialysis Center, 113 Salem Tpke., Norwich, CT 06360 or Fresenius Dialysis Center, 2814 Boston Road, Warwick, RI 02886.

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Portland

Edward J. Sienkiewicz

Edward J. Sienkiewicz, 70, of Portland, loving husband of Patricia (Sullivan) Sienkiewicz for 46 years, passed away peacefully at home Tuesday, Aug. 27. He was the son of the late Stanley and Mary (Fiut) Sienkiewicz and was raised in Middletown.



He served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam era and was stationed in Germany from 1965-67. In 1971, he began his career as owner and operator of two successful liquor stores in Glastonbury, Main Package Store and Buck's Corner Spirit Shoppe, working side by side with his wife for over 37 years. He was a longtime member and usher of St. Mary's Church in Portland. Edward's favorite pastime included spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren. He enjoyed cheering them on at their sporting events and spending time with them at the beach.

Besides his wife, Patricia, he is survived by his two daughters and sons-in-law, Kathleen Thurz and her husband, Michael of Glastonbury and Susan Angersola and her husband, Donald of Portland; his brothers, Joseph Sienkiewicz and his wife, Mary, and William Sienkiewicz of Portland; his sisters-in-law, Betty Martyszczuk and her husband, Bill of Westbrook and Lauren Sullivan of Mount Pleasant, S.C.; his brothers-in-law, Michael Sullivan and his wife, Shirley of Glastonbury and John J. Sullivan and his wife, Eileen of Portland; his beloved grandchildren, Allison, Nicole and Ryan Thurz and Joseph Angersola and many nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his brother, Raymond Sienkiewicz and his brother-in-law, Bill "Sully" Sullivan.

The family would like to thank Dr. Michael Farrell and the many staff at the Middlesex Cancer Center for their kindness and compassion over the last eighteen months.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, Aug. 31, at 10 a.m. from Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, with a Mass at 11 a.m. at St. Mary Church, 51 Freestone Ave., Portland. Burial will be in St. Mary Cemetery, Portland. Relatives and friends may call today, Aug. 30, from 5-7 p.m., at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Mary Church 51 Freestone Ave Portland, CT. 06480 and to the Middlesex Hospital Cancer Center 536 Saybrook Rd Middletown, CT 06457.

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

East Hampton

Ann Eva Gawrych

Ann Eva Gawrych, 93, of East Hampton, widow of the late Edward Joseph Gawrych died Sunday, Aug. 25, at Hartford Hospital. Born July 27, 1920 in New Haven she had lived in Wallingford before moving to East Hampton eight years ago.

She was an avid boat person and along with her husband had owned two boats at Cedar Island. Ann loved to bake and enjoyed the time she spent at the East Hampton Senior Center, where she was the Wii bowling champion.

She is survived by her daughter, Laurel Kozak of East Hampton; her granddaughter, Denise Pillarella; and beloved great-granddaughter, Morgan Walsh.

She was predeceased by her six siblings.

A funeral liturgy will be celebrated today, Aug. 30, at 11 a.m., in St. Patrick Church in East Hampton. Burial will be private in All Saints Cemetery in North Haven.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to Hartford Hospital ICU unit, c/o Hartford Hospital Fund Development Dept. 80 Seymour St. P.O. Box 5037 Hartford, CT 06102-5037.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Andover

Lawrence M. Krozel

Lawrence M. Krozel, 82, of Middletown passed away, after a long illness, Thursday, Aug. 22. He was raised in Andover, son of Joseph and Ethel (Smith) Krozel, and he was the beloved husband of Vincentina (Mazzotta) Krozel, who predeceased him by 12 years.

He served in the Korean Conflict and attended Yale University, where he studied classical languages, after which he was employed by Aetna, Travelers, and, for the majority of his career, LIMRA International.

A devoted father, he is survived by son Michael and his wife Kathleen (Labbe) Krozel, daughter Katharine Krozel, and son Lawrence Krozel II, in all of whom he inculcated a deep appreciation of Christian faith and the arts.

Family and friends called Monday, Aug. 26 at D'Angelo Funeral Home in Middletown, and a Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Tuesday, Aug. 27, at St. Colman Church in Middlefield. Burial followed in St. Sebastian's Cemetery in Middlefield.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the PKD Foundation (pkdcure.org).

Cobalt

Josephine Romanofsky

Josephine Bryk Romanofsky, 97, of Cobalt, entered into rest Sunday, Aug. 25, at the Cobalt Lodge Health Care and Rehabilitation Center. She was the beloved wife of the late Henry Romanofsky of Colchester, Joseph Pajak of Waterford and Andrew Estok of Stratford.

Josephine was born in Ansonia March 17, 1916, daughter of the late Joseph and Mary Kowalska Bryk. She lived in Derby, Stratford, Waterford and Colchester; she also resided for many years in Ocala, Fla. Josephine attended Derby schools and graduated from Derby High School in 1933. She attended St. Vincent's School of Nursing and was awarded a licensed practical nurse diploma.

Josephine loved her vegetable garden and grew many different types of vegetables, fruits and berries. She was an excellent baker and cook and enjoyed cooking for her family and friends. Josephine also enjoyed playing trivia and was an excellent speller.

She is survived by her sister Helen (John) Daca of Ocala, Fla., and several nieces and nephews. Josephine is predeceased by her brothers Frank Bryk of Derby and Mathew Bryk of Newtown and a sister Gladys Jalowiec of Derby.

Friends called Wednesday, Aug. 28, at the Edward F. Adzima Funeral Home, 253 Elizabeth St., Derby. On Thursday, Aug. 29, her funeral procession left the funeral home for a Mass of Christian Burial that morning at St. Michael Church in Derby. Her interment followed at Union Cemetery in Stratford.

In addition to flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Ansonia Dog Pound, North Division St., Ansonia, CT 06401.

Friends may leave condolences at adzimafh.com.

Colchester

Josephine Rose Cellini

Josephine Rose Cellini of Colchester passed away peacefully Wednesday, Aug. 21, at Middlesex Hospital in Middletown. Josephine was born Dec. 15, 1924, in Bridgeport, to John and Esther Francischiello, and was one of nine children.

She was a 1942 graduate of Central High School in Bridgeport. Upon graduating she began working for Bryant Electric Company, supporting the war effort, where she earned the Army-Navy Production Award for outstanding production of war materials.

In 1948, Josephine joined the Cellini clan and married Michael Cellini. They settled in Trumbull and raised their family. Josephine worked as an accountant in the finance office of Fairfield University, where she retired after 25 years of service. She always put caring for her family first and enjoyed many hobbies including cooking, painting and gardening.

She is survived by two sons, Michael J. Cellini of New City, NY, his wife Lori and grandchildren Melissa, Jenna [Bresler], Danielle, Michael and Lauren, and John A. Cellini of Colchester, his wife Cindy and grandchildren Nicole [Fodaski], Alysha and Nicholas.

A celebration of Josephine's life (a Mass of Christian Burial) was held Monday, Aug. 26, at St. Theresa Roman Catholic Church, 5301 Main St., Trumbull. Interment was private. Friends visited Sunday, Aug. 25, at the Spadaccino and Leo P. Gallagher & Son Community Funeral Home, 315 Monroe Tpke., Monroe.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Middlesex Hospice & Palliative Care, and mailed to Middlesex Hospital, Office of Philanthropy, 28 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457.

Online condolences may be made by visiting spadaccinofuneralhome.com.

Andover

Walter Emerson Parsell IV

Walter Emerson Parsell IV, 20, of Andover, passed away unexpectedly Wednesday, Aug. 21. Emerson was born in Anchorage, Alaska, son of Walter E. Parsell III and Maureen (Haraghey) Parsell of Willington.

Besides his parents, he is survived by his two brothers, Liam and Ethan Parsell; maternal grandparents, Bob and Ann Haraghey; paternal grandmother, Audrey Mae Parsell; several aunts, uncles and cousins; and his dog, Oakley.

He was predeceased by his paternal grandfather, Walter E. Parsell, Jr.; and cousin, Alex Haraghey.

Calling hours were held Monday, Aug. 26, at Introvigne Funeral Home Inc., 51 East Main St., Stafford Springs. Burial was held privately.

For online condolences, visit introvignefuneralhome.com.

Marlborough

Emanuel Strano

Emanuel "Manny" Strano, 88, of South Glastonbury, loving husband for over 57 years of Jean (Buscema) Strano, peacefully passed away Friday, Aug. 23, at the Marlborough Health Care Center.



Born in Hartford March 22, 1925, a son of the late Angelo and Carmella (Inturri) Strano, he had resided in the Hartford/East Hartford area for most of his life prior to moving to South Glastonbury 13 years ago. Prior to his retirement, Manny was the owner and baker for over 40 years at Strano Bakery, Manchester. Manny loved going dancing with his beloved wife, enjoyed playing cards, and following boxing.

Along with his parents, he was predeceased by a son, George Strano of East Hartford; a daughter, Carol Mazzo of Manchester; two brothers, Salvatore Strano of Newington and Jimmy Strano of Vernon; and a sister, Jenny Amato of New Britain.

Besides his devoted wife, Jean, Manny is survived by a son, Angelo Strano and his fiancée, Linda Bryans of South Glastonbury, with whom he made his home; six special grandchildren, Jessica Strano-Rex and her husband, Matthew of Massachusetts, Joseph Strano of South Glastonbury, Gina Lastrina and her husband, Sebastian, of South Windsor, Jimmy Mazzo and Mark Mazzo both of Florida; Emmanuel Strano of Middletown; seven adored great-grandchildren; and several loving nieces, nephews, and dear friends.

Funeral services were Wednesday, Aug. 28, from the D'ESOPPO-East Hartford Memorial Chapel, 30 Carter St., East Hartford, with a Mass of Christian Burial celebrated at St. Mary's Church, corner of Main Street/Maplewood Avenue, East Hartford. Burial followed at Mount Saint Benedict Cemetery, Bloomfield. Relatives and friends called at the funeral home chapel Tuesday, Aug. 27.

Memorial contributions in Manny's name may be made to Masonicare Home Health & Hospice, 111 Founders Plaza, Suite 200, East Hartford, CT 06108, or to the Alzheimer's Association, 2075 Silas Deane Hwy., Suite 100, Rocky Hill, CT 06067.

Manny's family would like to extend their sincere gratitude and appreciation to Carol from the Masonicare Hospice for her professionalism, care, love, and compassion given to Manny 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

I read with interest reporter Geeta Schrayter's story last week about the Hebron Lions' preparation for the upcoming Hebron Harvest Fair – and specifically how they're going to deal with what will probably be an unprecedented crowd to see headline act Florida Georgia Line on Sunday afternoon.

I like many different genres of music, including country, so I've attended just about every Sunday afternoon headline show at the Hebron fair for the past 10 years or so. I'm always intrigued to see who they get to play. Since it's a relatively small event, the names are never of the wattage you'd see at, say, The Big E. I've seen once-big names on their way down (Sammy Kershaw, Pam Tillis – both of whom put on great shows, but for the most part haven't been heard on country radio since the 1990s) and smaller names that appear to be climbing the fame ladder but aren't quite big time yet (Heartland, Gloriana).

I've never seen an act as big as Florida Georgia Line is right now.

As Geeta wrote in her story, the band's debut single "Cruise" has hit number one on the Billboard Hot Country Songs chart, and the remix with hip-hop star Nelly (which is pretty awesome, I've got to say) made it a Top 5 hit on the overall Billboard Hot 100 list. The song, both without Nelly and with him, is, simply put, a gigantic hit – and has no doubt helped catapult Florida Georgia Line's debut album *Here's to the Good Times* to platinum status less than a year after its release; the album's also spent some time as the number one country album in the nation, according to Billboard.

All this, combined with what's essentially a free show (you just need to buy a ticket to the fair), will likely mean huge crowds that Sunday afternoon. I've spent a lot of time at the fair over the years, both covering it and as just a guy who likes county fairs, so I'm genuinely intrigued to see what the thousands of extra people look like gathered around the stage at the fairgrounds for the show.

Plus, like I said, I'm a country fan, so I'm also looking forward to seeing Florida Georgia Line live (alas, Nelly is likely not going to be in attendance).

I know the Lions will do their best to keep everyone safe and traffic manageable, and make sure everyone has a great time. I've always been impressed with the Harvest Fair – and not just because it ensures me my Deep Fried Oreos. It's a well-managed, efficient operation. Next Sunday's show may draw crowds like nothing the Lions have seen in their 43 years of mounting the fair – but I'm sure they'll handle it with aplomb.

* * *

To be a Mets fan is to know a certain degree of heartbreak. I get that; I'm used to it. But that did not make Monday's horrible news go down any smoother.

In case you haven't heard – and even if you're not a Mets fan, you may very well have heard, as it's been heavily reported – the ace of their pitching staff, the man who was supposed to help guide the Mets back to the playoffs, Mystic's own Matt Harvey, has a partially-torn ligament in his elbow, and may need Tommy John surgery.

It was, to be blunt, stunning news. Sure, Harvey hadn't quite been himself his last two starts, but they were still very good starts. His last game, on Saturday, he gave up a career-high 13 hits, but prevented all but two of those hits from becoming runs. Impressive. Sure, the baker's dozen hits, and the relatively low number of strikeouts, were a little worrisome, but I believed him when he said he was just tired, and needs to know how to manage through that.

The Mets, though, apparently didn't like what they heard from Harvey, so they ordered an MRI for him Monday morning, which revealed the partial tear.

At the moment, Harvey's weighing his options, deciding whether to do surgery – which would likely keep him out until the start of the 2015 season – or do rest and rehab. Surgery's always a gamble, and I'm sure he detests the idea of being out of commission for so long, but I feel that, if he tries pitching with it, it's only a matter of time before the issue is forced. Other pitchers with a similar partial tear to Harvey's have tried to put off surgery. Some are able to delay it a few years, others only a few months. But they all still wind up needing the operation.

So, while I wait and see what Harvey and the Mets choose to do, I and other Met fans look back and wonder just what could have been done differently? The answer a lot of sportswriters arrived at this week after the news broke was this: maybe nothing.

The Mets appeared to do just about everything right with Harvey. They did what they could to get him extra rest between starts, even moving (briefly) to a six-man rotation. They also had an innings limit in mind for him, which would cut down on his appearances during September. True, there were a few times when his pitch count seemed a little high, but never enormously so (his season high for pitches in an outing was 121, which he reached twice), and it didn't seem like it was affecting him. Heck, just three weeks ago, on Aug. 7, Harvey hurled a complete-game four-hit shutout of the Colorado Rockies.

Harvey revealed Monday he'd been experiencing some forearm discomfort over the past month or two, but chalked it up to just discomfort pitchers often feel over the course of the season. It's easy to see how he felt that way; I've heard former starting pitchers say the only time over the course of a season a pitcher feels 100 percent is on Opening Day. The rest of the time, there's pain – it's just a matter of how much.

At the end of the day, I don't know if there was anything the Mets could've done – and that seemed to be the message all the sportswriters were sending. Sometimes, elbows just go, no matter how many precautions you may or may not take. Each human body is different – and two people can respond entirely differently to the very unnatural action of pitching a baseball.

It just makes you want to appreciate excellence in pitching even more when you see it. You never know just how long it's going to last.

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See you next week.