

RIVEREAST

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Donation from Kid Governor... Connecticut Kid Governor Megan Kasperowski recently presented a check for \$1,250, a portion of her fundraising proceeds, to the Connecticut Children's Medical Center in Hartford. Kasperowski, a Portland resident, was elected on a platform of "Stronger than Cancer: Lifting Spirits and Changing Lives." Her donation will be used to provide entertainment to children fighting cancer in Connecticut. State Rep. Christie Carpino (R-32) arranged for Kasperowski to tour the hospital and meet with the oncology and child life departments to discuss further ways to help children in need. Kasperowski is pictured with the hospital's Cancer Supportive Care Program Director Dr. Andrea Ordey.

Officials Question New Sober House

by Elizabeth Regan

There's a family of three living at 399 Main St. in Portland.

The residents are not bound by blood, but by a shared history of substance use and a hopeful future of sober living.

The single-family house was purchased by the Rev. Philip Bjornberg, a missional priest at Trinity Episcopal Church, for \$131,000 in December. Sober himself since 2003, Bjornberg calls the 4-bedroom, 2,021-square-foot residence "Follow Me Home."

There will be a maximum of six people living in the sober house at one time, according to Bjornberg. He maintains that local zoning regulations – which define family as "a single individual, or a collective body of persons doing their own cooking and living together upon the premises as a single housekeeping unit" – allow inhabitants of the house to live there with no more governmental oversight than any other single-family residence.

Zoning Enforcement Officer Dan Bourret said he has received complaints from two people since Bjornberg began fixing up the home this spring. Concerns revolved around how many people would be living at the home, how long they would be living there, and what kind of state or local oversight is required.

But sober houses have been largely unregulated at the state level because they don't provide medical or mental health treatment. Federal laws to protect people with disabilities and to promote fair housing set a high bar for municipalities to overcome if they want to make any regulations that could keep people in re-

covery from accessing the kind of living situation that fits their needs.

Both of the neighbors with complaints declined to speak with the *Rivereast* about their concerns.

Bourret said in a July 6 email to Town Attorney Kari Olson, of Murtha Cullina, that he was unsure if the town has the ability "to stop or regulate" the sober house.

It doesn't, according to Olson.

"Based upon your regulation's definitions, I do not see where you can prevent it," she wrote back on July 10.

Sober houses, sometimes referred to as half-way houses, are a way to ease the transition from inpatient drug and alcohol treatment back into the wider community.

According to the Portland Police records department, officers were called to the house three times this year: once because a car was parked along the road near the house, once because lights were seen in the house when it was thought to be uninhabited, and once because of a complaint of a loud party. Officers did not find a loud party and they were told by a resident that some people were talking at a reasonable level around a campfire in the yard, the department said.

Bjornberg went before the Planning and Zoning Commission last week to give a presentation on the sober house even though there is no pending application and, according to town staff, no need for one.

"We've been advised not to contest how he's
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Officials Hope Deal Ends Belltown Budget Woes

by Elizabeth Regan

A compromise forged by Town Manager Michael Maniscalco and Superintendent of Schools Paul K. Smith was approved by the Board of Finance Wednesday in the hope of ending this year's protracted budget season.

Opponents argue the plan does little to appease the two diametrically-opposed factions of the "no" voters that have struck down the general government budget proposal by an increasing margin with each new referendum: the education supporters who want money put back into the schools' budget, and the tax-weary residents who can't stomach another mill rate increase.

Maniscalco put it this way: "It's got to be a great compromise, because everybody's pissed off about it."

The compromise originated when Maniscalco approached Smith after last week's failed referendum, the officials said. Smith signed off on it and the document went public. But when the issue came up at Monday night's school board meeting, members unanimously objected to their superintendent's proposal. They said the plan didn't go far enough to restore teachers and to preserve funding for stu-

dent computer tablets.

That's the message Smith brought to the Board of Finance Wednesday, when he informed them he did not have the school board's support.

The finance board Republicans approved the compromise anyway. It was a 5-2, party-line vote.

The compromise endorsed by the finance board would use capital funding earmarked for education to instead restore two teaching positions that had been cut in the \$30.50 million schools' spending plan approved by voters in May. The \$14.95 million bottom line of the proposed general government budget remains the same as the one that was rejected in the third referendum last week by a vote of 1,085 to 613.

The mill rate associated with the finance board's proposed budget would represent a 0.89 mill increase. Property taxes for someone with a home assessed at \$250,000 would go up \$223 in the upcoming budget year if the general government budget passes.

The finance board's spending plan now goes to the town council. Members must approve the

final proposal before sending it to voters at a fourth referendum.

Education supporters have long decried the finance board's failure to assign some or all of an unexpected allocation of \$715,415 in Education Cost Sharing (ECS) funds from the state to mitigate a \$670,000 budget cut made by the board back when officials thought the state funding wouldn't be coming through.

The education budget, which was presented as a separate question at the initial budget referendum in May, passed on the first try by 125 votes despite the fact that it included the reduction of eight teaching positions.

Nancy Kohler stood up during the public comment portion of the finance board meeting to say she has voted no in each referendum on the town budget so far because she feels at least some of the ECS funds should be used to re-hire teachers to alleviate understaffing and overcrowding in classrooms. She also cited dissatisfaction with recent moves to use last year's budget surplus to pay for public works vehicles in cash instead of financing them over several years.

"We have voted 'no' because we disagree

with large, off-budget appropriations. We have voted 'no' because we think it is foolish to pay cash for pavers and plow trucks. We have voted 'no' because we feel the budgets presented have been bad budgets and we lack confidence in our town leadership," Kohler said. "We have voted 'no' because our pleas, our letters, our emails have fallen on deaf ears and our voters were our only remaining voice."

The compromise endorsed by the finance board would eliminate capital funding for asbestos abatement at Center School and security upgrades that in the past few years have included the purchase of radios, cameras and shatter-proof laminate for school windows. It would also reduce funding for teacher laptops and student tablet computers, known as Chromebooks, by \$90,500 and HVAC-related expenses by \$5,000.

"The weak part of this compromise is it really hits the Chromebooks," Smith said. He told finance board members he could probably pay for Chromebooks for sixth-grade students with the reduced funding if the proposed budget is approved, but replacement Chromebooks for

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defining family at this point because it does meet the definition of our zoning regulations,” Bourret told members of the commission.

Bjornberg’s philosophy of recovery revolves around what he described to the commission as “authentic community.” He said many people who have been successful in structured inpatient treatment programs could benefit from a similar type of camaraderie and support as they transition into the day-to-day life of sobriety.

Bjornberg, who resides in North Stonington, told commissioners the sober house is a place where people with addictions can escape the stigma of “somehow being defective, somehow being less than” those who haven’t experienced substance use disorders.

“They found an ability to flourish in fellowship with others who have had similar problems, sharing honestly and unashamedly about their circumstances,” he said. “There’s a real power in that.”

Bjornberg said in May that the single-family home in a residential area is ideal because it is removed from some of the temptations that could lead to relapse.

Planning and Zoning Commission Chairman Bruce Tyler asked Bjornberg what the residents of the home plan to do there.

Bjornberg said they plan to “be a family.” Then he flipped the question back to Tyler: “What do you propose to do in your home? The same sort of things.”

Alternate member Michael Woronoff, who was seated at last week’s meeting to replace an absent member, acknowledged the lack of regulation would not sit well with some neighbors. But he described the commission as powerless to do anything about it.

“I think if anybody wants to become extremely unpopular, get on your Planning and Zoning Commission,” he said. “Bottom line – and people aren’t going to like this – if someone takes [Bjornberg] to court, based on our

definition of family, he will win. There is no question about that.”

An ordinance passed elsewhere in eastern Connecticut this summer seems to indicate there may be other avenues municipalities can take when it comes to sober house oversight. A June 22 article in *The Day* said New London city councilors approved changes to the local code book that moved the formerly-unregulated sober houses into the same category as hotels, rooming houses and convalescent homes. That means sober homes must be licensed by the city after annual inspections by the fire marshal’s office, building inspector and health district.

The Day reported the New London ordinance defines sober houses as dwellings “occupied by more than five unrelated people, all of whom are in recovery from a substance use disorder or chemical dependency.”

A new state law going into effect on Monday will create a voluntary database of sober houses that have been certified by the National Alliance for Recovery Residences. It will also call for naloxone – an overdose-reversal drug most commonly known as Narcan – to be kept at homes in the registry.

Kitch Breen Czernicki, a former select-woman in town and a Main Street resident, said this week she applauds Bjornberg’s efforts to turn his vision into a reality. She reiterated the need for a “gentler way of living” for those with substance use disorders as they transition together from treatment to the “real world.”

“I think this house provides that,” she said. “A sense of security, a sense of comfort and a sense of community.”

Czernicki noted one big difference between 399 Main St. and the rest of the homes in town is that the struggles faced by those in the sober house are out in the open, while people in more traditionally-defined families may have problems nobody on the outside knows about.

“We all deal with something,” she said.

Budget Woes cont. from Front Page

ninth-graders would have to wait.

Several parents and two students told school board members on Monday that the lack of Chromebooks in the sixth grade puts the students at an unfair academic disadvantage because much of the middle school curriculum revolves around Chromebooks.

The savings would be used to restore a kindergarten teaching position and a high school English teacher for a total of \$140,000, according to Smith.

Finance board members emphasized the proposal leaves intact \$150,000 for safety upgrades in the elementary and middle schools so teachers can immediately lock their doors from the inside in the event of a lockdown.

Democrats Call for Higher Taxes

When the Board of Education two days prior rejected the compromise brokered by their superintendent, they instead recommended the finance board consider a different proposal made this summer by Finance Director Jeff Jylkka. Back when Jylkka proposed it, the plan would have used \$250,000 of last year’s budget surplus to pay for the interior door locks and student tablets so those capital funds could be used to hire three teachers.

Democrat school board member Jeff Carlson on Monday acknowledged most of the budget surplus, which would have funded the three teachers in Jylkka’s original proposal, has since been earmarked for the public works vehicles and library roof repairs. He said the money now should come from “increasing the town budget.”

Democrat finance board member Barbara Moore reiterated the idea in a failed motion at Wednesday’s meeting to institute the school board’s recommendation. When finance board Chairman Richard Brown noted the plan would increase the mill rate, her response was “Yes, it will.”

Jylkka said the mill rate increase would go from a 0.89 mill increase associated with the finance board’s proposal to a 1.1 mill increase if the Democrats’ plan to increase the budget went through.

All five finance board Republicans voted against the Democrats’ proposal.

Brown said Jylkka’s proposal was voted down this summer “because it was felt it was fiscally irresponsible and because it was based on a misunderstanding about the ECS grant.”

Brown argued the education grant from the

state is meant to reimburse the town for education expenses so taxpayers don’t have to bear the entire burden.

Smith acknowledged the intent of the grant but said the timing and circumstances surrounding this unusual budget season prompted the request to reinstate three teaching positions after the first failed referendum.

“I only had the audaciousness to ask for additional funding because prior to the [first] referendum, when our cut was made, the town was anticipating a \$1.2 million shortfall in ECS funding,” Smith said. But then state lawmakers decided to cut only \$500,000 from East Hampton’s education grant.

“Since the shortfall was not as large, perhaps there was a way we could get some of that,” he said.

Former Republican Finance Board Chairman Michael Rose resigned from the finance board immediately following that failed vote on reinstating the three teaching positions back in July. He cited the additional ECS funding, combined with the unexpectedly high 2017-18 budget surplus, as his reasons for breaking ranks with his fellow Republicans.

“When we have \$1.4 million that we didn’t plan on when we put these budgets together, it blows my mind that we would let teachers go. It just absolutely blows my mind,” he said at the time.

Board of Education member Nancy Oakley after Monday’s meeting expressed dissatisfaction with the finance board’s vote. She noted every resident who has approached her about the budget was in favor of reinstating three teachers and not touching the capital education funds.

“I have to answer to them and say ‘well, the Board of Education didn’t support it. You can choose what to do with this,’” she said. “We’ll just see how they vote.”

She did not blame Smith for endorsing the compromise before the school board could weigh in – even though the school board balked at the deal on Monday. She noted Maniscalco approached Smith only last week and that the superintendent brought the proposal to the school board at the very next regularly scheduled meeting.

“I think it’s appropriate for the two to discuss these things and bring something to their respective boards,” she said.

Advisory Question

Finance Board members also decided, at the request of Democrat Ted Turner, to recommend the Town Council add an advisory question to the next referendum ballot to help gauge voter intent.

The vote was unanimous.

The idea has been raised as a means of quantifying those who voted ‘no’ because they want money diverted to the education budget and those who voted ‘no’ because they feel taxes are too high.

Described by Brown as the “Goldilocks option,” the question would ask all voters if they feel the budget is too high, too low or just right.

Pigs and Ponies to Appear at Portland Fair

by Allison Lazur

Approximately 15,000 people will flock to the Portland Exchange Club grounds to partake in the Portland Agricultural Fair, scheduled to take place Oct. 5, 6 and 7.

Club Vice President Kelly Chester said the “small town, family friendly” festival will continue its yearly tradition with the Portland High School band kicking off the opening ceremony Friday night.

The animal pulls – another yearly favorite – will see two new additions this year.

While the usual oxen and cattle drawing will take place at 11 a.m. on Sunday, a new pony drawing was added, scheduled to take place Friday at 6 p.m., as well as a miniature horse pull on Saturday at 10 a.m.

Chester said she’s looking forward to the pulls and all the other animals that will make an appearance next weekend.

Upwards of 300 sheep, goats, cattle, ducks,

chickens, pigs and rabbits will steal the show.

“We have a tremendous petting zoo,” Chester said, adding that the exhibit will also offer pony rides.

Rosaire’s Rural Racers, a pig-racing company from Sarasota, Fla., will host races three or four times a day with shows about 30 to 40 minutes long, Chester said.

Pigs such as “Lindsay Loham” and “Donald Rump Roast” will race against the clock cheered on by a member of the audience assigned to each racing pig.

Chester said she saw the race take place in Florida and was excited for the event.

“It’s great for the kids; they love it,” she said. “It should be a lot of fun.”

A livestock obstacle course will be tackled by cattle, goats and sheep led by their handlers at noon on Sunday and a livestock costume parade is scheduled to follow at 3 p.m.

A new kids’ flower arranging session was added to Friday night’s lineup. Kids can learn to arrange flowers to take home and are asked to supply their own container. All other supplies will be provided.

The In Step Dance Studio, located just across the Arrigoni Bridge in Middletown, will perform a variety of dances Sunday at 10 a.m.

Those interested in learning about a piece of Portland history can visit the new Indian motorcycle display on Saturday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Chester explained that Oscar Hedstrom – a co-founder of the Indian Motorcycle Manufacturing Company – was a Portland resident.

She said admission is free and special parking on the grounds is provided to anyone operating an Indian motorcycle.

Throughout the three-day fair, attendees will

be able to hear tunes from five different bands. On Saturday, Jamie’s Junk Show will play at 7:30 p.m.; on Saturday, Dust Hat at noon, Jeff Pitchell at 3 p.m. and 8 To The Bar at 7 p.m.; and on Sunday, the Waylon & Willie tribute band at noon, with Portland’s own Michael Cleary Band closing out the festivities at 3 p.m.

* * *

Tickets for the fair are \$10 for adults; \$8 for those 65 and older and free for active/reserve military and children under 10.

The fair will run Friday, Oct. 5, from 5-11 p.m.; Saturday, Oct. 6, from 10 a.m.-10 p.m.; and Sunday, Oct. 7, from 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Chester said although efforts are made to adhere to the schedule of events, there is a possibility for changes and encouraged those planning on attending to check out portlandfair.com for regularly-updated information.

New Hebron Church Building ‘Warm, Welcoming and Worshipful’

by Sloan Brewster

The pastor of the nearly-completed Worship Center building has already planned his first sermon for the new space, which is expected to be completed in time for Thanksgiving.

The sermon will be on Psalm 48, the Rev. Mark Santostefano said.

“That psalm is about the presence, the power, the providence, and the proclamation of God in the midst of his church and I wanted those things to mark this place,” he explained.

This week, crews worked on the building, which has been under construction since September 2017 – about one year after the foundation was put down.

The sanctuary of the non-denominational Christian church takes up exactly half of the 6,000-square-foot edifice; the other 3,000-square feet is the ministry building. Though still unfinished, the ministry building will resemble a house so folks will feel welcome. In addition to offices, classrooms and a kitchen, there will be a sitting area with a fireplace and couches. A coffee cart will be there to accent the feeling of warmth and welcome.

On Wednesday, with the sounds of a table saw screeching in through an ajar door in the sanctuary, Santostefano gazed for the first time at a backlit stained glass window showering light upon the construction dust hovering in the room and on the recently refinished pews.

“This is the first time that I’ve seen it, today is the first time the whole thing is up,” he said of the colorful window. “I think it’s beautiful. It’s what I expected.”

The 14-by-10 foot window, made in 1946 and depicting the Good Shepherd, along with the pews, came from a church that was being demolished in Troy, N.Y. The idea, according to Santostefano, was to mix something old into the brand-new church and its modern conveniences, such as speakers and sound projectors.

“We wanted a sense of the old and the new,” Santostefano said.

Getting the window in was a project itself. It began at the New York church, where the window was taken down piece by piece and placed individually in protective plywood supports, before being shipped to Hebron.

Once the pieces were in town, frames had to

be made for every piece and then someone had to figure out a way to backlight it. The answer came with LED lighting.

A last challenge will be finding an appropriate material to place between the individual pieces to cover the light bulbs, which could be seen popping through spaces in the glass Wednesday.

The post and beam sanctuary was designed with Biblical symbolism in mind – the stained-glass window being the focal point – and to direct eyes upward, Santostefano and Sharon Gonyaw said in April.

“When you step into the sanctuary and you look up 32 feet high, it just points you Godward,” Gonyaw said then.

The two designed the church together but since April, Gonyaw has retired and moved to Florida.

“It’s turning out the way my friend Sharon and I designed it years ago,” Santostefano said Wednesday, adding that he expects Gonyaw to visit the church at some point. “We really miss her.”

While Santostefano is hopeful the church will be finished before Thanksgiving, he said that’s a conservative prediction, and that Scott Majek, project manager, thinks it will be completed by the end of October.

In the meantime, the church will continue to hold Sunday services at Timothy Hall at 39 Prentice Hill Rd., where the church currently rents office space.

Items yet to be completed in the new building include finishing the trim and the stage where the altar will be, wrapping up the floor installation, refinishing some more pews and doing the site work, including the 250-car parking lot.

“In building a church, the devil is always in the details, and there’s always difficulties that you need to deal with,” Santostefano said.

Some challenges they have encountered so far included unexpected requirements from the state, such as a last-minute change in what was needed before water testing could be completed.

“They said when they tested the water all they needed was the drinking fountain up,” Santostefano said. “Then they changed their minds and said all the sinks needed to be up so



A 14-by-10 foot backlit stained glass window depicting the Good Shepherd is the focal point of the nearly-completed new Worship Center building. Plans are for the first service to be held before Thanksgiving.

we had to scramble and get all the sinks in.”

Rain has also proven a problem, causing delays with the cement installation.

Putting in the lighting proved to be a different sort of issue, with difficulty in making the chandeliers dimmable because they contain lead and it required special components.

The vinyl flooring is laid out with the tiles resembling wood-grain framing and covering the stage area and the larger gray tiles filling the remainder of the floor. Only that was not the original plan. The gray tiles were meant to go all the way to the stage with the wooden-like ones only on the stage itself.

“The company got our order mixed up a bit so we had to improvise,” Santostefano said. “They sent not enough of the [gray] tiles and too much of the wood [tiles].”

Santostefano said he was pleased with the church so far.

“The vision that I had originally would be that this church would be warm, welcoming and worshipful,” he said. “We wanted a lot of light and some symbols.”

One such symbol is a set of huge antique wings hanging above the doorway to the sanctuary.

“You meet with God between the wings of the cherubim,” the pastor said.

Santostefano said he is grateful for all the hard work that has gone into the church and the financial support that has helped bring the vision to fruition, including a recent large donation from an anonymous donor “who doesn’t even go to the church.”

“He liked the project and donated \$20,000,” Santostefano said. “It’s been an adventure but nothing that you build for the kingdom comes without a battle.”



A bridge on a new trail that will ultimately connect to the Air Line Trail in Hebron, the 1.9-mile loop was finished this month and is not yet open to the public but can be accessed from Kinney Road and Church Street. On the right, a beaver swims in Raymond Brook Marsh. The marsh is one of the most scenic areas on the trail with myriad wildlife. Aside from beavers, there is water fowl, deer, an eagle and more for the observant viewer to find. *Photos by Stan Malcolm.*

Hebron Aims to Make Trails Greener, More Walkable

by Sloan Brewster

The town is working on making some trails to connect the downtown to the Air Line Trail and create a greener, more walkable and bike-able center.

This month, the Parks and Recreation Department completed a 1.9-mile loop at the more than 100-acre Raymond Brook Preserve, Rich Calarco, department director, said. The trail, which was made possible through a \$62,000 grant from the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) trails program, is not yet open to the public.

There are entrances on Kinney Road and Church Street. The trail runs through the preserve, crosses the Mill Stream and goes to Millstream Road. While it's a bit short of reaching the Air Line Trail, it allows for a connection that will be realized in the next phase of trail development, according to a project description for yet another grant application.

The department is re-applying to the DEEP trails program for a \$238,000 grant it had previously applied for and did not get due to state budget constraints, Calarco said. Since then, DEEP has informed him that the department's application was well received the first time around and that there's a strong likelihood the grant will be awarded this time.

"We have an excellent chance to receive it," he said.

If approved, the funding will help pay for the next phase of trails to enhance hiking and biking opportunities related to connections to the Air Line Trail, according to the application.

"Hebron has a number of trails but there is a need to make important connections of these trails within our established Greenways and in particular to create the Hebron Center/Air Line Trail connection," the document reads.

"The ultimate goal is we're putting together pieces of the puzzle," Calarco said. "It's a green approach; you can bike or walk."

Stan Malcolm of Marlborough walks the Air Line Trail regularly and has a website cataloging all the sites he has seen since 2001.

"I started out walking it for exercise [and] would do six miles in the morning. It was taking a long time and getting boring, so I started taking pictures," he said. "[The trail] is an incredible resource for the state of Connecticut."

Malcolm generally walks the Hebron section beginning on Route 85 adjacent to Juliano Pools and go west through Raymond Brook Marsh, near where the new trail now runs.

"My children went to RHAM Middle School and High School and I would drop them off in the morning and hit the trail," he said.

He has also walked Portland and East Hampton sections of the Air Line Trail and has gone through Chaplin behind Goodwin State Forest.

A self-trained photographer, Malcolm has been taking pictures since he was a child. He got more serious about it in college in the late 1960s – and moved into digital in 2001. "It got a lot easier" then, he said. "You got instant gratification in terms of seeing if you got what you wanted or not."

Many of the pictures on his website portray wildlife he has spotted along or off the trail, including at the marsh, which he said is quiet right now.

"At this time of year I'm looking for the last color of summer, I'm looking for flowers, I'm an entomologist so I'm looking at the insects that are very powerful this year, pollinators," he said. "Birds, a lot of the birds are gone – summer birds."

The area is a site for eagles, which nest in Columbia and fish at Raymond Brook in the spring, Malcolm said. There are ospreys, barred owls, song birds, wood ducks, mallards and Canada geese.

Last week he was on the branch near the trailhead, where there's a pond with beavers that are active right now.

"Every season it's different," Jones said of the views on the trail.

His website has different thumbnails for the seasons and pages of photographs to see what's

there at certain times of year.

"If it's the winter and you're feeling house bound, you can use the web to see what summer was like," he said. "I think of the website as the virtual reality for someone who is house bound, they can get a sense of what's going on."

The downside is someone who peruses the website may go out on the trail and expect to see the same things he has photographed and may end up disappointed.

"I'm a practiced observer," he said.

An entomologist with a PhD from the University of Connecticut, Malcolm worked in IT 37 years before retiring in 2008 and falling back on his love of bugs. After that, he began helping with lab sessions at UConn and catching up on the missing decades of development in the field. In the course of getting back up to speed, he discovered that some bugs have been named for him, based on research he did in the 1980s.

Called Stanmalcolmia sulawesiensis, it is an obscure genus of beetle in Malaysia. Malcolm is curating UConn's collection of the beetles.

It is not the only insect named for him; Years ago, a species was named Pachysternum malcolmi, which translates roughly from Latin to "Malcolm's fatbelly."

Colchester Collaborative Celebrates 10 Years

by Allison Lazur

Collaborative for Colchester's Children (C3) is celebrating its 10th year focusing on the health, happiness and success of the town's children and families.

The initiative – through various partnerships – has brought in nearly 2.5 million in grant funding to the town after it was established in 2008 through a grant from the state's Early Childhood Education Cabinet and the William C. Graustein Memorial Fund. The goal of the grant was to develop "a community plan to improve the success of Colchester's youngest citizens – from birth through age eight and their families," according to a press release issued by the organization.

The programs and services offered to the community are made possible because of partnerships with other community organizations, public schools, town departments and community members, coordinator Cindy Praisner explained.

According to C3's 2017-2018 financial information, \$35,000 in funding was contributed to the initiative by the Board of Education and \$25,000 was contributed by the town.

Praisner, who has experience as a special education teacher, initially joined C3 in about 2013 as a parent volunteer.

"We are a community partnership, which means we don't have a particular legal entity status," Praisner said, adding, "We are not a non-profit."

Through organizations such as Thames Valley Council for Community Action, Inc.

(TVCCA), United Community and Family Services and Backus Hospital, C3 is able to bring a series of programs and workshops to kids and parents.

"The partner thing is really big. It helps us share resources and staff capacity [and] just makes it easier for us all to do our work," she said.

Praisner said as long as the proposed idea fits within the organization's mission – grounded in early care and education, health and family empowerment – C3 is open to new proposals.

"We are opportunistic," she said.

Praisner explained when C3 was awarded an early literacy grant within the first two years of establishing, the group established a bookmobile and helped fund professional development for early childhood providers in town, as well as at local schools such as Colchester Elementary.

In other instances, C3 may be contacted by an organization proposing a mutually-beneficial plan.

For example, a partnership with the town and the federally-funded Head Start program for ages 3-5 was formed when Head Start needed a location, which could be provided at the elementary school, while C3 needed staff and funds, which Head Start was able to offer.

"It was the perfect win-win partnership," Praisner said.

When C3 began in 2008, the early actions involved organization and setting up the collaborative, explained Praisner's assistant, Dawn

LePage.

Praisner explained public forums were held and surveys were distributed so the needs of the community could be recognized and prioritized.

The bookmobile project, for example, used not just funds from the literacy grant but also help from the Rotary Club – while a car donated by Backus Hospital served as the mobile part of the initiative.

"We didn't do as much direct service stuff in the beginning," Praisner said.

LePage explained C3 now offers a series of Play-and-Learn groups run by educators, as well as workshops for parents.

"We try to offer everything free," LePage said. This also includes free childcare for parents while they attend the workshops which cover topics such as positive parenting, building relationships with children, handling stress and recognizing what specific behaviors of children are trying to communicate.

One of the most popular Play-and-Learn groups is called Joyful Noises, a class taught for 8 to 12 weeks to about 50 kids, ages 18 months to 5 years old, split up into four different sessions.

"It's like a mini-preschool day," Praisner said, adding that it gives kids the chance to "play and socialize with other kids."

The class might involve a craft, art project, circle time, story time and possibly singing, Praisner explained. The goal is to give kids the "opportunity to learn how to play near or with other children."

LePage said the playgroups also benefit the parents who are able to bond with other parents they may not have otherwise met.

Even though the organization has been established for a decade, stability of funding is still a challenge, Praisner said.

Initially the majority of program's funding came from grant money while currently only a portion of C3 is funded through grants.

The grant received in 2008 was meant to help the organization establish sustainability, LePage said.

"Each year – based on what we got [in grant money] – we had to increase our matching part while the grant portion went down and our part was increased," she explained.

Aside from federal money received and used specifically for tuition, the majority of the funding comes from the town and Board of Education, as well as some smaller grants, donations and fundraising, Praisner said.

With a dependency on town dollars, LePage said it's "tricky" to guarantee funding as superintendents and first selectmen come and go – but she added C3 has been lucky so far.

"We have to hold our breath a little every year because we don't know what the next budget season will bring," Praisner said.

While the projects and funding change every year, LePage said the organization has grown significantly.

"Sometimes you're so busy fighting uphill that you don't realize you've gotten anywhere until you look back down and realize how far you've come," she said.



The town celebrated its 14th annual Celebrate Colchester – 57 Fest last weekend and attendees were met with a variety of opportunities to eat, play and win. In the photo at left, Bacon Academy Robotics Team co-captain Jakob Misbach showed his sister Catherine how to drive a robot built by the robotics team. Throughout the day, the team gave attendees an opportunity to drive the bot through an obstacle course and potentially win a drone. In the photo at right, brothers Cody (left) and Dylan Friberg stepped into Sumo suits while at the festival with Cub Scout Pack 109.

New Name, Familiar Fun at 57 Fest in Colchester

by Allison Lazur

Fresh-squeezed lemonade, cupcakes from a truck and a Battle of the Bands competition kicked off the first day of autumn and the town's 14th annual celebration of being named the 57th best place to live in the country by *CNN/Money Magazine* in 2005.

The 57 Fest got a name makeover this year and bore the new name "Celebrate Colchester – 57 Fest" after a call for submissions in May resulted in the new title.

The festival, hosted by the Parks and Recreation Department, is funded by community and business donations. This year's presenting sponsor was Alpha Q Inc., an aerospace manufacturing company.

Approximately 4,000 people attended the event, which was held at the recreation complex from 1-8:30 p.m.

Parks and Recreation Director Tiffany Quinn said she "received positive feedback from the food truck vendors, the local organizations and businesses that were there as well as people of all ages who enjoyed the concert and the fireworks."

A Battle of the Bands competition – for those under the age of 19 – debuted at the autumn festival, hosted by the Music Bureau in Salem and organized by concert promoter and ama-

teur guitarist Justin Hickey.

Eight bands took the stage to play two songs of their choosing for a panel of judges – composed of Superintendent of Schools Jeffrey Burt; James Haire of guitar builder Salt of the Earth Guitars; and Slacker's Union drummer Ken Wolf – who chose a winner and runner up based on musicianship, showmanship, creativity and originality.

"The whole idea was to help kid's build confidence and get on the stage," Hickey said. "This is a safe place to get up and play in front of a crowd of people."

Hickey explained the bands on the roster ranged from rock to strictly instrumental music with varying levels of experience.

"Some bands have been playing together for years," he said. "There are also bands that this is their first time playing on the stage."

Members of the punk rock band uNcharted, Josh Fuller and Josh Banks, schlepped to the stage with guitars swung over their shoulders.

Fuller and Banks explained the band has only been together a few months.

Fuller said he was looking forward to "just getting up on stage and singing, having fun and rocking out," adding, "It's fun to get up there and play with friends who do the same thing."

Banks simply said the fun lay in "making sounds on stage."

Ellington-based instrumental rock group The Rolling Beat took home the first-place title with the band The Strangers from Hebron leaving the fest as runner-up.

Resident Gina Starks was also at the festival for the band competition.

Starks said she attends the 57 Fest every year, but this year she was there to support her son who was competing in the teenage band battle with the rock group TBA.

In addition to offering support for her young musician, Starks said she enjoys the festival because "it brings the community together."

"We don't have very many community events, so a lot of people come out to this, she said, adding, "It's nice to see everybody and the fireworks."

While the fireworks didn't take place until the close of the festival, attendees could stay entertained by stopping by the Colchester Lions Club booth or getting their face painted by Skadoodlez face and body art.

Anyone interested in taking a shot at winning a drone could race a robot built by the Bacon Academy Robotics Team.

Members from Cub Scout Pack 109 not only

had a booth, but scouts and brothers Cody and Dylan Friberg stepped into inflatable sumo suits, while their mother Jody Friberg chuckled at the sight.

Jody said she enjoyed how much "fun stuff" the festival has to offer the kids.

Near the sumo mat, other kids enjoyed the bounce house while two more battled in the jousting ring with oversized, inflatable joust poles.

Scattered among the festival were a smorgasbord of food offerings such as cupcakes from the food truck Sugar, pierogis and cotton candy.

Quinn's son Brendan stood with his dog Pickles as they both waited for grub from the food truck Munchies, which served up burgers, fries and falafel.

Brendan, who has attended the festival since 2007, said he comes for the food trucks.

"It's just a fun event to go to," he said. "There are always a lot of different things to do."

Meanwhile, his mother Tiffany said her goal for next year's festival is to "work together with the community, the town and businesses to fund the event together."

She encouraged anyone with ideas or suggestions for next year's festival to call Parks and Rec. at 860-537-7297.

Vehicle Strikes Guardrail in Colchester

State Police said a vehicle collision with a guardrail left a woman and her passenger with suspected minor injuries.

At approximately 4:36 a.m. on Sept. 22, a Hyundai Elantra driven by Jamie Gagliardo, 31, of 117 Mt. Pleasant St., Norwich, was traveling east on Route 2 near Exit 17.

The Elantra failed to stop at the end of the

exit 17 off ramp subsequently striking the guardrail and coming to a final rest down an embankment on Mill Hill Lane, police said.

Gagliardo and her passenger, Richard Durham, 28, of 1255 E. Katie Ave., Las Vegas, Nev., were both transported by the Colchester Fire Department to Backus Hospital with suspected minor injuries.

Two-Vehicle Collision in Colchester, Suspected Minor Injuries

State Police said an improper left turn into the Plum Tomato restaurant left a man and a woman with suspected minor injuries.

According to police, on Sept. 19 at approximately 11:42 a.m., a Chevrolet driven by Matthew J. Carli, 33, of 103 N. Main St., was traveling south on South Main Street and initiated a left turn into the parking lot of the Plum Tomato restaurant.

The Chevrolet subsequently struck the front end of a Toyota Matrix, traveling north on South Main Street and driven by Arline Fuller, 94, of 23 Village Ct., police said.

Carli and Fuller sustained minor injuries and Fuller was transported by the Colchester Fire Department to Middlesex Hospital. Carli was issued a written warning for making an improper turn.

Woman Dies After Being Pinned Against Tree in Andover

A Willimantic woman was killed last week after a car door pinned her against a tree, State Police said.

At about 12:41 p.m. Sept. 20, police said they received a report of an unconscious woman at an East Street home. Police said troopers and Andover fire and medical personnel all responded to the scene, and found the woman, Florence P. Caillard, 59, of 119 North St., Willimantic, deceased.

According to police, Caillard had been serving as the caregiver of an elderly man who lived at the home.

An investigation revealed Caillard had exited her 2016 Fiat and failed to set the emergency brake on the sloped East Street driveway, police said. Caillard then proceeded to walk around her car to the passenger's side when the Fiat began rolling backward, subsequently pinning Caillard between the open passenger door and a tree just off the edge of the residential driveway.

Caillard died from blunt injuries to the torso, and the death was ruled accidental, the medical examiner's office said Wednesday.

East Hampton Police News

9/11: Heath Galvin, 30, of 54 Midwood Farm Rd., turned himself in pursuant to a warrant and was charged with violation of probation, East Hampton Police said.

9/12: Frederick Everett, 35, of 36 Namonee Tr., was taken into custody pursuant to a warrant and charged with violating conditional discharge, police said.

9/14: Ruby Olson, 21, of 38 Pocotopaug Dr., was issued a summons for following too close, failure to carry insurance and failure to obey a stop sign, police said.

9/15: A 15-year-old juvenile was issued a summons for simple trespass and sixth-degree larceny, police said.

9/16: After an investigation into a two-car motor vehicle crash on Route 66, Mercedes Garcia, 65, of 46 Skyline Dr., was issued a summons for traveling too fast for conditions and operating a motor vehicle without insurance, police said.

9/18: Thomas Bezilla, 52, of 21 Seminole Tr., was taken into custody pursuant to a warrant and charged with criminal violation of a restraining order, police said.

From Sept. 10-16, officers responded to 14 medical calls, seven motor vehicle accidents and nine alarms, and made 34 traffic stops, police said.

From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

It's about freaking time, East Hampton officials.

The town's Board of Finance Wednesday opted to recommend the Town Council add an advisory question to the next budget referendum – which may finally lead to an end to a much-too-long budget season that sees the town still, at the end of September, without a spending plan for the current fiscal year (which started July 1).

The latest iteration of the East Hampton 2018-19 town budget went before the voters last week, and failed yet again – this time by the highest margin yet. Just 613 people voted in favor of the budget, compared to 1,085 that voted against it.

And afterward, town officials continued to wring their hands over what to do next. Board of Finance and Town Council members had been very clear in the weeks leading up to this latest referendum: if this budget is rejected, there *will* be cuts made to it. No ifs, ands or buts.

However, such sentiment was a big fat thumbing of the nose to those in town – many of whom had written letters to the *Rivereast* – who felt the town budget was simply too low. Those voters had been quite vocal that they wanted to see the budget restore some of the teaching positions that had been cut from the Board of Education spending plan earlier this year. The town is due to receive \$700,000 in unexpected funds from the state, and had a budget surplus from the 2017-18 fiscal year equaling roughly that same amount.

Republican finance board members have balked at using these unanticipated dollars to help with the school budget – which was already passed, sans three teaching positions the school board reluctantly cut, at a separate referendum in May. This balking led to finance board chair Michael Rose abruptly resigning in July, saying, “When we have \$1.4 million that we didn't plan on when we put these budgets together, it blows my mind that we would let teachers go. It absolutely blows my mind.”

Town officials have instead used the majority of the 2017-18 budget surplus already on other, non-school-related things – such as a plow truck and repairs to the community center roof – while they've also suggested the unexpected funds from the state are “for tax relief” and thus should also not go to the schools.

Who knows – maybe this is what people want. School advocates have maintained they routinely hear from folks who want the money

spent on education, while Board of Finance members have maintained folks think the budget is too high and needs to be cut lower.

I have no doubt that's true; both sides likely have their echo chambers. But does a handful of residents speaking out on the Board of Education side and another handful of residents speaking out on the Board of Finance side paint a true picture of how the town actually feels?

I say, no. The best way to know how the townspeople feel about the budget – if they are indeed rejecting it because they feel it's too high, or because they feel there need to be fewer cuts, not more – is simple: add an advisory question to the ballot next time the budget goes before the voters at referendum.

Up until Wednesday night, town officials had refused to do this, for reasons I never quite got. It seemed like such a simple solution, one that would provide some real clarity as to how to go. Maybe the school supporters are mistaken, that there's not as many of them in Belltown as they thought. On the other hand, the Board of Finance may find it had whiffed on what the voters want. Either way, they'd have an answer, and could craft the budget accordingly.

So, yay, at least the town is finally adding a question. But the question the finance board came up with Wednesday night is not worded the way I'd do it. The board opted to go with some Goldilocks junk that I feel won't yield the clarity they need. The question asks voters if they felt the budget was “too high, too low or just right.”

No no no. People may vote in favor of the budget and still feel it's too low; they just don't want it to be cut any further. Likewise, people may vote in favor of the budget and feel it's too high – they may just want the damn thing over with.

Streamline it, East Hampton, and target the only people you really want to target: the ‘no’ voters. The question should be some version of: “If you voted ‘no’ on the budget, did you do so because you felt it was too high or because you felt it was too low?”

This doesn't seem like something that should take thousands of dollars to have the town attorney spend drafting. And Board of Finance and Town Council members would be rewarded with clarity – and maybe, just maybe, they'd be able to put an end to this protracted budget season before it stretches to December.

* * *

See you next week.

Two-Car Crash in Hebron

State Police said failure to grant the right of way caused a two vehicle collision on Sept. 21.

At approximately 12:24 p.m., a BMW driven by Devin W. Kelly, 28, of 120 Hope Valley Rd., Amston, was traveling south on Route 85 near the intersection with Carriage Drive when a Chevrolet Silverado, driven by Paul A. Donaroma, 76, of 463 West St., pulled out of Carriage Drive, heading east, causing a collision with the BMW.

Police said Kelly was transported with a possible leg injury to Middlesex Hospital by the Hebron Fire Department and Donaroma was found at fault for failure to grant the right of way.

Colchester Police News

9/21: Colchester Police said Joshua W. Taylor, 22, of 444 Parum Rd., was arrested and charged with third-degree assault and disorderly conduct after he punched his landlord causing minor injuries.

Marlborough Police News

9/18: State Police said Elizabeth A. Hodgman-Cormier, 61, of 287 Deepwood Dr., Amston, was arrested and charged with DUI and failure to drive in proper lane.

Hebron Police News

9/19: State Police said Harry Gruss, 50, of 20 Turner Rd., Amston, was arrested and charged with breach of peace and third-degree assault.

Portland Police News

9/23: David O'Brien, 28, of 869 Candlewood Hill Rd., Higganum, was charged with possession of narcotics and possession of drug paraphernalia, Portland Police said.

9/23: Ashley Warner, 30, of 16 Foley Rd., was charged with possession of narcotics, possession of drug paraphernalia and narcotics not in original container, police said.

Obituaries

East Hartford

Donald Ranheim Jr.

Donald Hilding Ranheim Jr., 87, of East Hartford, passed away Monday, September 24, 2018 at Hartford Hospital. Born and raised in Hartford on May 7, 1931, he was a son of Swedish immigrants, the late Donald H. Sr., and Mildred Mabel (Bengtson) Ranheim.

Donald was a proud veteran of the United States Air Force, fondly serving two years in Japan during the Korean War. After a long career as a chief draftsman and senior design engineer for Jacobs Manufacturing in Bloomfield, he retired in 2000. Donald had several interests over the years which included high bar and rings, fencing, archery, and was an avid bowler and ping-pong enthusiast. Donald was a self-taught guitarist, as music had been an important part of his life, whether at family gatherings or with his children.

Always guided by his faith, he was admired and loved as a man who lived his life with a strong and unwavering love for his family; never passing judgement on others, instead, setting the example by walking the walk. Most importantly, he will be remembered by his family as a quiet and humble man who performed many kind deeds for others, privately and auspiciously.

He will be sadly missed but always remembered with love by his six daughters, Eileen Morales of Greensboro, N.C., Debbie and Paul Mientus of Colchester, Pamela (Coleen Shawn) Ranheim of Plymouth, Mass., Leanne Ranheim of Colchester, Bettyann and Brad Lemire of Enfield, Tricia Scrivener of Norwich; his 17 grandchildren who loved their "Funny Papa;" six great-grandchildren; his brother and sister-in-law, Charles and Elaine Ranheim of South Glastonbury; along with numerous extended family and friends.

He was predeceased by a sister and brother-in-law, Dagmar and David Jacobson, and his former wife and mother of his children, Patricia (Crook Ranheim) Stoddard.

Calling hours will be held Sunday, Sept. 30, from 1-3 p.m., at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. A memorial service will follow at 3 p.m. at the funeral home, with full military honors. Burial will be private at the Zion Hill Cemetery in Hartford.

Donations in his memory may be made to the Oak Hill School for the Blind, 120 Holcomb St., Hartford, 06112. For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

East Hampton

Marie L. Hasselman Celebration of Life

Marie L. Hasselman Marie L. Hasselman of Statesville, N.C., formerly of Portland and East Hampton, died March 22, 2018.

A life so beautifully lived deserves to be beautifully remembered. Please join us as we celebrate the life of Marie Hasselman.

The celebration will be held at Lakeview Cemetery at the family plot in East Hampton Saturday, Oct. 6, at 1 p.m.

Death leaves a heartache no one can heal. Love leaves a memory no one can steal.



Hebron

Karen Louise Emmons

Karen Louise (Enger) Emmons, 68, of Hebron, passed away peacefully at home Thursday, Sept. 20, with loved ones by her side. Born Nov. 21, 1949, in Bridgeport, she was the daughter of the late Patrick and Nancy (Tibbals) Enger.

Ms. Emmons had worked in real estate for many years before her retirement. She was active in the Order of the Eastern Star and was Past Matron of Martha Chapter and Past Mother Advisor of the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls. Karen was also a member of the Daughters of the Nile and had been a Girl Scout leader as well. She loved to sing and was active with the "Sunshine Singers" along with numerous other choirs over the years.

She leaves four children (and their spouses), Charles (Kristin) Emmons of Amston, Karie-Anne (Edward) Everlith of Hebron, Teresa (Thomas) Payne of Danielson and Christi (Michael) Kurihara of Manhattan, N.Y.; 10 grandchildren, Nicholas, Emily, Tristin, Parker, Patrick, Drake, Natalie, Harley, Charlotte and Penelope; her "grand dog," Lulu; five siblings, Patrick Enger of Vermont, Sharon Okerberg of Iowa, Nancy D'Aulizio of Florida, Linda Enger of Washington and Priscilla Henchman of Devon; and numerous extended family and friends.

The family will receive guests from 6-8 p.m. today, Sept. 28, at Gilead Congregational Church, 672 Gilead St. (Route 85), Hebron. A memorial celebrating her life will be observed at the church Saturday, Sept. 29, at 1 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to Gilead Congregational Church.

Care of arrangements has been entrusted to the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester. For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.



Marlborough

Frances Hope Hodge

Frances Hope (Nowsch) Hodge, 87, of Marlborough, passed away peacefully surrounded by her family on Saturday Sept. 22. Born Jan. 7, 1931, in Hartford, she was the daughter of the late Maxwell and Lottie (Milton) Nowsch.

Frances was a life long resident of Marlborough and was retired from J.C. Penny Department Store, where she had worked as a manager.

She is survived by her son, Wilfred Hodge of Marlborough; two daughters, Candy Wantuck and husband Tom of Hebron and Lorrie Abney and husband Jerry of Marlborough; a sister, Shirley Strickland of Colebrook, N.H.; two granddogs, J.D. and Lilly; five grandchildren, four great grandchildren and one great-great granddaughter. She was predeceased by a son Gary Hodge, six brothers: Wesley, Richard, Robert, Mel, George, and Milton Nowsch, and a sister, Rita Rankl.

Friends called at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, Thursday, Sept. 27. Burial will be private at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Middlesex Hospice c/o Middlesex Hospital Department of Philanthropy 55 Crescent St. Middletown, Ct 06457 or to the Alzheimer's Association, 200 Executive Blvd. Southington, Ct 06489-1058.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

East Hampton

Randy John Radzavich

Randy John Radzavich, 49, of Columbia, formerly of East Hampton, East Haddam, Haddam and Westbrook, passed away Sunday, Sept. 23, at Hartford Hospital, after a courageous battle with cancer. Born in Middletown May 5, 1969, he was the son of Theresa Havens of Colchester and Thomas Radzavich of Norwich.

He married his beloved wife Cynthia (Kretock) Radzavich Feb. 6, 2016, in Columbia, where the couple made their home. Randy worked in sales for Kenyon Laboratories in Higganum. He had a great talent for photography and fierce curiosity for knowledge and working with computer technology.

Randy loved gardening, playing setback, amateur and professional photography and his beloved pet bunny, Pez. Most importantly, he will be remembered by his loved ones for his wonderful sense of humor and for the loving devotion he gave to all of them.

He will be sadly missed but always remembered with love by his beloved wife, Cindi; his parents and stepfather, Ralph Havens; his sister, Angela Radzavich of Higganum; and numerous extended family and friends.

Funeral services will be held privately, according to his wishes.

Donations in his memory may be made to the American Cancer Society (cancer.org).

The family would like to thank all the nurses and doctors at Hartford Hospital Neurology ICU, especially Becci and Ashley, who were kind and gentle.

The Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester has been entrusted with care of arrangements. For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.



Marlborough

Nancy Lee Ayers

Nancy Lee (Sahler) Ayers, 76, of Marlborough, widow of the late John C. Ayers Jr., died peacefully Monday, Sept. 24, at Middlesex Hospital. Born Oct. 3, 1941, in Salisbury, Md., she was the daughter of Harriet J. (Colvin) Sahler and the late Frederick Sahler.

Nancy was a longtime resident of Marlborough and had worked as a registered nurse at Hartford Hospital until her retirement.

Besides her mother, she is survived by her son, John C. Ayers III of South Grafton, Mass.; a daughter, Kathy Spencer and husband Richard of Kensington; a sister, Judith Trivits of Maryland; six grandchildren Matthew, Julia Rose, Hannah, Ainsley, Aiden and Alex; many nieces and nephews; and several dear neighbors. She also leaves her closest friend, Ketevan Kuprashvili of Marlborough.

She was predeceased by her father, her husband John and a brother, Frederick "Skipper" Sahler.

A graveside service will be held Saturday, Sept. 29, at 10:30 a.m., in Century Cemetery in Marlborough.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Ocean Conservancy at oceanconservancy.org.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

East Hampton

Kathleen Lawson

Kathleen (Lynch) Lawson, 65, of East Hampton, beloved wife of Bruce Lawson, died peacefully at her home surrounded by her loving family. Born March 8, 1953 in Meriden, she was the daughter of Jack and Jean Lynch.

Kathleen had worked as an LPN for the Visiting Nurse Assoc. She was a communicant of St. Patrick Church in East Hampton. Kathleen was active in the Sisters of Mercy as a Mercy Associate and the St. Vincent DePaul Soup Kitchen in Middletown for many years. She also taught CCD in St. Patrick Church in East Hampton.

Kathy enjoyed outdoor activities, especially with her Dad, of target shooting, fishing, and hiking. Besides her husband, she is survived by her daughter Kerri Wilson and husband Paul of Higganum, a brother Jack Lynch of S.C., and her beloved granddaughter Kaylee Wilson of Higganum. She was predeceased by her sister Janice Sternberg.

A funeral liturgy will be celebrated Saturday Sept. 29 at 11 a.m. in St. Patrick Church. Burial will follow in St. Patrick Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations in memory of Kathy may be made to Protectors of Animals, 144 Main Street, East Hartford, CT 06118 or Sisters of Mercy, 25 Prescott St, 1st Floor, West Hartford, CT 06110-2335. To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.



Hebron

Allan F. Couch

Allan F. Couch, 91, of Hebron, formerly of Wolcott, beloved husband of Emily (Nadeau) Couch, passed away Sunday morning, Sept. 23, at Hartford Hospital. Born Oct. 20, 1926, in Waterbury, he was the son of the late Allan Couch and Gladys (Gabriel) Couch Pagano.

Mr. Couch had worked as a machinist for New Departure Hyatt in Bristol (a division of General Motors) for many years before his retirement.

In addition to his loving wife of 68 years, he leaves two children, Patricia Halloran (and her husband Martin) of Amston and Carl Couch of Hebron; and two grandchildren, Melissa Halloran and Martin Halloran II.

Graveside services were observed Wednesday, Sept. 26, at Calvary Cemetery, 2324 East Main St., Waterbury. There were no calling hours.

Donations in his memory may be made to the charity of one's choice.

Care of arrangements has been entrusted to the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester.