



RIVEREAST

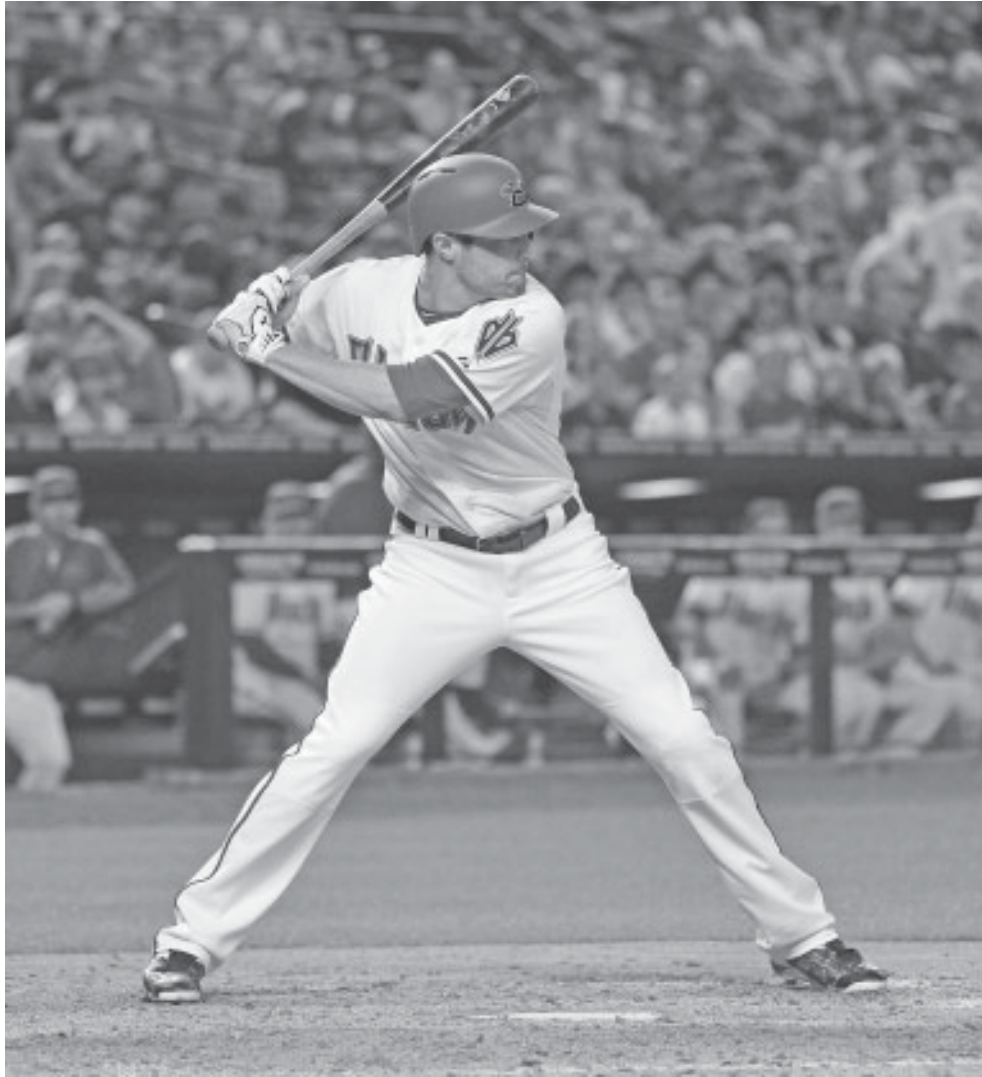
News Bulletin

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Marlborough native AJ Pollock has been having a standout year for the Arizona Diamondbacks – and was rewarded recently by being chosen for the National League All-Star team. Photo by Jennifer Stewart/Arizona Diamondbacks.

Catching Up with AJ Pollock

by Mike Thompson

Three years ago, not long after he was first called up to the big leagues, the *Rivereast* met up with AJ Pollock in the visiting clubhouse at Citi Field in New York, where Pollock's team, the Arizona Diamondbacks, was set to take on the Mets.

Last Saturday, with the Diamondbacks back in New York for another three-game series with the Mets, the *Rivereast* again visited with the Marlborough native and 2006 RHAM High School grad to chat. The former first-round draft pick has been having a terrific year with Arizona – he finished the season's first half hitting .299 with 11 home runs, 42 RBI and 19 stolen bases – and in fact last week was chosen as a reserve player for the Major League Baseball All-Star Game. (The game was played Tuesday; Pollock entered the game in the seventh inning and got one plate appearance, going 0-for-1.)

"I wasn't expecting it," Pollock, 27, said of being selected for the National League team. "It was a possibility. There's a lot of good players out there that deserve it. I was kind of hoping I'd get picked, and fortunately I was picked."

Pollock was with his wife Kate – who he said "has been here with me every step of the way" – when he learned of his selection last Monday. The team was in Dallas and had the day off. With not much going on in the hotel, Pollock and Kate were just heading out to the pool to relax when they got a call from Diamondbacks manager Chip Hale letting Pollock know he made the team.

"It was kind of a good start to an off day," Pollock said with a laugh.

Pollock said he was able to enjoy the moment just with his wife for a little while, and "celebrate away from everything for that day" – and then he hit the horn, calling "my high school coach [Paul Steiner], my buddies, I got to call my mom and dad. ... It was just a pretty neat experience. Everyone was pretty excited for me."

And last Saturday, those friends and family made the trip down to New York to see Pollock play.

"I usually have a pretty good showing" from the area whenever he plays in New York, Pollock said. "I've always had good support from Marlborough, Hebron and Andover."

"They always show up at the same game too," Pollock laughed. "They never spread it out nicely."

Pollock suspected one of the reasons the Connecticut contingent was focused on last Saturday's game was the pitcher Pollock faced that day – another native of the Nutmeg state, Mystic's Matt Harvey.

Pollock said that, growing up, "obviously I knew his name," and the two even played fall baseball together a couple of times, on an All Star-type team that had been put together. Like Pollock, Harvey went on to become a first-round draft pick, going as the Mets' top selection in the 2010 draft.

"I've been following him," Pollock said of Harvey. "I'm always excited to see Connecticut guys doing well. He's having himself a good career."

See AJ Pollock Page 2

AHM Summer Youth Theater Says 'Hello, Dolly!'

by Geeta Schrayter

Monday evening, the RHAM High School auditorium was almost empty. That is, apart from members of the AHM Summer Youth Theater program, who were busy preparing for next week's showing of the award-winning Broadway musical *Hello, Dolly!*

There was no set on the stage. The actors weren't in costume. And yet, as they made their way through musical numbers such as "Elegance" and "Dancing," and acted out various scenes, they managed to captivate those who were watching them rehearse – or, alternately, make them laugh.

The ability for the actors to do so without any aid by costume, props, lighting and the likes is a testament to the talent of the participants in the oldest program put on through AHM Youth and Family Services – as well as the direction of Mary Rose Meade, who has been with AHM since 1992.

Regarding this year's performance, Meade shared in a recent release "*Hello, Dolly!* is a great musical comedy – a romantic comedy, really. It is a show with a lot of numbers for the ensemble to participate in and though we have a lot of graduating seniors this year, we also

have a lot of new participants. This show gives them a chance to create their own individual characters and bring them to stage. There is fun music and a lot of dancing to keep both actors and audience smiling."

Hello, Dolly! is the story of Mrs. Dolly Levi's efforts to marry Horace Vandergelder, the well-known half-a-millionaire. Along the way, Dolly also succeeds in matching up a number of other couples.

Hello, Dolly! is described on the website for the Tams-Whitmark licensing company as "an ebullient and irresistible story of the joy of living, glittering with happy songs, shining with loving scenes, alive with the personality of one of the most fabulous characters on the musical stage...Dolly Gallagher Levi!"

The show played for 2,844 performances on Broadway and was, at the time, the longest-playing Broadway musical. It received 10 Tony Awards in 1964 and includes well-known musical numbers such as "Put on Your Sunday Clothes," "Ribbons Down My Back," "Before the Parade Passes By" and "It Only Takes A Moment."

When the performance comes to RHAM next See 'Hello, Dolly!' Page 2



Participants of the AHM Summer Youth Theater program dance to "Put On Your Sunday Clothes" during a recent rehearsal. This year's musical is *Hello, Dolly!* which will be performed next Thursday-Saturday, July 23-25, at RHAM High School. Photo courtesy of Mike Figueiredo.



Pollock, shown here before an April game, keeps in touch with his former RHAM coaches, including Paul Steiner, Tim Guernsey and Steve Emt. Photo by Jennifer Stewart/Arizona Diamondbacks.

AJ Pollock cont. from Front Page

“Good” would be an understatement to describe how Pollock’s 2015 has been thus far. And it looked for a time like it was going to be an understatement for his 2014 season as well. Pollock was off to a tremendous start last year, batting .316 with six home runs and eight stolen bases through the team’s first 52 games. He was then hit by a pitch in a May 31 game against the Reds, breaking his hand and costing him a solid three months. He didn’t return to a big-league game until Sept. 2.

While it’d only be human to get caught up in regret over what might have been, had his 2014 not been interrupted, Pollock didn’t let it get him down.

“It was tough,” he said. “It’s hard with an injury, but it’s baseball. ... It’s gonna happen, in most people’s careers, that you’re going to get an injury.”

When asked what he attributes his success to, Pollock didn’t really have an answer.

“I don’t know,” he said. “Honestly, I just try to come up with a good plan and routines, and hopefully it works. And some days you come in and you do everything right and it doesn’t work, and the challenge is to come back at it the next day with the same approach.”

But it’s obvious whatever Pollock is doing is paying dividends. And among the many people impressed by his performance is Hale, who is in his first year as the Diamondbacks’ skipper.

“He’s been great,” he said. “He’s been, for me, better than advertised. We’d heard last year if he didn’t get hurt he would have been an All-Star, and [when] you see him live, and see the way he plays, you see that right away.”

Hale said Pollock has played “a ton” this season with the injury to fellow outfielder Ender Inciarte, and has remained strong.

“He’s been a very durable player for us,” Hale said. “Sometimes with guys who can run like he can you’ve got to be careful and ... kind of back them off so they can stay fresh. He hasn’t backed off one bit and he’s been fresh as ever, and he got rewarded by the players and coaches in the league voting him onto the All-Star team, which is really deserved.”

Hale said Pollock’s “athleticism is off the charts. With that kind of athleticism and ability to put the barrel of the bat on the ball, it makes

him a really, really, really formidable player.”

With Pollock’s speed, it’d be easy to see him as the team’s leadoff hitter. But he’s actually got more hits from the 2-hole in the lineup this year than from leadoff. Indeed, Hale said he thinks Pollock could end up being a 2-hitter, maybe even a 3-hitter if the team moves slugging first baseman Paul Goldschmidt down to the cleanup spot.

“He’s that good,” Hale said. “He’s one of those types of hitters with a rare combination of speed and power.”

* * *

Pollock and his wife Kate were wed last December. The two met while attending Notre Dame – he played for the baseball team, while she played lacrosse.

“She’s been great,” Pollock said. “She’s definitely got an athlete’s mentality, so that obviously helps when you come back, and you’re maybe a little frustrated, and she understands it. It’s a tough game. Honestly, baseball, on the surface looks great, and it is, trust me. I don’t take it for granted at all; I wouldn’t trade it for anything else. But you’re traveling a lot, you’re away from a lot of people most of the year, and it’s difficult. So she does a great job of being there and supporting me.”

The two bought a place in Arizona – which Pollock said is a help when the season ends.

“In the off-season, it’s perfect weather, and I’ve got all my places to train, and do everything I need to do there, so it’s been pretty easy,” he said.

Pollock said he does get back to Connecticut “a bunch,” but added with a smile, “the winters there, after the first couple storms hit ... as a baseball player, you’re trying to figure out how to work out, how to throw, how to hit, and it is a little bit more complicated.”

But whether he’s back in Connecticut or out in Arizona, Pollock regularly stays in touch with his RHAM family – particularly his coaches Steiner and Tim Guernsey, and his basketball coach, Steve Emt.

“It’s such a close group back there at RHAM,” he said. “It’s very, very neat coming from a small town-feeling place like that, and the support ... even people I don’t even know. People that are generations below me or above me reaching out to me – it’s pretty cool.”



Program and Production Director Mary Rose Meade looks on while cast members (from left) Ciara Hickey, James Hayden, Emily Everlith, Andrew Hawes, Kelly Whitesell and, peeking out from the cupboard, John Farrington rehearse the song “Motherhood March” for *Hello, Dolly!*

‘Hello, Dolly!’ cont. from Front Page

week, Kelly Whitesell and James Hayden will be acting as Levi and Vandergelder, respectively. It’s the final AHM Summer Youth Theater production for the two, who graduated RHAM High School last month. On Tuesday, the pair – veterans of not just AHM Summer Youth Theater but also various RHAM stage productions – took a break from their rehearsals to talk about their upcoming performance.

“Now is crunch time,” said Whitesell. “This is when the small holes we’ve yet to fill in the play feel bigger than they are.”

Hayden added, “It’s always the most stressful part. Now it’s not just having your lines memorized and the music memorized; it’s working with dozens of people that work on lights, and your microphone and the pit orchestra – stuff like that.”

Hayden added he was also working on finding ways to make Vandergelder come alive and be relatable.

“I try to make them be a person in terms of being fleshed out and how they act and how they react to people and stuff,” he said of his approach to performing characters. “And it’s just been hard for me to make this crotchety old man three-dimensional and relatable in some way.”

Hayden added, “I think that everyone is good in some way and I think that he has good in him as a person –”

“I wouldn’t bother with him if he wasn’t!” Whitesell interjected, referring to her character.

“It’s just kind of thinking about how he came to be where he is which in and of itself can be kind of tragic,” Hayden continued. “He’s an old man whose wife died who just wants to marry again, and that’s why he calls on Dolly. He’s just been having a hard time finding somebody and is kind of bitter towards the world because he feels like he’s worked so hard but he hasn’t really found what he’s actually looking for.”

Similar to Hayden, Whitesell explained part of her preparation was thinking up a back story for Levi to help add more character.

“I came up with a back story for Dolly because I felt like I needed to connect all the dots in my head,” she said. “I feel like I added a lot more character thought to it than in other shows.”

That back story included thinking up where Levi was born, how she came to New York and became as meddling as she is, and the history between her and her late-husband, who she talks

to all the time up in heaven.

“I decided Ephraim Levi is [actor] Stanley Tucci,” Whitesell said. “So at least that’s someone I can picture and it might make it more real for the audience if I have someone to think of when I’m talking.”

“I’m excited,” Whitesell furthered. “I feel like now is the time where it’s like, alright, we’ve got to get our stuff together and put on the show.”

“If anybody tells you they’re not stressed or worried about it they’re overconfident, lying or stupid,” Hayden added, and Whitesell agreed.

“It’s to the point where I shouldn’t be napping or doing anything like Netflix watching or playing in the sun,” she laughed “I should be reading my lines and listening to the music and really focusing and getting it in my head. That way I can be the most real on stage and can pull it off.”

And pulling it off is exactly what they’re sure to do along with the rest of the 50 cast members and 10 individuals serving on the creative staff, technical staff, and stage crew.

“I’m stressed about it,” said Hayden. “But I’ve worked with a lot of the people in the show for a long time and we’ve put together harder shows – we pulled together *Godspell* somehow! So I’m confident in it, but I’m also worried about it which is natural.”

Whitesell added, “There’s always that moment when we run the show during tech week and we do it that first time and it’s like ‘how are we going to do this??’ And then we run through it one more time and it’s like ‘hey, we can do this!’ And then we have an audience!”

That audience will arrive next Thursday through Saturday, July 23-25, at 7 p.m. each night, in the RHAM High School auditorium. Tickets cost \$9 for adults and \$6 for senior citizens and children under 12. For tickets or information, contact AHM Youth Services at 860-228-9488. Tickets are also available at the Hebron Town Clerk’s office located in the Town Office Building, 15 Gilead St., Hebron. Tickets will also be available at the door.

* * *

Along with Hayden and Whitesell, taking to the stage as newly-graduated seniors for their final performance with AHM Summer Youth Theater are: Peter Kvietkauskas, Sam Boushee, AriaRay Brown, Emily Everlith, Ciara Hickey, Sarah Phelps, Emily Quesada, Andrew Hawes, Kaitlin Gonsor and Michael Kasper.

Man Charged with Manslaughter in Fatal Marlborough 2014 Crash

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

A Bloomfield man has been charged with manslaughter after a July 2014 crash in town that killed a Tolland woman.

Kevin Gauthier, 37, of 78 Eggleston Rd., Bloomfield, was charged with second-degree manslaughter, misconduct with a motor vehicle, risk of injury to a child, operating under suspension and failure to drive in the proper lane on Friday, July 10, state police said.

On July 10, 2014, Gauthier's pregnant girlfriend and the mother of his one-year-old daughter, Jessica Bryant, 26, died after the car Gauthier was driving drove off the road on Route 2. The couple's one-year-old daughter, Elizabeth Gauthier, was airlifted by LifeStar to Hartford Hospital and survived.

According to an arrest warrant affidavit on file at Manchester Superior Court, Gauthier, formerly of Norwich, turned to the back seat of the Hyundai Sonata he was driving either to look at his daughter or to grab materials to

roll a cigarette. After losing control of the car, the vehicle went through the wire rope guard rail on the left of Route 2 east near exit 15 in Marlborough, down a steep embankment and struck several trees.

Bryant, of 13 Goose Ln., Tolland, died at the scene of the crash. She was seven and a half weeks pregnant, according to the affidavit.

Also according to the affidavit, police tested Gauthier's urine after the crash and found cocaine, opiates, marijuana and benzodiazepine. All of these drugs have symptoms of drowsiness and impaired driving skills, police said.

According to police, a person is charged with second-degree manslaughter if while operating a car under the influence of liquor or any drug or both, the person causes the death of another person as a consequence of the effect of the drug or liquor.

Gauthier is next due to appear in Manchester Superior Court Aug. 21.

East Hampton Budget Set for Round Four

by John Tyczkowski

The proposed 2015-16 town budget will head – yet again – to referendum next Wednesday, July 22. Voters will have their say on a proposed \$41.05 million spending package.

The budget proposal represents an increase of \$762,000, or 1.89 percent, over the 2014-15 budget.

The proposal also calls for a 0.64-mill increase over the 2014-15 mill rate, bring it to 27.78 mills. This would translate to a 2.36 percent tax increase.

For reference, a mill is \$1 tax per \$1,000 of assessed property value. Under that mill rate, if passed, a house assessed at \$200,000 would have \$5,556 in taxes paid on it for the 2015-16 fiscal year.

Last week, the Town Council cut \$330,000 from the proposed budget voters shot down at the third referendum, which was held June 24. The bulk of that reduction – \$246,000 – came from the Board of Education budget,

and the council also eliminated the proposed half-year police hire, resulting in a \$47,000 budget savings.

The council also cut \$20,000 from the fire department budget (funding one utility terrain vehicle instead of two as proposed) and \$2,000 from the fire marshal's operating budget.

Rounding out the package is a \$15,000 reduction to Social Services' budget, as that department indicated those funds, set aside for its electricity subsidies for residents in need in town, would come from state sources instead.

With last week's cut, the Board of Education budget now stands at \$28,776,785 as proposed, which represents an increase of \$511,688, or 1.81 percent, over last year's budget amount.

Voting next Wednesday will take place from 6 a.m.-8 p.m., at East Hampton Middle School.



The Andover Farmers Market returned last week, with over 35 vendors scheduled to participate in the market every Friday through September from 3-6 p.m. Vendors ran the gamut, offering goods like bread, meat, eggs, cheese, herbs, handcrafted aprons, decorative baskets, needlepoint, plants, natural oils and fragrances, pottery, arts and more. Also, present at last week's debut market July 10 were, from left, Farmers Market Committee member Adam Yates, selectwoman Cathy Desrosiers, committee member Karen Hunter, co-market master Cathy Palazzi, state Rep. Gayle Mulligan, co-market master Mike Palazzi, and committee members Jeanne Person and Elaine Buchardt.



Andover Farmers Market Makes Its Return

by Geeta Schrayter

Sunny skies accompanied the return of the Andover Farmers Market last week, when dozens of vendors set up at the corner of Long Hill Road and Riverside Drive to sell their various wares.

Making an appearance for this year's debut market July 10 was state Rep. Gayle Mulligan, who made her way around the booths speaking to vendors and patrons and making a few purchases of her own.

"It's a beautiful day," she stated. "It's nice to find some new vendors and always nice to bring people together."

Mulligan shared she only comes to the market with a pocket of money, "because if I had my wallet I'd be buying everything!"

Her favorite, she said, is jam from Western View Farm.

"Every time I come I get it. I get a little jar, go through it, bring my jar back because she recycles them and then I get a different kind," she stated, adding she also liked to grab kettle corn on the way out.

"I try to make it around at the end so I bring it home instead of eating it the whole way through," she laughed.

The kettle-cooked snack comes from Jeff's Kettle Corn, which is based out of Tolland and offers over 18 different flavors including traditional, bacon 'n' cheese, maple, white cheddar and chipotle.

Meanwhile, Deb Szemrelyo of Western View Farm offers a variety of homemade jams like strawberry rhubarb, triple berry and apple (and yes, bringing back an empty jar means 50 cents off the next purchase) along with relish, maple syrup, and veggies such as cucumbers.

This is the second year for the Andover Farmers Market, and Szemrelyo has participated both years. She said a perk of purchasing from a small farm is less waste. Unlike grocery stores, where produce that doesn't sell is thrown away, Szemrelyo explained, "we're efficient because vegetables that don't sell can be turned into salsa and relish."

The vendors at last Friday's market ran the gamut, offering goods like bread, meat, eggs, cheese, herbs, handcrafted aprons, decorative baskets, needlepoint, plants, natural oils and fragrances, pottery, arts, and more.

Denise O'Reilly from The BURNT Shop of Glastonbury was there selling kitchen and home

décor embellished with wood burned designs. Items such as glass jars, wooden bowls and spoons were available, and O'Reilly explained she also offered custom work. It was even possible, she said, to burn a recipe card onto a cutting board in the family member's handwriting.

Handcrafted soy Candles by Laura were also available at the market in an array of scents such as chocolate mint, daffodil, clean cotton, fresh cut grass, lemon lavender and lakeside; and Tahir All Natural Bath and Body was on site selling fragrant handmade soaps.

In short, with a total of 35 vendors, the market is sure to offer something for everyone, and Market Master Mike Palazzi said he hoped the amount of vendors would help with attendance.

"I hope we do better than last year," he stated. "Even though we did good last year we have more vendors this year."

He added there would also be more entertainment "which will help" including Jeff Mainville, an acoustic duo that will be there today.

He also mentioned there was now a hot dog vendor, in response to people commenting on

a lack of food options.

Also present for last week's opening were Board of Selectmen members Julia Haverl and Cathy Desrosiers.

Speaking to the market, Haverl said she was "so thrilled that it's such a huge success."

"I decided this year not to have a vegetable garden for the first time in forty years because this is here," she stated. "So I'll come down, see everybody and buy my own vegetables."

Before heading off to buy flowers from resident Joan Foran, Haverl added, "Last year, [the market] had very nice sweet corn and the pumpkins in the fall were beautiful! They lasted until May and then I baked them,"

Similarly, Desrosiers stated, "I am pleasantly surprised that there's so many vendors and that people are enthusiastic about a farmers market in our community. It seems to be taking off and growing each year which is a positive thing for a town that once upon a time was a farming community – to bring us back to our roots."

The Andover Farmers Market will take place Fridays from 3-6 p.m. through Sept. 25.

East Hampton Council Okays Police Department Agreement

by John Tyczkowski

Tuesday evening, the Town Council voted unanimously to commit to a memorandum of understanding supporting efforts to fund a 14-officer police department for at least the next two fiscal years.

That memorandum states the town will not reduce police department levels below 14 officers plus the chief, and that the 14 officers will include a minimum of three sergeants and a minimum of 11 patrolmen.

In addition, the memorandum states the town will work with the East Hampton Police Union and the police department to create a new schedule for the 14 police officers. This would free up existing officers to take training in other areas, such as detective, K9 unit and community officer work.

This commitment was part of a compromise among council members, which included the removal of \$47,000 from the town budget, which would have funded the first half-year of a 15th officer. By removing this position from the budget, councilors were able to agree last week on a new town budget proposal.

However, the police union must still approve of the agreement before both parties can sign it and have it enter into effect. The council directed Town Manager Michael Maniscalco to send the agreement to the union for review.

After the meeting, Chief of Police Sean Cox reiterated that this agreement would be progress

toward better serving East Hampton through additional police positions. These were points he presented on at a special Town Council meeting last week.

"We want to provide some level of improved services using the existing officers we already have," Cox said Tuesday. "We'll stop being a flatline organization."

The department is budgeted for 14 officers – however, at the moment, only 12 of them are on the ground. A 13th is a new hire out of the police academy, and is currently in a probationary period expected to end in March 2016. A 14th is coming to the department from down south; the officer is expected to be sworn in next month and will be on the road "before the snow falls," according to Cox.

At last week's special Town Council meeting, Cox presented on the effect 14 officers would have on reducing shift loads. There is an average of 1,095 shifts scheduled annually for the department. Officers work a schedule of four days on, and two days off. Of those shifts, there are only two officers at one time working for 71 percent of them.

This is not ideal, Cox said, because many common incidents, such as domestic disturbances, breaches of peace, motor vehicle stops and medical calls, require a two-man response, which would leave the rest of the town without sufficient coverage should another incident hap-

pen simultaneously.

But by maintaining the force at 14 officers, plus Cox, 60 percent of the shifts would be two-man jobs – and 33 percent of the shifts becoming three-man shifts, instead of the current 23 percent, Cox said.

This would allow the department to better practice proactive policing in town, instead of reacting to incidents, Cox said.

Cox also said that having at least 14 officers would reduce East Hampton's dependence on other departments as well. Specifically, it would allow the department to offer more services in-house, and join regional collaborations.

"We do go to the state police a lot, we go to Middletown a lot, we go to Portland a lot," he said. "We don't want to be that neighbor who always asks for the cup of sugar but doesn't show up when it's time to shovel the driveway."

Examples of the services East Hampton seeks from other departments include proactive narcotics enforcement, missing persons investigations or K9 operations.

At this week's meeting, the Town Council also made an appropriation for the month of July to allow town operations to continue, despite the lack of a 2015-16 budget.

By unanimous vote, the council adopted a \$3,710,784 spending package that would provide for both contractual obligations and ser-

vices the town is legally obligated to provide.

That total is broken down into \$1,033,896 for the town's operating budget and \$2,355,425 for education, with the remaining \$295,513 for debt service.

Maniscalco described the specifics of the 30-day expenditure plan after the meeting.

"The Town Council has historically passed a temporary mill rate when there's no new budget passed," he said. "That provides the town with revenue coming in. Then legally we're obligated to provide a plan about how to use those funds, in the absence of a budget."

The one-month expenditure plan, which was created by dividing each department's 2014-15 budget by 12, plus adding some extra money for increased annual or quarterly costs, serves as a way to navigate what Maniscalco called "uncharted territory."

"There isn't a specific direction in the town charter, or an ordinance, so we reverted back to the Connecticut State Statutes," he said, which is what resulted in the month-to-month budgeting plan.

After 90 days, if a new budget has not been passed, the town will revert to the 2014-15 budget until a new budget is passed.

The next Town Council meeting will take place Tuesday, July 28, at 6:30 p.m., in the Town Hall meeting room.

Russ Oakes' Presence Still Felt at Old Home Days

by John Tyczkowski

Several tributes to late parade marshal and Old Home Days Committee parade chair Russ Oakes were the order of the day last Saturday.

Numerous floats in the hour-and-a-half long parade included some sort of tribute to Oakes, involved in Old Home Days for more than 25 years, whether by a sign, a banner or a large picture.

One of the floats even highlighted Oakes' favorite soda, Moxie, which family members quipped "tastes like motor oil."

Even the Free Men of the Sea offered their own unique gesture, shouting out "This is for Russ!" and firing off their pistols and cannon while passing the reviewing gazebo in the Village Center.

As usual, hundreds turned out to watch the parade wind its way along Route 66 and down Route 196 into the center of town.

In addition, the Senior Center Singers performed a tribute song to Oakes at the opening ceremonies after the parade.

Set to the tune of "Yankee Doodle," the song was received with cheers, laughter and applause from those around to hear.

"Russ, your moxie still lives on/in our hearts you do, too," they sang. "With our Oakes, tea and our flags/we heartily salute you."

State Rep. Melissa Ziobron (R-34th District) made an appearance, to announce the outcome of a Russ Oakes-related bill introduced in January.

"During this year's session, it was my privilege to put in legislation, with [state] Sen. Art Linares, that would rename a section of Route 196 in honor of Russ Oakes," she said. "And clearly he's in all of our hearts, especially today."

Though signed into law during this year's session, the actual signage on the portion of 196 would go up "over the next few months," Ziobron said.

"His life will be remembered and treasured for the many contributions he made to the town he loved," she said, reading from a General Assembly citation.

Town Manager Michael Maniscalco was also on hand at the opening ceremonies to thank all of those involved, including the OHD committee, master of ceremonies Red McKinney and

the first responders on duty.

"East Hampton is one of the best towns in the state of Connecticut, I think everyone agrees with that," Maniscalco said, pointing to Old Home Days' community atmosphere as an example.

Town Council Chairwoman Barbara Moore also spoke, thanking all of those involved and acknowledging the Oakes.

"Russ Oakes and his family are at the front of our minds today, and I've very happy to have them here this weekend," she said. "Everyone's been working on this all year, so thank you for coming and go out and enjoy it!"

Also, new parade organizers Cap Rourke and Dan Egan were brought up to the stage to receive their accolades.

"Russ handled the parade for many years very efficiently and it grew and grew," McKinney said. "This year we were very fortunate to have a couple step up and take over the reins of handling this 12-month project, and they deserve a wonderful round of applause for a great job."

Sheila Oakes, Russ's widow, said she "felt awesome" seeing what people had come together to do as tributes to Russ.

"Everyone was amazing, they put an awful lot of work into this," she said. "They did 100 percent and over that, it was just amazing and heartwarming. They couldn't have done any better; I don't know how it could have been any more perfect."

Specifically, she said the one thing she wasn't expecting was to see lollipops with Russ's face on them being handed out.

"They also said 'Flags Over East Hampton' on them, and 'We Thank You, Russ,'" Sheila said. "I definitely wasn't expecting that, but I loved it. It was another way everyone was so great this year."

Another big surprise was the float that carried her, all of her children minus one who was in Oregon with his family, and all of her grandchildren.

"I knew they were going to have the grandchildren on the big float," she said. "But I didn't know my name was going to be on the banner; that was a surprise!"

She also said her husband "would have loved it this year."



A float from Jessica's Garden in last weekend's Old Home Days parade featured a large portrait of the late Russ Oakes – who was a driving force behind the annual event.

"My family talks about Old Home Days 24/7, 365, that's the honest truth," Sheila said. "It's like Christmas, New Year's and the Fourth of July all rolled into one."

"And this year, seeing that it was dedicated to my husband, made it even more special," she said.

Sheila also praised Rourke and Egan for their first year of parade organization.

"They did a great job, and I was there to help them if they need it, and they didn't seem to need much help – they did it," she said. "You can't tell they were new to it, what they did was spectacular."

Popular fixtures of years past appeared in the parade once again, such as the floral float from Paul's and Sandy's, the float featuring a live performance from East Hampton's own Kindred Spirit and numerous others.

Also, the grounds by Center School were packed with amusements, from a carousel to a Ferris wheel, and local food vendors, includ-

ing the Tavern On 66 and The Lucky Goat, were on hand for all sorts of food items.

In addition, booths from numerous groups in town, such as the Democrat and Republican town committees, the Friends of the Lake, the VFW, the Masons and the Rotary Club were set up.

The Connecticut State Police had a space set up featuring "The Convincer," designed to show the importance of buckling up, as well as an auto body rollover simulator to encourage safe driving.

As is customary, the playing of the national anthem, featuring the VFW color guard and Ladies' Auxiliary color guard, kicked off the Old Home Day activities after the parade.

For additional photos from Saturday's parade, visit [facebook.com/RivereastNewsBulletin](https://www.facebook.com/RivereastNewsBulletin).

Andover Voters Balk at Property Purchase

by Geeta Schrayter

Plans to purchase a piece of abandoned property in town were rejected Tuesday by a vote of 194-155.

At a July 1 town meeting on the possible purchase, the property at 12 Center St. was described as having extensive damage to both the exterior and interior with a severely damaged roof, water damage and mold inside the building. Considered a “visible eyesore” from Route 6, the property has been vacant since 2008 and is the site of regular trespassing and vandalism.

Following foreclosure proceedings that began last November, the property went on the market in April for \$38,500. If the purchase were approved, plans for the property included demolishing the building for a cost estimated to be between \$35,000 and \$55,000 and redeveloping the 0.62 acres of land.

While no set redevelopment plans were made, a possibility shared during the town meeting by the Andover Center Street Committee was turning the land into an access point for the nearby trails and the Hop River State Park, with funding for redevelopment costs to

be applied for through grants.

But that possibility – along with any others – fell through Tuesday.

Speaking on the results, committee chairwoman and selectwoman Julia Haverl said, “I was disappointed. I think it was a good decision to try the way we did to get authorization to buy it.”

She added she wasn’t convinced all the residents who would have supported the purchase came out to vote, mentioning the likelihood people were away on vacation and some people “had the mindset of ‘Oh, if it passed at town meeting it would certainly pass at the referendum.’”

In addition, Haverl said between the July 1 meeting and the referendum “opposition to the purchase coalesced and that was the reason [those against the purchase] turned out; I do believe there are another 100 people in town – at least – who would support it but they didn’t come out.”

As for why residents voted against the purchase, Haverl said, “I think they needed a more

precise application. The fact that we said grants were available to assist but actually didn’t have one in hand didn’t help.”

She added, “The possibilities for the future [use of the land] were very good for that piece and maybe with some more time to work on it we would have been successful, but it was a very short timeframe [that] we pulled it all together.”

But whatever the reasons for Tuesday’s rejection, First Selectman Bob Burbank said, “I think the people made it clear that they didn’t want us to purchase the house down on Center Street.”

Moving forward, he said, “I think it’s probably a ‘wait and see’ to see what happens in the private sector” with the property.

“I’m sure it’ll be a situation where eventually someone will come in to purchase that property for whatever reason,” he furthered. “I agree that it is an eyesore right now and it would be nice to have it taken down but I think the taxpayers spoke that they didn’t want to spend taxpayer money to do that.”

Haverl concluded, “I just think it’s a shame

it didn’t fly, but many times good ideas take more than one try to become reality.”

* * *

Conversely Tuesday, voters decided 211-133 to grant an easement over town property at the end of Riverside Drive to Joshua Clark and Christopher Wierzbicki, owners of a 60-acre piece of property at 64 Long Hill Rd.

At the July 1 meeting, Wierzbicki had explained the two needed better access to their land, which they hoped to gain through the easement. The owners plan to repair the road – including a box culvert that’s a part of it – at no cost to the town; the easement will also provide access to a piece of town property that’s currently difficult to reach.

Wierzbicki and Clark said they plan to build two houses on the land, while also putting part of the property into a conservation easement.

Now that the easement has been approved, Burbank said, “the selectmen will be working up an easement with the attorney to ensure that the town is indemnified against any costs that may be occurred due to this easement.”

Used Items Find New Homes at Colchester Flea Market

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

There is a new place in town for people who love flea markets and shopping for a good deal on antique items.

Fireside’s Flea Market and Vendor Fair began on a trial basis last year, but began officially June 8 on every Saturday after receiving approval from the town. The market and fair operate at what, during the week, is the home of the alternative heating and garage door company, Fireside Supply Inc., 489 Old Hartford Rd.

The concept has been floating around for the past three years, but John Tarquinio, who co-owns Fireside Supply with his wife Heidi, said it took a while to gain the town’s approval to proceed with an every-weekend, outside-and-inside market.

In fact, the Old Hartford Road property has a prior history of being home to a flea market, as well as an auction house with weekly auctions.

“Previous to that it was a dairy farm until the state put the highway through, cutting the property in two,” Tarquinio said.

Tarquinio said the idea of a flea market appealed to him because of its ability to satisfy the urge to shop in a tough economy and its ability to be green and recycle items. He noted that the *Hartford Courant* recently ran an article entitled “Flea Market Economy,” in which the author stressed that, “because of the poor economic condition of our state,” flea markets are “very popular with the consumer.”

The idea of a flea market began in Paris, and referred to street markets that mainly sold sec-

ondhand items – which may or may not have been infested with fleas, thus earning the name “marché aux puces,” or “market with fleas.”

Tarquinio said flea markets allow people to find needed or wanted items at a fraction of the cost at the store and people generally like the older manufactured products better for their quality.

“Even some are ‘Made in the USA,’” he said. “Imagine that. Made right here, not imported.”

Tarquinio also said many of the items for sale, if they didn’t find their way to the flea market, would have ended up in landfills. “This type of purchase is a form of recycling and repurposing goods, so it helps our planet,” he said.

Lastly, Tarquinio said, flea markets are an example of individual entrepreneurship with all of the vendors being independent.

“In my opinion, we should be encouraging entrepreneurship to help lead us out of this poor economic situation that we seem to be in,” Tarquinio said. “This type of commerce helps our company [and] the community, and brings shoppers from out of the area to our region that will help other Colchester companies when they stop for food or gas.”

Currently offering free vendor space, admission and parking, Tarquinio said the flea market will also feature an open house on Saturdays for Fireside Supply.

Looking toward the future, Tarquinio said he hopes to have periodic “trunk auctions” where people bring junk in their trunks and for a fee, the flea market will auction the items off right on the spot.



Fireside’s Flea Market and Vendor Fair began June 8 and will continue every Saturday at 489 Old Hartford Rd. in Colchester.

“They come with junk and leave with cash. What could be better than that?” Tarquinio said. “This is a new and great concept that is being done in other parts of the country and is being very well received by the public and weekly vendors alike.”

Tarquinio said he also hopes to add food and music, and potentially even car shows and swap meets, later on.

“Things are progressing and improving as we go,” Tarquinio said. “Consumers are also im-

proving as we go along. The talk is very positive amongst the visitors. There seems to be a longing for this to succeed.”

The market is open Fridays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. for set up and selling if vendors want to get an early start. On Saturdays, the market is open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The flea market will be closed this Saturday, July 18, but will be open for business next Saturday, July 25.

Tarquinio can be reached for questions at 860-603-2041 or firesidect1@aol.com.

Colchester Tennis Courts in Dire Need of Repair

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

A group of residents has spent the past decade playing tennis at the town Recreation Complex. But, after injuries began mounting due to cracks in the courts, program organizers sought out help from the town – but have received no response.

Called the Colchester Adult Tennis Ladder, Dan Weinick and Don Pizzoferrato began the ladder in 2004 to help bring together older players to play and help high school students get some summer play time. The ladder drew players from all over, including Colchester, Hebron, Marlborough, Glastonbury, Norwich, Danielson and Plainfield. At its peak, 45 people a summer played. But recently, that number has fallen to 24, as fewer players wanted to play on deteriorating – and, according to program organizers, dangerous – courts.

“Thirty percent of the players don’t want to play there anymore,” Weinick said of the RecPlex courts. “The cracks in the court are severe. Some are four inches wide. People have tripped or gotten stuck in them.”

Along with the danger of the cracks, Weinick said the nets are so severely ripped that many times players don’t know if their shots went over the net or through it.

The tennis ladder, which brings recreational players together for evening fun, is a Parks and Recreation Department program.

“I pair people up based on skill level and

ranking in the ladder,” Weinick explained. “We play evenings during the week. It’s worked out really well. Until last year, it was really popular and growing every year.”

Fee to play is \$30 for residents, and \$40 for non-residents.

Along with the ladder, Pizzoferrato said many youth play on the courts as well.

“Parents must be concerned they’re running around and going to get hurt,” Pizzoferrato said. “It’s all about preventive maintenance.”

The frustration, Weinick said, really began over the last year or so when multiple efforts to reach out to town administrators went unanswered or got pushed off.

“This year we sent letters to the town recreation department and the first selectman,” Weinick said. “They didn’t respond to any of them.”

In the past, Weinick said, the town would patch the court every few years and replace the nets.

“They stopped doing that,” Weinick said. “We actually started to use the Bacon [Academy] court. The complication with that is some of the people can’t play until the night time. There are lights on the Rec[Plex] court, but no lights on the Bacon court.”

Another frustrating factor, Weinick said, is that the ladder generates around \$1,000 for the

recreation department each year with user fees. Since the ladder was created, that amount is close to \$11,000. The fees, Weinick said, go to the undesignated fund and the ladder hasn’t seen it used for maintenance.

Ultimately, Weinick said, he would like to see the courts either resurfaced or patched so it’s safe to play on them along with having new nets.

Pizzoferrato said there is a few different ways the town could fill in the cracks. While some are better than others, the better options are more expensive. An easy fix is to fill the cracks with asphalt and although it’s a rough finish and the ball won’t bounce as well, it’s “better than nothing,” Pizzoferrato said.

No one from the town has gotten back to Weinick or Pizzoferrato with any solution, they said. The only response the two have had is people pushing it off to someone else.

“Dan and I have sent countless emails, trying to schedule appointments,” Pizzoferrato said. “Can we set aside some of the money from the program to at least buy some nets? No response. The budget got approved and still can’t get a response. I feel like we’ve generated over \$10,000 in revenue and haven’t seen anything come back to the program.”

The *Rivereast* reached out to Jim Paggioli, public works director, to see what was going

on with the maintenance of the courts.

According to Paggioli, the town currently has pending a \$2,000 to \$5,000 fix to patch the cracks. Paggioli said that should be completed in the next 30 days. The nets are on order and waiting to be delivered and cost \$300 a net.

“They are 20-year-old courts,” Paggioli said. “At some point they need to be replaced. Replacement for one court can cost \$25,000 to \$30,000 a court. It’s not presently in the budget.”

The RecPlex consists of three courts in total.

“Twenty-year old facilities require substantial investment,” Paggioli said.

Weinick said all the ladder wants it to have the courts at least patched so they are safe to play on. He also said he’s still annoyed at the town’s lack of response – and added he’ll believe Paggioli once he actually sees the courts fixed.

“It’s an aggravating factor that we’ve reached out 30 times in the last four months and not gotten a response,” Weinick said, adding, “For him to say the next 30 days – the tennis ladder ends in September. We’ve lost 2015.”

First Selectman Stan Soby could not be reached for comment by press time.

Weinick said he will be following up with the town and hopes the work gets done.

Senior Minister Stepping Down at Colchester Federated

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

Colchester Federated Church is getting ready to say goodbye to one of its own, as senior minister the Rev. Dr. Linda Barnes retires at the end of this month.

"I will miss the people. I will miss the close and loving relationships we have with each other. I'll miss getting to pick the hymns for worship," Barnes said. "I'm sure some of the time I'll miss having my way. Preaching is a responsibility and a privilege. I'll miss doing that all the time with the same people."

Barnes, who lives in Colchester, said she originally felt called to be a minister when she was a teen growing up in Pennsylvania, but back then women couldn't be ordained.

"I was very active in the church as a child and teenager," Barnes said. "I felt called to serve in the church when I was a young Christian, but ministry wasn't an option so I became a teacher."

Barnes also sold antique cards with her husband and two children until women were finally allowed to be ordained.

But eventually women were allowed to be ministers, so in 1982, at age 35, Barnes finally went to seminary, starting her spiritual journey of becoming a pastor. She began her first pastoral job three years later.

"I will retire after exactly 30 years of serving as a pastor," Barnes said.

Barnes found herself at Colchester Federated Aug. 1, 2006 after being pastor at the Franklin Congregational Church in Franklin. When she retires at the end of July, it will be exactly nine years of serving Colchester.

Reflecting back on her time as pastor, Barnes said she's been proud of the many characteristics that make up Colchester Federated.

"Colchester Federated is a very active church and serving the community is one of the things that is important to the church," Barnes said. "Some of the things I've appreciated have been a chance to work with other clergy in town and to host the interfaith Thanksgiving service."

Another accomplishment Barnes is proud of is the free lunch program. The program, which began four years ago, came out of a concern for the homeless and serves lunches Monday to Friday to anyone that wants to come.

"We've been able to connect the homeless with [Colchester Youth and Social Services] to help them get an apartment so they don't have to keep sleeping in the woods," Barnes said.

The lunches rotate each week between Colchester Federated, St. Andrew Church and Westchester Congregational Church.

Barnes has also been known around town as the pastor for the Blessing for the Easter Egg Hunt, now called the Spring Bark for the Park, and holding the Blessing of the Animals at Colchester Federated.

Another important thing to Barnes at Colchester Federated is the music program, consisting of the choir and music director.

"Music is very important to me so I appreciate the music program," Barnes said. "I've always loved music and sing and play the flute. There's a saying that the person that sings prays twice."

To her, Barnes said, singing "expresses emotions and binds people together."

Another part of Colchester Federated Barnes will miss is how involved the church community is; the pastor, she said, doesn't "run the show."

"The laypeople are really involved," Barnes

said. "They set policies and help lead the activities. I remember saying when I first came that I felt my job was like an orchestra conductor. People were doing lots of different parts and I was coordinating all the different gifts to use them together."

And now, Barnes said, it's time for someone else to be the conductor.

"I feel like it's time to let someone else take the pastoral leadership," Barnes said. "I've used the gifts I have, and it's time for someone else to use their gifts."

Barnes said she also felt this was the right time to retire.

"I wanted to retire when I was still going full steam ahead," Barnes said. "I didn't want to stay too long."

After retirement, Barnes said she will enter a week of silent retreat to end this time of ministry in her life with prayer and preparing for the next step.

Barnes stressed church protocol states that when a minister retires, he or she does not hang around. Rather, the former minister gets out of the way and lets the new pastoral leader form relationships without having to compete with the former minister.

Barnes said she hopes to spend more time with her daughters in Ohio and New York and also time with her Australian Shepherd, Panda. Panda is a certified therapy dog and Barnes has been known for bringing him around for ministry and to visit homebound people and do home visits.

Barnes' farewell service will be Sunday, July 26, at 9 a.m. at the church at 60 Main St. At that service, the church will welcome in an interim minister, the Rev. Jerrie Matney, as well.



Rev. Dr. Linda Barnes of Colchester is retiring from her position as senior minister at Colchester Federated at the end of July. She is shown here with her beloved Australian Shepherd, Panda, a certified therapy dog.

Hebron Board Appoints Director of Educational Services

by Geeta Schrayter

At its meeting last week, the Board of Education decided who's going to fill the newly-created director of educational services position.

The new position was created last month, after the board decided not to fill either the assistant principal position at Hebron Elementary School or the director of curriculum and technology position. (Both positions became vacant June 30 following the resignation of Assistant Principal Josh Martin and Curriculum Director Vonda Tencza.)

The board then voted to change the district's part-time director of special education position to the full-time director of educational services, whose primary function will be oversight of special education and other related services at the schools along with supporting curriculum and technology initiatives.

And filling that role will be Patricia Buell, who currently serves as the director of personnel and pupil personnel services in Vernon and will join the district after 26 years of experience as an educator.

Buell was one of 22 applicants for the new position, a number that was whittled down to seven candidates who were interviewed by a search committee made up of the Board of Education, administrators and teachers. Following three rounds of interviews, it was Buell who was ultimately selected.

Buell is a graduate of Central Connecticut State University where she received a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's degree in elementary education. She received her sixth-year diploma in education administration from the University of Connecticut and completed UConn's executive leadership program.

According to a release sent by the board on her appointment, Buell started her career as an

elementary special education teacher and a fifth grade classroom teacher. Along with her current role she has also served as an assistant principal, elementary school principal, middle school principal and director of pupil personnel services.

Speaking on her appointment, Superintendent of Schools Tim Van Tassel wrote in the release, "We are very fortunate to have Mrs. Buell joining our team. The experiences she has had as a teacher and leader throughout her career make her an ideal candidate for our new position of director of educational services."

Van Tassel continued, "Beyond her extensive knowledge of special education programming and service models, Mrs. Buell brings with her a very open and approachable style that will be well-received by our stakeholders. I look forward to working closely with Mrs. Buell as she transitions into her new role."

The board voted unanimously at its July 9 meeting to appoint Buell. She starts Aug. 1.

Also at last week's meeting, Finance Director Richard Huot announced the school district was poised to end the year with a surplus.

Specifically, he said, "I expect we will end the year with somewhere between \$15,000 and \$25,000 in balance."

A large portion of that stems from the cafeteria program. Once regularly in the red, lunches at the school now bring in revenue for the district.

"My promise has been fulfilled," Huot shared at the meeting. "We've come from a negative balance a year ago of \$19,787 to plus \$14,087. My hope when we hired [Food Service Director Christian Urban] was that we would at least break even, and we certainly

did better than that."

This week, Urban explained the improvement had a lot to do with changing from using Chartwells dining services to being a self-operation "and then by doing that, we changed a lot of things."

Urban said the district started using more fresh produce, and began working with local orchards to provide fresh fruit from around the region. In addition, he said, "A lot of it is customer service based: making it more presentable to the kids."

Urban also said he's worked extensively with the University of Connecticut dietetics program, and interns have come to the district and perform taste tests and surveys with the students. Urban has also brought contests to the district, including a recent menu contest "so it becomes [the students'] program not the schools' lunch program - they participate with it."

Improved community outreach, support from the board, and gathering parent and PTA information are also changes Urban mentioned. And, as a result of those differences, the number of students purchasing lunch at school has increased more than 10 percent.

"So we've been doing a lot of things and it's kind of just taking care of itself," Urban stated.

Later in the meeting, the board voted to return the surplus from the 2014-15 school year to the town, with the possible request to reallocate the money for capital improvements in the district.

Board member Carol Connolly said at the meeting, "It's hard to give back the funds knowing there are so many projects that are so important to the district to save us money."

However, member Amy Lynch-Gracias said she thought returning the money and then ask-

ing for it back would set a bad precedent, and preferred returning the money to the town and leaving it at that.

"I happen to think it's a very bad idea to again, year after year, give money to the town then put our hat back out to say we want to spend it on this and that," she stated.

Board member Ramon Bieri felt differently, saying, "I think that the correct and honorable thing of returning the funds to the town, knowing that is the appropriate thing to do, then requesting possible use for capital improvements that would improve the school system - which subsequently improves the overall town - is quite appropriate."

He continued, "What it does is it presents to the town that, yes, we do have this extra money, but we also have these needs to improve infrastructure or subject matter for the benefit of the town and school."

Ultimately, the board voted in favor of the motion 4-2 with Lynch-Gracias and Board of Education Chair Maryanne Leichter against.

In addition last Thursday, Van Tassel shared the district "received very good news from the State of Connecticut and that was that the application Mr. Huot had put forward for security and safety enhancements as part of the early childhood program was approved."

Van Tassel called the grant, at \$95,000, "significant" and said it "will certainly support the enhancements that we can make to the early childhood program but also to the entire Gilead school facility."

The next Board of Education meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Aug. 13, at 7 p.m. in the Gilead Hill School music room.

Final Elmcrest Direction Discussed in Portland

by John Tyczkowski

Monday evening, the end was in sight for the months-long planning process regarding the future of the Elmcrest Campus at the corner of Routes 17A and 66.

At the meeting, which featured about 30 residents, developers presented a nearly-final vision for the property based upon feedback from previous planning meetings in February and May.

The meeting was the last of three such meetings relaying the conclusions and recommendations from a Vibrant Community Initiative Study from the Connecticut Trust for Historical Preservation, funded by a \$50,000 grant awarded to the town last fall.

The planning study findings are designed to be a guide for the town in terms of how to develop the Elmcrest Campus, and how to integrate the surrounding areas, such as downtown Main Street, into that effort.

Located at the corner of Main and Marlborough streets, the property was first approved for a mixed-use development called Portland TownPlace in 2008. However, the project was stalled during the subsequent recession – and the development was eventually deemed “not economically viable” by the town. Little progress has been made on the site since.

Specifically, the goals of the study were to find a way to maintain the existing historical structures through adaptive reuse, to add economic value to the downtown district, to allow the town and residents an active role in planning and to create an action plan to identify funding types and sources for the redevelopment.

ment.

To aid with the study, the town enlisted The Cecil Group, a Boston-based planning and urban design firm, Bartram & Cochran, a Hartford-based real estate economist firm and Tighe & Bond, a Middletown-based environmental and transportation engineering firm.

Steve Cecil of The Cecil Group started by reviewing the data collected at the previous May meeting.

This included a plan which would save the Brainerd, Sage and Hart-Jarvis Houses, as well as create a village green facing Route 66 in front of those structures.

“Our goal here is create a destination people want to come to,” he said. “It’s what we’ve found in our market research – give people a sense of place, and you’ll attract them easily.”

Adding to that, Cecil said a conclusion “the market would support” would be to increase the number of rental residential units on the property, from 81, under the 2007 plan, to 200.

“Two hundred units [of housing] plus the specialty retail space, and the historic buildings and village green, is a scale that makes much more sense in that respect, because it creates a destination,” he said.

Also, in response to questions from residents living on Perry Street, on the east side of the property, Cecil said any Perry entrance would most likely be an emergency accessway, to avoid disrupting residents on that street.

Another point brought up was a review of what residents had indicated they would want

and wouldn’t want for the redevelopment at previous meetings.

The former included a town green, the preservation of the historic structures, mixed retail and residential use and a Trader Joe’s, while the latter included too many paved surfaces, a lack of a town green, regular Perry Street access and big box stores.

After the presentation, residents had a chance to ask Cecil questions about the details of the Elmcrest Campus plan.

One resident said many people had indicated they didn’t want a second pharmacy, a CVS, on the corner across from Rite-Aid.

However, Cecil said that choice of business and its location was, once again, what the market would most likely support.

“These types of businesses like to be pretty near each other, a lot of times,” he said, citing examples in other towns.

In response to peoples’ repeated calls for a Trader Joe’s over the past two meetings, Cecil said the site would have enough space for that and other specialty stores despite a CVS on the corner.

“Ultimately, though, it’s up to if the marketplace will support [specialty stores] or not,” he said. “The door is open to these specialty stores and we’ll be looking at if they would be viable.”

Also, in response to residents questioning why having a CVS on a corner would attract pedestrian traffic to Elmcrest, Cecil said the CVS would be the stepping-off point, in a “come for the CVS and stay for the specialty

businesses” manner.

“A CVS is what would attract people initially from the road, and then if you have enough stuff there, plus good walkability, the site becomes a pedestrian destination,” he said. “If it’s purely automobile-oriented, then that won’t happen.”

Along those lines, questions also came about plans to link Elmcrest to the village district on Main Street, which Cecil said would involve a comprehensive traffic-calming plan.

“Our sense is that Elmcrest would not divert business from the village district with pedestrian access, but in fact would add to it,” he said. “But the key is to make that 17A/66 intersection pedestrian-friendly first. People coming off the bridge really fly down the road, for example.”

However, what those traffic-calming measures might exactly entail was not clear at the moment, Cecil said, and would have to involve talks with the DOT, as both roads are state highways.

To conclude the meeting, First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield said though this was the final planning meeting, there was still much more to come with the Elmcrest Campus.

“This is actually the beginning of a much larger dialogue on the redevelopment of Elmcrest,” she said. “And from what I see here today I’m very optimistic for the future of the site and what it can do for Portland.”

The report on the Elmcrest Campus is available online at portlandct.org.

Portland Fireworks Return After Year Off

by John Tyczkowski

Last Saturday evening, thousands turned out in town, including hundreds at the Portland Exchange Club Fairgrounds, to enjoy a fireworks display not seen since 2013.

This year marked a return to the customarily annual event after construction on Route 17A at and near Carr Brook disrupted traffic flows last year.

However, there was no problem in regaining that lost momentum, Portland Fireworks Committee Chairwoman Sharon Hoy said.

“The weather was perfect, the field was filled and I don’t think we could’ve had a better evening,” she said. “This year was one of the best attendances that we’ve ever had for any of the fireworks shows.”

The field was indeed packed right up to the fences separating the public from the fireworks display, with very few empty spots left at the fairgrounds that evening.

Several boats were also visible on the Connecticut River, stopping to watching the show as well, and there were also spectators at other locations in town, such as Bransfield Park on Rose Hill Road.

Small Town Roots, a local band with several Portland residents as members, played a nearly two and a half-hour set before the ceremonies. Its brand of folksy and country music set the small-town community stage and neighborly social atmosphere.

“We’ve had so much positive feedback about the band, and it was a last-minute thing too,” she said. “The other group we had planned on didn’t materialize, and Small Town Roots was more than willing to play for us.”

The regular tribute to veterans and the armed forces continued this year, with the playing of

each branch’s military theme, and the national anthem as well.

Finally, before the fireworks show – performed by Ocean State Pyrotechnics – began, there was a tribute to the five pillars of the community the Fireworks Committee dedicated the event to.

These were Charlie Jarzabek, Joe Keser, Michael Rossitto, Jim Tierney and Carl Winicki.

Fireworks-goers were also treated to a new master of ceremonies this year: since regular emcee Dave Kuzminski was out of state that weekend, town tech department employee Kevin Armstrong stepped up to the plate.

“I casually said one day, ‘Gee, Kevin, why don’t you do it?’ and he agreed,” Hoy said.

Armstrong dressed in a red, white and blue shirt and wore a flag-patterned top hat, evoking Uncle Sam.

“He dressed the part, his voice projected very well and he did an overall great job,” Hoy said. “We got very good compliments about him.”

“He may find himself doing the same thing next year,” she quipped.

At approximately 9:45 p.m., the fireworks began, set to patriotic music including “The Stars and Stripes Forever” and “God Bless the USA.”

Hoy said the patriotic music was a new touch this year, and was based upon the soundtracks from Washington, D.C.’s and New York City’s fireworks shows.

“We’ve had music in past years, but this year it was entirely patriotic,” she said. “I think it added to the effect and was respectful to the veterans there.”

Regarding next year’s show, Hoy said the committee is proceeding ahead, despite being



Hundreds of spectators turned out to the Exchange Club Fairgrounds last Saturday night for the first fireworks show in town since 2013. The 2014 show had been canceled due to roadwork on Carr Brook Bridge on Route 17A.

“a little under” its goal of \$30,000 for this year’s show.

“We’ll have some more fundraisers if we still have bills to pay this year and don’t have the money,” she said. “And then we’ll be raising money for the 2016 show, which I’m definitely looking forward to.”

“It’s a tremendous amount of work but when you hear the applause and cheers it makes it all worth it,” she said.

On that note, Hoy also encouraged anyone

interested in joining the fireworks committee to email her at sharhoy1@comcast.net.

“We have a very small committee, and they all have their own expertise and it all always comes off seamlessly,” she said. “But we’re always looking for new volunteers too, with new ideas and new skills.”

For photos from Saturday’s fireworks display, visit [facebook.com/RivereastNews Bulletin](http://facebook.com/RivereastNewsBulletin).

Bransfield to Run for Seventh Term in Portland

by John Tyczkowski

Susan Bransfield has been the town's first selectwoman for the past 12 years – and she's not ready to leave yet. She recently announced she'll seek another two-year term this fall.

Bransfield has been in her current position with the town since winning her first election in 2003.



Bransfield

"We've already accomplished a lot, but there's lots more work to do," she said this week. "If the voters will allow me, I'd love to be able to continue the work and bring the projects to conclusion."

"I'm very grateful to be able to have this job," she said.

Priorities that Bransfield said she would like to continue in a seventh term include continuing the revitalization of the Elmcrest Campus property, connecting Portland and East Hampton with the Air Line Trail, beginning construction on Portland Town Park to be located on the Goodrich Property on Route 17 and continuing to improve the Riverfront Park with a

\$360,000 Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grant.

"There are lots of things we're working on in town," she said. "It's very exciting right now."

Some specifics include: adding in water and sewer lines and clearing brush at Riverfront Park, and adding a stage cover for the band shell there; working with Eversource to secure license agreements to make improvements to property which would contain an Air Line Trail path; and improving the Keegan Property off of Middle Haddam Road, which the town purchased for the trail as well.

Also at the forefront, Bransfield said, is coming up with a Complete Streets plan to improve the safety of non-motorized transportation in town, including improving the walkability of sidewalks, especially along school routes, and creating a better education plan to get the word out to residents about the details of Portland Town Park, including features and funding sources.

However, she said there are other priorities she'd like to address in an upcoming term, such as economic development in town.

One such example is a brownfields assessment study on riverfront property across from the quarries on Brownstone Avenue.

"We're looking at the environmental condi-

tions of the property, as there are three large formerly oil-filled tanks sitting on it," Bransfield said. "We want to see how that property could be economically redeveloped."

That project is in the middle of its second phase, with the third phase on the way, and has received \$200,000 in funding from the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

Another priority is finishing the town's Plan of Conservation and Development, which is mandated to be updated every decade.

"It's a very important document, as it allows us to get more grants for development in town, and it also makes us eligible for those grants," Bransfield said.

Also, working with the public schools to continue to maintain the town's quality education system is another chief focus.

"I can't say enough good things about the schools," she said. "They provide quality education for the youngsters, which is our number one duty."

"It's an ongoing process I'm happy to be involved in," she said.

Bransfield also said she "thoroughly enjoys" working with people in Portland to improve the town.

"We have an excellent cadre of employees

here committed to Portland, and we have many volunteers who put forward their professional experience and their talents to make this a wonderful place to live," she said.

Before serving as first selectwoman, Bransfield served terms on both the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Education.

"Together with that experience and my [Master's of Public Administration degree], I felt it would be a good combination of skills to put forward," she said of why she ran the first time.

But her reasons went even deeper than that, Bransfield said.

"I've had public service drilled into me from my Catholic school education," she said. "And also, my father-in-law always told me if you're going to live in Portland, you have to contribute to the town."

Bransfield said along those lines, she wants to maintain quality of service the town offers, such as public safety, public works, the library and youth and senior services, as well as improving town infrastructure.

"I'm committed to improve the quality and maintaining the level of service that community wants and needs," she said. "I do enjoy the work very much. I want to help keep Portland the unique, small-town place that it is."

Rosenberg Stepping Down as AHM Executive Director

by Geeta Schrayter

A new leader is poised to take the helm at AHM Youth and Family Services, following an announcement earlier this week that executive director Joel Rosenberg would be taking on a new role.

"I'm not leaving, I'm just changing roles," Rosenberg said Tuesday. "And I'm really excited about it."

Rosenberg was AHM's first – and only – executive director. The founding members hired him in 1984, just a year after the organization got its start. Since that time, a time when AHM ran out of a donated room a quarter of the size of Rosenberg's office, he's seen and helped it grow to become what it is today: a non-profit organization that services Andover, Hebron, Marlborough and Columbia with the mission to provide "mental health and positive youth development services that assist children, young people, and their families in creating a supportive and caring environment, for them to reach their maximum potential as members of society."

Speaking about his hiring all those years ago, Rosenberg shared this week, "At that point the board took a chance on me. I wasn't taking a chance on anything. I was young, I wasn't married, and I didn't have kids at the time, so the risk was on the part of the board. And it just became a good partnership. That never changed. I can't say it enough – I've absolutely been fortunate to have worked for so many great people. That made wanting to stay here easy."

And while he continues to want to stay with the organization – and plans to do just that – Rosenberg said it also felt like the right time to step aside and make room for some new leadership.

"Thirty-one years is a long time to stay in any single position," he stated, explaining few of his colleagues were left in the youth services field that started when he did. In addition, he mentioned he'd seen "an incredible number" of leaders come and go in the communities he works with over the years, including recent changes in school leadership in the area, which helped Rosenberg decide now was the right time to bring in new leadership at AHM.

In addition, he shared, "Personally I also think there comes a time when you need someone with fresh ideas. I still have a lot of ideas but it's the same person trying to bring in new ideas as opposed to having someone new from the outside come in that has worked in other places."

Rosenberg added he also felt comfortable with the current state of the organization, explaining there's a "rock solid staff" and "I think we're stronger than we have ever been before in terms of our partnerships with the towns. We have a great relationship with all the schools that we're in; we're at an all-time high in terms of support from the faith community and local civic groups; but most important of all is the

people living in these communities that embrace AHM."

He continued, "We've never seen the levels of support that we have at the present time – and that's not just donor support; that's also support with people utilizing our services."

Rosenberg said he's checked off a number of items from his bucket list that relate to AHM, including being part of the group that built the AHM Community Center on Pendleton Drive in Hebron, "which is literally used by thousands of people every year" and was done without any local tax dollars.

"That was one major achievement I knew someday I'd be able to feel really good walking away from here with," he stated.

Another item on the bucket list Rosenberg was proud to check off was helping to build an endowment for the organization, "and knowing it's on its way to playing a major role in AHM's future."

Along with the above, Rosenberg said another push he felt to change his position with AHM had to do with family.

"I spend a lot of time here at AHM, and to be able to spend more time with my family is something that I'm looking forward to," he stated. "I spend more waking hours in these communities than I do in the town where I live, and it's been that way for over 30 years."

But Rosenberg will still be around, as he begins his new role working with fund development for AHM.

"I'm excited to be able to work with the next executive director coming in and that I can focus on what I absolutely love doing, and that's grant writing, fundraisers and working with the endowment committee to help keep making AHM a stronger, more sustainable organization that helps the taxpayers, and certainly, supports the mission of the organization."

In a release sent July 14 on the announcement, Kristen Kania, AHM's immediate past president, said the board was "delighted Joel will remain with AHM to focus on fund development work to help ensure that the agency can continue to generate funding for agency programs through his expertise with writing grants, leading fundraisers and working with the AHM Children's Trust Fund endowment committee."

Rosenberg will be executive director until Oct. 17 – 31 years to the day from when he first started. Replacing him will be Michelle Hamilton, AHM's current program director who has over 25 years of experience developing and coordinating prevention and resilience programs for youth and families.

AHM's recently-elected board president Bill Sudol stated in the release, "Our board members have complete trust and faith in Joel's thoughtful transition plan."

He added the board voted unanimously to accept his recommendations, which included the announcement that Hamilton will be the next executive director.



AHM executive director Joel Rosenberg announced plans this week to step down from his position in October after 31 years; he'll be taking on a new role within the organization working with fund development.

Rosenberg and Hamilton will continue to be part of a three-member leadership team at AHM along with Nella Stelzner, the director of finance and operations. Rosenberg explained his new role will be a part of a cost-neutral "reconfiguration of responsibility."

"The fund development piece is being pulled out [from the executive director's responsibilities] and the program director piece will go to Michelle as executive director."

Also sharing his thoughts in the release, past AHM board president and current vice president Peter Yorio stated, "The only constant in life is change. It is rare to have executive leadership, especially one who represents the face of the agency, be willing to relinquish a top leadership role and remain with a company. This provides a unique opportunity of continuity

during a transition of senior leadership, and mentoring support for our targeted leaders from someone who is clearly recognized across the state as world-class."

This week, Rosenberg said he felt fortunate he was able to have been with AHM all these years, "and to have the opportunity for me to be the one to say that I think it's time for me to step down as opposed to someone else saying it's time."

He added, "It changed my life," working with AHM. "In this tiny corner of the world I've felt I've been able to be a part of something that was making a difference in people's lives. For a lot of reasons, that meant something to me."

Rosenberg concluded about the transition, "Every bit of this decision is good. I feel very positive about this."

Obituaries

East Hampton

Jane Belle Mack

Jane Mack, 95, formerly of East Hampton, wife of the late Robert "Bob" Mack, passed away on Tuesday, June 30, at Cobalt Lodge Health Care and Rehab. She was born Oct. 16, 1919, in Madison, daughter of the late George W. and Edith (Green) Goodale.

Jane enjoyed living a quiet life with her husband Bob. They enjoyed traveling, bicycling and sharing music. They would pass their time doing duets; Bob on the guitar and Jane singing. She also participated in the East Hampton Belltown singing group for many years and also sang in the choir of the Holy Trinity Church of Portland. Jane was an avid gardener and enjoyed her many-color garden.

She was predeceased by her husband Bob, as well as her two sisters, Gertrude Rasmussen, Elizabeth Domina, and six brothers, Fredrick, Clifford, Wesley, John, Leon and Bill Goodale.

She is survived by many nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held Saturday, July 11, at Biega Funeral Home, 3 Silver St., Middletown. Burial was held at the State Veterans' Cemetery.

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

Portland

Nancy B. Inferrera

Born at home in 1928, Nancy B. Inferrera (Griffo) died peacefully Friday, July 3. She was the beloved wife of the late Domenick Inferrera. She was a longtime resident of Portland.

When younger, she was active in St. Mary Church, Portland, and she volunteered frequently to help in her community. She was a creative homemaker most of her life and loved to prepare meals for others. Her holiday meals were savored by many. She was a strong, resourceful, fun loving, artistic woman proud of her Italian heritage.

She leaves her sons Raymond and wife Laura of Hebron, Richard and wife Janice of Old Saybrook, Mel and wife Christina of Colchester and her son and caregiver Brian of Portland; five grandchildren Ian, Elyse, Michelle, Maya and Kate; her brother Angelo Griffo of North Port, Fla.; her sister, Mary Hall of Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., and many nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her brother, Frank Griffo of Middletown.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated today, July 17, at 11 a.m., at St. Mary Catholic Church, Portland.

Donations may be made in her memory to St. Mary Catholic Church, 51 Freestone Ave., Portland, CT 06480 or the Portland Food Bank, P.O. Box 71, Portland, CT 06480.

Portland

James F. Waller Jr.

James F. Waller Jr., 58, of Portland, died unexpectedly Saturday, July 11, at his home. He was born in Houston, Texas, the son of the late James F. Waller, Sr. and Hazel Louise (Reese) Waller.

James was employed at Pratt and Whitney Aircraft for over 35 years. He was an avid craftsman and loved refinishing antique furniture. James had an extensive train and classic toy collection. His most cherished time was spent on the Connecticut River with his family.

James is survived by two daughters, Nicole and Gina Waller of Portland, his close dear friend and former spouse, Linda (Virgadula) Waller of East Haddam, two brothers, Michael Waller and his wife Lisa, all of Portland, Jeffrey Waller and his wife Wendi of Colchester, also several nieces, nephews and his beloved pets.

At his family's request, funeral services are private and there are no calling hours. Burial is in Swedish Cemetery, Portland.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Portland Fire Dept., P.O. Box 71, Portland, CT 06480.

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



Portland

Jane Gustafson-Olson

Jane Gustafson-Olson, 89, of Higganum, wife of the late Ingvar Roland Gustafson passed away Friday, July 10, at home. She was the daughter of the late Charles and Amelia Gustafson.

Born July 12, 1925, in Portland, she lived in Portland for 20 years prior to living in Higganum for the last 50 years. She was employed at Connecticut Bank and Trust for many years. She was a member of the Higganum Senior Center and enjoyed being a seamstress and doing quilting.

She leaves her children, Andrew Ingvar Olson of Weston, Vt., Ivy Olson Pecoraro of Smithfield, R.I., and Matthew Roland Olson of Westbrook; a sister, Margaret Randazzo of Portland; five grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Graveside services were held Tuesday, July 14, at the Swedish Cemetery, William Street, Portland.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the National Audubon Society (audubon.org).

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

Portland

Timothy James Brown

Timothy James Brown, 59, of Essex, Vt., formerly of Portland, died Sunday, June 14. Tim was born Jan. 6, 1956, in Wheeling, W. Va., to Margaret and Stewart Brown.

He is survived by his daughter, Kelsey Brown, of Chicago, Ill., and son, Erik Brown, USCG, San Diego, Calif. He also leaves behind his mother, Margaret; brother, Mark (Victoria) of Hebron; sister, Susan Page of Huntington; and brother, Joel (Meaghan) of Glastonbury. Tim is also survived by his seven nieces and nephews and extended family across the country.

Tim was predeceased by his father Stewart in 1990.

Tim grew up in Portland and was a 1974 graduate of Portland High School.

Tim had been a certified nuclear welder at Electric Boat, a steel fabricator for Atlantic Ventilating, an operator for Connecticut Yankee Power and was most recently employed by IBM in Vermont.

Tim enjoyed hiking and fishing throughout New England, especially in the Brown family home state of Vermont.

Services were held at the Glastonbury Funeral Home Thursday, July 9.

Memorial donations can be made to the American Heart Association, 5 Brookside Dr., Wallingford, CT 06492 or at donatenow.heart.org.

East Hampton

Claire Irene Wall

Claire Irene (Massicotte) Wall, 88, of Nantucket, Mass., formerly of East Hampton, widow of John Mack Wall, died Sunday, July 12, at Lawrence Memorial Hospital. Born April 10, 1927, in Waterbury she was the daughter of the late Phillip and Eva (Vanasse) Massicotte.

Claire was the owner and operator of Claire's Bed and Breakfast on the Island of Nantucket. Claire was a devout Catholic. While living in East Hampton, she was involved with Saint Patrick's Church Guild. After moving to Nantucket, she became involved with St. Mary's Our Lady of the Isle Church. As a Eucharistic minister, she took great joy in administering communion to shut-ins. Claire especially loved her golden retrievers, the beach, gardening, and spending time with her family.

She is survived by her six children, Michelle Kerwin and Robert of Boston, Timothy Wall of Glastonbury, John Wall and Kathleen of Madison, Kathleen Cook and David of Old Saybrook, Karen Wall and Stephen Offiler of Sterling and Christopher Wall and companion Marie Philopena of West Hartford; a sister, Doris Gagliardi and husband, George of Florida, and New Jersey; three sisters-in-law, Mary Lou Wall, Judy Massicotte and Mary Albright; seven grandchildren, Michael and wife Beth, Christopher and fiancée Olivia, Nicolas, Patrick, Katelyn, Haley, Reese; her great-granddaughter, Allyson; and many nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her brother, Philip Massicotte, and her sister, Lorraine Massicotte.

A funeral liturgy will be celebrated today, July 17, at 11 a.m., in St. Patrick Church in East Hampton. Burial will follow in St. Patrick Cemetery. Friends called at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, Thursday, July 16.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital at StJude.org or to Nantucket Safe Harbor for Animals, P.O. Box 2844, Nantucket, MA 02584.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.



Colchester

Mary Cimino Cook

Mary Cimino Cook, 86, of Colchester, joined her husband Leonard in heaven Monday, July 6. Born in Middletown, she was the daughter of Joseph and Angelina Cimino.

Mary is survived by her three children, Stephen Cook, Michele Opalenik and Marlene Cook; the light of her life—her grandchildren, Danielle and Brett Opalenik and Dareck Hubbell; sons-in-law, Steven Opalenik and Patrick O'Briant. Mary also leaves her sister, Sophie Dykas; brothers, Frank, Joseph and Loraine Cimino. She also leaves many nieces and nephews and friend Bruce Lamb.

Mary was predeceased by her sister, Josephine Rio, and brothers, Vincent and John Cimino.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held Saturday, July 18, at 10:30 a.m., at Saint Andrew's Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester. A celebration of life will follow at the home of her daughter, Michele Opalenik. Per Mary's request, there will be no calling hours. Burial will be private.



East Hampton

Mary E. Lowe

Mary (Paula) Euphemia Butts (Stringer) Lowe, 87, passed away peacefully at the Jefferson House in Newington Monday, July 13. She was born Sept. 30, 1927, in East Hampton, to Bertha and William Butts.

She resided most of her life in East Hampton and Hartford. She retired from General Motors after 44 years of service. Her favorite hobby was bowling.

She is survived by her children, Mary Stringer-Jones of Newington, Paul D. Stringer Jr. of Tolland, Lynn Stringer-Ford of Wethersfield; sister, Margaret Sansbury of Windsor; 12 grandchildren, Scott Stringer of New Britain, Brian Ford and wife Kimberly of Upper Marlboro, Md., Tasharia Stringer-Outlaw and husband Henri of Washington, D.C., Khary Stringer and wife Sabrina of London, England, Tuere Stringer of Enfield, Lance Stringer-Ford and wife Andrea of Portland, Tabari Stringer of Manchester, Yvette Jones of Landover, Md., Harry Jones Jr. of Portland, Sakima Stringer and wife Jennifer of Sacramento, Calif., Tahirah Stringer-Engel and husband Eric of Canton, Chase Stringer of Silver Springs, Md.; 19 great-grandchildren; special nieces, Frances Lewis, Tina Gibson, Maryann Lawrence, and great nieces, Roxanne Ruffin and Katrina Spicer-Lindquist; her closest and special friends, Sarah Ruffin and Gracie Smith.

Mary was predeceased by her mother, Bertha Butts; father, William Butts; father of her four children, Paul Stringer Sr.; and husband, William Lowe; son, William Craig (Captain) Stringer; brothers, Frances Butts and John Butts.

Friends may call at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, Saturday, July 18, from 9:30-11 a.m. Funeral services will begin at 11 a.m. Burial will be in Lake View Cemetery at the convenience of the family.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Portland

Herbert David Duey

Herbert Duey, formerly of Portland, died at home in Centennial, Colo., Wednesday, June 24. He succumbed to pancreatic cancer.

He was predeceased by his wife, Barbara, in 2008.

Herb is survived by a sister, Muriell Martin; his partner of three years, Linda Cunningham; three sons, Jon, William and Charles and their spouses; and a granddaughter, Anna Duey.

A celebration of his life was held at Olinger Chapel Hill in Colorado on July 11 with interment following on Mt. Lindo. A memorial service will be planned for the fall at First Congregational Church of Portland, where Herb was a member. Gifts in his memory may be made to the church's Music Fund, 554 Main St., Portland, CT 06480 or to Friends of Dinosaur Park and Arboretum, Inc. in Rocky Hill where he served as a guide for several years.

Colchester

Debra Jean Hutchins

Debra Jean Hutchins, 60, of Colchester, passed away Thursday, July 9, surrounded by her family, after a long and courageous struggle with her health, at Backus Hospital in Norwich. Born in Portland, Maine, on July 5, 1955, she was the daughter of Phyllis (Olcott) Moodie of Littleton, N.H., and the late Ralph Moodie.

Debra worked on poultry farms with her family most of her lifetime. In later years, she worked for the U.S. Department of Agriculture as a poultry commodity grader. In her spare time, she volunteered as an EMT with the former Intercounty Ambulance in Colchester.

She married Mitchell Hutchins on Oct. 20, 1973. The couple shared 39 years of marriage before he predeceased her in 2012.

Debra enjoyed video games and golf. Most importantly, she will be remembered for her care-free outlook of "live and let live" and for the love and devotion she gave generously to her family and friends.

In addition to her mother, survivors include two sons, Robert Hutchins, with whom she made her home in Colchester, Mitchell P. Hutchins of Hartsville, S.C.; 12 siblings, Kudeen, Johnny, Dennis, Danny, Moodie and Melody Fuller, all of Littleton, N.H., Ralph Moodie of Connecticut, Bernice Burroughs of Vermont, Joanne Kohl of Texas; stepbrother, David of New Hampshire; stepisters, Diane Grant and Claudia Grant of New Hampshire; and numerous extended family members and friends.

The family would also like to thank the hospital staff on A3 at Backus and her Davita Dialysis family for the exceptional care they gave her over the years.

Calling hours will be held Sunday, July 19, beginning at 1 p.m., at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. A memorial service will follow immediately at 2:30 p.m. at the funeral home. Burial will be private.

Donations in her memory may be made to Rescue Me, 3001 Salem Rd., Suite 2, Watkinsville, GA 30677, memo line: Italian Greyhound Rescue.

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Colchester

Alice P. Mazzarella

Alice P. Mazzarella, 89, of Madison, formerly of Colchester, passed away in the company of loving family at The Connecticut Hospice in Branford Wednesday, July 8, after a long illness. Born in Utica, N.Y., in 1926, she was the daughter of the late Dr. Walter S. and Margaret F. (O'Reilly) Pugh.

Alice was the beloved wife of John Mazzarella and the mother of five children. Alice was born in Utica, N.Y., and moved frequently during her youth owing to her father's service in the U.S. Army. She attended Utica Free Academy and Syracuse University, earning her B.A. degree from Elmira College and a master's degree in social work from Case Western Reserve University.

Married for over 59 years, Alice and John spent over 45 years in Colchester, where they raised their five children. They relocated to Madison in 2008.

In addition to her husband, Alice is survived by daughters Ann Mazzarella of Madison, Carol Shanmugaratnam and her husband Santhan of West Roxbury, Mass., Susan Mazzarella of Gaitherburg, Md., Jane Mazzarella of West Roxbury, Mass.; son David Mazzarella of Tustin, Calif.; first cousin, Margaret "Peggy" Straub and her husband Francis of Fayetteville, N.Y.; and numerous other extended family and friends.

Alice was known as a caring person who gave generously to her family, her neighbors and her community. After her children were grown, she enjoyed many years as an active volunteer at the Cragin Memorial Library in Colchester.

Calling hours were held Friday, July 10, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The funeral Mass was celebrated Saturday, July 11, at 11 a.m., directly at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester. Burial will be held privately in the West Cemetery in Madison.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her memory to Cragin Memorial Library, 8 Linwood Avenue, Colchester, CT 06415.

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Obituaries continued

Marlborough

Jacqueline Mae Dumas

Jacki, of Marlborough and Newington, loved her family and friends dearly and was known by all as a sweet and loving woman. She was a teacher and artist and very active in the Marlborough Community Arts and loved volunteering at the Hartford Stage. She passed on peacefully Sunday, July 12, after a long struggle with Alzheimer’s.

She is survived by her two children, Randall, Renée and her husband Carlos Rodriguez, and one grandson, Derek. She is also survived by her mother, Pauline (Paula) Schuetz; her sisters and their husbands, Barbara-Jean and Ron Fortuna, Elaine and Bud Marino, Nanci and John Jutras; and her nieces and nephews, Colleen Schmelter, Bryan Burns, John Jutras, Nicole Jutras and Michelle Fortin.

She is predeceased by her father, Calvin Schuetz and her ex-husband Paul Dumas.

Calling hours will be today, July 17, from 5-7 p.m., at Newington Memorial Funeral Home, 20 Bonair Ave. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held Saturday, July 18, directly at St. Mary’s Church, 626 Willard Ave., Newington, at 10 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate donations to the Alzheimer’s Association, alz.org.

To share a memory with her family, visit newingtonmemorial.com.

East Hampton Police News

6/29: Robert W. White, 44, of 14 Fairlawn Ave., was issued a summons for operating under suspension and failure to drive right, East Hampton Police said.

7/1: Wesley J. Francis, 26, of 10 Pecauset Tr., was issued a summons for criminal mischief, police said.

7/3: Colin Briggs Shirshac, 32, of 81 Clark Hill Rd., turned himself in pursuant to an active warrant, and was arrested and charged with violation of probation, police said.

7/4: Drew Funk, 20, of 110 Sigwin Dr., Fairfield, was issued a summons for misuse of marker plates, operation without insurance, operating an unregistered motor vehicle and failure to drive right, police said.

7/4: Christopher Kishimoto, 59, of 14 Dziok Dr., was issued a summons for operating a motor vehicle under suspension and operating an unregistered motor vehicle, police said.

7/4: Michael F. Sullivan, 43, of 94 East High

St., was arrested and charged with second-degree threatening and interfering and resisting, police said.

7/4: Michael Burke, 52, of 35 Lakewood Rd., was issued a summons for operating without insurance, operating an unregistered motor vehicle and emissions violation, police said.

7/5: Cynthia Cornut, 46, of 41 East High St., was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct and third-degree criminal mischief, police said, after a brief investigation into a domestic disturbance.

7/8: Jessica A. Spearin, 30, of 37 Old Middletown Ave., was arrested pursuant to an outstanding arrest warrant and charged with second-degree failure to appear, police said.

7/8: Zachariah J. Hooper, 39, of 17 Oak Knoll Rd., was issued a summons for operating an unregistered and uninsured motor vehicle, police said.

Colchester Police News

7/8: State Police said Juan Carrasco, 35, of 139 Lebanon Ave., was arrested and charged with threatening and disorderly conduct.

7/11: State Police said Janet Lamoureux, 77, of 100 Arch St., Keene, N.H., was transported to Hartford Hospital for possible injuries after her car was cut off by another driver, forcing her off the road and to the left. Police said the car struck a guard rail and vaulted over it, rolling onto its roof in the westbound lanes of Route 2 near exit 16 at 9:26 a.m. The other car locked its brakes and spun and was not damaged.

Andover Police News

7/9: State Police said Freddie Walton, 56, of 21 Lilley St., Manchester, was transported to Manchester Memorial Hospital for evaluation after his car struck a utility pole on Wales Road at around 10:30 p.m. Police reported Eversource was called to repair the pole.

7/11: State Police said Katherine Stevens, 31, of 223 Main St., Hampton, was arrested and charged with DUI, making an improper turn, possession of drug paraphernalia, and illegal sale of narcotics.

Marlborough Police News

7/10: State Police said William Beaulieu, 48, of 5 Eastview Dr., Vernon, was arrested and charged with DUI and speeding.

Hebron Police News

7/7: State Police said Kristen Hitchcock, 44, of 258 Boston Hill Rd., Andover, was arrested and charged with DUI, failure to carry a license and failure to drive right.

7/10: State Police said Austin Liles, 20, of 32 Barbers Way, was arrested and charged with failure to appear, violation of probation, disorderly conduct and third-degree assault.

Portland Police News

6/18: Christopher Radman, 37, of 8 Prout St., was charged with sixth-degree larceny and criminal attempt to commit larceny, Portland Police said.

7/6: Santos Melendez, 37, of 83 Main St., Newington, was charged with violation of probation, police said.

From the Editor’s Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

There were times this winter, as the snow continued to bombard us, that I wondered when the snow would ever melt – specifically those huge snow mountains you’d see in mall parking lots and the like. Thanks to some rain and some slightly mild temperatures (emphasis on the “slightly”), melting took place quicker than I expected, and by mid-April, most signs of snow were long gone.

Our neighbors up in Beantown, however, haven’t been so lucky.

Believe it or not, Boston still had snow on the ground as recently as this week. As snow kept falling – and remember, Boston wound up getting 110 inches of snow this winter – city officials were left with little recourse but to deposit the stuff in a sort-of “snow tower” that kept growing....and growing....and growing.

Eventually, the tower grew to 75 feet. And it wasn’t until this past Tuesday that mayor Martin Walsh announced the pile had officially dwindled to nothing.

But the pile wasn’t exactly a snow-lover’s dream; more like Oscar the Grouch’s.

The pile featured a whopping 80 tons of garbage and, as the snow melted, it became more of a trash heap than anything else, according to the Associated Press.

How did this come to be? City officials told the AP that two of the city’s many snowstorms struck after residents put their trash out for pick-up. The garbage instead got swept up by the plows.

Still, regardless of its griminess, it’s amazing the snow pile lasted as long as it did. Snow in July seems like a special kind of nightmare for me. Bostonians got to live it, though – and to make matters worse, their snow was peppered with garbage.

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In other news that seems almost too strange to be believed, a small city in Iowa had been raising money for its police force by raffling off a chance to fire a stun gun at a town official.

The winner of the raffle could aim and fire a stun gun at their choice of either the city administrator or a City Council member. While it would’ve no doubt led to a good photo for whatever Van Meter, Iowa’s equivalent of the *Rivereast* is, it seems incredibly irresponsible to let some random person fire a stun gun at another person.

Not surprisingly, the American Civil Liberties Union objected, so city officials reworked the raffle prize. Now, instead of firing a stun gun at another person, the winner can fire it at a target.

At least no humans are getting fired at, but still. Whatever happened to raffling off a new TV?

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East Hampton is, of course, Belltown. But the Detroit suburb of Royal Oak may steal that title, if only for a day. The town is holding a “Cowbell Classic” 10K and 5K run on Saturday, Aug. 1.

Big deal, you say? Well, the highlight of

the event isn’t the running. Rather, the event is actually an effort to break the Guinness World Records mark for the most people to ring a cowbell at once. (Further driving home the point that Guinness will keep track of anything.)

Race director Matt Flynn said 3,000 cowbells are being ordered, to be rung for five consecutive minutes. Flynn understated things by saying “that’s a long time to listen to cowbells.”

No kidding. And East Hampton: the ball – or should I say the bell – is now in your court.

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The Major League Baseball All-Star Game was this week. My Mets only had one representative – but boy did he represent the team well. Pitcher Jacob deGrom appeared in the sixth inning, and struck out all three batters he faced – Stephen Vogt, Jason Kipnis and Jose Iglesias – on a grand total of 10 pitches. It’s the only time in All-Star Game history a pitcher has struck out the side on so few pitches.

Calling it an impressive performance would be a colossal understatement. And again tantalizes us Mets fans. With that young trio of pitchers deGrom, Matt Harvey and Noah Syndergaard (with currently-injured Steven Matz and Zack Wheeler waiting to join them), the Mets hopefully have some great years – and maybe a title or two – ahead of them.

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Well this was a bummer: Tuesday night, I saw my first back-to-school commercial of the summer. Thanks, Kmart. I always hate seeing those back-to-school ads start to pop up. It’s a subtle notification that summer days are, unbelievably, already starting to dwindle. I know it’s only mid-July, and there are still plenty of weeks left to soak up the sun, but those ads still are a reminder that the time will go fast.

And it does go fast. I know that, calendar-wise, summer is the same length as the other three seasons. But it sure does feel the shortest of the four, doesn’t it? And no big shock here – winter feels like the longest.

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Lastly, a bit of self-promotion. If you enjoyed the photos you saw this week of the East Hampton Old Home Days parade, there’s more where that came from. A lot more. There’s quite the photo gallery these days on the *Rivereast* Facebook page. You can go there to see scores of photos from last weekend’s Old Home Days and Portland Fireworks, pictures from last month’s Portland, East Hampton, Bacon Academy and RHAM high school graduations, and lots of other recent events.

There are always space limitations in terms of photos we can include in the *Rivereast* this week. But thankfully, that’s not the case online. So head on over to our Facebook page, located at [facebook.com/RivereastNews Bulletin](http://facebook.com/RivereastNewsBulletin), and check it out. I think you’ll like what you see.

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See you next week.