

RIVEREAST

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The 1852 Erastus Brainerd Jr. House on the site of the former Elmcrest Hospital property in Portland will be turned into a clubhouse for 240 apartments as part of the Brainerd Place mixed-use development. Born into a wealthy family of quarry owners, Brainerd built the Italian villa after his father moved into the neighboring Hart-Jarvis House. Both historic buildings are slated to be reused as part of the development. Historians attribute the Brainerd House design to Henry Austin, the self-made and prolific architect responsible for the Wadsworth Atheneum in Hartford.

Most of Elmcrest Headed for Demolition

by Elizabeth Regan

Developers of the former Elmcrest Hospital site have secured a demolition permit to start clearing out the remains of the 15-acre abandoned psychiatric facility to make way for 238 upscale apartments and a neighborhood shopping center.

The project, as approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission in February, will save three of the site's historic 19th century homes. The structures are included in the Marlborough Street Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places.

The site plan for the \$30 million mixed-use development includes two residential buildings comprising 238 units and 108,510 square feet of commercial space that blends new construction with renovation of the 1852 Erastus Brainerd Jr. House and the 1884 John H. Sage House. The 1830 Hart-Jarvis House is slated to be moved from its current spot on the property to the southwest corner, where it will be restored and operated by a formative nonprofit organization.

Construction is expected to take up to eight years, according to land use department documents.

Senior site superintendent Phillip Resmondo, of the Rochester, N.Y.-based DiMarco Group, said last week that demolition will likely not begin for at least three months.

The Brainerd Place development is a venture of the DiMarco Group and BRT General

Corporation of Danbury.

Resmondo said the developers still need to officially purchase the property, which mostly consists of parcels owned by limited liability corporations associated with the project.

One of the Perry Avenue properties facing the wrecking ball belongs to Donald R. Markham, who still resides there. Markham said this week he is working out the terms of an agreement with property owner Fred Hassan, whom he described as a longtime friend. Markham expressed confidence the issue will be resolved by the time demolition is slated to begin.

The plan is still awaiting approval of its traffic mitigation plan through the state Department of Transportation's Office of the State Traffic Administration.

DOT spokesman Kevin Nursick said this week that the agency's staff met with the development team and First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield on May 3 to discuss the traffic plan. The developer must come back with responses to outstanding issues addressed during the meeting before the agency will sign off on the plan, according to Nursick.

"There's nothing particularly concerning about this development and what they've presented," he said. "I will call it the typical minutiae we would engage in with any developer."

Construction cannot begin until the plan is

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Hebron Man Drops Bid for Governor

by Sloan Brewster

Hebron resident Sean Connolly this week looked back on his brief bid for governor.

Connolly late last week officially pulled out of the gubernatorial race, throwing his support behind fellow Democrat Ned Lamont.

"After discussions with my family, I made the difficult decision to end my campaign for governor of Connecticut," he wrote in a letter sent to supporters last Thursday. "In the end, it had become too difficult to raise enough money in the very short period of time to run a competitive primary campaign."

In a phone call with the *Rivereast* Wednesday, Connolly said securing the Democratic nomination for governor was going to be tight – but reiterated money was the biggest hurdle.

"We did well," he said. "We built a lot of support around the state."

In the letter to supporters, Connolly said he was grateful for the support he had received across the state.

"Every donation, call, email, social media interaction, and pledge of support means so much to me and won't be forgotten," he said.

As he has in speeches during his campaign and in interviews – including in his Wednesday phone call with the *Rivereast* – Connolly referenced his background as a son and grandson of immigrants and the opportunities his fa-

ther and grandfather had when they immigrated to this country.

Making sure those opportunities are available for the next generation was a key component of his campaign.

"On the campaign trail, I talked about ensuring and expanding Connecticut opportunity for everyone no matter who you are," he wrote. "Having that equal opportunity is what makes America exceptional and will make Connecticut excel going forward. That the son and grandson of immigrants, who attended public schools, and worked as a dishwasher could be one of the final gubernatorial candidates remaining speaks to the powerful potential of Connecticut opportunity."

Changing the narrative in Connecticut through better economic opportunity is still possible with long term planning and leadership, Connolly said in the phone call.

"There are not going to be overnight solutions or magic wands," he said.

Connolly also spoke at the Democratic Convention on Saturday, giving his support to Ned Lamont.

"With Ned Lamont at the top of the ticket, I know that no one will be left behind," he said at the convention. "My wife, Carol, and I are confident that Ned has the vision, leadership and heart to restore opportunity for everyone

in Connecticut."

Lamont will serve and fight for everyone in the state, he continued.

"And I know if we join together we will move Connecticut forward. If we work together, we will win in November," Connolly said. "And if we come together, we will launch our great state to new heights so that everyone has an opportunity right here at home."

Despite Connolly pulling out, some people still put in his name when voting at the convention, according to his wife Carol. She said this touched her and her family.

"The love and support was incredible," she said.

Connolly told the *Rivereast* that he enjoyed being on the campaign trail and that along the way, he learned a lot about the challenges in communities across the state.

"There are so many different communities, so many different types of communities, each with their own challenges, each with their own ideas for solutions to launch our state forward," he said. "For me it was and is always about service, offering something to move our state forward."

For the two and a half years prior to launching his campaign, Connolly, a native of East Hartford who lives in Hebron, was commis-

See Hebron Man page 2



Hebron resident Sean Connolly is out of the race to be Connecticut's next governor. Instead, the Democrat at last week's state convention announced his official endorsement of Ned Lamont.



Portland Economic Development consultant Mary Dickerson took a tour of the former Elmcrest Hospital property guided by owner Fred Hassan (back to camera) last week. Representatives from the development team, Portland Historical Society, and Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation were on hand to catalog the buildings and historic architectural elements to be saved.

Elmcrest cont. from Front Page

approved by OSTA, he said; Demolition may start prior to such approval.

The demolition permit was authorized May 18 by Portland Building Official Lincoln White, with the support of the Portland Historical Society.

The society, through building committee member Claire Frisbie, had issued a previous objection to the demolition permit to give members time to catalog significant historical structures and elements on the site. In giving its blessing to the project following a May 16 tour of the site, the society implored town officials to work with the developers to encourage the “removal and reuse” of several buildings currently targeted for demolition.

Frisbie said this week she has heard from both nonprofit organizations and individuals who have expressed interest in possibly moving the buildings at their own expense in order to put them up elsewhere in town. She emphasized the conversations have been casual at this point.

“All I was trying to say in the letter was there’s some valuable historic stuff here that somebody who’s imaginative might be able to use in some way,” she said.

The most significant of those structures is Erastus Brainerd’s 1860 carriage house. The brownstone and stucco building has been described by preservation expert Wint Aldrich as a priority for preservation and reuse.

“As New York State’s retired Deputy Commissioner for Historic Preservation who has a home in Middle Haddam, I know a standout landmark property when I see one,” he said in a *Rivereast* letter to the editor late last year. “The spectacular Brainerd house and its carriage house, both believed to have been designed by Henry Austin, Connecticut’s greatest 19th century architect, are frankly unique in their design and of outstanding importance in the architectural heritage of the town, the state and the nation.”

The carriage house, like the main Brainerd House, is on part of the Marlborough Street Historic District.

Brainerd Place architects gave a nod to the doomed ancillary structure in their November

2017 architectural narrative when they said they designed a new coffee shop between the Brainerd and Sage houses to evoke “what might have been a carriage house.”

Frisbie said the historical society would love to see somebody use the building, which she said could be an ideal space for a coffee shop or microbrewery.

The historical society also recommended several other buildings be considered for relocation. Two of the structures are identified on the National Register of Historic Places as having been built in 1900 and subsequently converted to office use. A garden cottage house and its attendant shed are not included in the historic district but are notable for their age and their brownstone foundation, according to Frisbie.

She said a “significant quantity” of brownstone in elements including walls, foundations, fence posts and garden stairs will benefit the historic flavor of the site if used as part of the new development.

Building Official Lincoln White said additional issues being addressed include the possibility of an access road between Perry Avenue and the adjacent self-storage business to be used during construction. He said the developers are investigating a short-term lease with the landowners, Standard Knapp Inc.

White credited the DiMarco Group with being “very collaborative and cooperative with their approach” during recent visits to town.

The project, under the name BRT DiMarco PPT LLC, melds the DiMarco Group’s commercial focus with residential representation from the Danbury-based BRT General Corporation. Up until the site plan was approved in February, the face of the project was BRT’s Dan Bertram.

Under the terms of a tax abatement agreement between the town and the developers, BRT DiMarco PPT will be paying approximately \$2.60 million over the life of the tax abatement on the two-phase project, based on finance department projections.

With no tax incentive at all, the developers would pay \$6.24 million in property taxes over 14 years.

Hebron Man cont. from Front Page

sioner of the Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs. He gave up that post to run for office.

Connolly is also a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve. He spent seven years on active duty with the Army, and is a veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

An attorney who received his undergraduate degree from Bryant University and his juris doc-

torate from Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law, Connolly was prosecutor and legal counsel for the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, Ky., and in Kuwait and Iraq.

Public service, including in the Army Reserve, will remain a part of his life, he said. But, he added, “time will tell if it’s in elected office.”

From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

Another school shooting, another round of politicians doing anything they can to avoid talking about additional gun control.

This time, following last week’s horrible school shooting in Texas that left 10 dead, Texas Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick blamed the shooting in part to “too many entrances and exits” to the school. So, let’s reduce them. Have one or two, he said, but that’s enough.

Umm.....what about in case of fire? Patrick later said schools would keep the number of exits necessary to satisfy fire regulations, but in the case of a large building like a school, wouldn’t more than one or two entrances and exits be necessary?

Limiting the number of doors in a building is a new one. But anything to avoid talking about gun control, I guess.

* * *

By the way, here are a couple of statistics to chew on: Following the Texas shooting, the *New York Daily News* reported more students and teachers have been killed by guns in U.S. schools than there have been active duty military deaths in 2018. Now, of course, I’m not advocating more military deaths. But there’s a presumption of risk when you serve in the military on active duty. There shouldn’t be a presumption of risk in going to school in the morning.

Also: According to CNN, with last week’s shooting there have now been 288 school shootings in the United States since 2009. That’s 57 times more than in Canada, France, Italy, Germany, Japan and the UK combined.

* * *

Donald Trump hates the media. (Well, the non-Fox News media anyway.) He has made no secret of this. But the ‘why’ of it all hasn’t been quite as clear. A very interesting exchange, relayed Monday by *60 Minutes’* Lesley Stahl, helped to clear this up.

According to CNBC, Stahl was speaking at the Deadline Club of New York’s annual journalism awards when this story came up. She recalled that, after the 2016 election, she and her boss were meeting with Trump at his office in Trump Tower, in advance of a sit-down interview for *60*

Minutes.

“At one point, he started to attack the press,” Stahl said, according to CNBC. “There were no cameras in there.

“I said, ‘You know, this is getting tired. Why are you doing it over and over? It’s boring and it’s time to end that. You know, you’ve won ... why do you keep hammering at this?’”

“And he said: ‘You know why I do it? I do it to discredit you all and demean you all so that when you write negative stories about me no one will believe you.’”

This comes after Trump earlier this month basically admitted in a tweet that he views negative news and “fake” news as the same thing.

Sorry, Mr. President. News that you don’t like, news that you feel is negative, is not necessarily untrue.

And to be honest, it’s ground my gears for quite some time that he says this – and worse, that he gets his supporters to believe it. As someone who’s been involved in journalism his entire adult life, as someone who has a great deal of friends and associates either currently working or previously worked in the journalism industry, it upsets me to hear the president of the United States, of all people, regularly attack – viciously attack, at that – the industry and the hard-working folks that make it up.

Nobody gets into journalism for the glitz or the glamour. There’s not a whole lot of that when you’re wading through a discussion of zoning regulations at a town meeting, or holding up a wall listening to politicians debate each other, or poring over emails you’ve obtained through the Freedom of Information Act. No, we get into journalism out of a need to share people’s stories, to expose the truth, and to hold people accountable when warranted.

For the president of the United States to attack all that – to demean us, to insult us, to call us “fake” – simply because he doesn’t care for negative coverage does a grave disservice to us in the industry, as well as to the nation as a whole.

* * *

See you next week.

Barstow to Challenge for State House Seat

by Sloan Brewster

Marlborough resident Rob Barstow believes it's time another voice is heard.

Barstow, 22, has announced his intention to run for the 55th district seat in the state House of Representatives, as a member of the Green Party. He would face Democrat challenger Tiffany Ventura Thiele of Hebron and the seat's incumbent, Republican Robin Green of Marlborough.

The 55th District covers the towns of Hebron Bolton, Andover and Marlborough.

On Tuesday, Barstow said he is planning to start his petitioning campaign next week. He said he needs 190 signatures in order to get onto the November ballot.

"We've had enough of two voices," Barstow said. "We need a third voice and that voice is the people's."

Barstow, who is 22 and a 2014 graduate of RHAM High School, works at Dunkin' Donuts in Hebron. A 2016 supporter of Bernie Sanders, he said he believes in Sanders' message of transparency.

"First, I think we need more representation and transparency in our government," Barstow said.

Barstow wants to see Connecticut's education system equalized.

Because funding for education is based on property taxes, suburban schools get more funding than those in urban areas, he said. He would like a portion of property taxes from suburban areas distributed to urban areas, so everyone can get equal education. This in turn would make inequality less prevalent, he said.

He said he also wants to put a stop to corporate welfare – specifically tax incentives and

government bailouts – and said corporations should pay their fair share.

"I think we need better fiscal responsibility in terms of how we spend money, what we spend it on and where we get it," he said. "[Corporations] can be paying into the system more, so that we can have more money in the system to pay for more things for people, individual people. If a company is making billions of dollars a year, why should they pay little to no money for society? They should be paying a fair share so the working man can survive without being paralyzed by high taxes."

He also has concerns with the state budget.

"The whole budget deal where we didn't have a budget in Connecticut for almost a year, that actually affected people I know," he said.

He spoke of a friend who applied for a position as police officer.

"Because we didn't have a budget they couldn't hire any new people," Barstow said. "He's stuck in a low-end job because government can't get its act together and pass the budget."

Barstow also said he tries to spread the message to vote to young people.

"That's one of the most important things for the future of our government and society – to get young people to go out and vote, to care about the issues [and] to research the issues, there's been too many people that I've seen who don't know anything, or even worse, who don't care" he said. "Young people across history have been the driving force of political change from Vietnam – the draft – the big anti-war movement, they got rid of the draft, the young people helped drive that."

Barstow also mentioned an issue he'd like to

see resolved from a personal perspective, though he did not give any thoughts on how to come to the resolution.

"For me personally, as a citizen, not as a politician, I want to see all the power lines underground," he said. "It would be nice not to lose power every time there's a storm."

Barstow said he wants to hear from people about their concerns and what they think needs to be done.

"I want people to talk to me," he said. "I want to hear from people."

Barstow first became interested in politics in high school, while in a class in classical global studies, in which he learned about communism.

"I liked the idea of communities working together for a common good," he said. "I kind of declared myself a communist for a few years."

During that period, he joined communist Facebook groups, where he shared ideas on philosophy, economics and politics. In his junior or senior year, he learned more about politics and realized he did not believe in all the same things as the communists he knew.

"I realized, talking to these fellow communists, that I'm not a fan of communism," he said.

Barstow said he believes economics should be a mix of socialism and capitalism and that folks should be able to own businesses, but things such as healthcare should not have a profit incentive.

During the 2016 election he became more politically motivated and joined the Green Party. Since then, he has run for two seats, winning an alternate seat on Marlborough's Zoning Board of Appeals, but losing a bid to be co-



Rob Barstow

chair of the state's Green Party.

He is also working on starting a chapter of the party in Marlborough.

Barstow's campaign treasurer, Joshua Kelly, co-chair of the Green Party, said Barstow was self-motivated and will run a great campaign.

"I've never seen someone as impressive as Rob go for a race like this," Kelly said. "He's in it to win it and I give him a lot of credit for that."

Barstow said he expects to be endorsed by the Green Party in June.

Carpino to Seek Fifth Term

by Elizabeth Regan

Republican state Rep. Christie Carpino is seeking a fifth term in office.

Carpino announced her 32nd House district re-election campaign last week. She has represented Portland and Cromwell since 2010.

A Cromwell resident, Carpino is running against Portland Democrat Laurel Steinhauser.

"I pledge to continue putting public service over politics," Carpino said in her announcement. "All of my time at the state capital is making sure the voices of Cromwell and Portland families are heard loud and clear. If re-elected, my focus will remain on creating a safe and affordable community where families thrive and businesses continue to grow."

Carpino this week said "there's still more to be done" after eight years in the seat.

She cited affordability, health and public safety as her key areas of focus.

She listed the passage of bipartisan state budgets in each of the past two years as an example of her commitment to putting people over politics as she strives to keep Connecticut affordable.

The state budget approved by lawmakers earlier this month restored education funding for towns including Portland and Cromwell to levels originally promised in the two-year budget passed late last year. The funds had been held back by Gov. Dannel P. Malloy as part of a directive by lawmakers for him to find \$880 million in unspecified savings.

The Portland Board of Selectmen last week used those unexpected funds – in the amount of \$479,216 – to drive down the coming year's

property tax increase when they set the mill rate to 33.81 instead of 34.40 mills.

"That is a huge success for the entire community," Carpino said.

Portland Republican Town Committee Chairman Timothy Lavoy described Carpino as "a tremendous asset" to the town.

"Christie's efforts and support have been instrumental in bringing forth projects like the Air Line Trail and the Brownstone Riverfront Park," he said. "She works tirelessly on issues such as mental health, addiction services and education issues that are so important to us here in Portland."

Other successes included sponsoring bills to make sober homes safer, increase transferability of college credits to save students time and money, and increase oversight at the Whiting Forensic Hospital in Middletown.

She said she has been able to address the opioid crisis sweeping both the state and nation not only through legislation, but through visible improvements in her communities to fight the misuse and abuse of prescription drugs.

In October, she helped install a prescription drug return box in the Portland Police Department lobby at no expense to the town. Residents are invited to drop off unused or unwanted prescription drugs to be safely and securely destroyed.

"It is beyond legislation," Carpino said. "It's practical."

In April, Carpino was selected as the vice-chairman of the bi-partisan School Safety Working Group. The group will work to conduct a

comprehensive review of school safety in the state in order to make recommendations for the 2019 legislative session.

"Tragic events at home and across the country remind us that we need to stay vigilant when it comes to school security," Carpino said when the group began. "We passed comprehensive legislation in 2013 that some school districts are failing to implement. It's important to identify those failures, review national practices and create legislative recommendations to ensure the safety of our students and educators."

Carpino told the *Rivereast* this week the group was started through lawmakers' own initiative.

"We need to do something," she said. "We didn't wait for a law to be passed; we stepped up on our own and said, 'We're going to work on this even in the off-session.'"

Carpino is a member of the state legislature's Judiciary and Public Health committees and House chairman of the Regulations Review committee.

She received the unanimous endorsement of the Portland and Cromwell delegates at her nominating convention.

"I've met tremendous people over the last eight years that have let me into their lives," she said. "I'd like to continue in that role, as someone they see as a friend in their corner."

Carpino got her start in the state legislature when she unseated 10-term incumbent Democrat James O'Rourke.

Carpino is married with two school-aged children. She serves as co-chairman of Con-



Christie Carpino

necticut Children Medical Center's volunteer board and is active with Special Olympics Connecticut.

Prior to serving at the state level, Carpino, an attorney, served on Cromwell's Board of Assessment Appeals, was the vice chair of the Zoning Board of Appeals and the vice chair of the Republican Town Committee.

Norton Park Project Continues to Develop in Colchester

by Allison Lazur

The construction plans for Norton Park – located at 139 Westchester Rd. – currently dwell in phase 3 as the town waits for the go-ahead from the Environmental Protection Agency and the state Department of Energy and Protection to move forward.

Public Works Director Jim Paggioli told the *Rivereast* Monday that phase three means a remediation action plan – submitted to both DEEP and the EPA – “accurately identifies and quantifies contaminants, submitted with a plan of how we’re going to remediate [those issues].”

Areas of concern included the existence of oil at the site.

Once the final remediation plan is approved, construction can start and is expected to take six weeks, hopefully beginning in July or August, he said.

The Norton Paper Mill site – which sits along Jeremy River – had been abandoned for 25 years and was subsequently destroyed by a fire in July 2012.

In December 2013, the mill’s owner – Nan Norton Wasniewski – decided to sell the property to the town for \$1 to develop into Norton Park.

At a Board of Selectmen meeting last Thursday, Paggioli updated the selectmen on the progress of the project as well as discussed the possibility of establishing a committee dedicated to the site’s design.

“The biggest piece realistically is the [construction] bid document,” Paggioli said.

He explained that the project was approved under the notion that no tax dollars would be utilized, so the cost must stay within the grant.

The town received state grants totaling \$867,000 to demolish, clean up and develop the site, with \$517,000 remaining to finish up the project.

Paggioli told the selectmen that some of the older portions of the mill were able to be kept, explaining the masonry walls could be “back-filled” and portions of a one-foot outline could be preserved.

“The vast amount of work is actually going to be done inside the footprint of the old mill,” Paggioli said.

He also disclosed that some pieces of the mill “were clean” and might be able to be part of a “historic feature.”

While Paggioli was able to provide the logistics, he emphasized that establishing an advisory committee for concept development would be ideal.

“My job is to give someone a pallet that’s clean with the restrictions where they can be and where they can’t be – an artist I am not,” he said.

Selectman Stan Soby advised that when establishing such a committee, the conceptual ideas that were discussed when the town was first acquiring the property should be considered. These ideas included the history of the mill, memorialization of the mill, having the site be open space and the connection in some way to the trail.

“What’s the membership of this committee going to consist of?” Soby said.

Soby told Paggioli he should come back to the selectmen with three or four items that this future advisory committee could do that would be helpful to move the project forward.

“You’re dealing with the engineering piece – what’s functionally doable from a safety standpoint and a cost standpoint – but for the concept and how to tell the story, some advisory would be helpful,” Soby said.

While the construction of the park will have to wait a bit longer, the development of another aspect of the site has already been completed.



The Norton Paper Mill site, which sits along the Jeremy River, will be developed into a riverfront park with construction expected to begin in July or August.

The Nature Conservancy – a non-profit organization that focuses on protecting the world’s lands and waters for the future – received \$1.5 million in federal funds to remove the Jeremy River dam.

Sally Harold, director of restoration and fish passage for the Conservancy in Connecticut, was active in the removal of the 200-year-old dam in November 2016.

According to the conservancy’s website, Harold’s efforts restored access to upstream habitat for migratory and resident fish. The dam’s removal also allowed these fish the ability to move freely downstream.

The website further said that “migratory species have not been able to access this part of

the river” since another dam was built further upstream in 1726.

Harold disclosed that Andrew Carrier – who was responsible for the construction of the dam in 1726 along with Nathaniel Skinner – was a descendent of Wasniewski.

Harold told the *Rivereast* this week that although the next phase of the project is up to the town, the conservancy would be open to further involvement.

“We would love to play a role with the town once the plan is implemented,” she said. “We could do more planting along the riverbank. It would be a cooperative and collaborative effort,” adding that it would be nice to “at least have a say of how the park is designed.”

Tailgating Results in Colchester Two-Car Collision

Colchester Police said a two-car crash on Parum and Lake Hayward roads left one woman and one man with possible injuries last Friday.

At approximately 6:48 a.m. a Chevrolet Colorado driven by Stanley E. Kesilewski Jr, 63, of 95 Doyle Rd., Oakdale, was rear-ended by a Nissan driven by Ashley L. Pare, 29, of 759 Middletown Rd.

Kesilewski alleged Pare was tailgating him

all the way down Parum Road, police said, and added he activated his left turn signal well in advance because of the tailgating.

The Nissan ended up rear-ending the Chevrolet when it attempted to turn onto Lake Hayward Road.

According to police, both Pare and her passenger, Shanaan Yousey, 30, of 215 Old Colchester Rd., Salem, were transported by Colchester Fire to Marlborough Clinic.

Colchester Truck Stolen, Recovered

Colchester Police said a truck was reported stolen from Davidson Road during the early morning hours Tuesday – but it was recovered later that day.

At approximately 7 a.m., police responded to a report of a stolen 2007 Chevy Silverado truck. It is believed that the truck was stolen between the hours of 1 a.m. and 5 a.m., police said. According to police, the keys were left in the vehicle.

The truck was recovered later that day in New Britain.

‘Suspicious Death’ in Colchester

State Police are investigating what they call a suspicious death at 95 Stanavage Rd.

Police responded to the address at 11:57 p.m. Friday, May 18. The victim was identified Thursday as James E. Stone, 36, of the same address.

The property is owned by the Golden Hill Paugussett Reservation, according to town property records.

There is no threat to the public, police said, and the case is currently under investigation by detectives with the Eastern District Major Crime Squad.

Anyone with information is asked to contact detectives at 860-896-3201 or text TIP711 and the information to 274637. All calls/texts will remain confidential.

Colchester’s 57 Fest to Get a Name Makeover

by Allison Lazur

While it’s a bit too early to get excited for September’s 57 Fest, it’s not too early to be stoked about a new name for the annual event.

A name makeover is already underway for the festival – and residents will be the ones who decide what the new title will be.

In 2005, *CNN/Money Magazine* named Colchester the 57th best place to live in the country. The town celebrated that year with the appropriately-named “57 Fest.” The family-friendly festival has been held annually since. However, as it the festival approaches its 14th year, the Parks and Recreation Commission is asking residents to submit their name suggestions.

Parks and Recreation Director Tiffany Quinn told the *Rivereast* that the commission has already received over 30 suggestions with many focusing on the history of Colchester, including the Rubber Company and Founders Day.

“All of the suggestions have the word ‘Colchester’ in them, and all of them are awesome ideas,” she said, adding that suggestions don’t necessarily have to drop the “57 Fest” portion, but instead could expand upon it.

The winner of the name contest will be awarded a “VIP parking spot at the event and a prime seating space for fireworks,” said Quinn.

Quinn, who is new to Parks and Recreation, said when she first began her position in February, the question she was frequently asked was “Are you going to cancel the 57 Fest?”

She explained that she heard arguments both for and against keeping the festival – with those against expressing concern about lack

of funding and doing “the same thing every year.”

However, Quinn said she would rather “work with the community” to make any suggested changes as well as “grow the event” instead of eliminating the festival altogether.

She emphasized that her predecessors were appreciated for the “great job” planning and working on the festival, but she thought the time had come to “change it up a little.”

The festival is solely funded by donations and sponsorships, said Quinn.

Some of last year’s sponsors included Noel’s Market, Toyota of Colchester and AAA Driving School.

According to Quinn, no activities have been planned for this year’s festival yet, but will start to be discussed at the first community meeting scheduled for Monday, June 4, at 6 p.m. at Town Hall.

Last year’s celebration took place at the park and activities utilized the skate park, sports facilities and playgrounds.

Any resident interested in tackling the name change is asked to mail their suggestions, including their name and contact information to Colchester Parks and Recreation, 127 Norwich Ave., Colchester, CT 06415 or email them to parksandrec@colchesterct.gov. The deadline for submissions is June 30.

The new name will be voted on by those that participate on the planning committee and will be decided in July, said Quinn.

Furthermore, if a resident is interested in joining the planning committee, that individual should attend the June 4 community meeting.

Lounsbury to Challenge Osten for Senate Seat

by Sloan Brewster

State Sen. Cathy Osten (D-19) is seeking a fourth term in office – and is facing competition in the form of Republican Mark Lounsbury.

On Monday, Osten – who is also the first selectwoman of Sprague – was unanimously endorsed by state Democrats. This followed state Republicans unanimously voting last week to give Lounsbury the nod to run. Lounsbury is also a Sprague resident.

The 19th District includes the *Rivereast* communities of Hebron and Marlborough, as well as Columbia, Franklin, Lebanon, Ledyard, Lisbon, Montville, Norwich and Sprague.

It's not the first time the two will pair against one another in an election. Last year, Lounsbury challenged Osten for the Sprague first selectman seat. Osten won, earning her sixth consecutive term in the office.

Lounsbury is on the Zoning Board of Appeals and was on the finance board but stepped down to run for first selectman, he said.

Osten said she was "very honored" by the endorsement and added she worked hard "in a bipartisan way" on the state budget.

"We were able to restore funding to towns for education and municipal government and worked on quite a few bills this year," she said.

One bill of which she is particularly proud is

Conor's Law, which requires anyone under the age of 16 to wear a helmet while skateboarding. It was a response to the death of Conor Irwin, who died in December 2016 after an accident while skateboarding with no helmet, Osten said. Spreading the word about the dangers of skateboarding without a helmet is important to her.

"I've talked with Mrs. Irwin, I put the legislation in," Osten said. "She's passionate about this. She's been going around to different skateboard shops to let them know what happened."

Other legislation she helped pass included a bill that assures funding for private nonprofit group homes for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Osten also worked on the crumbling concrete issue. She was co-chair of the planning and development legislative committee and worked to pass legislation to provide more funding for folks with crumbling foundations.

Moving forward, she plans to continue to



Osten

work on stabilizing state finances.

"The budget this year and next year is stabilized and next year there will be over \$1 billion in the undesignated fund," she said.

She wants to make sure that fund remains stable.

Prior to serving as state senator, Osten served as a sergeant in the U.S. Army and an officer at the Connecticut Department of Corrections.

Lounsbury, who spends Wednesdays having coffee with veterans, is a retired cop. He worked for the Norwich Police Department for 23 years and was a detective and crime prevention officer.

The biggest issue he wants to tackle is the state's finances, he said.

"We're tax, spend, tax, spend," he said. "It's not what we need to be doing."

Lounsbury said he wants to improve the jobs market with legislation but said a lot of the stuff that needs to be done will be the responsibility of the governor, including lowering taxes to attract people to the state and removing the corporate tax.

"It only provides five percent of revenue and creates a void in jobs," Lounsbury said. "Corporations are leaving, businesses are leaving, people are leaving. We need to get people back."

Lounsbury said he would like to create legislation to help generate business growth and wants to access federal money that can be distributed at the state level to help boost agri-

culture.

"The district is rural; there's farmland sitting around fallow," he said.

One idea for farmland is to grow hops – a good cash crop, he said. He has met with a man who is interested in leasing land on an inactive farm in Sprague to grow hops for micro-brewing beer.

"There's a new generation in agriculture there's a lot going on," he said.

Lounsbury is also interested in paving the way for other uncommon crops, including currant bushes, which provide small berries that are full of antioxidants, he said. He has met with the owners of a currant orchard in western Connecticut and discussed expanding the crop to other areas in the state.

He has also looked into commercial hemp, which he admitted was controversial because it's in the same family as marijuana but pointed out that it does not have enough THC to smoke.

"Hemp, the plant itself, has a number of beneficial properties," he said. "You can make paper, you can make cloths...hemp played a part in financing the Revolutionary War."

Lounsbury works as a home health aide and does volunteer work for seniors, but currently is focused on the campaign.

"I'm concentrating on doing everything I possibly can to be able to represent the people of the 19th District," he said.



Lounsbury

Third Arrest Made in East Hampton 2017 Sears Park Gun Incident

by Elizabeth Regan

A third arrest has been made in connection with a 2017 pickup basketball game at Sears Park that police say was interrupted when a local man pointed a handgun at the head of an 18-year-old player.

Michelle Michaud, 43, of 3 Coe Ave., Portland, was arrested May 10 and charged with breach of peace, second-degree threatening and impairing the morals of children.

Michaud had been the subject of an active arrest warrant since September 2017, according to the affidavit. East Hampton Police Chief Dennis Woessner said she was taken into custody after Middletown Adult Probation staff informed police they had her in their office.

The arrest follows the Oct. 11 arrest of Jason Canterbury of East Hampton. The 34-year-old was charged with first-degree threatening, first-degree reckless endangerment and second-degree breach of peace.

Woessner said a juvenile was arrested in the case on April 8.

Arrest warrant affidavits for both Canterbury and Michaud detail the incident, which occurred last June. A group of four juveniles and three 18-year-olds were involved in their weekly game of basketball when another juvenile began "an unsolicited verbal altercation" with the players, police said.

The juvenile who allegedly started the fight was under 16 years old, according to the affidavit.

The players stopped their game and asked the kid to leave, police said. But witnesses say the juvenile came back a short time later in a Volkswagen with loud exhaust, along with a man later identified as Canterbury and a woman identified as Michaud.

Police said the victim told them Canterbury pulled the handgun from a hip holster and told the victim to "back the f—k up" while pointing it the player's head. The victim told police the conversation lasted several minutes and that Canterbury had the gun pointed at him "the

entire time."

According to Michaud's arrest warrant affidavit, a witness said Michaud told the group to go ahead and call the cops because "they'll never find us."

There were no shots fired, police said; Canterbury, Michaud and the juvenile eventually got back in the Volkswagen and headed north out of the park.

Police said Canterbury came to the police department voluntarily five days later after he was identified by officers as a suspect. He told officers he was at home when he received a call from the juvenile suspect saying there was going to be a fight. That's when Canterbury got into his 2002 Volkswagen GTI VR6 and drove to the park, according to the affidavit.

Police said Canterbury initially told them he tried to keep the peace and just wanted to get the juvenile suspect "out of there without any trouble." He added Michaud went with him to help protect the juvenile suspect.

The affidavit reveals that, upon further questioning, Canterbury admitted he brandished the Glock 21 handgun "to intimidate" the victim.

Canterbury said he pulled the pistol from the holster and held it, pointed down, for the victim to see, according to police.

Police said a search of the statewide law enforcement database showed there were seven long guns and six handguns legally registered in Canterbury's name.

Police were not successful in getting a written statement from Michaud prior to the issuance of the arrest warrant, according to the affidavit. They said a criminal history check revealed she had previously been convicted of second-degree breach of peace and third-degree assault.

Both Canterbury and Michaud are scheduled to appear at Middlesex Superior Court on June 12. Canterbury's case is in the pre-trial phase, according to the state Judicial Branch website. The court is awaiting a plea from Michaud.

Bank of America ATM Opening Soon in Marlborough

by Allison Lazur

After the closing of the Bank of America at 17 East Hampton Rd. last year, it looks as though customers won't be completely left without the bank's services.

Construction is underway for a new Bank of America ATM – in the exact same location.

According to Zoning Commission meeting minutes, Mike Tarbell from Tarbell Heintz and Associates – a civil engineering firm – approached the zoning commission in January with a plan to change the use of the old Bank of America building to a Dunkin' Donuts drive-thru with an outside seating area. The Dunkin' Donuts would move from its present

location.

The minutes state "there will be no change to the parking lot and the building will remain the same."

Additionally, the minutes reveal the future existence of a Bank of America ATM drive-thru.

The only request from Bank of America included two exterior lights for security purposes.

The application was approved at the January meeting.

Town Planner Peter Hughes told the *Rivereast* Wednesday, the ATM is expected to open in approximately 30 days.



The 100 Club... Cobalt Health Care and Rehabilitation Center are celebrating three big birthdays in East Hampton. Rose Exner, right, turned 102 years old on May 22. Evelyn Sylvester (pictured in both photos) will be 101 years old on June 7. Josephine Binder, left, turned 100 years old on May 22. The birthdays coincide with an impressive milestone for Cobalt Health Care and Rehabilitation Center as the nursing home celebrates its own 50th anniversary.

Following Defeat, Officials Tweak East Hampton Budget

by Elizabeth Regan

After a recount confirmed the failure of the 2018-19 general government spending plan at last week's budget referendum, officials on the Board of Finance and Town Council have authorized several modifications to the proposal – including using the majority of an unexpected windfall from the state to offset the coming year's expected tax increase.

The revised \$15.17 million general government proposal was prompted after voters rejected the original spending plan by three votes on May 15. A recount on May 18 found the budget proposal actually failed by five votes.

The \$30.50 million education budget was approved as a separate referendum question by 125 votes. The town charter dictates if one side of the budget fails, only that part of the budget goes back to voters.

The general government spending plan – including debt and capital – is an increase of \$955,460, or 6.72 percent, over the current budget. The proposal was approved Monday by the finance board and Tuesday by the council.

Taxpayers are looking at a mill rate of 32.41 based on the new general government budget proposal. That's an increase of 1.09 mills, or 3.48 percent, over the current mill rate.

The anticipated mill rate takes into account \$716,415 in Education Cost Sharing (ECS) funds from the state that officials didn't know the town would be receiving when they created the spending plans for education and general government earlier this year.

Without the extra money from the state, taxpayers would have been facing a 1.70 mill increase to the mill rate.

The revised general government budget proposal now goes to town meeting on June 4 and to referendum on June 12.

'Absolute Confusion'

An already contentious budget season was thrown into chaos the week before the referendum when state lawmakers approved the surprise ECS influx as part of the state budget. The funding is applied to the general government side of the budget to help fill in the gap between how much it costs to educate a student and how much local taxpayers can afford to pay.

Finance board members said at their meet-

ing Monday that the town budget failed because education supporters voted it down in retaliation for \$670,000 in cuts to the education budget made by the finance board and endorsed by the council in April.

Some education supporters at the meeting spoke during public comment to say they felt the vote failed because of confusion about what officials planned to do with the extra funding from the state.

"A lot of voters were confused and didn't feel they had all the information they needed to cast confident votes either way," Board of Education member Nancy Oakley told the finance board.

Resident and former finance board member Mary Ann Dostaler said she voted 'yes' for the education budget because "it was clear there was a plan being moved forward" by the school district.

"On the town side, I voted 'no' – and the sole reason I did so was because of the absolute confusion that ensued in the week prior to the vote," Dostaler said. "The ECS money came in, there was additional revenue coming into the town, and there was nothing that was said by anyone in the town as to what could happen."

The Approved Plan

Under the revised general government budget proposal, \$117,000 of the additional state funds will be used to pay outright for teacher laptops and student mini-laptops instead of going with the original plan to lease them over several years.

The revised figure includes a \$5,000 cut to the Board of Education's \$42,000 request for teacher laptops. Finance board members indicated it was unnecessary to purchase docking station components that can turn the laptops into pseudo-desktops while maintaining portability.

The rest of the increase in education aid from the state will be used to drive down the mill rate.

Officials also decided to buy a public works department plow truck and paver with cash instead of leasing them. The \$347,000 price tag would be paid for in this fiscal year using part of the budget surplus, which Finance Director Jeff Jylkka said is expected to be a little over

\$460,000 by July 1. The remainder of the surplus will go into the town's fund balance. During the Monday meeting, finance board members approved the additional appropriation unanimously.

Republican finance board member Alannah Coshow said buying the items outright will save money on interest and will limit the impact to one budget year. She said it's "often more prudent" to pay cash when the town has the resources to do so.

The general government proposal passed the finance board by a vote of 4-3. Republican Mike Rose and Democrats Barbara Moore and Ted Turner voted against it. The plan was approved by the council in a 4-2 vote. Democrats Kevin Reich and Pete Brown voted against it.

Plea for Good Faith

Finance board Democrats Barbara Moore and Ted Turner on Monday proposed an alternative plan to their fellow members that would have directed \$250,000 of the unanticipated ECS funds back to the schools in order to prevent the layoffs of the three teachers slated to lose their jobs at the end of the school year.

The Democrats' motion was rejected in a 4-3 vote. Rose was the only Republican to vote yes.

The failed plan would have used \$300,000 of the ECS funds to reduce the mill rate and would have put the remaining \$114,000 into a mill rate stabilization fund to help shield taxpayers from the full impact of future mill rate increases.

Finance board member Richard Brown argued the school budget is already looking at an increase of close to \$800,000 over the current year in operating and capital expenses. He said adding \$250,000 would bring the total over \$1 million.

"I don't know if we can afford million-dollar increases every year," he said.

Moore looked at it differently: "I don't know if we can afford to lay off teachers every year," she argued.

Coshow said it was not the finance board's decision to lay off any teachers. She pointed to other options, such as cutting administrative positions.

"I don't want to see teachers laid off, either," Coshow said. "But I don't want to see families kicked out of their homes because the mill rate is increasing at an exponential rate. They will be leaving. We'll have empty homes and then what?"

Rose, the finance board chairman, expressed a willingness to return some of the ECS funds to the school district to help retain the teaching positions.

He said the money from the state is an election-related phenomenon that won't be repeated next year.

"I think everybody recognizes that this is just the legislature buying votes," he said. "That's what they did. They bought some votes."

But the money is here now and it should be used to save teachers' jobs, according to Rose. He said the gesture could promote goodwill in labor negotiations when the contract for the teachers' union opens up this summer.

He said it's sustainable labor contracts – not reliance on state funding – that will help stabilize ever-increasing property taxes.

Rose emphasized at a meeting earlier in the budget process that the mill rate is on track to rise to at least 15 mills by 2023 if left unchecked.

He suggested future contracts will have to be negotiated to include measures such as general wage freezes and expansion of the step schedule so it takes teachers longer to get to the highest-paying rungs of the ladder.

"One of us is going to be going in and asking teachers to take several years of zero increases," Rose said.

State statute entitles a member of the Board of Finance to be present during teacher contract negotiations.

Richard Brown wondered how giving the school board more money now is going to motivate labor concessions this summer.

Rose put it this way: "I think there's something to be said for good faith."

The 2018-19 general government budget will go to town meeting on Monday, June 4, at 6 p.m. in the Town Hall. The second referendum is scheduled for Tuesday, June 12, from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. at East Hampton Middle School.

Andover Budget Rejected at Referendum; New One Proposed

by Sloan Brewster

After the budget failed at referendum Tuesday, the Board of Finance on Wednesday approved a revised \$11.18 million spending package for the 2018-19 fiscal year, and will send it to town meeting next week.

In this, yet another in a string of budget proposals for next year, the numbers are down by \$558,129 or 9.75 percent from last year. If approved, the budget will bring the mill rate to 33.95, a 1.45 mill increase, which translates to a 4.5 percent increase over the current year.

In Tuesday's referendum, 167 people said 'yes' to the then-\$11.21 million budget request, but 210 said 'no.'

There were also five non-binding advisory questions. To the first one, about the general government budget, the vast majority – 246 voters – said it was too high and 61 said it was too low. Most voters also said the Board of Education's budget was too high. To that question, 199 said it was too high and 82 said it was too low.

When asked if they supported \$20,000 for track improvements at Long Hill Ball Field, 148 said yes and 216 said no. To a question on their support of \$100,000 for concession and bathroom improvements at Long Hill, 70 said they did support it and 298 said they did not.

When asked if they supported \$187,000 for

the resident state trooper, 211 said they supported it and 160 said they didn't.

The support for the trooper mystified finance board chairman Daniel Warren.

"I don't think there's a clear understanding on the part of the populace that says the budget is too high and also stridently supports the state trooper program," he said in a phone call Wednesday.

Exit polling during the day on Tuesday indicated strong support for the program, five out of the nine people polled specifically brought up the trooper, stating they supported the program and some said it was why they had voted.

"I like the way things are moving," said resident JJ Cobb, who said she voted in favor of the budget. "I'm happy that they added in the trooper; that's why I voted today."

Liam O'Brien said he was a firefighter in town and came out to support the trooper as well.

"I support having a resident state trooper in the town, I strongly believe in that," he said. "As a member of the fire department, I don't think we'll get a fast enough response from [state police]."

The plan proposed by the finance board, in lieu of retaining the trooper, was to get support from state police. Voters voiced opposition to

that plan and, in response to it, voted down an earlier budget proposal at town meeting. The finance board subsequently added it back in to the budget.

Voters, at a second town meeting, were opposed to spending \$100,000 on the Long Hill concession and bathroom improvements and removed the funding from the budget.

After the failed referendum, the finance board cut \$40,000 from the education board's budget, a measure that was done in consultation with schools superintendent Sally Doyen. Doyen informed the finance board that since the education board had adopted its budget, there have been two retirements and the plan is to fill the spaces with part-time staff, Warren said.

"It's not going to result in any changes in services," Warren said of the reduction. "It's just to reflect the changes to staff that would be implemented no matter what."

The education board's \$4.19 million initial budget proposal reflected an \$80,000 1.89 percent reduction from the current year's \$4.27 million budget.

The finance board also took the Long Hill track improvements out of the budget that will be raised by taxation and is instead proposing to spend \$20,000 from the non-recurring capi-

tal improvement account – a reserve fund – to pay for the project, Warren said.

The finance board also nixed a proposal the Board of Selectmen made Monday to add \$40,000 to the tax collector's budget to cover making the part time position full time.

"We ardently disagree with that position," Warren said. "It's been overtly demonstrated that that office can function with a part time tax collector, we don't believe there's any legitimate management reason to make it full time."

First Selectman Robert Burbank said the position is a union job and automatically reverts back to full time when Donna Doyker, the current tax collector, who is part time, leaves.

Selectmen have an agreement with Doyker that it's part time as long as she is in the post, Burbank said.

Doyker gave notice on May 3, she said. Her last day is next Thursday.

The next town meeting will take place Tuesday and has limited power, Warren said. Voters cannot prevent the budget from going to referendum and may only decrease the numbers.

The referendum will be the following Tuesday.

East Hampton Police News

5/10: Michelle Michaud, 43, of 3 Coe Ave., Portland, was charged with breach of peace, second-degree threatening and impairing the morals of children, East Hampton Police said.

5/10: Tyler Fox, 24, of 85 N. Main St., was issued a summons for operating a motor vehicle without minimum insurance and suspended registration, police said.

5/12: Peter Rixon, 53, of 163 Wopowog Rd., was arrested and charged with DUI and failure to drive right, police said.

5/12: After an investigation into a single motor vehicle crash involving a motorcycle, with no serious injuries, John Ducas, 59, of 30 Country Ln., was issued a summons for operating an unregistered and uninsured motor vehicle, police said.

5/12: After an investigation into a car-vs.-parked car motor vehicle crash, Juan Robles, 21, of 29 Watrous St., was taken into custody and charged with traveling unreasonably fast and evading responsibility, police said.

5/13: Stephen Majeski, 72, of 33 Old Middletown Rd., was arrested and charged with DUI, failure to obey a stop sign and failure to drive right, police said.

5/17: Joseph Hecht, 56, of 265 White Birch Rd., was arrested and charged with failure to drive right and driving under the influence, police said.

Also, from May 7-13, officers responded to 11 medical calls, six motor vehicle crashes and 10 alarms, and made nine traffic stops.

Colchester Police News

5/14: State Police said Scott Sears, 27, of 39 Timber Ridge Dr., Pawcatuck, was arrested and charged with DUI and failure to drive in proper lane.

5/14: State Police said Eugene E. Kropiwnicki, 44, of 3836 Hanley Way, Walkertown, NC, was arrested and charged with violation of probation.

5/14: State Police said Zaylu Rangel-gely, 42, of 20 Graves St., Windsor Locks, was arrested and charged with DUI and failure to drive in proper lane.

5/15: Colchester Police said Carly J. Gamberale, 34, of 129 Leesville Rd., Moodus, was arrested and charged with fifth-degree larceny. Police said they responded to an active larceny at approximately 12:33 p.m. at the Stop

and Shop on Linwood Avenue, and Gamberale was taken into custody at the scene. According to police, approximately \$700 worth of merchandise was released back to the store.

5/15: Colchester Police said Ashleigh L. Streich, 26 and Joseph M. Boucher, 27, both of 103 Horsepond Rd., Apt. F, Salem, turned themselves into police and were arrested and charged with fifth-degree larceny. Streich and Boucher were involved with a larceny at a residence on Kennedy Drive in February, police said. Also on May 15, Boucher was arrested and charged with violation of probation and second-degree failure to appear.

5/16: Colchester Police said Edward J. Walsh, 53, of 15 Fern Dr., was arrested and charged with DUI and following too closely.

Summer Brings Changes in Juvenile Justice Law in Marlborough

by Allison Lazur

Tuesday night presented residents with a unique opportunity to educate themselves on the complexities of juvenile law and how it affects not only those under the age of 18, but the community.

However, not a single resident seized the opportunity to attend the informational forum other than resident Larry Pryor, who only made a brief appearance.

Director of Public Safety Services Jay Kehoe and Supervisory Assistant State's Attorney Francis Carino gave a presentation to a room that would have otherwise been empty if Resident State Trooper Jeff Dunshee and First Selectman Amy Traversa were not present.

Director of Public Safety Services Jay and Dunshee recently launched a series of community forums addressing a different law enforcement-related topic each month. Last month's forum educated residents on how to protect themselves from becoming victims of crime.

"It's disappointing that people have expressed an interest and we put together a program and no one attends," Traversa said, adding that "If the public knew how the legislature changed, they'd be outraged."

Traversa was referring to changes to the state's juvenile justice framework set to go into effect July 1. The reforms reduce punishment time for juveniles and address where to place them so they are not a threat to themselves or the community.

The Connecticut Juvenile Training School (CJTS) – a long-term, secure correctional fa-

cility for boys – was scheduled to be closed June 30. However, the facility closed early on April 12, leaving no secure alternative for placement after being convicted.

Furthermore, the responsibility for juvenile corrections will move from the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to the Court Support Services Division (CSSD) – essentially the state's probationary division – which falls under the judicial branch of government.

Carino – who has been involved with prosecuting juveniles for forty years – said he believes this decision by the legislature is a "constitutional problem" and one that involves a "violation of the separation of powers." Currently – until July 1 – the executive branch handles juvenile crimes.

This transfer of power to CSSD from DCF means once July arrives, all commitments between juveniles and DCF will end and the juveniles will instead be placed on probation for the remainder of what would have been the commitment term.

"[The legislature] has taken all the programs and services from DCF having to do with juvenile justice and shifted it over to the judicial branch," Carino said.

With the closing of CJTS, an alternative, secure treatment facility probably won't be available until the fall, he said. Convicted juveniles will be placed in "staff secure facilities" or released back home.

These staff secure facilities are not locked, meaning the only enforcement to keep kids at

the facilities is verbal.

Carino cited several examples where kids quickly committed more crimes within days of being returned home. He added that juveniles are leaving the staff secure facilities without permission and "stealing staff vans on the way out."

Since January 1, of the 39 juveniles that were released in anticipation of CJTS's closing, 35 percent have already been arrested, Carino said.

Other changes the summer will bring include no longer referring to juveniles who have committed a crime as "convicted," but instead "adjudicated" delinquents.

Commitments – or "probation" come July 1 – for juvenile crimes will also be altered in just a few months.

Currently, a kid who is convicted of a regular, non-serious juvenile offense can serve an 18 month commitment to DCF with a possibility of an 18 month extension totaling 36 months, according to Carino. A serious juvenile offense can result in a commitment up to 48 months.

However, with change on the horizon, crimes, regardless of the level of seriousness, will be met with 18 months of probation with or without placement with a possible 12 month extension, totaling 30 months. This amount of time for a serious crime is less than current penalty for non-serious crimes, Carino said.

He provided a relevant example of how these new time limits will impact the community.

"Picture this situation" he said. "A 14-year old walks into a school with a gun and shoots

six people. Because he's under 15 [years old] he can't be transferred [to the adult court system]. The maximum penalty he will face is a period of supervision, with or without placement of up to 18 months, with a possible extension of 12 months after that. After he's done with all of that, if he stays out of trouble for up to 4 years, he can get all that erased."

Traversa commented with "that's stunning."

Carino's example touched on a few key aspects of juvenile law. A juvenile is eligible for an erasure of offenses, if that individual serves his commitment and stays out of trouble for 2 years for non-serious crimes and 4 years for serious crimes.

He said a crime – no matter how serious – cannot be transferred to adult court if the individual is under 15 years old.

Carino did note that with these less restrictive penalties going into effect July 1, he thinks more crimes overall will end up being transferred to adult court.

"I think it's important for electors as well as politicians to know and understand juvenile law and what we have and how they've changed so they can make informed decisions about where we go from here," Carino said.

The topic and date for the next community forum has not yet been set, though Kehoe said it will be held in late June. He informed residents last month that the forums will take a hiatus in July and August before starting up again in September.

Obituaries

East Hampton

Pauline Lindquist Markham

Pauline Lindquist Markham, 89, widow of Donald P. Markham, passed away Thursday, May 17, after a short illness. A lifelong resident of East Hampton, Pauline, born July 25, 1928, was the daughter of the late Fritz Gerhard Lindquist and Odena Malvina (Quinton) Lindquist.



Born at home, Pauline was a lifelong resident of East Hampton. She graduated from East Hampton High School in 1946 and, with Don during their 65-year marriage, was actively involved in the life of the East Hampton community. She was elected town clerk in 1975 and served in that capacity until retirement in 2004. She was a 30-year member of the Democratic Town Committee and had been an elected member of the East Hampton Library Board of Directors.

Pauline served on the East Hampton Bi-Centennial Committee in 1967 and the local Bi-Centennial Committee celebrating the founding of our nation in 1976 and provided the historical research highlighting the town's history from its founding. She volunteered in many activities of the community such as the American Red Cross blood drives. Pauline had been a member of the East Hampton Congregational Church and its Addenda Circle. Pauline, the youngest of six children, was predeceased by brothers Conrad, Roland and Merton Lindquist and sister Jeanette Barton.

Pauline is survived by her sons: Dean P. Markham and his wife Debbie of East Hampton; their children, Nicole F. Markham of Newport, R.I., Danielle P. Mathias and her husband Greg and great-grandchildren Desmond and Isla of Phoenixville, Pa., and Gregory D. Markham and his wife Kira and great-grandchildren Sandra, Eva, Gage and Alexander of Colchester; and, Allan N. Markham and wife Sharon of East Hampton, and their sons David A. Markham of East Hampton, and Stephen P. Markham and his wife Colleen and great-grandsons Chase and Asher of Pembroke, Mass.; sister Christine Frontel of East Hampton and many nieces and nephews.

The family sincerely thanks the caring and loving staff of Chestelm who provided for her well-being and comfort during her short convalescence.

Friends called at Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., Monday, May 21. Funeral services were conducted by the Rev. Thomas Cowger (Haddam Neck Covenant Church), at Spencer Funeral Home Tuesday, May 22. Burial followed at Lake View Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate a donation in Pauline's memory to the East Hampton Ambulance Association, P.O. Box 144, East Hampton, CT 06424, or the Haddam Neck Covenant Church (Pastor's Fund), 17 Haddam Neck Rd., East Hampton, CT 06424; and to give the gift of life – become a blood donor with the American Red Cross.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Colchester

Mark A. Biase

Mark A. Biase, 70, of Colchester, formerly of Norwich, passed away Thursday, May 17, at his home. Born in Hartford Oct. 11, 1947, he was the son of the late Angelo and Germaine (Bernier) Biase, and the loving husband of Mary Jane (Vessels) Biase.

Mark received his MBA from the University of New Haven and worked for many years as a purchasing agent at Electric Boat before accepting a position with Hartford Hospital. He was a true family man, and loved spending time with family and friends. Mark was also an avid fan of European soccer. He was a kind and gentle spirit, a wonderful husband and father, and a beloved Papa to his grandsons. He was a quiet man who touched the hearts of many.

In addition to his wife, Mary Jane, Mark is survived by his daughter, Tara Southworth and husband Brent; his grandsons, Christopher and Alex; four sisters, Elizabeth Wayne and husband Steve, Mariann Grenier and husband Tom, Marcia Biase and Marguerite Biase; and numerous nieces and nephews with whom he enjoyed spending time.

He was predeceased by his son, Christopher Ronald Biase, who he loved from the bottom of his heart.

A celebration of Mark's life was held Wednesday, May 23, at the Lakeside Pavilion at Mohegan Park in Norwich. Donations in his memory may be made to the International Waldenstrom's Macroglobulinemia Foundation, 6144 Clark Center Ave., Sarasota, FL 34238, or by visiting iwmf.com.

The Woyasz & Son Funeral Service of Norwich is in care of the arrangements.



East Hampton

David Allen Rich

David Allen Rich, 65, of East Hampton, beloved husband of Betsy (Stickler) Rich, died Friday, May 18, at Lawrence Memorial Hospital in New London. Born May 31, 1952, in Middletown, he was the son of the late Buford and Hannah (Bailey) Rich.

David grew up in East Hampton and worked as a sheetrocker and painter for many years. David proudly served his country in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. David was a member of the American Legion Post in Marlborough and the VFW Post in East Hampton. He enjoyed fishing and being outdoors.

Besides his wife Betsy he is survived by his cousin, Wayne Rich of Pa.; brothers-in-law, Rexford Johnston, David, Robert and Stephen Stickler and his good friend Kerry Schunk.

Friends may call at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, Wednesday, May 30, from 5-7 p.m. A memorial service will be held at 7 p.m., with the Rev. Mary Anne Osborn officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the East Hampton Food Bank, 22 East High St., East Hampton, CT 06424.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Colchester

James Stone Jr.

James Edward Thomas Stone Jr., 36, of Colchester, passed away unexpectedly Friday, May 18, at his former home on the Golden Hill Paugussett Indian Reservation in Colchester. Born in Hartford Sept. 11, 1981, he was the son of Bambi (McGoff) Stone of East Lyme and James E. Stone Sr. of Glastonbury.

Jimmy was a graduate of Bacon Academy and went on to earn his associate's degree from Three Rivers Community College. He was a tradesman, working in a wide variety of carpentry fields. Jim was a communicant of St. Andrew Church in Colchester. He enjoyed fishing, snowboarding, tennis, scuba diving, bowling and swimming at Red Cedar Lake in Lebanon. Jimmy played drums and loved music. He will be remembered fondly as a big kid at heart, kind, generous and always willing to lend a helping hand.

Jimmy will be sadly missed but always remembered by his loving parents; his sister and brother-in-law, Jenny Stone and Nicholas McMahon of Colchester; his beloved nieces, Molly and Mabel; and numerous extended family members and friends.

A memorial service celebrating his life will be observed at 2 p.m. Saturday, June 2, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The family will receive guests starting at 1 p.m., prior to the service. He will be laid to rest privately in Ponemah Cemetery, No. Westchester.

Donations in his memory may be made to NAMI (nami.org).

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.



Portland

Denise Ucci

Denise Ucci, 62, a former Portland resident, has gone to be with her father, John B. Ucci Sr., and her beloved nephew, Bradley Ucci, and all the other friends and family who have passed before her. She passed in her home unexpectedly Friday, May 18.

She leaves behind her mother, Joan Ucci and her companion Joe Lastrina; twin sister, Donna and her wife Teresa; brother, John Jr. and his companion Cindy Foreman; nephew and niece, Jason and Angeline; great-nephews, Nicholas and Jason Jr.; her partner, Eva Varney; and many other relatives and friends.

Denise adored her dog, Jo Dee, and cat, Cinnamon. She enjoyed playing cards with her many friends, traveling with family, the theater, fishing, and bowling.

She will live forever in our hearts.



Portland

Diane Fitzgerald Lockwood

Diane Fitzgerald Lockwood, 52, of Portland, passed peacefully, surrounded by her family, Saturday, May 19, after a courageous battle with cancer. She was born in Boston, Mass., and received her MSW from Fordham University.

First and foremost, she cherished her family, her husband Barry, her sons Bryan and Brandon and her stepson Dylan. Her favorite days were spent with her family photographing her sons playing football and lacrosse and camping with family and friends. Her passion and caring for people will be missed by everyone she has helped in her extensive years of social work. Most of all, we will miss her strong and loving spirit.

Diane was predeceased by her father, William Fitzgerald. She leaves behind her loving mother, Mary Ann Fitzgerald, and her two sisters, Mary Ellen Hetrick and Linda Sundstrom; her brother, William Fitzgerald; brothers-in-law, Art Hetrick and Gary Sundstrom; sisters-in-law, Valery Fitzgerald and Barbara Rouck. Her nieces and nephews include Matthew, Ashley, Tyler and Michelle Hetrick, Torie, Ryan, and Alicia Fitzgerald, Michael, Emily and Laura Sundstrom and Josh Compton.

Services were Thursday, May 24, at St. Mary's Church, Freestone Avenue, Portland. A celebration of life immediately followed at the Riverfront Park in Portland.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the Lockwood educational fund at gofundme.com/Lockwood-educational-fund.

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

Portland

William J. Maher Jr.

William J. (Billy) Maher Jr., 73, of Weyers Cave, Va., formerly of Portland, Middletown, and Killingworth, died following a brief illness at Harrisonburg Health and Rehabilitation Center in Harrisonburg, Va., Saturday, April 28.

A complete obituary will be submitted for later publication.

A memorial Mass will be celebrated on Saturday, June 16, at 1 p.m., in the Church of St. Mary, 45 Freestone Ave., Portland. Following the Mass, a reception will be held in the church hall for all those in attendance.