

RIVEREAST

# News Bulletin

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**Colonial Day...** Colonial Day was held Sept. 19 – and was a day full of activities taking people back in time, to see what life in Hebron was like in the 1750s. Here, Anne Lewis of Hebron, left, and Karen Strid of Oakdale dye wool with onion skin and golden rod.

## Cruz Pleads Guilty, Faces Prison Time

by Geeta Schrayter

Former Hebron Superintendent of Schools Eleanor Cruz pled guilty to first-degree larceny last week in connection to the misappropriation of money from the Hebron school system.

Cruz, 64, pled guilty Sept. 17 and faces up to three years in prison, suspended after one year. She was arrested in August 2014 and charged with first-degree larceny – a felony – following a lengthy investigation into her alleged misuse of the school system's finances.

An affidavit released around the time of her arrest chronicles the investigation, which began in January 2013. As state police began to delve into the details of the alleged larceny, so did Forensic Accounting Services, LLC of Glastonbury, which was hired to conduct a forensic audit of spending by the Board of Education.

After Cruz left Hebron to take over as superintendent in the Plymouth School District in December 2012 (she resigned from that position following her arrest), around \$15,000 in questionable expenses were discovered that occurred during Cruz's final year in town. Based on the evidence from Forensic Accounting Services, LLC as well as the investigation by state



Eleanor Cruz

police, \$6,286.36 of those expenses were found to be through the unauthorized use of school system funds, according to the warrant.

These include, as listed in the warrant: a \$100 insurance reimbursement in excess of Cruz's agreement; a \$2,400 travel stipend not included in Cruz's contract; \$390.38 in fuel purchases; another \$351.88 in personal credit card purchases; a \$2,375 payment for consulting services; Federal Express charges amounting to \$198.07; a purchase made at Ted's Supermarket in Hebron the day after Cruz's employment ended for \$89.72; purchases made at Rite Aid amounting to \$235.44; and a Wal-Mart purchase for \$145.87.

Cruz also was in possession of a school system credit card with a \$50,000 limit – a limit the Board of Education didn't know about. Then-business manager William Mazzara said in an interview with police he didn't think the card was a good idea, but never formally fought against getting it.

(During interviews with various district employees, many told police they considered Cruz intimidating, and felt if they didn't go along with what she wanted, they could lose their jobs.)

Throughout the investigation in 2013, various individuals were asked about Cruz's habits and purchases – along with Cruz herself. Based on interviews Cruz had with state police and auditors from Forensic Accounting Services, LLC, Cruz was found to be inconsistent in some of her explanations.

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## Portland Fair Returns Next Week

by John Tyczkowski

Portland's 16th annual agricultural fair returns next weekend, Oct. 9-11, and it will feature several new surprises alongside classic fixtures.

The new parts of the fair begin with the grounds themselves, fair committee vice president Kelly Chester said.

"We have a whole new layout this year of the fair; everything's going to look very different when you walk in," she said. "And also we're going to be heating the stage tent and crafts tent this year too."

Also, the stage tent has been made large enough to accommodate the beer garden, Chester, who's been involved with the fair since 2012, said.

"We'll have picnic tables in the middle, and with it being heated, we hope it'll be a comfortable space for folks to enjoy," she said.

Another new thing is that all military members, active and reservist, will enjoy free admission all weekend with their IDs.

"We were asked last year by a few military folks who saw that at other fairs, and we wanted to support them at our fair," Chester said of the free admission. "The other fairs had done that

only one day of the fair, and we just decided we'd do it every day."

There are also several new fun acts at the fair this year too, Chester said. One is the Indian River Olde Time Lumberjack Show, happening three times on Saturday and twice on Sunday.

"They have a pool and they do log rolling, and partner sawing. They do old-school lumberjacking," she said. "We try to bring something big and new every year."

There will also be a fashion show on Sunday afternoon, another first for the fair, courtesy of Savvy Swap Consignment on Main Street.

In addition, on Saturday at 1 p.m. there will be a short ceremony in recognition of American Legion Post 105 RCP (Rocky Hill, Cromwell and Portland) Baseball's junior and senior teams' victories this summer.

"The coaches for both teams will be there, and we're hoping most of the team will come too," Chester said. "[First Selectwoman] Susan Bransfield will be there, and we're going to give them appreciation plaques to let them know how excited we are about their accom-

See Portland Fair Page 2



The Portland Fair returns next week – and visitors will have a different view from the large Ferris wheel than what's seen in this 2014 file photo. The fair committee decided this year to rearrange the longtime layout of the event's tents and booths, vice president Kelly Chester said.



**Portland Fair cont. from Front Page**

plishments.” Chester also said representatives of the post are expected to be there as well.

Finally, on the music side of things, Jeff Pitchell, a blues, rock and soul artist, will be the headlining act, on stage at 7 p.m. on Saturday.

Of course, Portland’s own is still on tap, with the Michael Cleary Band making an appearance on Saturday.

Sunday will return as Bluegrass Day, and will feature acts Five in the Chamber and 81 South.

Other acts on Friday and Saturday include Avenue Groove, The Bus and The Truckstop Troubadours.

According to the schedule on [portlandfair.com](http://portlandfair.com), the fair will feature the crowd-favorite tractor pull on Friday, as well as an antique tractor pull and a street-legal truck pull on Saturday.

Finally, there will be mud bogging on Sunday, which was so popular during its first year, 2014, that the committee decided to make it a regular event.

The fair will also feature staples such as the annual baking contests for adults and juniors, as well as quilt and photography contests, a scarecrow-decorating contest, a dog costume contest and a selection of rides courtesy of Coleman Brothers Shows, Inc. of Middletown.

There will also be horse and oxen drawing contests and dog herding demonstrations. Also, many animals including beef and dairy cattle, goats, sheep, rabbits and poultry will be on display, and will be judged.

Notably, Chester said, the fair will feature “a very well-known” poultry judge this year: Don Nelson of the American Poultry Association.

“We reached out to him early in the year about coming to Portland,” she said. “And luck-

ily he was able to fit us in. He’s quite a renowned judge at other fairs around the area.”

Nelson has judged contests all around the country, including those in all of New England, and in Ohio and Wisconsin.

Also, three events that were new last year, chainsaw-carving demonstrations by Adam Mulholland of Sickline Carving, shows courtesy of Rosie’s Racing Pigs and a visit from Connecticut Greyhound Adoption, will return this year.

Events happening all three days will include Rosie’s Racing Pigs, Mulholland’s Sickline Carving, Buddy the Clown and the fair’s Beer Garden.

“We’ve got a lot of new things, but we’re still the same hometown fair folks enjoy every year,” Chester said.

\* \* \*

The fair will take place at the Exchange Club Fairgrounds, where Routes 17 and 17A meet, on Friday, Oct. 9, from 5-11 p.m.; Saturday, Oct. 10, from 10 a.m.-11 p.m.; and Sunday, Oct. 11, from 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$6 for seniors. Children under 10 are free. Military members’ admission is free all weekend with ID.

Interested commercial vendors still have time to register, and can visit [portlandfair.com](http://portlandfair.com) for more information.

Potential fairgoers can find more information online, including schedules and contest rules at [portlandfair.com](http://portlandfair.com), and can also contact [info@portlandfair.com](mailto:info@portlandfair.com). More information on the fair’s features is also available at [facebook.com/PortlandFair](http://facebook.com/PortlandFair).

Visitors can also call Portland Fair Secretary Joyce Murphy at 860-342-0188 for more information.

**Cruz Pleads Guilty cont. from Front Page**

For example, when Cruz was hired by Plymouth, she hired a consultant to help analyze data from the Plymouth School District – and that consultant was paid with Hebron Board of Education funds. When Cruz was interviewed by auditors, she said she told the consultant the funds would come from her professional development account and the purpose was to discuss sustainability for Hebron. This, according to the warrant, was inconsistent with information the consultant shared, who said she was told the work was on Plymouth data, and she’d be paid out of Cruz’s pocket at first, then by the Plymouth School District.

When Cruz was interviewed by police regarding the same issue, she also said the consultation was for the Plymouth School District, according to the warrant.

“Cruz’s statements made to this Affiant contradicted what Cruz explained during the interview with the Forensic Accounting Services, LLC staff,” the warrant stated.

Other expenses were thoroughly reviewed throughout the investigation including purchases – the majority of which occurred in 2012 – of gardening supplies which, according to the warrant, Cruz said were for a garden at the school. Witnesses claimed, however, that there wasn’t enough work done on the garden in 2012 to warrant the large number of gardening-related expenses. On the other hand Kathy Veronesi, who was Gilead Hill School principal at the time and had been to Cruz’s condo, said Cruz gardened for a hobby and had a gar-

den at her home, according to the warrant.

Certain purchases were also made for items consistent with baking – including a purchase made at Ted’s Market the day after Cruz left the district. According to the warrant, different witnesses – including Veronesi – also said Cruz liked to bake, and would occasionally bring in pies for the office staff.

Veronesi also said Cruz liked to make applesauce, and had mentioned plans to ship some to her children in Maryland and Minnesota. According to the warrant, Veronesi later found Federal Express charges from around the same time Cruz had mentioned shipping the sauce.

Purchases for certain grocery items like yogurt, water, and chicken were touted by Cruz as being for office staff; however, Veronesi explained in the warrant “no food was stocked for the district at the office and nothing was provided for employees or staff consistent with what had been purchased.”

On Thursday, Cruz declined to discuss her plea, saying simply, “No I do not [have a comment], thank you.” Her lawyer, John Gesmonde, was unavailable for comment.

Meanwhile, Hebron Board of Education Chairwoman Maryanne Leichter said, “I think the courts have said it all.”

Tolland State’s Attorney Matthew Gedansky could not be reached for comment about the plea.

Cruz is scheduled to be sentenced Dec. 3.

# Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

Before I get into the meat of the observing and ruminating, let me just give a reminder to everyone: our email address has changed, and is now [bulletin@glcitizen.com](mailto:bulletin@glcitizen.com).

Our new email has been in effect for the past couple of months, but we’ve allowed a grace period where we’ve still been taking emails sent to the old address (as well as sending you a friendly email letting you know our address has changed) – we know old habits can sometimes die hard. But, effective this week, that grace period is over. Emails sent to the old address, [rivereast@snet.net](mailto:rivereast@snet.net), will no longer be received. That address is no more. Remove it from your address books; purge it from your memory banks. It’s over, finished, kaput. Alice doesn’t live here anymore.

If you want to send news releases, letters, etc., to the paper, send them to [bulletin@glcitizen.com](mailto:bulletin@glcitizen.com) or they *will not be published*.

It’s that simple.

\* \* \*

Okay, on with the show – and namely, my New York Metropolitanans. Come on, you knew I was going to mention them, right? I’ve spilled a lot of ink in this space over the years writing about the boys in blue and orange, and that was when their record was, well, not that great.

But last Saturday night, the Mets clinched their first playoff appearance since 2006 – and I was over the moon. I wasn’t at the game (it was in Cincinnati) nor was I even watching it on TV (I was in Providence, R.I., with some friends), but I was following the game on my phone, and when I saw the score go final, I busted out the bubbly. (Ok, I treated myself to a Bud Light at the club I was at.)

After all these years, after seeing the Mets go through so many ups and downs, finally, *finally*, I got to say they are the champions of the National League East.

From here, hopefully it becomes National League champions, and then World Champions, but at the moment, I’m basking in the glow of a division title I was hopeful was *coming* – I just wasn’t so sure it’d arrive this season.

But the Mets changed all that with a hot start in April. Then they dipped a bit in May and June, fell out of first place, even fell below .500, as injuries began to really take a toll. But then, in July, things started to change. General manager Sandy Alderson brokered a key trade for established infielders Juan Uribe and Kelly Johnson, then about a week later pulled off a huge one, for slugger and all-around fantastic player Yoenis Cespedes. He also promoted young slugger Michael Conforto from Double A. Two more big offensive pieces – first Travis d’Arnaud and then David Wright – returned from stints on the disabled list.

All of this combined for a new look and feel for the Mets. And they were on a roll, going an amazing 20-8 in August and then a fantastic 10-3 the first two weeks of September, success that sent them shooting past the Washington Nationals to a very comfortable first-place lead.

True, I was never super comfortable – the Mets in 2007 blew a seven-game lead with just 17 games left in the season – but I was hopeful that this year, at long last, October baseball would happen for my Metropolitanans.

And then, last Saturday, I was assured that it would. The Mets clinched – and while it would have been awesome had they clinched at home, there was something rather fitting about them wrapping up the division title in Cincy. That was the place where, in 1999, the Mets topped the Reds in a one-game playoff to clinch their first playoff berth since 1988.

Hopefully there won’t be another nine or 11-year drought in between playoff appearances. Hopefully this is just the beginning of a long period of sustained success for the Mets. But for the first time in a very, very long time, I don’t have to focus on that. I don’t have to say, “Next year, that’ll be our year.” The future is now. The Mets are division champions. How sweet it is.

\* \* \*

Sticking with the subject of baseball, like many of you I was saddened to hear last week about the passing of Yogi Berra. The guy was a baseball legend; he’s most famous for his years of success as a Yankees catcher, but also managed the Mets for a few years, leading them to a pennant in 1973.

The man was so famous that he became one of the few baseball players – one of the few sports players, period – who was well-known outside baseball circles. And a lot of that was due to Berra’s unique way with words. A whole host of malapropisms were attributed to Berra over the years – some that made you laugh or scratch your head, but some that were really quite wise in their own way – and while there’s some question as to whether Yogi personally said every one of them, it’s fun to revisit them, including:

“When you come to a fork in the road, take it.”

“You can observe a lot by just watching.”

“It ain’t over till it’s over.”

“It’s like déjà vu all over again.”

“No one goes there nowadays; it’s too crowded.”

“Baseball is 90 percent mental and the other half is physical.”

“A nickel ain’t worth a dime anymore.”

“Always go to other people’s funerals; otherwise, they won’t come to yours.”

“We made too many wrong mistakes.”

“Congratulations. I knew the record would stand until it was broken.”

“You wouldn’t have won if we’d beaten you.”

“It gets late early out there.”

“If the people don’t want to come out to the ballpark, nobody’s going to stop them.”

“Why buy good luggage? You only use it when you travel.”

“If you don’t know where you’re going, you might not get there.”

“Even Napoleon had his Watergate.”

“He hits from both sides of the plate. He’s amphibious.”

“It was impossible to get a conversation going. Everybody was talking too much.”

“It ain’t the heat, it’s the humility.”

“Take it with a grin of salt.”

(On the 1973 Mets) “We were overwhelming underdogs.”

“Little League baseball is a very good thing because it keeps the parents off the streets.”

“If the world were perfect, it wouldn’t be.”

\* \* \*

See you next week





The 57 Fest returned last weekend, offering a variety of activities, games, performances and even a fireworks show. At left, students from America's Best Defense, a martial arts and karate school in Colchester, show off their skills, while at right, kids have fun in the laser tag arena.

## Good Year for the Colchester 57 Fest

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

The 11th annual 57 Fest was a hit last Saturday evening, with approximately 5,000 people coming out to the Recreation Complex.

Cheryl Hancin, recreation manager for the Parks and Recreation Department, which hosted the event, said this week that while this wasn't record-breaking attendance, it was still a good year.

Under a sunny sky with a breeze Sept. 26, the festival kicked off with a few new attractions. This year a hayride from Bill Standish Hayrides took families around the park and there was a new headline act, singer Latanya Farrell.

"She kept the crowd dancing," Hancin said of Farrell's performance.

The festival was first held in 2005, to celebrate the fact CNN/*Money Magazine* had, in a list released that year, named Colchester the 57th best place to live in the country.

As usual, LifeStar touched down, as part of a Touch-a-Truck, and participants could sit inside the helicopter and take pictures.

"Hundreds of children excitedly went running over to it," Hancin said.

State Police also had the "Convincer" on hand, which let people simulate what the im-

part of a car accident would feel like without wearing a seat belt. In a similar vein, police also brought a special "Rollover" car out, which allowed participants to simulate a rollover accident.

There was a wide variety of eats for festivalgoers this year, from such vendors as Uncle D's Blazin' BBQ, Sugar Cupcake Truck, Scottie's Frozen Custard, New England Soft Serve, EZstrEATS, Mamoun's Falafel, Hot Rocks BBQ, Thai Kitchen, Inishmor Pub, Anastasia Café and Cold Spring Farms. Colchester Lions and Bacon Academy Cheerleading also had food booths at the event.

Attendees could also stop and watch performances by America's Best Defense, the Bacon Academy cheerleaders, the Bacon Academy dance team, Doreen's Dance Center and Alyson's School of Dance.

Jennifer Wheaton of Colchester was watching the America's Best Defense karate demonstration, in which her 6-year-old daughter, Mallory, was performing.

"We loved everything they stood for and they are good with the kids," Wheaton said of why she got her daughter involved with America's Best Defense.

Wheaton said her family's favorite thing to see at the festival is the fireworks at the end – and Hancin said this week they were "amazing as always" and drew a great turnout.

This was the second year the 57 Fest has sold activity bracelets for the children. With the bracelets, kids could climb the rock wall, bounce on the inflatables, play laser tag, go down the giant slide, and more.

Wheaton said she has agreed with the bracelets, saying it makes it easier for the children to go through the activities.

"The only hard part is the lines get long, but it's [not as bad if you get] here early," she said.

Meanwhile, there were information booths galore – allowing folks to learn about everything from Boy Scouts to robotics to the Colchester Continental Fife and Drum Corps.

"This gives us an opportunity to get kids to hit on the drums and know what fife and drumming is," Wayne Seidel of the Colchester Continentals said. "We educate the public on the history and the music and the education process starts early."

The Continentals had drums available for attendees to experience and their mannequin, Manny Quinn, for pictures.

Other activity and information booths were hosted by Bubbles to Butterflies, Backus Hospital, Children's Dental Associates, Cragin Memorial Library, the Colchester Dog Park, Dime Bank, S&S Worldwide, Fantasy Faces by Ruth, Willimantic Waste, and the Colchester Day Camp.

The festival was also a time for people to show off their 57. They could display, or perform, anything related to the number – such as own 57 hats or a '57 Chevy, perform 57 jumping jacks, or simply be 57 years old – and they could get a free 57 Fest temporary tattoo.

In keeping with the numerical theme, Don Levine of Colchester Public Schools hosted 57 free one-mile runs at the Bacon Academy track. The races had no prizes, and were just for fun and fitness.

After sponsorships, donations and funds from the activity bracelets came in, Hancin said Parks and Recreation broke even on the event.

The festival is slated to return again next fall, and Hancin said organizers would like community feedback and always like to make improvements and additions to the festival.

## Pumpkins 'n' Pooches Postponed in Colchester

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

With flooding on the green expected due to heavy rains this week – and the potential for still more rain on Saturday – this weekend's Pumpkins 'n' Pooches has been rescheduled to next Saturday, Oct. 10.

Charlene Picard – a member of the Colchester Lions, which puts on the annual event – said organizers are hoping the green dries out by next week.

The Lions made the call to postpone the festival Tuesday evening. "We called it early enough so we're not on the green the day of the event, getting soaked," Picard said Wednesday.

While Saturday was still a few days off when the Lions made their call, Picard said the problem is there are usually food trucks setting up on the green by the Thursday before the event. With the expected six inches of rain during the week, it would be "just a mess." Picard said the organizers chose to postpone in "the interest of public safety."

"The green was available, thankfully, the next week," she said. "We're getting good re-

sponses from the vendors that they are available next week."

This is the 17th year of the event; in each of the prior 16, the show has always gone on, even despite some showers in the morning. In 2006, the Lions opted not to even set a rain date for the event. But that came back to bite them, as it wound up pouring that year, and attendees were stuck standing in the rain.

"It was a nightmare," Picard said of the 2006 event. "This year we have a few days' notice."

Initially, the rain date for the event was to be the Sunday, Oct. 4 – but Picard said organizers were worried the green wouldn't dry out by then.

She's optimistic that by next Saturday, though, the conditions will be more amenable.

"The show will go on," she said.

Due to the delay in the festival, voting in the Online Dog Photo Contest has been extended until Oct. 8; votes can be cast at [colchesterlions.org/dogcontest.htm](http://colchesterlions.org/dogcontest.htm).

Updates on the event will be posted at [facebook.com/pumpkinspooches](http://facebook.com/pumpkinspooches).



# Native Son Newest Member of Portland Police

by John Tyczkowski

Monday morning, the Portland Police Department welcomed its newest member, in a ceremony at the Buck-Foreman Community Center.

Micheal Revicki, born and raised in Portland, stepped forward to take the oath administered by First Selectwoman – and civilian chief of police – Susan Bransfield.

“One of the most important functions of a town is to keep the community safe,” she said. “The Portland Police Department has been doing an excellent job of that for many decades.”

“And now you will be joining them,” she said to Revicki.

As he raised his right hand, Revicki swore allegiance to upholding the laws of Connecticut and to upholding the U.S. Constitution as Bransfield gave the oath and as members of the police and public looked on.

Revicki is not yet a Police Officer Standards and Training (POST)-certified police officer, but still took the first step toward serving in Portland. He said he was “very eager” to begin with police there.

“It’s a small department in town, and I know everyone who I’ll be working with,” he said. “It’s really like a family here.”

Revicki said he expects variety with his policing duties in town, and as such also wants to acquire a variety of policing skills.

“I’d like to get involved in the K9 program, and become involved in the DARE [Drug Abuse Resistance Education] officer program too,” he said.

Also, he said he would want to obtain certification in arson investigation, an interest area he credits to his seven years’ service with the Portland Volunteer Fire Department.

Revicki will have the opportunity to become

certified in those areas after graduating from the Connecticut Police Academy, where he starts today.

Bransfield noted this is the first time to her knowledge Portland has sworn in an officer who will attend the academy as their first assignment.

Revicki went through Portland Public Schools for his entire education, and had worked at both Middlesex Hospital and the Connecticut Juvenile Training School after graduating from high school.

He also took some classes at Middlesex Community College during that time.

Revicki lives in Portland with his wife, Melissa, and their children, kindergartener Jason and toddler Mariella, who were all there that morning.

Revicki’s parents, in-laws and brother also came for the swearing-in ceremony.

Members of Portland Police, including Lieutenant Ron Milardo and Sgt. Scott Cunningham, were also in attendance.

“We’re lucky to have you join the department,” Cunningham said to Revicki after he was sworn in. “Welcome aboard.”

In addition, Revicki received two badges that Milardo presented: a retired Portland Police badge – No. 8 – and a police badge sticker.

Jason then stepped forward and, after receiving the badge sticker from Milardo, presented it and put it on his father’s suit, in his own swearing-in gesture.

Revicki’s police training will take six months, and he said that, while he’s excited to get started there, he’s also looking forward to when he can get started in town.

“Portland is where I grew up, and it’s where I want to protect and serve,” he said. “This is where my heart’s always been.”



Micheal Revicki stands with his wife, Melissa, and children, Mariella and Jason, after being sworn in by First Selectwoman – and civilian chief of police – Susan Bransfield and receiving a badge, No. 8, from Lieutenant Ron Milardo.

## Police Make Arrest in 2014 Shooting in Andover

by Geeta Schrayter

State police have arrested and charged a man in connection to a shooting that took place last year on the Hop River Trail in Andover.

At around 1 p.m. on Sept. 25, 2014, state police said an individual was walking his dogs on the Hop River State Park Trail near Long Hill Road when he was approached by a male riding a dirt bike on the trail.

Police said the individual asked the rider not to ride his bike there; the trail is described on the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection website as being for hiking, bicycle riding, horseback riding and cross-country skiing. After he was confronted, police said “the suspect drew a handgun and fired into the woods before leaving the area.”

After what they called “a lengthy and exhaustive investigation,” police arrested Michael R. Fortin, 21, as the perpetrator of the shooting. He was found in Vernon last Wednesday, Sept. 23, and arrested without incident. Fortin is being held on a \$50,000 bond and was charged with first-degree reckless endangerment, first-degree threatening, second-degree breach of peace, fifth-degree larceny, carrying a handgun without a permit and carrying a dangerous weapon.

The 2014 shooting incident isn’t Fortin’s first run-in with the law. Along with the above, Fortin was also charged with first-degree reckless endangerment, second-degree assault, and sixth-degree larceny from an unrelated incident in February. In addition, he was found guilty of first-degree criminal trespassing in 2012 and sentenced to one year in jail; his jail time was suspended and he was given two

years’ probation, however he returned to jail following a probation violation.

Fortin was also found guilty of second-degree criminal mischief and resisting an officer in 2013 and received a one-year prison sentence.

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Although some published reports have pointed out the similarities between the 2014 incident on the Hop River Trail and the shooting death this past July of Andover resident Jason Marchand, state police could not be reached to comment as to whether Fortin is a suspect in the latter.

In that incident troopers learned Marchand, 38, had a verbal altercation with a male suspect about an hour before he was shot around 10 p.m. July 3. Reportedly, Marchand had confronted the suspect for blocking a road near Andover Lake with his bike. In response to Marchand’s request that he move, witnesses reported the suspect left the area, kicking up rocks at Marchand and others nearby. Witnesses said that same individual – described as a white male in his 20s with a blue and white sport-type motorcycle wearing a helmet with a face shield – was the one who later returned to the area.

Marchand, police said, confronted the suspect in the street, where he was shot multiple times. The suspect then fled the scene.

Anyone with information regarding either Marchand’s death or the 2014 shooting incident is asked to call Eastern District Major Crime at 860-896-3230 or Troop K at 860-465-5411. All calls will be kept confidential.

## Police Respond to Reports of Gunshots in East Hampton

by John Tyczkowski

A local man and an East Haddam woman were arrested in connection with an incident involving shots fired at a Lake Pocotopaug home.

Jason Alward, 43, of 6 Meeks Point Rd., was arrested last Wednesday and charged with criminal possession of a weapon, unlawful discharge of a firearm, first-degree reckless endangerment, first-degree threatening and second-degree breach of peace.

East Hampton Police Chief Sean Cox said officers responded to a report of a “neighborhood dispute” from concerned residents on Meeks Point Road that “either firecrackers or gunshots had sounded.”

“After the investigation we learned a firearm had been discharged four times, we believe,” he said.

The weapon in question was a revolver. However, Cox made it clear “no one was hurt and no one was shot at.”

“There were no injuries and no property damage, and no physical evidence to support personal injury or property damage,” he said. “Still, we were fortunate to respond quickly.”

Criminal possession of a weapon is considered a Class C felony that entails one to 10

years of jail time. First-degree threatening is also a felony, Class D, with a sentence of one to five years in jail.

First-degree reckless endangerment is a Class A misdemeanor carrying a penalty of up to one year of imprisonment. Second-degree breach of peace is a Class B misdemeanor that leads to up to three months of jail time. Finally, unlawful discharge of a firearm is a Class C misdemeanor, carrying a penalty of up to three months’ jail time.

Alward was arraigned Sept. 24 and will enter a plea in court on Oct. 8. He was unable to post \$200,000 bond and was not released from custody.

Jessie Lee Poland, 20, of 40A Palmer Rd., East Haddam, was also arrested at that time, for interfering with a police investigation.

Specifically, Poland was providing information that hindered officers’ investigation into Alward’s actions, Cox said.

That crime is classified as a Class A misdemeanor, with a sentence of up to one year in jail.

Poland signed a \$2,500 non-surety bond, and is due to appear in court for arraignment in Middletown on Oct. 6.





**Kandy Caccio of Columbia has recently opened up a new consignment store – Classy Re-Runs – in Hebron. The store, located at 269 Church St., offers new and slightly used women’s, men’s and junior’s clothing along with accessories, home décor and small furnishings – all for 40-60 percent less than the original price. Caccio said she thought consignment was “a great cycle,” and hoped Classy Re-Runs would become “a fun place” to shop, save money, and, if consigning with the store, make money, too.**

## New Hebron Store a ‘Classy’ Take on Consignment

by Geeta Schrayter

When Kandy Caccio’s husband Mark received a job opportunity too good to pass up, the two left their home in Bozrah and moved to Maryland, where they lived for 10 years. During that time, Caccio got a part-time job that would eventually lead to owning her own business in Hebron.

While living in Maryland, Caccio shared, “I went down the street and asked for a part-time job, and it was at a consignment store.”

She worked there for six years, until the couple decided to return to Connecticut two years ago to be closer to family and friends. After moving to Columbia last year Caccio, who had come to enjoy consignment through her work in Maryland, explained the two said “this is the time to open up a consignment store.”

And so, that’s exactly what they did, opening Classy Re-Runs Consignment Aug. 1.

Located at 269 Church St., beneath The Hairline salon, Classy Re-Runs offers new and slightly-used women’s, men’s and junior’s clothing; accessories, home décor and small furnishings.

The store also has a small collection of prom dresses, something Caccio said she’s interested

in growing.

“I like this end of it,” Caccio said of the dresses. “It might be the dance and gymnastics side of me – I like glitter. I’m hoping to be able to get to more of the prom kids; we’re working on that.”

(Prior to the move to Maryland, Caccio explained, she taught dance and gymnastics in Colchester.)

To Caccio, consignment is “a great cycle.” She shared it’s a way to help the environment by recycling clothing, and said those who plan to consign with the store can help simplify their lives through cleaning their homes of clothes and items they no longer use. In addition, those who consign have the chance to earn some extra money and donate to the community.

Items in Classy Re-Runs usually sell for 40-60 percent less than the original price, Caccio said. After 30 days an item is reduced by an additional 25 percent and after 45 days it receives another 50 percent off. After 60 days, the item is removed from the floor and donated to places such as the Red Barn through the Hebron Church of Hope, Hebron Interfaith Human Services and/or the Salvation Army.

“I like to work within the community. To me



that’s a big plus,” Caccio said of donating to local organizations. “Knowing where the items are going is better than just giving it away.”

Speaking on her efforts to get her new business up and running Caccio shared, “I had been saving items periodically for the past couple of years, coming out and searching around.”

She added she ended up buying certain items outright from stores, such as the women’s retail store Coldwater Creek when they went out of business. In addition the store receives inventory from consigners who come in with items that are either slightly used or still have their original tags.

The store is currently accepting items for Halloween and fall and takes clothing in junior sizes up through 3X women, and men’s size small to double XL. The goal, Caccio explained, is to keep the clothing high-quality, with brands such as J. Crew, Calvin Klein, Lucky and Talbots.

Last week, Classy Re-Runs contained a wide array of offerings including jeans, jackets, sweaters, sleepwear, blouses, button-ups, belts, ties, hats, shoes, purses, jewelry, dishes, artwork and more.

“We have pretty much a little bit of every-

thing, except for kids,” Caccio explained.

Yet, despite the variety, the store in no way looks or feels cluttered. On the contrary, upon entering the store and the rooms designated for men’s attire and upscale women’s clothes, the place has the feel of a boutique.

“I guess that’s the Libra in me,” Caccio said regarding the layout and decoration. “I line everything up and have to get the right colors, so I guess that kind of just brushes off in the set-up,” she smiled.

As far as her dreams for the store, Caccio shared, “I just hope I’m able to get out to the community, give back to the community and have a great store – just a fun place to come relax, save money and shop.”

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Classy Re-Runs is located at 269 Church St., and is open Tuesday and Wednesday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Thursday from 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Friday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. The store is closed on Sunday and Monday. For more information on Classy Re-Runs, or on consigning with the store, call Caccio at 860-228-0450 or email [classyrerunsconsignment@gmail.com](mailto:classyrerunsconsignment@gmail.com).

## RHAM School Board Responds to FOI Complaint

by Geeta Schrayter

The attorney for the RHAM Board of Education recently responded to a proposal provided in relation to a Freedom of Information complaint made over the summer.

In June, Hebron residents Jeff Watt (who is also a selectman) and Malcolm Leichter (chairman of the Board of Finance) submitted a complaint to the Freedom of Information office for proceedings that took place during a RHAM Board of Education meeting held the month prior.

Watt and Leichter state in the June 15 complaint that “the vote(s) taken on the superintendent’s wage increase and contract extension, on the evening of May 18, 2015 was not taken in a public session and in view of the public.” Therefore, they contend, the vote was illegal.

In the complaint, Watt and Leichter state that, despite informing two board members they wanted to be notified when the executive session adjourned so they could be present for any public discussion or actions, they were unable to get back to the meeting room in time for said events.

Watt and Leichter were waiting in the high school cafeteria, and at 9:26 p.m. Leichter said he received a text message that the board had left executive session. He responded a minute later, asking if the superintendent – who was also sitting nearby – had been notified as well, and was told he had been.

The complaint said Leichter and Watt immediately returned to the meeting room “where they were greeted by two members with their coats on and walking out the door,” and learned the board had already discussed and voted on the items from executive session. At this point, according to the complaint, Leichter entered the

room, looked at the clock and found it to be 9:30 p.m.

The complaint furthered that the meeting minutes “erroneously state” the board came out of executive session at 9:28 p.m. and adjourned four minutes later at 9:32 p.m.

“If that were true,” the complaint contends, that would mean that in less than two minutes – since Leichter looked at the time – the RHAM board “came out of executive session, notified the public, came back into regular session, made, discussed, and voted on two motions, and at least two people had time to gather their belongings, put their coats on, and exit the meeting room.”

As a result, Watt and Leichter said they were looking for the FOI Commission to overturn the action from the meeting and send it back to the Board of Education “to act on these items in a properly warned and conducted public session in full view of the community.”

However, after further discussion with the commission, Watt and Leichter decided to try to resolve the complaint without going to hearing; to do so, they sent a memo to the commission with a proposal which, if agreed to by the RHAM Board of Education, would result in a settlement of the complaint.

That proposal included that the RHAM Board of Education place discussion of the complaint on the agenda of a regularly-scheduled meeting; that the board discuss the fact the entire public wasn’t properly notified and/or the public was not allowed to enter the meeting room prior to the public vote May 18; and that the board agree that, prior to any executive session in the future, the board would ask if any of the public plans to wait until it’s over

and, if so, designate the cafeteria as a waiting area unless another area is specified. In addition, at the end of executive session, a board member would need to go to the designated area, indicate the session is over and give adequate time for people to rejoin the meeting before any action is taken.

Watt and Leichter also asked that the board vote to adopt the above item into the board’s official policy, and that they be informed when the above business will be conducted with a copy of the warning/agenda of the meeting.

After the above memo was submitted to the FOI Commission, Leichter said it was then forwarded to RHAM for perusal. However, neither Watt nor Leichter received a response until they were sent a certified letter from the FOI Commission stating the date and time of their FOI hearing – scheduled for this Wednesday, Sept. 30. Leichter said last week that the school board’s silence led Watt and him to start asking different board members “as to why they didn’t accept it – and nobody knew about it.”

And so, at the Sept. 21 board meeting, Watt and Leichter were present to make a statement about their complaint and the proposal, and Leichter handed out a copy to each member.

Speaking to the matter this week, Siminski said although he received a copy of the original complaint July 27 and sent it to the board Aug. 7, he said he never saw Watt and Leichter’s proposal until the Sept. 21 meeting, when Leichter distributed copies.

The board’s attorney, Anne Littlefield, could not be reached for comment as to if and when she received the proposal, but on Friday, Sept. 25, she submitted a counter proposal nearly identical to what Watt and Leichter had sub-

mitted – the key differences being that Littlefield’s proposal didn’t specifically designate the cafeteria as the waiting area, nor did it call for board members to publicly discuss the actions of May 18 like Watt and Leichter wanted them to.

In response to the counter proposal, Leichter explained Wednesday he and Watt agreed to delay any hearing until “RHAM discusses and votes on the proposal that their attorney put forward.”

Leichter said they responded to FOI Monday saying they’d like to continue with the proposal and their request was approved Tuesday. As such, Wednesday’s hearing didn’t take place.

If the board passes the proposal, “we will agree to settlement of the complaint.”

Speaking on the proposal, Siminski said this week, “I indicated to the attorney that I didn’t have any problems with [her] resolution.” Also sharing his thoughts was Board of Education Chairman Danny Holtsclaw, who said, “The board is taking the complaint seriously. The board is also incurring legal fees to make sure the response is done procedurally correct, and the rules and regulations by FOI are being handled responsibly.”

Leichter meanwhile, added, “What we were looking to do to begin with [with the complaint] was to make it so the public can hear what they’re entitled to hear, and our proposal was simply to propose that.”

He concluded, “It’s in the best interest of the public to ensure that they’re involved in any meetings that they should be involved in and all we wanted to do was to stop what happened to us that night from happening in the future.”



# Middle Haddam Post Office at Center of Access Complaint

by John Tyczkowski

The Middle Haddam Post Office could be in danger of being shut down, due to its lack of handicapped-accessibility.

The post office itself is contained within a small section of a structure built in 1950. Margaret and Pierre Faber of Middle Haddam own the building, which Margaret's father Ron McCutcheon acquired in 1994. Ron and Lois McCutcheon also operate Town & Country Realtors out of the building.

Margaret Faber said someone filed a complaint with the United States Access Board (USAB) on July 7, over the building's non-compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

It was the first time a complaint had been filed against the Post Office, she said.

The complaint is anonymous, and states the building "has two steps to [the] entrance and no handrails. Persons who use wheel chairs or have difficulty climbing stairs cannot get into the Post Office. Why is there not a ramp for those who cannot use stairs?"

The Access Board is pursuing an investigation into the complaint, the United States Postal Service said in an email to the Fabers, and encouraged the U.S. Postal Service to devise potential fixes.

Additionally, the Access Board will not reveal the identity of the complainant without their written permission, USAB Deputy General Counsel Lisa Fairhall said in an email.

Regarding accessibility fixes, USPS Leased Space Accessibility Program Coordinator Beverly O'Leary sent two plans in an email.

Both proposals involve a dedicated handicapped parking space and a ramp, on the north side of the building.

Faber has marked off the lines for both options with spray paint and traffic cones to provide a visual representation of the amount of space either choice would take up.

The main problem with both options would be that they would make parking and mail delivery "impractical and very nearly impossible," she said. The ramp would also cause problems for snow and ice removal.

In addition, McCutcheon said another major problem is even if a ramp could fit on the property, the building itself isn't ADA-compliant.

"The hypocritical part of it is the door isn't wide enough for a wheel chair, nor is it electric," he said. "You'd have a big ramp out here obstructing parking and you still can't truly follow through for handicap[ped] access."

There's also not enough space to turn a wheelchair around inside, and the mail counters are too high, Faber said.

In the past, USPS submitted several plans to the Fabers about how to add an ADA parking space and ramp to the building, on the building's south side.

However, none of them accounted for the limited space on the property, especially parking space, Faber said.

At the same time, before the complaint, Faber submitted two separate ideas to the Postal Service involving railings and grab bars on the front of the post office building, and a dedicated parking space, to increase ADA accessibility, but had never heard back about them.

Furthermore, she said, starting with the 2001-16 lease, there's been no language in the USPS leases requiring the post office building be ADA-accessible.

However, the post office is still glad to accommodate ADA accessibility needs, both Faber and Postal Clerk Vicky Rizzo said.

Rizzo said she has one regular patron who requires her assistance to get his mail.

"I do it with great pleasure; I help other people bring out their packages, why shouldn't I help in this manner as well," she said. "It's very simple but means a lot."

That patron, Charles Harmon, said his curbside service has been going on for about a year, and that "it's been working great."

"What the Postal Service told me to do was talk with Betty [Lasak, the former postmaster] to set up a system where I pull up out front, toot my horn and [the postal employee] sees me and gives me my mail," he said. "I haven't ever had a problem."

Harmon is on a mobility scooter, and said he can't walk up the step and a half to get inside.

He did say the only thing that sometimes gets in the way is the lack of parking at the post office.

"Occasionally, all of the spots at the post



**Handicapped-accessibility ramps as proposed by the United States Postal Service, here outlined in spray paint, would conflict with day-to-day Post Office operations, as the proposed ramps lie directly in the mail delivery truck's parking path.**

office are filled up. I'd like to have a spot designated for curbside service for me and anyone else who might need it," Harmon said. "But otherwise I can't complain."

Harmon, a 15-year Middle Haddam resident, said he agrees there are "major problems" with the USPS proposals.

"Those plans are laid out with no consideration for the very limited parking, or for mail delivery," he said. "The truck won't fit, and you can't park a car in a 20-foot space when you need 30 feet to pull out."

Faber also said she wanted to reiterate she and the McCutcheons are not against ADA access.

"It's essential for new construction and primary facilities such as the East Hampton Public Library and Post Office," she said. "However, retrofitting older structures, especially if they are secondary, such as the Middle Haddam Post Office and the Middle Haddam Public Li-

brary, is not always practical or possible."

However, in both cases, Faber said the key is to balance ADA access retrofitting with the need to not detract from buildings' historic characters, especially since both buildings are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Though the post office building is only 65 years old, it's on the register because the Middle Haddam Post Office has existed in town as an institution since the late 1700s.

"If this can't be resolved and the Postal Service says they have to have this or else, it would be very unfortunate to have to negotiate the termination of our current lease," Faber said. "It would be a real shame to have to close the post office because of this one complaint which to me is unreasonable."

"People here like being part of a small, close community," she added. "It's a point of pride and identity and I think they would be genuinely sad to see the Post Office close."

## 'Hometown Heroes' Celebration Honors Seven in East Hampton

by John Tyczkowski

Tuesday, the Town Council came together at Hope Church with 85 residents and community members to honor seven Hometown Heroes.

The council created the event several months ago to honor seven people its seven members saw as pillars of the community.

However, the Hometown Heroes celebration concept in general was the 1985 brainchild of the late Bill O'Neill, state governor and East Hampton resident.

This year's honorees were, in order of presentation: Kate Morris, George Castelli, Bill Devine, Dennis Erickson, Jill Simko, Sandy Fries and Don Coolican.

The councilors' presentation order was selected by pulling a number out of a hat beforehand, emcee Red McKinney said. Council Vice Chair Kevin Reich presented his hero first.

"It's often said 'It takes a village,'" Reich said. "And if so, it's truly amazing what Kate, as one individual, has been able to contribute to this community."

Morris, along with her late husband Jim, had been instrumental in strengthening the East Hampton Volunteer Ambulance Association, with efforts including a public relations campaign to raise their profile in town, and helping them move into their current, modern building, Reich said.

Next, Council Chair Barbara Moore talked about her hero, Castelli, a longtime foreman at Henkels & McCoy and longer-time friend to the Moores, along with his family.

"George is just amazing; he has goals and ideals that I admire very much. He has a special loyalty that is unwavering and I knew im-

mediately he was my hero," she said. "His devotion to his family and his friends is above reproach."

Next, councilor Ted Hintz Jr. praised his pick, Boston-born Devine, an Air Force veteran, member of both Republican and Democratic town committees, and a man who has the distinction of being both East Hampton's last first selectman – before switching over to the town manager-style of government – and first Town Council chair.

"Over the years, he's faced many personal challenges but has always been there to support others," Hintz said. "And he's always there to assist anyone in need and always with a smile."

Councilor Patience Anderson had a lot of things to say about her choice, Erickson, who served in the Navy during World War II, and who has been a consistently active member with the local, regional and state VFW posts.

"Dennis is my friend, and is a man of courage and complete, unfettered loyalty, and has a deep and abiding love for his country and his town," she said. "I love him for the wonderful example he is."

A devotion to others above herself characterized councilor George Pfaffenbach's chosen pillar of the community, Simko.

"Jill unselfishly gives of her own time," he said, explaining that Jill has two sons and is a teacher at the same time. "Her accomplishments are quite superior and we're all proud of you, Jill. You're a friend we can all count on."

Councilor Phillip Visintainer then offered praise about his hometown hero, Fries, a per-

sonal friend he said he's known "for over 40 years."

"Sandy has been incredibly generous giving of her time and all that she does is incredibly evident in her activities with the food bank," he said. "Her dedicated and tireless service to the food bank over the last 32 years has been instrumental in making it what it is today."

Lastly, councilor Mark Philhower praised Coolican, a man he called his political mentor, for his "tireless service" in town government.

"Don, who served on the boards of finance and education, came up with several ideas to educate our children and save money," he said. "The times we didn't follow his ideas, we regretted it. Don leaves East Hampton a better place than when he arrived."

Before the honorees were introduced, brought up to the stage and presented with an East Hampton bell, a certificate and flowers, O'Neill's widow, Nikki O'Neill, stood up to speak.

"It's a very exciting night," she said. "I'm very proud of all of them tonight. It's a great honor and I'm so pleased it's being done here in town."

And her pick for a hometown hero? "That would be my roommate of 48 years," she quipped, referring to her late husband. "He would be thrilled to be here. He loved this town and was always very proud of this town."

The VFW Color Guard presented the colors to begin the ceremony, and resident Val Greco sang "Song for the Unsung Heroes" a cappella.

After the presentation of the heroes, poet laureate Hugo DeSarro said a few remarks.

"We are gathered to celebrate our hometown heroes...those who live and have lived quietly without pretension among us," he said. "Men and women who rise and have risen above the ordinary in a crisis and in their determination to succeed, and in their prayers and endeavors."

"They have set an example for the rest of us," DeSarro said.

In addition, senior center director JoAnn Ewing spoke, to mark September as Nation Senior Citizen Center Month.

"The East Hampton Senior Center is a place to gather, and a place to share life," she said. "I am honored by all the history and stories the older adults are willing to share. They are the heroes, the people who have lived in our community and have life experience to offer."

To conclude the event, ordained minister T.J. Day first offered some remarks before a benediction.

"I asked my son what a hero was, and he said, 'Dad, it's someone who stands up when he sees a need and fills it, without question,'" Day said. "I would add a hero also does that without the need for a reward. For whatever reason these heroes do what they do...they're always doing it for others first."

It's also the process of doing that separates heroes from the "average Joe," Day said.

"Most heroes are regular everyday people. But they stand up and say, 'I can do that.' It might be something small or big," he said. "I put that out there for everyone. Everyone here can stand up and do something, be a hero and make a difference."



# Marlborough Boards Review Town Center Plan

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

Members from various boards and commissions met Monday to discuss the Town Center Plan and economic development in Marlborough.

First Selectwoman Cathi Gaudinski and Director of Planning and Development Peter Hughes reviewed the town's history of economic development and where the town currently stands with its objectives.

The Town Center Plan was established in 2007, Gaudinski explained, and was created following a 2003 master plan on economic development and the business park, and a 2005 community survey.

"It gave the Board of Selectmen direction on what's important to citizens and the needs still to be met," Gaudinski said.

Following the Town Center Plan a market study and town center stylebook was also formulated.

"There has been a deliberate plan," Gaudinski said. "There are five objectives that were recommended to the town with actions... We're trying to show we have been taking progressive steps forward."

Gaudinski said town officials have gone through the Town Center Plan and have noticed that a lot has been done such as zoning regulations, and making a pedestrian friendly town center. Some objectives have yet to be met including unifying the look of the town center, making it a place for people to meet and be more active, and to develop the green and make it a focus.

"It's a plan and a process and plans can be changed," she said.

Hughes explained the plan came after the Planning Commission, Zoning Commission, Board of Finance and Board of Selectmen came

together to discuss what the town wanted to do and the potential cost.

"It was an open planning process," Hughes said. "There were public forums and they met with the property owners in the area."

Denis Soucy, a current member of the Board of Selectmen, was on the team that helped create the plan. He said most of what the town officials heard at the time was that residents wanted to "keep Marlborough country," and that they'd rather pay higher taxes than have too much business in town.

In the end, what was created was a plan for a mixed-use town center with both commercial and residential features.

John Larensen, current chair of the Planning Commission, said at the time of its development, the person who helped create the Town Center Plan was the developer of Somerset Square in Glastonbury.

Larensen since he was successful there, the town followed his lead. However, he furthered, that was before the real estate recession hit.

Also at the meeting, Hughes reviewed the town's use of STEAP (Small Town Economic Assistance Program) grants to help with portions of the plan.

"We have utilized \$1.175 million in STEAP grants," Hughes said, referring to the town's use of the grants for sidewalks and the water system among others.

Along with the above, other pieces of the plan include making the town center set the look for Marlborough, the way the stone wall around the town green does. Although it was pricey, Hughes said installing it was an important decision made by the selectmen at the time.

The town has also created a larger green, moved the war memorial, created 15 parking

spots at the green, brought sidewalks down from the school to the library and into the center, and used stamped pavement to add a nicer aesthetic to the center; the Town Center Plan has the sidewalks continuing down to Lake Road to connect the Marlborough Arts Center and Blish Park.

Regarding the town's water system, Hughes went on to talk about how the town is on phase two of the system which would include closing the loop around School Drive and drilling three more wells. Eventually the town would embark on phase three which would connect the system to Aquarion and make it so the town could provide fire protection. Fire protection, Hughes said, would save business and home owners thousands on their insurance policies.

Other things coming potentially down the line for Marlborough include fiber optics and natural gas.

Gaudinski shared the fiber optics should be coming later this month and said the town is waiting on Frontier. Fiber optics would be used to connect the school and Town Hall, making it possible for the town's computer systems to utilize Cloud computing which allows for on-demand access to, and makes it easier to store and share, data.

Relating to natural gas, Gaudinski said after East Hampton put in natural gas she inquired about the line being extended into Marlborough. Currently the natural gas company is doing a feasibility study, but Gaudinski said she is not yet aware of their findings.

"Developers want a variety of infrastructure," Gaudinski stated. "Marlborough is late to the party. You see more development in places already with infrastructure."

She referenced Hebron and East Hampton who already have sewer and water systems as having more development.

Amy Traversa, a candidate for First Selectman, asked Hughes if there was anything discouraging developers from coming to town.

"It's purely economics," Hughes said. "Businesses choose where they want to go. Infrastructure is our job."

Hughes said for example the Mennonite Church, which had been interested in the Moose Lodge property, decided to go to Lebanon instead.

He also explained why infrastructure such as the water system is necessary.

"There is pollution [in the water] in the center," Hughes said. "People have huge water systems in their basements. People run out of water. Just to keep what you have the water system is needed."

"What kills me is when people say sewers killed the Tavern," added Board of Finance member Ken Hjulstrom. "It saved Sadler's and it saved the health care center" as both were had issues with their septic systems.

Commenting on how the sewer assessments work for businesses especially regarding the Tavern, Hughes said it's up to the property owner.

"How the landlord divvies up the charges is none of our business," Hughes said. He also clarified that no business is forced onto the water system.

"This is a plan," Hughes added Monday. "We will have a whole new Planning Commission after this November's election. The next update may be revisiting the center and refreshing the market study."

# Marlborough School Board Reviews AHM Formula Change

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

With town officials concerned about rising costs related to AHM Youth and Family Services, Hebron selectman Jeff Watt and Marlborough Board of Finance member Evelyn Godbout met with the local Board of Education last week to discuss the formula by which Andover, Hebron and Marlborough pay for the youth service bureau.

Watt and Godbout – who sit on a six-member panel of officials from the three towns that votes on AHM's budget each year – explained to the board how the panel has been looking at the formula to try and find a way to lessen the hit on Marlborough in the coming years. Marlborough's portion of the AHM and RHAM budgets has been growing since Marlborough has not had as large of a decline in number of students as Hebron or Andover have.

"Every way was worse for Marlborough," Godbout said. "We are very concerned about the AHM and RHAM costs. Hebron and Andover are willing to work with us."

Currently, what each of the three towns pays for AHM is based on how many students from each town attend the RHAM middle and high schools. That amount is then divvied up between the town, the elementary schools, and RHAM.

The change Watt and Godbout were presenting was how the town's portion of the AHM budget is divvied up. Currently, in Andover, 50 percent of the AHM budget is paid for by the general town budget, 25 percent by the local school budget and 25 percent by the RHAM budget. In Hebron and Marlborough, the towns pay close to or over 60 percent, the elementary school budget consists of 10-12 percent and RHAM pays around 27 percent.

In the proposed new formula, all of the towns would distribute the AHM budget like Andover

with the local boards of education responsible for 25 percent, and RHAM responsible for 25 percent.

The total amount each town is responsible for would not change, because there was not a good option for Marlborough. In the past, the formula has gone off of total town census; meanwhile, another idea was floated, basing the formula off of amount of services each town receives. However, each of those options was more expensive for Marlborough than what currently is the case.

"It came out if there's a zero percent increase [for the AHM budget] and with the population shifts in [RHAM] students, it still goes up for Marlborough," Watt said.

RHAM uses the same formula as AHM does for its budget as far as using the RHAM census to determine the percentage each town is responsible for.

The difference between what the Marlborough Board of Education currently pays for AHM and what it would pay under the new formula would be approximately an additional \$18,000.

If this new formula is put into effect, Watt and Godbout assured the Board of Education this would not be held against the board when it starts to craft its budget in the winter. The existing 2015-16 budget – sans the extra \$18,000 for AHM – would be considered the starting point. The Board of Finance would exclude the \$18,000 from any school budget-related cuts.

This would also be true for the Hebron and Andover school budgets.

Another change would be, if it turns out the new formula isn't working out, the six-member panel could alter it right away – and not have to wait five years, as the panel's current

agreement states.

School board member Betty O'Brien wondered why the amount Marlborough pays AHM has to be divvied up in any way at all – and why AHM just couldn't charge the town one lump sum. Fellow board member Mimi LaPoint seemed to agree.

"There's three pots [town, local education board and RHAM], but it's all from the people in Marlborough," she said. "Why fight about what pot it comes from?"

Watt said this week the panel felt there were already enough changes to the new pact without looking to change the formula drastically. Watt also added, while conversation came up in Marlborough about the towns taking the entire cost, as opposed to separating it into the separate pots, that conversation did not come up in Hebron or Andover.

Watt added the panel is looking for thoughts on the proposed formula change from officials in all three towns.

"We want the feedback," Watt said. "If we hear 'no,' we'll find a Plan B. We're not saying this is the way it's going to be. It's more of a distribution [change] than an increase."

And in the end, the board seemed to agree with the new change – because, as Watt said, it wouldn't be an increase.

Watt said the panel is hoping to approve the new pact language in November after the attorneys have looked at the document. The old pact had expired at the end of September.

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Also last week, Marlborough Elementary School assistant principal Kim Kelley reviewed with the board the school's Smarter Balanced Assessment results; the tests were administered last spring.

Scores went from levels 1-4, with level 3

being the "meets achievement" level, and 4 being the "exceeds achievement" one.

For grade three, 73 percent of students achieved a level 3 or 4 in English language arts, and 74 percent did so in math; for grade four, 67 percent scored at 3 or 4 in ELA and 73 did so in math; for grade five, 86 percent scored at 3 or 4 in ELA while 53 percent did so in math; and in grade six, 78 percent scored at 3 or 4 in ELA while 67 percent did so in math.

Kelley highlighted the fifth grade math scores as a place the school administrators are looking into as those scores were very different than the other grades.

"It will be easier to analyze and see the trend [next year]," Principal Dan White said. "We can see student X in third grade and again student X in fourth grade. We can make sure individual kids make progress."

\* \* \*

White also told the board the school will implement school-wide breakfast today.

The breakfast will be grab-and-go style, with students eating in their classroom. Cost would be \$1.75 a meal; for students receiving reduced-price lunches, cost will be 30 cents per meal, and for those receiving free lunches, breakfast would also be free.

"We have 51 free or reduced [-price] lunch students in the school potentially not getting a good breakfast," White said.

He added that he opted to have breakfast in classrooms and not the cafeteria because, if it were in the latter, there would need to be a person to supervise, and the meal would likely become a social time.

White said the breakfast will go on for a month and then the administrators will collect feedback from the teachers.

# Marlborough Committee Cleaning up Cemeteries

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

The town's Cemetery Committee is back in business, and new regulations are in the works, following a series of complaints regarding current conditions at the town's three cemeteries.

The regulations will address the overgrown shrubs and plethora of personal items that interfere with safety and maintenance at the three cemeteries – Marlboro Cemetery, Century Cemetery and Jones Hollow Cemetery.

The committee, which had slowly faded away after members moved out of town or passed away, was revived this past summer when three new members were appointed by the Board of Selectmen. One former member, Carl Carlson, is still on the committee.

While the regulations apply to all three cemeteries, it's Marlboro Cemetery that has generated the largest number of complaints. In response, committee member Barbara Montstream said, the committee "walked the cemetery and noted areas of concern."

One issue the committee noted was the overgrown shrubs.

"Some interfered with neighboring [gravesites]," Montstream said. "They also have the potential of disturbing the monuments and interfere with maintenance."

The more sensitive topic the committee noticed was the amount of personal items at the gravesites, many of which had been left quite some time ago and never picked up. Some items sit on tombstones, while others simply sit on the ground.

Montstream explained that when the cemetery is mowed, the crews mow around the items, which include flower pots, garden ornaments and many other things. The items then get lost in the grass and weeds.

"It's a safety concern if [the items] get caught in the mower and become projectiles," Montstream said. "Things get broken and then there are broken pieces out in the grass."

In the current regulations, which were established in 1992, decorative stones, above-ground edging and benches are not permitted. Some of these items, however, are present at

the cemetery.

Marlborough isn't the only town to have issues with its cemeteries. The committee reviewed rules and regulations from towns all over the state, many of which have rules about no personal items at all.

Montstream said the concern for safety and beautification prompted the committee to set up a major clean-up, something it hopes to do twice a year.

"Our intent is to do it in the fall and the spring again, so the wreaths from the holidays can be picked up," Montstream said. In the fall, the committee wants to clean the items up so the final mowing before the winter can be neat and orderly.

She said the committee has already removed some things it deemed inappropriate – such as broken glass, beer cans, wine bottles and corkscrews.

"The goal is for it to be clean, attractive, fresh-looking and safe for everyone," Montstream said.

The revised regulations were submitted by the Cemetery Committee to the Board of Selectmen. First Selectwoman Cathi Gaudinski said she expects to have a draft to the selectmen sometime this month.

"We create them and hope [the selectmen] accept them," Montstream said. "We're hoping it's soon."

The committee has a cleaning day planned for sometime before Nov. 15 with the exact date to be determined depending on the volunteers' schedules. Right now, the committee is asking all personal items to be picked up by Oct. 15 or they will be removed.

Montstream explained the Nov. 15 date is so that the cemetery can be cleaned, mowed and ready for people to drop off Christmas wreaths and decorations.

The committee has stated that, due to the volume of decorations, it is impossible to claim items after they have been removed. Therefore, if families wish to keep the items, they should remove them prior to clean-up day.

## Portland Police News

9/23: Jennie Rourke, 27, and Kevin Lord, 24, both of 90A Marlborough St., were each charged with fifth-degree larceny and second-degree criminal mischief, Portland Police said.

9/25: Jolynn Anderson, 39, who police said they have no certain address for, was charged with two counts of third-degree burglary, fourth-degree larceny, two counts of sixth-degree larceny, third-degree forgery and second-degree criminal mischief, police said.

## Colchester Police News

9/24: State Police said Luis Cotto-Perez, 25, of 40 Warren St., New London, was arrested and charged with DUI, possession of less than half an ounce of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia, operating an unregistered motor vehicle and failure to have head lamps.

9/24: Colchester Police are investigating after a burglary at 199 Lebanon Ave. around 12:23 a.m. Police said the owner of the International Package Store called to report a broken window and when police went inside, the owner found several items missing. Police reported a white male wearing a hat, jacket, pants and a backpack entered the store and stole coins, multiple bottles of alcohol and multiple cartons of cigarettes – totaling approximately \$1,200. Anyone with information can contact Officer Jonathan Goss at 860-537-7270.

9/27: State Police said Nicholas Williams, 29, of 50 Manor Court, Springfield, Mass., was arrested and charged with DUI.

## Marlborough Police News

9/22: State Police said Michael Conroy, 32, of 30 Patricia Dr., was arrested and charged with possession of narcotics and possession of drug paraphernalia.

9/23: State Police said Tammy Strong, 38, of 78 Mott Hill, East Hampton, was arrested and charged with DUI, failure to drive in the proper lane, and violation in a construction zone, after driving into a closed-off portion of the construction zone off Route 2, Exit 12.



# Obituaries

## Hebron

### James H. Lemke

James H. Lemke, of South Glastonbury, beloved brother of John C. Lemke II of Hebron, CT, son of the late John C. and Alice Revene Schaefer Lemke, entered into eternal life on September 18 at Hartford Hospital.



Jimmy was born on December 16, 1935 and resided in South Glastonbury all of his life. Jim proudly served in the United States Air Force during the Korean War. He was a volunteer fireman in South Glastonbury for many, many years and was a longtime employee for the State of CT Highway Department and he also worked for the Travelers Ins. Co and Hertz Truck Rental.

Jimmy was a supporter of many charities, especially those helping animals, veterans and the Covenant House.

In addition to his brother John and his wife Armida, Jim leaves behind his four loving nieces and nephews: nephew John C. Lemke III and his two daughters Giana and Bella, niece Shannon M. Cruz and her husband Tony and their daughter Caylee, niece Tammy L. Lemke and her son Kyler R. Lemke (the love of Jimmy's life), nephew Scott A. Lemke and his wife Tina J. and their daughters Allison and Alexandra and many many close friends and relatives.

Our special thanks go out to the Hartford Hospital I.C.U unit, the Conklin Building 5th floor and the Palliative Care unit, 2nd floor and Dr. Kumar for the ongoing care and compassion for Jimmy and our family.

Calling hours were Monday evening, Sept. 21, at the Glastonbury Funeral Home, 450 New London Tpk., Glastonbury. A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Tuesday morning at St. Augustine's Church, 55 Hopewell Road, South Glastonbury. Burial with military honors was in St. Augustine Cemetery. To leave an online condolence, visit [www.glastonburyfuneral.com](http://www.glastonburyfuneral.com).

## Marlborough

### Ann Davis

Ann (Baran) Davis passed away peacefully Wednesday, Sept. 23, surrounded by her loving family on the morning of her 97th birthday. She was born and raised in Shamokin, Pa., the daughter of the late Paul and Anna Baran.



She was a longtime resident of Wallingford, where she lived for 50 years, and a resident of Marlborough for the last several years. She went to work at a young age to help support her family and worked in a variety of jobs for almost 60 years, most notably as a quality control inspector for Wallace Silversmiths in Wallingford.

Ann was a talented seamstress known for her skilled handiwork in sewing, knitting and crocheting. She was a woman of strong faith and a longtime parishioner of SS. Peter and Paul Roman Catholic Church in Wallingford. She was an avid Red Sox fan and enjoyed reading, cooking, playing cards and spending time with her beloved family. She enjoyed traveling to new places on family vacations and made her own once-in-a-lifetime trip to Czechoslovakia in 1985 to visit her relatives.

Ann was the devoted mother of Judy (Davis) LaCava and her husband Joseph of Marlborough, with whom she resided, and James Davis and his wife Veronica of Middletown. She also leaves seven grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren and four great-great grandchildren. She was a loving "grandmother" to all those she met and touched many lives with her love, compassion, and generosity. She will be truly missed by her large extended family, which included the LaCava Family of Wethersfield, and her close circle of friends.

Funeral services and burial in Marlboro Cemetery, Marlborough have already taken place.

Memorial donations may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

The D'Esopo Funeral Chapel, Wethersfield assisted the family with arrangements. To share a memory of Ann with the family, visit [desopo.com](http://desopo.com).

## Colchester

### Walter G. Tallman

Walter G. Tallman, 85, passed away Wednesday, Sept. 23, following a brief illness. He was born on Sept. 21, 1930, in Charlestown, N.H., one of eight children born to the late Lucius and Grace (Gerber) Tallman.



Walt was a devoted husband and father; he married Ruth Skinner on May 10, 1951, and together they raised six children. He was a retired maintenance worker for the Phoenix Insurance Company and self-employed tile setter.

Walt proudly served his country during the Korean Conflict in the US Army, he was the founder and Executive Coordinator of the Antique Veterans, Past Commander and Service Officer of the American Legion Post 54, member of the VFW and Colchester's 2010 Citizen of the Year. He was a Little League coach and spoke at all the schools on Veterans Day, instilling the love of his country to the children of Colchester.

Walt leaves behind his loving wife of 64 years, Ruth Tallman; his children, Lauren of California, Karen, Glenn, Kevin, Rhonda, Matthew and his wife Joanne all of Colchester; his sisters Catherine Schmidt and Ella Jewell of New Hampshire; grandchildren Charlene, Wynet, Tonya, Shelby, Jordan, Roger Jr. and Ryan as well as two great-grandchildren Jonathan and William.

He was predeceased by three brothers and two sisters.

Calling hours were held at Belmont Funeral Home, 144 So. Main St., Sunday, Sept. 27. A graveside service with military honors was held Wednesday, Sept. 30, in Linwood Cemetery in Colchester.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Walt's memory may be made to the Antique Veterans or the Colchester Senior Center.

## Marlborough

### Rachael Frinder Gagnon

Rachael Frinder Gagnon of Marlborough passed away peacefully at her home Wednesday, Sept. 23, at the age of 37, after a long battle with cancer. She was the devoted wife of Daren Gagnon and the loving mother to Daren II and Kalena Gagnon.



Rachael grew up in New Milford and attended school there. She also graduated from Central Connecticut State College with a degree in human resources. She was an executive recruiter, and eventually opened her own business. Rachael loved life, spending time with her neighbors and friends, going on family vacations to Cape Cod and Oak Island, North Carolina, and spending time with her family. She is also the author of [rachaelstladylumps.com](http://rachaelstladylumps.com). She loved helping others with cancer any way she could.

Besides her husband and children, she is survived by her parents, Donald J. and Joan Frinder II, Maureen and Roger Young; her brother and his wife, Caleb and Renee Frinder; her sister and brother-in-law, Anna and Rikki Sanchez; nieces and nephews, Ethan, Chayton, Ashlyn and Hailey; her grandfather, John Bova; her grandmother, Sonya Frinder; and several aunts, uncles and cousins.

She is also survived by her in-laws, Karen Gagnon and Darcy Gagnon; her sisters-in-law, Tari, Dawn and Kim; as well as nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles and cousins.

Calling hours were at Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, Wednesday, Sept. 30.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to Little Pink Houses of Hope, 2375 Corporation Parkway, Burlington, NC, 27215 or online at [littlepink.org](http://littlepink.org).

To leave online condolences, visit [spencerfuneralhomeinc.com](http://spencerfuneralhomeinc.com).

## Portland

### David Michael Bordonaro

David Michael Bordonaro, 55, of Portland, beloved husband of Linda (Steele) Bordonaro, passed away peacefully Thursday, Sept. 24, surrounded by his loving family, at The Connecticut Hospice in Branford.



David was born Jan. 6, 1960, in Middletown, to Anne Marie (Lastrina) and the late Joseph Bordonaro Sr. Besides his loving wife of 30 years, he leaves behind his two adoring children, Jay Jim and Anna Grace Bordonaro. David also leaves behind his brother and sister-in-law, Joseph and Jennifer Bordonaro of Portland; brothers and sisters-in-law Robert Steele and wife Nance of Portland, Deborah Soter and husband Philip of Colchester, Barbara DeBarber and husband Chris of Woodbury, John Steele and wife Denise of Portland and Betty Steele of Glastonbury. He also leaves his father-in-law, Robert Steele Sr. of Portland, and several amazing nieces, nephews and cousins that he loved deeply.

Dave was predeceased by his father Joseph Bordonaro Sr., and his mother-in-law Dorothy Steele.

Dave attended Portland High School, graduating in 1978, and went on to graduate from the New England Technical Institute with his best and lifelong friend, Arne McLellan. At the young age of 15, Dave purchased a 1965 Mustang Fastback and spent the next 40 years rebuilding it and making many friends along the way.

One of David's greatest privileges was having taught CCD at St. Mary Church for 21 years. It gave him immense pleasure to serve the Lord and touch and inspire many young lives by sharing his personal testimony.

Dave was a leukemia survivor, having had a successful bone marrow transplant in 1993, using a donor from Milan, Italy. Thank you Pier Angelo Meroni for giving Dave the last 22 years of his life. Through baseball tournaments, benefit dinners and a small change bucket in the front of Bordonaro's Pharmacy, Dave raised enough money to pay for thousands to join the National Bone Marrow Registry. Several of the donors he signed up went on to match, donate and save the lives of others.

Dave endured many tough trials in his life but would be the first to praise God for the many blessings those trials brought. He loved his family and was a dedicated husband and father. The pride of his life were his two children. Nothing made him happier than tossing a baseball with them, teaching them how to ice skate or casting a fishing line into Great Hill Lake. He also coached several Little League baseball teams, including the Marlins, Rockies and Angels. Dave was an enthusiastic storyteller, and enjoyed many laughs around card and dining room tables. He had a strong work ethic passed down to him from his father and was gifted with the ability to fix just about anything and what he couldn't fix, he knew a friend who could. Dave cheered for the underdog and always searched for and usually found the good in people. He will be deeply missed by many but forgotten by none.

The family would like to thank the compassionate and caring staff at Branford Hospice who went above and beyond to make a difficult time more bearable.

Calling hours were Sunday, Sept. 27, at St. Mary's Church, 51 Freestone Ave., Portland. The funeral service was held Monday, Sept. 28, at St. Mary's Church. Burial was private.

In lieu of flowers, those who wish may donate to the Bordonaro Children Education Fund at Liberty Bank or the Melonoma Research Foundation at [melonoma.org](http://melonoma.org).

To send an online expression of sympathy, visit [portlandmemorialfh.net](http://portlandmemorialfh.net).

## Portland

### Beatrice Larson Hummel

Beatrice Larson Hummel, 95, of Portland, passed over into eternal life with her Lord and Savior at 2:25 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 26. Beatie, born May 12, 1920 was the middle daughter of Charlie and Millie (Bengston) Larson and was raised on Coe Avenue with the Hanson, Edwards, and Johnson families and other Swedish families attending Zion Lutheran Church.



She and her two sisters who predeceased her, Charlotte Hanson and Anna Olson, were known as the ABC Sisters as they entertained with their 3 part harmony singing. She and her sisters enjoyed a Portland childhood spending time at their Larson grandparents' farm on Bartlett Street (now the Debari farm), and their Bengston grandparents' farm on Gospel Lane (now Millane Nursery land).

Beatie married Reginald Hummel of Plainville in 1942, declaring he was one of the first of her contemporaries who owned a car. In the early 1950s Beatie and Reg had Mr. Johnson build them a cape-style home on Woodland Road. Beatie made numerous changes to the original design, many to Mr. Johnson's enjoyment. While raising their children, Beatie enjoyed camping, square dancing, gardening, refinishing furniture and hosting parties, especially Beef Stroganoff buffets. In her later years, Beatie and Reg enjoyed a 4 month cross country trip in their motor home, trips to Europe, especially a 50th wedding anniversary trip to Sweden to meet her cousins, and winter months camping in Dunedin, Florida.

Beatie, who was very outgoing and always in a good mood, was known for her big sparkling blue eyes and special glow. She was known for her sense of style, her giggle, adventurous ways, sharing her home, love of God, joyful spirit, enthusiasm and energy. Beatie was a lifelong, fourth-generation member of the Zion Lutheran Church, where she taught Sunday school and was a member of the Church's Altar Guild and Grace Guild to which she served as the devotion leader. She held a Tuesday morning Bible study in her home for 30 years, fondly referring to her "Bible girls."

She was a member of the American Legion Auxiliary, offering Poppies during the Memorial Day parade. She also served for 40 years as chairman of Portland's Laurel Girls State of Connecticut. She was one of the original members of the Portland River Valley Garden Club. Beatie served as a teacher's aide at Gildersleeve Elementary School for 16 years and enjoyed running into the children as they grew into their 40s and 50s.

Beatie and Reg, who predeceased Beatie in 1996, have four children, Thom (Ruth) Hummel of Alexandria, Va., Gary (Judy) Hummel of Hebron, Corlee (Tom) Brown of Warrenton, Va., Douglas Hummel of East Hampton; and four grandchildren, Matthew Hummel of New Britain, Emily Hummel of Rocky Hill, Zachary Hummel and Andrew Hummel of Glastonbury and her "adopted" granddaughter Yuanyuan (Victoria) Sun Voelkl, currently living in Germany. She also leaves behind five nieces, two nephews and many friends, both old and young.

The funeral service was held Wednesday, Sept. 30, at Zion Lutheran Church, 183 William St., Portland, with Pastor Kari Rinas officiating. Burial followed in the Swedish Cemetery, Portland. Calling hours were Wednesday morning at Zion Lutheran, before the service.

Memorial gifts in Beatie's name may be sent to WIHS (FM 104.9) listener-supported Christian radio, 1933 S. Main St., Middletown ([wihsradio.org](http://wihsradio.org)), Every Home for Christ at [ehc.org](http://ehc.org), or Zion Lutheran Church.

To send an online expression of sympathy, visit [portlandmemorialfh.net](http://portlandmemorialfh.net).



Portland

Kathryn O. Sharr

Kathryn O. Sharr, 95, of Portland, formerly of Plainville, passed away unexpectedly Saturday, Sept. 26. She was born April 21, 1920, in Bristol, the third oldest of six children of Pasquale and Marianna (Ricci) Onofrio.



She was the widow of Edward J. Sharr Sr., who predeceased her in 2012. They were married for 66 years.

She attended Bristol High School in Bristol, where she was a member of the National Honor Society and also voted "Most Likely to Succeed." She decided early on that she wanted to be a private secretary and when she received an anonymous scholarship she attended Hartford Secretarial School. She so excelled that she was granted her certificate early, which enabled her to work to help support her family during the Depression.

She was no stranger to tragedy. Her mother died when she was 8 years old and her father when she was 16. The six siblings had to work together to stay together. Family meant everything to her. Her best friends were her sisters, Carmela, Jane and Rose ("Mickey"). When they succumbed to cancer, also at early ages, she became a second Mom to their children, especially to Marlene Olson, also her godchild, and Joan Silverio. Her strong Catholic faith carried her through these difficult times.

She enjoyed work as a private secretary, starting at a small local company, but later for executives at the Marlin Rockwell site in Plainville. She was a loving partner and support to her husband Ed, helping and encouraging him as he built his business and career in the food industry, initially as a partner in Gnazzo's Food Market in Plainville and later as owner of Tri-Town Foods in Colchester, Portland and East Lyme.

Kay was a 63-year breast cancer survivor. The first time she attended the Susan Komen Race for the Cure, she was given a pink shirt, a pink cap and 53 ribbons to attach to the hat. Each ribbon represented a year of being cancer-free. As she sat in a chair and meticulously attached the ribbons, she attracted quite a crowd. Women with two, five or 10 ribbons on their hats gathered around her, amazed. She inspired them and gave them hope. It was quite a moment for her, too, to be able to share her experience with an illness that was not discussed in her day. She has a chapter in the *Chicken Soup for the Cancer Survivor* book and proudly shared that with friends.

Mom was an amazing woman to many, but she was unassuming, overly modest, a very private person and totally disliked what she referred to as "Hoop-a-la" if it had anything to do with her. She did, however, consent to a special birthday party when she turned 90. We, her family, always disagreed with her and wanted her to get the recognition she so very much deserved.

Kay is survived by her loving daughter, Sandra, and her fiancé, Marc Fishbone; her devoted son, Ed ("Rick") Jr., and his partner, Linda Dutcher; her granddaughter Juliet Rodriguez and her husband, Jay of Upton, Mass.; her grandson, Jonathan and his wife, Mellisa of Old Saybrook; as well as four great grandchildren, Cayden and Callie Rose Rodriguez, and Luke and Nicolo Sharr. She is also survived by many nieces and nephews – Jim Welch, Marlene Olson, Gary Onofrio, Kim D'Amore, Jan and Joan Silverio, and Joe Musumano, and their families. She will be enormously missed by her family and by all whose lives she touched. Our only consolation is that she is now at peace and will be with her husband, her parents and her siblings.

Calling hours were Wednesday, Sept. 30, at St. Mary Church, 51 Freestone Ave., Portland. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Thursday, Oct. 1, at St. Mary Church. Burial will be today, Oct. 2, at 10 a.m., at St. Joseph's Cemetery in Plainville.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Hospice and Palliative Care Unit of Middlesex Hospital, 28 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457, or to St. Mary Church, 51 Freestone Ave., Portland, CT 06480.

To send an online expression of sympathy, visit [portlandmemorialfh.net](http://portlandmemorialfh.net).

Marlborough

Grace Raleigh

Grace Raleigh passed away peacefully Sunday, Sept. 27, following a stroke on Sept. 25. Grace was born June 2, 1931, and was the loving daughter of the late Andrew and Ethel King.

She was the devoted wife of Gene Raleigh, loving mother of her daughter Grace (Ron) Carlson of Marlborough and son Bruce (Helen) Heller of Arizona. She was the loving grandmother of Jennifer Carlson, Robert Carlson, Lynn (Quinn) Fortier, Scott (Brigitte) Callari, Candice Heller and Bruce Heller and seven great-grandchildren. She was the loving sister of Eileen (Artie) Lohman and leaves behind numerous nieces and nephews.

Grace was born and raised on the east side of the Yorkville section of Manhattan. She later moved to Commack, Long Island, and then had a home with Gene for many years in Sound Beach, Long Island, before moving to the Florence Lord Senior Housing in Marlborough seven years ago.

Grace loved spending time with family, the beaches of Long Island, the New York Yankees, reading her New York newspapers, sewing and going to the casino.

She was predeceased by her husband Bruce Heller and her siblings Andrew, Edmund, Ethel, Catherine and Donald.

The family would like to give special thanks to Grace's loving friend and companion Mary Gordon and the entire staff at Middlesex Hospital Hospice Unit for the wonderful, kind and loving care in Grace's final hours.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, Oct. 3, at 11 a.m., in the Marlborough Congregational Church, with the Rev. Robert Faulhaber officiating. Burial will be private at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to Special Olympics Glastonbury, c/o Lucie Carangelo, 65 Hawthorne Meade Dr., Glastonbury, CT 06033 or Middlesex Hospital Hospice Unit, c/o Middlesex Hospital Department of Philanthropy, 55 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457.

To leave online condolences, visit [spencerfuneralhomeinc.com](http://spencerfuneralhomeinc.com).

Hebron

Sonia Scott Memorial Gathering

A memorial gathering for Sonia "Chris" (Gettner) (Steiner) Scott of Washington, Vt., formerly of Hebron, will be held Saturday, Oct. 10, at 2 p.m., at the Amston Lake Clubhouse, 16 Wood Acres Rd., Amston.

Chris passed away Saturday, Aug. 8, in Burlington, Vt.

Family and friends are invited to come for this celebration of Chris's life.



Andover

Marie D.B. Parr

Marie D.B. Parr, 93, the wife of the late Fernand C. Parr, died Thursday, Sept. 24, at St. Joseph's Center in Windham. She was born in Bristol, the daughter of the late Edmond J. and Exina (Nadeau) Turgeon.

Marie lived in Manchester for 19 years, Andover for 32 years from 1979-2011, and finally Coventry for three years. She was a homemaker and mother to two sons and one daughter.

She is survived by her children, Richard F. Parr of Coventry, Raymond C. and his wife, Laurie Parr of South Windsor and Elise B. and her husband, James Glinesky of New Portland, Maine; her granddaughter, Shayna M. Parr of South Windsor; her sister, Sr. Edna Turgeon; and several nieces and nephews. Besides her husband and parents, she was predeceased by 13 siblings.

Funeral services were held Monday, Sept. 28, from the John F. Tierney Funeral Home, 219 West Center St., Manchester, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at St. James Church, 896 Main St., Manchester. Burial followed at St. James Cemetery, Manchester. Family and friends called at the funeral home Sunday, Sept. 27.

For online condolences, visit [tierneyfuneralhome.com](http://tierneyfuneralhome.com).

Colchester

Mary Anna Delgado

Mary Anna "Babes" (Santos) Delgado, a life-time resident of Norwich, passed away at Harrington Court in Colchester Sunday, Sept. 27.

Mary was born in Monponsett, Mass., Nov. 29, 1921; she was the daughter of Anna (Fernandes) and Bartholomew (Tony) Santos, who were born on the Island of Fogo, Cabo Verde. On Sept. 2, 1939, at Lady of the Lake Church in Halifax, Mass., she married Anthony Joseph DelGado Sr., then moved to Norwich.

She was predeceased by her husband, Anthony Sr., daughter Geraldine and son Anthony Jr.

Mary loved both Cape Verdean and country music. Mary is survived by her children, Delores Newson, Roberta Vincent (John), Brenda DelGado, Laura DelGado-Clemons (Curtis), Ronald Delgado (Angela) and Doreen Szpyrka (David); one sister, Dominga (Dee) Fontes of Massachusetts; 18 grandchildren and 24 great-grandchildren.

Mary was also predeceased by her brothers George, Domingo and Manuel Santos; sisters Ida McCloud, Georgina Dias, Brenalda Brown and Laura Santos.

Mary has left a wonderful legacy and will be sincerely missed; but never far from our hearts.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to visit with Mary's family today, Oct. 2, from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., at the Cummings-Gagne Funeral Home, 82 Cliff St., Norwich, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 1 p.m. at St. Mary Church, 70 Central Ave., Norwich. Burial will follow in St. Joseph Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made payable to St. Anthony Chapel Foundation c/o Roberta J. Vincent 35 Henry Street New London, CT. 06320.

For a memorial guestbook, visit [cummingsgagnefh.com](http://cummingsgagnefh.com).

East Hampton

Marion Bransfield Mellen

Marion Mellen, 97, formerly of East Hampton, died suddenly Sunday, Sept. 27, at her home in Belleair, Fla. She was born Aug. 14, 1917, to the late Susan and Maurice Bransfield and lived in East Hampton until her marriage to Arthur J. "Bud" Mellen, after which she moved to Huntington, Long Island, NY, and then to Clearwater and Belleair, where she lived for more than 45 years.

She was an alumna of Middletown High School, Class of 1936, and was employed by the Connecticut Bank and Trust Co., in East Hampton, first as an associate and later as a loan officer.

She is survived by her sister, Marjorie L. Newcombe, with whom she lived in Belleair, niece Elaine Smith of North Carolina, and nephews James Bransfield of Middletown, Paul "Cam" Bransfield of Torrington and Douglas Bransfield of Cromwell. She is also survived by grandnephews, Michael, Stephen, Peter and Geoffrey Smith, Christopher Bransfield, Edward Dickau and Brian Bransfield, and grandnieces, Margaret Smith and Cheryl Little. She is further survived by many great-grandnieces and great-grandnephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, brothers, Harold, John, M. Joseph, William, Edward and Paul, and a sister, Mary Ellen Bransfield.

Marion was a huge baseball fan and grew up rooting for the Boston Red Sox. Upon moving to Florida, she and her sister Marjorie became long-time season ticket holders for the Philadelphia Phillies' spring training games in Clearwater. She switched her baseball allegiance to the Phillies in the spring and the Tampa Bay Rays in the regular season. She still, however, was happy whenever the Red Sox won, as long as it wasn't against her Rays.

She played tennis at Middletown High and later in life became an avid and accomplished amateur golfer and was a longtime member of the East Bay Golf Club of Largo, Fla. She golfed regularly until her early 90s and she had a hole-in-one on her Par-3 course at age 90.

Services in Florida will be private and at the convenience of the family. She will be interred next to her husband in Florida.

Colchester

Renee Hanlon Turner

Renee Hanlon Turner, 91, of Colchester, died Thursday, Sept. 17, with her children at her side.

Renee grew up in Brooklyn, N.Y., and graduated from Bushwick High School. Turning down a four-year scholarship to continue her studies, Renee went to work to help support her family at the end of the Great Depression. Finding her creative talents led her to radio broadcasting. She worked her way from secretary to early television production for NBC and CBS during the live broadcast days of television. While working on live television, Renee experienced many interesting moments that today's viewers never see.

She also did her part for her country having volunteered as an Air Raid Warden in New York City during World War II. Renee's hard work allowed her to advance in her field, eventually helping to produce the CBS show *Omnibus*, a precursor to today's *60 Minutes* and *20/20*.

While working on *Omnibus*, Mrs. Turner met her husband, John Coburn Turner, who she married in 1952. Sadly, John died only a few short years later.

Renee turned back to television producing and later worked extensively in the advertising field. Renee's interests included reading, gardening, watching birds, and television mysteries.

She is survived by her daughter, Renee Costello and her husband, Jim, of Colchester; and by her son, William and his wife, Ellen, and two grandsons, Christopher and Kenneth of North Stonington.

The Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester, has been entrusted with these services. For online condolences, visit [auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com](http://auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com).

Portland

John B. Kinnirey Jr.

John B. Kinnirey Jr., 70, often known as "Red," passed away at his home after a long illness.

He was the grandson of Patrick and Daisy Kinnirey. Patrick worked for the A&P and was known to many because of his occupation as a purveyor of coffee and tea from a horse-drawn cart throughout downtown Middletown in the early 1900s.

He was the only nephew of Margaret Kinnirey, who taught languages in Middletown for over 40 years; Joseph, a Middletown plumber; Frank, an insurance executive in Hartford, and Sister Ann Helen, Dean of Women at Trinity College in Washington, DC.

He was the son of John B. Kinnirey Sr., who died in 1965, and Gertrude Steffens Kinnirey, who died in 1999.

Born July 9, 1945, John grew up in Cromwell, moving to Portland in 1954 at the age of 9 where he attended school. At age 10, he joined the 4-H Club that introduced him to all things relating to farming. As a result, he began a life-long interest in farming, beginning his agricultural hobby as a youth by helping out local farmers with haying and caring for farm animals. He and his sister borrowed a nearby barn and field from a neighbor to raise Black Angus steers which he showed in the Durham and 4-H fair in the late 1950s. He finished his high school career in 1964 and began working for the town of Portland.

He was an avid member of the Portland Fire Department for many years; he later worked at Xavier High School in his middle career, and retired in 2004 from Fleet Pride Trucking. He was devoted to his collies and especially his last canine companion, Heidi, a joyful sheltie. He had a hearty laugh, and was frequently brought to tears by stories of friends' hardships. He enjoyed traveling and attending local and New England state fairs, and visiting friends. John was a communicant of St. John's Church in Middletown.

He is survived by his loving sister, Barbara Ann Caparulo, of Putnam.

Services are private.



Portland

Joseph Peter Mazurski

Joseph Peter Mazur-ski, 94, passed away Sunday, Sept. 27, in Glastonbury. He was the son of the late Bronislaw Mazurski and Marta née Szczepanski and was predeceased by his beloved wife of 45 years, Mildred née Cochrane.



He was born Sept. 14, 1921, in Waterbury, where he grew up and graduated from Leavenworth High School in 1939, where he qualified as an expert marksman. Shortly after high school he proudly served his country in the Pacific theater during World War II in the US Army as a private in Battery C, 211th Coast Artillery. He was a draftsman for many years at Waterbury Farrell and Textron Corporation. Upon his retirement he and his wife moved to Southington and lived at Spring Lake Village for many happy years.

Joe was an active communicant at the Immaculate Conception Church in Southington. He enjoyed playing bridge, ice skating, and camping at Hammonasett. He enjoyed many trips in the US and abroad with family. In his later years he moved to Glastonbury to be with family and began teaching cribbage at the Community Center. He spent many an afternoon playing cards and enjoying the company of the folks at the The Herbert T Clark House where he resided for seven years.

He is survived by his brother, Paul Mazurski; his loving daughters, Kathy Hughes and her husband George of Cheshire, Tina Yenknner and her husband Chuck of Glastonbury; his grandchildren, Joseph Hughes and his wife Andrea, David Hughes, Chuckie, Thomas and Elizabeth Yenknner; and his great-grandchildren, Jack, Brady and Aidan Hughes; and many nieces and nephews.

The Mazurski family wants to thank the caring people at the Hebert T. Clark House who made him feel at home for so many years. A special thanks to the entire staff at Portland Rehab Center who have provided outstanding care with love and compassion, frequently going above and beyond to enhance his quality of life as his health declined.

His funeral was held Thursday, Oct. 1, from the DellaVecchia Funeral Home, 211 N. Main St., Southington, to the Immaculate Conception Church, 130 Summer St., Plantsville, for a Mass at 11 a.m. Burial with military honors was at the Immaculate Conception Cemetery. Calling hours were Wednesday, Sept. 30.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to: Special Olympics Glastonbury, 65 Hawthorne Mead Rd., Glastonbury, CT 06033 or the American Cancer Society, 825 Brook St., Rocky Hill, CT 06067.

For online condolences and directions, visit [dellavecchiafh.com](http://dellavecchiafh.com).

East Hampton

Peter Michael Luzzi

Peter Michael Luzzi, born May 25, 1944, of East Hampton and Avon, passed away peacefully at the Lake surrounded by his family Sunday, Sept. 27. Born in Hartford, he was the son of Joseph F. and Nancy T. (Mallentachi) Luzzi. He was the husband of the late Winifred (Haughey) Luzzi.

The world has lost one of the good people. Peter was a generous and kind soul. After graduating Conard High School where Peter was a champion wrestler, he went to work in the family construction company. While he enjoyed the construction trade his entrepreneurial spirit was restless, Peter started buying and selling properties, eventually founding L & B enterprises. Peter loved to tell the story of how when he went to purchase his first house how the bank kept him in suspense over the mortgage. He said he would never be in that position ever again and he never was. He became the bank to many; the only requirement was to get out of bed in the morning and go to work. With hard work, you could have all else and "don't spend your money on foolishness"!

Peter also enjoyed his time at Lake Pocotopaug, a place he enjoyed growing up in the summers and carrying on the tradition of family being together enjoying cookouts, boating, fishing and many other summer activities. In the last couple of years Dad became fascinated with hummingbirds. The best way to describe it is that the hummingbird spoke of Dad's inner self. Hummingbirds float free of time, carrying our hopes for love, joy and celebration. Hummingbirds open our eyes to the wonder of the world and inspire us to open our hearts to loved ones and friends. Like a hummingbird, we aspire to hover and savor each moment as it passes; embrace all that life has to offer and to celebrate the joy of every day. The hummingbird's delicate grace reminds of us that life is rich and beauty is everywhere, every personal connection has meaning and that laughter is life's sweetest creation.

Pete leaves a son, Steven M. Luzzi and his fiancée Susan Jackson of Avon; three daughters, Nancy E. Wilson and her husband Michael of Seven Lakes, N.C., Pamela M. Phillips and her husband Texas of Pinehurst, N.C., and Kathleen L. Luzzi of Pinebluff, N.C.; eight grandchildren, Dave, Michael, Christopher, Heather, Laura, Michael Jr., Ryan and Hope; and one great-grandson, Tyler, and another on his way.

Besides his parents and wife, he was predeceased by his grandson Cody Phillips and his brother James. Pete's children would like to give a special thanks to Gina Sullo of Masonicare, not only did she administer to our father's care but to ours as well. Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going." (ESV John 1-4).

Pete's family will receive friends Saturday, Oct. 3, from 8:30-10 a.m., at The Ahern Funeral Home, 111 Main Street, Rt. 4, Unionville, followed by a funeral service at 10 a.m. Burial will follow in Fairview Cemetery, West Hartford.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to The Shriners Children's Hospital, 516 Carew St., Springfield, MA, 01104.

To send online condolences to the family, visit [ahernfuneralhome.com](http://ahernfuneralhome.com).

Andover

Patrick Day Maguire

Patrick Day Maguire departed this life Thursday, Sept. 24. He was 45 years young. He was born April 20, 1970, in Manchester, son of Richard D. Maguire and Carol (Maguire) Borowski.

Pat leaves behind besides his parents, his wife Nicole, daughter Jamison and son Sean, brother Brian and his wife Tara Maguire, step-brother RJ Sluman and his wife Jenny, step-sister Erin Maguire, maternal grandmother Alice Robert, several nieces, nephews and cousins and many friends.

Pat lived most of his life in Manchester, attended Howell Cheney Technical High School, graduating in 1988 in the electrical program, and has worked as an electrician in the greater Hartford area ever since.

He had a great love for Cape Cod, Andover Lake and the Boston Red Sox. His many hobbies included skiing, fishing, mountain biking, hiking and photography. He enjoyed spending time with Sean building Legos and watching movies. He also was busy teaching Jamison about nature and things aquatic, which may be her chosen career. He loved all things outdoors.

He was a very loved man, respected in his work and most always fun-loving. He recently started a new job and was very happy with it and looked forward to go to work and produce exceptional work.

A wake was held Wednesday, Sept. 30, at Watkins Funeral Home, 142 Center St., Manchester.

In lieu of flowers, we ask that memorial donations be made for Jamison and Sean's college education in trust to Brian Maguire, trustee, 36 Anthony St., Windsor Locks, CT 06096.

To leave a message of condolence, visit [holmes-watkinsfuneralhomes.com](http://holmes-watkinsfuneralhomes.com).