



RIVEREAST

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Donation for Music Ed... The East Hampton High School music department received a donation to support music education during the July 5 Joseph N. Goff House Museum Gazebo Concert. During intermission at each concert, members of the Goff House Board pass collection baskets among the audience members and then donate the funds to a local charity or organization. During the June 28 show, the donations were given to Cub Scout Pack 8. Pictured are EHHS band director Andrew Groves, Goff House board member Debi Rotteck and members of the EHHS Jazz Band. Visit goffhouseehct.blogspot.com for the concert schedule.

Family Finds, Saves Beloved Pug

by Allison Lazur

A planned family beach day for Colchester resident Amanda Nelson, her husband Tom and their 6-year-old son Parker quickly turned into a rescue mission when the three found on the side of the road a black pug, hit by a car and left for dead.

Nelson said she and her husband, as well as their 6-year-old son Parker planned to head to the beach on Sunday, July 1, but at the last minute decided to go hiking and swimming in Salmon River.

Nelson and her family were driving up the unpaved Gulf Road in East Hampton and were about to turn off the road to park when she noticed "this little black thing on the right side of the road."

Nelson said as they approached the black blob, she realized it was a dog, sitting up and covered in flies.

"We stopped the car and before I got out, I was just kind of looking to see if I should approach the dog or go back and find the park ranger," she said, adding she was worried the dog would run away if they left the dog unattended.

Once Nelson exited the car, she said the black, female pug made eye contact with her displaying a look of "please help me."

"The dog didn't move, but she started wagging her tail and as I got closer her tail started

wagging even more," she said.

Nelson said once she was close enough to the dog, she noticed the pug was bleeding and had a laceration over her left ear so she decided to take the next step by picking up the dog.

After loosely wrapping the pug in beach towels, Nelson said they brought the dog to the park ranger. Because the ranger had no luck reaching the dog warden or the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) on a Sunday morning, Nelson's husband decided to call Colchester Veterinary Hospital.

"They said absolutely bring in the dog," Nelson said. Adding "That's the first amazing part of the story; the vet was open to taking a dog that wasn't our dog."

Covered in blood and dirt, Nelson held the pug, whose name turned out to be Lola, on their ride to the vet.

"When we were driving Lola there, she was really calm and I feel like she knew she was getting help," Nelson said.

Upon arrival at the vet's office, Nelson said she cleaned herself up and explained what happened to the vet. She said after posting Lola to all the town's Facebook groups, within two hours the pug's owner had been located and contacted.

"I feel like we did anything that anybody else

See Saves Pug page 2

How Business-Friendly is Belltown?

by Elizabeth Regan

An artisan bread baker is hoping to open his doors in the Village Center by Sept. 1 if momentum gained this week continues.

A two-hour meeting with town hall and health district officials on Wednesday provided some answers to many unanswered questions Christian Michalowski has had since he set out to establish Black Walnut Bread Company at 81 Main St.

"I've been trying to open a business in East Hampton for eight months and have had nothing but difficulty," he said.

Michalowski was a research scientist in the pharmaceutical industry for 20 years before he was laid off last October, he told the *RiverEast* this week. The fresh start gave him a chance to turn five years of bakery dreams into reality.

A social media post from state Rep. Melissa Ziobron, R-34, addressed the situation with the hashtag "smallbizrocks."

"We need to cut red tape for our small businesses in our district and our state," the state senate hopeful wrote on Facebook the day before Michalowski's meeting. "Black Walnut Bread has been navigating the process and has found roadblocks everywhere. Let's hope this week he can finally plan his official opening!"

Members of the Town Council on Tuesday were offended by the post when Town Manager Michael Maniscalco brought the subject up at their regular meeting.

"We haven't even received an application from this individual. We cannot review or make comment on anything until we've received an application," Maniscalco told councilors.

Members stopped short of asking for an apology from Ziobron, though both Maniscalco and council Chairwoman Melissa Engel said they had spoken with her about it.

Building Department Official Glen LeConche on Wednesday described Ziobron's post as "somewhat irresponsible."

He said she should have checked both sides before taking to social media.

LeConche also objected to the tone of some of the responses to the post, pointing to one comment from someone with a rifle as a profile picture.

"Get rid of building officials, land use boards and zoning laws. Problem solved," the commenter wrote.

LeConche described Michalowski's situation as frustrating to town and regional staff because they have been working with the baker since a January. He said he attended a meeting early on with Michalowski, the local planning and zoning official, two Chatham Health Department sanitarians, a septic system engineer and the fire marshal.

Michalowski subsequently found the spot at 81 Main St. and secured site plan approval from the Planning and Zoning Commission in May,

pending a favorable report from town staff and the Chatham Health District.

Emails between Michalowski and building department staff show the new businessman, who said he is the first to admit he's never designed a bakery before, has been seeking guidance on details such as the required number of sinks and ventilation specifications.

"Adding [or] subtracting from designs and construction will be too costly. I need to get it right the first time. This is my biggest hold-up," Michalowski wrote on July 3.

But LeConche said neither the building department nor health district had received any applications from Michalowski.

Architectural renderings are necessary so staff can further advise Michalowski and ensure the building will be safe for Michalowski, his customers and those who live upstairs, according to LeConche.

Michalowski, LeConche and Ziobron all acknowledged that a third party company designed to handle license and permit applications may have contributed to some of the delays.

"I had hired an outside firm to handle a lot of our permits and they had said they applied them," Michalowski said. "I was billed for those documents and permits, but the town said they never received them."

Ziobron, a former East Haddam economic development coordinator, told the *RiverEast* the

process of starting a small business from scratch can be confusing.

"Sometimes you don't know what you don't know," she said. "And a guy or a girl starting a business, they don't know."

According to Ziobron, the point of her social media post was to emphasize the need for a simplified process and enhanced communication to make it easier for fledgling entrepreneurs to flourish in town.

"When somebody's starting a new business – especially somebody who wants to reinvigorate the East Hampton village – they need a little TLC," she said.

She added East Hampton officials should not take her post about red tape and road blocks personally.

"It's in every community. East Hampton shouldn't be upset," she said.

Building Department Reform

Michalowski's situation comes as Maniscalco and the Building Planning and Zoning Department have been working to streamline the application process.

Concerns about inefficiencies have plagued the department for years, with Maniscalco being called out by some councilors during multiple performance reviews with allegations that his management practices have allowed the situation to continue.

See Belltown page 2

Saves Pug cont. from Front Page

would do,” Nelson said. “I don’t feel like we’re different in any way. I think the magic is when the town comes together.”

Lola stayed at the vet that night and was picked up by her owner, Nicole Filloramo, the next day.

However, Filloramo’s mother, Linda Cherico, was the one who was babysitting her grandchildren and Lola when she escaped.

“We got up Sunday morning and Lola was nowhere to be found,” Cherico said.

She explained that her 2-year-old grandchild had recently learned how to unlock the sliding glass door – which she thinks is how Lola got out.

Cherico said she could not stress enough how “grateful” she is that the Nelson family stepped up and cared for Lola during her Salmon River excursion.

Cherico also told the *Rivereast* Wednesday that “Lola is doing wonderful,” adding, “they put her on antibiotics and she has a bruised lung, but she’s back to her old self.”

This is hardly the first dog-friendly moment for Nelson and her husband Tom. The two are co-founders of the Colchester Dog Park, located on Old Amston Road.

Nelson said the idea for the dog park developed when she and her husband were residing in a condo in town and wanted a place for their border collie, Cooper, to have room to exercise.

Nelson and her husband, along with a group of approximately seven people, raised \$40,000 over the course of two years and opened the park in 2010.

She explained that the \$40,000 went towards fencing three acres of town land, gating for the entryway, gardening, grating the road, mowing and purchasing posts and dog waste bags.

“We used town land so we wouldn’t have to



Lola the pug was found injured and bloody on July 1 near Salmon River by resident Amanda Nelson and her husband Tom Nelson.

pay for the land, but also because it would be kept up by the town and is under the 501(c)(3) of the town, just like all the other parks in Colchester,” she said.

Nelson and her husband were able to utilize funds raised through events such as Spring Bark at the Park, various tag sales and Pumpkins ‘n’ Pooches Autumn Fair and Dog Fest to put towards the dog park.

As for Lola, Nelson said she’s thrilled the pooch is recovering nicely.

“It warms my heart to hear that Lola is doing well,” she said. “Helping our neighbors is something we can all get behind, whether you’re an animal-lover or not.”

Belltown cont. from Front Page

A new policy put into effect one month ago resulted in a detailed checklist designed to “ensure clear expectations” for zoning and building permit applicants, according to a June 12 memo from Maniscalco to the council.

The department will no longer accept an application until staff verifies it is complete, Maniscalco said. Payment will not be required until the applicant comes in to pick up the approved permit.

The policy includes a survey asking for feedback about application turnaround time, staff responsiveness and the quality of inspections.

Michalowski said he was assured at his meeting with building department and health district officials that the local permit process will

take days, not months, once he hands in the completed application.

While optimistic for the future, he said he’s learned through his struggles that not all towns operate like East Hampton when it comes to welcoming new business.

“I was approached by Portland and they told me if I came there, they’d hold me by the hand and get me all the permits and I’d be open in three weeks,” Michalowski said.

But the 15-year East Hampton resident is sticking with his plan to bake bread in the Village Center.

“I’m not going to throw in the towel on East Hampton yet,” he said. “Hopefully this will be a success story.”

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

The news of the teenager drowning in the Hartford pool was just so tragic.

As I’m sure you’ve heard, Jaevon Whyte, 16, and nearly 20 others had snuck into the Keney Park pool for an after-hours swim last Tuesday, July 3. While the other teens scattered when they, wrongly, thought police were coming, White didn’t make it out.

Later that night – technically, around 1 a.m. Wednesday – Whyte was reported missing, and about an hour later police found him at the bottom of the pool. Firefighters and paramedics tried reviving him with CPR, according to the *Hartford Courant*, before taking him to St. Francis Hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

What made the drowning even more tragic was the simple fact it didn’t have to happen. According to the *Courant*, the city had installed surveillance systems at Keney Park and other pools in the city just last year, to alert police to people possibly breaking in for some night swimming. But the system at Keney was currently broken, Hartford Mayor Luke Bronin said, according to the *Courant*. Apparently, the system’s modem was a victim of the recent heat wave.

Bronin said the city knew the system was broken, and while the city was working with a contractor to fix the problem, nothing had been done yet.

“We can’t tell you, had that camera system been up and running, that it would’ve prevented this or not,” Bronin said. “But it certainly would’ve made it less likely.”

As I said, knowing there was something in place that could’ve stopped this, only it wasn’t working at the time, just adds to the tragedy of the situation.

The drowning was just a horrific accident all around – and it was also a horrible time to try to make a point.

The *Courant* reported this week that, on Monday, a Hartford man called police and falsely reported another child was drowning at a city pool. Police said the man, Jeremiah Grant, had made the call to try to prove to someone else that Hartford police do not care about the “poor black community” in the city, according to the *Courant*.

The call was placed from the Willie Ware Recreation Center – where there is no pool to begin with, though there is a splash pad. Po-

lice told the *Courant* the call came in at 12:36 p.m., dispatched at 12:37 p.m., and officers arrived at 12:40 p.m. I’d call that a pretty quick response time.

The *Courant* reported that the woman Grant was trying to convince by making the false report ultimately snitched on him to police, after seeing the massive response from emergency vehicles and how they were worrying the other kids at the center.

Green was arrested and charged with breach of peace, interfering with police and falsely reporting an incident, police said.

* * *

I guess mustard truly is the king of condiments.

I’m sure many of you have heard about the tariffs the U.S. recently began on steel and aluminum products imported from Canada. Canada has responded with tariffs of its own against several American-made products sold in the country – though I read this week that American-made mustard, originally on the list, was dropped just before the tariffs were to take effect July 1. This was thanks to the mustard lobby.

According to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, the mustard lobby was among several industry groups that petitioned the federal government to revise its list of tariffed products. Canada is the world’s largest producer of mustard seed, the CBC said. For example, French’s mustard, while produced in the U.S., is made entirely with Canadian mustard seed. The CBC said the mustard industry feared the tariff could have driven down prices for mustard seed exports to the U.S., which is its biggest customer – or that the U.S. may have even retaliated with tariffs on Canadian mustard seed.

Saskatchewan farmer Kevin Hursh was particularly worried about the latter.

The U.S. “could have hurt us a lot more with a tariff on raw mustard seed than we are ever going to affect them with a tariff on prepared mustard,” Hursh told the CBC.

So, Canadian farmers can rest easy that mustard is off the list. Meanwhile, next time you’re squirting some mustard on a hot dog, be sure to think of our neighbors to the north – who likely made it all possible.

* * *

See you next week.

Marlborough Resident Publishes Second Book

by Allison Lazur

After being contacted by a man whose wife grew up in Nazi Germany, Tracy Popolizio set out to write her second book, *Tapestry of Lies*.

The self-published title – geared to the ages of 12 and 13 – tells the story of Lisi Hertz, a young girl who befriends a refugee during Adolf Hitler's reign of power.

Popolizio said the book is based off true events shared with her by Elisabeth Arseneault, who was estimated to be about 3 years old in 1939.

Popolizio met with Arseneault several times to gather information and from there was "given creative liberties to make it into a fictional story," she said.

"It was just so fascinating to be sitting there with her telling me about a life that I couldn't even imagine," Popolizio said, adding that Arseneault was "just so sweet and so welcoming."

Popolizio explained that Arseneault, who has dementia, "started recalling events about her childhood to her husband that he never knew about."

From there, her husband Joe contacted Popolizio to tell his wife's story.

"I wasn't quite sure what he wanted and it was kind of out of my comfort zone," Popolizio said.

He requested that Popolizio write a book for the same age group as her first historical fiction title, *The Longest New York Minute*, but based on his wife's story.

The Longest New York Minute, originally



Tracy Popolizio

released in 2015 and rereleased in 2017, was written after Popolizio's daughter, Lexie, came home from school wanting to learn about the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

Popolizio said she had a difficult time finding age-appropriate books covering the Sept. 11 events and decided to write her own.

"It was more a book for children to understand what happened and appreciate what the nation went through, she said.

But both books have a greater message to communicate, according to Popolizio.

"These [books] are inspirational – there's a moral behind them; there's a story and there's an everyday character doing something great," she said. "It's really just keeping with the principle of anybody can be brave and do the right thing and be a hero."

In order to verify Arseneault's accounts, Popolizio said she visited the National Archives in College Park, Md., where information is stored on German soldiers. From there, Popolizio said she researched Arseneault's brothers and family and "tried to figure out where their characters would be during that time."

She also said she attended a genealogy conference where she met with a World War II historian and shared pieces of Arseneault's story.

Popolizio told the *Rivereast* the book is about 50 to 60 percent true with the idea that the events shared with her "could've happened or possibly did happen."

"This book really isn't for me," she said. "I had three other books in the works and I put them on hold because I felt like this was for [Arseneault] and her family."

Two of the three titles Popolizio has in the works are historical fiction – one based during the Roman Empire and the other on the French Resistance. The third book, however, Popolizio said she is most excited for because it discusses

"demons that we all are surrounded by such as addiction, self-image and identity."

Even though Popolizio has two books under her belt, she said writing was never on her bucket-list and instead has focused her time on teaching.

Popolizio, who has a bachelor's degree in early childhood and special education and a master's degree in elementary education – both from Eastern Connecticut State University – has been a preschool teacher in Vernon for the last three years. Prior to Vernon, Popolizio spent 12 years at various companies in the Hartford area working with children ages birth to three.

When it came to moving towards the final process of publishing *Tapestry of Lies*, Popolizio said "it was such a blessing" to have several individuals involved in the process.

"I'm pretty fortunate because my mother and her good friend – we call them the Lucy and Ethel Productions – did a ton of the work," she said.

Popolizio said between the three of them, they designed the cover art.

She also relied on a critique group with the American Christian Fiction Writers (ACFW), friends and her fifth and sixth grade teacher to develop the final product.

"It was really a team effort," she said.

Popolizio runs a blog, whatareyouthinking247.blog, which has been the topic of several public speaking engagements at schools, retreats and various events. She also speaks to students specifically about the writing and research process.

While a formal book release party has not yet been scheduled, Popolizio said she hopes to host the event at her church in Hebron sometime in August.

Popolizio's book can be purchased through Amazon or by contacting her at tracypopolizio.com.



Elisabeth Arseneault, born November 1936, grew up in Nazi Germany and had vivid recollections of her childhood which she shared with resident and author Tracy Popolizio for Popolizio's new book, *Tapestry of Lies*.

Love of Science Leads Colchester Resident to Salutatorian Seat

by Allison Lazur

Resident Ryan Stollman was able to hone in on his love of biotechnology at Norwich Technical High School and succeed at a uniquely-focused four-year career by graduating last month as salutatorian.

Stollman was initially on the path to attend Bacon Academy until he learned that Norwich Technical School offered a biotechnology "shop," or focus of study.

Students at the technical high school explore all 12 shops the school has to offer before honing in on three that specifically interest them and then ultimately deciding on one, Stollman explained.

Before ultimately choosing biotechnology, Stollman also explored the areas of culinary and pre-electrical engineering and applied electronics.

Stollman was one of nine students graduating from the first biotechnology shop class last month. The program has since doubled in size since Stollman's start in the shop his freshman year.

"I'll definitely miss some of the people and the way [the school] is structured, but I'm excited for college," he told the *Rivereast* in an interview at his home this week.

Stollman highlighted his high school career by mentioning the extensive pre-level college classes he took in calculus, chemistry, plant science and American studies.

His mother, Delia Stollman, also chimed in to clarify that "he essentially has a full year of college credit already under his belt," totaling twenty-six credits as he moves into pursuing a bachelor's degree in Chemistry at UConn.

Delia Stollman also disclosed that part of her son's interest in biotechnology stems from the show *NCIS*, which he discovered in middle school

"That was something – even though it's glorified – that grabbed his interest," she said.

Delia Stollman also explained that when he was a child she witnessed his interest in the mechanical side of things, adding that he was "always motivated and did his best."

"As a kid he was always one to sit on the floor with Legos and build things," she said. "He liked to figure out how things worked; math was always a strength for him."

While reminiscing about the past four years, Stollman said his work on his project for the Connecticut Science and Engineering Fair held at Quinnipiac University in March was a noteworthy aspect of his high school career.

Stollman spent his junior and senior year working on his chosen science fair topic: the effect of the FAAH gene on alcohol consumption and inhibition in *C. elegans*. He explained the project was presented both years, but was not completed until his senior year. Upon completion, he placed as a finalist in the 2018 fair.

In addition to placing as a finalist, Stollman received several awards in his senior year including the Presidential Scholars Award, U.S. Air Force Outstanding Academic Achievement in Math and Science Award, Outstanding Academic Achievement Award in Math, Best Work Ethic in Biotechnology and Zezulka Family Award.

During the interview with the *Rivereast*, Delia Stollman overflowed with excitement and was clear about how proud she was of her son.

"I hope that he continues to follow his own path because he's always been his own person; he's never been one who follows the crowd," she said. "He's true to himself and that's what I hope he continues to do. He's a very, very disciplined individual and I think he'll do well and go far in life."



Ryan Stollman, pictured with his parents Delia Stollman and David Stollman, graduated June 21 as the salutatorian of Norwich Technical High School Class of 2018.



A partially-buried tractor at the Zagray Farm Museum with brush and weeds growing in and around it has been left as it was as a memorial to the Zagray brothers who owned the property when it was a working farm. The Zagrays left farm equipment and other items scattered on the property, said Quinebaug Valley Engineers Association member Ned Tewksbury. "The place was a mess."



Ned Tewksbury, member of the Quinebaug Valley Engineers Association, which owns and runs the Zagray Farm Museum in Colchester and Hebron, cranks a Double Acting Dog on an 1878 sawmill. The device was invented by Stanley Zagray, the eldest of three brothers who owned and operated the property when it was an active farm.

Zagray Farm Museum Expanding

by Sloan Brewster

The Zagray Farm Museum is expanding.

The Quinebaug Valley Engineers Association is currently getting permits for the expansion project. The non-profit owns the museum, which is located on what was formerly an active farm owned by brothers Stanley, William and Harry Zagray. The approximately 158-acre property is split between Hebron and Colchester, with access from Amston Road in Colchester but more acreage in Hebron.

Three times per year the museum hosts Zagray Farm Days, during which it exhibits unique and historic farm equipment, according to Ned Tewksbury, association member. The events are attended by up to 2,500 guests, who wander the grounds and buildings checking out the equipment while purchasing agricultural equipment and, occasionally, arts and crafts, from vendors.

Equipment featured at farm days either belongs to association members or has been donated to the museum. Often when pieces arrive, many of which are more than 100 years old, they are not working. An association mechanic, who according to Tewksbury is so good "he could make a stone run," takes a look and figures out the problem. Soon enough, they are cranking and buzzing.

During farm days, most of the machinery is actually running.

"People like to see things running," Tewksbury said. "We like to pride ourselves as a working museum."

Inside one building, a 43,000-pound Fairbanks Morse Engine runs. According to Tewksbury, Ed Brazanson, one of the association founders, moved the heavy machine to the cement floor with a crane before the building

was built around it.

Outside the building, single cylinder gas engines, which come in all sizes, are lined up. The "hit-or-miss engines" – as Tewksbury calls them because they tend not to ignite on every rotation of the piston – hiss and spit as spectators watch.

"They don't fire every time," he said. "They're neat to listen to."

The engines were used on off-the-beaten-path farms with no electricity to run generators, pump water, and power things like grain vacuums and milking machines, Tewksbury said.

"They actually had a little tiny one to run washing machines," he said. "There's no end to what you can do with them."

There's also a working sawmill from 1878 on the property. The association uses it to cut and plane boards used in constructing museum buildings and offers demonstration on it on farm days. Stanley Zagray, the oldest of three brothers who farmed the property until old age, bought the sawmill in Granby, and used it while the farm was in operation.

Zagray, a machinist who, according to Tewksbury, was released from the service during World War II so his valuable skills could be used to support the war from the civilian side, inventing what is called a "double-acting dog" that was added to the sawmill. Zaygray's name is embossed on the device, which holds logs in place.

When the museum first took residence on the farm in 2001, farm days primarily took place at the front of the property, on the Colchester side. Over time, however, they have expanded and have been slowly creeping to the Hebron side. Now most of the activity takes place in

Hebron, where some new buildings are in the planning.

In July 2017, the engineers association purchased the long-term lease for a portion of the farm from the Colchester Fish & Game Club, which held pheasant hunts there, Tewksbury said. The expansion will be done on the area where the hunts took place.

Currently, there are 10 buildings on the property; four are in Hebron and six are in Colchester. Some have been built by the engineers association and some were pre-existing, including the farmhouse and the large historic barn out front.

The biggest part of the expansion will be the Zagray Farm Museum Storage and Display Building, a 200-foot by 66-foot building where museum quality equipment will be stored and displayed, either by the engineers association or by members, who will lease space.

The project will also include a pavilion and restroom facilities. The 65-foot by 48-foot pavilion will have picnic tables and a kitchen, where Tewksbury's wife Dianne Tewksbury will continue her tradition of making breakfast sandwiches and some lunch offerings on farm days. Currently, she works out of a trailer and will be very pleased when her new digs are ready, her husband said.

The restroom has not yet been designed.

Tewksbury estimates the project will be completed by November, based on when the permits are issued by the town of Hebron.

"We would like to have it done before winter," he said.

On Tuesday, the Hebron Planning and Zoning Commission approved a special permit for

a museum for a 30-acre parcel in the residential zone, said Hebron Town Planner Mike O'Leary.

"It's been slowly transforming to a museum," he said of the Hebron portion of the property.

The next step will be for the association to come in with a site plan and get approval for the actual construction of the buildings, O'Leary said Wednesday. He anticipates that application will come in, in the next few days.

The association has already gone through the Conservation Commission for wetlands approvals. O'Leary said that was "the first step," and added, "We're just getting the process in the right order and getting it done. They're doing a great job down there."

O'Leary described the museum as giving "a view into farm life and what it looked like," which, he said was a good thing.

With the exception of the storage and display building, which will be made of prefab steel and contracted out to a construction company, the association builds all its own buildings and will build the pavilion and restroom facility, Tewksbury said.

Zagray Farm Shows take place in spring, summer and fall. The summer show will be this weekend, Saturday and Sunday, July 14 and 15, from 7 a.m.-4 p.m. New to the show this time will be a competitive antique tractor pull to take place Sunday. The event also includes tours of the 1930s farmhouse on the property.

Shows have about 125 vendors, who rent space for \$25 for the whole weekend. There are also numerous spectators.

"This place is full; checker-block full," Tewksbury said.

Maniscalco's Bosses Give Positive Review in East Hampton

by Sloan Brewster

Town Manager Michael Maniscalco is doing a great job, according to his latest evaluation.

Based on tabulations from the hand written or typed pages Town Council members filled out for Maniscalco's annual review, he rates 108.5 out of a possible 140 points.

Each sheet included sections for the council members to fill out on fiscal management, communications, services, personnel and professionalism. In each category, Maniscalco was assessed on a scale of superior, above average, average or needs improvement. Repeatedly, the selections indicated he was superior or above average, with only a few scattered check marks beside average and no indications he needs improvement in any category.

The points were calculated based on a score of one through four for each assessment, with superior getting four points and needs improvement getting one. The numbers were then added up to determine the final tally.

On Tuesday, the council and Maniscalco met in executive session to discuss the review.

"He had a positive review, probably one of the most positive since he's been here," Town Council Chairwoman Melissa Engel said Wednesday. "I think that's attributable to the fact that he has grown."

The good review reiterates the council's decision to give Maniscalco a 7.12 percent salary hike, Engel said.

In January, the council raised Maniscalco's salary from \$128,883 to \$138,000. The raise replaced the increase typically given with his annual review, according to the motion made by the council at the time it approved the raise.

After the decision to approve the raise, Engel said it was "overdue" and "well-deserved." She said the rate hike was given in an effort to make up for a low salary.

Maniscalco was 30 years old when he was hired in 2012 at \$115,000. He followed several interim town managers who came on board in the wake of Jeffery O'Keefe's resignation from the position. O'Keefe's starting salary was \$120,000 when he was hired in 2008.

Maniscalco received a 1.5-percent salary increase in 2016 and a 3-percent raise last year.

Data from the Connecticut Town Manager's Association provided by Maniscalco indicates that town managers in municipalities with populations of 11,000 to 15,000 – Coventry, East Hampton, Granby, North Branford and Tolland – received an average salary of roughly \$138,000 in 2017.

A big plus for Maniscalco, according to Engel, is his ability to manage the town's finances.

"I think he's very astute fiscally," she said. "He's worked well with finance director Jeff Jylkka to weather us through the storm created by the state deficit."

For two years running, Maniscalco, with Jylkka, has presented a tight budget to the Town Council, something he did not have to be asked to do, according to Engel. The Republican chairwoman said there was no need for members to admonish him to make more cuts.

"They've held spending, certainly on the general government side to basic needs only," she said. "They presented that way right out of the gate."

Maniscalco said in determining budget proposals, he and department heads sit down to discuss revenues and expenditures for a full picture. He also listens to residents to determine what services and perks are important to them. When things get tough, however, sometimes those things have to be reevaluated, he added.

"It's about what are your priorities," he said. "I have pretty regular conversations with members of our community here especially at budget time."

Maniscalco also pointed out that the town does not have a budget yet for next fiscal year as it has failed twice due to a disagreement between the town and the Board of Education on how to use a state education grant.

Council members, who included detailed comments with Maniscalco's assessments, said the town was in great fiscal shape and budget proposals have proven "financially reasonable

and responsible."

"The town manager led the way through the morass which was the state budget," wrote Tim Feegel, who noted Maniscalco as superior in fiscal management. "He provided good planning to anticipate state actions and plan accordingly. This includes a successful tax sale recovering revenue for the town."

Through the tax sale, the town sold off a list of properties it had confiscated due to unpaid taxes, Engel said.

The tax sale was part of a "robust deficit mitigation package" to help recover revenue lost because of state cuts, Maniscalco said. Of 50 seized properties, 25 to 30 were auctioned off, generating \$1.5 million.

"[The amount] basically covers the loss of state revenue and then some," Maniscalco said. "I do tell [the council] all the time that was a one-time hat trick that we can't pull off all the time."

Several councilors credited Maniscalco in written comments with improving his skill set in the personnel category, which looks for management success in areas including service delivery, teamwork and increased staffing efficiency. Others suggested lingering problems exist.

Council member Kevin Reich said the town manager has successfully hired extremely talented staff in the face of "many staff changes in his short tenure."

Councilor Mark Philhower said the building department "still needs work." Council members have expressed concerns about issues, including slow permit application turnaround times, for the past several years (See related story on the cover.)

Councilor Josh Piteo described Maniscalco as "too lenient with insubordinate employees."

"If a staff member is adversely affecting fellow employees, changes need to be made," Piteo said. "The town manager generally has good relations with the staff; there are exceptions, however. Negative people need to be handled in other different and more effective ways."

Engel lauded Maniscalco for his responsive-

ness to his own staff as well as the wider community. She said he is there when he is needed and puts in extra time, according to Engel.

"He's very responsive, which is important in a town manager; Whether it be to an emergency, an accident, a fire, he doesn't miss them," she said. "He puts in extra time. He's at the scene of a fire to see what the town can do to help a misplaced family."

He was there for the police department when, while directing traffic on Labor Day 2016, Officer Hardie Burgin was struck by a car.

"That was a crisis situation for us and our police department," she said.

Maniscalco and then-Police Chief Sean Cox focused on getting Burgin the best care possible and maintaining the police department, Engel said.

"They handled it very well," she said.

Maniscalco also got high marks on communication. He keeps the council informed on all matters, according to Engel, and "misses nothing."

"No one has ever done a better job keeping us informed – whether we like the info or not," wrote Kevin Reich on his evaluation sheet, adding that Maniscalco attends "many, many, many meetings, services, ceremonies."

Engel also spoke of Maniscalco's heavy involvement with state, local and regional government agencies, including the Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments (RiverCOG) and the Chatham Health District, as well as his efforts to regionalize services. She cited the new shared emergency dispatch arrangement with the town of Glastonbury and a shared dog pound with East Haddam.

Maniscalco described the review as fair. He said he appreciated the good comments about his staff members and the way departments function under his leadership.

"We work very well as a team here," he said. He also added that his work is ongoing.

"We have a lot of work and a long way to go for making our community a great place to live and work," he said.

East Hampton Town Manager Seeks Oversight of Fire Marshal's Office

by Elizabeth Regan

Town Manager Michael Maniscalco has proposed revisions to local ordinance that would put him in charge of day-to-day management of the local fire marshal's office.

The responsibility to hire and fire a fire marshal would remain with the Board of Fire Commissioners, as dictated by state statute.

The change would strengthen oversight based on concerns about productivity and time management within the department, according to Maniscalco.

Part-time Fire Marshal Richard Klotzbier and part-time Deputy Fire Marshal Joe Guest currently report to the Board of Fire Commissioners at its monthly meetings.

Under the proposed ordinance, employees of the fire marshal's office would report to Maniscalco, who would be responsible for "determining compliance" with the listed duties.

Those duties include conducting building inspections, site plan reviews and fire investigations as well as issuing explosives permits and open burning permits.

Board of Fire Commissioners meeting minutes from May revealed concerns that the fire marshal was advised to "prioritize those items which affect life safety" because he isn't allotted enough hours in the budget to complete his duties.

"If and when people begin to complain about having to wait for things like plan reviews, the Town Council will be reminded that the Fire

Marshal has more tasks than time," the minutes stated.

Maniscalco told Town Council members on Tuesday that he and fire commission Chairman Brett Salafia came up with the idea to revise the ordinance in response to resident concerns about what's happening in the fire marshal's office and who's responsible for managing it.

"As a result, we kind of came to the conclusion that it'd probably be good, seeing as I'm here every day, to have somebody in my office – probably going to be me – overseeing the fire marshal's activities in his office," Maniscalco said.

Maniscalco told councilors he would conduct annual performance reviews in the fire marshal's office as he does with the rest of the town staff, but would then "turn it over" to the fire commission for input before finalizing those reviews.

Klotzbier on Wednesday declined to comment at length because he had not yet seen the draft ordinance proposal. But he did say he didn't think there'd be much of a change based on what he'd heard so far.

"For me, it doesn't really make a difference," he said.

Salafia did not return the *Riverast's* calls for comment, but responded by email to say he had nothing to add to what Maniscalco said.

"The BOFC acts as a board," he wrote. "We discuss all matters at our open meetings."

The commission's last meeting was held Monday, the day before Maniscalco's presentation to the council. Salafia said he was unable to attend the council meeting due to a work commitment.

The commission will likely be present at future Town Council meetings "to make its public comment," according to Salafia.

Chain of Command

Maniscalco has said it wasn't until mid-2016 that he discovered state statute specifies the fire marshal reports to the fire commission, not the town manager. He had been looking into a suggestion from councilors to explore regionalizing the fire marshal's office when an opinion from the town's legal counsel revealed the correct chain of command.

Maniscalco issued a memo to fire commission members at the time to outline their authority. He also informed them the council was concerned about job performance within the fire marshal's office.

The council's concerns at the time were revealed in the context of Maniscalco's annual review, which devolved that year into an impromptu analysis of Klotzbier's work. Several councilors blamed Maniscalco for failing to address resident complaints against the fire marshal.

"Several of us have had calls and personal stops at the grocery store with regard to this one particular staff member," council member

Melissa Engel said at the time. "Maybe others, but I'm focused on this one because that seems to be the one that's had the majority of complaints."

Engel became chairman of the council this past November.

Maniscalco said this week he does not know how many residents have raised concerns about the fire marshal's office in the past two years because they would have been directed to the fire commission.

In 2013, a similar ordinance change was approved to bring then-Public Utilities Manager Vincent Susco under Maniscalco's supervision. The position is responsible for overseeing wastewater services to parts of East Hampton, Colchester, Hebron, Marlborough and Lebanon.

Current Public Utilities Manager Tim Smith took over for Susco in 2015.

According to the *Hartford Courant*, the ordinance change was prompted by controversies including a lawsuit involving sewage grinder pumps along Barton Hill Road. Opponents of the decision argued the position should have regional supervision.

The amendment to the Board of Fire Commissioners ordinance will be discussed again at the council's next meeting on July 24, councilors said.

Town charter dictates a public hearing must be held before councilors can establish or alter an ordinance.

Andover Police to Diffuse Sticker Shock at Transfer Station

by Sloan Brewster

The resident state trooper will have a presence at the town transfer station Saturday after aggressive behavior from some residents last weekend.

Town Administrator Joseph Higgins, at Wednesday's Board of Selectmen meeting, said Trooper Darrell Tetreault had agreed to switch his hours so he can be at the dump when it is open Saturday.

Some folks who went to the dump last weekend were upset when learning they couldn't get in because they had failed to purchase stickers to allow them access, according to selectmen and Higgins.

In a phone call Thursday, Higgins said some customers have been argumentative but that no one had been violent.

"When things escalated, our attendants have been professional," he said.

Some people have also been rude to Town Clerk Carol Lee when purchasing the stickers, Higgins said. He added that the majority of residents have been polite and only a handful of folks have complained.

"It's obviously not everybody," he said. "I've gotten some complaints in my office as well.

It's a new program; some people aren't receptive of it."

Also Thursday, board Vice Chairman Jeff Maguire forwarded the *Rivereast* an email sent to Higgins and selectmen by resident Edward Sarisley Sunday. Sarisley said he was at the dump Saturday and "witnessed some very disturbing things."

"Both town employees were being harassed, verbally abused and verbally threatened by several people who were missing new dump stickers but were determined to dump their trash after being asked to please leave," Sarisley wrote in the email.

Sarisley asked that the officials consider having the trooper at the dump when it is open.

Selectman Cathleen Dersosiers said she was surprised there were still people unaware of the stickers.

In March, the board voted to incur a transfer station fee of \$40 for the first two cars per household and \$20 for every additional car.

In May, Board Chairman Robert Burbank suggested reducing the fees but a motion to do so was knocked down by the rest of the board. Then, last month, the board denied a motion to

cancel the fees before anyone had actually paid them. Only Burbank was in favor of the motion.

In June, Resident Debbie Scanlon presented the board with a petition with 243 signatures requesting that the board reconsider the fees.

"We oppose the fee that is for the sticker," she said. "There's a lot of emotion to this."

Scanlon again brought up the matter of the petition Wednesday.

"How do I go about petitioning to get it to a town meeting?" she asked. "People were upset that they were not heard."

Burbank advised her to get the information from the town clerk on how to bring the matter to a town meeting.

Scanlon said she would request that the sticker fee be included in a special town meeting selectmen are planning to schedule for the consideration of an \$80,000 request for designs to repair the Bunker Hill Bridge.

Scanlon was not the only resident who expressed concern about the stickers at Wednesday's meeting. Wally Barton also raised the matter, stating there were long lines in town hall of residents waiting to get the stickers and

that the stickers were causing problems for the town clerk.

Dersosiers expressed shock when she spoke of the situation.

"People were aggressive," she said. "It's really shocking how many people in this community are aggressive."

Maguire invited folks to come yell at him instead of the transfer station attendants.

"I think it's sad that people would yell at [a town employee]," he said. "If you want to yell at me, come to the meeting and yell at me don't yell at [a town employee]."

In a phone call Thursday, Maguire said he was disheartened.

"I did not believe that a trooper would need to be positioned at the transfer station because I had a higher belief in the residents of Andover that they wouldn't be rude and disrespectful to an employee who was only doing his job. I was wrong," he said. "No one wants to pay extra money for anything, no one wants to pay any more taxes, no one wants to pay for services rendered but sometimes making people pay for services is the best way to reduce overall costs."

Portland Driveway to Turn to Gravel

by Elizabeth Regan

Five years later, local golf course founder John J. Kelley Sr. is returning his paved driveway to its natural gravel state after losing a prolonged battle with the town and the court system.

Kelley is the former owner of the adjacent Quarry Ridge Golf Course, as well as other golf courses in town and around the state.

Kelley told the *Rivereast* this week he will start ripping up the driveway when his contractor from Marlborough-based Fuller Paving is able to set aside the roughly three days it will take to remove the driveway. Kelley's attorney, George Law, had first informed the town in April that the work was set to commence, but the Kelleys did not receive the go-ahead from the town until late last month.

Neighbors Sharon Hoy, of Rose Hill Road, and Melissa Gerrier-Satagaj, of Collins Hill Road, have contended the paved driveway created flooding issues that compromise their properties and threaten safety on Rose Hill Road.

Gerrier-Satagaj on Monday said it's been five years to the day since Zoning Enforcement Officer Bob Spencer formally ordered Kelley to restore the driveway to its natural state.

She alleged Kelley is given preferential treatment by officials because he has developed three Portland golf courses.

According to court documents, Spencer issued a notice of violation on July 8, 2013, based on stormwater runoff concerns from the 1,200-foot driveway at 1 Rose Hill Road. The paving project was not complete at the time. Spencer issued a cease and desist order the following day, which is the same date the paving project was completed.

A Middlesex Superior Court judge in September 2016 dismissed Kelley's lawsuit against the town, ruling that the Zoning Board of Appeals was justified in upholding the cease and desist order. The ruling was largely based on a 2006 approved plot plan specifying the existing gravel driveway was "to remain in its natural state, including the grass."

Kelley has argued all along that regulations do not prohibit the paving of a residential driveway and that, in some cases, the regulations require paving.

Hoy and Satagaj added themselves as defendants in Kelley's lawsuit through the legal process known as intervention, a method of giving a voice to those who might not otherwise be heard in a case. They have been working with the town attorney and local officials since the lawsuit was dismissed to come to an agreement with Kelley.

"Five years and counting of the Kelley paving the driveway zoning violation. Five years – and still nothing done. Still a violation. Still no fines. Still creating a nuisance," Gerrier-Satagaj wrote in a June 29 email to selectmen. "Either the town is blatantly refusing to enforce

their own zoning statutes or they are choosing to unevenly enforce the statute. Which is it?"

Town Attorney Kari Olson, of Murtha Cullina, responded to Gerrier-Satagaj's email to emphasize what she described as the town's "exhaustive efforts" to address the driveway issue. She said much of the past two years has been spent trying to facilitate an agreement between the Kelley, Hoy and Satagaj families "to allow the driveway to stay and to actually improve the pre-existing conditions on site with respect to your property."

Gerrier-Satagaj rejected Olson's statement, arguing that she and Hoy have "gone above and beyond" to be available for walk-throughs and to be receptive to all proposed ideas.

"We did not create, condone, or coddle the zoning violation. The Town of Portland took that route," Gerrier-Satagaj told Olson. "How dare you imply that we couldn't come to an agreement, as that was not the case."

Hoy said this week that negotiations involved improvements on her property, as well as Santagaj's, that would have been made at Kelley's expense and would have enabled him to retain his paved driveway.

Kelley told the *Rivereast* he made the decision to remove the driveway because he "just can't satisfy" Hoy or Gerrier-Satagaj.

"We've spent near \$100,000 trying to resolve it, and just couldn't. They just wanted more and more," Kelley said.

According to a June 26 email thread between Law, Olson and Town Engineer Geoffrey Jacobson supplied in response to a Freedom of Information request, Olson granted Kelley's attorney permission to remove the existing driveway and bring the base to its state "at the time of the site plan approval."

First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield said this week she is working closely with Olson, Law and Jacobson to ensure the driveway is returned to the way it was back in 2006.

"Our engineer will go out to make sure that happens," she said.

She acknowledged the Kelleys, Hoy and Santagaj's came "very close" to an agreement that would have allowed the driveway to remain.

"It could not be resolved, and I'm not going to say it's [because of] one entity or another. It's all entities," Bransfield said.

Both Gerrier-Satagaj and her husband, Bob Satagaj, remain adamant the situation has not been dealt with by Bransfield the same way other recent issues in town have been handled.

They cited litigation involving the family of Cathy O'Keefe, a physically-disabled Main Street woman, who erected a 20-foot by 24-foot gravel parking area in their front yard to make it easier for her to access the house. While neighbors argued the parking area was unsightly, dangerous and a drain on property values, the O'Keefes contend it is a reasonable accommodation as protected by the Americans



Melissa Gerrier-Satagaj and Bob Satagaj placed signs in their yard to protest their neighbors' paved driveway, which has been causing flooding and erosion issues for five years despite a former zoning enforcement officer's 2013 order for the owners to replace it with gravel.

with Disabilities Act.

The town filed an injunction with the Middlesex Superior Court in February 2017 to force the O'Keefes to stop parking in front of their home and to remove the parking area, weeks before the Zoning Board of Appeals heard the family's request for a variance. The Zoning Board of Appeals ultimately denied the variance to allow the gravel parking area to remain in front of their house in a 2-2 vote.

The O'Keefes filed their own lawsuit against the Zoning Board of Appeals in March of that year, and the Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities in November lodged a complaint with the court on the family's behalf.

Bob Satagaj told selectmen during public comment at their meeting last month that Bransfield and town officials have been lenient in the Kelley case while holding others to stricter enforcement standards.

"They haven't shown any of the chutzpah or energy to keep Kelley on a short leash to get this done, yet they go after the O'Keefes. There's definitely not a symmetrical handling of both of these instances."

Gerrier-Satagaj at the same meeting pointed to case involving a local dog who bit a man on Old Marlborough Turnpike. The dog, Rocky, has been impounded for more than two years as his owner appealed the case through the Department of Agriculture and now the state Superior Court. Animal advocates have been vocal in appealing to selectmen to work with the owner to come to a compromise that would

allow the dog to go home.

"There is a feeling that there is a disregard for statutes and enforcement based upon who you are, who you know and who's in your family tree," Gerrier-Satagaj told selectmen.

She also invoked zoning issues involving Selectman Ben Srb, who himself has complained to fellow selectmen about unfair resistance from Bransfield when it comes to legal questions involving his various zoning applications.

Srb was chairman of the Zoning Board of Appeals in 2013 when the board upheld Spencer's cease-and-desist order for the Kelley driveway.

"It sounds like one selectman is on a hit list or something because he's with us," Gerrier-Satagaj said.

Bransfield this week said the town immediately enforced Spencer's cease-and-desist order when it was issued. But she added the case had to make its way through the legal system in order to protect the due process rights of those accused of zoning violations.

"It's not a quick process. It is involved. This is not the only matter that the court is involved with. And it's not the only matter that the town is involved with," she said.

She said she could not go into details on the O'Keefe case because it is ongoing.

"As first selectman, I don't compare cases to one another because there are many factors associated with each property and each circumstance that we certainly need to review," she said.

Obituaries

Middle Haddam

Charles Harmon

Charles "Chic" Harmon of Middle Haddam passed away Saturday, July 7. He was 61 years old. Chic was born in Akron, Ohio, to J.E. "Phil" Harmon and Barbara Templeton Harmon.

His early childhood was spent on the Naval Academy campus where his father taught after his deployments at sea. One of the highlights of his childhood was attending a football camp taught by Roger Staubach. He became a lifelong fan of the Dallas Cowboys, enjoyed watching NASCAR races and loved riding his triumph hardtail motorcycle when he was younger.

As a father, Chic spent many hours driving to visit his daughter Melissa; they enjoyed many movies and mini golf outings when she was younger. With the birth of son Stephen, the family needed to spend more time at their home in West Palm Beach, Fla. Chic helped coach Stephen's Little League team and was Assistant Scoutmaster for Stephen's Cub Scout pack. After the family relocated to Connecticut in 1999 due to his wife's work for Pratt and Whitney, Chic also acted as Assistant Scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop 57 in East Hampton.

Chic worked as an architectural draftsman; first on vellum and later self-taught on the computer. He worked under a protégé of Frank Lloyd Wright, and founded his own drafting company drawing construction documents for a wide range of municipal and office buildings, luxury homes, and the Riverhouse in Haddam.

Chic attended The Charismatic Episcopal Church Seminary and was ordained deacon in 2005. During his studies he was led to the Roman Catholic Church, which he joined in 2011. Chic was a member of Saint Patrick Catholic Church and the Knights of Columbus Belltown Council 6190.

Chic leaves behind his loving wife, Patricia "Patty" Harmon; his daughter, Melissa Harmon Faber (Ryan Faber) of Port Orford, Ore., from his first marriage; son, Stephen (Phoebe Harmon) of East Hampton; brother, Rick Harmon; sister, Susan Blackburn (Jerry Blackburn); nephews, Andrew, James and Sam; nieces, Danielle, Sarah, Stephanie and Dominique; as well as grandchildren Matthew, Arianna, Mason and Damien.

A memorial Mass will be held Saturday, July 21, at 10 a.m., in St. Patrick Church, 47 West High St., East Hampton. Burial will be in St. Patrick Cemetery, East Hampton. Friends may call at the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, Friday, July 20, from 5-7 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Saint Patrick Church of East Hampton, 47 West High St., East Hampton, CT 06424.

Andover

Ronald P. and Kimberly A. Workman Willhide

Ronald P. and Kimberly A. Workman Willhide, formerly of Andover, were tragically killed in a car accident while visiting Texas Tuesday, June 12.

Ron, 71, was born on Andrews Air Force Base, Md., to the late Paul E. Willhide and Mary E. (Bean) Willhide. He spent his younger years in Manchester, before the family moved to San Jose, Calif. Ron graduated Pioneer High School in San Jose, Calif., and California State University in Chico, Calif.

Ron is survived by his sister, Carol Mathews of Mesa, Ariz.; and his brothers, Russell Willhide of Mesa, Ariz.; Richard Willhide and his wife April of Manchester; Roger Willhide and his partner Wanda of Moodus; and seven nieces and one nephew.

Kim, 68, was born in Kiamath Falls, Ore., to the late Robert Workman and Frances N. (Gawthrop) Workman. She grew up on the family farm in Tulelake, Calif. She graduated Tulelake High School in Tulelake, Calif., and California State University in Chico, Calif. Kim is survived by her sister Judith Cox, Meeteetse, Wyo.; her brother, R. Craig Workman and his wife Jennifer, Reno, Nev.; and one nephew.

Ron and Kim met while attending college. They were married 44+ years. They have lived in Riverside, Calif.; Andover (where Ron worked for Pratt & Whitney and Kim as a travel agent); they lived a couple years in a RV while traveling throughout Mexico before they settled in Gilbert, Ariz.

Ron was fluent in Spanish. Ron was a baseball enthusiast and loved being an umpire. Kim loved sewing and crafts. They both enjoyed reading and traveling. They will now be together for all eternity.

Services will be private.



Colchester

Rosaria Brady

Rosaria (Sadie) Brady, 83, a lifetime resident of Colchester, entered Heaven's gates Friday, June 1. She was the loving and devoted wife of the late Wesley R. Brady Sr. with whom she shared 49 happy years of marriage. Sadie was born in Connecticut Feb. 10, 1935, and was the daughter of the late Mary and Charles Guarnaccia.

She was predeceased by her three siblings Charles Guarnaccia, Carol Kelly, and Salvatore Guarnaccia as well as her niece, Mary Parlee. Sadie was a dedicated and prosperous hair stylist and salon owner in Colchester for over 50 years alongside her daughter. Her passion was her business, and she was dedicated to her clients, whom she loved seeing each week. Her vibrant, warm and outgoing nature was what everyone loved about her. Sadie loved people and always lit up a room.

Sadie is survived by her daughter, Mary Lu Reed and son-in-law Rick Reed of Hebron; her granddaughter, Maryssa Edele and husband Keith Edele of Hebron, and her beloved great-grandchildren, Ella and Branden Edele; among many other nieces, nephews, and close friends.

Sadie's passing was unfortunately and insensitively withheld from her family and friends until just recently, which is incomprehensible. In order to celebrate her life in a manner in which she deserved, details regarding a Celebration of Life will be announced in the upcoming weeks.



Colchester

Nancy Patch Knapp

Nancy Patch Knapp, 76, formerly of Pittsford, Vt., and Colchester, and most recently from the Meadows in Rutland, Vt., passed away Tuesday, July 10, after a courageous battle with Parkinson's disease. Nancy was born April 27, 1942, at the Rutland Hospital, the daughter of Robert E. and Ida Churchill Patch.

She married Henry B. Knapp in 1989; he predeceased her in 1993.

Nancy spent her early life in Pittsford, graduating from Pittsford High School in 1960, and then Castleton State College in 1964. She then embarked on a 35-year teaching career in Colchester, almost entirely as a fifth-grade teacher. She retired in 1999, at which time she was recognized by the Colchester Police Department for her involvement in the DARE Program. She was instrumental in establishing a geography bee for her students. Nancy worked with the Colchester Recreation Department as a crafts instructor at Day Pond State Park. She also was a volunteer at Sturbridge Village for many years.

After retirement, Nancy was a longtime volunteer at the Colchester Senior Center. She was also a member of the Colchester Federated Church. She loved to travel and ventured to many far off places, including Africa, Kenya, Alaska, to name a few. In her later life she took up golf.

Nancy is survived by her brother Charles R. Patch (Gail) of White River Junction, Vt., and her Sister Mary (Thomas) Bushey of Pittsford, Vt., along with several nieces and a nephew and several great nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, July 14, at the Barnard Funeral Home in Pittsford, Vt. A graveside service will follow at 2:30 p.m. in Evergreen Cemetery in Pittsford.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Pittsford Historical Society, P.O. Box 423, Pittsford, VT 05763 would be appreciated.



Colchester

Carol Dufour

Carol (Cormier) Dufour, 73, of Colchester, beloved wife of Raymond, passed away suddenly from natural causes Monday, July 10, at Hartford Hospital. Born May 10, 1945, in Lawrence, Mass., she was the daughter of the late Alfred and Rita (Nadeau) Cormier.

Carol grew up in Lawrence and was a graduate of St. Mary's High School. She had worked as a senior clerk for the Massachusetts Electric Co. for 10 years. After settling in Colchester to raise her family, Mrs. Dufour went on to work for Liberty Bank for many years. In her spare time, Carol was an avid writer and was active with "Write Stuff."

In addition to her loving husband of nearly 45 years, she leaves their daughter, Lisa DeFrancesco, her husband, Mikel and their four children, Mason, Evan, Tanner and Gianna, all of Franklin, Mass.; and numerous extended family and friends.

She was predeceased by her brother, Robert J. Cormier.

The family will receive guests from 5-7 p.m. today, July 13, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester, before a chapel service at 7 p.m. Burial will be private.

Donations in her memory may be made to the Parkinson's Foundation, 200 SE 1st St., Ste. 800, Miami, FL 33131 (parkinsons.org).

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.



East Hampton

Holly A. Williams

Holly A. (Woodhall) Williams, formerly of East Hampton, passed away Wednesday, July 4, at Day Kimball Hospital after a brief illness. She was born in 1964 in Middletown, the daughter of Bruce L. Woodhall and Dawn (Cleghorn) Woodhall.

Holly was predeceased by her mother Dawn and brother Bruce.

Holly is survived by her husband of 11 years, Jeffrey Williams of Monticello, Maine, and Woodstock; her son, Ryan Plourde of East Hampton; daughter, Kasandra Caron of East Hampton along with her children Karley Caron and Brantley Bower; her stepdaughter Lauryn and husband Ryan and three children, Quinn, Mason and Gracelyn; two aunts, Vicki Baker and her husband Jonathan of Margate, Fla., Lynne Cleghorn and her husband Bob Edwards of Chester; and one uncle, Andrew Cleghorn and his wife Linda of Margate, Fla.; and all of her cousins and their children.

There will be no services as this was her wish. Holly also wanted to thank her family and friends for enriching her life.

The family wishes to thank Hospice of Northeast Connecticut for their tireless devotion to make Holly's end of life journey both comfortable and peaceful. Please make your memorial contribution to Hospice of Northeast Connecticut, 320 Pomfret St., Putnam, CT 06260.

Portland

Gary Yeaw

Gary Yeaw, beloved husband of Frances Yeaw for 50 years, passed from this world of suffering Monday, July 2.

He leaves his most precious accomplishments, his sons Christopher and Jason, and his dear daughter-in-law, Nan. He also leaves his grandchildren, the lights of his life, Grace, Mary, and John, the children of Chris and Nan.

Born in 1949 to Mabel and Robert Yeaw, Gary also leaves his siblings, Robert, Sandra, and Barbara. Gary was predeceased by his brothers Lawrence and Douglas.

Gary served his country honorably for four years in the Marine Corps Air Wing during the Vietnam War. He worked for several Connecticut companies throughout his life in manufacturing, as both a production planner and a master scheduler. One of the great joys of his life was walking the Air Line Trail with his wife.

He was a brave though not always happy warrior of heart disease, having survived a massive heart attack at age 47, which impacted much of his adult life. His wife and children salute his bravery in the face of medical adversity. He did it until he could do it no longer. We love you P, Gary, Dad, and Grampa. Rest in Peace.

We wish to thank all his doctors, nurses, and caregivers, especially Drs. Coming, Friedman and Weis. Thanks to friends and family for your love, condolences and support.

Funeral services will be private.

Portland

Jeanette E. Bailey

Jeanette E. (Warzecha) Bailey, of Portland, also known as Babcia, Ciocia, mom, Mrs. B., was born during the winter of 1921 in Middletown. She passed away peacefully in her own home at the age of 96 during the summer of 2018.

She was the daughter of Alexandra (Alice) and Joseph Warzecha, both born in Poland. Married to Edgar W. Bailey, also of Middletown, where they met at the Goodyear Factory in Middletown. Together they raised eight children, Marianne Pritchard (George) of Ohio; Michael Bailey of Connecticut; Walter Bailey of Missouri; Joseph Bailey (Lisa) of Massachusetts; Jeffery Bailey (Christine) of Massachusetts; Joanne Canalas (Maximo) of Connecticut; Rita Walsh (Steven) of New Hampshire; Christopher Bailey of Arkansas. She is also proud grandmother to 12 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren.

She was predeceased by her sister, Theresa and brothers, Walter (Andy), Edward (Eddie), Charles (Charlie), Joseph (Hawk), Louis (Louie), George (Salty), and Theodore (Teddy).

Jeanette not only raised eight children, but enjoyed a life-long career as a registered nurse. Jeanette trained in Concord, N.H., at what once was the State Hospital. After her training, World War II broke out and Jeanette served in the United States Army, ranked 1st lieutenant. Jeanette loved her visits to Germany, England, Switzerland and Ireland to name a few. She not only loved being a nurse but the opportunities it presented to her travel and meet all kinds of wonderful people.

Outside of nursing, she enjoyed spending time with family away from home as well as at home. She also enjoyed cooking, sewing, crocheting, ceramics, reading, gardening, word search puzzles, movies (action-packed) and going to shows. Musicals were her favorite. She always had the radio on in the kitchen and would often be heard singing while working. Her greatest pleasure was her family. Recently, she was talking with one of her grandsons and stated that what brought her the most joy in life was knowing that her family was happy, healthy, and everyone got along.

She was always doing little things that brought great joy to people. Simple things like baking an apple pie, sending a birthday card – the old-fashioned way; snail mail. In lieu of flowers, carry on this tradition. Pay it forward.

The family would like to extend a special thank you to Dr. Jessica Roehr and the hospice team at Middlesex Hospital. Friends may call at Biega Funeral Home, 3 Silver St., Middletown, today, July 13, from 5-8 p.m. The funeral liturgy will be held Saturday, July 14, at 10 a.m. at St. Mary Church, Freestone Avenue, Portland. Burial, with military honors, will be in Pine Grove Cemetery, Middletown.

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



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Colchester

Marian Major

Marian (Jaffe) Major of Lebanon passed peacefully Thursday, July 5. She was born Nov. 22, 1918, in Colchester. Marian was the youngest of a family of seven children.

She was predeceased by her beloved son, Kenneth, as well as her sisters and brothers.

Marian is survived by her loving son, Alan; nephew Myron Schulman and his wife, Shelley, and their family; nephew Mel Sandler and his wife, Leni, and their family; and nephew Irwin Sandler and his wife, Linda, and their family.

Marian graduated from Bacon Academy and Willimantic Teachers' College with honors. As a young woman, Marian was a successful buyer at G. Fox & Company in Hartford. She later worked as a substitute teacher in Colchester and Bozrah, and became the Owner/Operator of the Jaffe Dairy Farm after the death of her brother, Milton. In her later years, that responsibility was entrusted to her dear son, Alan.

Marian was a good neighbor and was kind to people and animals alike. Her gregarious and sincere personality made her popular with friends, neighbors and farm customers as well. Marian liked taking pictures of her favorite things and people, and sharing these with others as well as her memories of the family farm in Lebanon. Her engagement in the family farm kept her young to the end.

Marian honored the teachings of her faith and observed seasonal holidays with her son.

The family wishes to express their heartfelt gratitude to the staff of Harrington Court, Colchester, for the extraordinary care and kindness provided to her; Beacon Hospice for the special care she received during her final days; and to her prior caregiver and devoted friend, Joanne B., for providing continuous comfort and support.

A memorial service was held Monday, July 9, at Church and Allen Funeral Home, 136 Sachem Street, Norwich, followed by burial at Brothers of Joseph Cemetery, Route 12, Preston (in front of the former Norwich State Hospital property).

The family requests that memorial donations be made, in Marian's name, to: Congregation Shuvah, P.O. Box 370374, West Hartford, CT 06137-0374 or Congregation Brothers of Joseph Burial Fund, 2 Broad St., Norwich, CT 06360.

Teens Flee After Crashing Car in Marlborough

State Police said that last week two teens fled after crashing an unregistered BMW on Burnt Hill Road.

At approximately 2 p.m. a BMW 325CI driven by a 16-year-old male was traveling westbound on Burnt Hill Road, police said. The driver told police that a deer ran out in front of the vehicle, causing him to lose control of the car.

The BMW exited the roadway off the right shoulder, became airborne and struck a tree,

police said.

The male driver and male passenger both went to the emergency room on their own with possible injuries, after leaving the BMW in a hayfield.

The vehicle was discovered after the medical staff reported the incident to police.

According to police, the driver was unlicensed, but had a learner's permit. The BMW was also not registered or insured.

Vehicle Collides with Bridge in Colchester

State Police said a collision with a bridge support on July 1 left one man with suspected minor injuries.

At approximately 7:14 p.m., a GMC Envoy driven by James J. Steirer, 62, of 24 Weymouth Rd., Enfield, was traveling westbound on Route 2, prior to exit 18 in the right lane. A Dodge RAM driven by Marshall D. Fillian, 19, of 1766 Farmington Ave., Unionville, was also traveling westbound, but

in the left lane.

Police said the Dodge Ram traveled into the right lane forcing the GMC Envoy off the road, without making contact. The envoy subsequently traveled into the right shoulder and up an embankment where the vehicle struck a cement bridge support.

Steirer was transported to Marlborough Clinic by the Colchester Fire Department with suspected minor injuries.

Colchester Vehicles Stolen, Rifled Through

Last Friday, July 6, at about 9 a.m., state police received reports of two stolen cars, and another one rifled through – all emanating from the same part of town.

One vehicle, a 2004 Toyota Camry, was reported stolen by a resident on Hunters Court who told police the vehicle was parked on the street in from his home the night before. The vehicle was unlocked with the keys inside, according to police. The second vehicle, a 2014 white Nissan Murano, was reported stolen

from a garage on Shady Brook Lane, also presumably the night before, police said.

A vehicle on Melanie Lane was also reported broken into, also presumably the night before, police said. Police said a backpack, a loaded Glock 43 9mm and the vehicle's front license plate were all reported stolen from the vehicle.

All three cases are currently under investigation, police said.

Hebron Police News

7/4: State Police said Brendan Santo-Christo, 19, of 81 Slocum Rd., was arrested and charged with evading responsibility/property damage, DUI and making an unsafe turn, after striking a utility pole on Route 66, near Jennifer Drive and leaving the scene. Santo-Christo was forced to pull over on Jennifer Drive due to mechanical failure, where he was subsequently taken into custody by police.

Colchester Police News

7/2: Colchester police said Ian Humphrey, 18, of 66 Stanavage Rd., was arrested and charged with third-degree criminal mischief, disorderly conduct and third-degree assault.

7/7: State Police said Sanel Korkutovic, 21, of 42 Theodore St., Newington, was arrested and charged with reckless driving, simple trespass and first-degree reckless endangerment.

Marlborough Police News

7/2: State Police said Christopher M. Losty, 22, of 102 Flood Rd., was arrested and charged with DUI and failure to drive right after police received several calls reporting that a vehicle driven by Losty, struck several objects and a vehicle on South Main Street and South Road.

7/7: State Police said Timothy F. Hunt, 49, of 1501 Morgan St., Nokomis, Fla., was arrested and charged with operating a motor vehicle under suspension, reckless driving at 103 mph, DUI and failure to drive in proper lane.

East Hampton Police News

7/4: Jordan Kentzler, 32, of 53 Flanders Rd., was arrested and charged with failure to drive right and driving under the influence, East Hampton Police said.

7/5: Elizabeth Warzecha, 26, of 158 Main St., was taken into custody pursuant to an active warrant for her arrest and charged with evading responsibility stemming from an April 19 motor vehicle accident at 205 West High St., in which a pedestrian was injured, police said.

From June 25-July 1, officers responded to 15 medical calls, eight motor vehicle accidents and 11 alarms, and made 13 traffic stops.