

RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

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

Volume 42, Number 2

Published by The Glastonbury Citizen

October 13, 2017



A Doggone Good Time... Colchester residents Gary and Amy Garvin celebrated the 19th annual Pumpkins 'n' Pooches festival with dogs Luke and Freya. See story on Page 28.

Dollar General Spawns Confusion, Complaints

by Elizabeth Regan

The East Hampton Planning and Zoning Commission last week held a public hearing on a request to change a Route 66 property from a residential zone to a commercial zone – despite the fact that the zone change had already been approved by the commission almost 20 years ago.

The current application was made as part of an effort to bring a Dollar General store to 197 East High St., which sits on the corner of East High Street and Lake Road.

The commission heard from about a dozen lakeside residents who objected to the big box discount store's potential arrival in town, but no decisions were made. The public hearing was continued until November to give members time to consider the application.

It was only this week, after a copy of 19-year-old meeting minutes were discovered in the town clerk's office, that Planning and Zoning Official Jeremy DeCarli found out the commission had authorized a commercial designation for the site back in April 1998. The neighboring property on 205 East High St., which is now the Chatham Professional Offices, was also zoned commercial as part of the same vote.

The issue has confounded DeCarli because the property is listed as part of a rural residential zone on the current zoning map. He said it was also listed in the rural residential zone on the zoning map that went into effect in 1990, which is the most recent update he could find in town records prior to the current iteration.

DeCarli was hired in January 2016. He replaced James Carey, who worked in the department for 30 years before retiring in 2015. Carey has since died.

Local zoning regulations require zoning boundaries to be officially documented on the zoning map and filed with the town clerk.

Because the current zoning map lists the property as residential, DeCarli said he told the applicants for the Dollar General project that a zone change would be required before the project could be considered.

Current Planning and Zoning Commission members were unaware of the 1998 zone change when they entertained a public hearing at last week's meeting. Some members did, however, recall giving site plan approval for a commercial development on the site sometime in the past.

A review of meeting minutes show the commission on May 9, 2007 approved a site plan for an office building on the site.

Mark Philhower, a current town councilor who served as chairman of the Planning and Zoning Commission when the zone was changed in 1998, said "somebody dropped the ball" when it came to updating the property on the zoning map.

"It was commercial. We approved it. Who forgot to file what goes back to a town error," he said.

Philhower said Stephen Glasior, then-owner
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Amid Sexual Harassment Claims, Linddy Fired

by Lauren Yandow

After a nearly two-month investigation into sexual harassment complaints filed against fellow selectman Jay Linddy, 69, the Andover Board of Selectmen unanimously voted last week to fire Linddy from his longtime town jobs of animal control officer and transfer station attendant.



Jay Linddy

The sexual harassment complaints were first made Aug. 2, according to Town Administrator Joe Higgins. While town officials would not disclose what Linddy allegedly did, First Selectman Bob Burbank said the alleged harassment was "verbal" and "visual" in nature. "We don't have any reports of any physical contact," he said.

Higgins said Linddy was removed from his office at Town Hall on Aug. 7, and 10 days later, on Aug. 17, an investigation into the complaints began.

During the investigation, Linddy retained his

positions of animal control officer and transfer station attendant, up until his termination at the selectmen's special Oct. 4 meeting, Town Administrator Joe Higgins said.

The board could "not condone actions of that type," said Burbank, who has worked alongside Linddy for nearly 20 years. Burbank said Linddy's termination is "very disappointing." He added he's "not happy about it," but said the board has to "treat all individuals equally."

Linddy could not be reached for comment for this story.

The motion unanimously passed by the Board of Selectmen last week stated the complaints claim Linddy violated town personnel policies that prohibit sexual harassment in the workplace by, among other things, "creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive working environment" at the Andover Town Hall, culminating in incidents during late July and early August of this year.

Attorney Michael Rose was hired to investigate the sexual harassment accusations, said Higgins. According to the motion passed last week, Rose was required to report his findings back to the Board of Selectmen. Upon completing the two-month investigation, Rose distributed a written report concluding Linddy's conduct "may constitute a violation of federal

and state law," which "may subject the town to legal liability," according to the motion.

The motion also stated Rose concluded in his report that Linddy's conduct was "serious enough to warrant the most severe employment action."

Higgins declined to share Rose's report with the *Rivereast*, saying town officials "would like the matter closed."

"We don't want any burden added to Mr. Linddy," Higgins added.

Rose was contacted by the *Rivereast* for comment, but said he was "not authorized to speak on the matter."

The *Rivereast* also requested to view the sexual assault complaints filed against Linddy. Town officials denied those requests. In response, the *Rivereast* filed a request for complaint records under the Freedom of Information Act.

In a letter dated Aug. 15, Town Attorney Dennis O'Brien stated the records were "exempt from disclosure" based on state statutes, in that the complaints are "personnel files" and their disclosure would "constitute an invasion of privacy."

The *Rivereast* filed an appeal of O'Brien's decision with the state Freedom of Information Commission. That appeal is still pending.

At a special meeting on Aug. 24 – a meeting that may have been improperly noticed, as it wasn't listed on the town website – the Board of Selectmen passed a resolution stating that, pursuant to state statute, the public's interest in withholding the documents pertaining to the sexual harassment complaints outweighed the public interest in disclosure.

According to Burbank, Linddy was in attendance for the Aug. 24 special meeting, but did not show up for the special meeting last week to address the claims against him.

Ultimately, the motion to discharge Linddy as a town employee was made by selectman Cathy Desrosiers and seconded by vice first selectman Jeff Maguire. When asked his stance on the matter, Maguire said "I can't comment [and] I won't comment." Desrosiers also declined to make a statement. Selectwoman Julia Haverl couldn't be reached for comment.

According to town records, Linddy held the position of animal control assistant from 1985 to 1994, when he became animal control officer. For 25 years, Linddy was the transfer station attendant, town records stated.

Linddy was elected to the Board of Education in 1997 and then to the Board of Select-

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Dollar General cont. from Front Page

of the property, got a building permit to install a foundation and put a diner there after the zone change was approved.

“The building permits could not have been issued if it had not been a commercial zone,” Philhower said.

However, there’s an added layer of confusion: The property has been home to small-scale restaurants and farm stands going back to the 1940s, according to DeCarli.

In fact, the Route 66 Snak Shak sits there now. It’s what is known in zoning parlance as a “non-conforming use.”

That means small restaurants and similar establishments can be grandfathered into the residential zone because those are the types of businesses that existed there before the existing zone was established.

DeCarli said that while the right to operate certain small businesses runs with the property, building a large retail operation like an office building or Dollar General requires a zoning change.

A memo from Carey to Town Manager Michael Maniscalco shows the commission held a March 2014 public hearing to consider amending the map to reflect zone changes for eight properties on West High, East High and Lakeview streets that had been authorized but were never depicted on the map.

Neither 197 nor 205 East High St. was included in the list of eight overlooked zone changes.

State statute specifies that zoning changes become effective after they are filed in the town clerk’s office and posted as a legal notice in a newspaper within 15 days.

Assistant Town Clerk Bernice Bartlett said Thursday the only notification the town clerk’s office received about the commission’s decision at the time came from the meeting minutes.

DeCarli said he will reach out to the town’s legal firm, Updike, Kelly and Spellacy, to “figure this out.”

The question, according to DeCarli, is this: Does a zone change from 20 years ago still apply today if the process outlined in local regulations and state statute wasn’t followed?

For Philhower, the answer is “absolutely.” “That was a legal meeting,” Philhower said.

Neighbors React to Dollar General

During last week’s public hearing, about a dozen lakeside residents – unaware of the procedural confusion that would ultimately come to light – told commissioners that putting a Dollar General on the corner of Route 66 and Lake Road would erode East Hampton’s “small-town charm,” exacerbate runoff issues in Lake Pocotopaug and worsen existing traffic issues on the town’s main thoroughfare.

The plan would demolish the Route 66 Snak Shak and the red house that sit on the 1.38-acre property.

The current residential zone was established to protect the rural character that “defines much of the town’s historical and social identity,” according to zoning regulations.

Wangonk Trail resident Molly Herring said there are more than 100 single-family homes in the neighborhoods off Lake Drive that would be affected by the arrival of the discount chain store.

Neighbor Jennifer Palma described the area as a place where her children “could walk and ride their bikes without the worry of heavy traffic” – sometimes with the Snak Shak as their destination.

“If you get rid of that, you’re getting rid of that small-town feeling which we all love,” Palma said.

The Dollar General project is being developed by Garrett Homes LLC, of Harwinton. The property is owned by Morgan & Molly LLC. The secretary of the state’s database lists Walter and Lenore Smith, of Portland, as the company’s principals.

Matthew J. Bruton, of the engineering firm BL Companies Inc., represented the developers at the hearing.

“This is a business strip,” Burton said. “There’s an existing commercial building on there now. We’re just switching out tenants and putting in a different building.”

He pointed to the nearby professional offices, storage facility, fence company, bowling alley, package store and restaurant as evidence of the area’s commercial focus.

Burton said Dollar General stores usually see about 25 cars go in and out during the peak traffic period each day, which runs from 4-6 p.m. Truck deliveries happen once a week using the Route 66 entrance, according to Burton.

To Dennis Jenks, who owns the professional office building north of the property, the issue underscores the need for town leaders to address the quality and condition of Lake Pocotopaug.

The lake suffers from annual and potentially toxic algae blooms.

“Without that lake, you guys don’t have a tax base,” he said, citing the 512-acre lake as the reason why as many as two-thirds of the population moved to town in the first place.

Burton said the development process will include a detailed stormwater management report, an operations and maintenance manual during construction, and a post construction erosion control plan.

Members of the Planning and Zoning Commission expressed mixed opinions, or didn’t comment at all.

Early in the public hearing, Chairman Kevin Kuhr had been prepared to bring the issue – which he described as “just” a zone change application – to a vote after Bruton’s presentation and a preliminary discussion by the commission.

“Can I get a motion?” he asked.

That’s when he was reminded members of the public had not yet had a chance to speak.

After the residents weighed in, commissioner Roy Gauthier concurred with many of them when he said the Dollar General would “stick out like a sore thumb.”

Member Rowland Rux brought up the new municipal hub being proposed for the Edgewater Hill mixed-use development about half a mile down Route 66.

Commissioners said the Edgewater Hill development, combined with the approved Hampton Woods project, would add more than 500 housing units over the next decade and a half.

Rux said phase two of the Edgewater Hill development will trigger the need for a traffic light on that section of Route 66.

“That is internally bothering me,” Rux said. “Adding all of that, plus this. And I don’t know the answer. But I have an uneasiness about it.”

Burton told members of the commission that the developers had planned a more detailed traffic report as part of the site plan approval process, but could provide it sooner if desired.

“We don’t want to add to a traffic problem, we don’t want to hurt kids in the neighborhood, we don’t want to have an eyesore of a building,” Burton said. “We’re just asking for the opportunity to come and show you what we can do and we can do it right. You’ve approved stuff here before, there’s stuff operating there now. That’s all we’re asking for.”

According to the meeting minutes from the April 1998 approval, commissioners authorized the change from a residential zone to a commercial zone because a majority of the public spoke in favor of the change, the property was being used for commercial purposes anyway, and it would be beneficial to the tax base.

The Planning and Zoning Commission voted unanimously to continue the public hearing to Wednesday, Nov. 1, at 7 p.m. in the East Hampton Town Hall, 20 E. High St.

Linddy cont. from Front Page

men in 1999. He has served on both boards concurrently.

While Linddy has been terminated as a town employee, he remains on the selectmen and school boards, Higgins said. The boards have “no authority” to terminate elected positions, according to Burbank.

However, Linddy has resigned from both boards before – albeit briefly.

In February 2015, Linddy stepped down from both boards, stating he “takes a lot of medication,” according to Board of Selectmen meeting minutes from the time. He also withdrew at that time from the ballots for that May’s municipal elections – less than a week after he had shared plans to run as a petitioning candidate for the selectmen and school boards that year.

Maguire, then the Democratic candidate for first selectman, had asked Linddy to resign at previous meetings, alleging he had misappropriated funds by purchasing a case of beer for a band that played at a concert in town and then submitting the receipt of the purchase to the town for reimbursement.

Linddy stated at the time the beer incident was “absolutely not” the reason he decided to resign.

But by April of that year, Linddy had had a change of heart, and submitted his name as a

petitioning candidate for both the Board of Selectmen and Board of Education. At the time, Linddy said he resigned because he had “other obligations” he needed to attend to, but added, “I’m all done with that now and so now I’ll be able to do the things that I’ve always done.”

Linddy won election to both boards. His term on each runs through June 30, 2019.

The Board of Selectmen regularly meets once per month, and, according to meeting minutes, Linddy had attended all meetings in 2017, including the Aug. 2 meeting. However, he did not attend either the September or October meetings.

As for Board of Education meetings, Linddy also attended most of the regular meetings this year, school board chair Shannon Loudon said. However, as with the selectmen, Linddy didn’t attend the September or October meetings, she said. Loudon declined to comment further on the matter.

In addition to his elected positions, Linddy also is an appointed member of the town Safety Committee. Burbank said, “I imagine adjustments will be made, but it’s not something we’ve thought of at this point.”

As a town employee, Linddy was given a cell phone and keys to the transfer station, said Higgins. Those items were returned to Town Hall on Tuesday, he said.

*From the Editor's Desk***Observations & Ruminations**

by Mike Thompson

One of the more interesting stories I’ve come across during my time as reporter, and then editor, for the Hebron section of the *Rivereast* is that of Cesar and Lowis Peters. And just this week, I heard another intriguing part of their tale.

The story of Cesar and Lowis Peters is a pretty fascinating one. According to the Hebron Historical Society, in 1787, the Rev. Samuel Peters, a former Hebron resident who was then living in England, arranged to have many of his assets sold, including his slaves, to help make financial ends meet. So, in September of that year, Peters’ Hebron slaves, Cesar and Lowis Peters, and their children, were removed from Hebron by a slave trader and brought to Norwich, to be placed on a ship bound for South Carolina.

Cesar and Lowis’s neighbors, who were white, felt the abduction of their friends was unfair – and cooked up a scheme to get them back from the slave trader. According to the historical society, the neighbors made up a story that Cesar had stolen some goods from a local tailor, and got the local justice of the peace to issue an arrest warrant. They then presented the arrest warrant to the slave trader, and were allowed to bring Cesar and Lowis back to Hebron. A short time later, the couple, and their children, were emancipated and set free.

According to the Hebron Historical Society, this event earned Hebron a designation by The Amistad Committee in 2007 as part of the Connecticut Freedom Trail.

Why am I retelling the Peters’ story now? Like I said, earlier this week the Hebron Historical Society enlightened me to a fun little footnote to their rescue.

On Sept. 28, 1787, Fuller in Hebron was the location for the celebration of a successful historic event. The night before was when the group had rescued Cesar and Lowis Peters in Norwich, thanks to their tale of supposed thievery. Upon their return to Town, the Hebron constable and his six-person “posse” gathered at the tavern for a celebration, consuming a quart of rum, a bowl of toddy, 11 and a half pints of cherry rum, and a gill of brandy. Although submitted to the Town of Hebron as part of the “expenses” involved in rescuing Cesar and Lowis, the Board of Selectmen refused to pick up the tab for the liquor.

The story of Fuller’s Tavern and other early

American taverns will be told at a special program offered by the Hebron Historical Society Thursday, Oct. 26, at 7:30 p.m., at Old Town Hall, which is located on Main Street in the center of town, next to Douglas Library.

Bruce Clouette of Archaeological and Historical Services in Mansfield will discuss how an ordinary house became a tavern and how people knew where to stay when they were traveling. Clouette will also talk about the role taverns had in early America, serving up news and entertainment in addition to food and drink. The talk will include photographs of artifacts unearthed at several different Connecticut tavern sites over the years. It sounds like a very interesting evening.

By the way, in case you want to see where Fuller’s Tavern was, it’s now Staff Mates, located at 5 W. Main St., right in the center of town.

* * *

This week’s entry in the “do as I say, not as I do” file: Conservative Congressman Tim Murphy, who last week announced his resignation from Congress.

Murphy, a Republican from Pennsylvania, has long been an outspoken opponent of abortion. Which would be one thing, if it didn’t turn out he actively encouraged someone to have an abortion.

The *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* last week broke the story that in January Murphy urged a woman with whom he was having an extramarital affair to get an abortion. The woman didn’t – the pregnancy scare was ultimately unfounded – but still: it was not a good look for the man who preached family values and was very anti-abortion.

The *Post-Gazette* bombshell came just weeks after Murphy admitted to the affair. So add the abortion scandal on top of it and it’s no shock Murphy announced last week he wouldn’t seek re-election, but would complete his term. One day later, he announced he’d be resigning altogether, effective Oct. 21.

To me, this story has nothing to do with abortion, and everything to do with hypocrisy. I can’t stand it when politicians are hypocritical.....and it seems to be happening more and more these days. If you don’t want to walk the walk, then don’t bother talking the talk. You’ll just look stupid in the end.

* * *

See you next week.

Food, Fun, Fireworks at Portland Fair

by Elizabeth Regan

This year's Portland Agricultural Fair was a weekend of fun, food, farm-focused exhibits and, for the first time in ten years, fireworks.

While a wet spring forced the postponement of the traditional July fireworks show, dry and temperate conditions allowed the show to go on as part of this year's fair.

"The best thing is the Portland Fair – and the Portland Fair in dry weather," First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield said during the opening ceremony last Friday.

State Rep. Christie Carpino (R-32) encouraged fairgoers to make the most of one of the small town's defining traditions.

"Stay late, come often, bring friends, because this is the best weather we've had," she said.

The Portland High School Band's rendition of "The Star-Spangled Banner" followed a moment of silence for the victims of the Oct. 1 mass shooting in Las Vegas and several hurricanes that battered portions of the United States and its territories.

The event was laid out across the Exchange Club Fairgrounds with booths featuring an array of vendors and community groups, barns with large and small animals, a room full of award-winning arts and crafts, an expanded midway of carnival rides, and a ring for tractor pulls and mud runs.

Fairgoers traversed the grounds, many of them munching on the much-talked-about French fries sold by the Portland Volunteer Fire Department.

One of the fair highlights was Bwana Jim's Wildlife Show, where animals like the barred owl, red-tailed hawk, alligator and rattlesnake were introduced and discussed with a sense of humor that appealed to all ages.

Sofina Sementilli, 10, of Waterbury, came out to the event with her father on Friday. She was one of several lucky children to be invited by the wildlife expert to the front of the audience, where they were handed a big stick to hold out in front of them.

With little in the way of advance warning, Bwana Jim brought out a gigantic red-tailed boa constrictor that wrapped itself around the stick in the surprised children's hands.

Sementilli said she had been expecting a fake snake.

"When he put it down, I said 'this is cool.' Then I realized it was a real snake," she laughed.

Sementilli's placement at the end of the lineup meant she was right in front of the boa constrictor's head.

"It was really freaky, but it was cool at the same time," she said.

Portland Fair Association President Don Bascom said attendance at the gate looked good, though he has yet to see the final tally of this year's fair proceeds. He said Friday drew a particularly large crowd.

Wine seminars held throughout the three-day event were a popular new addition, according to Bascom.

"We probably sold three times the wine we normally do, so it was a good promotion," he said.

Portland Fireworks Committee Chairwoman Sharon Hoy thanked the Portland Fair volunteers for collaborating to make the fireworks happen this year.

The show was put on by Ocean State Pyrotechnics.

"It went extremely well. There was a larger crowd than normal for Friday night, so I think the fireworks brought a lot more people out to the fair. They had the opportunity to enjoy the fair as well as see the fireworks," she said.

The summertime Portland Fireworks typically include a concert, a salute to the military and a fundraising raffle before the main event, according to Hoy. The laid-back schedule encourages viewers to set up chairs and settle in for the evening.

"This was different," Hoy said. "They didn't sit, they stood."

She acknowledged two long pauses in the fireworks show that made people think the dis-



Sterling Landon, 3, of Middletown, fed an African pygmy goat at the Circle K Petting Farm during the opening day of the Portland Fair last Friday.

play had ended. Some started walking away before being lured back by a new volley of pyrotechnics.

"I happen to think there was a malfunction there," Hoy said, noting she had a meeting scheduled with Ocean State Pyrotechnics later in the week.

After the fireworks, things were calm in the cattle barn.

Putnam High School senior Sophia Glaude's two cows, Strawberry and Christmas, were back to eating hay.

Glaude said she joined the one-year-old cows at the start of the pyrotechnic display to help soothe them.

"They didn't really like the fireworks," she said, adding they pinned their ears back and acted generally tense.

The disquiet was short-lived, however.

"It's not a concern," she said. "They're fine." The Portland Fair was the third show of the season for Strawberry and Christmas, who'd already visited fairs in Hebron and Brooklyn.

Glaude said she began the agricultural fair circuit in second grade, when her mother got her started showing goats. Then she graduated to sheep. Now, it's cows that she describes as her favorite animals.

"They're just better than sheep. They're calmer. Usually," she said.



Strawberry, one of the cows shown by Putnam High School senior Sophia Glaude, checks out the action at the Portland Fair. Photo credit: Portland Fair Facebook page.

Carpino, Bransfield Unveil Prescription Drug Return Box

State Rep. Christie Carpino (R-32) and First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield have announced the placement of an unused prescription drop box in Portland. The box is located in the Portland Police Station's lobby and was installed at no expense to the town.

Carpino helped identify a grant to fund the box, and Bransfield applied for and procured it, on behalf of the town.

"Every pill we can take off the street is one less pill out there to be misused," said Carpino, who serves on the General Assembly's Public Health Committee. "We now have a safe disposal method right here in Portland to help remove unneeded medication from our homes."

Carpino praised Bransfield for working to secure the grant for Portland. Bransfield also praised Carpino for her cooperation.

"We would like to thank Rep. Carpino for her leadership and for helping the Town of Portland get the prescription drop-off box," said Bransfield. "It will be extremely convenient and useful to our residents."

People can return unused or unwanted prescription drugs Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., to the drop box in the Portland Police Department lobby, located at 265 Main St. If the lobby is closed, then individuals can use the call box in front of the department for assistance 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Pumpkins 'n' Pooches Fill Colchester Green

by Julianna Roche

Pooches of all shapes and sizes, along with owners leashed in tow, welcomed an unusually warm October day with sunny skies last weekend to celebrate Colchester's 19th annual Pumpkins 'n' Pooches Autumn Fair & Dog Fest, which is held on the town green each year.

According to event founder and organizer Charlene Picard, having "sun and 80 degrees for this event" is "unusual" for this time of year, but was a "spectacular" surprise for festgoers.

This year, the event happened to fall on Columbus Day weekend, which isn't normally the case – and Picard said that, as a result, attendance was down a bit from years past. Still, she said, "we are grateful for every dollar that we give back to the community."

Pumpkins 'n' Pooches was originally founded in 1999 by the Colchester Lions to help sponsor a guide dog, but was ultimately so well-received by the community that the decision was made to keep it around as a yearly event.

In 2008, a photo contest was then introduced to the annual festival to help bolster excitement leading up to the event, with contestants submitting photos of their dogs ahead of the time and the top eight finalists getting their photos on display during the festival.

Attendees then vote for their favorite pups by placing dollar bills in their favorite dog photo's jar. The dogs with the most money in their jars win and all proceeds benefit Colchester Lions' charities. This year's top three winners were Brady in first place, dressed as Superman, with Bailey and Rudy following in second and third, respectively.

Picard added that this year the contest drew in a record number of 62 entries, with votes from attendees from 26 states and five other countries.

"[And] the eight finalists brought in almost \$500 in donations," she exclaimed.

Throughout the afternoon, pup parents and their canines in costumes socialized, browsed and shopped the vendor booths, or enjoyed food from the Colchester's Farmers Market, as well as Coneheads Ice Cream and Dough Luv – both of whom were also selling dog-friendly frozen yogurt and cookie dough.

As with every year, costume contests were then held mid-afternoon for funniest, cutest, and scariest costumes, as well as best ensemble and most original – with pooches and parents strutting their stuff through the green.

Following that, the Silly Dog Contest took place, which hands out awards for "waggiest" tail, best kisser, biggest dog, smallest dog, furiest dog, biggest ears and most unusual trick.

Picard added that one her personal favorite costume ensembles during the costume contests this year was a family dressed like superheroes, with their Malinois mix dog as Wonder Woman.

"[Pumpkins 'n' Pooches] is an autumn staple in Colchester. Besides raising funds for various local programs, it is an opportunity to have fun with your dog," she said, adding that this year, she also noticed "kids are getting more involved in the dog contests" and "it really doesn't matter who wins."

As for what's in store for next year, the event founder said she "can hardly believe" the Colchester Lions will be planning for the 20th



Marianne Namnoum and her dog Zak of South Windsor won this year's "Best Kisser" contest at the Pumpkins 'n' Pooches Autumn Fair & Dog Fest.

annual Pumpkins 'n' Pooches event.

"We are planning on getting T-shirts made to commemorate this milestone [and are] hoping to get a radio station to broadcast live and possibly have Scot Haney come back," she explained, adding the popular TV meteorologist attended the event in 2003.

As with every year however, Picard said the best part of the event is seeing all the hard work pay off.

"It takes a lot of time and energy to pull this event together, but when I'm on the green with my fellow Lions, seeing all the happy people, I feel that it is all worthwhile," she said.

Music Festival Honors Late Marlborough Resident

by Julianna Roche

Marlborough native Andy Mooney remembers exactly where he was the day he got the call that one of his best friends, 28-year-old Josh LeJeune had died.

"I was playing basketball in East Hampton and my next-door neighbor growing up called me and just blatantly said 'Josh is dead,'" Mooney recalled. "I left basketball, sweating and in my gym shorts, and went to the walk-in clinic.... it was traumatic to say the least."

On March 24, 2014, LeJeune died suddenly of a heart attack at Marlborough Medical Center, leaving behind family, close friends and a fiancée. According to Mooney, he grew up living two doors down from LeJeune, who was one of the "first kids" he met in the neighborhood when he was just a year old.

"He was just a big friendly dude," Mooney recalled. "He had this innate ability to bring all kinds of different people together and was one of the only people I've ever met that could pick up a conversation you had right where you left it off years ago."

In 2014, the Josh LeJeune Memorial Foundation was formed and an annual memorial golf tournament was established at Blackledge Country Club in Hebron, with proceeds going toward the foundation which benefits Marlborough sports and recreation programs.

"It's an incredible event and brings a lot of families from the hometown we sort of grew up in together," Mooney said. "But I felt like a lot of our friends didn't go because they're not golfers. So I wanted to do something more to give back."

In 2015, Mooney founded Just Joshin' Music Festival, whose humble beginnings of being held at a pig farm in Andover in its first year have grown since to now feature three days of live music, food and vendors at Camp Hemlocks in Hebron – with all collected proceeds and donations going toward LeJeune's foundation.

Tickets for the three-day festival were \$50

for general admission, or \$80-\$100 for VIP packages that included admission to an exclusive Friday evening pre-party, complimentary food and beer all weekend, and access to indoor shower and restroom facilities.

"I'd always wanted to have a music festival or something similar to it," Mooney explained, adding that going to music festivals and shows was a hobby of his and Josh's. "I thought it'd be a little more fun for our age group and might represent the person I always thought [Josh] was, which was someone who could bring everyone together."

Mooney furthered that this year's festival – which ran from Friday, Oct. 6-8 – attracted nearly 400 attendees throughout the weekend, and about 25 bands including Shakedown, Balkun Brothers, Stephen Lewis and the Big Band of Fun, Schwizz and EGGY. He added that while most of the bands are local to Connecticut, some travel as far as New York and Canada.

"The first year we started at a pig farm just really winging it," he said, adding that the event staff, which consists of about 15 of Mooney's close friends, had originally built the stage themselves, with most musicians and bands playing for free, and all of the food and beer being donated.

"A lot of people came together to donate their time or resources to see it happen," he explained, adding it was "heartwarming" to see how "dedicated" people were to help make the event run smoothly.

The following year, Mooney reached out to Camp Hemlocks director Jillian McCarthy and inquired about using the space, which now provides staff, artists and even festival attendees with two stages, and enough space to camp outside or rent out a room.

"She loved the idea and loved that part of the proceeds benefit [LeJeune's] foundation," he said. "For them it's a great opportunity as well, because it's their hope that they might get more people interested in renting out [rooms]."



Collinsville-based funk jam band One Time Weekend was just one of the many bands lined up to play at the third annual Just Joshin' Music Festival, held at Camp Hemlocks in Hebron last weekend, Oct. 6-8.

In addition to live music, Mooney explained that a variety of vendors and artists also take up camp during the festival weekend – selling everything from unique pieces of clothing from India to handmade artwork.

The festival is "really magical," Mooney said. "There's an intangible there that's really hard to capture it, but when you experience it you know."

He furthered that while there is still room for the festival to grow, Mooney plans to keep it a "small, intimate event," because "it sort of forces artists and bands to interact with everybody [and] it's just an event where everyone hangs out with each other on the same level."

"You go to this event and have such a care-free attitude, you enjoy everyone's company and it's just a two- or three-day experience of everyone getting along," he furthered. "If I can

create an event that reminds people they can be that way and hopefully learn something from it and take it into their everyday lives, that'd be the goal."

Ultimately, however, Mooney said that the festival is about honoring Josh's memory.

LeJeune "cared more about other people than himself," Mooney said. "Ultimately, my goal is to remember my friend [and] to show his family there are a lot of people who really cared about him that still do."

"It's about reminding people of the person he was."

For more information on Just Joshin' Music Festival, visit justjoshinmusicfest.com or the festival's Facebook page [facebook.com/JustJoshinMusicFestival](https://www.facebook.com/JustJoshinMusicFestival), or contact Mooney by emailing darkwashproductions@gmail.com.

St. Clements Seeks Belated Zone Change in East Hampton

by Elizabeth Regan

Members of the Planning and Zoning Commission are mulling over a proposal for a zone change that would allow Saint Clements Castle and Marina to host the kind of banquet functions it's been holding illegally on the East Hampton side of the property for the past several years.

The illicit activity came to light after a fire broke out at a June wedding reception at the Port-Hampton Marina Club on 49 Oakum Dock Road.

Saint Clements' attorney Kenneth Slater, of Halloran and Sage, presented the application to commissioners during a public hearing last week. He is asking for a change from residential to commercial zoning for the 4.96-acre site on the Portland border.

The castle side of the property in Portland is in a designated business zone.

Officials from the East Hampton Building, Planning and Zoning Department and Chatham Health District told Saint Clements' management back in July to stop holding banquets on the property until the necessary permits and licenses had been approved.

Slater acknowledged the zone change request is part of an "unusual" situation.

"This is very peculiar in that dozens – I think more than a hundred – of these events occurred down there with no incident whatsoever until the fire occurred," Slater said. "The right thing for these folks to do is what they're doing, which is to file this application."

He said the good news is that, despite all the events, the town had not heard "any complaints from the neighbors."

Oakum Dock Road neighbor William Grady, an East Hampton-based attorney, raised objection to the application in a Sept. 27 letter submitted for the record. He said Saint Clements management has been using the property "without regard" for local regulations for a significant period of time.

"Now, having been discovered, a zone change is sought," Grady wrote.

An anonymous complaint on file in the East Hampton Building, Planning and Zoning office shows unpermitted activity related to the site was brought to the department's attention in August 2016. The complaint alleged a neighboring property on 40 Oakum Dock Rd. was being advertised for overnight accommodations and that banquet events were being held in the Port-Hampton Marina Club's 7,788-square-foot clubhouse, which had been constructed and permitted as a storage facility.

A cease-and-desist order regarding the use of 40 Oakum Dock Rd. as a boarding house was sent by Planning and Zoning Official Jeremy DeCarli in October 2016. It was lifted in November after DeCarli was assured the property was no longer being used or marketed as a commercial venture.

DeCarli said this week he did not address the unpermitted use of the Port-Hampton Marina Club itself as a banquet facility at that time because the unauthorized boarding house was the more pressing concern.

"I was looking at it from the standpoint of 'we've got to deal with this guest house,'" he said.

It was the June 25, 2017, fire that reignited local oversight of a facility which officials subsequently said had been operating without the necessary zoning, building, food service and septic approvals.

The fire was recently ruled accidental by the East Hampton fire marshal's office. Investigators found the blaze likely emanated from an unattended propane cooker being used on the back deck to boil water.

An investigation by the state Fire and Explosives Investigation Unit is ongoing.

Saint Clements Castle and Marina is owned by the Roncalli Institute, which encompasses numerous commercial entities, nonprofit organizations and trusts. Its chairman is Edward Doherty.

DeCarli assured commissioners during last week's hearing that the facility has not been used for banquets since he asked Doherty to halt operations on the property several months ago.

He said no fines have been issued at this point.

In 2010, the town paid Doherty – through Saint Clements Marina LLC – \$673,000 for the rights to use two wells on the property as part of a public water system that has not yet come to fruition. The town also paid to remove several buildings within the sanitary radius and to remediate contaminated soil.

Seeking Permission

Despite the site's current residential status, owners in perpetuity are entitled to use the facility as a marina because that's what it was when the zone changed from industrial to residential.

DeCarli said it's uncertain when the existing zone was established, but it was "probably around 1990."

The site had been used for boat storage and

repairs since at least 1951, according to DeCarli.

Slater argued that using the site to hold waterfront ceremonies and receptions is more "compatible" with the area than the allowed industrial uses.

Dan Loos, Roncalli Institute president, said event guests and vendors typically use the interior driveway accessed from Route 66 in Portland to enter the marina club. That keeps traffic off Oakum Dock Road, where the East Hampton entrance to the property is located.

The letter from Grady disputed Loos' assessment. Grady said the neighborhood has seen "a significant increase in traffic due to the unauthorized commercial activities" and that wedding providers have parked along the residential road.

Slater vehemently denied allegations of increased traffic on Oakum Dock Road. He said there has been a "dramatic decrease" from the days when the property was used for industrial purposes.

He said "all of the traffic" for marina club events comes in through the Saint Clements Castle entrance in Portland, emphasizing that "none of it comes through Oakum Dock Road."

A memo from DeCarli to the Planning and Zoning Commission warned that any use allowed in a commercial zone would be allowed on the property if the zone change goes through.

Businesses that can be built in commercial zones with only a site plan review include retail operations under 25,000 square feet, business and professional offices, financial institutions and personal service shops. Special permit approval is needed for retail shops larger than 25,000 square feet, hotels, restaurants, theaters, senior living communities, municipal buildings, research labs and daycare centers, among others.

DeCarli also said the requested zone change "does not appear to be entirely consistent" with the town's Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD).

The comprehensive plan is mandated by state law as a way for municipalities to establish a long-term plan guiding decisions in the areas of land use, preservation of natural and historic resources, and economic development. Cities and towns must update the document at least every 10 years in order to be eligible for state funding.

"Although the POCD suggests allowing modest expansion of commercial areas, this prop-

erty lies wholly surrounded by residential land in East Hampton and is not along a major road," DeCarli wrote.

A regional planning document developed by the Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments identifies the property "as a conservation area, not a development priority area," according to DeCarli.

Slater said using the property as a venue for weddings and special events is more environmentally conscious than refurbishing boats there.

He also said the zone change application is in keeping with its business designation on the Portland side of the border.

He drew a comparison to a plaza spanning Glastonbury and East Hartford, where a Home Depot falls in the former town's jurisdiction and a ShopRite and other storefronts exist on the latter side. He said East Hartford made the decision to capitalize on Glastonbury's success by agreeing to allow a commercial development in a largely residential area.

"If you looked at the world of East Hartford all by itself, it would kind of stick out like a sore thumb," Slater said. "But it makes sense because it is in concert with how Glastonbury has developed and what's there."

Slater, too, invoked the POCD when he referred to sections suggesting the town should "encourage businesses that cater to the day-tripper and summer vacationer" and "work with existing businesses to aid in their growth."

A letter from 42 Oakum Dock Rd. neighbor Doris Barton was submitted for the record.

"I am in full support of the proposal," she wrote. "They are very respectful neighbors. They have made the old marina into a beautiful property that has improved the character of the neighborhood. The events they have held are quite lovely and are a welcome change from the old industrial marina operation."

Barton lives across the street from the Port-Hampton Marina Club and adjacent to 40 Oakum Dock Rd., the property owned by Doherty that was being marketed as a guest house last year.

Doherty's Roncalli Institute purchased 40 Oakum Dock Rd. from Barton's daughter and son-in-law for \$290,000 in February 2016, according to assessor's records.

The Planning and Zoning Commission voted unanimously to continue the public hearing to Wednesday, Nov. 1, at 7 p.m., in the East Hampton Town Hall.

Homeless East Hampton Man Stabs Person in Hand

by Elizabeth Regan

An intoxicated homeless man known by police to reside in the "Tent City" area behind the Route 66 Food Bag has been arrested for stabbing another drunk man in the hand.

A police report by East Hampton Police Sgt. Timothy Dowty said Frederick Ernest Nichols, 58, was arrested Sept. 29 for second-degree assault and second-degree breach of peace.

Police said they found the alleged victim actively bleeding from a one-and-a-half-inch laceration on the palm of his left hand when officers were dispatched around 5:15 p.m. to the Lakeview Cemetery.

A witness called 911 after she saw the man stumbling around the cemetery as if intoxicated while yelling that he was dying, the report said.

The man told officers he was drinking vodka with Nichols at the gazebo behind the plaza on the corner of Routes 66 and 196 when Nichols came after him for no reason with some kind of razor. He said Nichols stabbed him when he put his hands up to defend himself, police said.

Police saw alcohol containers – including a bottle of Dubra vodka – and blood all over

the gazebo, the report said.

Dowty and Officer John Wilson found Nichols, who had blood smeared under his chin, eating pizza on a bench in front of the plaza, according to the report. Nichols told them he and another person had been drinking at the gazebo since 2 p.m., and the alleged victim joined them about two and a half hours later.

Nichols said the man had come at him "hard," so he stabbed him in the hand.

Nichols told police he didn't know why he was attacked, the report said.

Nichols was arrested and taken to the East Hampton Police Department for processing, according to the report. Dowty seized the knife, which had been in Nichols' right pocket.

Police said Nichols waived his right to an attorney.

According to the report, Dowty told Nichols the old and slightly rusted knife would have been difficult to open in an attack situation.

Nichols was released on a \$25,000 bond and was set to appear at Middlesex Superior Court last Tuesday. His next court date will be Oct. 24, according to the state Judicial Branch.

East Hampton Man Killed in Crash

by Julianna Roche

A 22-year-old East Hampton man was killed after crashing his car into two trees in Marlborough last Thursday night, Oct. 5.

According to police, Jonathan Thomassian of 204 Lake Vista Dr., was driving a Nissan Altima heading north on Saner Road at approximately 10:21 p.m., when two-tenths of a mile north of Dickenson Road, he suddenly drove off the roadway to the right, striking a rock, mailbox and two trees before the vehicle

came to its final rest.

Police said Thomassian sustained fatal injuries and was pronounced dead on scene, and his vehicle, which suffered disabling damage, was towed by Northeast Auto.

No other passengers were in the vehicle and the case remains under investigation by Troop K police.

Thomassian's obituary appears this week on page 32.

East Hampton Police News

9/29: Frederick Ernest Nichols, 58, of no certain address, East Hampton, was arrested and charged with second-degree assault and second-degree breach of peace, East Hampton Police said.

Also, from Sept. 25-Oct. 1, officers responded to 15 medical calls, five motor vehicle crashes and four alarms, and made 34 traffic stops.

Colchester Police News

10/5: State Police said Amelia Braman, 20, of 109 Deer Run Dr., was arrested and charged with third-degree assault and disorderly conduct.

10/8: State Police said Mikala M. Clark, 20, of 44 Balaban Rd., Apt. 205, was arrested and charged with second-degree failure to appear.

Hebron Officials Mull Mid-Year Budget Cuts

by Lauren Yandow

The finance board, selectmen, local school board and regional school board gathered in the Douglas Library Tuesday evening to discuss the looming state budget and how it could impact the town.

Board of Finance Chairman Mal Leichter opened by saying, “this is a very delicate subject that we’re going into.” He acknowledged everyone is entitled to an opinion, but reminded members to be respectful of one another.

In accordance with the town charter, the Board of Finance confers with the Board of Selectmen and education boards annually, no later than Oct. 15, to discuss goals and objectives for the upcoming budget. The meeting is intended to give board members a platform to start discussions and give non-binding recommendations for the town budget.

While members of each board gave their input on how the state budget – or lack thereof – could impact the town, the resounding topic of conversation was fear of the unknown.

“We’ve never seen budgets like this before, so we need to do things that we’ve never done before,” Leichter said.

Board of Selectmen Chairman Dan Larson said the town has “virtually no guidance from the state.”

Under Gov. Dannel Malloy’s executive order, the town stands to receive \$687,512 in state funding for the 2017-18 fiscal year, a roughly \$6 million decrease compared to last year.

Town Manager Andy Tierney has said Hebron’s current \$36.74 million budget estimated the same amount of aid the town received from the state in the last fiscal year, which amounted to about \$7 million.

The governor’s executive order is in effect until a state budget is approved by the state legislature and signed by Malloy.

The town is “okay cash flow-wise until Janu-

ary,” Leichter said Thursday.

If Hebron remains under the governor’s executive order the entire fiscal 2017-18 year, Leichter said the town will need to cover the \$6 million short fall in revenue.

He said the money could come from a reduction in spending, cash reserves or from a supplemental tax bill, which will be determined after a state budget is set or prior to January.

Under the current town budget about \$28 million goes to education; \$1.4 million is set aside for teacher retirement; and the remaining money funds the town’s general government. According to the governor’s executive order, Hebron stands to lose the equivalent of more than half of the town’s proposed general government budget of \$9.33 million.

Larson told members of the different boards that it has taken the state “years to get into this pickle” and it’ll take “years to get out.”

He said dropping all the state’s problems on local communities and local taxpayers is “disastrous” for many small towns.

“Our fiscal houses are in order; it’s the state’s that aren’t,” he added.

During the meeting, the Board of Finance recommended cutting the current budget of \$36.74 million by 15 percent, not including the debt service budget of roughly \$1.13 million – if a state budget with more promising municipal aid figures doesn’t emerge by January.

“These are very, very soft numbers because we don’t know where we’re going to end up, we don’t know where the state is going to end up,” Leichter said Thursday. “It won’t all come out of one place,” he added: “We want to affect the current taxpayers’ rates as little as possible.”

As previously reported, the Hebron Board of Finance on Aug. 24 implemented a freeze for non-essential spending in response to the governor’s disclosure of the possible state rev-

enue reduction. In addition, a hiring freeze was implemented.

The freeze covers all budgets related to town offices, including the Board of Selectmen. Both freezes will remain in place until a state budget is passed and the town can judge where they stand with revenue projections, according to a Sept. 6 letter from Tierney.

The Hebron Board of Education and RHAM Board of Education have also put freezes in place. The RHAM school board budget freeze went into effect on Sept. 28, according to a memo from the district’s superintendent Pat Law. The memo states purchases will not be permitted unless necessary to continue to implement approved instructional programs or for health and safety reasons.

The Hebron Board of Education implemented a hiring and spending freeze in August, just before the start of school, said Superintendent of Schools Tim Van Tassel. Both freezes will “unfortunately” stay in place until further notice, he said Thursday.

When it comes to making decisions on what cuts could be made in town to help offset the budget, Selectman Mark Stuart said this is the time for the boards to be “smart,” “put some of their passions aside,” and go back to their “cores and principal values” and reserve funds by looking at what can be put on “hiatus for some time.”

Larson said Wednesday that potential cuts are going to have an impact, especially on younger families with children.

The boards may not be able to stop the impact, he added, but “we can listen to the community.”

Before the boards dove into talks on how the state budget could impact Hebron, State Senator Cathy Osten (D-19), who was in attendance, gave some up-to-date information from the state

Capitol and some background as to why Connecticut still doesn’t have a budget.

“I’m not going to sugarcoat it,” Osten said. “I’d like to say that we’re going to have a budget this week, but I don’t think we are.”

With the Democratic and Republican legislatures currently \$300 million apart in their negotiations, she said she’s not even sure the budget will be ready for a vote in a month.

Osten said 53 percent of the state budget is made up of fixed costs; 27 percent of the budget is all state agencies, which is anything from public safety to the Department of Social Services; the remaining 20 percent equates to \$5 billion in municipal aid, with 4.1 billion of that municipal aid going to local public schools.

“The governor can only give out as much revenue as he has,” said Osten.

Osten said it’s important for residents to share their ideas on how the state budget will impact their town by getting in touch with both herself and State Representative Robin Green (R-55).

To contact Sen. Osten, go to senate.dems.ct.gov and click on the “email and contact” tab; Rep. Green (R-55) can be reached at cthousegop.com by clicking on the “contact me” tab.

“This is the most important time to act in your towns,” said Leichter.

Going forward, Leichter said Wednesday he plans to – along with the education boards, selectmen, and town staff – circulate a budget reduction letter to all of Hebron.

The letter will inform residents of the town’s financial status, as well as how town officials are and will continue to fiscally manage Hebron, he said. How the letter will be circulated is still undecided, but Leichter said it will be distributed soon.

Hebron Elementary Water Still Testing High for Lead

by Lauren Yandow

Hebron Elementary School’s water is still testing positive for high levels of lead at multiple sites in the school, Superintendent of Schools Tim Van Tassel announced in a letter sent to parents with students last week.

Students and staff will continue to hydrate by utilizing Poland Spring water bubblers; the use of running water is permitted and safe for hand washing, Van Tassel said.

Gilead Hill School’s water was tested in July and those tests came back negative, he added.

Lead is a naturally-occurring element found in small amounts in the earth’s crust that has some beneficial uses, but can be toxic to humans and animals, according to the Environmental Protection Agency website, epa.gov/lead. Van Tassel said Wednesday that to date the school board has received no reports of health problems related to lead in the school’s water.

The high lead levels were first discovered last November, during a routine state-mandated water test. The letter sent last week states the cause of high lead content is due to the lead solder used to fuse the pipes back when the

school was built. According to the town’s tax assessor, the school was built in 1948.

Back in January, the school administration hired a water contractor to work with DPH in order to address the lead issue, said Van Tassel. The contractor and health department worked together to address the lead issue by defining a system that would best match the design of the school, he added. And in March, a zinc orthophosphate water system was installed in the elementary school to help mitigate the lead issue. The system works by building up a coating on the inside of the copper piping around the lead, encapsulating and removing it from the water.

In June, initial testing showed lead levels in the water had fallen below the EPA threshold, leading the school administration to believe the system was gaining success, but now tests are showing otherwise, Van Tassel said.

The notice states the school administration initially “anticipated that it would take approximately 12 months for the system to properly treat the water pipes,” with the hope that the

encapsulation would take no more than six months.

“Unfortunately, our most recent tests revealed that lead exceedance levels still exist,” Van Tassel stated in the notice. Until the elementary school receives two consecutive cycles of test results that show levels below the EPA threshold, which is 0.015 milligrams of lead per liter of water, it will remain under administrative order, he added.

Going forward, a total of 20 sites will be sampled every six months until the school’s water tests below the EPA threshold for lead two times in a row, Van Tassel said. The zinc orthophosphate water system will continuously be tested bi-weekly in order to make sure it’s

working properly, he added. Water-sampling costs were not budgeted for since the lead issue occurred after the school’s budget was approved. The system tests run about \$70 per lab; the bi-yearly lead water testing runs \$200 per test, according to Van Tassel.

Van Tassel said, the plan is to allow the system to “continue to run its course,” as approved by the health department and water contractor. “We believe this system is going to fix the issue,” Van Tassel said. However, if it doesn’t, the district will continue to work to find a solution. The school board is “following exactly what we’re being told to do,” Van Tassel said and the school’s water is being “closely monitored.”

Vehicle Crashes into Mailboxes on Route 66

by Julianna Roche

A Hebron resident sustained minor injuries after her vehicle crashed into two mailboxes and a utility pole last Tuesday morning.

Police said at approximately 10:14 a.m., Jane N. Gionfrido, 62, of 15 Ridge Rd., was driving her Subaru Forester eastbound on Route 66 near Jennifer Lane and Burrows Hill Road, when the vehicle left the roadway in the 200 block of the road and subsequently struck two mailboxes and a utility pole.

Police said the vehicle’s airbags were deployed and the Forester sustained significant front end damage before being towed from the scene by Northeast Auto.

Gionfrido sustained minor injuries and was transported to Marlborough Medical Center by Hebron Fire Department, police said. She was found at fault for the crash, and was issued an infraction for making an improper turn, according to police.

Attempted Robbery at Colchester Gas Station

State Police are investigating an attempted robbery that reportedly occurred at an Old Hartford Road gas station last week.

Police said that shortly after 10 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 3, they received a report of a robbery having occurred at the Valero gas station on 339 Old Hartford Rd. earlier in the evening, at around 8:30 p.m.

According to the store clerk, a young white male wearing a black mask over his face en-

tered the store and implied he had a firearm. The clerk refused to give him anything, police said, and the suspect then fled from the store. The clerk reported that the suspect removed his mask, revealing that he had brown hair, before leaving the gas station parking lot on foot, police said.

Police said nothing was taken from the store and there were no injuries to the store clerk. The case remains under investigation.

Obituaries

Portland

Karen D. Tyler

Karen D. (Krueger) Tyler, born March 1, 1940, died peacefully Thursday, Sept. 28, in Middletown, surrounded by her family.

She is survived by her second husband, Bruce M. Tyler of Portland; daughters, Elise (Kenneth) Cotrone of Middletown and Hilary (Christopher) Phelps of Portland; and stepsons, Anthony (Sabine) Tyler of Smith River, California and Scott (Sheila) Tyler of Seabrook, N.H. She is also survived by sister Rochelle (Ron) Honig of Arcata, Calif., and brother Theodore (June) Krueger of Orlando. She is additionally survived by grandchildren Kenneth Cotrone, Jr., Rachel Cotrone, Cassidy Phelps, Jacque Phelps, Maximilian Tyler and Luna Tyler.

She was a graduate of Middletown schools, Middlesex Community College and Trinity College in Hartford.

Throughout her working life she was a public accountant with jobs at Wesleyan University, Trinity College, the Portland Housing Authority where she also became the executive director, and as a result of her husband's job change, East Side Neighborhood Services in Minneapolis. Her passion in life was jazz. She had an extensive collective of jazz recordings and regularly attended jazz concerts in central Connecticut.

There will be no funeral service. Burial at Indian Hill Cemetery will be at the convenience of the family. Donations in her name may be made to the American Cancer Society.

East Hampton

Rhoda Mary Clynes

Rhoda Mary (Leonard) Clynes, 90, of East Hampton, formerly of Southington, widow of James J. Clynes, died peacefully Wednesday, Oct. 4, at Apple Rehab of Cromwell. Born May 20, 1927, in New Britain, she was the daughter of the late Raymond F. and Agnes (Schussler) Leonard.



Rhoda grew up in New Britain and was a graduate of New Britain High School. She married James Clynes in April 1949. They moved to Southington in 1958, where they raised their family. Rhoda was an employee of South End Elementary School in Southington, where she enjoyed working as a secretary, assisting not only the teachers but also becoming a friendly face to the many children who attended the school. Following her retirement in 1982 from South End School, Rhoda continued her work at St. Dominic School and actively volunteered her time at Bradley Memorial Hospital.

In 1992, they relocated to East Hampton, where she and her loving husband of 67 years enjoyed countless hours looking over Lake Pocotopaug from their front porch. Her most enjoyable moments were on Sunday when her family joined them for an afternoon of swimming, boating and family dinners. Winters were spent in South Pasadena, Fla., where, although she missed her children, she and her husband developed many special, lasting friendships at the Causeway Village.

Rhoda was a communicant of St. Patrick Church in East Hampton, and a member of the Ladies Guild. She lived a fulfilling life but her most special attributes were how she cared for and interacted with her children, eagerly partaking in activities with them even if it involved learning how to snow ski, sail, golf or water ski. As long as she was with family, she was happy.

Rhoda is survived by her son, James W. Clynes and his wife Lisa of Southington; a daughter, Nancy Ninesling and her husband David of East Hampton; a sister-in-law, Margie Clynes of Ponte Verde Beach, Fla.; six grandchildren, Ryan and wife Kait, Kacie, Zach, A.J., K.J. and Alyssa; and two great-grandchildren, Taylor and Bentley. She was predeceased by her brother, Raymond Leonard, and her sister, Rita Urban.

Friends called at Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, Monday, Oct. 9. A funeral liturgy was celebrated Tuesday, Oct. 10, in St. Patrick Church in East Hampton. Burial followed in St. Patrick Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to East Hampton Volunteer Ambulance Association, P.O. Box 144, East Hampton, CT 06424.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

East Hampton

Walter E. Nichols Jr.

Walter E. Nichols Jr., "Nick," passed away peacefully in his easy chair while watching his favorite shows on the evening of Monday, Sept. 30. He was born in Middletown April 17, 1940, son of the late Walter and Mildred (Royce) Nichols Sr.

Nick and Gloria (Grzegorowicz) were married in August 1960 and subsequently raised three children together. Nick worked at United Technologies for 43 years, until his retirement in 2002. A lifetime resident of East Hampton, Nick was a charter member of the East Hampton Volunteer Fire Department Association and was active in the East Hampton Volunteer Fire Department and Ambulance Association for years. Nick was proud to be a Master Mason, Anchor Lodge No. 112.

Nick enjoyed riding his Honda Goldwing and traveled from Nova Scotia to Nevada. An avid deer hunter, he loved when he was able to hunt with both his father and his son. Nick had his pilot's license and liked to circle the Goodspeed to impress his passenger, his wife, only to find that getting such a good look caused her to become nauseous. Nick was interested in wood-working, enjoyed the Scottish games and bagpipe music, and stayed abreast of trending technology. Nick spent as much time as possible with his family as he routinely visited with his children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, brother, and when they were alive, his parents.

Nick leaves behind his wife Gloria; brothers Robert (wife Lynn) and Gary; children Dory Nichols, Walter Nichols III (wife Kathryn), and Valerie (Nichols) Frate (husband Robert); grandchildren Daryl Cashin (wife April), Phoebe (Nichols) Harmon (husband Stephen), Rian Frate and Shayne Frate; great grandchildren Hunter Cashin and Avery Cashin.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, Oct. 21, at Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton. Calling hours will start at 10 a.m. and the service will begin at 11 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the East Hampton Volunteer Fire Department, 3 Barton Hill, East Hampton, CT 06424 attention Greg Voelker; or the East Hampton Volunteer Ambulance Association, P.O. Box 144, East Hampton, CT 06424.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Middletown

Jacqueline S. Magyar

Jacqueline Sophia (Jordan) Magyar, 81, died Wednesday, Sept. 27, with her daughter by her side. She was born July 31, 1936, in North Plainfield, N.J., to Stella (Walker) Jordan and John Edmund Jordan Sr.

She graduated from North Plainfield High School in 1954. Her career included Allstate Insurance Co., Motor Club of America - Elizabeth Agency, Kimball Medical Center, and for 19 years, homemaker.

Jackie lived in New Jersey most of her life, including North Plainfield, Toms River, Middletown, Brick, Howell and Leisure Village in Lakewood. As her dementia progressed, she became a resident at Water's Edge in Middletown, where she was lovingly cared for.

She is survived by her loving and devoted daughter and son-in-law, Theresa and Russ Thompson, grandchildren Caroline, Madeleine and John, all of Portland; her beloved brother, John Jordan Jr. and his wife Kay of Nashville, Tenn.; her nephew, Mark Jordan and his wife Iman of Clarksville, Tenn.

Jackie's family would like to thank her long-time care givers, Sandra and Kate, along with countless others at Water's Edge. In Jackie's memory, please consider sharing a compliment, visiting a friend or homebound neighbor, or doing anything to make someone else's day better.

Services will be held Saturday, Oct. 14, at the Church of St. Mary, 51 Freestone Ave., Portland; 10 a.m. visitation, 11 a.m. funeral Mass, followed by a luncheon. All are welcome.

Biega Funeral Home, Middletown, is handling the arrangements. To share memories or express condolences online, visit biegafuneralhome.com.

East Hampton

Jonathan Paul Thomassian

Jonathan Paul Thomassian, 22, son of Robert Thomassian of East Hampton and Linda Thomassian-Buckley of East Haddam, passed away Thursday, Oct. 4.

Born in Hartford and raised in Marlborough, Jonathan was a beloved son, brother, grandson, nephew, uncle and friend. He was a funny, smart, caring, loving, rambunctious child who grew into a handsome, popular, talented athlete with endless potential. All of this came to a halt the day he succumbed to drug and alcohol addiction. In essence, that was the day the Jonathan we knew and loved went away.

In addition to his parents, he leaves behind his sister Meagan Thomassian and 5-month-old niece Sophia; paternal grandmother Violette Thomassian; maternal grandparents John and Loretta Lewis; uncles Frank Thomassian, John Thomassian and Aunt Karen Thomassian; as well as many loving cousins and friends.

In honor of Jonathan's struggle with addiction, in lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Lebanon Pines online at SCADD.org or via check made payable to SCADD and mailed to 37 Camp Mooween Rd., Lebanon, CT 06249

Services will be held this Saturday, Oct. 14, at noon, in the Spencer Funeral Home, located at 112 Main St., East Hampton. Calling hours will be from 10 a.m. until the time of the service at noon.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Marlborough

Michael F. Malloy

I, Michael F. Malloy, temporarily leave the love of my life, Linda Jean honey. I take the memories of my pride and joy Margo Lee and Francis Ambrose, their spouses Greg and Elke, and the wonderful memories of my grandchildren, Virginia, Connor, Abby and Erin, and our adventures at Camp Pettengill.

I have been blessed with great family and friends along my journey. I am grateful for their help while I was sick, especially Bev, Karen, Mike and Denise, Carol, Dave and Carolyn, Amy and Kevin, Barbara, Robin, and Brenda and Jory. I also send my love to my nieces and nephew James, Amy, Maegan, Karen, Michelle, Lauren and Monica, and grandnieces and nephew, Evie, Mila and Cullen.

At my places of work, Jefferson House and Florence Lord, I met many good people. I also enjoyed my time with the people at the Marlborough Library, Arts Center, and my pool buddies at the Senior Center. Lastly, my thanks to the nurses and doctors, who showed me compassion and caring during my illness.

I was predeceased by my parents, Frank and Rosalie Malloy of Windsor Locks. I was the oldest of four brothers; Patrick, Richard and James.



Colchester

Rena Caron Berube

Rena Caron Berube of Colchester, formerly of Haddam, passed away peacefully Friday, Oct. 6, at the age of 70. Born Jan. 30, 1947, in Saint-Jean-de-la-Lande, PQ, Canada, she was the youngest of the 18 children of the late Thomas and Yvonne Caron.

Rena was a graduate of Middlesex Community College. She was a lover of fine art and was an avid oil painter.

She is survived by her loving husband of 50 years, Joseph Joel Berube; her son and daughter-in-law, Dean and Zelma Berube of Colchester; her daughter and son-in-law, Lisa and Carl Neubert of Deep River; three grandsons, David and Daniel Berube and Trey Neubert; several siblings, extended family members and friends.

The family received guests starting Monday, Oct. 9, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester, before the celebration of the funeral liturgy at 1 p.m. at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester. She was laid to rest in the New St. Andrew Cemetery, Colchester.

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

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

