

RIVEREAST

# News Bulletin

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

Volume 43, Number 1

Published by The Glastonbury Citizen

October 12, 2018



**Bears on a Journey...** Late Portland resident Fran Schoell's vision of making cancer diagnoses more "bearable" is the point behind the Portland Bears On A Journey program. Each snugly fleece stuffed bear begins its journey on the cutting table where volunteers Phyllis Clark (shown here), Nancy Jones and/or Carlotta Lord trace wooden patterns and cut pieces destined for the next stage – sewing.

## Belltown Seeks Outside Help for Water Woes

by Elizabeth Regan

A formative, \$32 million plan that would connect Portland's water system to East Hampton to ameliorate Belltown's longstanding water woes is the subject of discussion at the local and state level.

The phase-one plan would bring in the Metropolitan District Commission, a quasi-public water utility, to send water along Route 66 from Grove Street in Portland to the current East Hampton Town Hall.

East Hampton Town Manager Michael Maniscalco said this week the move would provide stability to both East Hampton and Portland in terms of clean water and operational efficiency. He is hopeful that the state Department of Public Health, working with the Office of Policy and Management and the state legislature, will fund the project - but he acknowledged the financial picture is far from clear.

"It's not finalized by any means yet," Maniscalco said. "There's a long way to go. There's not even an agreement put together. Until that's done, there's not answers to a lot of questions."

Based on a preliminary project description provided by Bransfield and Maniscalco, work would include the construction of 7.7 miles of pipe. The project would also require both an additional pump station and storage tank in each of the towns.

To address issues with exposed bedrock along the proposed pipeline route in the Cobalt section of East Hampton, the preliminary plan includes an alternative to move the water main to Middle Haddam and Old Middletown roads "to

avoid the worst section of the rock outcropping." There would be no change to the length of the water main. In Portland, there's the potential to move a section of water main to Sand Hill Road, which would reduce the overall water main length by 0.1 miles.

Connecting to Portland is one part of a larger plan devised by East Hampton officials to bring a reliable public water supply to a much larger swath of Belltown than the area currently served by three small, town-operated water systems. East Hampton has long been beset by a lack of clean water that has disrupted the lives of residents and hindered economic development.

It would cost roughly \$81 million to fully outfit East Hampton's water system to bring MDC into town, construct a downtown loop and connect to the existing Village Center and Royal Oaks waters systems, according to a 2017 report from the engineering firm Tighe and Bond.

MDC spokeswoman Kerry Martin said the first phase of the plan would require Portland to sign on with MDC as a "non-member" town, which means customers would pay MDC directly. That's because the company must own the utilities that will be used to transport the water to East Hampton.

Portland's 2,400 water customers currently pay the town for services. The town in turn buys water from MDC to supplement its well on Glastonbury Turnpike. Spurred at least in part by a 13 percent increase in the cost of water from MDC this year, Portland selectmen recently approved a 3-percent rate increase in January and another 3-percent in

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## Hebron Bringing Past Back to Life

by Sloan Brewster

Hebron Historical Society is bringing folks back to life one person at a time.

On Oct. 21, the society will offer *Hebron's History, One Person at a Time* – a portrayal of colonial citizens. The brainchild of society member and past president Mary-Ellen Gonci, the project started several years ago.

While doing some cleaning at the Old Town Hall, Gonci noticed some boxes and started to empty them. In one, she found a photocopy of a handwritten document with a list of local burials that was written in 1899 by the town's then-historian, F.C. Bissell.

Then, about four years ago, after a presentation by Ruth Shapleigh-Brown, of the Connecticut Gravestone Network, Gonci and her husband, Bob Gonci and volunteers began cleaning up the Old Cemetery on Wall Street, resetting stones and cleaning them, she said. There are still 60 stones that need to be cleaned and set right.

While working on that, they decided to write a biography of the people buried in the graveyard. Researching the people on Bissell's list, Gonci learned what she could about the resi-

dents of the cemetery.

Of the 400 people buried in the cemetery, 353 were included in the list. Gonci is making a map of where they were buried and has added 40 or 50 more names. She said some of the new names are folks buried since 1899; she doesn't know why the others weren't on the original list.

The list of folks includes doctors, lawyers, mothers, Revolutionary War veterans, French and Indian War veterans, Civil War veterans, town founders and early settlers, Gonci said. There are also "tons of babies."

"The thing that really impressed me was the people in town were really conscientious people," she said. "They were a cohesive unit and they worked together and I'm learning that from their biographies."

One person who impresses Gonci is Obadiah Horsford, the captain of Hebron's first militia. Among the first settlers to town, Horsford arrived in 1705, purchased land and farmed on Wall Street – at the time known as Andover Road. The house directly across the street from the cemetery is known as the Obadiah Horsford

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This brownstone gravestone in the Old Cemetery on Wall Street has been so ravaged by weather, the only way the Hebron Historical Society has of identifying the grave's inhabitant is with the footstone, which is sitting beside the marker. The society is making a map with GPS coordinates of the gravestones and has been working to clean and realign them.

**Water Woes cont. from Front Page**

crease in July (see related story on page 28). East Hampton can choose to become an MDC non-member town or can retain control of its own water system by buying water from the utility company like Portland does currently, Martin said.

MDC charges customers in non-member towns for drinking water based upon monthly consumption, as well as monthly customer service, non-member town fees and capital improvement surcharge fees.

A document prepared for Portland First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield by MDC based on 2018 rates shows typical single-family property owner with a 5/8-inch meter would pay \$34.53 per month as a Portland customer compared to \$46.63 as a non-member MDC customer.

The owner of a restaurant with a 3/4-inch meter would see more favorable rates as a non-member customer, paying \$181.68 per month to MDC compared to \$233.24 to the town. But a commercial property with a meter of the same size would pay roughly \$14 more per month to MDC than it does currently.

Bransfield this week emphasized discussion about connecting with East Hampton is preliminary. While acknowledging the economic development benefits of expanding the water system up the Route 66 corridor, she said the monthly billing estimates for individual customers cause concern.

“What I didn’t like seeing was it may cost more,” she said.

She said she has been keeping the Board of Selectmen informed at its regular meetings, but that much more detailed conversations about advantages, disadvantages, timeline and cost will have to take place as the information emerges.

Bransfield said she is working with Maniscalco and DPH to set up a meeting to discuss possibilities for state funding.

“I’m encouraged the state health department recognizes the needs presented by the town of East Hampton and Portland,” she said.

A draft report from the Capital Region Water Utility Coordinating Committee, which is

pending approval by DPH Commissioner Raul Pino, specifically recommends connecting existing systems and developing new supply sources to address East Hampton’s need for water.

DPH Public Health Bureau Chief Lori Mathieu reported in an Oct. 1 email to Maniscalco and Bransfield that she met with staff members from the state Office of Policy and Management, whom she described as “supportive of the project.” OPM is responsible for administering state grant programs.

Mathieu said the project might end up in the governor’s 2019 budget recommendation depending on the number of requests received.

“Even if the project is not included initially it doesn’t mean that we should stop planning the details; the time is now to push forward,” she wrote. “The project could be added during the course of the 2019 legislative session and we all need to be prepared.”

Describing her takeaway from the OPM response as “all positive,” Mathieu added that East Hampton and Portland officials should meet with MDC “in short order” to draft a memorandum of agreement that outlines the financial model and timeline for the project.

Bransfield, reiterating that it’s still very early in the process, said the conversation going forward will include opportunities for public input in Portland.

“Any question can go to a town meeting or referendum if selectmen feel it should,” she said. “And this is a major decision. There would absolutely need to be a vote by the community.”

Maniscalco said it’s his understanding the East Hampton Town Council has the authority to decide who is allowed to provide water within the town’s borders.

“It would be a decision of the council if they would want to hold a public hearing before they make a decision,” he said.

Maniscalco added the council would likely hold a couple of public forums or workshops to educate people on the project once it is further developed, as was done during the recent natural gas expansion.

**Back to Life cont. from Front Page**

House but it is unclear if it originally belonged to Horsford or his son of the same name, Gonci said. What is known is that Horsford had the foresight to clear enough land to put a church on his property, which was there for a time but no longer.

Horsford also deeded the land for the burial ground to the town in 1793. At the time it was known as Obadiah’s Nine Acres, Gonci said. Later, half the property was named the Old Cemetery and the other half became the New Cemetery.

Gonci said she would like to have the old portion renamed Obadiah’s Nine Acres.

Horsford was recognized by the Connecticut General Assembly on three separate occasions. The first time was in 1722, when he was made captain of the local militia. Gonci said she’s not sure why he was recognized the other two times.

Another old-time resident who interests Gonci is the Honorable Sylvester Gilbert, an attorney and judge chosen to represent Hebron in the state House of Representatives from 1780-1812, and again in 1826.

Gilbert’s wife Patience gave birth to 15 children, five of whom were born deaf – and in 1817 Gilbert became a co-founder of the American School for the Deaf.

“He obviously felt that an education was an essential part of a person’s life and he worked to get his children in the school for the deaf,” Gonci said. “And one of them was his daughter Mary, so he recognized that education was as important for girls as for boys to make sure that his children were productive members of society.”

Gilbert also served five months in the U.S. Congress, and ran a law school out of his office. George O. Cook, who is also buried in the cemetery, came to town from Vermont to study law at Gilbert’s school. Cook died when he was

19, before completing his studies.

The earliest death indicated on gravestones in the cemetery was 1731, according to Gonci.

Gonci said she was able to find most of the biographical information online, including through Ancestry.com, the New England Historical and Genealogical Register and the Barbour Collection.

Gonci’s research also led her to other interesting discoveries about the town – including that, in colonial times, there were more than 25 mills in Hebron, which infused products in the local economy.

“Hebron’s grand list was higher than that of Glastonbury in 1775, and I believe it’s because we had mills,” she said.

Gonci is hoping to raise funds to restore the broken stones in the cemetery and to put a sign for the old cemetery. If she is able to accomplish her wish, the sign will also restore the burial ground to its original identity as Obadiah’s Nine Acres – but that will involve working with the town and she has not started working on it.

Gonci has received a donation of \$100 toward the sign. She said she hopes a book she has written as a result of the project will bring in more toward the \$17,000 needed to restore all the stones.

Meant to be a list of veterans buried in the cemetery, the project evolved into a book on local history. Called *Hebron Connecticut Wilderness to Revolution, 1704 to 1783*, Gonci intends to have some copies printed in time for the Oct. 21 presentation.

“I think they still have something to say to us,” she said of the folks slumbering in the cemetery.

The presentation at the cemetery will take place Oct. 21 from 1-4 p.m. at the Old Cemetery on Wall Street. The rain date is Oct. 28, also from 1-4 p.m.

# Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

“A woman’s place is in the house.....and the senate.”

I heard that rather clever quote earlier this week, encouraging women to get into politics. One of the interesting things about this election year is how many women seem to have heeded that advice – particularly in *Riverast*-land.

Spread across the six towns we circulate to are seven races for statewide office. And of those seven races, only one – the Fourth Senatorial District race, between incumbent Democrat Steve Cassano and Republican challenger Mark Tweedie – features competitors that are exclusively male. The other six have at least one woman running, and in three of the races, both the Democrat and the Republican running are women.

It’s pretty neat, and a development I’m happy to see. Statistics show that, at just over 50 percent of the population, women outnumber men in this country. And yet their representation in public office is often far below that – particularly on the national level. According to Rutgers, in 2018, of the 100 people in the U.S. Senate, 23 are women. And of the 435 in the U.S. House of Representatives, just 84 are women. That’s not even 20 percent.

Pretty pathetic.

On the state level, it’s not much better. PBS reports that, nationwide, just one in four state lawmakers is a woman.

Of course, a lot of that may change come Nov. 6. After the 2016 presidential election went the way it did, there were a lot of predictions that women would become energized politically. And they have. According to PBS, there are more women running for federal office, and gubernatorial seats, than ever before.

The influx of women in politics is certainly noticeable in area races. In Cromwell and Portland, you have Republican incumbent state Rep. Christie Carpino being challenged by Democrat Laurel Steinhauser. For the 34th House District, which covers East Haddam, East Hampton and a portion of Colchester, Republican Irene Haines is squaring off against Democrat Theresa Govert. Meanwhile, over in the 55th House District of Andover, Hebron, Marlborough and Bolton, Democrat Tiffany Thiele is looking to unseat Republican incumbent Robin Green. (It’s worth noting there’s also a man, Rob Barstow, running on the Green Party ticket in that race.)

Probably the *Riverast* race that’s garnered the most attention – and certainly the most ink on our letters to the editor pages – also involves a woman: In the 33rd Senate District, Republican Melissa Ziobron – currently the state representative for the 34th District – and Democrat Norm Needleman are battling

it out to take the seat of Republican Art Linares, who’s not seeking re-election. The district includes Portland, East Hampton and Colchester.

Not to be left out: the 48th House District, which includes Colchester, where Democrat state Rep. Linda Orange is looking to win another term in office, and is faced by Republican Mark DeCaprio; and the 19th Senate District, where Democrat incumbent Cathy Osten is looking to hold on against Republican Mark Lounsbury. That district includes the *Riverast* towns of Hebron and Marlborough.

So, there you have it: 15 people seeking state office in our circulation area, and nine of them are women. Pretty impressive. On a national level, women have a long way to go before they can have anywhere close to equal representation in the House and Senate – but, here in our little corner of Connecticut, they’re off to a good start.

\* \* \*

Speaking of politics, this is now my 11th year of editing the *Riverast* at election time. I’ve seen many, many political letters during that time – and I don’t remember any election season being as nasty as this one, at least not on the state level. (In municipal election years, East Hampton traditionally has never been shy to let the mud fly.)

People have been attacking candidates with fervor. Folks – including, in some cases, the candidates themselves – that usually take the high road have been letting the insults fly. Heck, a Democrat PAC has even set up an anti-Melissa Ziobron website.

I’m used to seeing this for national races, and for gubernatorial ones. (Lamont and Stefanowski don’t seem to be pulling any punches.) But for the state senate and state house races? This is pretty unheard of.

Am I shocked? Not really, I guess. This country is more splintered than I’ve ever seen it. On a national level, civil political discourse is all but extinct. We have people in office who seem to be more interested in dividing than uniting. So while it’s sad that it’s worked its way down to the state level, I guess I shouldn’t be all that surprised.

I certainly understand the anger; believe me, things have not been going in this country the way I’d like them to – the past couple of weeks have been glaring examples of this. Trotting out a Rodney King-style “can’t we all just get along?” seems dismissive considering the state things are in these days. But the anger, the attacks, the negativity.....it’s all just very sad to see. I hope, at some point soon, we can all heal.

\* \* \*

See you next week.

# Hebron Recognized for Sustainable Practices

by Sloan Brewster

With bronze certification, the town is the third-smallest in the state to be recognized for sustainable practices.

On Oct. 2, Lynn Stoddard, executive director of the Institute for Sustainable Energy at Eastern Connecticut State University [ECSU] sent Town Manager Andrew Tierney a letter announcing the town had received the Sustainable Connecticut award.

"We are thrilled to recognize your community's sustainability accomplishments and eager to spread the word on your Sustainable CT certification," the letter reads. "Your team is commended for your inspiring leadership and hard work."

The town was among 22 towns to be certified in the first round of awards from the institute, Tierney said Monday. The award shows that the town has put together sustainable practices.

"We were the third smallest town to get it," Tierney said.

Tierney thanked Kaitlin Hershey and the Green Committee, who led to effort toward the certification.

"I think it's a great thing," Tierney said. "It's not only good for the environment, it's good for branding the town showing all the great accomplishments that we have made."

To get the certification, the town had to prove it has policies and procedures, including in its Plan of Conservation and Development, that support sustainability, Tierney, who was the town's representative in the process, said.

Moving forward with sustainable policies and procedures is a good way to plan for the future and is positive in many ways, including economic development, he said.

Some of the things the town has done include preserving open space, converting the town to natural gas, and making plans to expand housing for the elderly.

With the elderly population growing, sustainable practices must include adequate housing

and services for that demographic.

Several years ago, the town purchased a piece of property on Route 66 that abuts the senior center and has plans to build additional elderly housing there, Tierney said. Specs are currently being drawn up to show what will fit on the site and the town will apply for grants to get the project rolling.

"We're doing the right things for the demographics of the town," he said.

Housing, which also included public service offerings in the town, was a difficult category to document, according to Hershey.

"That was the last thing we did because it was probably the toughest," she said.

Hershey said answering the two pages of housing- and service-related questions involved crunching numbers, compiling and analyzing demographic data and determining what housing and services would be required based on the information and then indicating what the town was doing to achieve those needs.

Filling out the paperwork to get the documentation was a town-wide effort, according to Hershey, who said she spent much of her summer in Town Hall perusing through maps and documents that Town Planner Mike O'Leary and Director of Administrative Services Donna Lanza dug out of the trenches.

"Any strange thing that possibly could be sustainable, Mike O'Leary has a map for that," Hershey said.

Members of the Parks and Recreation Department, as well as other town staff, also helped out.

There were nine categories, 165 actions and 1,645 possible points, she said. To get bronze certification, 200 points were required.

"We have to do one single action from every single category," she said. "There are some categories that we've had more than others."

In this round of awards only bronze and silver certifications were available, Hershey said. To get silver, the town would have needed 500 points.



Community gardens, like this one behind the Peters House in Burnt Hill Park, are among the many things the town does that make it a sustainable community, according to Sustainable Connecticut, which has certified it with its bronze award.

Among the categories was *Vibrant and Creative Cultural Eco Systems*, in which the town gained points for the Town Center Project, Hershey said.

According to organizer Judith Podell, the Town Center Project is about "reinventing the heart of Hebron and working toward a more beautiful town center."

Included in the project were a summer concert series and the Lazy Days of Summer, which took place in the summer months in the historic center and included low tech games and activities, musical performers, croquet and bocce and fun for children such as chalk painting.

The category was about doing things to draw people to town, Hershey said.

"Judy is obviously queen of that," she said.

Other things the town received points for included recycling mattresses and plastics, a composter at the library, community gardens and the presence of two charging stations for electric cars – one at Town Hall and one at the senior center.

Local watershed education about streams and brooks, led by volunteers in the Salmon River Watershed Partnership was a point earner too, Hershey said. The partnership accesses the health of the ecosystem by observing wildlife, insect life and biology at watersheds and looking at runoff.

"A lot of the stuff that we have done in town has not been done for Sustainable Connecticut," Hershey said. "Why we felt called to the project was because Hebron participates in a lot of sustainable programs already."

## Projected Population Changes Shape Long Term Plans in Andover

by Sloan Brewster

A recent report from the Long Term Planning Committee found the town's population will decline as people move from rural areas to cities over the next 25 years.

The committee, as part of its endeavor to push forward with the town's Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) drafted the 17-page report on Andover demographics.

Before the committee can make long term decisions about which ideas in the POCD to turn into action, it needed to understand how the town relates to surrounding towns and what pressures it will face based on populations shifts, according to Eric Anderson, committee chairman.

According to the report, the town's population will go down by 22 percent over the next 25 years while that of the rest of the state will increase by an overall of 1.4 percent.

"From my perspective, I think the biggest thing [to take from the report] is that, you know, we're kind of in the midst of a really long term trend toward people moving toward urban areas," Anderson said.

Until recently, the number of residents leaving rural areas wasn't as obvious because there were still more people moving in, according to Anderson. Now fewer people are deciding to move into rural areas at the same time others – especially young people – leave town for urban

centers.

A take away from that is that the town will not need to do anything to slow down residential growth, he said. Conversely, it will need to manage the diminishing numbers to try and keep them from becoming too negative.

It also means keeping an eye on the housing market, which is bound to drop, he said. There are currently only three to four new homes being built in town each year and, at the same time, approximately the same number are being abandoned.

"As the population decreases more than 20 percent, that means there's going to be an awful lot of houses in town not occupied," Anderson said. "That directly corresponds to property values and resale values."

The committee is still working on how the information will translate to action, but one idea Anderson has is that the town will need to market itself.

"From my perspective we're almost in the mode where one of the things we're going to need to be doing as a community is actively marketing the next generation of homeowners to the town," Anderson said.

Part of the marketing strategy should be focused on Andover Elementary School, Anderson said.

"It is a really strong school in a rural town,"

he said.

The population decrease will also come with a shift, with the numbers of school aged children going down while the elderly population will go up.

According to the report, the population of children between 5 and 19 years old will decrease in town by 48 percent from 2015 to 2030. Connecticut overall will experience a 6-percent decrease. That decrease is already evident in the Andover elementary school population.

The report also states that by 2040 the population of seniors over age 65 will more than double to 27 percent. In Connecticut, the senior population will increase slowly to 17 percent in the same period.

With fewer students occupying classrooms at Andover Elementary School, Anderson said the committee will likely support the move of the senior center to the third and fourth grade wing of the school and ultimately recommend making it into a community center.

"It's pretty clear that we're going to make a strong recommendation that the town use the Andover Elementary school as a community center and to allocate the money to do it," he said.

Last week, after banning the use of the old

firehouse on Center Street because it is infested with mold, the Board of Selectmen agreed to have Schools Superintendent Sally Doyen look into what it will take to move the senior center to the wing.

On Wednesday, the Board of Education agreed to request that the Board of Finance let it use \$175,000 in surplus funds from last year's budget toward funding designs for converting the wing.

Another way the population shifts are already evident is in recruitment numbers at the volunteer fire department, Anderson said. With fewer people of recruitment age moving to town and firefighters getting older, the town could one day be faced with making a decision about taking on a professional fire department.

"The town has been very fortunate for many years to have a very active fire department," he said. "Now it's having difficulty in recruiting."

Anderson said he takes demographic predictions "with a grain of salt" and pointed out that populations have spiked and plummeted before.

"This certainly isn't the first spike in population followed by a decrease in population; the same thing happened in the 80s where the school got pretty big," he said. "Then it went down, then it bounced back."

# Marlborough Cancer Survivor Runs Hartford Marathon

by Allison Lazur

Tomorrow, resident Bonnie Lambiasi will lace up to race with nearly 10,000 other fellow runners as the Hartford Marathon celebrates its 25th year.

Lambiasi was one of 10 individuals selected to represent the marathon's 2018 Aiello Inspiration Team – a group of individuals that were chosen based on stories explaining why they were inspired to run the race.

Lambiasi, 50, competed in triathlons in her late 30s, making her no stranger to running.

However, two and a half years ago, an SUV hit Lambiasi while she was biking, which compelled her to focus more of her time on running.

"It was a good enough [bike] crash to make me hesitant to ride as much as I had been," she said. "So I decided that I would run a little more instead of the biking," she said.

So Lambiasi set out to run her first half-marathon – 13.1 miles – in Hartford in 2016. She called it "the best race" she's ever run.

"The crowds were incredible," she said. "I felt pumped the whole way."

It took Lambiasi 2 hours and 3 seconds to finish the half marathon – a time that put the Boston Marathon in her sights. To qualify for that marathon, she would need to run 26.2 miles in four hours.

After learning of how close she was to reach-

ing a qualifying time, Lambiasi set a personal goal to run the Hartford Marathon last year and the Boston Marathon in 2019.

However, her goal was put on hold.

During a routine doctor's visit in December 2016, a swollen lymph node on the left side of her neck prompted concern.

The American Cancer Society website defines lymph nodes as "small structures that work as filters for harmful substances" and "contain immune cells that can help fight infections."

The website explains there are hundreds of lymph nodes throughout the body and swollen lymph nodes often indicate that something is wrong such as an infection, injury or cancer. The node or the group of lymph nodes in the problem area may swell or enlarge as they work to filter out the "bad" cells.

A subsequent ultrasound and biopsy of Lambiasi's thyroid and lymph nodes in January 2017 revealed she had stage 4 papillary thyroid cancer.

"At that time I went from having no clue that something was wrong to being told that I have cancer at 48 almost 49 years old," she said. "That was really hard to hear."

Lambiasi explained while she was waiting about a week for her biopsy results she relied on running to quiet her mind.

"It was a long week," she said. "I ran to comfort myself and think and kind of clear my head and deal with what I was going to deal with."

The biopsy revealed the cancer had spread to her lymph nodes; all the nodes that were sampled showed the disease.

By the end of January 2017, Lambiasi had her thyroid removed along with several lymph nodes.

"Twenty-four of the 43 lymph nodes they removed were positive with cancer," Lambiasi explained.

Over the next year, Lambiasi was faced with recovery and managing the side effects of surgery.

She explained swallowing and even talking were difficult. Without a thyroid, Lambiasi must also take medication to regulate her body the way her thyroid did, but the correct dosage of medication took time to get right, she explained.

"It took 10 months before I could walk up a hill without huffing," she said. "I still didn't have good energy and I couldn't really run like I had been. It was really, really hard. I didn't know if it was from the surgery or if it was from the medication."

One year after surgery – January 2018 – Lambiasi explained she finally "felt good," and

her blood work looked good, which meant she would begin training once again to reach her goal of running the Hartford Marathon.

"I'm going to do what I was going to do, but just a year later," she said.

While Lambiasi explained she's not as fast as she was before the cancer, her goal is to finish with a time between 4 hours 15 minutes and 4 hours 30 minutes.

"I'm excited," she said. "I've run 24 miles – I know I can run this."

Lambiasi said she has the added excitement of being part of the Hartford Marathon Foundation's Aiello Inspiration Team.

"I'm really appreciative to the Hartford Marathon Foundation for creating something like this," she said.

As part of the team, Lambiasi received perks and bonuses including an invite to the opening race reception at the governor's mansion, breakfast and VIP parking on race day.

Although Lambiasi won't be running the hills of Marlborough tomorrow but instead the streets of Hartford, her mindset remains the same.

"I'm okay lost in my own head and my own thoughts," she said. "I can't tell you what I do or think about for four or five hours, but I'm okay with it."

## Shea Departure Leaves Vacancy for Selectmen in Marlborough

by Allison Lazur

Dick Shea's seven years as a selectman has come to an end.

Shea, a Republican, submitted a letter of resignation to the Board of Selectmen approximately two weeks ago, with an effective date of Sept. 29. Shea and his wife Carole – who resigned from the RHAM Board of Education in July – are planning to move to New Hampshire later this fall.

"In has been an honor and a pleasure to serve the town and we will miss the many friends we've made over the past 10 years," the letter stated.

She was first elected to the Board of Selectmen in November 2011, and was re-elected in 2015. His current term was scheduled to expire in November 2019.

Shea told the *Riverast* Tuesday he is going to miss the people of Marlborough who have helped him stay passionate about issues the town faces.

"When you are active on local boards and commissions you get to interface with people who share the same interests with you, with the town and their hopes for growth," he said. "You talk to other people and see their efforts and it fires you up again."

Shea and his wife will head to New Hampshire at the end of November or beginning of December, depending on when construction is done on their new house, he explained.

"We plan to enjoy all the area has to offer and relax and enjoy our retirement and avoid being involved in politics," he said.

At a Board of Selectmen meeting last week, First Selectwoman Amy Traversa and selectwoman Evelyn Godbout – both Democrats – thanked the Sheas for their service.

"Even if we didn't agree he was always very respectful and he did what he thought was best for the town and I was really happy to have him serve as a selectman," Godbout said.

Traversa said she would miss Shea's "witty comments and his letters to the editor of the *Riverast*."

"I wish Carole and Dick the very best of luck in their new home, on their new adventure," she said.

Although the Board of Selectmen is considered an elected board, Shea's replacement will be appointed by Traversa and Godbout since he has resigned before the end of his term.

The appointed individual must be a Republican, as the seat vacated by Shea is Republican.

Shea says he hopes whoever takes over will "pay careful attention to what the citizens have to say and what the problems are with the town."

He added that he hopes his successor will "try to hold taxes down as much as possible" to help bring commercial development to Marlborough.

Also in attendance of last week's selectmen meeting was Board of Finance secretary and Republican Town Committee Chairman, Ken Hjulstrom.

"On behalf of myself and I'm sure on behalf of the Republican Town Committee, we would like to express how much we appreciated all the work Carole and Dick Shea have done over the years – both for our community and as public servants," he said.

Hjulstrom also noted he had submitted an application for the vacant selectman seat himself, adding, "I look forward to seeing if I could be considered to fill that vacancy and in some

way fill the shoes of Dick Shea," he said.

Hjulstrom's application for the vacant seat discloses he has been involved with the town for the past 30 years, beginning as member of the Marlborough PTO where he served as co-vice president and also led the PTO science fair.

Hjulstrom said this week he views the vacant spot as "a further opportunity to continue to give back to a town that I and my family have called home for so long."

"I ran for first selectman back in 2007, but failed to win at that time. Ever since then, I have retained a serious interest in serving on the Board of Selectmen," he said.

Hjulstrom joined the RTC in 1998 and currently serves as the committee's chairman.

He was also a member of the local Board of Education from 1998 until 2003.

Other town commitments include the Marlborough Lions Club, Marlborough Board of Assessment Appeals and serving on the executive board of the Florence Lord Senior Housing facility.

He noted his résumé of experience when explaining to the *Riverast* Wednesday why he thought he would be a good fit for the position.

Hjulstrom also said he would look to "expand communication with our taxpayers and town employees and to improve transparency when it comes to the workings of our town's government."

He said if he were chosen to serve as a selectman, he would "bring charter revision back before the voters and possibly consider the creation of the position of town manager."

If Hjulstrom were appointed to the Board of Selectmen, he would no longer be permitted to

serve on the Board of Finance, according to 6.2.4 of the town's charter.

The charter states "No member of the Board of Finance shall hold any other office of the Town Government, elected or appointed."

Although Traversa said Wednesday she has spoken to other possible candidates for the position, she did not offer any specifics as to whom – though she did say the position would be filled by the end of October. She did not say whether she planned on appointing Hjulstrom.

Traversa and Hjulstrom have often been on opposite ends of the spectrum concerning matters covered at finance and selectmen board meetings. The two have also submitted various letters to the editor to the *Riverast* voicing a difference of opinion. But this week, both shared the same priority – doing whatever is in the best interest of the town.

Hjulstrom said Wednesday that "varying viewpoints" on one board would lead to "the expansion of discussions to encompass various options and solutions to the challenges we face. I would trust that all parties, including myself and our first and second selectman, would work together cooperatively in the best interests of our community."

Traversa said she wasn't looking for someone who necessarily agrees with her to fill the seat.

"I'm looking for someone who will take a fair look at an issue and if they don't agree with me will make every effort to convince me to change my mind as I will try to convince them," she said. "We need to have an open, honest and respectful dialogue that works in the best interest of the town."

# Portland Selectmen Hike Transfer Station, Water Fees

by Elizabeth Regan

The Board of Selectmen last week approved increases to transfer station fees as well as water and sewer rates.

Selectmen unanimously agreed to raise the transfer station permit fee from \$20 to \$30, but decided not to increase fees for garbage bags.

A draft version of the proposed fees would have tacked on an extra dollar for small and large bags. The idea drew opposition from two residents at the public hearing held before the selectmen's regular meeting Wednesday night.

Resident Melissa Gerrier-Satagaj described the proposed bag increase as an "unreasonable" jump. Small bags would have gone from \$1 to \$2, while large bags would have gone from \$5 to \$6.

"It's just another reason for folks to throw things out in the roads, or throw things out in the woods," she said.

Resident and Economic Development Commission Chairman Elwin Guild said he calculated it would cost roughly the same amount for him to get a transfer station permit and buy bags as it would to hire a sanitation company to haul the trash for him. He posited that increasing the rates could drive away a lot of residents.

"If you lose half the customers, then I think we've kind of killed the golden goose," he said.

## Water and Sewer Deficit

The Board of Selectmen at the same meeting voted unanimously to raise water and sewer rates for the first time since 2016 in an effort to get the department's budget deficit under control.

The water usage rate will increase by 3 per-

cent in January 2019 and by another 3 percent in July 2019. Sewer rates will go up 3.75 percent in January and 3.75 percent in July. A sewer department flat rate fee will rise from \$30 to \$35 per quarter.

Selectman Jim Tripp said he worked for the past six months alongside fellow members Ralph Zampano and Rick Sharr on the subcommittee charged with looking into water and sewer rates. According to Tripp, the increase is necessary to address the \$95,700 deficit the water department is running and the \$80,826 deficit the sewer department is running.

Tripp said the rate increases put the town on the path to eliminate the operating deficit for water by 2019 and for sewer by 2020.

He said the deficit must be brought under control in order to address accumulated debt and to make needed infrastructure improvements to the aging system. Debt for the water department comes in at \$362,238, while the sewer department has accrued \$638,393 in debt.

Getting back into the black will also help the town maintain its town's bond rating. S&P Global Ratings assigned Portland a AA+ rating in July; it's the agency's second highest rating.

A 2016 report from the engineering firm Tighe and Bond recommended about \$9.15 million in upgrades to the water system and \$9.96 million to the sewer system.

Tripp said the department's budget is also affected by a 13-percent increase in the cost of water this year from the Metropolitan District Commission. Portland currently buys water from the quasi-public water agency based on a

30-year contract signed in 1996 to supplement the town's public well supply.

Gerrier-Satagaj, who is one of the 2,400 water customers in town, objected to the increase during the public hearing.

"As consumers, we're paying for the water, we're paying for delivery and then we're paying this customer service charge," she said. "It would be unreasonable for anybody to think we can't have any increases, but on top of the tax increase, it feels like a nickel and diming."

Zampano emphasized rates have not gone up since 2016 even though the cost of obtaining water through MDC rises every year. He said the subcommittee hasn't even begun talking about how to deal with the debt that has already accrued.

"Our focus is: let's just get to the point where it's an even balance of how much we spend and how much is coming in," he said.

He pointed to discussion initiated this year by East Hampton officials to investigate the possibility of extending Portland's pipes into the neighboring town to address Belltown's longtime water woes (see related story on the cover of this paper).

"I think the one thing that comes out of this is we're kind of fortunate with the situation with East Hampton," Zampano said. "Perhaps we're going to have an opportunity to take a look at what our arrangement is with MDC and hope we can make some changes that would benefit us. Because right now we're trapped."

## Transfer Station Fees Increase

New transfer station fees approved last week will go into effect on Nov. 1. The increases are as follows:

Transfer station permit fee: From \$20 to \$30  
Small bags (\$1), medium bags (\$4) and large bags (\$5): No increase  
Antifreeze: From \$1.25/gallon to \$1.50/gallon

Bulky waste: From \$120/ton to \$150/ton  
Freon: From \$15 to \$20  
Propane tanks (up to 30 pounds): From \$10 to \$12  
Car tires (\$5): No increase  
Truck tires (\$15): No increase  
Damaged or soiled mattresses: \$30 (clean mattresses and box springs remain free)

# Portland Fair Persists Through 'Unprecedented' Muck

by Elizabeth Regan

This year's Portland Fair included all the traditional trappings of the state's last agricultural fair of the season: Firemen's fries, truck pulls and lots of mud.

What was different this time around was the sheer amount of muck.

Portland Agricultural Fair Committee Vice President Kelly Chester described the situation as "unprecedented." It was made worse this year by the remnants of Hurricane Florence, which dumped 4.5 inches of rain on the fairgrounds several weeks ago, combined with an additional 2.5 inches that fell just days before the gates opened.

She said the small fair committee – "if there were seven of us, I'd be surprised" – worked relentlessly to prepare the grounds for the fair.

Their first attempt to get rid of the excess wetness occurred about a week before the fair. "We dug little holes and dumped in sump pumps. We moved water 20 feet by 20 feet by 20 feet," she said.

Then came Tuesday's rain.

"We could've cried. We were back to square one with the ponds again," she said. "So we just put our heads down and got filthy. We moved it all again. We opened up our little holes and put in the sump pumps."

Carnival rides had to be pushed in with a bulldozer. The animal tent was moved to higher ground. East Hampton hauled in three loads of wood chips in a tri-axle dump truck to augment deliveries from the Portland public works department and Butler Construction.

"It wasn't in the best condition when we opened up on Friday," Chester said. "We were very much behind. We didn't even have ticket booths up. But we were concentrating on keeping everyone safe."

But by Saturday, fair participants all along the rows of booths – which included election season politicians, vendors and local organiza-

tions – repeated how amazed they were at what the fair committee members had accomplished.

First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield said the conditions were assessed earlier in the week by inland wetlands enforcement agent James Sipperly, who told her the water had been contained by the committee members as best it could be in accordance with agricultural maintenance activities allowed in inland wetlands regulations.

"They've done a tremendous job of setting everything up and making sure we're safe and having fun at the same time," Bransfield said.

This year's fair included the Portland Historical Society's successful effort to bring Indian Motorcycle co-founder Oscar Hedström "back from the afterlife." He was portrayed by historical society President George Gilbert, who arrived at the Indian Motorcycle booth in an old-fashioned black suit with a turn-of-the-century bicycle.

Gilbert was flanked by a display showcasing more than 100 years of Indian Motorcycles as he gave a first-person account of Hedström's life.

Hedström, an emigrant from Sweden, became a champion bicycle racer and builder. Then he put a motor on a bike and the rest is history.

Hedström and his wife, Julia, bought a house on 533 Main St. in 1911. He died in 1960 at the age of 89 and is buried in the Swedish Cemetery.

One of the spectators at the Indian Motorcycle display was Warren Hall. He grew up in Portland but moved away after high school. He came back to this year's fair because he likes motorcycles and the chance to catch up with old friends.

The owner of "many strange machines" throughout the years, Hall said he once counted an Indian Motorcycle among his possessions – but only for a few days.



George Gilbert, Portland Historical Society president, portrayed Portland's own Oscar Hedström during a presentation at the Portland Fair last Saturday. Gilbert donned period garb and wheeled out a bike from the turn of the 20th century as he related the story of the Indian Motorcycle Co. co-founder.

He was a student at Rhode Island School of Design when he heard from a hometown friend who had a bike to sell. As it turned out, he had a classmate at RISD who wanted to buy.

His days of Indian Motorcycle ownership lasted only as long as it took him to broker the deal.

"I came to Portland, fired it up; I owned it two or three days. It's the only Indian I ever had," Hall said.

Other fair highlights included Rosaire's Royal Racers, a group of pigs with pop-culture

nomenclature like Britney Spare Ribs, Lindsay Loham and Donald Rump Roast. They took to the track in shows throughout the weekend with human "rooters" handpicked by the emcee to cheer each pig to the finish line.

Winners of the three races Saturday afternoon were Oscar Mayer, Bustin Bacon Bieber and Katy Piggy Perry. An Asian pot-bellied pig, Perry waddled to victory as one of her competitors, Donald Rump Roast, stopped to do his business in turn two.



In colonial times, burial sites of clergy members were indicated by tables such as the one at the left in the Andover Olde Burying Ground, which marks the gravesite of the Rev. Samuel Lockwood, the town's first minister. At right, Michael Donnelly, of the Olde Burying Ground Committee, points at a repaired gravestone. The committee has been working on cleaning, resetting and repairing the stones.

## Andover Historian To Discuss Lone, Horseless Grave

by Sloan Brewster

Mike Donnelly talks to dead people.

A member of the Andover Olde Burying Ground Committee, Donnelly gives two talks per year on someone buried in town, usually in the Olde Burying Ground. This year, however, he will be talking about someone buried down the road in a lone grave – where, many will be surprised to hear, its inhabitant does not share space with a horse.

According to local myth, Captain Simon Smith was buried with his horse. In fact, he was separated from his horse and clothes after he died from smallpox.

Smith contracted the contagion on his way back to his home in New London from serving in the French and Indian War, Donnelly said. By the time he arrived in Andover, most of his men had gone their separate ways, two had already died of the disease, and Smith was clearly sick.

"He simply fell off his horse," Donnelly said.

It was also clear to Benjamin Buell, the owner of Buell's Tavern, where Smith stopped and subsequently fell to the ground, that he was contagious. Buell convinced him to stay in town for five days and sent the dying soldier to an isolated cabin at the edge of his property.

Smith was cared for by a companion, who was apparently immune to the illness, and his brothers, who came from New London.

On November 28, 1760, at age 44, Smith died, leaving a wife, three sons and one daughter. As was the practice for people who died of

smallpox, he was buried in an isolated grave. In his case it was near the outbuilding where he spent his last days. The gravesite is on Route 316 and can still be seen from the road.

In his talk, which will take place October 21, Donnelly will give more details of Smith's life and final journey. He will also talk about why some folks had immunity to smallpox, which will include the story of a strange inoculation practice.

A retired minister, Donnelly has helped with the committee's efforts to restore the burial ground, which sits at the corner of Route 316 and Cider Mill Road.

The committee was formed four years ago and accepted as a subcommittee of the Board of Selectmen, Donnelly said.

"We immediately did things like stir up interest in the cemetery," he said.

Under the leadership of resident John Handfield, members and local volunteers rebuilt the stone wall surrounding the property. The project took about one year to complete.

The committee also began to realign gravestones and has completed 60 so far.

Two years ago, the committee, in an effort spearheaded by member Maria Tulman, received a \$2,500 grant from the Office of Policy and Management (OPM). The funds allowed the group to repair five gravestones.

The committee has applied for another \$2,500 grant from OPM this year, Donnelly said. If it's approved, the funds will be com-

bined with a \$500 donation from an unnamed private corporation and \$500 included in the town's budget, for a \$3,500 total to repair seven more gravestones.

With a wealth of information on the people buried there, Donnelly – who lives two houses from the cemetery – gives tours to folks he sees stopping for a visit.

"I just see them in the cemetery and I just go over and give them a tour," he said.

Nathaniel House, Jr. – whose granddaughter married an ancestor of the George W. Bush family, according to Donnelly – donated the land for the burial ground in 1748.

Aaron Phelps, who had donated land for a meetinghouse, was the first person buried there in 1750.

There are 289 gravestones that have survived in the cemetery, according to Donnelly. Some graves made with temporary wooden plaques have been swallowed by time and weather and have disappeared along with the people they once named.

In 1900, Patty Dimock, of Coventry, commissioned someone to record what was written on all the gravestones, Donnelly said. It is because of her effort that the town knows those 289 names.

"I did family trees on every single one of them," he said. "So I go over and talk to these dead people all the time."

He also learned about life in the town in those

long ago days.

"I was able to put together a pretty good picture of life here in [1700 and] 1800 in Andover," he said. "I know what their houses looked like. Samuel Daggett built some of the big houses, so we know a lot about these people because I tracked these people down."

The average age of men and women buried in the cemetery is 57. Men died of illness or farm accidents and many of the women died in childbirth, while children may simply not have been strong enough to survive the difficulties of life in their age. There were people who died after falling down stairs and other household accidents, including falling from lofts that many of the homes had.

"We have one grave where the kids all died in the same year, one at 11 weeks," Donnelly said.

Among the myriad tales he shared with the *Rivereast* during a tour Monday was about the placement of an obelisk gravestone. Unlike the rest of the stones in the burial ground, which are aligned, the obelisk sits cockeyed at the corner of the property. It was put that way intentionally to allow the grieving father of a son who lost his life in the French and Indian War to see from his kitchen window in the house across the street.

Donnelly's talk on Smith will take place on Sunday, Oct. 21 at 2 p.m. in the community room in Town Hall.

### Portland Police News

10/4: Wayne Rogers, 31, of 608 Main St., was charged with fifth-degree larceny, third-degree burglary, and third-degree forgery, Portland Police said.

### Hebron Police News

10/7: State Police said Elyse Fernandes, 32, of 27 Medford St., Glastonbury, was arrested and charged with third-degree criminal mischief and disorderly conduct.

### Marlborough Police News

10/3: State Police said Connor Martin, 24, of 251 Hebron, was arrested and charged with violation of protective order.

### Vehicle Broken Into in Marlborough

State Police said a vehicle left overnight in a commuter lot was broken into.

According to police, a report was received at approximately 7:17 a.m. Monday that a vehicle parked in the West Road, Route 2 Exit 12 commuter lot was broken into during the overnight hours.

Police said there was damage to the driver's side window and nothing was taken from the vehicle.

This is currently an open investigation, police said.

### Vehicle Strikes Utility Pole in Hebron

State Police said a vehicle's collision with a utility pole left the driver and passenger with possible injuries.

At approximately 4 p.m. Oct. 1, a Chevrolet Cavalier driven by Justine Colwick, 19, of 349 West Main St., was traveling eastbound on Route 66 near the intersection of Route 85 when she traveled off the right shoulder striking a utility pole.

Colwick told police she was traveling too

fast when she attempted a right turn into her driveway, resulting in the crash.

According to police, Colwick had suspected minor injuries to her collar bone, but refused medical attention. The passenger of the vehicle, Eileen M. Colwick, 48, of 349 West Main St., was transported by the Hebron Fire Department to Marlborough Clinic with minor injuries to her head.

## Obituaries

### East Hampton

#### Luella Brooks Pawlich

Luella Pawlich, 77, of Oakdale, formerly of Colchester and East Hampton, passed away Thursday, Sept. 20, at home. She was the beloved wife of the late Charles Pawlich Jr. and the daughter of the late Frank and Ruth (Warner) Brooks of Rocky Hill.

Lu was a very loving mother and grandmother and is survived by her daughter, Beth (Brooks) Cunningham and husband Matt (David) of East Hampton; her grandchildren, Courtney (Cunningham) Pawlak and husband Nick of Okinawa, Japan, Erica, Hannah, Brandon, and Olivia Cunningham of East Hampton; and great-grandchildren, Tyler and Teagan Pawlak of Okinawa, Japan.

She is also survived by her loving older brother, Arthur Brooks of Oakdale, and was predeceased by her sister, Jean (Brooks) Jamieson of Rocky Hill.

A graveside service will be held at the convenience of the family.

### Marlborough

#### Janine Greene

Janine (King) Greene of Marlborough passed away peacefully Thursday, Sept. 25. She was born in Melrose, Mass., to Lucille C. and Edwin H. King on May 20, 1934.

Janine, also known as Nini or J-9, attended Melrose High School, graduating in 1952, the same year as Robert H. Greene, an acquaintance and, unbeknownst to either, her future husband. She went on to Colby College, where she was a member of Chi Omega and completed a BA in history in 1956. After applying for an array of jobs, including one with the CIA, she became a flight attendant for the iconic Eastern Airlines, where she worked for 12 years, flying the pioneering Boston-New York shuttle and later the New York-Washington, D.C. shuttle. During this time she lived in Boston and later in D.C., and was able to travel extensively around the world. In 1969 she left the airlines and soon after married Bob, moved to Connecticut, and started a family. During this time she became active in Girl Scouts, bell choir, and other volunteer activities.

She was an avid tennis player, runner and golfer; loved to read *Harper's Magazine* and *The Atlantic* and debate politics; and was a true social butterfly, most in her element at a bridge game or cocktail party. Her favorite place in the world was at her cabin on Kezar Lake, in Lovell, Maine, which she purchased in 1966 on her flight attendant's salary, and where she spent many happy years with family and treasured friends.

She leaves behind her daughter, Jennifer B. Greene (Mark Maguire) of Montclair, New Jersey, and her son, R. Derek Greene (Christine Vranka) of Louisville, Colorado. She will also be missed by three grandchildren: Lucy Maguire, George Charles Maguire, and Zahra Greene; her brother, E. Harlan King (Janet King); her dear friend Martha Soliday; and many other cherished family members and friends.

She will be remembered not only as a loving mother and wife and a devoted friend, but as a smart, stylish, opinionated, and strong-willed independent thinker who loved to laugh and always did things her own way.

She was predeceased by her deeply beloved husband, Bob, and sister, Paula Gaynor (Robert Gaynor).

A memorial service will be held at the Connecticut River Valley Inn in Glastonbury Saturday, Oct. 20, at 2 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donating to the Cure Alzheimer's Fund or to the Kezar Lake Watershed Association.

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

### Hebron

#### Edward Horton

Edward Horton, 74, of Hebron, peacefully passed away Saturday, Sept. 22. He was born Dec. 25, 1943, and raised in Waynesboro, Tenn. He attended Austin Peay State University, Clarksville, Tenn., where he played football. He joined the Navy and served on the USS Tecumseh Submarine and was stationed in Groton, where he met and married the love of his life of 53 years, Lana (Lunt) Horton.

Ed had a passion for the Red Sox, UConn basketball and football. He was an avid fisherman who especially loved fishing with his four grandsons. He enjoyed his time at the casino with his best friend, Mike. But most of all, he loved spending time with family and friends at holiday functions and family outings.

Ed is survived by his wife, Lana (Lunt) Horton, his two daughters and their spouses, Carolyn (Horton) Wellman and her husband Richard Wellman of East Hampton, Susan (Horton) Costanzo and her husband Nick Costanzo, also of East Hampton; four grandsons, Richard Edward Wellman, Austin Reed Wellman, Nicholas Francis Costanzo and Joel Edward Costanzo; his niece, Polly Horton of Waynesboro, Tenn., and his beloved dog, Benjamin.

On Saturday, Oct. 6, a Memorial Mass was held at The Church of the Holy Family, 185 Church St., Amston, CT 06231 with a luncheon followed after the service. A private burial was held at the family's convenience.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Protectors of Animals or The Humane Society in Ed's name.

### Colchester

#### Denise Peck Rush

Denise Peck Rush, 65, of Colchester, passed away at home Monday, Oct. 8, with her family by her side. She endured a long battle with cancer. Denise was born in Manchester July 16, 1953; she was a daughter of the late Emerson and Mildred (Fletcher) Dumore.

Denise grew up in Colchester and graduated from Bacon Academy with the Class of 1972. Denise retired due to her illness but, most recently, she had worked as a shift supervisor for Rite Aid in Colchester. Her happiest moments in life included her family, friends and also her kitties.

Denise will be sadly missed but always remembered with love by her daughter, Heather Lemay; the love of her life, granddaughter, Maci Lemay; sister, Collette Varjenski, with whom she made her home for many years and throughout her illness; sister, Sandra Larson Buxton and her husband Christopher; brother, Edward Dumore; many nieces and nephews, including Tiffany and Ashley Varjenski, Jimmy Girouard, Josh Gondek, Emerson Dumore, III, Garrett Dumore; great-nephew, Jameson Girouard; special friends, Frank and Ann Jackter; Jeff Peck, (father of Heather); granddaughter, Kaela "Bel" Jackter; and numerous extended family and friends.

In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by two brothers, Emerson "Skip" Dumore Jr. and Kenneth Dumore.

Calling hours will be held Monday, Oct. 15, from 4-6 p.m., at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester.

Donations in her memory may be made to Hartford Hospital Health Care at Home, 1290 Silas Deane Highway, Suite 4B, Wethersfield, CT 06109.

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

### Portland

#### John Hamilton Hodge

John Hamilton "Jack" Hodge, 80, formerly of Portland, Bridgeport, and Buckhannon, W.Va., and most recently of Kennesaw, Ga., passed away unexpectedly Saturday, Oct. 6, at home.

Survivors include his wife, Mary Jo Herndon Hodge, of Kennesaw; two daughters and sons-in-law, Lane and William Kunberger of Kennesaw, Ga., and Jane and Dr. John DeVine of Evans, Ga.; five grandchildren, Katie Kunberger, Kyle Kunberger, Hayden, Sam and Megan DeVine; brother, Stephen Hodge (Jeannette); sisters-in-law, Ann Hodge and Jane Herndon; brother-in-law, James Herndon (Debbie); and numerous nieces, nephews and a great niece.

He was preceded in death by two brothers, Robert L. and F. William Hodge.

John was born in Middletown Feb. 3, 1938, to the late Harrison G. and Doris Lane Hodge. He attended elementary and high school in Middletown and Portland. He was a delegate to Boys State and Boys Nation. A 1961 graduate of WV Wesleyan College, John was president of the student body, served on the Board of Trustees and was a member of the Emeritus Club. Following college, he served four years in the U.S. Air Force in Amarillo, Texas, and Indianapolis, Ind. He then served as alumni director at WV Wesleyan College from 1965-68 and was active in the local Jaycees and Rotary.

In 1968, he joined Consolidated Gas Supply Corporation and worked in public relations, governmental affairs and administrative management for 25 years and headed up the project to launch Benedum Industrial Park. He also served on Bridgeport City Council for two terms and was Bridgeport Mayor for two terms. He taught Sunday School at Bridgeport United Methodist Church and served on numerous municipal organizations, as well as being President of the high school band and sports booster clubs. In 1978, he was recognized as the Bridgeport Outstanding Citizen of the Year.

After moving to Kennesaw, he was employed as a store manager at Stone Mountain Power Tool Corporation and was a member of American Legion Post 304.

Services will be held Sunday, Oct. 14, at 2 p.m., at Kennesaw United Methodist Church, 1801 Ben King Rd., Kennesaw, GA 30144. Visitation will begin at 1:30 p.m. and a dessert reception will be held following the service. A service will be held in Bridgeport, WV at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to WV Wesleyan College Advancement Office, 59 College Ave., Buckhannon, WV 26201 304-473-8485, or to the charity of your choice.

Arrangements are by Woodstock Funeral Home in Woodstock, Ga.

### Colchester

#### Cynthia McGowan

Cynthia (Parker) McGowan, 42, of Salem, formerly of Colchester, passed away Sunday, Oct. 7, after a prolonged illness. Born Nov. 26, 1975, in New London, she was the daughter of Robert and Linda (Fielding) Parker.

In addition to her parents, she leaves her two children, Devin and Megan McGowan; three sisters, Carol Parker-Sprinkle and her husband, Jeff, Janet Morin and her husband, Ray and Sandra Smith; her former husband, Michael McGowan; and several loving nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

Cindy was a 1993 graduate to East Lyme High School and went on to earn her associate's degree in legal secretary studies from Becker College in 1995. In 1998, she obtained her paralegal certificate from UConn and had worked as a paralegal and legal secretary for several years.

A memorial service celebrating her life was observed Thursday, Oct. 11, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The family received guests Thursday morning before the service.

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

### Cobalt

#### Doris O. Barton

Doris Mabel (Ostergren) Barton, 94, of Cobalt, wife of the late Jarvis S. Barton, died Thursday, Oct. 4, at their home on the Connecticut River.

She was born in Middletown July 31, 1924, the daughter of the late Reuben Ostergren, a farmer, mechanic and state representative, and Nina (Anderson) Ostergren, a school teacher and church organist. Doris attended North Park College in Chicago, and graduated with her B.S. degree from the University of Vermont.

She married Jarvis Stewart Barton of East Hampton on March 27, 1945, prior to his leaving as a submariner machinist in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War. Following his return, they began building both a boatyard business and a family.

After their children were in school, and while finishing her master's degree, Doris became a school teacher in the Town of Cromwell. She also completed special assignments for the school system. Following her retirement from teaching, she worked for the American Red Cross in Middletown as a bookkeeper, and then as a clerk for the U.S. Postal Service in Cobalt. Until her passing, she was an avid reader and loved to discuss timely topics. She enjoyed watching wildlife and never ceased to marvel at the eagles soaring over the river.

During her more active years, she served on the Inland Wetlands Commission for the Town of East Hampton. She was an active lifelong member of the Haddam Neck Covenant Church on Haddam Neck Road in East Hampton. Besides participating in virtually every ministry of the local church, she served on the boards of the East Coast Conference of the Evangelical Covenant Church, the former Cromwell Children's Home (now Adelbrook) and the denomination's Board of Christian Education. Her family and the living ministry of the church were her life's passion and joy.

She is survived by twin son, Gregory S. Barton and his wife, Virginia (McMahon) of West Winfield, N.Y., their children, Jennifer Barton of Ozark, Ala., Jill Lapinel of Stamford, N.Y., Erin Barton (Marty Mickle) of West Winfield, N.Y., Curry DeCarlo (Fred) of Utica, N.Y., Megan Williams (Darrel) of West Winfield, N.Y., Benjamin Barton (Kirsten) of West Winfield, N.Y.; and twin son, Paul A. Barton and his wife, Sharon (Goodrich) of Old Lyme, their children, Todd Barton (Jenny) of Ashton, Md., and Tiffanie Jacobson (Fritz) of Fairfield; a daughter, Jean B. Meloney of East Hampton, and her husband, Carl; Jean's children, Jessica Sponseller (Brian) of Hartsville, S.C., and John A. Cosgrove of Moodus; and 22 great-grandchildren.

A celebration of Doris's life will be held Saturday, Oct. 27, at 11 a.m., at Haddam Neck Covenant Church, 17 Haddam Neck Rd., East Hampton. A reception will be held immediately following at the Barton home. Burial will be at the convenience of her family.

Those who wish may make memorial contributions to the ministries of the Haddam Neck Covenant Church.

To share memories or express condolences online, visit [biegafuneralhome.com](http://biegafuneralhome.com).

### Hebron

#### Jayantilal Patel

Jayantilal Harjivandas Patel of Hebron and Akhaj, India, passed away Wednesday, Oct. 10.

Your memories, your love and your strength will forever guide us. We will be celebrating the wonderful life of a beloved husband, father and grandfather. We will keep you in our hearts.

A memorial service will be observed at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester, CT 06415 on Saturday, Oct. 13, from 10 a.m.-noon. The Besanu (wake) will be celebrated on the same day at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home from 2-4 p.m.

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