



RIVEREAST

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Cross Country Success... The East Hampton Middle School cross country team had a strong performance at the recent Pantherfest invitational meet to kick off the fall sports season. Medal winners for the Panthers included, top row from left, Samantha Kearney (third place, eighth grade girls race), Jocelyn Gustavson (third place, sixth/seventh girls race), Clara Romero (second place, sixth/seventh girls race), Katie Ireland (first place, sixth/seventh girls race) as well as, bottom row from left, Aiden Palen (third place, eighth grade boys race) and Cameron Nephew (second place, eighth grade boys race).

Area Officials React As EEE Moves Closer

by Sloan Brewster, Michelle Richmond and Karla Santos

Eastern equine encephalitis, known as EEE, a virus transmitted by mosquitoes, has caused three deaths in Connecticut and a Colchester man, who has been hospitalized for weeks, is the fourth person in the state to be diagnosed with it.

The spread of the virus has prompted area officials to ask for state intervention.

According to a statement from the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH), the individual has been hospitalized since the third week of August. While DPH officials declined to say in which area of Colchester the individual was bitten, they did say that the person is between 40 and 49 years old.

Officials also declined to comment about the current condition of the Colchester resident, but said three other cases of EEE in the state had been fatal.

"All four were most likely exposed to infected mosquitoes sometime between August 11, 2019 and September 8, 2019, which was the peak period of mosquito activity in Connecticut," Epidemiologist Dr. Matthew Cartter said in the statement released on Tuesday. "All four residents live in a part of eastern Connecticut where EEE activity has not been a problem before this summer."

In response to the first two EEE deaths, a list of 20 senators and state representatives wrote a letter to Gov. Ned Lamont requesting that the state spray in areas where there's a high concentration of the virus.

"With two constituents on the Shoreline hav-

ing already passed away after contracting EEE, we feel that it may not be enough to simply advise the public to avoid times when mosquitoes are most active," the letter states.

In a press release Tuesday, the DPH announced the third death.

According to the press release, the latest death was of an East Haddam resident between the ages of 60 and 69. The individual became ill the second week of September and died a week later.

"Sadly, this has been an unprecedented year for EEE activity in Connecticut," Cartter said, in another press release. "Before this year we have had only one human case of EEE in Connecticut, and that was in 2013."

In a phone call Wednesday, Senator Cathy Osten, (D-19), whose district includes Hebron and Marlborough, as well as Columbia, Franklin, Lebanon, Ledyard, Lisbon, Montville, Norwich and Sprague, said senators and legislators asked the state to do targeted spraying to control the virus since it's unclear when there will be a hard frost to kill off the infected mosquitoes.

"It's actually in East Haddam, so that's literally down the road," Osten said. "So it's already traveling down the road into an interior town."

Osten said the lawmakers were scheduled for a conference call with Lamont yesterday to get updates on what the state will be doing about the virus.

"We all just want to make sure that we're doing whatever we can," she said. "We're just

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State Grants Advance Hebron Projects

by Sloan Brewster

Phase two of upgrades to Hebron's Stonecroft Village is a go.

Last week, Town Manager Andrew Tierney received notification that the town had been awarded a \$700,000 Small Cities Community Development Block Grant to complete the improvements to the town's six-building, 25-unit senior community.

In April, the Board of Selectmen applied for the grant.

Town Manager Andrew Tierney said the project is about caring for the increasing aging population, adding that it goes hand in hand with projects to increase connectivity throughout town, such as sidewalks being installed along Route 85 and paths that will soon connect local trail systems to the sidewalks and the center of town.

"It all goes together, it shows that we have a plan," he said. "We're trying to take care of the demographic."

Dan Larson, Board of Selectmen chairman,

said much the same thing when the board agreed to apply for the grant, pointing out that since 27 percent of Hebron residents were over the age of 60, the repairs are necessary.

The grant is part of \$13 million in funding that Gov. Ned Lamont and state Department of Housing Commissioner Seila Mosquera-Bruno announced last Thursday would be spread between 13 municipalities.

According to a press release, the funding will be used for infrastructure upgrades to modernize and rehabilitate low and moderate-income housing and is specifically being awarded to cities and towns with less than 50,000 residents, looking to improve neighborhoods, eliminate blight, and attract economic development.

"These grants go a long way toward improving neighborhoods so that we can make our communities more attractive and encourage continued growth for the benefit of all of our residents," Lamont said, according to the press release.

Tierney also pointed to economic growth as a reason for the improvements.

"We're striving for a community atmosphere to create new businesses and keep the old," he said.

Tierney said work had not started on the project.

Work will include installing a sidewalk, upgrading kitchens and bathrooms, replacing kitchen appliances, replacing exterior doors, replacing hot water heaters, installing exterior security cameras, installing new kitchen and bathroom faucets and fixtures, replacing windows, adding exterior lighting and replacing flooring in common halls and the community room.

Florence O'Sullivan, chairman of the local Housing Authority, said the windows on the six-unit senior housing community were installed in 1990.

"Some have lost seals," she said. "We want things to be more energy efficient."

A large amount of plumbing work will also be completed on corroded pipes, O'Sullivan said. Water previously supplied by a well had a high concentration of salt.

Access panels will be installed to make future repairs easier for workmen, who have had a difficult time getting to them.

Some landscaping will also be done and new gutters and downspouts will be installed.

The Housing Authority is also working on items not funded through the grant, including beautifying the circle in the parking lot, O'Sullivan said. So far volunteers have planted a weeping cherry and are looking for shrubs and flowers so the area will flower continuously from spring through fall.

Anyone interested in making contributions toward the project should call O'Sullivan at 860-967-4942.

The town is also looking to increase senior housing.

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Officials React cont. from Front Page

trying to make sure that the targeted spraying does not harm any environmental issues but that we're protecting human life."

State Rep. Robin Green (R-55), whose district includes Andover, Bolton, Hebron and Marlborough, said the state should be more proactive.

"I think it's important to spray based on the fact that we have a vulnerable population," she said. "The elderly and children, their immune systems are not as strong."

State Rep. Christie Carpino (R-32) – whose district includes Cromwell and Portland – is a member of the legislature's Public Health Committee. She was not available to speak to the *Rivereast* for this story and provided a statement via email.

"The sharp increase in EEE deaths in our region is a public health issue," the statement reads. "Mosquitoes don't know town boundaries and the issue must be addressed in our part of the state for everyone's safety."

Meanwhile, local officials said they were taking steps to assure residents are safe.

Portland First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield stated that the town has hired TruGreen to apply their organic compound on Thursday around the perimeter of the Portland Fairgrounds for mosquito and tick control. In addition, she urged all attendees to wear proper fitting tightly knit clothing and to use insect repellent, which will be available at the Fair.

In Hebron, the RHAM high and middle schools will not hold outdoor athletic events or practices after dusk or before dawn.

"We continue to advise you to protect yourself from potential insect bites as much as possible by wearing clothing that covers the skin and applying insect repellent," reads a statement on the district's website.

RHAM High School Principal Scott Leslie

said Rich Calarco, director of the Hebron Parks and Recreation Department, sends out daily emails with what time sunset will take place.

"We're definitely taking precautions," Leslie said.

Leslie said he imagines other school districts were also making similar decisions about activities after dusk.

"I suspect that everybody has gone down this road," he said. "West Nile and Lyme Disease, they've always been around but once we're seeing that people are actually dying from this disease, I think it's more serious."

On the town side, Hebron Town Manager Andrew Tierney said Tuesday the town was working closely with the Chatham Health District and that the Park & Recreation Department's Haunted Happenings had been cancelled.

"With the uncertainty of the hard frost, we have to be proactive," he said. "It's not just for the kids and parents. It's for the volunteers that are out there all day."

The department's Trunk or Treat will take place in daylight hours at Gilead Hill School on Saturday, Oct. 19, Erica Santos, recreation supervisor, said. Cars should be parked for the event by 3:30 p.m. and the event will take place between 4 and 5:30 p.m.

The Town Center Project's Harvest Moon Festival has not been cancelled, the town manager said.

"We had a conversation [Tuesday] morning; we're going to continue to try to make that happen," he said. "But we have to be safe."

RHAM High School is also holding an indoor Halloween activity, Leslie said. Called Halloween Hallway, it is open to all children up to age 10 and includes a bounce house, trick-or-treating down the hallway, face-painting and crafts.

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

I've kind of enjoyed the back-and-forth the past several weeks on climate change. Sure, it's obvious that nobody's changing anyone's minds at this point, but there is something to be said for the fact that they keep on trying.

And while there have been some pretty nasty swipes at each other, for the most part the conversation has been civil.

I just find it a little baffling.

I just frankly don't get how now, in 2019, anybody can be a climate change skeptic. You don't even have to do a deep dive into data; just look around you. If it feels like the recently-wrapped summer was hotter than usual, that's because it was. July was not just the hottest July on record – it was actually the hottest month *period* Connecticut had experienced since data began being tracked in 1904.

The second-hottest month on record was July 2013. The third-hottest? July 2010. In fact, according to the *Hartford Courant*, of the 20 hottest months on record, nine occurred in just the past decade.

This is going beyond "it's summer; it's supposed to be hot" levels here. This is a definite trend – an alarming one at that.

Want more than just temperatures? Look at storms. The number of Category 4 and Category 5 hurricanes – the strongest, deadliest hurricanes – has increased in recent years. In fact, CBS News reported last month that in 169 years of record keeping, there have been only 35 Category 5 hurricanes. However, five of those have occurred in just the last four years.

Don't point to cold temperatures this coming winter as a sign climate change is a hoax (a mistake our president has made in the past). As I've said here before, one of the worst mistakes scientists made was to call climate change "global warming." Because while it's true the overall temperature of the globe is rising, calling it "global warming" gives fuel to folks to laugh off the concept just because the thermometer may hit 10 degrees in January. No, climate change is just that – a change, and it can manifest itself in temperature ex-

tremes becoming more extreme; both on the high end and on the low end.

Now, I know some of the climate change skeptics in the letters pages have dug up quotes from various scientists poo-pooing the concept. And yes, I'm sure those scientists are real. According to NASA, 97 percent or more of actively publishing climate scientists agree climate change is taking place – and feel mankind is to blame. There are an awful lot of climate scientists in the world, so that means if there are 1-3 percent who don't, then yes, the skeptics will probably continue to be able to find a different doubting scientist each week for quite some time, if they so desire.

But it's still 1-3 percent. The vast, vast, vast majority of climate scientists disagree with them. If 97 percent of polled diners advocated one particular restaurant, and 3 percent advocated another one, you'd be inclined to go with the one with the 97 percent approval rating, no? Particularly if your life – or the lives of your children or grandchildren – depended on it.

And I don't think it's hyperbole to say that it does. Climate change is happening, rapidly. You can put your head in the sand or you can try to do something about it. It's why I have no problem with Greta Thunberg, the 16-year-old Swedish girl, speaking so passionately recently about the topic. Yes, some have mocked her for it, some have called her a victim of child abuse (which is just absurd), but the fact is this is something she feels very strongly about – and I can't fault her for that one bit. Maybe if more people shared that passion something could be done.

So, in conclusion, yes, I have indeed found the letters the past several weeks entertaining – though in no way does that mean I agree with them all. I suspect the back-and-forth will continue to take place – and I suspect the position of the skeptics will continue to baffle me. For I just cannot see how you can continue to deny something that, to me, is as plain as the nose on your face.

Climate change is real. I believe man is contributing to it. The time for action is now.

* * *

See you next week.



Sidewalks being installed on Church Street in Hebron will increase the connectivity in town, which is part of the town's long-term plan and, among other things, will make it easier for seniors to walk from Stonecroft Village to the center of town.

Hebron Projects cont. from Front Page

Last month, Tierney said the town was on the hunt for money to pay for a proposed project to build 40 new units of senior housing on town owned property adjacent to Stonecroft.

* * *

Hebron also received notice last week that it will be getting \$919,000 from the Department of Transportation Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program toward traffic improvements in front of RHAM High School and to enhance the intersection of routes 316 and 66.

"It's part of the RHAM campus improvements," Tierney said.

An engineering study on what should be done to reconfigure traffic at the school included looking into how to address traffic issues at the intersection, Tierney said. The Town of Hebron and the RHAM Board of Education are working collaboratively on the project.

The design includes about a dozen changes, including a one-way parent drop off loop to separate parking from moving traffic, according to Ron Dagan, project manager and principal at Luchs Consulting Engineering. The new driveway would bring parents exclusively to pick up and drop off locations with pavement markings to manage traffic flow. It will also provide longer lanes for dropping off and picking up children.

Funding for the intersection changes had been put on hold by former Governor Dannel Malloy while designs were completed, Tierney said.

"We had to wait a year, which increased the cost," he said.

Once the design was completed, the town went back to the state for the funding.

The project will include adding another lane and upgrading the technology of the lights so they will communicate with one another and with the crosswalk controls to prevent busses from stacking up while waiting to turn.

"It's all coming together," Tierney said. "We're moving along with the campus improvement construction season."

According to RHAM Superintendent Patricia Law, construction for the campus reconfigurations will begin at the end of the school year.

The approximately \$1.1 million project is being funded by a state grant secured in 2015, following the death of Dawn Mallory, 65, a teacher at the middle school.

Mallory, 65, who had taught seventh and eighth grade math at the school, was walking through the parking lot around 7 a.m. the morning of March 14, 2014, when she was struck by a vehicle. State police said the driver, Elizabeth Everett, 50, of Hebron, backed up and ran into Mallory after she realized she had driven into the bus lane.

Everett was later found guilty of misconduct with a motor vehicle by criminal negligence and unsafe backing, and sentenced in February 2017 to 20 months in prison.

Portland PZC Chairman Bruce Tyler Passes Away

by Michelle Richmond

Longtime Portland resident and Planning and Zoning Commission Chairman Bruce M. Tyler, 79, passed away Wednesday, Sept. 25, after a long illness.

Tyler was a graduate of Groton public schools and held degrees from Wesleyan University, the University of Wisconsin (Madison) and the University of Connecticut where he earned a Ph.D.

After teaching for six years in Norwich and East Hampton, he worked as a management trainer at Electric Boat. He then joined the Hartford Insurance Group as a management trainer and after a number of promotions transferred to the Consumer Finance Division of ITT Corporation in Minneapolis where he retired as vice president and director of human resources.

Tyler was active in community affairs all of his adult life. In Portland he was chairman of the planning and zoning commission, chairman of the housing authority, member of the board of education and a charter revision commission. He was also a member of the Portland Exchange Club and the Portland Republican Town Committee.

Regionally, he was chairman of the Godfrey Memorial Library Board of Trustees, Chairman of Community Action of Greater Middletown Board of Directors, president of Literacy Volunteers of Greater Middletown Board of Directors, and a volunteer arbitrator for the Greater Hartford Better Business Bureau.

His personal interests included genealogy,

theater, reading and the University of Connecticut's women's basketball team.

At his request, there will be no funeral and burial will be at the Indian Hill Cemetery. Donations in his name may be made to the American Cancer Society or Friends of Portland Library.

First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield said that she was "very sad to hear of Tyler's sudden passing."

"Bruce was a great friend to me over the years on projects that we worked together on and he was a staunch supporter of the town," she said. "He was very instrumental in the development of the Elmcrest project and as chairman of the housing authority he was an advocate of people who needed affordable housing."

"He was an all-round solid citizen, family man and a friend to many people and a very learned man. He will be sadly missed."

Ashley Majorowski, administrator for the Department of Land Use stated that Tyler "always had the town's best interests at heart."

"He always did an excellent job of running the meetings and there was a mutual respect between him and everyone on the board. He will be sorely missed," she stated. "He has some big shoes to fill."

Bransfield said the Planning and Zoning Commission will have to select a chairman to replace Tyler and that the Board of Selectmen will help commissioners find another member to sit on the board.

Portland Fair Set to Go This Weekend

by Michelle Richmond

All systems are "go" for the Portland Fair this weekend. Now in its 20th year, the fair has a line-up of 42 vendors, some old, some new.

Animal exhibits, tractor, oxen and horse pulls, pig races, rides, a wine-tasting seminar, canine Halloween costume contest and more are just part of the entertainment line-up.

According to fair Chairman Don Bascom, a new addition this year will be heli-copter rides, which will take passengers on a 10-minute ride over the river.

Returning this year will be Jeff Pitchell and his band with special guest Michael Allman (son of the late Gregg Allman, of The Allman Brothers Band).

Bascom said that "anywhere from 10-15,000 fair-goers are expected this year."

"Typically, that's what we get," he said, "although the Durham Fair had a record year so, depending on the weather, we may get even more than usual."

New this year will be the lack of shuttle buses from parking lots to the fairgrounds.

"We have parking less than a quarter of a mile away," Bascom noted. "The Portland Game Club bought land nearby and we decided to use that for people to park so we can-

celled the bus service we used to use."

Handicap parking will be available on the fairgrounds.

Bascom noted that in light of the Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) epidemic, fairgoers are being offered free bug repellent.

"We'll have some in the office as well as in the EMT tent and it will be free of charge to anyone who wants it," Bascom said. "We're also following the state's recommendations that if people are out in the evening that they wear long sleeves and pants as well as using bug spray."

Noting the weekend weather forecast, Bascom noted, "Friday night it's supposed to be 38 degrees so I doubt we're going to have any mosquitoes. We've already noticed that the mosquito population is way down."

First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield stated that the town has hired TruGreen to apply their organic compound on Thursday around the perimeter of the Portland Fairgrounds for mosquito and tick control. In addition, she urged all attendees to wear proper tightly knit clothing and to use insect repellent, which will be available at the fair.

For more information and a schedule of fair activities, visit portlandfair.com.

East Hampton Youth Honors Lost WWII Submarine

by Michelle Richmond

When 21-year-old Navy Seaman Fire Controller 3rd Class, Herbert Marshall Dix sailed out of New London Oct. 6, 1943, on the newly-commissioned USS Dorado submarine little did the East Hampton resident know that he would never arrive at his destination.

The gato-class submarine, set sail on her maiden voyage for the Panama Canal Zone during World War II, but she never arrived. She was lost somewhere in the Caribbean Sea on Oct. 12, 1943 with 77 men on board.

While the story of what really happened to her is hazy, the final report attributed her sinking to being bombed by "friendly fire."

For 16-year-old East Hampton High School senior Kyle Burnham, his association with the ill-fated submarine started with a Memorial Day parade in 2015 with a replica that Kyle credits his grandfather Richard Burnham with building – with the help of Kyle and his father Kevin.

"Each year we tried to make a float that had something related to the VFW and history in some way," Kyle said. "That year specifically, we decided to do the submarine that Herbert Dix was on duty on and that he died on."

After the parade Kyle and his father didn't want their creation to go to waste and wanted to find a purpose for it. They discussed donating it to the VFW but nothing came of their plans immediately. The submarine remained in Kyle's grandfather's garage until the time came for Kyle to come up with a project in order to get his Eagle badge. They decided to talk to the VFW about the project and the rest, as they say is history.

"We talked to the VFW and while they were very supportive, they were worried about having space inside and weather conditions if it was outside."

The Burnhams were directed to the Greater

Middletown Military Museum to see if they would accept the submarine.

"They were more than happy to accept the donation," said Kyle. "I met with the curator Ken McClellan and we went from there. We also talked about doing a dedication for it at some point."

For some 18 months, as part of his Eagle project, Kyle has been preparing the sub by adding extra touches to it and planning for the dedication, which is set for 10 a.m. Oct. 12 at the Military Museum – exactly 76 years to the date after the sub's disappearance.

"It's believed that there was some sort of miscommunication with planes that were on our side," Kyle explained. "It's most commonly believed that it was sunk by depth charges from our own people."

The original idea of making a replica of the USS Dorado in 2015 originated with Kevin, the Scout troop leader.

"We have a very supportive organization in the VFW and they were always encouraging us to have floats in the parade," said Kevin. "So, to give back to the post we tried to make it a patriotic theme or something about the post. They had information about Fowler, Dix and Park, the three guys who were on the sub that they named the post after. It was hard to find info on the other two but it was easier to find that Dix was associated with this particular sub."

After some research, they decided to make a float to honor Dix and the other men lost at sea. While no remaining relatives of Dix's were found, they did find the name of a sister, who died in 2012 and a brother who died in 1988, both residents of Oregon.

Further research into the book, *USS Dorado (SS-248) On Eternal Patrol* resulted in yet more information.

"We've invited the author (Douglas E.

Campbell Ph. D.) to come to the dedication, and he and his editor are coming from Vermont for it," added Kyle.

The replica of the USS Dorado has been "sitting around, looking for a purpose since that parade in 2015," said Kyle.

"When the sub was originally built, I wasn't a part of it because I was younger," Kyle clarified. "It was the leaders of the pack who did it."

"We had it kind of stored behind my father's garage," added Kevin. "We didn't throw it away, but we lost the momentum to do anything till recently."

"The prospect of me doing some sort of Eagle project came up and we remembered that we had this and figured out something to do with the sub."

Both of Kyle's parents stated that they are very proud of their son.

"He's put a lot of work into this over the years," said Kevin. "I think it was a nice thing to recognize those who were in the area whose lives were lost."

"This was a long time in the making and he worked very hard on this," added Kyle's mother Patty.

At a recent Town Council meeting Kyle was presented with a proclamation designating Oct. 12, 2019 "USS Dorado Day in the Town of East Hampton."

"We as a council are very pleased and proud of this young man's enthusiasm and dedication to the history of our community," stated Town Council Chairman Melissa Engel.

The dedication ceremony is set for Oct. 12 at 10 a.m. It is open to the public and will be held at the Greater Middletown Military Museum, located at Veterans Memorial Park, 200 Walnut Grove Rd., Middletown.



Town Council Chairwoman Melissa Engel recently presented Eagle Scout Kyle Burnham with a proclamation in honor of his recent Eagle Scout project.

Main Street Improvement Project Nears Completion in East Hampton

by Michelle Richmond

Despite some glitches recently, the Main Street Improvement Project is nearing completion and paving should be finished by the “middle of next week,” according to Matt Walsh, East Hampton’s director of public works.

Town Manager David Cox disclosed this week that the project had developed some “problems” after some heavy rainfall.

The project, which began Aug. 19, runs from West High Street and extends to Clark Hill Rd.

“We had some interesting issues with the North Main St project with some run-off and problems last week after it rained, Cox stated. “We’re trying to find ways to address that, so that we’re mitigating as much as we can the amount of sediment that’s running into the lake.”

Originally intended to be a “mill and overlay” it became more extensive and erosion control measures “might not have been sufficient,” Cox stated.

Cox stated that steps were taken to “beef that up.”

“Unfortunately, we got some rain which dem-

onstrated that we really were not able to handle the water,” he said.

“The measures that we installed as part of the contract work were in place and functioned as they were supposed to but it was pretty easy to identify that they were not sufficient,” he said. “We’ve been taking a couple of extra steps these last couple of days to improve that.”

“There were some concerns by members of the lake community saying that we don’t take steps in our own projects to protect the lake,” he added. “I want people to understand that regardless of what they feel that might have gone on in the past, the staff is going to take steps to make sure that we’re being good stewards as much as we can.

“The message that I’ve been trying to give to the folks who’ve expressed concern is that we’re going to do everything that we can to get the water coming off the project into the lake as clean as we can,” he continued. “It’s not going to be clear and it’s still going to be a little brown but we’re doing what we can. For this and all of our projects in the future we’re going to take those steps to be good stewards.”

EHHS to Install Vaping Monitors

by Michelle Richmond

With concerns about the high incidence of vaping among teens, East Hampton High School plans to install vaping monitors in all of the school bathrooms.

According to Schools Superintendent Paul Smith, they will be installed as soon as possible.

“We decided to partner with East Hampton Prevention Partnership and we will purchase these monitors to try them to see if they’re effective,” Smith said.

The Prevention Partnership is an association dedicated to reducing substance abuse among young people.

“Our goal is not to punish students, but we want to sincerely attempt to help students cut down and avoid behavior which we consider not only unhealthy, but dangerous.”

Smith stated that vaping is hard to detect.

“It doesn’t smell like smoke and there’s no visible trace,” he said. “If they’re using the fla-

vored ones, then they emit a sweet smell but otherwise we have no way of knowing about it. We do get reports about kids who vape in the bathrooms between classes.”

Smith stated that the monitors will be only be placed in the bathrooms because that’s where the vaping is taking place.

“We’re in the process of purchasing them, we’ll have them installed as soon as possible, then we’ll go from there.

Smith explained that the monitors work through a cell phone app, which will alert the principal and assistant principal that vaping is taking place.

“We’re hoping to start as soon as possible,” Smith said. “If we get an alert about vaping, we’ll investigate. We’re less interested in punishing the students but we do have a series of consequences in place such as school suspension and in-school suspension.

Ratatouille Opens in East Hampton

by Michelle Richmond

When Chef Gerard Gaspel and his wife Marina Shimshi “happened to be driving through East Hampton,” not long ago and saw a “For Sale” sign on what used to be the Governor’s Tavern on East High Street, they decided that it would be the perfect place to open their own restaurant.

“I told my wife this is such a nice, beautiful little village with a lake and when I saw that sign saying, ‘For Sale,’ I said maybe this should be my ‘Grand Finale,’” said Gaspel.

Born and raised in Paris, Gaspel arrived in the United States in 1982 and is no stranger to the restaurant business, having owned and operated five restaurants in Connecticut prior to opening Ratatouille.

After a lengthy renovation – inside and out – the couple opened the bistro-style restaurant in July. Hints of French décor can be found throughout, starting with the red, white and blue colors of the French flag decorating the front door as well along the vintage bar brought from New York City’s venerable Gramercy Park Hotel.

Gaspel stated that he saw a lot of potential for a French bistro-style eatery in East Hampton.

“When I investigated the whole area, all it was, was chicken wings and pizza,” he stated, laughing. “I decided it was time to bring some ‘medication’ to town.”

“We decided that we needed some French food here,” added Shimshi.

The name of the restaurant was inspired by the movie, Ratatouille.

“I wanted to do Mediterranean dishes and ratatouille comes from the south of France,” he noted. “It’s a mix of vegetables so people who are foodies will understand that there are going to be plenty of vegetable dishes here. There are a lot of vegetarian people now and we wanted to appeal to them.”

Gaspel also hoped to “attract the kids,” because of the name as he thought they would identify with the movie. And while they admit to not seeing many kids, they are definitely at-

tracting adults in search of a true culinary experience.

Ratatouille features a varied menu with a host of French specialties for both lunch and dinner, as well as a wide selection of wines from around the world and specialty cocktails.

Gaspel owns a winery in Argentina and he said that they will be introducing some of those wines in October and is hoping to schedule a special wine tasting for that event.

“So, we’re also a wine bar,” he noted. “In the future we also want to offer ‘wine pairing’ events.

The restaurant also features “tableside dining,” something which is fairly unique nowadays.

“It’s like the old days. We do the whole thing with the flames, we cut the meat, make the Caesar Salad the old-fashioned way,” said Gaspel.

“Gerard is the talent behind this,” Shimshi stated. “He’s the chef and he’s the creator of the menu. He no longer cooks at home because we’re always here but he’s been cooking for me for over 20 years.”

“People really come here not only for the good food but for the tableside experience,” she added. “You don’t find that in many places anymore.”

Crepes Suzette and Bananas flambé are special dessert favorites but menu offerings run the gamut from hors d’oeuvres to soups, salads, baguettes, crepes, pastas, a variety of entrées and delicious desserts – all with a French flair.

“I did this restaurant based on what I like to find when I go out,” Gaspel noted. “I like my comfort and I like dining out to be an ‘event.’”

“Everybody goes out all the time these days, but nobody dresses up and every day is the same. I remember when going out used to be an event and that’s what I wanted to bring back.”

“We have a basic menu but we also offer daily specials,” noted Shimshi. “This past weekend for example, we had Osso Bucco and Dover sole. Next weekend, we’re doing venison and veal piccata, so we change all the time.”

Restaurant manager Paul Neagu who hails



Chef Gerard Gaspel, flanked by wife Marina Shimshi and Ratatouille manager Paul Neagu offers fine dining with a French flair.

from Romania and is a graduate of hotel and management school, sees that everything runs smoothly – especially behind the bar with their specialty cocktails.

“Our cocktails are based on the concept of using the freshest ingredients,” said Neagu.

“Whatever goes into the cocktail, including the garnish is fresh. It gives the cocktail a different profile taste-wise and everything is freshly squeezed. The basic principle behind this bar is that we work like a chef in the kitchen. It’s all about harmoniously blending everything together.”

“We also have a large selection of wine by the glass,” he added. “I think we have over 75 wines by the glass so we should have something for every palate. It would be hard to come here and say that you can’t find something you don’t like.”

“We offer something different for anyone who’s looking for a change,” said Shimshi.

The cozy bistro has capacity for 100 diners and features tablecloths and candlelight as well as a welcoming fireplace in the evenings. It is open daily from 11:30 a.m.-10 p.m. Happy hour is Sunday-Friday, 4-6 p.m.

Gazebo Given Overhaul, New Home in Marlborough

by Karla Santos

Florence S. Lord Senior Housing Center has a newly-relocated and remodeled gazebo after a group of residents worked together to gather the funds and labor to make the project a reality.

According to Susan Schatz, administrator of Florence S. Lord Senior Housing Center, the gazebo was located in the backfield of the property, an area that was difficult for the residents to get to even though there was a dirt path leading to it.

But the gazebo was not only in an inconvenient location, it was also in a poor condition, Schatz said, adding that it is unknown exactly how many years the gazebo had been there.

"It was already in disrepair when I started working here 10 years ago," Schatz said.

The process of moving and repairing the gazebo started in the middle of last winter, after John Moore, a resident at Florence S. Lord Senior Housing Center, communicated Schatz his vision of moving it.

"I kept telling him no, no, no, it couldn't be done, that it was going to fall apart," Schatz said. "I said if you can get somebody to move it, we'll move it."

Both Moore and Schatz went to Carefree Small Buildings on different occasions to ask if they could help moving the gazebo, but they both got no for answer.

Then Moore, who was a member of the Sons of The American Legion, asked the organization if they could help with funds for the needed materials to move the gazebo.

"They gave me \$400 to get it started," Moore said.

Schatz said that \$400 was not enough but Moore still found a way to move the gazebo.

"He put a good effort in to try and get that thing up here for us," Schatz said. "It looked like a piece of garbage when it was here. It was really in poor shape. It really was in bad shape. It had holes in the roof that were this big. It

really did not look like anything viable."

The next step was to fix the roof, another step of the project that required funds and labor.

"One of our problems is that we could not take from our general fund to fix this up," Schatz said. "It needed to be done some other way."

That's when resident Marie Jones went to Schatz to tell her that she would donate the money to fix the roof. Jones's donation was of \$400.

"Susan got the shingles and it went from there," Jones said. "I was happy to do it's for everybody that lives here in Florence Lord."

Resident Frank Jordan with the help of his son fixed the roof of the Gazebo. Jordan said he was "very happy to do it."

"He worked out there for days and those days were those days that were extremely hot and I saw this building just slowly transform into something very viable," Schatz said. "Just having the roof done alone, made it look 1,000 times better. Not that I ever questioned his skill, but I was amazed at how well it came out."

In addition, the group decided to run advertisements in the newspaper for three weeks because they still needed help with donations.

According to Schatz, after seeing the advertising, community members with no relationship to Florence S. Lord Senior Housing Center made some donations that contributed to the project.

Lisa Butterfield donated the stain and Michele Kasy donated 10 mums for the property.

The gazebo is surrounded by a variety of plants and flowers that were planted by residents Doris Conway. Other residents gave Conway money toward peat moss and other planting materials.

Conway said she's not done with the plants and hopes to continue her work to beautify the surroundings of the gazebo.

The residents also said they wanted to ac-



Doris Conway, Frank Jordan, Marie Jones, Susan Schatz and John Moore (pictured from left) took part in the process of moving and repairing the gazebo at Florence S. Lord Senior Housing Center. Photo by Karla Santos.

knowledge Schatz and her husband for their help in the project. They helped power wash and stain the gazebo.

Cushions for the benches in the gazebo were also put on by the team, which is satisfied with the final results. Conway said residents like to sit in the gazebo in the evening.

"A lot of people use it," Jones said.

"It looks like it's brand new and honestly to tell you the truth I thought this was going to be a fiasco and it turned out to be something very lovely and it was lovely in a lot of ways because everybody got together and was helping each other and it was really nice to see," Schatz said.

Introduction to Trumpet Leads to Emmy-Winning Career In Marlborough

by Karla Santos

When 53-year-old Charles Denler was in fourth grade, a band program was introduced at Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall Elementary School.

Denler said the music director of the program was Bruce Foote.

"He was a trumpet player and he was so encouraging to me, just incredibly encouraging," Denler said.

Today Denler is a music composer who has written for major television networks and the recipient of three Emmy Awards, including the latest one, which he received in July.

It all started in fourth grade, when he learned to play the trumpet at the school in Marlborough. Then in sixth grade, Denler's grandfather bought him a piano and Denler taught himself how to play it.

"That just opened up the world for me as far as writing and composing," Denler said.

But a choral director at RHAM High School, James Mirakian, also influenced Denler's musical talents, he said.



Charles Denler

"He was just enlightening to me," Denler said.

Denler, who lives in Colorado but grew up on Lake Terramuggus, received his third Emmy Award for a piano-centric suite called the Wild Mustang Suite. He received the award in July during a ceremony that took place in Colorado, he said.

"This Emmy was based on the music from my last album which was an orchestra suite that I recorded with the City of Prague Philharmonic Orchestra."

He said winning an Emmy was a "huge blessing" and a "tool" to open up more doors in his career.

Denler received his first Emmy in 2004 for his work on *Bentley Creek* and his second Emmy in 2005 for his work in *Beyond the Medal of Honor*. Both are PBS films, he said.

Denler has written the music of about 200 films he said, including movies and television videos. He said his music was recently used for the television series *Dirty Jobs* and *American Chopper*.

He said he has also composed music for Honda, Coca-Cola and even the New York Yankees baseball team.

In addition, Denler's original music has been heard on the National Geographic Channel, The

History Channel, Animal Planet and Discovery Channel.

Even though Denler said he feels "thankful" for his awards, he doesn't see them as a competition, but an "awarded merit," he said.

"I'm thankful for it but I don't see it as beating somebody to win it. I feel it as more of an acknowledgement of the work that you do," he said, adding that there are a lot of talented musicians worthy of receiving recognition.

Denler said his official career in music composition started in 2001 after he watched a documentary on a topic of his interest at National Geographic. He reached out to the producers to offer help for the music of the show. Denler was working at a recording studio in Hartford at the time. The producers then reached out Denler, turning his music composition into a career.

"It wasn't even a career path that I was considering," Denler said. "Honestly I was just reaching out to be helpful but yeah, that ended up turning into three National Geographic films. I've done a few more since then for National Geographic but it was a cool start to my career."

Denler graduated high school in 1984 and attended Berklee College of Music for two years.

"I didn't really complete my college," Denler said. "I just kind of felt like I wanted to get into my career, which I did. I released some albums, did a little bit of touring and it was all good."

Then, Denler started to work at the recording studio, where he spent five years before moving to Colorado.

Denler's father, Charlie Denler said it is "great" that his son received a third Emmy Award.

"He enjoys it, he is doing something he likes," Denler's father said. "They send him a movie, he sits on his back porch, watches the movie and then up comes the music for it. So that's pretty good. He's doing exactly what he wanted."

Denler also worked on rock operas that later led him to symphonic writing. He said he taught himself most of it.

"I taught myself how to write for orchestras and I released a few symphonies and I had them premier with the Colorado Symphony Orchestra," he said.

One of his goals is to work with a Connecticut-based orchestra.

"I'd love to work with the Hartford Symphony Orchestra and premiere a piece," Denler said.

Hebron Receives Grant to Connect Preserve to Air Line Trail

by Sloan Brewster

The town has been awarded a \$399,000 grant to connect the Raymond Brook Preserve to the Air Line Trail.

The Board of Selectmen will ask for voter approval to accept the grant at a special town meeting scheduled on Oct. 24.

Trail Connectivity is part of the town's master plan, said Town Manager Andrew Tierney and Director Parks & Recreation Rich Calarco.

It's part of a statewide plan to connect communities with other transportation than cars to make traveling by foot and bike easier and more convenient, Calarco said.

"To cut our carbon footprint," he said.

The funding was included in a \$13.4 million Community Connectivity Grant Program to support projects in towns and cities across the state looking to complete pedestrian and bicycle safety projects, according to a press release.

The grant program is an infrastructure improvement program that provides funding for initiatives that will improve safety and accessibility for bicyclists and pedestrians in urban, suburban and rural community centers, where people can meet for employment, educational, social and recreational activities, the press release states. It is part of a broader Community Connectivity Program with the goal of making conditions safer for people of all ages to walk, bike and take transit with the intention of encouraging "healthy and environmentally sustainable modes of travel" and making community centers "more accessible places to live and work."

This is the second round of grants being

awarded under the program. The funding will complete Phase 3 of work at Raymond Brook.

The town will contribute \$80,000 toward the project, Tierney told selectmen at their September 12 meeting. The Capital Improvement Plan Committee approved \$20,000 in the current year's budget and \$60,000 more to be included with 2020/2021 budget.

In the first round of funding, which was awarded in 2018, 40 communities received grants, including Hebron, which was awarded \$228,000 – the fourth-largest award on the list – to extend trails at the more than 100-acre preserve connecting it to Millstream Road, where there will be another parking lot, Calarco said.

In phase 3, a connection will be established from Millstream Road to the Air Line Trail off Route 207.

"Then we would have a loop," Calarco said.

According to a write-up in the grant application, this segment of the project will also bring a bike lane and a 60-foot pedestrian bridge to Mint Brook Lane. The bikeway will be marked as a shared lane along Mint Brook Lane and Highland Drive, where it will cross town-owned open space. The bikeway will then enter a parcel of open space owned by the state and cross over Mint Brook via a fiberglass bridge. From there, a short connection will bring the bikeway directly to the Air Line Trail.

A future phase will create a connection to 130 acres of town owned land behind Colebrook Village on John E. Horton Blvd. with backing on Kinney Road.

"You can come to the Air Line Trail with a bike, bike across Raymond Brook and come



The Raymond Brook Preserve will be connected to the downtown area and the Air Line Trail.

all the way down," Calarco said. "That'll be phase 4."

The project began with Phase 1 last October, when the Parks & Recreation Department completed a 1.9-mile loop at the preserve, Calarco said. That trail was made possible through a \$62,000 Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Trails Program grant.

The town is currently waiting for contracts from the state to begin Phase 2 construction, which should be completed by January 2022, Calarco said. Phase 3 will begin a year or two later.

The sidewalk currently under construction on Church Street, Route 85 will be completed this fall and is also part of the town's long-term plans to create connectivity within town, Calarco and Tierney said.

It will stretch approximately two miles from the intersections of Route 66 and 85 down Route 85, past the Senior Center down to Hebron Elementary School, where it would cross to Kinney Road and continue past Holy Family Church down to Sunnyside Plaza.

"The goal is to connect your downtown area to places like Air Line trails," he said.

Andover Selectmen Shelve Senior Center Plans

by Sloan Brewster

During a heated meeting Wednesday, the Board of Selectmen decided to shelve plans to bring a senior center to Andover Elementary School.

At Wednesday's meeting the board decided to "sit on this issue," as First Selectman Jeff Maguire put it, referring to the proposal to convert the third- and fourth-grade wing into a senior center.

Initially, Vice First Selectman Adrian Mandeville made a two-part motion with one part being to send the memorandum of understanding [MOU] for the shared space back to the Board of Education for review and the other being to request permission from the school board for use of one classroom at night as a meeting space.

The first part was ultimately scratched by the board based on the consensus that they did not have enough information about classroom needs at the school.

"I think we're under-informed," Jeff Murray, selectman, said.

The second part was moved forward.

"We have a meeting space issue," Mandeville said. "Ever since the firehouse has gone away, we are one meeting space short."

Last October, selectmen closed the old firehouse on Center Street, which had been used as a senior center and for meeting space for the town, when air quality tests confirmed what folks around town have said they have known

for decades – it is infested with mold.

The school board offered the wing as potential space for the seniors due to declining enrollment and plans to empty it out. This year, the classrooms were moved around at the school but after meeting with Schools Superintendent Sally Doyen and asking questions about the school's classroom needs, Mandeville said he was not convinced the space was available.

"Right now they really don't have the space from what we understand," he said.

Mandeville said it would be premature to spend the money on the conversion and that based on how the MOU was written, the school board could simply take back the space if it determined there was a need. Without at least a three-year commitment to allow seniors to use the space, he said he had reservations about moving forward with the proposal. A year after converting the space, the school board could say, "sorry we don't have room" and kick the seniors out.

"At the very least we need a three-year commitment," he said.

A resident in the audience said she felt the town was split about moving the seniors into the space and that it was a "false impression" that there is empty space at the school.

"You are correct; that is a false impression," Mandeville replied.

Selectman Paula King, who was also in the meeting with Doyen, said she and Mandeville

were working on a write-up based on the conversation with Doyen that they planned to put on Facebook but after the meeting, she said it may not be necessary to post it now that selectmen had decided not to move on the shared space proposal.

The heated conversation about the proposal to share the space began at a special meeting last Monday when residents raised concerns. Wednesday even more showed up and reiterated those concerns.

At last week's meeting Maguire, after being told residents would move out of town if the school becomes a shared space, said it was fine. When asked about that in a phone call the following day, he said he was only referring to a single resident, Daniel Foran, who had spoken at the meeting.

Foran subsequently attended Wednesday's meeting and said Maguire was "in fact, telling every parent and family in town that have the same concerns [as I do] to leave."

"We are tired of the faces, the snickers and the tone that we receive," he said. "You have driven a wedge in our community."

Resident Dave Kluczowski also commented, saying that he was the one who had made the initial comment that putting the senior center in the school would drive people out of town.

Maguire, for his part, apologized to Foran and said he did not want him to leave.

Foran later thanked him for the apology.

Other parents joined in the conversation, rising one after the other to voice adamant opposition to the proposal for the shared space and to say that they felt they had been excluded from previous discussions.

"I think the animosity comes from not having been included in discussions," one resident said. "I think the animosity isn't personal but it's from having been left out."

Mandeville echoed those concerns.

He and Murray also had an issue with not being privy to the safety report on the school, citing not seeing it as another strike against going forward with the shared space. Town Administrator Eric Anderson said he had spoken to Resident State Trooper Darrell Tetreault who said a large part of the report included information about how state police would respond to a crisis at the school and that it is not a public document.

Maguire said the board had the choice to send the MOU back to the school board "or just sit on it and do nothing." The board decided to sit on it.

After the meeting, Maguire said not moving forward on the issue means it is essentially "dead."

Doyen could not be reached for comment before this story went to press.

‘Alice in Wonderland’ Theme Greets New Café Diners in Colchester

by Karla Santos

When customers walk into The MAD Hatter Café, they encounter an ‘Alice in Wonderland’ theme with bistro table sets, flowers, mad hatter hats and a variety of international ice cream.

The MAD Hatter Café is a newly-opened ice cream shop owned by Dorothy Seitz. The ice cream shop is located right next to Hair Magic Salon and Academy, a business Seitz has owned for decades. Both businesses are located in the same building, 24 Norwich Ave.

On Sunday Oct. 6, a celebration will be hosted by Seitz as a grand opening for the ice cream shop and the 40th anniversary of the hair salon.

The gathering will take place from noon-5 p.m. and it will feature music performances from the band South of Hebron.

“We want everybody to come in and have fun, bring their lounge chairs to listen to the band,” Seitz said. “It’s going to be a beautiful day.”

The event will include a raffle, hair services, baskets and free ice cream.

The event is particularly important to Seitz because in her forty years in business she has gone through many accomplishments including the opening of her own cosmetology school within the salon.

“Forty years in business, 20 years of my students and it’s an anniversary that I’ve never celebrated after all these years,” Seitz said.

With the new business right next to Hair Magic Salon and Academy, Seitz wants to help her customers not only look good but feel good.

“I just like watching people be happy and enjoy life,” Seitz said. “I make people feel good all day long, they look good, they feel good, now why not eat something good so when you leave my place you not only look good, you actually feel good because you eat something good.”

The ice cream shop focuses on gelato, which

is of Italian origin. The shop also offers mochi, a Japanese dessert. Popping pearls, French handcrafted soda, cookie dough and sorbetto are among the variety of ice cream The MAD Hatter Cafe has to offer.

Seitz said her inspiration to open the ice cream shop not only came because she had rented the space to a variety of ice-cream business in the last five years but because of her trips to Italy in which she became interested in gelato.

But 41 years ago, Seitz didn’t dream of having her own ice cream shop or becoming a hair dresser.

“I wanted to go to college, actually I wanted to be a composer,” Seitz said. “I wanted to be a composer and I wanted to go to the University of Hartford.”

But her father told her she could either become a hair dresser or a secretary and she picked hair.

At age 17 she went to New London Academy of Hair Dressing every day for a full year.

Right after graduating, at age 18, she started her own business in East Hartford, then opened a salon in Manchester. She ran the two businesses at the same time, but eventually ended condensing them into one and moving to Colchester 24 years ago. Four years later, she started to train students to obtain a license in cosmetology.

Hair Magic Salon and Academy is “considered a post-secondary school,” Seitz said. “The people that I want are the people who really want to become a hair dresser.”

The school teaches full-time and part-time students. New students can start at any given time and there is a scholarship program available, she said.

Lauren Geary has been a part-time student at Hair Magic Salon and Academy for about a year. She said she chose the school because a lot of the other hair dressing schools she looked into “are structured more like a traditional class-



The MAD Hatter Cafe is decorated with an Alice in Wonderland Theme. The new business offers a variety of international ice creams including gelato, mochi and sorbetto. Photo by Karla Santos.

room.”

“But Dottie is more, I would say down to earth,” Geary said. “She has a lot of expertise in the field when other schools maybe get trainers that only did the job for a couple of years. You get to see how an actual salon is run versus a school. I like that – that you get to see, you get to learn the business side, seeing how a salon is run, you get the expertise of someone who’s been doing it for a lot longer.”

In addition, Geary said she enjoys the school because it provides hands on training and it exposes students to photo shoots, beauty competitions and the higher end of the hair industry.

Early in her career, Seitz became involved in photo shoots, hair and make up for local television commercials. She later took part in the reality show Global Beauty Masters for two seasons and then Battle of the Strands.

Because of her exposure in the shows, Seitz recently became a judge for the North American Hairstyling Awards, “which is a huge recognition,” she said.

The competition is based on the top hair dressers of the United States, Mexico and Canada.

“Because I started young and I happened to be in the right place at the right time and I always worked, is how everything that I ever asked to do I went and did it,” Seitz said. It just brought me to the level that I was at.”

Seitz said that in the last few years she actually entered in the contest she was a judge for. “I actually made top five People’s Choice Awards on that North American Hairstyling Awards and had 25,000 votes,” Seitz added.

To learn more about Hair Magic Salon and Academy or The MAD Hatter Café, call 860-537-8020.

Three Jump From Truck After Burglarizing Store in Colchester

by Karla Santos

State police reported that three individuals jumped out of a moving U-Haul truck and were arrested, after allegedly burglarizing the Tractor Supply Store in Colchester on Sunday morning.

According to police, the first suspect is 51-year-old Robert Gamble, of 91 East Morningside, Bloomfield. Gamble faces charges of burglary, second-degree larceny, interfering with police and criminal mischief. Police said he is being held on a \$50,000 bond and he is scheduled to appear at Norwich Superior Court on Oct. 10.

The second suspect of the incident is 54-year-old Gregory Mathis, of 32 Becker Ci, Windsor. The third suspect is 44-year-old Tongie Johnson, of 17 Capen St. C3, Hartford. According to police both Mathis and Johnson face charges of third-degree burglary, second degree larceny and conspiracy. They are both being held on a \$25,000 bond. They are also scheduled to appear in Norwich Su-

perior Court on Oct. 10.

The three suspects are facing charges because according to state police, on Sunday Sept. 29 at 2:03 a.m., they were dispatched to the Tractor Supply Store for the report of a commercial burglar alarm. When officers arrived to the scene, they saw and identified a vehicle at the entrance of the parking lot of the store. Police said they also observed a U-Haul truck flee from the scene. Police followed the truck and observed the occupants jump out of it while it was still moving. Police used a K9 track to follow the suspects, which were later located and taken into custody.

State Police Lt. Marc Petrucci told the *Rivereast* on Tuesday that the investigation continued to be active.

“At this point I can confirm it was a burglary; we did recover some stolen items that night,” Petrucci said.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Troop K at 860-465-5400.

East Hampton Police News

9/18: Connor Mortimer, 19, of 500 Dennison Ridge Dr., Manchester, was issued a summons for operating an unregistered motor vehicle and misuse of plates, East Hampton Police said.

9/20: Anthony Robinson, 23, of 6 Edgerton St., was arrested and charged with operating under suspension and driving under the influence, police said.

9/21: Dree Stagni, 43, of 1 Robbie Rd., Moodus, was arrested and charged with driving under the influence and failure to drive right, police said.

Also, from Sept. 16-22, officers responded to eight medical calls, six motor vehicle crashes and 11 alarms, and made 33 traffic stops, police said.

Obituaries

Andover

Mary Ann Tootell

Mary Ann Tootell, 90, passed away peacefully on the afternoon of Saturday, Sept. 21, at Cove's Edge in Damariscotta, Maine, with her daughters by her side. Mary (a.k.a. Marion) was the daughter of Arthur and Alice (Letourneau) Charbonneau, and was born May 10, 1929.



She grew up in North Providence, R.I., and summered in Point Judith and Block Island, R.I. After graduating high school, she worked at Morin's Sign Shop as the secretary where she met her husband, Robert David Tootell. They dated for eight years, two of those years Robert was in the Army stationed in Korea. They married Aug. 6, 1956 and moved to Andover, where they raised two daughters.

Robert and Mary began visiting Pemaquid, Maine, when Robert's sister, Joan, met and married a local fisherman. They bought and renovated a home in Pemaquid Harbor where they summered for many years. After Robert's passing in 2017, Mary moved to Bristol, Maine, and lived with her daughter, Patricia. In November 2018, she was taken ill and moved into Cove's Edge in Damariscotta.

She loved music; her favorite artist was Neil Diamond. She bragged that she attended her first concert at the age of 60 when she saw him live. She could play the slide guitar, ukulele & the accordion. She had many pen pals, and was a loyal UConn Husky women's basketball fan. She loved to crochet, and over the years she crocheted many afghans that she donated to local hospitals and nursing homes both in Connecticut and Maine.

Besides her parents, she was predeceased by her husband, Robert; her brother, Emil David Charbonneau; sister-in-law, Joan Elizabeth Bunker; and son-in-law, Dwayne Lee Boynton.

She is survived by her daughters, Patricia Marie Boynton of Bristol, Maine, and Debra Tootell Furman and husband, Robert Wallace Furman of Waldoboro, Maine; her brother, Virginia Ann Reilly of Lantana, Fla.; grandchildren, David Wesley Boynton of Newport, N.H., Elizabeth Michelle Boynton of Fort Myers, Fla., Andrew Ross Furman and wife Brenda Boucher Furman of Windham, Maine, and Matthew Robert Furman of Portland, Maine; two great-grandchildren, Broderick William Boynton and Kathryn Patricia Boynton of New Hampshire; nieces, Annette Cash of Vinalhaven, Maine, and her children and grandchildren, and Robin Reilly of Lantana, Fla.; nephew, Arthur Prentice and son of Shelburne, Vt.; and longtime friend, Carol Lorenc of Andover.

A graveside service will be held at the Harrington Cemetery in Pemaquid, Maine, Saturday, Oct. 26, at 11 a.m.

Arrangements are under the direction and care of the Strong-Hancock Funeral Home, 612 Main St., Damariscotta, ME 04543.

Condolences, and messages for her family, may be expressed by visiting StrongHancock.com.

Marlborough

Ryan Nathaniel Stachelek

Ryan Nathaniel Stachelek, 37, of Groton, formerly of Marlborough, passed away Sunday, Sept. 22.

Ryan's passion for food and cooking led him to Johnson and Wales University, from which he graduated in 2005 with degrees in baking, culinary arts, and nutrition, and to his long career as a chef, most recently working at Liv's Oyster Bar in Old Saybrook. His family and friends will miss the care and creativity he put into the meals he prepared. He always surprised us with some special dish that we had never tried before.

Ryan had a gentle and generous personality that everyone loved. If you needed a place to stay after a night out, Ryan would welcome you. If you needed money to get home, Ryan would lend it to you. If you needed a special dish to serve at a party, Ryan would cook it for you. He enjoyed spinning his tables, for an audience or just for himself, and is remembered for his love of the Hartford Whalers hockey team, even after they moved away and changed their name.

Ryan is survived by his parents, Linda and Richard Stachelek of Marlborough; brother Keith Stachelek of Monson, Mass., and his daughter, Arwyn; brother Adam and his wife Janine Stachelek, and their daughter, Gemma, of Marlborough.

Calling hours were held at Glastonbury Funeral Home, 450 New London Tpke., Glastonbury, Monday, Sept. 30; a memorial church service was held the following day, Tuesday, Oct. 1, at Marlborough Congregational Church, 35 S. Main St., Marlborough, followed by burial at Marlboro Cemetery, East Hampton Road (Route 66), Marlborough (near the intersection of East Hampton Road and School Drive).

For an online condolence, visit glastonburyfuneral.com.

East Hampton

Patricia Ann Ransom

Patricia Ann (Griffin) Ransom, 83, of East Hampton, formerly of Meriden, beloved wife of Denton Ransom died Thursday, Sept. 26, at Middlesex Hospice. Born June 30, 1936, in Meriden, she was the daughter of the late Gerald and Regina (Hamp) Griffin.

Patricia was a longtime resident of Meriden before moving to East Hampton with her husband Denton. Patricia had worked as a hairdresser before her retirement.

Besides her husband, she is survived by her son, Gary Ransom and his wife Bonnie of East Hampton; her daughter, Linda Ransom and her companion Joseph LeCara of East Hampton; her grandsons, Benjamin and Devin Graham; and her two great-grandsons, Silas and Eli.

She was predeceased by her brother, Thomas Griffin, and her grandson, Timothy Ransom.

Friends called at Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, Monday Sept. 30. There was a funeral service that evening. Burial was private at the convenience of the family in Lake View Cemetery.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Hebron

Carol Ann Wells

Carol Ann Wells, 72, of Hebron passed away peacefully in her sleep Sunday, Sept. 29, at Marlborough Health and Rehabilitation Center. Born in Hartford on Nov. 7, 1946, she was the daughter of the late Leon and Caroline (Sumislaski) D'Onofrio.



She married her beloved husband Stephen Wells on November 25, 1966. Carol worked as a secretary for Pratt & Whitney before taking time to raise her family. She was an animal lover who cherished many pets throughout the years. Carol enjoyed traveling with her family and took special trips over the summer each year.

Left behind to cherish her memory are her husband, Stephen of 52 years; her children Lynda (John) Majewski of South Windsor, Scott (Dottie) Wells of Lyme; grandchildren, Andrew Goulet, Trevor, Ellie, and Mason Wells; her beloved aunt, Adella "Boots" Carneilla; and numerous extended family and friends.

Calling hours will be held Saturday, Oct. 5, from 4-6 p.m., at Aurora McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The funeral service will be held the following Friday, Oct. 11, at 11 a.m., directly at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 30 Church St., Hebron.

Donations in Carol's memory can be made to the American Cancer Society by visiting cancer.org/donate.

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Middle Haddam

Susan Ferguson Johnson

Susan Ferguson Johnson, nee Smith, of Hartford, formerly of Broad Brook and Newington, passed away Wednesday, Sept. 18, at Avery Heights, Hartford. Born Oct. 26, 1936, in Middle Haddam, Susan was the daughter of the late Leroy Richards and Louise (Bleser) Smith and the wife of 35 years to Robert Edward Johnson.



She was a graduate of East Hampton High School, Class of 1954, and Fisher Junior College, Class of 1956. Prior to her retirement, she was employed as an executive secretary for the Traveler's Insurance Company. She was a member of Farmington Avenue Baptist Church. An avid gardener, Susan loved spending time in her yard and in the company of her many feathered friends. She enjoyed looking for bargains at tag sales, sewing, photography, and creating greeting cards from her photos. She spent time traveling and biked over 500 miles in England, Scotland, and Wales.

She is survived by her children, Peter Combes of Haddam, Suzanne Combes Winslow (Greg) of New Hampshire, Dianne Combes Agarwal (Rajan) of California; her siblings, John Smith (Marilyn) of Maine, David Smith (Karen) of Minnesota, Elizabeth Treadway of East Hampton; her grandchildren, Evan and Alyssa Agarwal, Olivia Winslow Rodriguez (Elias), Josiah Winslow (Paola), Lysandra Winslow Fernandez (Chris), Caleb, Samuel, and Ruth Winslow; her great-grandsons, Stephen and Ethan Winslow; a special niece Paige Quinn, as well as many other nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her husband, Robert Edward Johnson; her son, John Tapley Combes of California; her sister, Sally Smith of East Hampton; and her beloved border collie, Midnite, of 16 years.

A celebration of Susan's life will be held Sunday, Oct. 6, at 2 p.m., at the Laurel Ridge Clubhouse, 55 Laurel Ridge, East Hampton, with a reception immediately following. Floral-themed attire is welcome in memory of Susan's love of gardening. Burial will be held in Beaver Meadows Cemetery in Leyden, Mass., at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Elizabeth Park Rose Conservancy, 1561 Asylum Ave., West Hartford, CT 06117.

Newington Memorial Funeral Home, 20 Bonair Ave., Newington, is assisting with her arrangements. To share a memory with Susan's family, visit newingtonmemorial.com.