



RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

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

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IT'S A FIRE SALE!!

Purchase your Lake House Gift Cards
Sun. July 28 (11:00am-9:00pm)
ONLY 200 CARDS AVAILABLE
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ANGELICO'S LAKE HOUSE / 81 NORTH MAIN / EAST HAMPTON
860.267.1276 / www.angelicolakehouse.com

Questions abounded on social media and throughout East Hampton this week after popular restaurant Angelico's Lake House suddenly closed its doors – just one day after holding a 50% off sale of its gift cards. The state Department of Consumer Protection said it is looking into the situation.

Questions Aplenty After Eatery Closes

by Sloan Brewster

Questions were rampant this week after a popular East Hampton eatery closed suddenly just one day after holding a special sale of its gift cards.

Angelico's Lake House, located at 81 N. Main St., was shuttered Monday after the state suspended its sales and use tax permit. A sign posted on the door by the state Department of Revenue Services has the word "Suspended" in large bold letters and states "No sales can be transacted" at the business.

The day before the closure, the restaurant held what it advertised as a one-day only "Fire Sale," during which it sold gift cards at a 50% off discount. According to the advertisement on the restaurant's Facebook page, the minimum purchase available was \$100 in gift cards – and payment could only be made in cash or check.

In the lower left corner of the advertisement is a photo of the popular tiki bar outside the restaurant with the words "I'll be back" scrolled on top.

Last Wednesday in the early morning hours, a fire damaged the outdoor stage backdrop, some fencing and a portion of the tiki bar.

Leslie O'Brian at the Department of Consumer Protection said the department had not received any complaints from people who purchased gift cards only to discover the next day that the restaurant had been closed. Still, due to news reports stating the restaurant had closed less than 24 hours after the sale, she said the department was looking into the situation – but, as of Wednesday, had not officially opened an investigation.

As for the suspension notice, Jim Polites, communications director for the Department of Revenue Services, said the department could not comment as confidentiality provisions in state statute prevent it from releasing individual

taxpayer information to anyone other than the taxpayer.

While the suspension notice only indicates that the establishment's sales and use tax permit was suspended, the *Rivereast* has also learned that its local property taxes are also in arrears.

As of Thursday, according to the town of East Hampton website, PJA Associates of 81 North Main Street still owes more than \$3,000 in taxes for the 2017 tax year.

According to the billing information, the restaurant paid \$15,716.84 of its \$19,113.10 bill for 2017 – and \$3,420.26 remains outstanding.

For 2018, none of the \$19,664.94 it owes has been paid.

According to the website, the first half of personal property taxes were due July 1 and are considered delinquent after Aug. 1.

Despite having thousands in overdue taxes, Angelico's was not one of the more than 30 properties sent to the auction block earlier this summer due to delinquent taxes. When reached for comment Thursday, Town Council Chairman Melissa Engel said the list of properties sent to auction was computer-generated, and based on not just the amount due but the length of time the taxes were owed.

"I don't know why it wasn't on the list," she said of Angelico's. When asked if she thought owing more than \$3,000 in back taxes should've been enough to get Angelico's sent to auction, she said "I would think" it would be.

Engel referred further comments about Angelico's property tax situation to Interim Town Manager Jeff Jylkka, who could not be reached for comment as of press time.

As for the gift card situation, Engel was surprised to learn the one-day sale took place the day before the restaurant was shuttered, but said she didn't want to think anything nefarious was

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Anti-Trump Tweets Cost Selectman Nomination

by Sloan Brewster

A longtime member of the Colchester Board of Selectmen didn't make the local Republicans' slate of candidates for election – due partly to repeated social media posts critical of President Donald Trump.

Stan Soby, a 13-year member of the Board of Selectmen and vice chairman of the Republican Town Committee, did not secure the nomination for re-election at the RTC's July 16 caucus. Soby said this week he believes he was omitted for stating opinions with which some of his fellow Republicans disagree. He said he has received feedback on some comments he has made on Twitter.

"I have views on the current president," he said. "I've had views on every president since I've been intellectually cognizant of what's going on, which goes back some number of years. There's pluses and minuses on everyone."

Taras Rudko, who was endorsed for the

Board of Selectmen slate alongside David Gesiak and Denise Mizla, wrote and submitted to the Republican Town Committee last fall a document entitled "Accountability, Transparency and Branding of the Republican Party by Elected Officials." In it, he was critical of Soby for his tweets, and retweets, of anti-Trump sentiments, including ones that called the president a racist.

Rudko also criticized Soby for retweeting various Democratic state and municipal officials.

In an email from Greece, Andreas Bisbikos, caucus chair, said Soby was the lowest vote-getter among the nearly 50 registered Republicans at the caucus.

"It was quite clear that [committee members] were frustrated with Mr. Soby's local leadership as well as his commitment to the Republican Party," he said.

Bisbikos said that under the moniker "Selectman Stan," Soby was "promoting progressive values and narratives on illegal immigration, the second amendment, and on the president."

He also said that Soby has a long history of supporting liberals, such as Richard Blumenthal, Chris Murphy, Dan Malloy, Ned Lamont and Joe Ganim, and that he had publicly sided with Blumenthal and the Democrats during the Brett Kavanaugh hearings.

"Based on his tweets and other documented behavior, it is clear that Stan Soby's convictions and values best line up with the Democrat Party," Bisbikos said.

In response to criticism, Soby said he had tried to do what was best for the town and that he was a Republican who looks back to Abraham Lincoln.

"We are the party of many but really the party

of Lincoln and I think of that often," he said. "We need to be a party of many and not a party of some."

Soby said he was circulating petitions to get his name included on the ballot.

Brendan Healy, current town treasurer and also chairman of the Republican Town Committee, was also not supported by the caucus. Healy did not return calls for this story before it went to press.

"I think it boils down to bad leadership and poor judgement," Rudko said of why Healy was not endorsed.

Republicans also endorsed: Art Shilosky for first selectman; Steve Schuster for treasurer; Evan Evans for Board of Finance; Brad Bernier and Renie Besaw for Board of Education (though Bisbikos said the committee will need to find a replacement, as Besaw unexpectedly

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Nomination cont. from Front Page

moved out of town after the caucus); and Dave Anderson and Jeff Brainard for Board of Assessment Appeals.

* * *

Meanwhile, Democrats held their caucus last week, coming away with what the local Democratic Town Committee said in a press release is a “solid slate of candidates.”

Mary Bylone leads the ticket “as an extraordinary candidate for first selectman,” the press release states. A current member of the Board of Education, Bylone is active in the Colchester Business Association, Lions Club, Historical Society, and Garden Club to name a few organizations.

She has more than 30 years of leadership in nursing administration and as a small business owner, according to the press release.

“Mary is in tune with the needs of our community and has the experience to deliver real results,” the press release stated.

In the press release, Bylone said she looks forward to talking with Colchester voters about a collective vision for the community.

“Colchester – like many towns across the state – faces many challenges,” she said. “But we also have amazing strengths and potential in our people, businesses, infrastructure, recreation destinations, and more.”

Incumbents Rosemary Coyle and Denise Turner were endorsed for the Board of Selectmen slate.

“Together, they have proudly represented

Colchester citizens and are determined to continue leading our town in a positive direction,” the release stated.

Board of Finance members Mike Egan and Nilda Negron were endorsed to run for six-year and four-year terms, respectively. Mike Hayes, a member of the Sewer and Water Commission, the Lions Club and many other organizations, is also pursuing a six-year term on the finance board.

Democrats endorsed Mary Tomasi, a retired teacher and current Board of Education member, to run for another term, along with newcomer Michael Quick.

The Democrats endorsed Gayle Furman to run for another term as town clerk and Michele Wyatt to run again for tax collector.

Colchester natives Andrew Cournoyer and Christos Stravoravdis were nominated for the Board of Assessment Appeals.

“Colchester Democrats are confident that this slate of candidates has the talent, experience, and knowledge to represent all of Colchester’s citizens,” Michelle Gilman, committee chair, said in the press release. “Our candidates have significant knowledge, diverse community and professional experiences, and the vision to move our town forward. Together, they look forward to launching a positive campaign to talk about that vision and to work in partnership with our community stakeholders to strengthen our town.”

Eatery Closes cont. from Front Page

going on by owner Paul Angelico.

“I don’t want to think badly until I know the whole story,” Engel said.

Engel, who has attended and participated in a number of fundraisers at the eatery over the years, said she hopes the restaurant is able to reopen.

Angelico did not return calls for this story before press time.

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

I’m disappointed in the Colchester Republican Town Committee.

As you’ll read about in this week’s *Rivereast*, the Republicans recently caucused to select candidates for this November’s elections. In a surprising move, longtime selectman Stan Soby was given the heave-ho, not receiving a nomination for re-election.

Given how long Stan’s served – including stints as interim first selectman – it was very surprising to me he didn’t get the pick. And I was disgusted to learn part of it is due to his criticism of President Trump.

Really, Colchester Republicans? That’s what it’s come down to? You can’t tolerate any criticism of the president from within your own ranks, no matter how well-deserved it might be?

Because some of Soby’s criticism was, I feel, on point. He told reporter Sloan Brewster he felt his Twitter account may have contributed to his demise at the caucus, which prompted me to look at his tweets. And there’s definitely some criticism there of Trump – both retweeted and written by Soby himself. And you know what? A lot of it’s earned.

For example, on July 15, Soby responded to Trump’s infamous tweet suggesting his loudest opponents in Congress should “go back where they came from” with this tweet: “While I do not agree with positions taken by members of ‘The Squad,’ the racist, xenophobic, ad hominem attacks against them are repugnant and need to be repudiated.”

Soby was, in my opinion, spot-on there. It was a racist attack. And Soby also retweeted tweets from various Republican politicians saying the same thing.

In his Twitter feed, Soby has also retweeted others’ tweets criticizing the cost of prescription drugs in this country, offered praise to Sen. Blumenthal and Gov. Lamont, and other things that apparently caused the Republicans to bristle.

A *Norwich Bulletin* article from last week about the Soby situation referred to an October 2018 document written by Republican Town Committee member – and now Board of Selectmen candidate – Taras Rudko. In the document, sent to the committee, Rudko references several of Soby’s tweets and retweets, many of which criticize Trump. Rudko also offers commentary that, frankly, makes Rudko sound more like a Fox News talking head than anything else.

In one of the more amusing moments of the document, Rudko calls Soby out for retweeting “liberal film director” Jon Favreau. Except the tweet in question – which Rudko provided a screen grab of – is of a tweet by former Obama speechwriter Jon Favreau, not the *Iron Man* director Rudko was thinking of. They spell their names exactly the same, but they’re two very different people, and if Rudko had taken his time he would’ve realized that.

Later in the document, Rudko sounds like Trump himself when he slams Soby for retweeting “failed Hartford Democrat Mayor Luke Bronin.” Really, Taras? You had to throw that “failed” in there? Rudko also calls it “really scary” to see Soby retweet Bridgeport Mayor Joe Ganim. Yes, Ganim is a convicted felon who served several years in prison, but “really scary” that Soby retweeted him? Spare me the hyperbole.

At the beginning of the document, Rudko tells his fellow RTC members that he’s just presenting the facts, devoid of any emotion. Yet with terms like “failed” and “really scary,” Rudko is hardly being unbiased here.

Also rather nauseating to me is when, in the *Norwich Bulletin* article, Rudko criticized Soby for being a lobbyist for Oak Hill, an affiliate of Easterseals. Rudko wondered if lobbying of Democratic politicians would influence Soby’s views.

“At what point is he too cozy?” Rudko told the paper.

That’s just gross. Yes, Soby lobbies on behalf of Easterseals. A look at his Twitter shows that he’s very much an advocate for the disabled. I think it’s great he spends so much time lobbying on their behalf. It’s not at all something he should be criticized for because it might lead him to be “too cozy” with the Democrats.

Indeed, Soby’s shown no indication of this so far. Has he retweeted the governor of the state, who happens to be a Democrat? Yes – but most of them are informative posts Lamont frankly has a responsibility to put out being the governor.

Has he criticized the president? Yes – but why should this make him any less of a Republican? I knew plenty of Democrats that criticized Obama during his presidency; they were allowed to remain Democrats. Expecting every Republican in office to blindly support Trump in everything he says and does, no matter how repugnant it may be.....that’s not what a democracy should be.

There should be room for dissent. That there apparently no longer is among the Colchester Republicans actually *is* scary.

Soby tells Sloan Brewster in this week’s *Rivereast* that he wants to see the Republicans return to being the “party of Lincoln.” I’d love to see that too, believe me. But, nationally, the Republicans haven’t been that party for a long time now. And it makes me very sad to see that, at least in Colchester, local Republicans may be drifting from that too.

This isn’t the end of Stan Soby, though. He’s petitioning to try to get on the ballot, and I wish him well. There should be room for more than one voice among the Republicans (and, for that matter, among the Democrats). It shouldn’t be simply “support Trump or get out.” That’s not America to me.

* * *

See you next week.

Police Searching for Colchester Store Burglar

by Sloan Brewster

Police are looking for the person who was caught on camera breaking into Scotties Frozen Custard last weekend.

According to a post on the Colchester Police Department’s Facebook page, the break-in at the Route 85 eatery occurred sometime between midnight and 3 a.m. on Sunday.

Surveillance video from the night of the crime that is also posted on the page shows a vehicle pulling into the parking lot and an individual dressed in a hoodie with his face covered using a tool to break the deadbolt on the exterior door and force his way inside.

No one was available at the police department to give any further details for this story; and no press release was submitted to Troop K, a dispatcher who answered the phone there said Wednesday.

Nothing was taken and there was no other damage, Scotties Kathy Steffens, co-owner said in a phone call Wednesday.

On Monday morning when Steffens and co-owner Mike Haggerty arrived at the frozen custard stand, Steffens noticed the door was open, she said. She asked Haggerty if he had forgotten to lock it the night before and he said he did not think so.

When they went inside, they found the register, which, she said, had no money inside save a little change, had been overturned and another entrance was also open. They concluded that the would-be thief had entered through one door and exited through another.

Steffens said they were thankful the burglar didn’t do more damage.

“That’s very odd that somebody would think



Police are looking for a man they say broke into Scotties Frozen Custard last weekend.

that we would leave all our money in the register,” she said. “Anyhow we’re just thankful that it wasn’t worse than it was.”

According to the Facebook post, the suspect was driving a soft-top Jeep from the mid-2000s, possibly light in color. Police ask anyone who can identify the suspect, or with any other information, to contact them at 860-537-7270.

State Gives OK to Church Street Sidewalks in Hebron

by Sloan Brewster

The town has been given the green light by the state to move forward on plans to install sidewalks on Church Street.

“We finally got the approval to go ahead with it,” Town Manager Andrew Tierney said in a meeting last Monday.

On July 15, the state Department of Transportation sent a letter to Tierney stating that it had reviewed results from the request for bids for the project and approved the low bidder: Costa & Son LLC of South Windsor.

The sidewalk 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 Church of the Holy Family down to Sunnyside Plaza.

The plan has been in the works for about two and a half years, Tierney said. Initially it was held up due to funding constraints with the state and then it took the DOT about a year and a half to review the project plans, Tierney explained.

Since receiving the state’s authorization, the town has reached out to the contractor to set up a construction schedule “and get him started,” the town manager said.

“We’re hoping to get it done before winter,” he said. “We want to do the section next to Hebron Elementary School before school

starts.”

According to the letter, the authorization also releases a Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program [LoCIP] Grant previously approved for the project.

“Please be informed that this authorization will prompt the grant payment from the department to the municipality,” the letter states.

The \$930,420 grant includes \$775,350 to cover construction costs, 10% or \$77,535 toward contingencies and another 10% toward incidentals.

Increasing sidewalks in town has been part of the town’s Plan of Conservation and Development “for a long time,” Tierney said, adding that he has worked for the town for 24 years and it has been putting in sidewalks “ever since.”

Sidewalks can boost economic development, he said.

“It makes [the town center] more friendly, more walkable,” he said. “It’s better for business, better for recreation, more exercise.”

Judith Podell, president of The Town Center Project, which endeavors to bring more people to the center of town through events and activities, said additional sidewalks will help draw in the crowds.

Podell, who was a member of the Planning

& Zoning Commission for 16 years until her retirement in 2016, said Director of Planning and Development Mike O’Leary has been working on increasing sidewalk connectivity for years.

In a Board of Selectmen meeting in April of last year, she spoke about creating a walkable town center.

“We need more feet on the street,” she said then. “We need more people living and working in downtown Hebron.”

In a phone call Tuesday, Podell echoed a statement she had made at the 2018 meeting – that sidewalks are pertinent to keeping people off busy streets.

“Any sidewalk helps the walkability and anything we can do to increase the ability for people to get in town and out of town is a tremendous step,” she said. “It’s always a problem when you have to walk on the streets.”

* * *

In another effort to increase economic development, the town has sent members of the Board of Selectmen, Planning & Zoning Commission and Economic Development Commission a survey drafted by EDC chairman Neil Amwake.

The survey will “help guide a discussion at our future workshop session,” O’Leary said in

an email to Tierney.

O’Leary asked that members of the three bodies get their responses to the survey back to him by Aug. 8 so he can gather their thoughts ahead of the Aug. 20 EDC meeting.

“We want to make sure we’re all working together for the same coming goals,” Tierney said of the survey. “Find out what we do well and focus on that as well as keeping businesses we have and getting new economic development.”

Questions in the survey include what does the EDC do well and what are some of its strengths; what assets does the town have to offer businesses; and what are some goals, objectives, initiatives or tasks the EDC should take on to support its mission.

According to the email, the EDC’s mission is “to broaden the tax base of the Town of Hebron through the encouragement of planned business growth; encourage the expansion of job opportunities, goods, and services to town residents; and preserve Hebron’s rural character and charm.”

Other items include asking people what the EDC could do better and what it should step away from.

On Tuesday, O’Leary said only one response had come in on the survey so far.

Algae Leads to East Hampton Lake Closure

by Sloan Brewster

After being slapped with a swim-at-your-own-risk advisory two weeks ago, Lake Pocotopaug is now closed to swimmers altogether, until further notice.

The move is due to the annual blue-green algae bloom, which made an earlier appearance than normal this year.

Water tested Tuesday at Sears Park – the only beach in town tested for bacteria by the Chatham Health District – came back with 110,000 parts cyanobacteria, or blue-green algae, per million parts water, said Russell Melmed, director of health at Chatham Health District.

“We do testing during the summer each week for bacteria,” Melmed said. “At Sears Park, in particular, we look for blue-green algae as well.”

According to recommendations by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and the Department of Health, 20,000 blue-green algae per million parts water is safe. Between 20,000 and 100,000 parts per million is cause for an advisory, Melmed said, explaining that if the level is below 100,000 parts per million, the district posts signs advising folks to swim at their own risk.

When a swim-at-your-own risk advisory is underway, the district warns people to be on the lookout for green discolored water with streaks of film on top or blue-green algae under the surface, Melmed said.

When the level tops 100,000, the beach is closed.

“A count like that means a potential for a blue-green algae bloom is high and as a precaution we close the swimming area,” he said. “Anything above 100,000, we consider the risk high for a blue-green algae bloom.”

A highly increased amount of blue-green algae is called a bloom.

Sears Park has been shut down for several weeks each summer over the past several years due to blue-green algae levels. The closures have typically come in August, though the blooms in 2014 and 2018 arrived later in the season – just in time for Labor Day Weekend.

With the regular appearances of the blue-green algae, the district has expedited test results, so there’s a one- or two-day turnaround, Melmed said. The next test will be done Tuesday and results should come in by Thursday or Friday.

Cyanobacteria occur naturally, the health director said.

“Florida is dealing with it on in many of its beaches,” he added.

In the presence of high temperatures, bright sunlight and high levels of nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorous the blue-green algae thrives, he said.

“Blue-green algae in and of itself isn’t really harmful; sometimes they produce toxins that can be harmful,” Melmed said. “You can’t tell if they are producing the toxins so as a precaution we close the public swimming area.”

The levels of blue-green algae have been going up steadily since the district started testing in July.

Last week, supporters of the lake crammed into a Town Council meeting to beg the council to do something about the impaired body of water. Last night, after press time, the Town Council held a special meeting with a question and answer session on the lake the sole item on the agenda.

Milford Man Charged in Portland Home Invasion, Assault

by Sloan Brewster

A Milford man is under arrest after, police said, he broke into the home of a local woman and threatened to kill her.

Andrew Johnson, 27, of 54 Austin Rd., Milford, was charged with home invasion, unlawful restraint, first-degree threatening, disorderly conduct, first-degree reckless endangerment, first-degree strangulation, second-degree assault and interfering with an emergency call, Portland Police said. The charges stem from an incident that took place Sunday morning at 12:30 a.m.

According to Sgt. Jim Kelly, Johnson broke into a local woman’s apartment through a window, after removing an air conditioning unit.

Once inside, Johnson pointed a “fully-loaded” gun at the woman, Kelly said, and threatened to kill her.

According to Kelly, the two had a history together.

“The female victim dated the accused for several months. It wasn’t going well, she decided to break it off so, he, I guess, was having other ideas how the relationship should go and showed up at the house,” Kelly said. “There was obviously an argument between the two.”

A bit later, Johnson pushed the woman onto

a bed and struck her in the head, Kelly said. He proceeded to choke her with his hands until she passed out, Kelly said.

According to Kelly, when the woman came to, her assailant was still in the house so she convinced him to go outside and talk. Once outside, she told him she forgot something in the house and went inside locking the door behind her. She escaped through a back door, making her way to the police station.

The victim reported the crime and, while another officer stayed with her, getting her medical attention, Kelly and Officer Mike Fitzpatrick responded to her residence where they located the suspect exiting the rear of the apartment, Kelly said.

They placed him under arrest, securing two loaded handguns and several loaded magazines from Johnson’s person, Kelly said.

“He complied with all the commands and was taken into custody with no incident,” Kelly said.

Johnson was arraigned in court Monday morning, the officer said.

According to the State of Connecticut Judicial Branch website, he has not yet issued a plea, and is being held on a \$250,000 bond. He is scheduled to appear next on Aug. 6.

Denniss Out, Traversa Challenger Chosen at Marlborough Caucus

by Sloan Brewster

Cliff Denniss' stint on the Board of Selectmen may wind up being rather short-lived, as Republicans last week opted not to endorse him for re-election.

At their caucus, held last Monday, Republicans also chose the town's director of emergency management to run against First Selectman Amy Traversa.

Denniss served on the Board of Finance for 10 years before being chosen last fall to replace Dick Shea on the Board of Selectmen, after Shea moved out of state. The term runs through this November – and, if the Republican Town Committee has its way, there won't be a second term.

At the caucus, Denniss put in a challenge to get on the Board of Selectmen slate, but in the end committee members overwhelmingly favored Joe Asklar, choosing him as the nominee in a 72-14 vote.

Denniss said this week he will look into alternatives to getting on the ballot – though he didn't specify what that might be. In Colchester, incumbent selectman Stan Soby was similarly not endorsed for re-election at the recent Republican caucus, and he's currently petitioning to be included on the November ballot.

Denniss said he was disappointed he lost the nomination, but not shocked. He said critics have taken issue with him agreeing with Traversa and Evelyn Godbout, the other two members of the selectmen board, who are both Democrats.

"It has been written by people on Facebook that if you agree with Amy you are one of her puppets," he said, adding that he is not her puppet. "I try and make my decisions on what I feel is best for Marlborough and if I agree with Amy, I'll agree with her; if I don't agree with her, I don't."

Denniss said that with 10 years on the finance board behind him he has learned a lot about government – but not about politics.

"And frankly, I don't want to go to that class," he added.

Hjulstrom said he felt Asklar would be a better choice to serve on the three-person board.

"We need people on the Board of Selectmen who are willing to be a little more selective about the actions of the first selectman without rubber stamping [them]," he said. "I don't think Joe is a rubber stamp."

The Republicans hope Asklar will have GOP company on the Board of Selectmen – specifically Greg Lowrey, who got the nod at last week's caucus to run for first selectman. The 48-year old grew up in Hebron until moving to Clinton with his family after middle school. He graduated from the Hammonasset School, a college preparatory day school formerly in Madison.

Lowrey served active duty in the U.S. Army and was in the Connecticut National Guard. He has three degrees from the University of Connecticut: a bachelor's degree, a master's degree in accounting and also a juris doctorate. He is a practicing attorney and CPA, with an office in town.

Lowrey also has many years of service to the town, including 15 years as emergency medical radio operator and his current position as director of emergency management – a post he was appointed to two years ago by Traversa, whom he'll now be facing at the polls.

"It's an interesting situation; I'm basically running against my boss," Lowrey said.

He went on to say that he and Traversa have a "cordial relationship" and that some of their goals are aligned.

"I think she wants what's best for the town," he said. "I think we have a mutual respect for the effort that we each put forth for the benefit of the town citizens."

Traversa voiced similar sentiments.

"I like Greg," she said. "I don't have anything, anything, bad to say about Greg."

As far as goals for the town, Lowrey said he feels local government should be transparent and the town's debt needs to be reduced. He also said he wants the town's "great education system" maintained, and that business growth was something he would work on.

* * *

Meanwhile, Traversa was officially endorsed for another term as first selectman at the Democrats' caucus, which was also held last week.

In an email, Traversa said she has "delivered on every promise I made" and has "never worked harder" in her life, adding that she has had the help of a "great team of people." She pointed to \$20 million in private development that she said has taken place in the town center since she took office.

Another accomplishment she pointed to was that \$1.3 million was put back in the undesignated "rainy day" fund under her leadership.

Traversa also said long-overdue road, bridge, paving and facilities projects have been fixed while significantly lowering the town's debt burden.

"I am honored to be endorsed for re-election as Marlborough's first selectman," Traversa said in the email. "Despite all that's been accomplished already, there is still more to do, and we're already moving in the right direction."

Godbout was also endorsed for another term on the selectmen board – and echoed Traversa's sentiments.

"Under Amy's and my leadership, the town of Marlborough has made a complete turnaround in the last four years," she said. "We look forward to continuing to attract new development and improving the character of the town."

Also endorsed at the Democratic Town Committee caucus were: Deborah Bourbeau, unaffiliated, for Board of Finance; Michelle Tho-

mas for Board of Education; Nancy Visco for RHAM Board of Education; Michael O'Neil for treasurer; and Lisa Butterfield for tax collector. The Democrat also cross-endorsed Republican Lauren Griffin for town clerk.

"The [Democratic Town Committee] works to engage the people of Marlborough in actions that promote a well-managed, vibrant and caring community," Dianne Greco, chair of the committee, said in an email.

* * *

Other Republicans endorsed last week included: for the Board of Finance, current members Hjulstrom and Liz Gorgoglione; for the Planning Commission, Mark Stankiewicz and Brett Hallden; for the Zoning Commission, Kevin Asklar; for Zoning Board of Appeals, Joe Weber and Chris Lawson; for Marlborough Board of Education, Ruth Kelly, Louise Concodello and Patrick Pabouet; for RHAM Board of Education, Sue Rapelye and Scott Fleehar; for tax collector, Barbara Murray; and for town clerk, Griffin. For treasurer, the Republicans cross-endorsed O'Neil.

Also, the Republican Town Committee endorsed Sue Rapelye and Carl Carlson as placeholders for Planning Commission Alternates. Hjulstrom said being a placeholder means they were endorsed but the expectation is their names will be replaced by other candidates before the election.

For Zoning Board of Appeals Alternate, the Republicans endorsed Michele Kacy. They endorsed Jack Murray for Zoning Alternate, but, according to Hjulstrom, he is also a placeholder.

"A lot of the candidates are incumbents; they have already proven themselves," Hjulstrom said. "They're very knowledgeable and they have the experience that comes with being an incumbent."

* * *

Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 5.

East Hampton Police News

7/19: Ryan Gagne, 28, of 332 West Rd., Colchester, was arrested and charged with possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of a controlled substance, East Hampton Police said.

Also, from July 15-21, officers responded to 12 medical calls, five motor vehicle accidents and seven alarms, police said, and made 20 traffic stops.

Obituaries

Amston

David Alan Gustafson

David Alan Gustafson, 73, of Amston, passed away Wednesday, Dec. 5, 2018, at Douglas Manor in Windham. Born Dec. 22, 1944, in Little Falls, Minn., he was the son of the late Edwin A. and Vivian M. (Schlee) Gustafson.



David's family members were very active in the First Lutheran Church in Little Falls. He grew up living across the Little Falls golf course, where he and his parents played golf and David won several trophies in competitions. David attended Little Falls High School, from which he graduated with honors in 1962. While in high school, he also played football and, in the summer, played baseball.

He completed his first semester of college at Concordia College in Moorhead, Minn., and went on to receive a B.A. degree in political science from St. Cloud State College (now University) in 1967. At St. Cloud, he was a member of the Phi Sigma Epsilon fraternity and the accounting Business Club. During the summer of his college years, he performed manual labor, repairing the local railroad tracks, and he worked in the Charles Lindbergh State Park in Little Falls.

In 1966, he began law school on a regional scholarship at the University of Mississippi School of Law. At Ole Miss, he was selected by the law professors for membership on the Moot Court Brand to mentor other students on their circuit and appellate court cases. He was also a member of the legal fraternity.

During the summer of 1969, while he was attending summer school, he met his future wife of 46 years, Frances Sandra Burdison, a second-year law student working in the law library.

In January 1970, David graduated from Ole Miss ranked in the top 20% (8th in his class). That same year, he was admitted to the Mississippi State Bar, and soon thereafter was admitted to, and practiced before, the U.S. District Court for the northern district of Mississippi and the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Tennessee. Later in 1970, he started law school at the New York University where he worked for one semester on a master's degree in law.

In 1971, he returned to northern Mississippi to work for North Mississippi Rural Legal Services, and shortly thereafter, opened his law office in Southaven (DeSoto County), where he engaged in the general practice of law. While practicing, he was the attorney for the North Mississippi Board of Realtors and the Pleasant Hill Water Association. From 1972 to 1983, he was associated in practice with several other attorneys.

In 1983, he was offered a management position with a company that served as a third-party administrator for other companies to process worker's compensation claims filled by their employees. David was the manager for the company's office in Memphis, Tenn., until 1985, when he was offered a management position involving more responsibility in Hartford.

During his years in Connecticut, David worked for several companies from 1985 until his retirement in 2009. He continued to specialize in processing and defending worker's compensation cases and frequently appeared at hearings before the Worker's Compensation Commissioners, defending the companies for which he worked.

Prior to 1985, while still living in Mississippi, he was an active member of the Southaven Jaycees and a Sunday School teacher at the Prince of Peace Lutheran Church. In Connecticut, he was a past member of the Men's Club at Chantclair Golf Course in Colchester.

During his youth, David enjoyed traveling with his parents in Canada and the Midwestern states. Later, he enjoyed traveling with his wife and daughter in the northeastern U.S., Morocco and many of the Caribbean islands. He especially enjoyed traveling to many areas of Mexico, where he adored the spirit and hospitality of the Mexicans so much that he began collecting stamps that represented the older historical aspects of Mexico. He and his family traveled frequently to Ixtapa, where they had a time-share at the Ixtapa Palace and he enjoyed playing golf.

After moving to Connecticut in 1985, David became an avid Boston Red Sox fan and attended many games at Fenway Park. He also followed the Minnesota Vikings and Twins. David and Sandra learned to appreciate "hopping the Metro North train into Grand Central Station" to spend two or three days a year in Manhattan at the art galleries and museums and attend the Broadway shows.

David was predeceased by his parents; his infant son, Alan, who died in 1982 at 8 months of age from Krabbe disease; and his granddaughter, Rose Caroline Sugarman, who died in 2014 at age 6 from a tumor on her brain stem.

David is survived by his wife, his daughter and son-in-law, and his grandchildren, Drs. Shannon and Jeffrey Sugarman, and Ella and Nathaniel of Atlanta, Ga.

The family thanks Dr. Paul Schwartz, neurosurgeon, and the entire dedicated staff at Hartford Hospital, who cared for him during his many admissions. The family also thanks the caregivers at Salmon Brook Center, Glastonbury, and Douglas Manor, Windham. Many thanks also to the very professional care he received during his final days in hospice from Masonicare in Wallingford and Mystic.

Memorial contributions can be made to the First Lutheran Church, Little Falls, Minn., or any of the facilities that provided excellent care to David during his final days.

An interment was held Wednesday, June 12, in Oakland Cemetery in Little Falls.

To leave an online condolence, visit shelleyfuneralchapels.com or potterfuneralhome.com.

Hebron

Merle Hollis Thoma

Merle Hollis Thoma, 80, of Hebron, went home to the Lord Wednesday, July 31, at Middlesex Hospital in Middletown. Born in Kingston, Pa., March 13, 1939, he was a son of the late Harold and Jean (Entrekin) Thoma.



Merle was a proud veteran having served with the US Army National Guard after high school. Merle married his beloved wife, Lorraine Taylor, on June 28, 1969, in Pennsylvania. Soon after, the couple moved to Hebron, where they made their home and raised their family. They were active members of the Colchester Bible Baptist Church, and they shared nearly 50 years of marriage before Lorraine predeceased him June 9, 2018.

Merle had a keen interest in machinery and equipment and he found a great deal of enjoyment tinkering with such things as a hobby. He was a member of the Quinebaug Valley Engineers Association and the Zagray Farm Museum in Colchester. He will be sadly missed but always remembered with love by his family.

He leaves two children and their spouses, Harold and Jessica Thoma of Lebanon, Lucie and Allyn Tarbell of Columbia; six grandchildren, David, Jonathan, Samantha, Jason, Mary and Lucas; a brother and sister-in-law, Dale and Nancy Thoma of Lexington, Ky.; and numerous extended family members and friends.

Funeral services will be held at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester, Thursday, Aug. 8, with calling hours from 3-5 p.m., followed by a celebration of life at the funeral home at 5 p.m. Burial will be held privately in Thrashers Cemetery in Dushore, Pa.

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

East Hampton

Inez D. Pratt

Inez D. Pratt, 95, passed away at the home of her son Edward, surrounded with family, on Sunday, July 14. She was born in South Haven, Mich., on Sept. 12, 1923, to the late Calvin Elmer Douglass and Jessie Pearl Andrews.

She had outlived all her siblings and most of her older friends, of which she had many. She was married to the late Edward L. Pratt of East Hampton, while living in Muncie, Ind., and had three children, Edward R., born in Louisville, Ky., and Sandra K. and Douglass J., born in Middletown, while Inez lived in East Hampton.

She resided for many years in Connecticut before moving to Zephyrhills, Fla., in the mid-80s. She had worked for P&WA prior to retiring and relocating to Florida. Inez was also a member of genealogy group in Zephyrhills, Fla., as well as a member of the DAR, of which she was very proud. She was very active and enjoying her retirement up until several months ago when time finally caught up to her, although through it all right up till the end she maintained her sense of humor and feistiness. She will be greatly missed by friends and family.

At her request she was cremated and there was to be no formal services. She will be interred with her husband Edward L. in Date City, Fla.

Hebron

Paul Randazzo

On Saturday, July 27, Paul Randazzo of Hebron passed away at the age of 85. He was a loving husband to Rose Randazzo for 57 years before her passing in 2014.



He is survived by his five children, Anthony and Diane Randazzo; Kathy and Drew Hund; Rosanne and Richard Cortez; Paul and Sara Randazzo; and Stephen Randazzo. He is also survived by his five grandchildren, Drew and Sabrina Hund; Victoria and Sara Michelle Randazzo; and Angelina Cortez; his loving sister Palma Fasano; a sister-in-law, Gaetana Speciale; and many loving nieces and nephews.

Paul enjoyed the simple things in life like working with his hands and "playing" with anything that had a motor. He took great pleasure in spending time with his family, teaching his grandchildren how to cook, and enjoying a meal together. He could fix anything you needed with ease and a smile on his face. He had a larger than life spirit that could not be contained, and was always there to provide direction, guidance, and comfort to those who needed it.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated today, Aug. 2, at 10 a.m., in the Church of the Holy Family, Hebron. Burial will be in Holy Cross Cemetery, Glastonbury, Saturday, Aug. 3, at 11:45 a.m. Friends called at the Mulryan Funeral Home, 725 Hebron Ave., Glastonbury, on Thursday, Aug. 1.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105-1905.

For online condolences, visit mulryanfh.com.

East Hampton

Bruce Magrath

Bruce Magrath, life-long resident of East Hampton, passed away at home after a very long battle with diabetes.



He was a caring, fun, kind soul who took each day as it came. An awesome husband of 40 years, a great dad, son, father-in-law, brother-in-law, uncle, friend and most of all a wonderful papa to Jackson, his best little buddy. They had a bond like no other.

We will cherish our memories and share our stories and laugh and cry at the same time.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Colchester

Carol W. Garrison

Carol W. Garrison, 83, of Norwich, formerly of Colchester, passed away Wednesday, July 24, at Backus Hospital. Born Dec. 4, 1935, in Norwich; she was a daughter of the late Dudley and Louise (Sigrist) Woodworth.



For years, she was a school bus driver for the town of Colchester, and a senior bus driver for the town of Hebron. She was a warm and loving woman who cherished her family and enjoyed the peaceful serenity of nature, whether it be from the waves of the ocean, the flowers in her garden, or enjoying visits from birds at the feeders she would put out for them in her backyard.

She is survived by her sons, Kent Garrison of Colchester, and Kurt Garrison and his wife Karin of Mansfield; her daughter, Kerry Garrison of Colchester; her sister, Sally Ashburn of California; grandchildren, Marie Smith and her husband Sean of Colchester, Heidi Garrison and her companion Justin of Colchester and Dylan Falbowski of Colchester; and her two great-grandchildren, Calvin and Morgan.

In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by her husband, Kenneth Garrison.

Calling hours were held Friday, July 26, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester, CT 06415. Burial was private.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to St. Joseph's Indian School, P.O. Box 326, Chamberlain SD 57326.

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Colchester

Ida W. Brown

Ida W. Brown, 100, of Colchester, passed away Saturday, July 27, at Backus Hospital. Ida was born in Colchester Nov. 29, 1918, the daughter of the late Allen H. and Gertrude (Mead) Brown.

After graduating from Bacon Academy, she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1941 from the University of Connecticut. After teaching for one year at Bacon Academy, she moved to Denver, Colo., where she lived and worked for more than 40 years.

Besides her parents, Ida was predeceased by her brothers, Lawrence, Arthur, Gilbert and Allen Brown, and sisters, Alice B. Moran and Winifred Von Roemer. Ida looked forward to weekly visits from her nephew Allen Moran and sister-in-law Frances Brown.

She was extremely appreciative of her caretakers, Ada, Barbara, Jody, Mary and Sherri.

A graveside service will be held today, Aug. 2, at 10 a.m., at Linwood Cemetery.

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.