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Fire Causes Explosion... A homemade fire in the chimney at the Blish Park pavilion in Marlborough July 24 led to a small explosion. According to police, five teens gathered sticks to make a fire, and everything appeared normal until an explosion occurred inside the chimney, causing chunks of brick to fly off. The future of the chimney, including potential repairs, was discussed at this week's Board of Selectmen meeting. Photo courtesy of Amy Traversa. See story on page 9.

Blue-Green Algae Blame Goes Around

by Sloan Brewster

Homeowners around Lake Pocotopaug can take low-cost steps to reduce runoff from their properties.

A question-and-answer session hosted by the East Hampton Town Council last Thursday at East Hampton High School gave concerned residents a chance to get information directly from a host of experts familiar with the notoriously impaired lake.

The community conversation came amid continued accusations among town officials and residents about who is responsible for the lake's long decline.

The cost to implement a comprehensive watershed management plan could range from about \$1 million to \$10 million, based on various estimates.

But some of the recommended improvements can be accomplished without spending much money by those who live near the lake, according to officials.

Blooms of cyanobacteria, or blue-green algae – high levels of which have caused the closure of the Sears Park beach for the past several years – thrive on nitrogen and phosphorous, according to officials. The nutrients are present in typical lawn fertilizer.

When speakers at the meeting asked why the town doesn't stop chemicals from running into the lake, Steven Trinkaus – a consulting engineer working for the town on low impact, sustainable development strategies – said part of the problem is that folks on the quest for luscious green lawns use more fertilizer than the soil can absorb. The excess lands in the water, feeding the problematic algae.

"I think everybody, including myself, is guilty," he said.

Trinkaus recommends a couple of ideas to prevent runoff. First, he said to read the label on fertilizer and follow the instructions.

"If the Scotts bag says five pounds to 1,000

square feet, you want to put the right application down," he said. "If you put down 10 pounds, the lawn can't absorb the added five pounds."

Any amount above what's recommended ends up in the lake, he said.

Trinkaus also recommends testing soil to determine what the soil needs versus taking "a one-size approach."

"Before you go to Home Depot or Lowes, test your soil to see what nutrients it lacks," he said. "If you are deficient in phosphorous, fine, then you buy a fertilizer that is giving you the necessary nutrients that you need. It's not giving you the nitrogen or nutrients that you don't need."

Jane Brawerman, executive director of The Connecticut River Coastal Conservation District that covers 26 towns including East Hampton, reiterated the need for testing in a phone call this week.

"You should always test your soil before you apply nutrients," she said.

Soil samples can be sent to the Soil Nutrient Analysis Lab at the University of Connecticut or the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station in New Haven, Brawerman said. The university charges a nominal fee for the tests and the experiment station will do them free of charge.

For more information on testing through UConn, visit www.soiltest.uconn.edu. For information on the experiment station, visit <https://tinyurl.com/y5yvvn7>.

Savvy homeowners can also do the testing themselves, according to Trinkaus. He said testing kits are available online through Forestry Suppliers, formerly known as Ben Meadows.

Trinkaus also recommended that lakefront homeowners consider creating a buffer area between their lawns and the lake. Depending on the size of the lawn, the area can be any-

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Eviction Leads to Response from Bomb Squad

by Sloan Brewster

A Hebron man's alleged refusal to leave his home after an eviction order this week led to an evacuation of his road and a response by the Connecticut State Police Emergency Services Unit and Bomb Squad.

The incident took place Monday morning, when an officer stood beside his police SUV at the intersection of Hickory and Oak drives, blocking the way up Hickory. The officer said he could not discuss the matter and that a staging area for media was being set up at Town Hall.



William Sabino

"We're telling people to shelter in place or evacuate," a dispatcher from Troop K said in a phone call.

Several media outlets had cameras facing town hall while inside his office, Town Manager Andrew Tierney could be heard fielding phone calls.

On Tuesday, Tierney said the situation "had the makings of being really bad."

By then, William Sabino, 63, of 65 Hickory Drive, had been brought into custody and was charged with first-degree criminal trespassing, second-degree breach of peace and second-degree threatening, state police said. He posted a \$5,000 bond and was released pending an Aug. 14 court date at Rockville Superior Court.

According to the report, the Emergency Services Unit – also known as the SWAT team – came in after Resident State Trooper Daniel Greenwood and troopers from Troop K were

called in to assist a state marshal in an eviction.

According to an eviction notice, which was dated July 12, if Sabino did not move out of 65 Hickory Drive and take his belongings by Aug. 5, the state marshal was ordered remove him, any other occupants and all belongings and give possession of the property to the Federal National Mortgage Association.

Sabino allegedly refused to leave, Tierney said.

Tactical negotiators made contact with Sabino and he was taken into custody without incident, police said.

Tierney said he was not sure what had taken place to bring in SWAT and the Bomb Squad but allegedly, the situation between the state marshal and Sabino had been going on for some time.

"He did have weapons registered legally but

no real prior conflicts with the state police," the town manager said.

According to Tierney, Sabino, whose house was foreclosed on by the bank, had been sending the marshal "concerning messages" via text every five minutes all morning, had posted a sign in the yard stating "come get me," and had written other messages on the driveway.

"He put up some signs and he had a noose hanging from the roof," Tierney said.

The marshal supplied the texts and emails he had allegedly received from Sabino to the state police, Tierney said, adding that police opted to take over the investigation "due to the severity of the comments." Tierney said the texts and emails included derogatory language and statements such as "You better get out here," and "Liar."

Tuesday afternoon, the signs in front of the

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where from one foot to 12 feet.

In that area, let the grass “grow up as a meadow where you only mow it once or twice a year,” he said. “You can have your lawn but you can also protect the edge of the lake from additional nutrients.”

The dense vegetation and root mass will filter runoff and take in the excess nutrients.

“That’s a simple thing for a homeowner to do to reduce runoff from the property,” Trinkaus said.

Folks should also leave clippings when they mow to organically fertilize the soil. The clippings will decompose and nutrients will go back into the soil.

For folks who want to take additional steps, Trinkaus suggested buying rain barrels. The barrels, available at Home Depot and Lowes, come with a kit to connect it to home’s gutter and have a tie-in for a hose. Water collected in the barrel can then be used to water the lawn, thereby preventing the runoff from being discharged into the lake.

Trinkaus said nutrients floating in the air land on the roof.

“Little particles of phosphorous or nitrogen are just floating through the air you don’t see them,” he said. “A study at North Carolina State found 40% of nutrient loads come from atmospheric discharge.”

Another idea Trinkaus proposes for filtering runoff is putting in simple rain gardens. Unlike most gardens, which are grown on raised beds, rain gardens grow in depressed landscape beds.

“You plant it with perennial plants [and] wildflowers,” he said. “Water from impervious surfaces is directed into the underlying soil and the nutrients are taken into the soil.”

Trinkaus said he would like to give a talk in town on low impact ideas residents can do on their property to reduce runoff so that in little bits “everybody can make a measureable difference over time.”

“Education is key,” he said. “Everybody wants to be environmentally responsible but nobody knows how to get there.”

The town’s management plan for the blue-

green algae was also discussed at the meeting.

Commonly referred to as the nine-point plan, the plan recommends an array of improvements that according to previous *Rivereast* reports could cost as much as \$1.4 million. Broken down by cost, the plan includes 14 recommended fixes that can be undertaken as part of regular maintenance or by volunteers; 21 areas that each need up to \$10,000 in funding; and eight areas that will each cost more than \$10,000 to address.

But at last week’s meeting, Joe Carbonell, vice chairman of the Conservation-Lake Commission, had a much higher estimate.

“We’re probably looking at \$9 million, \$10 million total for the nine-point plan,” he said.

In a phone call Wednesday, Carbonell said his numbers were based on a Storm Water Renovation and Management Plan for the Lake Pocotopaug Watershed, prepared for the town by WMC Consulting Engineers of West Hartford in 1995.

At that time, per the report, lake management was estimated to cost more than \$3 million, he said. His numbers are based on increased costs over the past two and a half decades.

“Maybe I’m understating it, maybe I’m overstating it,” he said. “Twenty-five years later, it’s gone up considerably.”

Carbonell said he is of the opinion that the town should “agree on a number” for the management plan and bond for it.

Currently, the town sets aside money for the lake in the annual budget, but it’s not specifically earmarked for cleaning, he said.

At the meeting, Town Council Chairman Melissa Engel said there was \$232,000 in the town’s capital budget.

The Conservation-Lake Commission secured a \$236,700 grant from the federal government, administered through the state environmental protection department, to install low-impact, sustainable technology for mitigating runoff on the north end of the lake. The funding is in the process of being released by the state, according to officials.

Blue-green algae is not exclusive to Lake

Pocotopaug.

Brawerman said Uncas Lake in Old Lyme experienced a bloom this year.

“That’s not a typical problem they have,” she said, adding that it has never happened before.

So far officials have not figured out what caused the bloom in Old Lyme, Brawerman said. Unlike the East Hampton lake, it is not in a developed area but rather in a forested watershed.

Brawerman said she was pleased to learn that officials had closed Pocotopaug to swimming last week.

Chatham Health District Director Russell Melmed said water was tested last Tuesday at Sears Park – the only beach in town tested for bacteria by the Chatham Health District – came back with 110,000 parts cyanobacteria, per million parts water.

The previous week, the lake was under a swim-at-your-own-risk health advisory ordered by the health district. The elevated numbers lead to the closure.

According to recommendations by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and the Department of Health, 20,000 blue-green algae cells per milliliter is safe. Between 20,000 and 100,000 cells per milliliter is cause for an advisory, Melmed said, explaining that if the level is below 100,000, 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.

Another item of information relayed at the meeting was that the town does not currently hold a permit to apply a copper sulfate treatment in the lake.

The council in March gave the go-ahead for the Conservation-Lake Commission to get the permit from the state in order to apply the treatment, which kills blue-green algae cells in the water column so the cyanobacteria have to start

repopulating all over again.

The treatments are designed to be used before blue-green algae counts reach harmful levels.

The town contracted SOLitude Lake Management for \$1,240 to oversee the process, from submitting the application to administering the treatment.

But George Knoecklein, a consultant hired to study the lake, said SOLitude did not submit the permit application.

Knoecklein said he has worked with SOLitude for years and this type of thing had not happened before.

“This year something happened internally,” he said. “They blame it on an employee who quit.”

Knoecklein said he would “seriously consider” using the company again in the future and that he is looking into other companies.

He anticipates it will take about three weeks to get the permit due to the delay, meaning the treatment would not be done before the end of August. He questioned if it should be done that late in the year.

“At that point the weather starts going down, people aren’t using [the lake],” he said.

The copper sulfate treatment runs \$6,000 and must be applied three times for a total cost of \$18,000, Knoecklein said.

Knoecklein cautioned that the copper sulfate that will be used to treat the lake “is a cosmetic band-aid” with “no long lasting effect.”

“Yes, you’ll get some relief from the algae,” he said, adding that how long the fix would last is unknown.

“It’s still worth it [for] the experimental factor of putting the copper in the water, but I just want everybody to know that it is a cosmetic fix,” he said.

At the meeting, the town also distributed a pamphlet with 21 steps to protect the lake. The document included suggestions discussed by Trinkaus, such as arranging buffer zones, leaving grass clippings and putting in rain gardens, as well as other ideas like minimizing pesticide use and removing docks every fall.



Signs such as the one on the left – saying “come and get me” – as well as profane, threatening texts and emails prompted state police and the bomb squad to respond Monday to the 65 Hickory Drive home of resident William Sabino – who was allegedly refusing to leave following an eviction order.

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house were no longer there and no noose was seen hanging from the roof.

Tierney said he does not believe towns should be put in the middle of eviction situations but that according to state statute, the state marshal removes the belongings of evicted individuals and puts them on the curb. The town

then takes those things and stores them for 14 days, after which time they are auctioned off or discarded.

“It’s always been a pet peeve of mine that the town has to get involved in evictions,” he said. “It’s costly, it’s time-consuming and at times it’s contentious.”

Should Craft Breweries Sell Beer on Site in Portland?

by Elizabeth Regan

The Portland Planning and Zoning Commission is mulling regulation changes that would bolster the craft beer industry in town.

While beer can currently be manufactured and distributed in town, it cannot be served on site.

A proposed regulation discussed at an Aug. 1 public hearing would allow farm breweries to sell beer, have tastings and hold events in certain residential and business zones. The draft language – known as a text amendment – would also allow businesses that manufacture beer in the town’s industrial zones to serve their product in what is popularly known as brewpubs.

The commission held off on making a decision at the public hearing, choosing instead to continue discussion on Aug. 15.

The proposed change was spurred by a request from the Economic Development Commission back in 2018 for the town to consider updating regulations to make room for the burgeoning craft beer market.

Economic Development Commission Chairman Elwin Guild cited statistics that showed there were 114 craft breweries either operating or being planned statewide in 2018, compared to just 16 in 2013.

“The craft beer marketplace is booming and we fear that if we do not update our regulations to reflect the changing demographics, our local business community will be left behind,” Guild wrote in a memo to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

The large-scale Brainerd Place development, which combines 238 apartments with 108,510 square feet of commercial space on the site of the former Elmcrest Hospital, is well suited to the brewery model, according to Guild. Project developers have said the venture is targeted at millennials and empty-nesters.

“As Brainerd Place begins the leasing phase of development, we believe that offering a brew pub option in the zoning regulations will assist

them in attracting the commercial and residential tenants in their target market demographic,” he wrote.

Land use and economic development coordinator Mary Dickerson said this week there have not been any inquiries from potential brewery tenants at Brainerd Place. She said there has been interest in sites at the end of Freestone Avenue and in the Brownstone Industrial Park.

Dickerson noted the change could also benefit existing restaurants and bars that might want to expand their offerings.

“Anybody who serves beer and would like to do a small brewing operation of their own could not legally do that right now,” she said.

A brew pub is defined as a pub or bar where the owners make their own beer and serve it on the premises.

Dave Peichert, one of the founders of the formative Concentric Brewing Company, told the commission during the hearing that his business will likely be one of the first to submit a special permit for a brewpub if the regulation changes go through. He said his business plan is to produce beer, distribute it and sell it onsite.

He noted some towns in Connecticut have as many as three breweries within their borders.

“It’s a place of community as well. It brings people together,” he said. “People enjoy the sense of consuming something that’s locally produced.”

Farm Breweries

A farm brewery is defined in the draft regulation as a farm of at least five acres that manufactures and sells beer. According to existing regulations, a parcel must be officially recognized as a farm by the tax assessor to qualify.

Zoning Enforcement Officer Dan Bourret said at the public hearing that the proposed regulation is designed to protect residential areas by requiring a special permit for any farm brewery. Hours of operation are limited to 7 a.m.-10

p.m., as specified in the town’s noise ordinance.

Bourret brought up a farm brewery in East Hampton to emphasize the importance of maintaining the residential character of any neighborhood.

“East Hampton has a very successful brewery in Fat Orange Cat,” he said. “But I think its growth, it was a little unfair to some of the residential neighbors.”

The concern was reiterated in a memo from the regional planning body known as the Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments (RiverCOG). The agency’s deputy director, J.H. Torrance Downes, said farm breweries in East Hampton have produced issues related to traffic, off-site parking, noise and light pollution.

“These uses, if not managed properly, can ultimately become more commercial than residential; a balance must be maintained for these uses when in residential districts,” Downes wrote.

Self-described hop-grower Alan Fenrow, who also sits on the RiverCOG agricultural council as Portland’s representative, suggested that the commission consider allowing small-scale home breweries for distribution only. The “self-distributing” breweries would not sell their product on site.

“This model will eliminate the traffic congestion, parking issues, excessive noise and associated pollution” that come when operations are open to the public, according to Fenrow.

Bourret said that kind of change could be accomplished by adding self-distributing brewers to the list of allowable home occupations in residential districts.

The commission could also decide to add self-distributing breweries to the draft regulation like Fenrow suggested, Bourret added.

“We could certainly amend the regulation to

allow a small operation like that. I think we’d have to tailor the [language] and maybe put limits on the amount of gallons you could produce,” he said.

Resident Brad Towson, who works as an attorney with the Connecticut General Assembly, stood up at the public hearing to oppose farm breweries in residential zones.

“Essentially what they are is glorified bars,” he said. “And the fact of the matter is they can exist in other zones. I think it’s a bit irresponsible for the town to authorize farm breweries in a residential zone when the town knows full well that at some point there are going to be conflicts in terms of quality of life for parking, noise [and] traffic.”

Towson expressed concern that the state law currently requiring farm breweries to get a minimum percentage of their ingredients from within the state is going away as of July 1, 2020.

He described the existing law, with its focus on promoting local agriculture in the state, as the only “compelling reason” for the commission to allow a farm brewery in a residential area.

The new law that goes into effect next year allows for farm breweries to apply for “Connecticut Grown” status if they get a minimum of 25 percent of their materials from within the state. But Towson emphasized that the label will no longer be required in order for the farm brewery to get a permit from the state.

Bourret said the commission can look into including minimum thresholds for local ingredients in the draft regulation if members decide that’s what they want to do.

But Chairman Bruce Tyler said that’s beyond the commission’s scope.

“Our job is not to decide how it operates,” Tyler said. “Our job is to decide whether or not it should exist – and if it should exist, where.”



Kathleen MacBryde, owner of Butterball’s Greenleaf Café, poses alongside daughter-in-law Helen MacBryde. The popular local eatery turned 25 this year, and celebrated with an anniversary party last week. Also shown, at right, is a collage of photos of Greenleaf customers over the year.



Hebron’s Own Cheers Turns 25

by Sloan Brewster

Butterball’s Greenleaf Café is celebrating 25 years this month.

Owner Kathleen MacBryde and her daughter-in-law, Helen MacBryde, sat with the *Rivereast* on Tuesday to hash out some memories from the past two and a half decades.

In 1994, Kathleen’s husband, Bruce MacBryde, who passed away in 2005, was laid off from his job and decided he wanted to make a career change and open a neighborhood bar, she said.

Bruce, who was president of the Lions Club and superintendent of the Hebron Fair, dreamed of creating a small-town *Cheers*, where friends and neighbors could gather, Helen said. Since then, Greenleaf has become “a cozy haven and strong pillar of the community.”

Bruce named his bar Butterball’s Greenleaf as a nod to his former work driving an 18-wheeler tractor trailer.

“[Butterball] was his handle,” Kathleen said. Irish memorabilia in the bar pays homage to the family’s Irish heritage, Kathleen said.

“We come from an Irish family,” she said. “My maiden name is O’Reilly.”

About 20 years ago, the MacBrydes ex-

panded the bar, doubling its size and adding a kitchen. With the renovation, the establishment began to offer a full menu of made-from-scratch meals featuring Kathleen’s recipes.

Specials include New York strip steak, nachos, shepherd’s pie, chicken pot pie, pasta dinners, lasagna and stuffed peppers – but according to the ladies, the biggest hit is the jumbo party wings, especially the buffalo-flavored ones.

And the food menu’s a hit, the women said. “Some guys that come here eat every day,” Kathleen said.

A typical week night at Greenleaf starts with Happy Hour from 4-6 p.m., Helen said. Folks stop in after work.

“It’s a neighborhood bar where everybody stops in to say hello,” Kathleen said. “They come in and check on their neighbors to see what’s going on in the world. Everybody knows each other by their first names.”

On weekends, the fun includes bands and once-a-month karaoke.

An anniversary party that took place last Friday had entertainment by the Blackburns, which Kathleen said is “one of our favorite house

bands.”

“He started with us way back when,” she said. There was also a spread of food and drink specials throughout the day.

“We knocked our beer back to \$2.25, which it was way back when,” Kathleen said, referring to when the bar opened.

There were giveaways, including from the folks at Guinness, who surprised everyone with free beer glasses engraved with whatever customers wanted.

During the party, many of the approximately 150 attendees posed for pictures for a collage on the back wall of the bar.

“The party went into the wee hours of the morning,” Kathleen said. “It was fun for everybody.”

But it was more than just a party. The celebration raised \$200 for the Hebron Food Bank, the women said. Throughout the year, Kathleen holds various gatherings for charity, including an annual Christmas party that raises food and money for the food bank.

Over the years, Greenleaf has held many fundraisers, the women said. There have been

pasta dinners for cancer victims; families whose homes were destroyed in fires, including the Andover family whose house on Lake Road burned down last year; and for folks who have been injured and left unable to work.

“We really stand out for our pasta dinners,” Helen said.

For the first five years after her husband passed away from the rare autoimmune disease CREST syndrome, Kathleen held bike runs – with cars and motorcycles – for the National Organization for Rare Disorders and raised more than \$10,000 for the cause.

Greenleaf also has championship teams in darts, pool and softball. The pool league recently went to Las Vegas after winning the eastern division championship and the softball team has won a championship three years running, the women said.

Kathleen was named Woman of the Year by the Hebron Women’s Club in 2015.

Tonight, the Gypsy Bridge Band will play at Greenleaf from 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.

Next Friday, Aug. 16, will be Karaoke Night from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Fire at Marlborough Pavilion Discussed at Meeting

by Karla Santos

A recent fire and explosion at the Blish Park fireplace was a topic of discussion at Tuesday's meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

According to state police, the fire occurred the evening of July 24. Police said a group of five told officers they had gathered sticks to make a fire in the community chimney. The five said the fire appeared normal until an explosion occurred inside the chimney, causing chunks of brick to fly off.

Police said Tyler M. Chita, 18, of Bolton, and four juveniles – who weren't identified due to their ages – were each charged with third-degree criminal mischief.

First Selectman Amy Traversa said during the meeting that she was glad no one was killed and proud of the accused for taking responsibility.

Traversa presented the incident to the rest of the Board of Selectmen during Tuesday's meeting with the goal of getting them to start to think about a possible solution.

Traversa said the town is getting some price estimates from vendors and working with the insurance company for possible solutions.

According to Traversa, a vendor gave her an estimated price of \$18,000 to fix the fireplace and \$36,000 to completely replace the fireplace.

The investigation report says that the director of Public Safety of the town of Marlborough assessed the damage with an engineer and provided an estimated cost of \$15,000 to \$20,000 to repair the damage.

Traversa said at the meeting that completely replacing the fireplace is "not really something that we are considering."

"There's no need," she added. "The flue part of the chimney is actually structurally sound; although it looks like there are big cracks in it, they are not to the flue part of it – they are to the concrete bricks on the other side."

Traversa said the fireplace used to be made of stone, but that kids would often climb up the fireplace and spray-paint and otherwise damage the roof of the pavilion, "which got to be really expensive."

So the stone was replaced with brick – but now it too has been vandalized, leading Traversa to publicly ponder if having a fireplace at the pavilion makes sense.

"As pretty as the fireplace is on a pavilion, does it make sense for us to have a fireplace which can be considered to be an attractive nuisance for people to use unsupervised, unattended?" Traversa said at the meeting. She wondered if the town should "take the insurance money and do something different in Parks and Recreation with it."

Traversa said she doesn't have a preference for what happens with the fireplace – but warned the Board of Selectmen about it being a liability issue.

"I'm open to opinions and wanted to give you the opportunity to start thinking about it," Traversa said.

When Selectman Cliff Denniss asked how often the fireplace is used, Traversa responded, "I've seen it once in 15 years."

Parks and Recreation Director Ray Bull said Wednesday he is not ready to comment on the issue because he hadn't yet discussed it with the Recreation Commission.

Denniss Back on the Ballot in Marlborough?

by Karla Santos

Selectman Cliff Denniss wasn't endorsed for re-election at the Republicans' July caucus, but that doesn't appear to be keeping him from being on the November ballot.

Republicans voted 72-14 to nominate Joe Asklar for the Board of Selectmen instead of Denniss, who has served on the board since last fall, when he was appointed to fill the vacancy of Dick Shea. Shea's term expires in November.

Denniss told the *Rivereast* last week he was "looking into alternatives" to get on the ballot – and in the end decided to gather signatures for a petition to run unaffiliated for the three-member Board of Selectmen.

"I only needed 14," Denniss said this week. "I got more than that."

Denniss said that, initially, he wasn't going to do much after the Republicans failed to endorse him. But then he received calls of encouragement from other Republicans, as well as Democrats and independent voters, which he said motivated him into going the petitioning route.

Denniss said there is a group of Republi-

cans in town that expect politicians to do things in certain ways – and that if they don't, the group will find somebody else.

"I've always done what I felt was best for Marlborough," he said. "Some people disagree with my decisions."

Denniss said that his goal as a member of the Board of Selectmen is to try to improve the town.

The next step is for the Marlborough town clerk to validate the signatures and send them to the secretary of the state's office.

If Denniss is selected to be on the ballot, he will join Republican Joe Asklar and Democrat Evelyn Godbout. Democrat First Selectman Amy Traversa is seeking re-election, and is being challenged by Republican Greg Lowrey.

Republican Town Committee Chairman Ken Hjulstrom Thursday expressed disappointment about Denniss' petition.

"Cliff certainly has the legal right to seek a position on the ballot, but I had hoped that he would respect the decision of" the Republicans who voted at the caucus, Hjulstrom said.

Anderson Tapped as New Town Administrator in Andover

by Sloan Brewster

Andover selectmen didn't have to go far to find the new town administrator.

Selectmen Wednesday voted to hire one of their own, Eric Anderson, to fill the role – which was vacated in June when Joseph Higgins left after two years in office.

The vote was 4-0 with one abstention – which belonged to Anderson himself. Anderson resigned from his seat on the board, as well as his positions on the Planning & Zoning Commission and the Long Term Planning Committee, immediately upon accepting his new gig. Selectmen said they would be advertising to fill those holes immediately.

Anderson was selected from seven applicants, two of whom were immediately eliminated based on "issues" uncovered by internet searches, First Selectman Jeff Maguire said in a phone call Thursday. Another declined an offer for an interview, leaving four that were interviewed.

Anderson was the obvious choice, however, Maguire said. He was the best fit, based on his knowledge of the town and work ethic.

"They were all good applicants," he said. "From my standpoint they were all good interviews. They were just not the right fit for

Andover. I'm extremely excited about the hiring of Eric."

Maguire said Anderson "intimately understands the issues of the town" and said he "is incredibly hardworking, which was a priority after our last administration."

Maguire often complained about what he felt was a lack of effort put forth by Higgins. During Board of Selectmen meetings, Maguire sometimes became noticeably frustrated at what he perceived as Higgins' failure to complete tasks.

Maguire was not the only one displeased with Higgins.

In May, about a week and a half before Higgins handed in his resignation with 30 days' notice, current selectman Adrian Mandeville – who at the time was running for first selectman – said "a day of reckoning" was coming for Higgins.

Higgins is now town administrator in the town of Putnam, according to the town's website.

Anderson's two year-contract comes with a \$75,000 base salary and offers a \$7,500 bonus in each year for getting certain tasks done, in-

cluding revamping the town's website, promoting the town through published articles and implementing a town-wide communication system.

In addition, he is eligible for \$10,000 in bonuses for each of the two years for bringing in grants. Maguire said Higgins was tasked with securing grants, but often failed to do so.

Anderson said he was okay with the salary and bonus arrangement, as he felt it solved an issue the town has had with holding the person in the administrator position accountable for getting certain things accomplished.

The first selectman said Anderson had already hit the ground running yesterday, doing a 7 a.m. walk-through with the director of Public Works on Sunset Lane for a paving contract for the short dirt road.

Anderson will work part-time for the town for the next two weeks while he finishes up his obligations for his present employer, Tesla, where he works in the operations division, looking at residences and determining how solar systems can be retrofit onto houses. Before he took the role at Tesla, he worked for a commercial printing company in building and project

management and prior to that he worked for the state.

Anderson said he is looking forward to working for the town.

"I think it's a good fit for my skillset and I know and care about the town," he said. "I feel it's a good fit overall."

At the meeting, selectmen all had positive things to say about choosing Anderson for the job.

Scott Person said he has worked with Anderson on a variety of volunteer efforts in the past six years.

"I'm amazed at what he does and if we're going to pay him, I can't imagine what he'll do," he said.

A couple residents also gave the nod to the new town administrator during the public comment session of the meeting.

"I'm very pleased that the Board of Selectmen has seen fit to hire Eric Anderson, who is from the town and knows the residents very well, so, congratulations," said Cathy Palazzi, who is also the town's senior coordinator. Palazzi's words were met with a round of applause from the audience.

Party Snub Leads to Republican Primary in Colchester

by Karla Santos

Selectman Stan Soby and Treasurer Brenden Healy have opened the door to a Republican primary after failing to receive their party's endorsement for reelection in November.

The pair this week collected the necessary signatures to get their names on the Sept. 10 special election ballot.

After 13 years in the Colchester Board of Selectmen, Soby last month did not secure the nomination for re-election. Republican officials have pointed to repeated social media posts by Soby critical of President Trump, which they described as evidence of a progressive agenda not in line with the party base.

Healy is the Republican Town Committee Chairman; Soby is the vice chairman.

Each candidate was required to gather the signatures of five percent of the registered Republican voters in town, which amounts to 124 signatures. The deadline for primary petitions was 4 p.m. Wednesday.

While Colchester Republican Registrar of Voters Sheila Tortorigi on Wednesday afternoon could not immediately confirm how many signatures they each received, she said they both

received more than they needed.

Soby said on Monday he was not endorsed by the Republicans because of his political opinions.

"People focus on political correctness rather than on inclusion," Soby said.

Soby will primary against the three endorsed Republicans: Taras Rudko, David Gesiak and Denise Mizla.

Soby said that he wants to continue to serve the town because he has skills and experience that are helpful. In addition, Soby is willing to listen to people and explore new ideas, he said.

"Some people see the school budget as spending, I see it as investing," Soby said.

He said he wants to help Colchester continue to be a livable, thriving community where people want to live.

"I try not to let politics get in the way of public service," Soby added.

Healy on Monday said the reaction from the people who signed the petition was "very positive and very supportive."

He said that those who have shown support are disappointed about the way he and Soby

were treated at the July 16 nominating caucus.

For the primary petition, the pair could only receive signatures from registered Republicans in Colchester.

"It's humbling to receive the support of so many people," Healy said. "Most people don't like political games. We just want to serve the town of Colchester."

Healy will primary against Steve Schuster, who was endorsed by the Republicans.

Rudko, one of the endorsed candidates for the Board of Selectmen, said he particularly did not want Healy and Soby on the ballot. According to Rudko, there are internal challenges within the town that include fiscal, political, financial and ethical conflicts, which is in part why he doesn't support Healy and Soby.

Rudko was endorsed alongside Republicans David Gesiak and Denise Mizla.

Rudko said that the July 16 caucus was one of the biggest ones in Colchester, with about 50 people in attendance.

On the other hand, Healy in a letter to the editor said that only about 33 individuals participated in the caucus.

"Those 33 do not represent the 2,500 registered Republicans in Colchester, nor the 17,000+ residents in town," Healy stated in the letter. "When all this noise settles down, we need people like Stan, who are committed to working on behalf of everyone in Colchester."

Healy said that the reason he didn't receive the support of his party is that he refuses to ask Soby to quit his job as a lobbyist for an organization that helps people with disabilities.

Healy praised Soby for the amount of work he has done for the town.

"Stan has served Colchester for many years," Healy wrote. "He has volunteered thousands of hours for our town. He stepped up as first selectman when both Jenny Contois and Gregg Schuster resigned. No one else did. While a few of the 33 have been engaged in some volunteer service in Colchester, most have preferred to spend time being disengaged, criticizing from the back of the room or trolling social media accounts."

The Sept. 10 special election will take place from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the Colchester Town Hall.

Gift Card Sale Prompts State Investigation in East Hampton

by Elizabeth Regan

The Department of Consumer Protection wants to know if Angelico's Lake House engaged in any "unfair or deceptive" actions when it held a gift card blitz the day before it suddenly closed.

Angelico's Lake House, located at 81 N. Main St., was shuttered July 29 after the state suspended its sales and use tax permit.

The closure followed a one-day-only "Fire Sale" that featured half-price gift cards for customers who spent at least \$100. Only cash or checks were accepted, according to the restaurant's Facebook page.

The consumer protection department's spokesman, Lora Rae Anderson, said there have been seven complaints about the gift card sale so far. The agency opened an investigation to see "whether or not there were any unfair or deceptive actions on the part of the restaurant," according to Anderson.

The sale came after a fire in the restaurant's patio area on July 24, which damaged a portion of the popular outdoor tiki bar as well as the stage backdrop and some fencing.

Fire Marshal Richard Klotzbier said this week the cause is still under investigation.

A sign posted on the door by the state Department of Revenue Services announced the permit suspension. Department spokesman Jim Polites last week cited confidentiality provisions in state tax law when he declined to comment on the case.

According to state statute, all suspensions are preceded by a hearing in front of the revenue services commissioner. Everyone under threat of suspension is notified about the time and date

of the hearing 10 days in advance.

Polites this week would not disclose when the hearing was held or when the suspension notice was served.

According to town records, the state revenue services department in December 2017 put a lien on the property for \$19,354 in unpaid sales and use taxes.

The owners of the N. Main Street property also owe \$24,343.31 in real estate taxes and sewer use fees to the town, according to town records.

A spokesman for the Department of Labor on Wednesday said one Angelico's Lake House employee has filed a complaint about unpaid wages.

Taxes for the business are paid by PJA Associates LLC, which is listed on the Secretary of the State's database as a venture of Joseph J. Angelico Jr. and Emanuele J. Angelico. The agent is listed as Paul J. Angelico.

Paul Angelico did not return a call for comment.

The restaurant is currently for sale. It was listed four days before the tiki bar fire by Jen Swerdlick of Fine and Company.

The 1.21-acre site and business assets are selling for \$1.6 million. It's being marketed as a possible bed and breakfast, watersport rental company, restaurant, banquet facility, or residential home with rental possibilities.

WFSB has reported the owners also owe nearly \$100,000 in back taxes to the city of New Britain, where the former Angelico's Cafe was located.

Package Store Robbery Leads to Police Chase in East Hampton

by Elizabeth Regan

An Aug. 1 armed robbery at the Route 66 Package Store in East Hampton last week led to a car chase on Route 2 that ended in Norwich with the apprehension of two juveniles suspected in an interstate crime spree, according to state and local police.

State police said an investigation revealed the youths had been involved in an attempted armed robbery in Canterbury earlier that day. The pair also confessed to involvement in robberies in northeastern Connecticut and in Dudley, Mass.

Dudley police identified the juveniles, who are suspects in the July 30 armed robbery of a Dudley convenience store, as a 16-year-old male from Hamden and a 16-year-old female believed to be from Canterbury.

East Hampton police said the robbery of the 193 E. High St. liquor store occurred at 5:33 p.m. One of the individuals demanding money from a store employee displayed a handgun, according to police. Cash was taken from the register.

The employee was not injured, police said.

The two suspects left the scene in what was later determined to be a truck that had been stolen from Hamden five days earlier, police said. They were located heading east on Route 2, where they engaged state police in the chase before coming to a stop in Norwich. The sus-

pects attempted to flee before being taken into custody after a brief foot pursuit.

The pair was transported to the Hartford Detention Center and was arrested by East Hampton police the same day. One was charged with first-degree robbery, criminal use of a firearm, first-degree reckless endangerment and fifth-degree larceny. The other was charged with first-degree conspiracy to commit robbery and fifth-degree conspiracy to commit larceny.

The Dudley Police Department posted on the department's Facebook page the next day that the youths "will be returned to Massachusetts at a future date to face charges of armed robbery while masked and other offenses" in connection with the alleged July 30 robbery.

Dudley police said evidence recovered from the juveniles include clothing, masks and a silver and black "Pellet Pistol."

Dudley police thanked the Connecticut State Police as well as local residents and businesses that assisted in identifying the individuals.

"It was a great example of solid police work by many officers from multiple departments, working in collaboration with the community to solve a series of serious crimes," Dudley police said.

Jeep Used in Colchester Break-In May Have Been Stolen

by Karla Santos

A Jeep used in the break-in at Scotties Frozen Custard last week has been identified as possibly stolen out of Middletown, Colchester Police said.

Colchester Police posted surveillance video of the alleged burglary on its Facebook page last week. It was through this page that Middletown Police identified the jeep.

Colchester Police said this is believed to be the seventh Jeep stolen out of Middletown lately. In most of the cases, police said, the stolen vehicles are later used for burglaries across Connecticut, and then found in Hartford County torched and with no keys.

On July 28, Colchester Police officers were called to Scotties Frozen Custard, located at 327 New London Rd., for the reported break-in. The owner of the business told police Scotties had closed for business at 9:30 p.m. the previous day, July 27. At about 9:45 a.m. July 28, the owner returned to the restaurant and discovered the cash register ripped off the counter – and that a forced entry appeared to

have been made. Another entrance of the business was also found open, police said.

Police said that, according to the business' surveillance system, the break-in happened the morning of July 28 between 2 and 3 a.m. Police said the video shows an unknown individual wearing a hoodie. Police also said the individual was possibly the one operating the mid-2,000s, light-color Jeep Wrangler with a dark soft top. A short crow bar was used to facilitate the break-in.

The cash register of the business had approximately \$6 in change, and no cash, at the time of the break-in, police said.

Colchester Police added that also on Sunday, July 28, at about 4 a.m. there was a break-in at Desmond's Auto Sales. Police said no video is available for that break-in. State police also would not provide any further details about the incident.

Anyone with information about the suspect can contact police at 860-537-7270.

East Hampton Police News

7/14: Daniel Cook, 56, of 7 Old Coach Rd., was issued a summons for operating a motor vehicle under suspension, East Hampton Police said.

7/28: Drew Montgomery, 20, of 105 Windsor Ct., Madison, was issued a summons for speeding, police said.

7/30: Elizabeth Warzecha, 27, of 158 Main St., was charged with second-degree failure to appear, police said.

7/31: Melissa Swan, 37, of 12 Hayes Rd., was charged with violation of probation, police said.

Also, from July 22-28, officers responded to 11 medical calls, one motor vehicle crash and six alarms, and made nine traffic stops, police said.

Obituaries

East Hampton

Donald E. Brainard

Donald E. (Donny) Brainard, 91, of East Hampton, formerly of Shepard Street in Old Saybrook and Chapman Beach Road in Westbrook, died peacefully at home early Tuesday morning.

Donald is survived by his wife of 64 years, Barbara Stiles Brainard; son Scott and his wife Mary; son Glenn and his wife Laura; and son Lee. Donald is also survived by two grandsons, Christopher and Jacob Brainard; a sister, Necla Stevens of Waterford; and many cousins, nieces and nephews.

Donald was predeceased by his parents, Harry L. and E. Gertrude McCoombs Brainard, as well as his sister, Dorothy Brainard Rochette, and niece Colleen Courtney. Donald worked as a bulldozer operator his entire life starting with the Holbrook Co. He was very proud of his employment with Lane Construction and his part building I-95 in the Clinton area. He had also worked for White Oak and Lamay Construction. In the early '60s, he would take a job with Vann Epps Construction for a "few weeks," which became 19 years. Donald then started Donald Brainard Bulldozing where he worked until he was 84.

Donald's life was centered around family and friends. He was always involved with his sons lives, taking them camping, boating, bagpiping and many other things. Donald was drafted into the army where he served with the Headquarters Battery 260th Anti Aircraft Artillery Group at Camp Edwards, Mass. During his service time, duty to family would call when his father became ill and he would receive a hardship discharge to go home and tend to the family farm. In 1033 he became a 3rd degree Master Mason of Siloam Lodge 32, now Estuary Lodge 43 in Old Saybrook. A graveside service will be held Saturday, Aug. 17, at 10 a.m., in Cypress Cemetery, Route 153 in Westbrook.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Marlborough

Loraine P. Rankl

Loraine P. Rankl of Marlborough and Avon Park, Fla., passed away Monday, May 27. She was born Nov. 24, 1923, to William and Loraine Porter in New Fane, Vt. She was the first female mail clerk to work for Hamilton Standard. After that, she worked side by side with her husband, Theodore M. Rankl, on their dairy farm and orange groves as well.

She is survived by her son, Theodore W. Rankl and wife Diane of Florida and West Virginia, and her daughter, Cheryl Lyman and husband Jim of Hinsdale, Mass.; two grandchildren, Jim Lyman and wife Kelly of Pittsfield, Mass., and Troy Lyman of Hinsdale, Mass.; five great-grandchildren, Emma, Aidan, Kyle, Jaxyn and Trayce, all of Massachusetts.

She was predeceased by her husband, Theodore M. Rankl; her sister, Hazel Islieb; and brother, William Porter.

There will be a graveside service Wednesday, Sept. 11, at 11 a.m., in Marlboro Cemetery in Marlborough.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.



East Hampton

Rodney Alton Hannaford

Rodney Alton Hannaford, 76, of East Hampton, husband of Judith (Harris) Hannaford, returned to his heavenly home Wednesday, July 31, peacefully in the comfort of his own home. After a seven-year battle with melanoma, his devotion to his family and firm belief in God gave him the strength in his struggle and ultimately gave him peace.

He was born in Claremont, N.H., the son of the late Charles Hannaford and Zella (Snide) Hannaford. Rodney served with the US Army and had a long career with Pratt and Whitney as a quality assurance inspector for over 30 years. In retirement, Rod enjoyed many years golfing, camping, fishing and boating with his grandchildren and family. He was a devoted husband and loving grandfather who was kind and soft spoken, had many friends, and a keen sense of humor. He is dearly missed by his loved ones, who will celebrate the fact that he is at peace with his creator.

Predeceased by his two stepbrothers, Cedric and Ernest Dutton, Rodney is survived by his daughter, Christine D. (Hannaford) Salisbury and her husband Mark Salisbury, and grandchildren, Justin, Jessilyn and Jeremy Salisbury; his daughter, Sharon R. (Hannaford) Cubit and her husband Darren Cubit and granddaughter, Danielle Cubit; his son, James Michael Harris and wife Nancy (Scandura) Harris of East Hampton and grandchildren, Alexis M. Harris, and James S. Harris. He is survived also by his brother, Roger Hannaford of North Carolina, and sister, Sylvia (Hannaford) McEntegart, her husband Thomas D. McEntegart of Maryland and nephews, Thomas and Sean McEntegart.

In lieu of funeral services and to honor Rodney's character, we ask that all who wish to participate make a donation to Middlesex Health Hospice Home Care, 28 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457.

Marlborough

Francis J. Morrison

Francis J. Morrison, 80, of Marlborough, passed away Friday, Aug. 2, at Hartford Hospital. He was the beloved husband of Elaine M. (Young) Morrison for nearly 52 years.

Born in Brighton, Mass., he was the son of the late Charles C. and Elizabeth (Harvey) Morrison. Francis was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force. He worked for the MBTA as a streetcar driver for many years. He raised his family in Billerica, Mass., before moving to Marlborough to be close to his cherished grandchildren. He was extremely proud of his Irish roots and he treasured his extended family. Francis was a parishioner of St. John Fisher Church, Marlborough.

In addition to his wife, Francis is survived by his daughter and son-in-law, Colleen M. and Patrick Brown of Marlborough; his grandchildren, Francis Morrison Brown and Elizabeth Ann Brown; his sister, Nancy Guimond of Massachusetts; his brother and sister-in-law, Kevin and Mary Louise Morrison of Massachusetts; and many beloved nieces and nephews.

Francis was predeceased by his daughter, Deborah "Debby" E. Morrison; his brother, Charlie Morrison; and his niece, Maureen Guimond.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated Saturday, Aug. 10, at 11 a.m., at St. John Fisher Church, 30 Jones Hollow Rd., Marlborough. Burial, with military honors, will be at the convenience of the family in the State Veterans Cemetery, Middletown. There are no calling hours.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to St. John Fisher Church, 30 Jones Hollow Rd., Marlborough, CT 06447.

For online condolences, visit mulryanfh.com.