



RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

Serving Amston, Andover, Cobalt, Colchester, East Hampton, Hebron, Marlborough, Middle Haddam and Portland

Volume 41, Number 12

Published by The Glastonbury Citizen

July 22, 2016



Don't Feed the Plants!... The Young People's Center for Creative Arts presents *Little Shop of Horrors* Thursday, July 28 through Sunday, July 31, at East Hampton Middle School. The musical tells the story of a mild-mannered floral assistant, his spineless love interest, and a foul-mouthed plant that's out for blood. From left are Katrina Schwartz as Ronette, Vanessa Lagerstrom as Crystal, Mason Cordeiro as Seymour, Brianna Phillips as Chiffon, and Patrick Holden as Mr. Mushnik. See related story on page X.

Elmcrest Project Clears Hurdle

by Elizabeth Regan

Now that the Portland Planning and Zoning Commission has passed a regulation change to allow the construction of up to 240 apartments alongside shops and offices on the former Elmcrest Hospital campus, it's up to the Board of Selectmen to decide what kind of tax incentive, if any, it wants to offer the project developer.

Dan Bertram, of Danbury-based BRT Corporation, has said a tax abatement is a necessary component of his plan for a \$50 million mixed-use development that would save at least two historic homes on the property.

"Obviously we're encouraged by having the opportunity to proceed," Bertram said last Thursday, after members of the zoning commission – following an often-rancorous public hearing – voted 4-to-1 in favor of amending the town's mixed-use zoning regulations. "And so we will next apply before the Board of Selectmen for the tax abatement."

Bertram described the zoning regulation change and tax abatement as the two boxes that must be checked before he will proceed with a site plan that will yield specific project details for which residents have been clamoring.

Planning and Zoning Commission member Robert Ellsworth cast the lone vote against the zoning regulation change, which is known as a text amendment. He said the amendment was "site-specific," instead of applying generally to any potential mixed-use development.

The vote came after the commission closed a public hearing period that began a month earlier. A majority of those who spoke during the hearing were critical of the change.

Opponents worry about the effect of 240 housing units on the town's infrastructure and rural charm – and the potential for such large-

scale developments to spring up elsewhere in town.

Proponents of the amendment have touted it as a way to promote development aligned with the town's Plan of Conservation and Development as well as a \$50,000 grant-funded marketing analysis and concept plan for the Elmcrest property released last year. The amendment was endorsed by the Portland Historical Society and the Economic Development Commission.

Thursday's public hearing and subsequent deliberations by zoning commissioners were marked by strident opposition from local business owner and developer Ben Srb, who has long been on the record as supporting commercial development over residential. Srb sits on the Board of Selectmen but said he was speaking as a taxpayer.

Srb got up four times during the public hearing portion of the meeting and interrupted repeatedly during the commission's deliberations, to the admonition of town attorney Kari Olson of Murtha Cullina.

"From the beginning, this commission has allowed major changes to its regulations to help the Elmcrest site get developed," Srb said during his first visit to the podium. "The Elmcrest site is the only site in the town of Portland that can have a retail store over 40,000 square feet, up to 60,000. This major change wasn't enough."

The commission approved a special permit for the site in 2009 with 149,127 square feet of commercial space and 82 housing units. Then the project stalled under a different developer due to the economic downturn and, according to Bertram and other proponents of the current

See Elmcrest Page 2

New Town Administrative Officer for Andover?

by Geeta S. Sandberg

There appears to be a groundswell of support among Andover officials for shifting much of the first selectman's duties to a proposed town administrative officer.

The creation of that position, proposed by the Charter Revision Commission, will be presented at a public hearing next week.

The hearing will provide the opportunity for members of the public to comment on the proposed revisions, which are the result of around a month's worth of work by a five-member commission formed by the Board of Selectmen at its June 14 meeting. The selectmen charged the commission – made up of residents Adrian Mandeville, Angela Montemagni, George Elliott, Ken Marcia and Steve Willard – to look at and consider amending chapters five and seven to create a town administrator.

If approved, the administrative duties of the first selectmen would be transferred over to the officer, forming a government structure similar to that in towns such as Hebron, Bolton and

Columbia.

Throughout the draft of the revised charter – which is available on the town website andoverconnecticut.org by clicking "Town Depts" and then "Board and Commission Minutes and Agendas" – many of the duties previously listed as being the responsibility of the first selectman have been amended to be the duty of the administrator with the assistance of the Board of Selectmen.

A large portion of the duties of the first selectman were also stricken from the document, and a new section was added specifically regarding the new position.

"The Town Administrator shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Town of Andover responsible to the Board of Selectmen for the supervision, direction and administration of all Town of Andover departments, agencies and offices except the Board of Education and Town agencies whose head or members are elected by popular vote," the draft states.

If residents decide to move the draft to referendum, the revised charter will be on the ballot during the Nov. 8 elections. If the changes are approved, they'd come into effect in July 2017; the administrator would be appointed by the Board of Selectmen based on the recommendations of a search committee.

Mandeville, who chaired the commission, shared this week, "I truly hope that this effort passes. It is what our town needs to succeed and thrive in today's environment. [First Selectman] Bob Burbank has been the torchbearer for 10 years and has done an excellent job. This is about planning for the future of Andover."

The charter changes, he continued, "are very specific in that the town administrator would be responsible for running the day to day operations of the town, but that person is fully responsible to the selectboard." He added, "Really what's happened is everything that used to be labeled as 'first selectman' primarily has shifted to the town administrator. We were given

that single-minded charge and that's what we stuck to."

Mandeville said while he hadn't heard too many concerns regarding the change, one of the things residents had mentioned was cost: how much will the administrator cost the town?

The answer, Mandeville explained, is "this will basically be net."

While salary details would need to be hammered out, Mandeville said the expectation is that the position would run the town \$65,000 on the low end, to \$90,000 on the high-end – and most of that money, he stated, is already in the budget.

"It's not going to cost any more money than the town is currently spending between the salary and benefits of the first selectman, plus another [temporary] administrative position put in the budget last year to help reorganize the town garage and town maintenance facilities," he said.

See Officer Page 2

Elmcrest cont. from Front Page

proposal, residential construction replaced commercial as the more lucrative option.

Now that the zoning regulations have changed, Bertram can apply for a special permit to build up to 240 housing units based on a ratio of 16 housing units for each 5,000 square feet of commercial space – but only if he incorporates “the preservation of significant historic resources identified in the town’s Plan of Conservation and Development.”

Bertram has committed to restoring all of the Brainerd House (1852) and the exterior of the Sage House (1884). Discussions with the town about saving the Hart-Jarvis House (1830) are ongoing.

Current regulations limit development to three units for each 5,000 square feet in a mixed-use development, a requirement that will still apply to any eligible project that doesn’t include the preservation of historic buildings or landmarks.

A property may be considered for a mixed-use development if it’s in a business or industrial zone, is 10 acres or larger, and has access to adequate water and sewer services.

Srb told zoning commissioners a change to zoning regulations as significant as the one proposed by Bertram needs to be grounded in facts and figures.

“Things like 500 to 1,000 cars running near the abutting houses,” he said. “Can the surrounding areas handle the increased traffic? The apartments in a commercial zone will likely lower the value of nearby homes: Would you want 240 apartments next to your house?”

Srb and a majority of those who spoke at last month’s public hearing had asked for an analysis of the impacts of the regulation change on the zoning commission’s primary areas of concern: health, safety and property values. First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield subsequently compiled written responses from entities including the fire marshal’s office, fire and police departments, public works department and the town assessor’s office.

The reports emphasized how difficult it is to make projections without an actual site plan, which will be submitted as part of the special permit process that has not yet begun.

Proposals for a more in-depth review of the fiscal and economic impact of the regulation change were submitted in May by the Connecticut Economic Resource Center, a nonprofit economic development firm, and in June by planning consultant Donald Poland of the East Hartford-based Goman + York.

But selectmen, including Srb, did not bring the first proposal to a vote and denounced the second proposal as a conflict of interest, because Goman + York was also acting as the broker for a business-zoned property on the corner of Route 17 and Route 66.

A two-page memo by Poland on impacts to the school system, however, was submitted to zoning commissioners in June. Srb said it was not disclosed that Goman + York had involvement in another property in town.

At Thursday’s public hearing, Srb cited the omission among the reasons he believed Planning and Zoning Commission Chairman Bruce Tyler’s mind was made up on the issue before the application for a zoning change was filed.

“To me, the perception of a conflict of interest exists, so do the right thing. Recuse your-

self from this application,” Srb said.

He also asked newly-appointed commissioner Carolyn Freeman to recuse herself because her husband, a social worker, allegedly worked at Elmcrest.

“Just remember, you only need to have the perception of a conflict to recuse yourself,” Srb told Freeman.

Both Tyler and Freeman refused to recuse themselves. Freeman did not return multiple calls for comment.

Another heated exchange occurred during the commission’s deliberations after Olson told Michael Woronoff, an alternate on the commission, that the integrity of the process would be undermined if he continued to participate in the discussion as if he were a voting member. State statute empowers only seated members to participate in commission deliberations.

“The integrity of this process degraded long ago. Long ago,” Woronoff replied, to raucous applause from the audience.

Woronoff went on to tell members they need to talk to each other and “really think about” their decision.

The sentiment elicited a fiery reaction from commissioner Terry Grady, who said he was insulted Woronoff would imply the board hadn’t given the issue enough thought.

When Woronoff started to respond, Grady cut him off.

“Every time you open your mouth now, you insult every one of us who has put so much thought, so much caring, so much of our heart in trying to figure out if this is the right decision,” Grady said. “So don’t say a word if you’re not part of the process. And you’re not part of the process.”

Then Woronoff walked out of the meeting, and Grady quickly apologized to the commission for raising his voice.

Now that the text amendment has been approved by the zoning commission, Bertram plans to present an application for a tax abatement to the selectmen at their regular meeting scheduled for Aug. 17. He has said anything less than a seven-year freeze on property taxes for the new construction will compromise efforts to preserve two historic homes and potentially relocate a third.

At a selectmen’s meeting two weeks ago, Srb made a motion to rescind a 2015 resolution that authorized the town to negotiate and enter into a tax abatement agreement with Bertram. Members agreed the resolution was based on outdated information and did not explicitly give the entire board the authority to execute the agreement.

The motion passed unanimously.

Included in the motion was an amendment, made by First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield, to clarify that the board “encourages future applications” for tax abatements.

Bertram was in attendance at Wednesday’s special meeting of the selectmen, during which Woronoff asked for the board’s support in appealing the Planning and Zoning Commission’s approval of the text amendment to the state Superior Court. A related story appears on page 31.

“I hope the town has the collective will to address the redevelopment of the property,” Bertram said after the meeting.

Officer cont. from Front Page

Mandeville said Burbank’s salary and benefits total around \$60,000, while the administrative position’s salary is slotted at \$30,000-35,000.

Along with cost, Mandeville said some concern was also expressed as to whether the new position took power away from the selectmen. So when crafting the changes, “we tried to make sure the selectboard still had the ultimate control. The first selectman is still the highest-elected person and this person is responsible to the selectboard as a whole, not just the first selectman.”

Mandeville furthered, “The biggest thing that people really need to understand is that this has the backing of the finance board, the selectboard – pretty much everyone that’s been interacting with the town on a regular basis.”

This includes Burbank, who, Mandeville noted, “long-term would not be able to run for that position full-time because, once the transition happens, that position would be less than part-time.”

But Burbank said this week he has no intention to run for re-election after his term is up in 2018, so the change would only affect him for a year.

“I plan on fulfilling my obligations to the electorate,” he said. “And of course, if they decide that they do not want to go the administrator route, I would certainly assist anybody that came into the office if they would like assistance.”

Burbank added, “Most people don’t understand how complex the job is now, managing the town and being chief financial officer. It becomes a situation where some people run for office and they don’t have the qualifications and they [are elected] on personality, and that would

not be a good thing for the town.”

Making the switch to an administrative officer, he explained, would help make sure that didn’t happen, by assuring a qualified individual was hired.

Also speaking to the changes, Board of Finance Chairman Dan Warren stated, “I’d like to emphasize to people that I personally believe this is going to be very positive for the town.”

Like Mandeville, Warren said he believed the position would be equal in cost to the current administrative positions “and I believe we’re going to get a lot more value out of it, especially with the administrator truly being accountable to the Board of Selectmen. . . . I truly believe that this is going to pay great dividends to the town.”

Democratic Town Committee Co-Chair and Board of Selectmen member Julia Haverl also expressed support this week, saying “I think it’s going to be a very positive change for the town if it goes through. The job of first selectman has become more complicated as the years have gone by. I was first selectman back in late ‘80s and it’s a whole different ballgame now.”

She added, “I really think the efficiency and transparency and the operating of the government and the ability to gain grants will more than pay the amount of the salary this person will earn.”

Republican Town Committee Chairman Jeff Murray did not return calls in time to comment for this story, but Mandeville said Murray told him he was also supportive of the change.

* * *

The public hearing is scheduled for next Tuesday, July 26, at 7 p.m. in the community room at the town hall, 17 School Rd.

Portland Police News

7/2: Daniel Hammick, 30, of 10 Summer St., was charged with disorderly conduct and third-degree criminal mischief, Portland Police said.

7/19: David Peterson, 23, of 33 Sears St., Middletown, was charged with failure to maintain safe distance and operating a motor vehicle without insurance, police said.

Hebron School Board Doesn't Vote, But \$500K Surplus to Return to Town

by Geeta S. Sandberg

Nearly half a million dollars in Board of Education surplus funds is on its way to the town – despite the school board not actually voting to return the money.

At its July 14 meeting, board members opted not to hold a vote on the surplus at all, explaining the practice wasn't required and that, without a vote, the surplus will automatically return.

At the July 14 meeting, schools superintendent Tim Van Tassel explained the surplus stood at \$497,098. He'd stated earlier in the year the surplus was due to a number of factors, including changes to insurance, heating costs that came in lower than anticipated, and employee resignations.

Initially, board member Kevin Williams made a motion to return all remaining surplus from the 2015-16 year to the town after the audit was complete, and member Maryanne Leichter seconded.

However, Leichter then stated she didn't think the motion was necessary.

"I don't even understand why we have to approve this – [the surplus] automatically goes to the town," she said. "There's nothing in our policy that says we have to do this, nothing in our charter that says we have to do this, so why do it?"

Van Tassel supported Leichter's statements,

explaining he didn't locate anything in board policy, town charter or state statute that said a vote needed to take place.

"I then went through the meeting minutes to try to find out potentially where it all began and it appears that the 2012-13 school year is when the board, in July, took action on their surplus," he said. "I don't know what precipitated that, I don't know if something occurred in that particular year..."

Leichter, who was on the board at that time, shed some light on the goings-on at that time.

"It may have had something to do with the fact we had some difficulty with our business manager and were being hypervigilant," she explained.

In 2013, the Board of Education alleged then-schools superintendent Eleanor Cruz had made around \$15,000 in questionable expenses during her final year in town. The school system's finance director at the time, William Mazzara, was actually an employee of the RHAM school district, whose services were contracted out to Hebron two days a week. Following the allegations against Cruz, it was discovered Cruz had used the district credit card to make a number of unauthorized purchases; the card these charges occurred on had a \$50,000 limit and was acquired without the knowledge of the

Board of Education. The application was signed for by Cruz and Mazzara.

After a study was conducted on the business operations at Hebron Public Schools, it was also determined there were a number of weaknesses in the business office including the lack of an appropriate procedural manual, weak oversight, weak financial controls, no special approval procedure for purchases over \$10,000 and a lack of encumbering.

In March 2013, both school boards voted to enter into a release agreement with Mazzara, under which it stated Mazzara "voluntarily retires" effective May 1 of that year.

(Meanwhile, following a lengthy investigation into the allegations against Cruz, she was arrested in August 2014 and charged with first-degree larceny; of the \$15,000 in questionable expenses, around \$6,300 were found to be through the unauthorized use of funds, according to the arrest warrant. Cruz pled guilty in September 2015, and was sentenced two months later to three years' suspended jail time and five years of probation.)

Following the discussion at last week's meeting, Williams and Leichter withdrew their motion.

"We'll let the process happen as it would normally happen," said Board Chair Erica

Bromley, with the surplus automatically returning to the town.

And, moving forward, Bromley said a report from Van Tassel on the amount of the surplus – not necessarily a vote – would be appropriate.

Also related to the surplus, board member Carol Connolly shared at the meeting she thought it was a "grave mistake" the board chose not to approve using some of the funds to finance a new playscape at Gilead Hill School and install air conditioning in the school's activity room during the special Board of Education meeting June 28. Both motions failed 6-1, with Connolly the sole vote in favor.

"I think the playscape and air conditioning should have been approved at the last meeting for health and safety issues and that it puts the school district at liability going forward," Connolly stated. "I strongly, strongly advise that when we have a meeting with the town manager we make sure to reiterate the health and safety issues as a number one priority for the students that will return in August."

The next regular Board of Education meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Aug. 11, at 7 p.m., in the Gilead Hill School music room, 580 Gilead St.

Andover Teacher, Librarian Look Back on 30 Years

by Geeta S. Sandberg

While a majority of the people who walked out of Andover Elementary School when the school year ended June 10 will return when the doors open again next month, for John Gasper and Carol Zujewski the end of the year marked the end of their time at the school; two tenures which, combined, totals more than 60 years.

Gasper, who grew up in town, started teaching in town in 1986. His path to Andover Elementary School started when he was drafted during the Vietnam War. Following a year in Vietnam, Gasper explained, it was difficult to get a job, because "back then people were afraid of us."

Gasper said he got married, and his then-wife suggested he go back to school; he did so, during which time he took a couple of classes that involved reading to first-graders – something he realized he enjoyed. And so, he chose teaching as his focus, had the chance to student teach in Andover and, once he graduated, returned to the school to fill a vacant position. He's been a part of the school ever since and over the years has taught a third- and fourth-grade combination class, fourth grade, fifth grade – but mostly sixth grade.

As for Zujewski, she found herself in Andover following a stint as the children's librarian at Booth and Dimmock Memorial Library in Coventry. Although she enjoyed her time there, she explained when her son was ready to start school, she started to wonder how scheduling would work since the library's busy time was during the summer, when her son would be home.

In 1985, Zujewski explained it was a friend of hers, who worked at the Andover Public Library at the time, that mentioned an opportunity to fill in for a year as the school librarian. Zujewski said she'd never considered working in a school library, but she filled the position and, after "a great year," she stayed on.

During their time at the school, both Gasper and Zujewski said they'd seen a mix of changes and things that stay the same; one of the former being education as a whole.

"When I first started you got a curriculum and you were expected to teach it but there weren't people watching over you so much," Gasper shared. "And if the kids were good you could say on a day, 'Let's go out and play kickball.' But you can't do it anymore; it's all instructional time and it has to be reported."

He added, "I'm not crazy about the testing... Even though they [the state Department of Education] say, 'Oh, you're not teaching to the test,' you really are because your scores are reported and our goals are set around testing."

Zujewski shared similar sentiments, explaining, "When I first came there wasn't any preschool program, so one of the teachers and I started a preschool story hour for kids in town... We did quite a bit of community things like that. We had the opportunity and the freedom to do that and I think that's a little more restrictive now."

And, she said, it was due to education reform.

"Maybe not on purpose," Zujewski said, "but because of the emphasis on testing and scores, I think that's what teachers feel: you can still be creative but you don't have the time to do all the things that you want."

Another change Gasper said he's seen over the years is in administration. He estimated he'd seen eight to 10 principals come and go during his time, asserting they usually lasted three or four years.

"If an administrator wasn't working for me, as I told a couple of them, 'I'll be here after you are.' I'd stick it out, and they'd move on," he said with a laugh.

Zujewski also mentioned changes in technology – something she said Andover balances well.

"Andover is, I think, way ahead of a lot of schools in technology and yet at same time, the emphasis is on books and reading and looking for the deeper meaning and not all pointing and clicking and looking at screens," she stated.

But the students, she continued, have been a 30-year constant.

"Kids stay the same," she said. "They're



John Gasper, left, and Carol Zujewski have retired from Andover Elementary School. Each were with the school for 30 years.

wonderful; empty vessels you pour things in and they absorb everything."

As for what kept the two with the Andover school system all these years, they mentioned staff camaraderie and a sense of community.

"The camaraderie of Andover staff is a huge part of what Andover Elementary School is," Zujewski said. "We've all just been a very close and supportive staff – just wonderful people to work with."

"It's never been the best-paying system but the community is very supportive," Gasper added. "I feel like I'm part of this community."

And, Gasper added, "of course the kids" played a role in his staying, as did the work he got to do related to science and reading. "I've done a lot of things," he stated. "I enjoyed the variety."

Zujewski furthered, "I love the preschoolers; they're just so excited about everything, and it's

just the beginning – of the alphabet, numbers and working things through. So much of [what I enjoyed] is the kids in general."

And now that they're moving on – with Gasper hoping to do some traveling to Paris and across the country, and Zujewski looking forward "to having the time to do whatever comes" including seeing her children more and possibly helping out at her daughter's vineyard in California – both had final messages for Andover's students.

Zujewski said she wanted students "just to keep on doing what they're doing and supporting each other" and concluded "I enjoyed working with them all."

And Gasper said with a laugh he wanted to tell kids to work hard, "but that never works." So, he said, "take chances, try things. And of course, be nice to each other. That's important."

East Hampton Performance Review Leads to Complaints About Process

by Elizabeth Regan

A meeting held Tuesday to discuss and complete the Town Council's evaluation of Town Manager Michael Maniscalco included a lot of complaints about the process, but not much discussion about Maniscalco's performance.

An email to the seven members of the council, sent a week prior to the meeting by Chairwoman Patience Anderson, said packets with written reviews from six councilors were provided and that "joint discussion and final evaluation" would occur at the meeting. Only councilman Ted Hintz Jr. did not provide his written review in advance.

The practice in prior years had been for council members to formulate a final evaluation by collecting their individual responses, looking at them together, and keeping only the responses upon which a majority of the members agreed.

This year, however, there appeared to be uneasiness from at least some of the members about having that discussion in public.

While evaluations of town employees may be held in executive session, Maniscalco invoked his right to open the job review discussion to the public, as he did last year. Prior to that, he had allowed councilors to discuss his review privately.

The state Freedom of Information Act gives public officials the option to insist their performance evaluations be held at an open meeting.

According to the town charter, the town manager is required to attend council meetings "with full right of participation in their discussions." That means he is entitled to participate in any meeting, even when the topic is his own evaluation.

Maniscalco asked for his first public evaluation in March 2015, when the council, chaired at that time by Barbara Moore, held a mid-year evaluation that Maniscalco said violated his contract. The contract specifies an "annual review" be held around his July 1 anniversary date.

In emails obtained by the *Rivereast*, Hintz asked Maniscalco and council members for a

legal opinion on Maniscalco's involvement in his own evaluation.

"I am quite sure the intent nor meaning of the charter nor your employment contract suggests that you are to be a participant in your review," Hintz wrote on July 11. "That is the fox watching the hen house."

However, a memo from attorney Kyle A. McClain of Siegel, O'Connor, O'Donnell & Beck said the town charter's reference to the full right of participation means Maniscalco is authorized "to participate in council discussions at council meetings no matter the subject of such discussions."

At Monday's meeting, Hintz was on speakerphone from a remote location when he railed against Maniscalco's involvement in the process.

"It is very much that Mike is actually doing his own evaluation because he's able to, per our charter, act as a council member – which basically defeats the purpose of this charade we're putting on," Hintz said.

Council member Melissa Engel, the chairwoman of the Charter Revision Commission, reiterated Maniscalco's right to be at the meeting.

"Whether it's a charade or whatever you want to call it, it's our charade that we created by our charter," she said.

She said the issue could be added to the agenda of the Charter Revision Commission, which was set to meet two days later.

Hintz said he was utterly disgusted by the process.

Council member James "Pete" Brown also lamented the need to talk about the evaluations in public before having an opportunity to come to a consensus privately.

"I just think personally it's wrong," Brown said. "I think, as councilpersons, we are his boss. We have a right to meet, to deliberate, on a working draft before being presented to him."

A motion was made by Engel to distribute

all seven members' evaluation forms, as well as a compilation sheet, to Maniscalco for a 30-day review and written response period following council deliberation.

During discussion, councilors talked about the need to set goals and objectives for Maniscalco going forward but did not go into detail about how they think he performed this year.

Maniscalco's contract requires the council to prepare a written evaluation, to meet and discuss the evaluation, and to present a written summary of the evaluation results.

Hintz said that means they actually need to have a discussion on the evaluation.

"I don't know if anyone cares or would like me to go over my comments and where they came from, or if that's even relevant at this point," he told fellow council members after a protracted dispute with Engel about incorporating an opportunity for discussion into her motion.

Hintz did not end up going over his comments, instead focusing on the need to set goals and objectives with measurable results.

Reached by phone on Wednesday, Hintz said he did not have a problem talking about the evaluation in the public eye, but "the council needs to be able to discuss as a unit the person they are reviewing without interference from that person."

He said he was baffled about why the council did not talk about Maniscalco's performance.

He added that he has had problems with the way Anderson handled the process from the beginning, when she first met with council member Kevin Reich to revise the evaluation form that Hintz said the full board never approved. He also objected to her request for council members to hand in their evaluations ahead of time, which he did not do.

Meeting minutes indicate that, at last year's annual review, both Hintz and Anderson declined to hand in their evaluations prior to council discussion. Hintz said he did so because he

felt like documents were being shared in advance with only certain members of the council, according to minutes.

Anderson explained to Hintz and other members at Monday's meeting she needed the evaluations beforehand so she could synthesize all the responses into one document for discussion.

Anderson said over the phone Tuesday that she believes some of her fellow council members may have misunderstood her intent, which was to discuss the compilation of everyone's evaluations and formulate a final evaluation based on the group's input.

Some members may have thought the summary page she put together was actually the final evaluation, she said – "And I think that's where it went awry."

According to Anderson, she was fully prepared to discuss the review in public, but then Engel made the motion to send the evaluations and the summary to Maniscalco.

"Nobody made a motion to go over the summary," Anderson said.

Engel, reached Tuesday, said there will be time for discussion once Maniscalco submits his written response to the evaluations.

"The substantive part will be when we sit down with him and he tells us what he thinks," she said. "Then you have a conversation with more meat to it."

As for complaints by those like Hintz and Brown who lamented the council's inability to meet in executive session to discuss the review, Engel said it's an issue of state statute.

"I got the impression that there were some councilors who would like it if we could discuss his performance without him being there," she said. "And I don't think that's ever going to be proven to be legal."

According to Hintz, the issue could have been avoided if Maniscalco simply agreed to let his evaluation play out behind closed doors.

"The town manager has a major issue with anything I suggest. That has gone on since the day he was hired," Hintz said.

East Hampton's YPPCA to Perform *Little Shop of Horrors*

by Elizabeth Regan

The Young People's Center for Creative Arts production of *Little Shop of Horrors* has a bit of a split personality.

"We've double-cast almost all of the principal characters so a lot more students have the opportunity to perform," Rachel Mansfield, YPPCA's director, said. "It's almost like having two casts of principal characters."

That means the show, which runs July 28-31, will be a different experience from night to night.

Based on the 1982 Off-Broadway musical, which was turned into a hit movie in 1986, *Little Shop of Horrors* is the story of a meek geek named Seymour who, as a floral assistant, discovers a new kind of plant he names "Audrey II" after the coworker he pines for. It soon becomes apparent that Audrey II is out for blood.

Choreographer Jen Friday called the musical a dark comedy in the vein of a B-movie. (Indeed, the original musical was based on a 1960 B-movie directed by Roger Corman.)

"Poor Seymour wants the girl and the clothes, but by the end he loses all he loves to the plant," Friday said.

The role of Audrey's abusive boyfriend, the dentist Orin Scrivello, is shared by Matthew Cote and Lucas Gerolami, both of East Hampton.

Cote, 18 and a graduate of Connecticut River Academy in East Hartford, said the role is a vast departure from his own personality.

"It's definitely not me, so it's an acting opportunity. It's a lot of work and it takes a lot of getting to know your character," Cote said.

Gerolami, who is also 18, graduated in June from East Hampton High School. For him, taking on the dentist's over the top personality was pure fun.

Gerolami said the differences in the two dentists' portrayals are small, but they keep the show fresh throughout the four-day run.

"He might be more mean and I might be more of a lady's man," Gerolami said, pointing to Cote. "Or vice versa."

This is Cote's fourth year with YPPCA and Gerolami's third. Cote will bring his acting experience to Fairleigh Dickinson University in New Jersey, where he plans to major in musical theater.

Gerolami said he'll be taking a year off to take music lessons and work before hopefully getting into Berklee College of Music in Boston or the New School in New York City.

Audrey is played by Bella D'Ottavio of Haddam and Emily Bradshaw of Portland. "She has no self-esteem whatsoever,"

D'Ottavio said of the bleached-blond, gum-chewing character.

Both D'Ottavio and Bradshaw said self-esteem is not something they lack.

"But when it comes to certain insecurities, I kind of related to her," D'Ottavio said. "All girls have insecurities."

And while Bradshaw said she's known for being outgoing now, that wasn't always the case.

"When I was younger, I was very shy. This camp actually is what broke me out of my shell," Bradshaw said. The rising junior at Portland High School said she started at the camp when she was 10 years old.

The girls agreed that sharing the role has strengthened the bond formed through the intensive four-week camp experience.

"It's great because I get to share it with someone I was already close with to begin with. We get along so well," Bradshaw said.

The role of the plant, Audrey II, is also shared – but in a different way.

The voice of Audrey II belongs to Michael Brady of Durham. The 18-year-old graduated this year from Cogenchaug Regional High School.

The plant itself, however, is constructed and operated by local craftsman Jason Gagne.

Audrey II goes through multiple iterations, ranging from teacup sized to an elaborate 8 feet tall version.

Mansfield said most productions rent their Audrey II, which makes their own, homegrown character a source of pride for the group.

"Just come to see Audrey II, because that's going to be worth the price of admission," Mansfield said.

Mansfield said *Little Shop of Horrors* is a good fit for the East Hampton Middle School auditorium, where the show will go on while their usual high school venue is closed for renovations.

"The great thing about Little Shop is you need an intimate space for it, because the audience needs to be up close and personal with these characters," Mansfield said. "It's a very sensitive show. The characters have some really fun emotional journeys that you can't get when it's a huge auditorium and you're hundreds of feet back from the stage."

Showtimes for Little Shop of Horrors are 7 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday, and 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$15 for adults, and \$10 for seniors and children 16 and under, and can be ordered online at ypcca.org. Tickets will also be available at the door.

Familiar Names Join Marlborough Board of Finance

by Julianna Roche

There are two new faces on the Board of Finance these days – but they’re not really “new” at all, as both are veterans of town office.

Dieter Zimmer was recently appointed to a full position on the board, while Riva Clark was named an alternate.

Clark was appointed at the Board of Selectmen’s June 21 meeting by a 2-0 vote, with selectman Dick Shea abstaining. Clark got her start in the community by volunteering through the Marlborough Junior Women’s Club and working on the town’s Bicentennial Committee. “That’s where I got to know a lot of people and I learned a lot more about how the town works,” she said.

From there, she stayed involved with the community, eventually being elected to the Board of Selectmen in 2007. She served on the board until 2011. Currently, Clark serves on the Board of Assessment Appeals, a position she said she will be required to resign from in order to serve on the finance board.

Zimmer (who was appointed by a unanimous vote at the July 5 selectmen meeting) has been a Marlborough resident for 37 years, and served on the RHAM Board of Education member for more than 25 years.

The finance board had been short one member since Democrat Evelyn Godbout was elected to the Board of Selectmen last fall. Since there were already four Republicans on the finance board, another Republican was not allowed to be named to the seat. Enter Zimmer, who is unaffiliated.

“We had no one to replace Evelyn on the

Democrat side, so it’s good to get Dieter in there as a permanent member,” Board of Finance Chairman Doug Knowlton said.

Board of Finance member Midge Denno agreed. “While I’m only familiar with him by reputation, I know he and his wife have been very active in the community and with the Girl Scouts.”

Knowlton and Denno had similar sentiments about Clark coming aboard. “She was a former selectman, so I think she’s going to bring a lot to the table,” said Denno. “She’s a great believer in giving back to the community and in public service.”

“I think it’s just time for me to pay it back,” Clark said about her volunteerism. “It’s ingrained in me. You can take me out of Marlborough, but I can’t give up what I learned here. It’s community... it’s volunteering and it’s what you should be doing in life, I think.”

“She’s also had quite a bit of involvement in town in the past, so I think she’ll bring some of her background by having been on the Board of Selectmen,” added Knowlton.

Selectwoman Evelyn Godbout, the former Finance Board chairwoman, said she’s “tickled” to have both Zimmer and Clark aboard.

“I’m delighted that the board has such experienced people to join them, which is really needed right now,” she said. “A lot of towns are having trouble finding experienced people, so we’re very happy to have them on board.”

Zimmer and Clark’s appointment was not met completely without dischord, however. During the June 21 selectmen meeting, Shea

had made a motion to appoint a candidate other than Zimmer to the full position, Green Party member Larry Pryor, but the motion failed.

“I found it very odd that Shea did make a motion for Larry’s name and the two Democrats [Godbout and First Selectman Amy Traversa] didn’t second it for conversation; granted, they may have said he doesn’t have the qualities they’re looking for, but they didn’t even do that,” Denno said. She added that she is worried such actions would deter future volunteers in town from coming forward. “I appreciate everybody that gives their time, especially on the Board of Finance, which is a lot of work, and I think everyone that puts their name in, should be given fair discussion.”

In terms of the alternate position, the Republican Town Committee had also originally recommended resident Kate LaMantia for the role. Committee chair – and finance board member – Ken Hjulstrom said he was surprised the selectmen appointed Clark instead.

“We had no idea until the night of the appointment that Riva was interested,” he said. He added that the Republicans will look for someone to fill Clark’s former spot on the Board of Assessment Appeals.

Godbout said this week it came down solely to choosing the candidates with the most experience. “For the people that were recommended, I think we chose the best candidates for the positions.” However, both she and Traversa did say at the June 21 selectmen meeting that they hoped Kate LaMantia would serve on another

board, if interested.

Regardless of how they got here, Knowlton said Zimmer and Clark’s appointments are good news for the board – and filling the vacant positions will be helpful moving forward.

“I think it’s good to have a full complement of people on the board and often, not so much now in the summertime, but ... between January and May, it gets to be quite a lot of work, with extra meetings and the budget,” he said. “So it’s good to have a full complement and also to have an alternate who can attend.”

While Zimmer couldn’t be reached for comment, Clark said she was happy to be of service to the finance board.

“I’m a good listener and I try to be fair,” she said. “I’m not always the most vocal. I don’t feel the need to share all of my thoughts. I don’t think anyone needs to share all of their opinions... but having four older sisters and being the youngest, I learned to choose your fights, pick your battles.”

Clark added that she’s “actually glad that it’s an alternate position,” because it’s a lower responsibility level and she will have more time to spend with her three-year old grandniece, Brianna. “Spending time with Brianna is tops on my list of fun things to do,” she said.

And, despite the alternate status, Clark hopes she can accentuate the positive.

“I’m hoping not to be too involved in the negative politics of it,” she said. “I want to be a positive influence and make an effort to present my opinions in a positive and influential way.”

Marlborough Officials Address Speeding Concerns in Town Center

by Julianna Roche

Speeding may be an issue in the center of town – but it might not be as bad as some people think.

Last week, First Selectwoman Amy Traversa and the Public Works Department’s Superintendent of Operations Chris Corsa met with traffic experts from the University of Connecticut’s Technology Transfer (T2) Center and the Capitol Region Council of Government (CROG)’s Transportation Planning Office in response to residents’ concerns regarding speeding vehicles in the center of town.

At Tuesday’s Board of Selectmen meeting, Traversa said the group walked the area of North Main Street to examine the street’s current conditions and discuss possible solutions to lessen the risks to pedestrians in such a heavily populated area. The group also used a speed gun to measure the speeds of passing vehicles.

“There are no ifs, ands, or buts about it – speeding is a problem, but an awful lot of it is local,” she said.

Traversa added that the issue is not just in the center of town – it’s on other roads as well. “Everyone driving thinks they’re more important than everyone else,” she said.

During the meeting, Traversa said that while residents’ concerns about speeding were valid, the problem may not be as severe as they think. “We did the traffic study, and there’s no ques-

tion that people are speeding, but it’s not as fast as people think they are going. ... With the speed gun in my hand, I can tell you, that’s not what I was seeing.”

UConn’s T2 Center and CROG’s Transportation Planning Office took a look at signs, locations of signs and sidewalks, she added, and “overall, their impression was that we were doing as much as we could regarding safety.”

The T2 Center, which serves members of the state’s transportation and public safety community, works to improve issues regarding the quality and safety of surface transportation systems. According to their Strategic Highway Safety Plan, one of the central issues they look at is driver behaviors such as speeding, which they say is one of the most significant contributors to crash severity and traffic fatalities in the United States.

According to a study done by the Connecticut Department of Transportation Bureau of Policy and Planning’s Highway Safety Office, in 2015, 14 percent of fatal crashes in the state were speed-related and 57 percent of speed-related fatalities actually occurred on low-speed roads (40 m.p.h. and under). According to the state’s Department of Transportation, all of Marlborough’s streets have approved speed limits ranging from 25 to 35 m.p.h., with only one street marked at 40 m.p.h. (the portion of South

Main Street extending northbound from the Hebron Town Line to Route 2).

During the meeting, Traversa also acknowledged that while residents have been suggesting how they think the issue should be resolved (such as adding more stoplights or crosswalks with signal buttons), she is waiting to receive a final written report of recommendations from traffic experts before moving forward.

“Added lights and signs aren’t going to do anything... there are certain things that just can’t be done,” Traversa said, adding that according to state law, stop signs cannot be used for traffic control. Some residents also suggested adding push-button lighted crosswalks, which would not be feasible since they require electricity.

“You’re talking a million-dollar project,” Traversa said.

And the traffic issues in the town center go beyond speeding. Traversa said that, while on North Main Street, experts also noticed pedestrians disobeying traffic laws, which also contributes to the problem.

“There’s people walking on the side of the roads without sidewalks,” she said, adding that while on North Main Street, she saw a young girl with her dog crossing the middle of the road, who she had to remind to only cross the street at the crosswalks.

According to Connecticut state law, “If a pedestrian is at the curb of or in a crosswalk, all vehicles must slow down or stop to allow him to reach either the opposite side of the street or a safety zone.” However, “If a pedestrian is not in a marked or unmarked crosswalk, then he must yield to all other traffic.”

Once Traversa receives a final report of recommendations from UConn’s T2 Center and CROG, she said she will hold a meeting for the public, likely in Blish Park, to address any questions or concerns they may have. In the meantime, she said she has asked law enforcement to crack down on any vehicles they see speeding.

“I’ve asked our constable and state trooper for more enforcement regarding speeding and to have no mercy,” Traversa said. “Tickets, tickets, tickets.”

Addressing the speeding issue, Traversa said, will become even more imperative as more development brings more traffic into town, especially coming off exit 12 and driving up Main Street.

“This is going to become more important with more development in the center,” Traversa said. “We need to come up with some restrictions and keep it in the forefront as we move forward with development.”

Settlers Greene Project Moves Forward with \$1.6M Loan in Colchester

by Julianna Roche

Nearly seven years from its approval date in November 2009, the Settlers Greene mixed-use development project is finally moving forward, after closing a \$1.6 million loan for the 16-acre development site in Colchester.

In May, the two-year, interest-only funding was given to Settlers Greene, LLC, an affiliate of owner J Healy Builders LLC, by an Englewood Cliffs, N.J. based direct private lender, Kennedy Funding Financial (KFF). As one of the largest direct private lenders in the country, KFF has closed more than \$2.5 billion in loans to date.

The Settlers Greene property was originally acquired by the borrower in 2004 as raw land for \$980,000. According to KFF, the property has since undergone \$920,000 of architectural, engineering and legal work in order to acquire development approvals from the Colchester

Planning and Zoning Commission. The approval process can be costly, which is one reason private lending company KFF decided to step in to help.

KFF specializes in bridge loans for commercial property and land acquisition, development workouts, bankruptcies and foreclosures. According to executive loan officer Edwin Urrego, KFF closed the \$1.6 million loan with Settlers Greene LLC, with the hopes that it would help move the project along.

“It’s been a longstanding project,” he said. “And they are utilizing these funds to settle up on some debt, so they can start with a clean slate... this will be a fresh start for them.”

The plans for the property site, which is located off 312 Lebanon Ave. across from Goldilocks Self Storage, have been on the drawing

board for quite some time. In 2007, Colchester zoning regulations changed, allowing commercial and residential uses to occupy the same property. According to project manager John Matheson, the new regulations were “an opportunity to be pioneering... and put forth a mixed-use project.”

CEO Kevin Wolfer said the location is also ideal because “Lebanon Avenue doubles as Route 16,” which is an important connector to downtown Colchester.

“Well-located sites with approvals in place are an important part of any local economy, and we are pleased to be able to provide the necessary financing,” he said.

The 16-acre site will become home to 67 units totaling 162,000 square feet, including 43 townhouses, 20 live/work units and four apart-

ments, and as is with most mixed-use developments, there will be a combination of both retail shops and living spaces.

“The land is going to be used for a mixed-use development, which is basically a residential and commercial condominium complex combined,” Urrego said. “There will be residential units, so more or less, the first floor would be a workspace, and the living space would be on the second floor. ... It’s really geared towards self-employed people.”

According to Urrego, mixed-use development models have been working around the country, providing opportunities for residents to live and work in their community.

“Mixed-use developments are a newer concept, and I think there was a need for this type of housing development in Colchester,” he said.

Route 9 Plan Would Affect Portland Motorists

by Elizabeth Regan

A \$75 million plan by the state Department of Transportation to overhaul Route 9 in Middletown will affect those traveling into Portland over the Arrigoni Bridge in different ways, depending on where which direction they're coming from.

The Department of Transportation will hold a public information meeting Tuesday on the proposal, which is in the conceptual stage, to solve traffic issues caused by the two traffic lights that have been sitting on the highway since the 1950s.

The lights cause traffic to back up and result in a high frequency of rear-end crashes, according to the transportation department.

The plan to eliminate the two traffic lights and raise the highway would require the removal of the northbound left-hand exit onto Hartford Avenue and the southbound right-hand exit onto Washington Street. It would also add a roundabout at the Washington Street and DeKoven Drive intersection as well as a pedestrian bridge connecting Main Street to Harbor Park.

The change means drivers headed north on Route 9 who want to get on the Arrigoni Bridge would get off the highway at Washington Street via the roundabout and turn right onto Main Street.

Another option would be to take deKoven Drive to Rappallo Avenue to get to the bridge, though transportation department principal engineer William Britnell said that's "not a great way to go."

"What we're doing is making improvements on Main Street to handle the additional traffic," Britnell said. "I think Main Street is going to be the more used route."

John Hall, a founding member of Portland's Complete Streets Group committed to safe and accessible roadways, described access to the

Arrigoni Bridge as "complicated" under the new plan.

Increased traffic on the already-congested Main Street could be a problem, according to Hall.

"If that was a route I traveled, I would not view this as an improvement. I'd view it as a setback," he said.

Those traveling south on Route 9 would be able to get to the bridge the same way they do now, via the Hartford Avenue exit.

The change is a better deal for those drivers, Hall said: "Removing the stoplights would benefit them because there won't be a backup from Cromwell."

The plan would shorten crosswalks on Main Street by extending sidewalks to the edge of existing angled parking, Britnell said. Shorter crosswalks mean traffic signals can be retimed because pedestrians will be able to make their way across more quickly.

He estimated the highway overhaul would put about 100 to 200 extra cars on Main Street each hour during peak traffic times.

"Even though there's more traffic on Main Street, there's more green time to handle that traffic," Britnell said.

"Nobody's saying it's going to move smoothly, frankly," he added. "We're just trying to make it no worse than it is today."

The effort is a pet project of Gov. Dannel P. Malloy, who announced the details on June 21 at a press conference in Middletown.

"The traffic signals on Route 9 in Middletown for decades have been a source of major frustration, not to mention significant congestion. We're doing something about it," Malloy said in a press release.

The design phase of the project is expected to last through 2020, according to Malloy's press release. Construction would be completed by 2023.



A plan by the state Department of Transportation to ease congestion on Route 9 in Middletown includes the removal of two exits that will impact traffic heading into Portland on the Arrigoni Bridge.

Larry McHugh, president of the Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce, joined Malloy to say traffic lights have been an issue for as long as he's been involved with the chamber.

"This is the first plan that I have seen that protects access to downtown Middletown while addressing the massive backups and safety issues that occur on both Route 9 north and south," he said in the press release.

Hall, the executive director of Middletown's Jonah Center for Earth and Art, worried that the roundabout would be dangerous for pedestrian and bicycle traffic as slow-moving but continuous traffic winds through.

There are also aesthetic implications, according to Hall. He said the raised lanes would block

the view of the riverfront and could be noisier in certain areas.

Hall serves as a co-chairman of Middletown's Complete Streets Committee, but was not speaking in that capacity.

The public informational meeting on Tuesday will be an opportunity for open discussion on the project, according to Britnell.

"What we have is the concept, so if there are suggestions made we think are viable, we can certainly look to include them. But we're not looking to make drastic changes to the area," he said.

The public informational meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, July 26, at the Elks Lodge on 44 Maynard St. in Middletown.

PZC Alternate Seeks to Sue Portland Commission

by Elizabeth Regan

An alternate member of the Planning and Zoning Commission asked the Board of Selectmen this week for their financial support in appealing to the state Superior Court a zoning regulation change approved last week by the commission.

On Wednesday night, Michael Woronoff stood before the town's seven selectmen at a special meeting to ask them if they'd come on board his lawsuit against the Planning and Zoning Commission. The commission last week approved an amendment to its regulations that paves the way for the redevelopment of the former Elmcrest Hospital property as a mix of apartments and businesses. (A story about that approval appears on the cover of this week's *Rivereast*.)

"I have many issues, not only with the process, but with the consequent decision," Woronoff said. "It is my position that enough wrong has occurred in this process that this decision will easily be overturned in court."

Woronoff spent about an hour discussing his situation with the selectmen, laying out half a dozen allegations including a violation of his civil rights, spot zoning, bias and the inclusion of irrelevant testimony and false information.

"I do not believe I should have to fund this appeal as an individual, even though I am prepared to do so. I believe filing an appeal is acting in the best interest of the town of Portland," Woronoff said. "No matter what position one might have on the proposed text change, we should all agree that a fair and transparent process is always important. Unfortunately, even with legal counsel present, we did not preserve the integrity of a fair process."

Among his arguments were that his civil rights were violated when town attorney Kari Olson told him he could not participate in deliberations after last Thursday's public hearing was closed. He said the commission has had a long-standing policy of letting alternate members contribute to discussions even when they aren't seated.

Woronoff also objected to the text amendment as an example of spot zoning. Based on legal precedent in Connecticut, spot zoning is understood as the rezoning of small parcels in a way that is not consistent with the town's Plan of Conservation and Development and is out of place from the surrounding zones.

The Plan of Conservation and Development, approved in March, lists the "appropriate rede-

velopment of Elmcrest" as the second of five priority issues.

After last Thursday's public hearing, Olson would not comment to reporters on whether or not the zoning regulation change was an example of spot zoning.

"I have a legal opinion about whether this is spot zoning, but I haven't been asked to render it so I'm just going to zip it," she said.

Olson, who specializes in municipal and land use litigation, cited knowledge of spot zoning case law gleaned from experience in numerous towns.

"If someone were [to] raise that claim, then I would apply the criteria any court would apply and the rules any court would apply and come up with an opinion about whether it's spot zoning or not," she explained last week.

Ben Srb, a local businessman and developer who was an active participant in the public hearing on the text amendment and who interrupted the zoning commission's deliberations from the audience more than once, was on the other side of the table on Wednesday night. He was elected to the Board of Selectmen in November.

"This entire body is fully aware of what you

just said and we now have to make a decision," Srb told Woronoff. "I think it would be immoral, unethical and probably illegal to ignore such statements and just sweep it under the carpet. So I can assure you that won't occur. The onus is now on this board to consider what you said and figure out what it wants to do and in what timeframe."

Srb said it's the Board of Selectmen, as the town's highest governing body, that should file the appeal.

Selectmen ultimately agreed to meet with the town attorney for advice on Woronoff's request.

According to statute, Woronoff has 15 days from when the decision was published by serving a lawsuit to the commission's chairman. The legal notice of decision was published online on July 16 and in this newspaper today.

Woronoff told selectmen Wednesday that he would file the lawsuit himself, but that he hoped he could count on the board's support.

"I will appeal with my own funds and when you guys determine if you should get involved, then you can jump on," he said. "But I'm picking the attorney and I'm continuing forward with or without you."

East Hampton Police News

7/5: Carl David Wheelock, 21, of 22 Willow Ave., Middletown, was arrested and charged with third-degree criminal mischief, second-degree breach of peace and possession of drug paraphernalia, East Hampton Police said.

7/8: Tony Lee, 40, of 81 Colchester Ave., was issued a summons for failure to display number plate, excessive noise and reckless driving, police said.

7/8: Samuel Austin Shepley, 25, of 15 Triangle Dr., Moodus, was arrested and charged with possession of cocaine, possession of a controlled substance, illegal operation of a motor vehicle while under suspension and misuse of plates, police said. Shepley also had four outstanding warrants for his arrest, police added, and was charged with violation of probation and three counts of second-degree failure to appear.

7/9: Imogene Fantasia, 60, of 9 West High St., was issued a summons for shoplifting

(sixth-degree larceny), police said.

7/10: Ashley Giannotti, 26, of 1 Bryant Rd., was issued a summons for disorderly conduct and third-degree criminal mischief, police said.

7/10: Samantha Lee Ocelik, 29, of 9 Bevin Blvd., was arrested and charged with violation of a protective order and disorderly conduct, police said.

7/12: Timothy Sherrick, 26, of 33 Terp Rd., turned himself in pursuant to an active warrant for his arrest stemming from an incident that occurred April 19, police said. Sherrick was charged with first-degree reckless endangerment, reckless driving, evading responsibility, operating an unregistered motor vehicle, failure to drive right, possession of drug paraphernalia (related to narcotics), possession of drug paraphernalia (related to marijuana) and possession of less than half an ounce of marijuana, police said.

Colchester Police News

7/8: Colchester police said an Oak Leaf Drive resident reported that sometime during the overnight hours, her unlocked vehicle had been gone through and her purse had been stolen.

7/9: State police said Dyshawn Copeland, 34, of 18 Packard St., Bloomfield, and Ashlee Ruffin, 24, of 107 Boothbay St., Bloomfield, were involved in a physical altercation with one another. Both were arrested and charged with breach of peace: capable of causing minor injury, violation of protective order, and third-degree assault.

7/9: Colchester police said they conducted a traffic stop of Thomas J. Doolan, 55, of 103 Hillcrest Dr., Hebron, for a traffic violation. Upon search of his vehicle, police found heroin and pills. Doolan was subsequently arrested and charged with operating an unregistered motor

vehicle, insurance coverage failing minimum requirements, making restricted turns/failure to give properly/grant right of way, operation of a motor vehicle without a license, possession out of container, possession of a controlled substance: narcotics, and possession of a controlled substance: non-narcotic.

7/14: Colchester police said Tyler Poole, 24, of 830 Grand Ave., New Haven, was taken into custody for three outstanding warrants for third-degree burglary, second-degree criminal mischief and sixth-degree larceny. During a search upon his arrest, police found narcotics and drug paraphernalia in his pockets and wallet. He was charged with drug paraphernalia, possession of a controlled substance: narcotics, and manufacturing or possession of burglar's tools.

Obituaries

Portland

Michael T. O’Heare Sr.

Michael Terrance (“Terry”) O’Heare Sr., 81, of New Smyrna Beach, Fla., formerly of Portland and Glastonbury, passed away Friday, July 8.

He was born in Enosburg Falls, VT, son of the late Arthur and Elsie (Lafley) O’Heare, and grew up in St. Albans, Vt., before the family moved to Portland, where he graduated from high school.

Terry retired from Pratt & Whitney after 34 years of service.

He is survived by his loving companion, Anna Mae Burkey, and two children, Michael T. O’Heare Jr. and his partner Amy Eiserman of Lebanon, and Holly A. O’Heare of Glastonbury; two grandchildren, Michael VonEisen-grein and his wife Michelle of Coventry, and Emma Wright of Glastonbury; and one great-grandchild, Brodie Michael of Coventry. He also leaves Anna Mae’s children, Ruth Williams and her husband John, Sandra Bush and her husband Ric, Melvin Burkey and his wife Brenda, William Burkey and his wife Charlotte, and Tammy Waite and her partner Wayne, and many grandchildren and great grandchildren.

He was predeceased by his wife, Barbara (Nicholls) O’Heare; his sister, Marie Constance “Connie” Thompson; and Michael Burkey. He also leaves his lifelong friend and best buddy, Jack Sterry and his wife Jane of Portland.

Funeral services were held at Introvigne Funeral Home in Stafford Springs, followed by burial in Stafford Street Cemetery Saturday, July 16.

Memorial donations may be made to the Sacred Heart Food Pantry, PO Box 729, New Smyrna Beach, FL 32170.



Portland

Joan Sorenson

Joan (O’Hare) Sorenson, 88, formerly of Portland, wife of 49 years to the late Richard V. Sorenson, died Thursday, July 14, at Hebrew Health Care, West Hartford.

She was born in Troy, N.Y., the daughter of the late John and Ethel (Taylor) O’Hare. Joan had a small business, Skarlett O’Hare, making teddy bears, and she will always be remembered for her love of dolls and her dogs.

She is survived by a daughter, Stephanie Betancourt; five grandchildren, Jennifer Orfitelli, Nicole Ford, Jason Miller, Michael Miller and Teresa Stamm; and two-great grandchildren and one on the way.

She was predeceased by three sisters, Edna, Helen, and Ruth.

Graveside services were held Tuesday, July 19, at Swedisch Cemetery, Portland. There were no calling hours.

Portland Memorial Funeral Home has charge of the arrangements.



Portland

Marshall V. Fogelmark

Marshall V. Fogelmark, 92, of Portland, died Friday, July 1, at Portland Care and Rehabilitation. He was the son of the late Gustaf V. and Freda J. (Anderson) Fogelmark.

Marshall attended Portland schools, and graduated RISD in 1947. He was a member of the Warren Lodge No 51 A.F. & A.M. and Zion Lutheran Church in Portland.

He is survived by his close friend and companion, L. Ernest Barteaux Jr. of Portland.

Graveside services will be held Friday, July 22, at 9:30 a.m., in Swedish Cemetery, Portland. There are no calling hours.

Portland Memorial Funeral Home has charge of the arrangements.

Marlborough

Laura Kalafus Sarazin

Laura Michele Kalafus Sarazin of East Granby, formerly of Marlborough, passed away Sunday, July 17, after a fiercely-fought battle with breast cancer. She was born in McCandless Township, Pa., May 26, 1968. The family moved to Simsbury in 1971 and to East Granby in 1980.

Laura worked as office manager at Richard Kirchbaum, DDS in Granby, Comprehensive Dental Care in West Hartford, Town & Country Veterinary Associates in Vernon, and most recently, Hebron Center Dentistry.

Laura married Robert Sarazin in 1997. They raised two Fidelco guide dogs and many cats, and supported the wildlife populations of Marlborough and Hebron. Laura received her Master and Karuna Reiki certifications to aid with her own healing as well as to offer it to her four-legged friends. She inspired others with her kindness to creatures both great and small. Her love of animals was boundless, and we cannot begin to count the number that she saved, including worms stranded after a rainstorm.

Laura was a generous friend, doting aunt, kick-ass sister, loving daughter and a sarcastic Kalafus to the end.

She is survived by her big Kalafus family (John and Dee Kalafus; Christina, Christian, Alexander, Lukas, Gregory and Joseph Kaunzinger; Greg, Christine, Trevor, Spencer and Parker Kalafus; Jeremy, Allison, Aidan and Madeleine Kalafus; Tara, Dutch, Tug and Quinn Arnold), her husband Bob, and her cat Eli.

A Celebration of Life ceremony will be held Sunday, July 24, at 1 p.m., at East Granby Congregational Church, 9 Rainbow Rd., East Granby. Please wear bright colors and bring your Rick Springfield and meditation music.

Memorial gifts may be made to Fidelco Guide Dog Foundation, Bloomfield (fidelco.org/support-us; click on “donate”) or Best Friends Animal Sanctuary in Angels Canyon, Utah (secure.bestfriends.org/page/contribute/memory).



Marlborough

William J. Descy

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of William J. Descy. Born in Hartford, the son of the late Edmund and Margaret (Gleeson) Descy, he made his home in Marlborough since 1962.

Bill was a devoted and loving husband, father and grandfather and a true gentleman. He will be dearly missed by his wife, Jean (Gagnon) Descy; their daughter, Michelle Campbell, the light of his eyes and the soul of his heart; son-in-law Scott and granddaughter, Heather.

Bill and his wife were married Sept. 9, 1961, and moved to Marlborough when Bill built a house on family property, and they resided there until the present day.

Their marriage of 55 years was a daily, living example of “wedded bliss,” a bond of respect, devotion, friendship, partnership, passion and true love. His proudest accomplishments were the homes he built for his family, most notably the house he built in 1961 for his wife and daughter. His family will miss his special talents for being able to fix anything.

Bill was very generous with his time and talent. Whenever a family member or friend needed anything, from help with a move, remodeling or just general tasks he was always there to get the job done. He was the rock upon whom we all depended. Prior to his retirement in 2006, he was owner and operator of Marlboro Man Carpentry based in Marlborough, whose remodeling and repair service area encompassed the greater part of central Connecticut. He had formerly worked for Somers Log Homes in Marlborough and Colchester for over 18 years.

Bill enjoyed a hard day at work. He touched everyone he came in contact with, always outgoing and smiling. His gentle manner and compassion were obvious to all who met him. Bill was an avid sports fan his whole life. He especially enjoyed rooting for the New York Giants, and the UConn women’s basketball team. He had season tickets for many years and traveled to the team’s Final Four Games. He looked forward to visiting with friends and enjoying coffee and pastry at the Marlborough Bakery. He was a gentle soul and was immediately liked by everyone he met. Bill served his country honorably in the US Army & Navy.

He was predeceased by his parents and his brother Richard.

In addition to Jean, Michelle, Scott and Heather, Bill is survived by his brother, John E. Descy and his wife Stephanie of Suffield, several nieces and nephews, as well as many friends and extended family.

At his request, funeral services will be private at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Bill’s memory may be made to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital Tribute Program, P.O. Box 1000, Dept. 142, Memphis, TN 38148-0142.

Colchester

Margery C. Anadore

Margery C. Anadore, 66, passed away, at home with her family nearby, Wednesday, July 13. She was born in New London April 27, 1950, to the late Thomas Curtin and his wife, Margaret “Peg” (Bradshaw) Curtin, of Pawcatuck.

Margery was united in marriage to Charles Anadore on June 3, 1972; together they raised five wonderful children. She adored her husband, children and grandchildren. She was passionate about time spent with them as well as her love of teaching. As a teacher at Norwich Free Academy for 26 years, Margery, a.k.a. Mrs. Anadore, enriched the lives of thousands of students who walked through her door.

Margery is survived by her loving husband of 44 years, Charles F. Anadore of Colchester; their five children, Jennifer Lavoie and her husband Edward of Hebron, Charles Anadore Jr. of Colchester, Jacquelyn Jones and her husband Andre of Waynesboro, Va., Margaret Daley and her husband Dalton of East Hartford; and Thomas Anadore of Myrtle Beach, S.C.; her brother, Edward Curtin; sisters, Marilyn Jarvis, Patricia O’Neill and Linda Curtin; as well as 13 grandchildren.

In addition to her father, Thomas Curtin, she was predeceased by her brother, Thomas “Brad” Curtin.

Calling hours were Sunday, July 17, at Belmont Funeral Home in Colchester. A Mass was celebrated Monday, July 18, at St. Andrew’s Church in Colchester.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Margery’s memory may be made to the NFA Student Assistance Fund, 305 Broadway, Norwich, CT 06360.

East Hampton

Merton Gustaf Lindquist

Merton Gustaf Lindquist was born May 15, 1926, in East Hampton, the fifth of six children, to Fritz Gerhard Lindquist and Odena Malvina (Quintin) Lindquist.

Merton served his beloved country with honor in the United States Army 1944-46 and earned a Purple Heart, Bronze Star and Philippine Medal of Freedom during action in the Philippines in April 1945. After the war, he led a long and productive career as a machinist and mechanical engineer, most recently with J.C. Barton & Co. in East Hampton and Susan Bates Co. in Chester. After retirement, he enjoyed more than 12 years living in the pleasant Cape Cod community of East Dennis, Mass.

All his life, Merton was devoted to his family and home, putting his many craftsman skills to work at home improvements, vegetable gardening, and tinkering. He was especially gifted at woodworking and earned widespread admiration for beautiful furniture, exquisite finish carpentry, and delightful woodcarvings. Merton was a loving husband, attentive father, and kindly grandfather who was appreciated for his wisdom and warm humor, and for patiently and gently teaching lessons to children and grandchildren about hard work, honorable conduct, modest attitudes, proper use of time, patriotism, and the joy of life.

Merton was predeceased by three loving wives, Elizabeth Brainard Lindquist (1929-61), Mary Hitchcock Lindquist (1934-79), and Mary Steele Lindquist (1924-2012), as well as brothers Conrad and Roland Lindquist, and sister Jeannette Barton.

He is survived by his son David Lindquist and his wife Jennifer of Cary, N.C.; his son Steven Lindquist and his partner Gary Sullivan of Wethersfield; his stepdaughter Jacqueline Dixon and her husband John of East Granby; and his stepdaughter Candis Pasternak and her husband Paul of Hopewell Junction, N.Y.; sisters Christine Frontel and Pauline Markham, both of East Hampton; and four grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

He passed away at home, surrounded by the family he loved, on Saturday, July 16.

Arrangements are through the McHoul Funeral Home, Inc. in Hopewell Junction, N.Y.

There will be no calling hours but a Memorial Service will be held at the home of Paul & Candis Pasternak on Sunday, July 31, at noon.

The family requests, in lieu of flowers, that gifts be made to Wounded Warrior Project and/or St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.

Visit Merton’s Book of Memories at mchoulfuneralhome.com.

East Hampton

Pamela S. Richards

Pamela S. (Sweet) Richards, 53, of East Hampton, died Thursday, July 14, at Hartford Hospital, after a brief illness. Born March 28, 1963, in Manchester she was the daughter of the late Allyn and Susan (Driggs) Sweet.

Pam was a 1981 graduate of East Hampton High School and had lived in East Hampton for most of her life. Pam had worked in the family business, Sweet Printing in Glastonbury and Sweet Waverly Printing in Portland, for many years.

Pam was a loving and caring mother and devoted grandmother to her two granddaughters. She loved to cook and prepare meals for her family and friends; she was like a second mother to many. Pam loved Neil Diamond, Misquamicut Beach and the Goodspeed Opera House.

She is survived by her longtime companion, Bryan Burns of East Hampton; her two daughters, Michelle Richards (Patrick) of Middletown, Lisa Richards (Matthew) of Middletown; two sons Josh Burns of Cromwell, William Richards (Michelle) of Middletown; her three brothers, David Sweet of Moodus, Donald Sweet and his wife Lyn of California, Gary Sweet and his wife Carrie of East Hampton; her two beloved granddaughters, Cassandra and Morgan Munson; several cousins, nieces, nephews and many close friends that she loved dearly.

Friends called at Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, Monday, July 18. A funeral service was held in the funeral home Tuesday, July 19. Burial followed in Lake View Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be made to youcaring.com/pamela-richards-602609.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.



From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

Reader Elaine Massa from Hebron this week passed me along some information about a bug that's popped up this summer and whose effects you've surely noticed – even if you don't know it. I definitely noticed its effects as I saw some increasingly barren trees heading out to Willimantic with some friends a couple weeks ago.

The bug? The gypsy moth caterpillar.

The caterpillar has ravaged trees in some parts of eastern Connecticut this year, leaving trees looking more like they do in early spring. Thirty-four years ago, Elaine says, there was a similar deforestation of the trees. That year, though, a natural fungus killed most of the caterpillars. However, Elaine adds, this fungus requires wet conditions – and as anyone can tell you, we've been pretty dry this year. So next year, she cautions, may well be another “banner year” for gypsy moth caterpillars.

What can we do about it? Elaine shares: “After the caterpillar stage, the moths fly around for about a week looking for mates and laying eggs. They will lay their eggs on trees, furniture, siding of a house, under rocks and anywhere that they can. The egg masses are a tan color, often teardrop shaped and about 1-2 inches long. These egg masses will be dormant until the spring. Between now and early spring is the time to do a search and destroy.”

There are a couple of different ways to destroy the egg masses, Elaine points out. One is to scrape the eggs, with a putty knife or other blunt knife, into a container – and then, drown them. She suggests adding soapy water to the container and let it sit for a few days to make sure that the eggs are drowned. Elaine says merely scraping the egg masses onto the ground does not kill the eggs, and attempting to step on them will not kill them all.

Another way, Elaine says, is to use an insecticidal oil that has been designed for killing gypsy moth egg cases. It's important to use that specific oil because, Elaine says, other insecticides will not kill the eggs. If using the oil, follow the directions and make sure that the egg cases are saturated.

Now, this doesn't guarantee there won't be gypsy moth caterpillars next year. But, Elaine says, each egg case has 500-1,000 eggs. Therefore, for each egg case destroyed, there may be as many as 1,000 fewer caterpillars next spring. “It is worth the effort!” Elaine says.

* * *

I swore last week I wouldn't write about the Mets this week. And I won't. But I will offer a little bit about baseball in general.

Why does the All-Star Game decide home field advantage in the World Series?

I'm not saying this just because the American League won this year and I hate the designated hitter. (Although, come on, the DH rule is just stupid; games are so much more interesting in the National League, when pitchers hit for themselves and managers have to manage accordingly.) It's that – the All-

Star Game is supposed to be fun; a frivolous exhibition in which the game's best get to play each other on a national stage.

There's not supposed to be meaning to it. That's why the starting pitcher is always taken out after two innings, three tops, regardless of how well he's throwing. That's why most of the starting lineup only gets two at-bats – if that – before another of their All-Star brethren gets his time at the plate. Everyone gets their moment in the All-Star sun, which is the way it should be. The outcome of the game should be a secondary thought.

And for a long time, that was the case. But starting in 2003, Major League Baseball has assigned home field advantage in the World Series to whichever league won the All-Star Game. All of a sudden, the game counted.

It's been more than a dozen years now, I know, but I didn't think it was right then and I still don't think it's right. I get that the All-Star Game has lost some of its excitement (and therefore TV ratings appeal), but a good chunk of that is MLB's fault. Once interleague hit, the concept of saying, say, the Cubs' Jake Arrieta facing the Angels' Mike Trout seemed a lot less novel. Also – and this has more to do with advancing technology than MLB itself – with ESPN and the MLB Network and “Extra Innings” cable packages, it's easier than ever to watch the game's best every single night if you choose. You no longer have to wait until the middle of July.

So I get the game itself has seen better days. But to have it decide home field advantage in the World Series is not the way to restore that lost luster.

Baseball is a long season; players need the All-Star break to rest. Players fortunate enough to make an All-Star squad should be able to just play for an inning or two and then take the rest of the day off. They've earned the respite.

The managers of the NL and AL squads know this, by the way. The game's “meant something” for more than a dozen years, but pitchers still throw no more than an inning or two; hitters, no matter how they've performed, rarely see as many as three plate appearances. Nobody's going to be allowed to pitch for seven or eight innings, or have four or five at-bats – because for all the talk about how the game “counts,” it doesn't actually count a whit in the standings.

Prior to 2003, the NL hosted the World Series in even years, and the AL did in odd years. It should go back to that way. Actually, home field should really go to the team with the best regular-season record, but MLB, for reasons I've never understood, has long maintained that isn't practical. So, if that won't work, go back to the pre-2003 method. It's no more or less unfair than the “this game counts” method. And then the All-Star game can go back to what it was always meant to be: an exhibition.

* * *

See you next week.