

RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

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

Volume 43, Number 48

Published by The Glastonbury Citizen

September 13, 2019



Oakdale residents Milo (4) and Ally (2) Boles take a turn on the teacups at the Hebron Harvest Fair last weekend.

Hebron Fair Fun for All

by Sloan Brewster

In three minutes flat, with the throb of music and the hush of the crowd egging him on, Joshua Moonshine created a piece of spray paint art at the Hebron Harvest Fair last weekend.

Moonshine, of Philadelphia, was one of the many vendors at the 49th annual fair. Drying paintings and for sale pieces lined the floor in front of the canopied booth while boxes full of already-sold paintings covered the area in back where, at intervals, Moonshine donned a respirator mask and worked feverishly on new pieces.

The *Rivereast* encountered Moonshine's booth just as he began a painting Saturday afternoon. Slipping on his facemask, he pulled a blank canvas from a stack and began spraying.

He dusted the bottom of the white space in bright shades of yellow and orange – spraying the color into a triangular shape then softening the tone with some white. Before long, he was covering more of the canvas in blues and pinks, deepening what would eventually be sky with purple.

When Moonshine again took out a can of white spray paint, he used it to form a shape that gradually showed itself to be a winged angel, enhancing and adding dimension to the figure by outlining it in more purple.

The artist made use of tools, including a folded piece of cardboard, a brush and a spatula, to add sparkling stars around the angel, birds in the sky and crosses atop the mountains he had formed out of the yellow and orange triangle.

Three minutes after he started, he was finished and Moonshine removed his mask, holding the creation up to his smiling audience. As he set it down to dry, a process he said also takes three minutes, he fielded requests for additional pieces from eager fairgoers.

Moonshine, who studies ancient philosophies, said his style comes from ancient Taoist art.

"It's not about creating a beautiful painting but getting in the zone, the art of not thinking," he said, breathlessly talking nearly as quickly as he had painted a moment before. "Basically, just being in the zone."

Color and sound are all part of the process, he said. And so is the crowd that circles his tent when he works.

"That painting cannot be completed without the people," he insisted.

The large fair had the usual offerings, with activities for children and adults.

Saturday afternoon, a small crowd gathered around the enclosure where several pairs of horses competed in the horse pull.

When the *Rivereast* stopped by to catch a quick glimpse at the competition, Peter Harvey, of Lebanon, was holding the reins while horses Harvey and Lewis pulled 3,000 pounds, which Harvey said was low as it was still early in the contest.

"It'll go up to 5,6,7,8, 10,000 pounds," he said.

Harvey said he has been competing in horse
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Soby, Healy Out in Colchester Primary

by Karla Santos

When Stan Soby and Brenden Healy failed to gain endorsement for re-election at July's caucus for the Colchester Republicans, they each petitioned their way onto a primary ballot, in the hopes that perhaps a larger group of Republicans would feel differently.

That primary came and went this week, and the message was the same: the Republicans – at least the ones who voted Tuesday – don't want them.

Soby, a longtime member of the Board of Selectmen with previous stints as the town's interim first selectmen, came in last among four Republicans vying for three spots on the November ballot for the Board of Selectmen. He collected just 193 votes, compared to Denise Mizla, Taras Rudko and David Gesiak – all endorsed at the July caucus – who received 362, 305 and 263 votes, respectively.

The primary for the Republican nominee for town treasurer was significantly closer, but Healy, the incumbent treasurer, still lost, collecting 213 votes to endorsed candidate Steven Schuster's 224.

In all, 428 of the town's 2,516 registered Republicans – or 17 percent – voted in Tuesday's primary.

Andreas Bisbikos, who was chairman of the Republican caucus in July, said he felt it was made clear Tuesday that a majority of the town Republicans do not share the vision of Soby and Healy. He also said he thinks it's time for Soby and Healy to resign from their leadership roles on the Republican Town Committee – where they serve as vice chairman and chairman, respectively.

"If they truly had the best interest of the Republican Party in mind I believe they would resign," Bisbikos said.

While Soby said Wednesday that he had indeed already submitted his resignation, Healy said he wants to continue.

"Although it's not the outcome that I was hoping for, it's time for us Republicans to come together and support the Republican team to win in November," Healy said.

Soby's lack of endorsement in July came following criticism by some Republican Town Committee members – including Rudko and Bisbikos – for posts on Twitter criticizing President Donald Trump, and retweets of various Democratic state officials. Bisbikos in July said that, through the Twitter account "Selectman Stan," Soby was "promoting progressive values

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The Colchester town hall was ready to receive voters on Tuesday, Sept. 10, in a primary that ultimately left Stan Soby and Brenden Healy out of the November ballots. Photo by Karla Santos.



There were various activities and sights for all ages at the Hebron Harvest Fair last weekend. At left, Trudy Paquin, of Clinton, kicks her leg as Mambo Numba 5, a 3-year old retriever, takes a turn at DockDogs on Saturday at the Hebron Harvest Fair. At right, Joshua Moonshine, of Pennsylvania, creates spray paint art in three minutes.



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pulls for 30 years, and followed in his father's shoes.

As of Saturday afternoon at about 3:30, the highest weight Harvey and Lewis had pulled this year was 10,000, which they did at a fair in New Hampshire.

When asked what weight Harvey and the horses were aiming to achieve in the pull, his answer was simple.

"All we can," he said.

DockDogs, a crowd favorite, was splashingly fun with dogs competing to see which one could jump the farthest to get a target. On Saturday afternoon at 4:30, several dogs competed in the Extreme Vertical competition.

Trudy Paquin, of Clinton, brought Mambo Numba 5, a three-year old retriever, who was competing in the event for the second time. As of then, Mambo's highest jump was 5 feet 6 inches.

"I have a crazy dog that has to be in the wa-

ter," Paquin said.

As another owner and pooch took to the ramp to get ready for the next jump, the MC got the crowd going, calling on folks to cheer on the dog.

"Let's go Rosie!" the crowd chanted. "Let's go Rosie!"

With a splash that cascaded water on excited onlookers, Rosie missed her mark, eliciting disappointed cries from the crowd.

Erin Bailey of Westport Island, Maine and six-year old Cisco have been traveling "all over the place" taking on DockDog competitions since the pup was eight months old, she said.

"I saw dogs doing it on TV and thought it would be great for a dog to do," she said. "I found DockDogs, tried it and he fell in love with it."

New to the fair this year were booths where farmers touted their agricultural know-how.

Tom Satkowski, of East Willow Farm in

Hebron, who raises pastured chickens and pigs, shared his thoughts on the importance of a grass-versus-grain diet.

Folks stopped by and asked about what they fed their animals and about other things they do at the farm and just generally gave shout-outs to farmers for their hard work bringing food to the table, he said.

"It went fantastic," Satkowski said Tuesday. "It was amazing the amount of positive support."

His farm wasn't the only one heaping over with positive feedback. Wholly Goats Soaps, of Hebron, was set up beside him and that farm also heard good things from fairgoers.

"The energy from everybody was great," Satkowski said.

Satkowski offered raffle tickets to win a membership in his Community Supported Agriculture [CSA] program. The winner – identified as "a gentleman from Colchester" – will receive

monthly selections of farm meats ranging from a whole chicken, pork chops, dinner sausage, bacon or breakfast sausage and blade steaks for six months.

"He was super excited," Satkowski said. "It's quite a bit of meat."

Folks whose mouths are watering for the carnivore chow can get in on one of the remaining six slots in the CSA by messaging Satkowski through eastwillowfarm.com by Sept. 28.

Dreamland Amusements offered rides and Saturday afternoon, Oakdale resident Rachel Boles kept a watchful eye on her children Milo, 4, and Ally, 2, as they enjoyed a turn on teacups.

Boles recalled coming to the fair in year's past – long before the birth of the kids – and checking out the Figure 8 Races on Friday nights.

"This has always been our favorite fair," she said.

Colchester Primary cont. from Front Page

and narratives on illegal immigration, the second amendment, and on the president."

Bisbikos said this week the results of Tuesday's primary make it clear there's an "evolution" going on among Republicans in Colchester.

"There are people that have been there for a very long time and they have kept people out of the loop," he said of party leadership. "They have been questioned regarding their behaviors and I feel that it is important that we have new individuals that promote Republican views and ethics, provide transparency and accountability and foster an environment where we are creating future leaders and right now that's not occurring."

Voters on Tuesday expressed different opinions of the two.

James Thompson, who cast his ballot at the Abundant Life of the Assemblies of God Church, said he voted across the top line of the ballot – leaving Soby and Healy out – as he thinks it's time for a change.

"We've got to stop this runaway spending because the school system I think is getting too much money when we have a declining enroll-

ment," Thompson said. "The budget can't go up anymore, it's too high already. The budget needs to be cut. There's upgrades on computers that you can download; why do we do we need new computers every year? We have a declining school enrollment anyways."

James McGann, who has lived in Colchester for 40 years, voted at town hall and said he's happy with the way things are going in town.

"I like what's going on with the growth lately; it's kind of maybe a little overdue but is growing in a good way I think," McGann said. "I just came to vote for Stan Soby. He has been a good advocate for Colchester for a long time. It seems like he's been treated unfairly lately with some politics. I know he's a good man and that's hard to replace so I just voted for him."

Mizla, who collected the most votes of the candidates on Tuesday, said she was still disappointed with the overall turnout.

"That was really a shame," Mizla said. "That out of almost 2,500 Republicans, only 400 and something came out to vote, that was a disappointment. Primaries I know tend to be low turnout. I didn't expect it to be that low."

Mizla, however, said she was "thankful" and "humbled" for people's support. If she wins in November, she said she intends to continue to support the progress of the renovation of the Senior Center and Norton Park.

"They certainly need it because of the population of seniors," Mizla said of the Senior Center. "They are crowded. They need a little bit newer facility."

Mizla received a total of 362 votes on Tuesday's election. She ran alongside Taras Rudko, who received 305 votes, David Gesiak, who received 263 votes and Soby, who received 193 votes.

Voters were expected to vote for three out of four Republican selectman candidates.

"You go into these things wanting to win and so it's a disappointment when you don't," Soby said. "But the voters made their choice and that's what we have. I have really tried to remember that this is a public service, in spite of politics around it and go forward with a positive message because we have a lot good in Colchester but we need to be active and engaged to ensure that good will continue getting better all the time."

Soby said he wants to continue to somehow be engaged in the town, but said that at this point he doesn't know what form that would take. Healy, meanwhile, said he is not interested in petitioning to run as an independent in November.

Schuster said he felt good about the election results.

"I feel that we are going to be a much stronger and united organization going forward," Schuster said. "We are certainly going to strive for that and hopefully the rest of the RTC membership will agree with that."

While he hopes to win as treasurer in the November election, Schuster said he actually wants to eliminate the town treasurer position altogether. He suggested the duties of the treasurer be transferred over to the town's chief financial officer, Maggie Cosgrove and her staff.

But, until the position is eliminated, Soby said he wants to help the town achieve good bond and credit ratings.

"But also, when that revenue hits a certain level it could and should be used to go into the budget to reduce the mill rate for the people in Colchester" Schuster said.

Public Input Sought on RHAM Turf Field

by Sloan Brewster

The RHAM Board of Education wants to hear from area residents about its desire to put a turf field at the high school.

The board has been looking at ways to overcome drainage issues and the lack of playable fields in the district, Superintendent of Schools Patricia Law said in a phone call Wednesday.

The board members have agreed artificial turf is the desired solution. The board is holding public sessions in the three district towns to get public input on how to go about it.

Last night, the first of the meetings was held in Andover Town Hall. Next Monday, Sept. 16, at 6:30 p.m., there will be a meeting in Hebron in the high school chorus room, and on Saturday, Sept. 28, at 10 a.m., there will be a meeting in the media center at Marlborough Elementary School.

The meetings are the board's opportunity to hear from the public about its decision to move forward with a synthetic turf field, the superintendent said.

"They want to hear from the public, what

concerns that they have," Law said.

After the public sessions, the board will look into how to fund the project and the Field Improvement Subcommittee will talk about the next steps, Law said.

"The board wants to look at all the options," she said.

Parents have long decried drainage issues on the current athletic field, and at nearly every school board meeting in recent months one or more people stand up and complain about games being cancelled or moved because of the wet field.

A special meeting in July – at which the board was given a presentation on a feasibility study on installing an artificial turf field at the high school – was no exception, and a few speakers voiced support for putting in a turf field.

According to the minutes, John Swanson, of Marlborough, spoke of the inability for the football to play the homecoming game on the home field due to its poor condition and said installing a turf field is about more than sports and

that it should be done for the community.

If the turf field is not installed, the drainage issues will persist, he said.

At the meeting, BSC Group, the firm hired to complete the feasibility study, presented the board with its conclusions.

The study cost \$10,000 and was paid for out of the district's capital non-recurring fund account, Law said.

Jess Harris, landscape architect and associate at BSC, presented two options for the field – natural grass improvements and synthetic turf.

Natural grass can't be used as frequently as turf, Harris said, according to the minutes. It is also susceptible to uncontrollable environmental impacts and will make demands on the school's well water system.

Perks to natural grass include that it provides a cooler field and some prefer playing on it, he said.

Synthetic Turf is the more durable option, Harris said. The all-weather surface requires less maintenance than natural grass and can be

used more often.

Harris suggested keeping the track as it is, installing the turf and adding a new high jump, pole vault and shot-put area. In addition, he recommended installing a new security fence.

After the presentation, the board decided – based on the information in the study – to move in the direction of an artificial turf field, Law said.

"All that means is that this is something they would all like to do," she said.

The costs for the project have not yet been determined, law said.

"The nitty-gritty stuff has not been decided," she said.

At a meeting in February 6, the board discussed a bill proposed by state Sen. Cathy Osten (D-19) and state Rep. Robin Green (R-55) that would bring \$2.42 million to the district to fund the project.

"The bill still pending," Law said Wednesday. "Our understanding is that nothing might be decided on that until later this year."

Colchester Teacher of the Year Pushes for Positive Impact

by Karla Santos

When 30-year-old Michael Mal was a high school student, he once missed two days of school to attend the funeral services of his cousin, who had passed away from cancer.

Mal said one of those two days included an exam – and his teacher did not allow him to make it up.

"I explained to him why I missed school, and he told me he really did not care, and it was not an excuse to miss an exam," Mal said.

After that happened, Mal said he developed anger towards school, but upon reflecting on that experience, he realized he wanted to become an educator.

"I saw the negative impact one person could have on a student's life, and I wanted to create the opposite for all of my students," he added.

Mal has now been a teacher for seven years and in the spring of this year, he was selected as Bacon Academy's teacher of the year. But in August, the district announced that Mal had a bigger success to celebrate as he had been selected as the district teacher of the year.

Mal said it was an honor to receive the recognition not only at Bacon but at the district level.

"I'm only going in my eighth year of teaching," Mal said. "It's a great honor to receive as a pretty young educator."

Bacon Academy Principal Matthew Peel said Mal's recognition was well-deserved.

"He really does represent kind of what we want all of our faculty to be like," Peel said. "We want it to be student-centered, we want them to constantly be changing their practice

and improving, never settling for who they are right now as an educator and someone who's very collaborative and willing to work with other staff and take on big projects that are important to the building and to the kids so I think Mike is an excellent candidate."

Mal teaches social studies, U.S. history and a class he started at Bacon, Senior Capstone.

"Senior Capstone is a course that allows seniors to explore a personal area of interest," Mal said. "Whether it's a future career or something they are just generally interested in."

The class includes "shadowing out in the community" and a culminating project to demonstrate what the students learned, Mal said.

Peel said Mal has turned the class into a success.

"He's had 50 kids take it every year," Peel said. "Because of the success and how it connects to the district's vision for student learning and the value it has added to these kids' lives, it is now starting this year's freshmen class going to be a graduation requirement that every kid takes it."

Peel said Mal aligned the class to the "Bacon 10" – which are skills that students are expected to have when they graduate.

"There's a lot of value there and it's a testament that a class that Mike built has become a graduation requirement," Peel said.

Peel said Mal is always one of the staff members that's always involved, serving on various committees including the "Innovation Groundbreakers."

Mal has also been the school's first day advisor for seven years, a role Peel described as

an "enormous job." As the advisor, Mal plays a key role in planning the fairly grandiose first day – a day which is split into three parts: classes, a pep rally and a field day, featuring various games and even food trucks.

"He's done it for free for years," Peel said. "It's always been a voluntary position. I'd really like to see it become a paid stipend, like a class advisor, but for the history of it has always been voluntary."

In addition to Mal's involvement, Peel said he is also proud of his teaching style.

"His students learn history, they definitely do, but they learn it through inquiry, they learn it through debate, they have discussions, they have research projects," Peel said.

Peel said Mal rarely lectures his classes.

"Usually they are working and he's walking around the room helping them," Peel said. "Usually, he's talking to an entire class because he's describing and explaining the expectations for the assignment or the work that they are doing."

The district teacher of the year was selected in May but it wasn't announced until the first day of school.

In Colchester, before selecting the district teacher of the year, each school must first select its own teacher of the year. Students and staff can nominate their preferred teachers, then the nominations go to a nominating committee made up of former teachers of the year, who then get to select the teacher of the year.

"Once each of the buildings have selected their teacher of the year, then the administra-



Michael Mal

tive team for the district gets together and we get together as a group and we each bring our building teacher of the year candidate to the group and then at the district level, we are deciding who the district teacher of the year is," Peel said.

The district also selected Lindsay Schmitt as classified employee of the year and Sheryl Dodge as paraeducator of the year.

'Everything Animals' to be Discussed at Marlborough Town Hall

by Karla Santos

Wildlife experts will gather together at Town Hall next Thursday, Sept. 19, for a special presentation and roundtable discussion "Everything Animals."

The event is open to the public and starts at 6:30 p.m. at the Town Hall conference room. Everything Animals is being organized by the town's director of public safety, Jay Kehoe, who will be accompanied by Gerry Cloutier, Marlborough's animal control officer; Paul Coburn, a master wildlife naturalist; and Mike Ravesi, a wildlife biologist for the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. Each of the experts will present their own topic individually and there will be a question and answer opportunity for attendees.

Coburn's presentation will focus on bears and fisher cats. Ravesi will speak about reptiles, Kehoe will talk about snakes and Cloutier will inform the public about dogs including licensing, roaming, bites and related state statutes.

"Being the rural community that we are, we have a lot of interaction between our citizens and domestic animals, wild animals, household animals and everything else," Kehoe said. "And there's always lots of questions on everything from licensing dogs to what do I do if there's a rattlesnake in my yard or if a bear is shooting

down my bird feeder and this kind of stuff."

The goal of the program is to educate and inform town residents in terms of what to do in those situations while offering them a chance to also ask some questions that will be answered by the experts in the field.

Kehoe said that Marlborough has the presence of a lake, wetland areas and everything from turtles to snakes and frogs that people encounter all over the town.

"We have them not just in the rural areas," Kehoe said. "We have them crossing the highway; we have them in very populated areas. But typically they are just wandering through and just looking for a bite to eat."

Kehoe said that if there's a report of a wild animal in a certain neighborhood of town, he would normally use social media to let residents know about it. He said he would also advise people to "pull their bird feeders in and tighten up your garbage," to help the animal go away on its own.

The presentation will help attendees understand what they can and can't do when encountering a wild animal.

"Most of the time it's 'live and let live,'" Kehoe said, adding that animal control officers are "just trying not to put the animals in a situ-

ation where they would have to be captured, they would have to be destroyed."

Kehoe said he and the other presenters have spoken at individual events across the state, but this is their first time talking on the topic of animals as one unit.

"I've done numerous presentations around the state on the rattlesnake population," Kehoe said. "Paul has done numerous presentations on the bears. So we've all done these presentations before but we've never all done it together."

Cloutier said that he is relatively new to Marlborough but has been in the animal control business for 29 years. He said he is looking forward to hear some of the issues residents are currently facing when it comes to pets and wild animals. In addition, Cloutier said this presentation is important because it informs, educates and it's a good way to communicate with residents.

One of the topics Cloutier will be talking about during the presentation is licenses, vaccinations and complaints.

"A lot of people want to make a complaint against their neighbor but don't really know how, they tolerate it for a while but then they

get frustrated, that kind of thing," Cloutier said.

Kehoe also said the presentation will inform about which domestic animals are required to be vaccinated, and why. He said while dogs need to be licensed, showing they've been vaccinated against rabies, there is no similar "check-and-balance" for cats – and it's important for people to make sure their cats are vaccinated.

"If people don't get a rabies vaccine for their cat, their cat goes out and eats something that has contracted rabies and they bring it right back into the house and that's a long and painful treatment process," he said.

Ravesi said he will be focusing his presentation on reptiles and amphibians from a conservation and ecology perspective.

"I know that people are tuned into the wildlife in that area and have questions, especially in a state like Connecticut where we are one of the most developed states in the country and there's a lot of interface between the urban environment with the public and then with wildlife and so I think people would just get additional information about that aspect of wildlife in basically their backyard and the area," Ravesi said.

East Hampton Town Council Reviews Algae Report

by Michelle Richmond

The East Hampton Town Council Tuesday heard a report from Chatham Health District Director of Health Russell Melmed regarding a possible change in how the 512-acre Lake Pocotopaug is monitored for the blue-green algae that's plagued it for years.

Pointing out that surveillance of the lake has been ongoing for a long time, Melmed explained that there are three comprehensive methods of monitoring the growth of blue-green algae so that the town can best assess when to close Sears Park to swimmers, and that perhaps it's time to change the process.

"We've been taking samples of water and sending them to a lab where they can count the number of blue[-green] algae cells," Melmed said. "We can also do a visual of the lake and look for things like pea green scum on the surface, which indicates a high algae count. We can also do what we call 'passive surveillance,' which is waiting to hear from doctors about anyone they think has gotten sick from the lake."

"We've been sending samples off to Northeast Labs, a commercial laboratory in Berlin and to Northeast Aquatics Research, and while sometimes their readings are close to one another, sometimes they differ. One time this year, one reading was a lot higher than the other."

Melmed said there's been "some concern that we don't know which one to use to determine when to close Sears Park – the only place where the water is tested."

Readings under 20,000 cells per milliliter is considered safe.

"If it's above that, we advise people to swim at your own risk," he said. "When it reaches

100,000 swimmers are told to use caution, and anything over 100,000 calls for immediate closure, which occurred this summer."

Melmed reported that, since there's such a high degree of variability in these counts and the science that goes into it, perhaps another system should be put in place.

"The weekly counts aren't particularly helpful, and we're not sure which lab to send samples to," he reported. "By the time we send the samples to them and the delays in getting the results back, the conditions may have changed."

"What we've been doing isn't helpful as the core of solving the problem, he said. "The biggest question I get is people asking me, 'What's going on in my area, on my side of the lake?' My answer has always been, 'I don't know.' What we're doing is only helpful for Sears Park."

"I'm not a blue-green algae expert, nor am I a laboratory expert, so I went to state agencies such as the state Department of Health and the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to find out a little bit more and to find out if this is what other departments use as 'gospel.'"

Melmed found that those agencies don't use weekly counts to monitor the algae count.

"They don't use weekly counts from a lab," he said. "Instead, they train people to do visual observation of their lakes. When the lakes turn pea soup green, they close them. When they start to clear up, that's when they do the laboratory testing. They're looking for a type of blue-green algae and toxins."

"I don't know why we're doing anything different than what the State is recommending,"

he stated. "It takes a lot of time and a lot of effort to collect these samples and to look at the numbers and know what they mean."

"We have been relying essentially on counts because I think there's a comfort level with laboratory science," he continued. "But I don't see the need to keep doing it the way we've been doing it."

Melmed recommended doing regular observations across the lake, not just at Sears Park, and noted that if this process were approved, the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection would likely do the training.

"They would take me and a core of volunteers out in the summer next year to train us in what to look for," he said. "Or, they could train me and I would train the residents. We can standardize what we're looking at and do surveillance around the lake and see what we see. If we see a visual category three, that means you should avoid the water. We can get pictures and put them on our website and show people what the scum looks like so that they know what to look for."

"That to me seems like a more universal and robust program so we don't have to just rely on input from laboratory science. Yes, our eyes are imperfect but sometimes our senses are just as good as a lab report."

Melmed's second recommendation was to expand their surveillance program to include the entire lake.

"I'm not 100% there but I'm 95% there on thinking that this is way we should go. I think it would solve a lot of issues."

Melmed pointed out that he was in no way disparaging the laboratory scientists.

"They've had their training in their field and

their methodology is strong and correct. When the risk to the population's health is visible to the naked eye, I don't know that there's a value in spending time and money doing weekly testing when we can use our visual observation and protect public health."

Town Council Chairman Melissa Engel said that she liked Melmed's suggestion.

"The idea of having the state train as many of us as are interested in doing visual inspections is a fabulous idea," she said. "I see no benefit in paying for the service and the labor of water column testing. This doesn't mean that the other 9-point plan we have in place shouldn't be addressed."

The plan from the town's consulting lake expert, commonly referred to as the 9-point plan, includes specific changes that can be made on numerous streets in the lake watershed. The plan also lays out steps that can be taken by town staff members, land use commissions and community groups to ensure progress.

"But we need to focus on the fact that the testing isn't definitive and the weekly tests that we're doing and paying for don't seem to be providing us with any valuable data," Engel said. "We're going to not only do visual inspections but we'll do the catch basins and storm water run-off in an effort to keep the phosphorous and nitrates out of the lake, which is a year-long problem. There's no one answer to this problem so we'll just have to keep on working on it."

No decision was made about the possible monitoring change.

"We'll make a decision on how we'd like to proceed with next year's budget," Engel said.

Andover Looks to New Projects for Fall

by Sloan Brewster

The town of Andover is looking to get some projects done this fall and to plan for some more things that will need to be completed in the coming years.

In October, the town will be working on repairs to the transfer station, said Town Administrator Eric Anderson.

"We have a bunch of safety concerns with the wall of the transfer station on the bulky waste side [which is] the left side," he said. "It's been slowly getting worse for the last three or four years."

The project will take about three weeks to complete and the goal is to begin the first week of the month but Anderson said the start date will depend on when a concrete wall that will be used in the repair is delivered.

The transfer station will be open during its normal Wednesday and Saturday hours while the project is underway and no construction will be done during that time, Anderson said. It will impact folks using the transfer station, however, in that there will be less parking.

"It's going to be tighter," he said. "The public will have normal access. there's just less space. We ask for people's patience."

The wall on the left side of the transfer station will be torn down and replaced. To complete the project, the existing dumpsters for bulky waste and metal recycling will be shifted around.

To fix the wall, the town is purchasing a pre-cast concrete block, which Anderson said comes at a lower cost than pouring a wall.

"We're looking at somewhere from \$10,000

to \$11,000 in materials costs," Anderson said. "That was fully budgeted, it's in this year's budget."

The town crew will do the work to replace the wall.

The goal is that this will be a more permanent solution than the way the wall was repaired last time, which was a less expensive option that involved using excess concrete from other projects, Anderson said. Because the concrete is a waste product and can come from different trucks and various projects, the material is not consistent.

"They pour the extra in a form; maybe a different truck dumps the rest," Anderson said. "Some of the blocks fall apart; some are fine."

This time, the town is specifying the exact mix of the concrete and will get new block, he said.

* * *

Another project the town will work on over the next couple months is extensive crack sealing of town roads, Anderson said.

"The goal is to extend the life of existing paving as opposed to repaving," Anderson said.

The crack sealing should be done in the end of September or early October.

Anderson said that in the spring the town will also be working on a master plan for repaving roads.

"We know there are a number of roads in town that are in deteriorating condition and know they will be needed to be repaved," he said. "There are a bunch of roads that are in pretty rough condition."

Those include Bunker Hill and Hedy roads, which are scheduled for drainage improvements prior to repaving, according to the town administrator. He said he was not sure when the drainage work would be done as the town is in the process of evaluating that.

There is a plan to do some drainage work on one local road before winter.

"We're still trying to address some drainage issues on Hutchinson Road," Anderson said. "There are two failed culverts we are going to try to tackle this fall."

In August, the Board of Selectmen authorized First Selectman Jeff Maguire to sign a contract with INDUS Pavement & Asphalt Services, of Braintree, Mass., for the crack sealing project. The project is slated to cost up to \$99,000.00, with the funds coming from the town's road improvement fund, which currently has \$200,000.

* * *

The town is also looking into repairing some local bridges. Namely, problems with the bridge that runs over the Hop River on Bunker Hill Road will need to be addressed in the next couple years, Anderson said.

That particular structure "looks like a bridge" but is actually three metal hoops sitting side by side that the water runs through, Anderson said. The metal has rusted completely through in spots and the road's surface has had to be repaired due to resulting settling and water wash outs.

The town is currently evaluating options for the repairs, he said.

While a rehab project that would reline the existing culverts using a slightly smaller hoop and filling the gap with a lightweight concrete mixture would be less expensive than a total replacement, the project would not be eligible for federal or state funding, Anderson said.

"It is cheaper in terms of total cost, but it may not be cheaper to the town," he said.

The rehab project would cost about \$380,000 while a total replacement is estimated to cost about \$1.2 million, Anderson said. That said, he added that the \$1.2 million could be funded through a grant from the Federal Bridge Program, with the town's portion running about \$380,000.

"The cost to the town to rehab it is going to be basically the same cost as replacing the bridge," Anderson said.

Last fall, at a special town meeting, voters rejected the proposal to replace the bridge through the federal program.

"People wanted to rehab that as opposed to replace it," Anderson said.

The town is currently trying to get a thorough understanding of the costs for each option, he said. The town is also looking at all the bridges and culverts to evaluate what needs to be done.

"We're trying to look at everything that needs to be done and then prioritize," Anderson said.

Once the town knows what needs to be done when, it will look for funding "and get it done as cheaply as we can for the residents," Anderson said.

New Town Manager Settles into East Hampton Position

by Michelle Richmond

Former Wisconsin resident and Illinois native David E. Cox said this week he's settling comfortably into his new role as East Hampton's town manager, saying that he is looking forward to being at the helm of his new town.

Cox started in office Sept. 3. He replaces Michael Maniscalco, who left East Hampton in July to become South Windsor's town manager.

Cox obtained an undergraduate degree in public policy and administration from University of Wisconsin – Whitewater in 1989 and subsequently earned a master's degree in urban management from Northern Illinois University in 2006.

"Once I settled on that major, a career in municipal government was always the goal," said Cox.

With nearly 30 years of experience in municipalities, Cox served most recently as Village Administrator of Hartland, Wis., a town 25 miles west of Milwaukee with some 9,300 residents. He said that he has "always been drawn to New England."

"I've been playing this game for 29 years, so I'm ready for this new position. I had left my position in Hartland, which was very similar to what I'll be doing here and I'm happy to be here."

Cox, whose wife Christine is a librarian, has

two sons. He admitted that major moves "are never easy."

His eldest son is a student at Northeastern University in Boston, while his younger son is a senior in high school.

"We've decided not to move [my youngest son] or my wife here right now so they'll stay in the house that we own in Wisconsin," he said. "Sometime next summer or early fall, she'll move out here and we'll find a house here."

"Once before in their academic careers, we moved and it was not an easy time for my boys," he noted. "But they were in fifth and seventh grades so they made a lot of friends and it was easier for them. They did alright. But we've now been in the previous location for seven years and I couldn't fathom pulling my younger son out for just one more year."

Cox said that he is "ready" to deal with the issues the town is currently facing.

"One of the issues that people talk about is water," he said. "Lake Pocotopaug is certainly a challenge for the town in terms of its water quality. And then there's the matter of drinking water and whether the town can figure out a way to move forward with a system that addresses the need for good, clean drinking water."

"With both the natural and the pollution deposits in the ground, we definitely have some challenges. So those are two really major things

that are long term fixes that we're going to address."

"Things are going pretty well here, but there are always things that we can do to fine tune them and there are lots of sharp edges. But 'water, water' is the mantra that I've really gotten out of my conversations with the town."

Cox said that after his first "official" week, "It feels good."

"People are gracious and they're willing to share information," he said. "They're also willing to share ideas and that's what I need to hear."

Cox added that there's been a lot of "information gathering" during this first week.

"I've met with a lot of the department heads and some other supervisory staff to get an introduction to them, to hear what's going on in the different departments and finding out what they're facing," Cox said. "We acknowledged that we're drinking from the fire hose. It's the 'information belt,' as in any new job."

"This municipality is not one that sits around idle," Cox noted. "There's a lot going on and there are a lot of activities and growth happening and I'm ready for it."

Town Council Chairman Melissa Engel stated that, "We're very happy to have him."

"He's hit the ground running and is well prepared for this job, despite the geographical distance from where he was. He's done very well in his first week."



David Cox is excited about his new position as East Hampton's town manager.

Patches and Patchwork Closing its Doors in Portland After Many Years

by Michelle Richmond

When lifelong Portland resident, 82-year-old Janie Sterry, opened her small shop on Main Street in Portland, little did she know that "Patches and Patchwork" would be a part of her life for nearly 40 years.

Sterry, who had no real previous sewing experience, started what turned out to be a very successful quilting venture, "on a shoestring," in 1980.

"My husband Jack and I bought the building together," Sterry said. "He borrowed money from his 401K to pay for it and slowly, the business grew from there, but it wasn't easy. I opened my shop, started doing shows and ran classes. I did it all myself, and my family helped out whenever they could."

When asked how she did it without having much sewing experience, Sterry said, "I started sewing when I had kids. I had no choice."

"My mother never sewed but both my grandmothers did, although I never knew my mother's mother. I did a little sewing in high school but I really started when I had four kids – actually when I had the first two," she noted. "We didn't have any money so I started making stuff and I made everything, even my maternity clothes, from scratch."

Sewing for herself and her family eventually morphed into making quilts because, as Sterry explained, she "always loved quilts."

"I didn't know how they were made but I wanted to learn how to do it."

Aside from reading about the subject, Sterry took a six-week quilting class from someone locally, but said that at that point, she felt that she knew more than the teacher and was ready to move on.

She learned more at "Quilt Market," an event showcasing quilters and their wares and from a series of well-known teachers she met there.

Those classes, combined with "a lot of reading," launched Sterry on a journey, which not only brought her a lot of pleasure but resulted in having her quilts placed "all over the world."

"I started selling quilts, making quilts and repairing quilts for people who either moved away or were just visiting and now they've gone everywhere," she said. "We have a daughter in Australia so we've taken several quilts over there through the years because she had people she knew who wanted one for a special occasion."

"I remember having to repair a quilt that was vintage and I had to search all over for material that would match it. So, I started going through my scraps and managed to mend it. It's a good thing I save scraps. I love them and they are my sanity," she joked.

"My mother-in-law once went to a tag sale in East Hampton and when they were cleaning up she found a bunch of old squares," she said. "She was told that they had been left in an attic by someone's grandmother and she only had to pay two dollars for them. I ended up with them and it took me 30 years to finish that quilt because I was so busy."

She still has that quilt.

Her business has taken her to shows in Pennsylvania, Maryland, New York and all over New England – always accompanied by her husband of 63 years, Jack.

"For him it was like a weekend vacation," Sterry said. "He'd help me lift the heavy buckets of material and pull and push everything. I could never have done that by myself."

"You might say that I was her 'mule,'" Jack joked. "I used to carry stuff in and out for her but now I'm almost 86 and it's time to give it up."

Sterry pointed out that she always enjoyed attending quilt shows.

"There's a camaraderie between the vendors and we always helped each other," she said. "I'm going to miss that."

Jack said that he had "mixed emotions" about his wife giving up her business.

"She loves what she does and it's a whole package she's giving up, although she said she might still do some quilts from home," he said.

While Sterry started "shutting down" her business in 2018 and has limited inventory, she said she still gets a steady stream of customers – many of them seeking her help on already started quilting projects.

Retired postal worker-turned artist, Portland resident Sharon Paddock has been a customer of Sterry's for some 10 years and said that she is sorry to see her go.

"I love walking down to her shop and seeing her. She's a really good friend and it's a nice place to go."

"Jane helped me make my first quilt, which was for my granddaughter's birthday," she added. "Now, I've just finished one for her wedding so I guess you can say that this is the



Janie Sterry is preparing to embark on a new chapter as she closes the doors on her longtime quilting business.

first and the last quilt that Jane helped me make. I probably won't make any more because I don't know where I'd go. She has really good material and her prices are reasonable. I'm really going to miss her as she's been very supportive over the years."

Sterry never kept track of how many quilts she made but one of her "treasures" is a disintegrating silk one, which she believes was made for the inauguration of President Calvin Coolidge. What appears to be a campaign ribbon can be seen in one of the faded squares. Sterry plans to donate the quilt to the New England Quilt Museum in Lowell, Mass.

"That's got to be saved, she said. It's history – New England history."

While sad to be leaving, Sterry is anxious to close up shop and get on with the next chapter of her life. She is selling all of her material for 50% off and plans to leave when everything is

gone.

Some of those plans include singing with Middlesex Hospital Vocal Chords, which she has been a member of for many years, and a trip with Jack to Australia to visit their "grandbabies."

"Our eldest daughter has lived there since 1991," said Jack. "We've been there 11 times and I'd like to go once more while we can still travel. It's a long trip and not an easy one. We have to fly 14 hours non-stop from L.A. to Sydney, then take another flight to Melbourne, then take a jitney to where they live so you're talking a very long day."

Both would like to close the store and sell the building it's housed in, "ASAP!"

"I'm tired," Sterry said. "It's been quite a run and I've enjoyed it and I've enjoyed meeting people, but it's time to go."

Obituaries

East Hampton

Sandra E. Markham

Sandra E. (Verry) Markham, 80, of Crystal River, Fla., formerly of East Hampton and Amherst, N.H., went home to the Lord Tuesday, Sept. 3, at the Health Center of Brentwood in Lecanto, Fla. She was born Oct. 31, 1938, in Salem, Mass., daughter of E.A. Verry and Myra (La Mountain) Verry.



Sandra grew up in Beverly, Mass., attending Beverly High School, graduating with the class of 1957. She worked at Jordan Marsh, when she met Normand Boucher from North Adams, whom she married in May of 1959. They moved to Middletown, Conn., and started raising a family, before moving to East Hampton in 1968. Over the years, she raised her children while working as a CNA for almost 19 years. In 1994, she moved to Amherst, N.H., with her new husband, Edward A. Markham. In 1997, she moved to Crystal River, Fla., where she spent her final years happy in the sunshine and warm temperatures, year-round.

Sandra was predeceased by her parents, and her ex-husband Edward. She is survived by her two brothers, Hugh (Anne)Verry of Massachusetts and Edward Verry of Maine; her four children, Steven Boucher and his life partner Melissa Norton of East Hampton, Paul (Michele) Boucher of Southington, Michelle (Wayne) Culbert of East Haddam, and Tom Boucher, also of East Hampton; her four grandchildren, Jacquelyne Boucher of Southington, Jason Culbert of Floral City, Fla., Emily Culbert of Portland, and Corey Boucher of East Hampton; as well as two stepdaughters, Adrienne Dunham of Cromwell and Lisa Cansdale of East Hampton.

A family gathering will take place at a later date.

East Hampton

Donald Matthews Jr.

Donald Matthews Jr., of East Hampton, formerly of Springfield, Ma., died peacefully Friday, Aug. 30, surrounded by his loved ones.

He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Geraldine Matthews; son Scott Matthews of Springfield, Vt.; daughter Tracy Sousa and husband John of New Bedford, Mass.; and daughter Amanda Knittel and husband Mark of East Hampton. Donald is also survived by two grandsons, Donovan and Gabriel Knittel; two granddaughters, Abigail Sousa and Kaitlyn Knittel; three brothers, Walter Matthews of Maine, Harold Matthews of Massachusetts, and Andrew Matthews of Florida; along with many nieces and nephews.

Donald was predeceased by his parents Edna and Donald Matthews and his sister Donna Luippold.

He was a past master of Roswell Lee – Samuel Osgood Lodge (1991, Springfield, Mass.), and a past commander of the Legion of Honor for Melha Shrine Temple (1995, Springfield, Mass.), where he was given the Legion of Honor Noble of the Year Award as well as a Citation of Honor for Distinguished Service for IALOH.

Donald was a graduate of Greenfield High School (1963) and served in the U.S. Navy on the U.S.S. Albany as a gunner's mate from 1963-67. He worked as a field service technician for 45 years. After retiring, Donald dedicated his time to woodworking, spending time with his grandchildren and traveling. He has a donated piece of work hanging in the East Hampton Senior Center.

There will be a chapel service for family and close friends at State Veterans Cemetery, 317 Bow Ln., Middletown, today, Sept. 13, at 10 a.m.; as well as a Celebration of Life Saturday, Sept. 28, at 1 p.m., at Brigham Masonic Lodge, 59 Winsor St., Ludlow, Mass.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to The Shriners Hospital for Children, 516 Carew St., Springfield, MA 01104.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

East Hampton

Richard H. Shelberg

Richard H. Shelberg, 77, of East Hampton, beloved husband of Patricia (Lewis) Shelberg died peacefully Thursday Sept. 5, at Middlesex Hospital. Born April 30, 1942, in Middletown he was the son of the late John and Anna (Tobler) Shelberg.



Richard proudly served his country in the Army during the Vietnam War, and then continued his military service in the National Guard. Richard was a member of St. Patrick Church in East Hampton and a member of the Knights of Columbus at the Church.

Richard worked in maintenance for the Town of East Hampton for almost 40 years before his retirement. He was also the owner of Ramblin Rich D.J. Service for many years. Over the years he was a Little League coach, softball umpire and a youth basketball coach.

Besides his wife he is survived by his son, Richard "Ric" Shelberg of North Carolina; two daughters, Lisa Hersey of Columbia, Richelle Gorham and husband Jeff of East Hampton; a brother, John Shelberg; three sisters, Ann Waz, Ruth Tuttle, Dolly Scallia; nine grandchildren, Nicole, Alissa, Eric, Adrenne, Alex, Asia, Malique, Leighanna, Madison; and eight great-grandchildren.

Friends called at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., Monday, Sept. 9. A funeral procession left the funeral home Tuesday, Sept. 10, followed by the funeral liturgy in St. Patrick Church. Burial followed in St. Patrick Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Knights of Columbus.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Colchester

Linda K. Adams

Linda K. Adams, 77, of Colchester, passed away Saturday, Sept. 7. Born in Duncan, Okla., on Aug. 12, 1942, Linda was the daughter of the late Roy and Ona (Jarrett) Knight.



She was a graduate of Temple High School in Oklahoma and was an honorary R.O.T.C. cadet at Cameron College. She married her beloved husband Jeffrey on June 10, 1960. Soon after, the couple moved to Hebron, where they made their home and raised their family together. Linda worked as a medical secretary and retired from Manchester Memorial Hospital. Although she enjoyed painting and gardening, the greatest joy in Linda's life came from lovingly caring for her family as a dedicated wife, mother, and grandmother.

Linda will be sadly missed, but always remembered with love by her husband, Jeffrey of 59 years; her children, John Mark Adams of Colchester, Jason Adams of Newport, R.I., Kristy (Moe) Slayton of West Granby; a sister, Nell Williamson of Las Cruces, N.M.; grandsons, Johnathan and Joshua Adams; great-granddaughter, Avianna Adams; nieces, Diane (Joel) Anderson, Jaymie Williamson; and numerous extended family and friends.

In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by her brother, John Ed Knight.

In keeping with her wishes, funeral services will be private. Donations in Linda's memory may be made to the Colchester Hayward Volunteer Fire Company, 52 Old Hartford Rd. Colchester, CT 06415.

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

Hebron

William E. Payne

William E. Payne, 80, widower of Natalie (Ruthiewicz) Payne, most recently of Glastonbury and formerly of Hebron, passed away after a long battle with congestive heart failure at his residence.



He was born in Nashville, Tenn., and was son to the late Thurman and Odeline (MacAbee) Tucker Payne. He proudly served in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War. He was also the owner, operator and president of AAABon Pest Control.

He will be remembered for his sense of humor and his generosity to everyone.

He is survived by his daughters, Nancy Payne of Hebron, and Amy Rio and her husband William Carter of Glastonbury; his precious grandchildren, Ashley Cwikla of Cambridge, Mass., Michael McIntire of Glastonbury, Will Farrell of Hebron and Ally Carter of Glastonbury; his siblings, LeRoy Payne, Donna Burgett and Pauline Anderson, all of Tennessee; and several nieces and nephews, including Samuel Putty of Colchester. He was also predeceased by a sister, Nora Baggett.

Family and friends celebrated his life Tuesday, Sept. 10, at the Glastonbury Funeral Home, 450 New London Tpke., Glastonbury. A time of visitation was held that morning, followed by a service at 12pm. Burial with military honors was held Neipsic Cemetery in Glastonbury, where he was laid to rest next to his wife.

Portland

Carlotta Joy Rutty

Carlotta Joy Rutty, 93, passed away peacefully Sunday, Sept. 8, in the hospice unit of the Middlesex Memorial Hospital. Staff members, who had given her wonderful care, were present, joined shortly after by family.



She is predeceased by her sister, Barbara (Bobby) and her brother, Donald (Donny).

Joy was born in New Britain, Conn., Jan. 29, 1926, to Charlotte and Henry McKenney. She attended Deep River High School where she met her future husband, Edward Rutty. They were married June 24, 1946, in Haddam, and had four children: Donna, who lives with her husband Michael in Irvine, Calif.; Kim, who lives with his wife Sherrill in Cape Cod; Lee, who lives with his wife Robin in Seminole, Texas; and Dany Sue, who lives with her husband Ray in Newport, Calif.

Joy and Ed were active members of the First Congregational Church in Portland where they've lived for more than 60 years. Joy was extraordinarily artistic; she created handcrafts of all kinds, especially quilts, ornaments and crocheted blankets for her children, 11 grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren and for her church. She loved having her family around her and throughout her life found beauty in the natural world. Joy was a partner with Ed in his square dance activities for 50 years, forming lifelong friendships about which Joy said, "I love them, and they love me."

Services will be private. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the donor's choice of charity.

Our Parting

by Joy McKenney
(from her 1943 high school yearbook)

The last bell has rung
It's time to part;
But each will remember,
Deep in his heart,
Our fun together
At work and at play,
And hope we'll all meet again,
Somewhere, some day.

Colchester

Esther M. Starkweather

Esther M. Starkweather of Colchester passed away Thursday, Aug. 22, at the age of 99. Born Nov. 2, 1919, in the family farmhouse on Nelkin Road in Colchester, she was the daughter of the late John and Eleanore (Niemi) Nelkin and the third of six siblings.



Marriage to Donald T. Starkweather in 1940 sent her to Brooklyn, N.Y., his hometown, where she raised her family and pursued her nursing degree. Graduating first in her class and receiving awards in the nursing program at Kingsborough Community College, Esther went on to enjoy an accomplished nursing career, serving in the operating room at Caledonian Hospital in Brooklyn, N.Y. Her subsequent return to her hometown brought new opportunities to continue in the profession she loved, serving in the Colchester Convalescent Home and later at Easter Seals Camp Hemlocks in Hebron.

Among her favorite pastimes, Esther especially enjoyed gardening and reading, with a special interest in history and science. She was an avid fan of the UConn men's and women's basketball teams, and of the New York Yankees, New England Patriots and Cleveland Browns. An active member of the local AARP chapter and the Colchester Senior Center for many years, Esther was a dedicated advocate for senior citizens. She also worked at local polling sites at election time and participated for several years in a local intergenerational program that brought seniors and elementary school students together for luncheon events. A last surviving graduate of her high school class from Bacon Academy, Esther maintained lifelong friendships with friends she grew up with and their families.

Esther leaves three children: daughter Caryl Estes (and Rene E. King) of Maine, son Stephen Starkweather (and wife Joan) of New Jersey, and daughter Lyann Starkweather of New York; five grandchildren: Christine Estes Burton (and James Moffa) of Florida, John Estes (and wife Susan) of New York, Karyn Estes-Lewis (and husband Ryan) of Maine, Stacy Gradaille and Scott Starkweather, both of Florida; and five great-grandchildren: Olivia, Andrew, and Emma Estes, Alexa Starkweather and Kevin Gradaille.

Esther is predeceased by her husband and five siblings: Sylvalea Ralph, Maxine Snell, Frank Nelkin, Minnette Standish, and Helen Brown. She also leaves, among many other close family members, her niece Lynda Verrill, who maintained a steadfast and caring presence in Esther's final years. Esther was beloved by all who knew her. Having cultivated lifelong affection and loving relationships with the children of her siblings, she was a centerpiece at family events and holiday celebrations in Colchester, where she will be very much missed.

In accordance with Esther's wishes, private arrangements have been entrusted to the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home in Colchester.

In lieu of flowers, her family requests that donations in her memory be made to the Colchester Hayward Volunteer Fire Company, 52 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester, CT 06415.

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

East Hampton

Veronica B. Stoeckle

Veronica B. "Ronnie" Stoeckle, 77, of East Hampton, beloved wife of Ralph Stoeckle, died Thursday, Sept. 5, at Hartford Hospital. Born March 5, 1942, in Brooklyn, N.Y., she was the daughter of the late Charles and Bertha (Graf) Biegner.

Ronnie was an active member of the Bethlehem Lutheran Church in East Hampton and had worked as a paraprofessional for the East Hampton School System before retirement. Ronnie enjoyed camping and Disney World. She enjoyed collecting Hummels, but her greatest pride and joy was her grandchildren.

Besides her husband, she is survived by her son, Matthew Stoeckle; a daughter, Beth Peszynski and husband Mark of East Hampton; a brother, Charles Biegner of Buffalo, N.Y.; and her four beloved grandchildren, Dalton, Cole, Ashley and Sean.

Friends called at Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., Tuesday, Sept. 10. A funeral service was held Wednesday, Sept. 11, at 10 a.m. in the Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Sandy Peszynski Breast Cancer Foundation, 93 East High St., East Hampton, CT 06424.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.