

RIVEREAST

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A sign begging drivers to slow down and drive sober stands on the westbound side of Route 16 where Kyle Hermann, 23, was killed by a drugged driver on July 31, 2018. His parents put up the sign exactly one year after he died as part of their continuing effort to keep his memory alive and to prevent other lives from being cut short.

'A Life Lived is a Story Told'

by Elizabeth Regan

There were no survivors and no reported witnesses to the direct impact.

The details of the triple-fatal car crash on Route 16 in East Hampton last July are laid out by state and local police in voluminous reports documenting a Colchester woman's hallucinogenic trip on Route 16 that ended with her lying mangled and decapitated on the side of the road while two trapped victims moaned audibly from different vehicles.

The rest of the story is told over and over by Larry and Erin Hermann, a set of grieving parents from East Haddam who must wrestle every day with the reality of their son Kyle's death — one that those in law enforcement could only attribute to "being in the wrong place at the wrong time."

The couple now travels the MADD victim-impact circuit to talk about Kyle with drug and alcohol offenders who are court-ordered to attend sessions at locations in Norwich, Waterford and Willimantic.

"I am very graphic, because that's all I know how to be," Larry said.

They speak on the panels so hopefully another parent won't have to do the same. They want to start giving talks at high schools as well.

"As long as I'm on this earth, Kyle's not going to be forgotten," Larry said.

Erin put it this way: "A life lived is a story told."

Kyle Hermann, 23, of East Haddam, was heading from his workout at a gym in

Colchester to pick up an order of Chinese food in East Hampton when he was struck head-on by the Chevrolet Malibu driven by Danielle Jacobs, 29, of Colchester.

The crash occurred about four-tenths of a mile west of Flatbrook Road where Kyle had just come around a curve, according to state police. It was a balmy 81 degrees; conditions were fair. There was only a light wind.

Police reports said Jacobs, who was ultimately deemed responsible for the crash because she was speeding in the wrong lane while high on PCP, was killed instantly.

Collision reconstructionists with the Connecticut State Police estimated Jacobs' speed in the second-and-a-half leading up to the crash ranged from 110 mph to 116.2 mph in a 50 mph zone.

Hermann was breathing but unresponsive when East Hampton police found him trapped in his burning Jeep, which had flipped over a guardrail. Officers couldn't get him out before the entire Jeep was engulfed in flames. He died from blunt impact injuries with smoke inhalation and thermal burns to his body, according to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner. The same report said no drugs or alcohol were detected in his blood.

Leslie Marshall, 40, of Middletown, was the only passenger in Jacob's car. Police reports said she was flown via Life Star from Salmon River State Park to Hartford Hospital but did not survive.

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Fighting to Regain Strength after Paralyzing Injury

by Karla Santos

When local restaurateur Kevin Haggerty was surfing on a July evening near what was soon to be his retirement home, he hit a sandbar — and his life changed forever.

The resulting spinal cord injury left him paralyzed in all four limbs.

But before Haggerty shares this life changing experience with people, he said he starts by saying "I'm the luckiest man in the world."

Haggerty has been the owner of Sadler's Restaurant and Bakery for 25 years along with his wife Nancy.

Last year, the pair bought a beach house in Matunuck Beach in Rhode Island. Their plans were to retire in about a year and move to their beach home to be close to their grandchildren.

The couple was also getting ready to attend one of their two son's wedding in Thailand on Aug. 9. The trip would've been their first vacation in nine years.

But Haggerty and his wife did not make it to their son's wedding. They didn't take their first vacation in years and their retirement plans will not be just as they had planned them.

"When I had my accident, I could've drowned and I was screaming for help, asking God, please God, don't let this happen," Haggerty said.

His son Brendan, who was on the shore, dove in after his dad and rescued him.

After the accident, Haggerty, who is 65-years-old, spent 10 days at Rhode Island Hospital. He was then transferred to Gaylord Specialty Healthcare, where he is going through therapy in the hopes of getting better.

"We were looking for a place where I could do therapy for my spinal injury, and Gaylord Hospital was on everybody's short list of the best places in New England to go to," Haggerty said.

Haggerty's wife said he is what's known as an incomplete quadriplegic. She said his medical professionals are not sure exactly how much of his motor skills and abilities will come back. Haggerty could have anywhere between a 30-70% recovery.

He has so far regained some feeling in his upper arms, he said.

Haggerty said his stay at Gaylord is being extended two weeks at a time. Right now he is scheduled to move Oct. 4 to a skilled nursing facility.

But his hope is to stay at Gaylord as long as possible to take advantage of the hospital's physical therapy services.

"This place is wonderful, by the way,"

See Paralyzing Injury page 2



Kevin Haggerty is recuperating at Gaylord Specialty Health Care in Wallingford as he undergoes physical therapy to regain some of the strength he lost during a July surfing accident. He said his goal is to one day get up from his chair, walk over to his wife, Nancy, and give her a hug. Photo by Karla Santos.

A Life Lived cont. from Front Page

Another driver on the same road just before the crash had seen Jacobs sideswipe a telephone pole near the intersection with Main Street, according to police reports. The witness initiated a 911 call, but it was too late by the time the call went through.

'He Had No Chance'

Erin and Larry were on the first day of a trip to Edinburgh, Scotland - where they had recently eaten dinner at a tavern called The World's End - when they got the notification call from East Hampton Police Chief Dennis Woessner. It was Erin's birthday.

They came home to find their son's body so charred they could not hold him one last time. Kyle had to be identified using dental records.

"The only way we got any kind of closure was to find out everything we could and ask as many questions of as many people as we could possibly get our hands on," Larry said.

The couple, she a literacy specialist at Colchester Elementary School and he an auto technician instructor, started digging for information - sometimes literally. Five days after the crash, Erin discovered a bottle of medical marijuana with Jacobs' name in the dirt at the crash scene. Jacobs had just gotten the prescription filled at the Hartford dispensary the afternoon of the crash, according to police reports.

It is unclear what medical condition qualified Jacobs for the state medical marijuana program.

The toxicology report identified THC in Jacob's blood. The drug was there along with much higher levels of the illegal phencyclidine, or PCP.

Michael Rickenbach, Ph.D., deputy director of the chemical analysis section of the state Division of Scientific Services, said the amount of PCP in Jacob's blood was "significantly higher" than the typical range reported in DUI cases.

PCP, sometimes called Angel Dust, is a hallucinogen that "induces distortion of sight and sound and produces feelings of detachment," according to the US Drug Enforcement Administration. The DEA said the drug can cause disorientation, delirium, sedation, immobility, amnesia, loss of coordination - and a "feeling of strength, power and invulnerability."

Rickenbach in his report to the East Hampton Police Department said it "could be reasonable to correlate the PCP level within a person's system towards impairment driving a vehicle."

Erin said she could only assume Jacobs thought she was flying.

Larry didn't want to guess.

"Who knows," he said. "Nobody's alive. We don't know what we don't know because everybody's dead."

Jacobs' obituary, which said she left behind a daughter and a fiance, referred to her as "the life of the party."

A search of the state Judicial Branch website reveals Jacobs had multiple convictions going back almost 10 years for crimes including drug possession, assault, larceny and forgery.

The Hermanns said their message when speaking to those who've been involved in drunk or drugged driving incidents is that they must learn from their mistakes.

"That's what we say: What got you here tonight, it was a mistake - but you have to learn from it," Erin said.

She noted there are many with multiple offenses on their record. Sometimes they're getting their second, third or fourth chances by the time the Hermanns stand up in front of them to tell Kyle's story.

"Our kid didn't have a second chance. He had no chance," Erin said.

'Can't Unsee Things'

The couple said they emphasize during each panel discussion the impact of the tragedy extends far beyond their immediate family.

Larry described the mental toll it took on the Good Samaritans who pulled over to help and the emergency responders who were called to the scene.

"Then everybody forgets the tow truck drivers that were there that had to pull my Jeep up and over the guardrail and upright it with him still in it," he said.

Erin said she was told members of the East Hampton Fire Department spent almost two hours cutting the Jeep apart without dismembering Kyle's body as a gesture of respect.

East Hampton Fire Department Chief Greg Voelker this week acknowledged the effect of such tragic calls on the volunteers in his department.

He said post-traumatic stress disorder affects all first responders, though the extent to which they carry the burden - or realize they have it - varies.

Voelker said he was not one of the emergency responders that day on Route 16. But he said there are things he's seen that he wishes he could forget.

"As a leader in the department, I remind my membership to continuously watch over each other and I continuously remind them there is help available, both in talking to other members of the Department or seeking outside Employee Assistance counseling programs offered by the town," Voelker said.

The crash was one of the motivating forces behind a recent move by town staff to extend mental health counseling opportunities to members of the East Hampton Ambulance Association.

John Tuttle, president of the association's board of directors, stood before the Town Council in June to ask them to provide ambulance volunteers with mental health services already available to town employees and firefighters in the form of the Employee Assistance Program.

"We have people who put themselves in these horrific situations to go to a scene like that and deal with it and can't unsee things like that," Tuttle said at the time.

Town Manager Michael Maniscalco granted the request.

Voelker said the fire department held a critical incident debriefing with an outside nonprofit organization after the crash to talk through the experience with facilitators in fire, EMS, hospital and mental health fields.

Larry said the need for grief counselors for first responders underscores the gravity of the situation.

"It didn't just affect my family. It didn't just affect her [Jacobs'] family. It didn't just affect Leslie's family. It affected the whole commu-

stint as the head of the restaurant during the couple's vacation will now be a lot longer.

"Everybody has been going out of their way to maintain the restaurant," she said.

The Haggerty family intends to keep the ownership of the restaurant for some time while letting Malkasian run it.

"The restaurant has been our life for 25 years," Haggerty said. "We've been really committed to our community and all those years of being in Marlborough and making friends in Marlborough has come back tenfold. Since my injury people from town have been reaching out to me and their prayers and good wishes have helped a lot with my dealing with this."

Haggerty said the past few months have been very difficult, not only because of his injury but because he had lost a brother just a few weeks before the accident. Not being able to attend their son's wedding was also a saddening experience for him.

"The day of the wedding I was here and it was the deepest, darkest depression I've ever been through," Haggerty said.

But Haggerty said he is trying his best to stay strong, work hard during physical therapy and help his wife through their new challenge - making their retirement home handicapped accessible and gathering the equipment he will need to move around. Haggerty will need a



Larry and Erin Hermann went to the Baseball Hall of Fame about nine months after their Red Sox-loving son, Kyle, died in a crash on Route 16 in East Hampton. The bats they got while they were there, engraved with the dates of his birth and death, now stand as a memorial in the spot where he died. In addition to visiting Cooperstown, they attended a Red Sox game during which a message in their son's memory was shown on the jumbotron. "We keep doing things that are hard," Erin said.

nity - and larger than that," he said.

'A Kid Every Parent Would Want'

According to Larry and Erin, Kyle was funny and kind. He loved baseball, history and his Nathan Hale-Ray High School sweetheart, Jamie. He had always been close to his sister, Lindsey. He could make people feel comfortable in any situation.

"A kid every parent would want, that's really what Kyle was," Erin said.

He had a wit so quick it always took his father by surprise.

"I'm very fast with a comeback, but Kyle, he'd have a comeback before you even finished," Larry said.

There were more than 700 people at his funeral, they said.

When they talk about Kyle during victim impact panels, Erin said she always goes first in order to build an emotional connection with the audience. She talks about Kyle and the ef-

fect that losing him had on their family.

Then Larry takes over in unflinching detail about the crash itself.

They said they can see in the faces of those forced to sit through the two-hour presentation that their approach has an impact. So they keep at it.

It's the one thing they feel they can do for their son.

"We're Kyle's voice now," Erin said.

At the end of each session, the couple stands next to the door as those who have been arrested for drunk and drugged driving file out.

"We make them look at us and shake our hand," Erin said.

Their message is always the same: Remember Kyle.

"We're the ones that have to live the nightmare every day, but it's not our story. It's Kyle's story," Larry said.

Paralyzing Injury cont. from Front Page

Haggerty said.

His wife said that a few days before Oct. 4, they'll do a physical re-evaluation and, depending on the results, they may be able to stay at Gaylord for a little longer.

"He's been getting awesome therapy," Nancy said. "His physical therapist and occupational therapist are phenomenal."

Haggerty and his wife own the building in which Sadler's is located, as well as the adjacent building that features It's So Ranunculus Flower Shoppe.

Before the accident, Haggerty's presence at the restaurant was essential since he was the chef, book keeper, manager and grocery shopper.

But because they were going on vacation and had planned to retire next year, Haggerty and his wife had been training their long-time employee, chef Will Malkasian, to run the restaurant.

The plan was to sell the restaurant, not the building, to Malkasian upon their retirement.

Haggerty said Malkasian "has been doing a tremendous job filling in for me."

"I've been training him for years to take over and that training proved to be valuable," Haggerty added.

Nancy said Malkasian's planned three-week

couple of wheel chairs and a van where he could travel while on the wheel chair.

The Haggerty family has set up a CaringBridge profile where they send daily updates about Haggerty's progress at the hospital.

They have also started a GoFundMe page to raise funds for Haggerty's health needs.

"It's going to be around \$65,000 for a van," Nancy said. "I need to get ramps and stuff like that. Wheel chairs, we need two wheel chairs. It's just a lot of expense that goes along with this."

Their hope is that they can rehabilitate the beach house so that when Haggerty is done with his care they can move there.

Haggerty's original goal was to be able to dance with his wife on their 40th wedding anniversary on Oct. 5. But with the seriousness of his injury, he doesn't know if he will be able to stand up to dance that day.

"I would be happy to someday walk with a walker," he said. "When I came here, I couldn't even move my arms."

"This is unbelievable what he has accomplished," Nancy added. "It might not seem like much, but every day he's making great strides...in the right direction."

The accident left Haggerty's body with little feeling. While he can't feel injections on his

belly, he said that sensation is starting to come back little by little.

Monday was the first day he was able to get out of bed and into his wheel chair with only the help of a therapist. Before that, he required a medical device with a hydraulic pump called a hoist lift.

"Our lives got tossed upside down," Nancy said. "Nothing is as it was and it's very difficult. I'm hoping for a full recovery. I have a lot of optimism. I feel like if anybody can do it, he can do it - so we are hoping for the best. We don't want to be identified by our limitations by saying 'I'm a quadriplegic,' no, we are not going to talk that way."

Haggerty wants to one day write a book to tell people about his accident.

"My book is going to be 'Miracle on the Beach,' and it's going to start out with the story that happened that night and it's going to finish with me getting out of my chair, walking up to my wife and giving her a hug," Haggerty said. "That's my hope."

To read about Haggerty's progress, visit caringbridge.org/visit/kevinhaggerty3/journal. Donations can be made at gofundme.com/f/kevin-haggerty039s-support-equipment-needs.

Chatham Dental Center Opens in East Hampton

by Michelle Richmond

Area residents have a new option for dental care thanks to the May 1 opening of Chatham Dental Center at 33 West High St. in East Hampton.

Tucked into a charming 1930s house – previously the location of Dr. Nancy Simonow’s dental practice – the cozy dental center is owned by Dr. Dikshant Kathuria, DDS. The dentist is known by his patients as Dr. K.

Kathuria draws patients from throughout the area, many of them Dr. Simonow’s previous patients.

Originally from India, Kathuria said that the response from area residents has been “great” and while he currently is only in this office three days a week, he plans to expand that schedule in the future.

He said he will eventually be in the East Hampton full time as business grows.

“I also work in Simsbury at Hopmeadow Dental two days a week so for now, I’m splitting my time. I worked there full time before I opened here.”

He received his Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) degree from New York University College of Dentistry in 2015 and has been in practice in the US since then. Prior to moving to the US in 2009, he practiced dentistry in India.

Kathuria said he practices “general dentistry,” but he offers a host of other services beyond just that.

“There are many things that I do that other dentists don’t do. I also do root canals, implant restoration, molar root canals, wisdom teeth extractions and implants,” he said.

The practice also offers other dental services like pediatric dentistry, which he recommends

starting when a child is 3 years old.

“It’s important to start checking them early to make sure that everything’s okay. There’s no fluoride in the water in East Hampton so it’s very important that they get fluoride treatments,” he said.

Kathuria stressed that they should have these treatments until they’re 18 years old.

Other services include cleaning and prevention, cosmetic dentistry and orthodontics.

While he doesn’t sell them in his practice, Kathuria is a firm proponent of electric toothbrushes.

“People tend to brush their teeth too hard,” he said. “And that’s not good for your teeth and can make your gums bleed if you’re not careful. With an electric toothbrush if you push too hard it will stop.”

When asked what his best single piece of advice or everyone, Kathuria didn’t hesitate to respond: “Flossing.”

“There’s nothing better than getting rid of all the food in the teeth,” he advised. “People don’t do that enough. Some people complain that it makes their gums bleed and it may in the beginning, but then it stops. Food in the teeth is the single biggest reason for decay.”

Currently, Chatham Dental Center is open Monday from 8 a.m.–5p.m.; Wednesday from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. and Friday from 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

“Eventually, we’ll open one Saturday a month,” he added. “We’ll probably start that in the winter as people are around more than they are in the summer.”

Chatham Dental Center accepts a wide variety of insurance plans.

For an appointment, call 860-267-4900.



Dr. Dikshant Kathuria, known as Dr. K, is eager to accept new patients at his recently-opened dental office.

Andover Selectmen Want a Bigger Cut of Speeding Revenue

by Sloan Brewster

The Board of Selectman wants money that comes from traffic infractions to go to the town.

The money currently goes to the state.

For several months, the board has been researching how to put into effect a proposed citations ordinance that would authorize local versus state penalties for infractions on local roads.

Last Wednesday, at its regular meeting, the board directed Town Administrator Eric Anderson to complete a legal review of the proposal and scheduled a town meeting for October 24 to give voters a chance to weigh in on the ordinance, which the board said cannot be enacted without voter approval.

In May, before the new board took over, the former board approved a proposal to draft an ordinance that would bring fines for parking tickets and stop sign violations to the town’s coffers. Last week, Anderson urged the board to revise the plan and include speeding infractions and violations issued by the animal control officer in the mix.

“We pay his salary,” Anderson said, referring to the animal control officer. “He goes out and gives tickets. That money in turn goes to

the state of Connecticut.”

The board agreed.

Currently, the town receives \$10 for every violation paid and the rest goes to the state.

At the meeting, Resident State Trooper Darrell Tetreault presented a brief report on the number of tickets he gives out on local streets.

In May through August, he issued 156 motor vehicle infractions, including stop sign and speeding violations, unregistered cars, following too closely and failure to maintain lane on local roads, he told the board. That number does not include violations on state roads or any given by other troopers.

“Some months are less, some are more,” Tetreault said. “It was a busy [few] months.”

In addition, Tetreault teamed up with a fellow trooper and issued 31 tickets in a 10-hour period.

Tetreault said he has stopped many drivers on Townsend Road going more than 20 miles above the limit, which is considered reckless driving in Connecticut.

“Townsend Road is virtually a speed trap,” he said.

The trooper said he gives the speeders “a

break” and issues infractions for not following the posted speed limit versus issuing “a head on speeding ticket.” The first one comes with a \$92 fine, while the second one comes with a \$300 fine.

With 156 tickets issued, the town will receive a maximum of \$1,560 no matter how high the fine is, First Selectman Jeff Maguire pointed out.

Tetreault said he could not say how much the state would get as the fines could be reduced or thrown out in court.

Maguire commented that some local limits, including 40 mph in the center of town and 25 mph on some of the side streets, are too low and asked if they could be changed. He said he had driven on Townsend road twice recently and “tried to drive the speed limit.”

“I believe that the town speed limits are out of line for what is going on,” he said. “Anybody that tells me that they’re doing 25, they’re not telling the truth.”

Tetreault said changing the speed limits would require approval from the state.

“I realize that 25 miles per hour is low, espe-

cially on Townsend Road on fresh tar,” he said.

Vice First Selectman Adrian Mandeville did not agree with Maguire’s assessment of the speed limits, adding that he does follow the limits.

“I completely avoid the lake because they fly down there,” he said. “It’s crazy.”

Maguire asked how many accidents occurred over the summer, to which Tetreault said there were 15, with no serious rollovers or fatalities.

“We dodged the bullet the other night with a car full of kids that hit a tree on Gilead Road,” chimed in Curt Dowling, chief engineer of the Andover Fire Department. “They were going too fast.”

Mandeville recommended that if the town moves forward with the ordinance, all the funds raised by the local tickets should be put toward extending sidewalks throughout town.

Maguire said he agreed.

The board also authorized Tetreault to look into acquiring a portable sign that will portray the speed at which vehicles passing it are travelling. Tetreault said the signs are “pretty effective” at reducing the number of speeders.

Youth Issued Ticket for Hitting Pedestrian in East Hampton

by Michelle Richmond

A 17-year-old driver was recently issued a ticket for failure to yield to a pedestrian in a crosswalk and violation of motor vehicle passenger restrictions in an incident which occurred at the intersection of North Main Street and Hills Avenue last month.

The identity of both the driver and the pedestrian were withheld because they are juveniles.

Police said the crash occurred at 8:14 p.m. on Aug. 17, shortly before the East Hampton High School fireworks display.

The injured youth received injuries to the lower extremities and was transported to Con-

necticut Children’s Medical Center by ambulance, according to police.

“After the investigation and looking at the speed, we issued the driver an infraction,” Woessner said.

Woessner said that the driver will have to mail the infraction into the state Centralized Infractions Bureau.

“They can either plead guilty or not guilty,” he added. “If they plead guilty, they pay a fine. If they plead not guilty, then they go to court. Based on which avenue they wish to take, that’s what happens.”

Arrest Made in Fatal Motorcycle Crash in East Hampton

by Michelle Richmond

Middletown resident Carla Salerno, 73, was arrested Sept. 10 at Middletown Superior Court on charges resulting from a fatal car-versus-motorcycle crash last year.

Salerno was arrested Aug. 28 and charged with failure to obey a stop sign and negligent homicide with a motor vehicle after she turned herself in on an active arrest warrant.

East Hampton Police said the crash occurred around 5:55 p.m. on Sept. 3, 2018, at the intersection of Laurel Ridge and Route 66

in East Hampton. Motorcycle operator Roland Cyr, 51, of East Hampton, died at the scene.

Salerno – the driver and sole occupant of the car – was transported by East Hampton Volunteer Ambulance Association to an area hospital for treatment.

She will be returning to Middletown Superior Court to offer her plea on October 4, according to East Hampton Police Chief Dennis Woessner.

Srb Pulls Out of Contention in Portland for Third Term on BOS

by Sloan Brewster

After serving the town for more than a decade and a half, Ben Srb has withdrawn his bid for a return term on the Portland Board of Selectmen.

In a brief, handwritten note, Srb asked First Selectman Susan Bransfield to take his name off the November ballot. According to the town clerk's stamp at the bottom of the page, the note was received by Assistant Town Clerk Paula Lee at 9:30 a.m. on Friday the 13th.

Bransfield said Srb had told her he was pulling out of the race due to a "business-related reason" that prevents him from running for office.

"At this point he said that he could not give any details," Bransfield said.

Srb did not return several calls and voicemail messages asking for comment.

Srb is a local businessman with ventures including Primary Landscaping LLC and several commercial and residential site development projects.

She said Srb told her there could be a con-

flict of interest if he ran for office, but he is able to finish out his current term.

Bransfield added that Srb had indicated that "this was something good."

She said she told him she was sorry he wouldn't be running and that she was grateful for his service to the town.

Srb's two terms as selectmen have not been without controversy. He angered some neighbors in the Four Corners area with the continued, large-scale excavation of a parcel at the corner of Sage Hollow Road and Cornwall Street for six years in order to make room for a single-family house. He was also a vocal opponent of the proposed Brainerd Place development on the site of the former Elmcrest Hospital.

The Democratic Town Committee (DTC) endorsed Andrea Alfano to run in Srb's place at a special meeting Monday.

Alfano was on the Board of Education for nine years, Bransfield said.

"She is very happy to accept the nomination

for the Dems to be our fourth candidate in place of Ben," Bransfield said.

Alfano has been a resident of Portland for more than 23 years, according to a biography provided by Bransfield. An associate director of the University of Connecticut School of Social Work's office of Organizational and Skill Development in the Department of Social Services in Hartford, she has spent her professional career in public service.

Alfano was out of state on vacation and could not respond to questions about her reasons for running.

Alfano has been a member of the Portland Junior Women's Club, a Sunday school teacher and, while her son was in school, was in the Parent Teachers Organization, according to the bio. She was also a part of the multi-year effort to build playscapes at Valley View School and Gildersleeve School.

She took a seat on the Board of Education in 2008 to fill a vacancy and was elected to two

consecutive four-year terms. She served as secretary and vice chairperson of the school board and as chairman of its policy subcommittee.

Srb is also a former member of the school board, Bransfield said. He served on the board from 2008 until 2015. He was also on the Zoning Board of Appeals from 2003 to 2015, with several years as chairman.

"So he has served town offices for many years (since) 2003," Bransfield said.

During the DTC meeting, members gave Srb a "special thank you" and offered him their best wishes, Bransfield said.

"We did announce at the meeting that we were very grateful for the many years that Ben Srb has served in many different capacities for the town," she said.

She said she expects that despite not being in office anymore, Srb will still be involved with the town.

"He's civic minded, he does a lot of things in the community," she said.

Signs of Progress at Brainerd Place in Portland

by Michelle Richmond

As of this week, all systems are "Go" for the long-planned development of Portland's Brainerd Place.

Mary Dickerson, planning and economic development coordinator, said some buildings – like CVS and Starbucks – could be open within a year.

Demolition of properties on the former Elmcrest Hospital site so far has cleared what First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield identified as the "front half of the property, toward Route 66."

"This is phase one of the \$40 million development," she noted. "That area is where we'll have residential apartments, Starbucks, CVS and Brainerd Place."

She said the 1884 John H. Sage House, directly across Marlborough Street from Burger King, will be remodeled and likely turned into a restaurant.

The total Brainerd Place project includes two residential buildings with 238 one- and two-bedroom units and 108,510 square feet of commercial space. Documents show about 100 units will be constructed during the first phase.

The Brainerd Place development is a venture of the Rochester, N.Y.-based DiMarco Group and Danbury-based BRT General Corporation.

The plan also includes the renovation of the 1852 Erastus Brainerd Jr. House by the developer. The 1830 Hart-Jarvis House is slated to

be moved from its current spot on the property to the southwest corner, where officials hope it will be restored and operated by a formative local nonprofit organization.

The Brainerd House will be the "amenity building" for the apartment complex, according to Bransfield. It will have a leasing center, exercise studio and community space for the apartment residents.

"Plans are also for the residential complex to have an outdoor swimming pool," she said.

Dickerson said stand-alone buildings like CVS, Starbucks and the leasing center should be open "within one year," but that the total completion of phase one will take longer.

Land use department documents specify the entire project is expected to take about eight years.

Dickerson said the CVS will be located on the corner of Main and Marlborough Streets and the Starbucks will be in a new building along Marlborough St.

She said leases on both CVS and Starbucks have been signed.

The row of houses on Perry Avenue slated for demolition is being tested for "hazardous materials" before demolition can proceed, according to Dickerson.

"Once those reports are back and we find out whether or not they have asbestos or lead, we'll tear down the houses on the western side of Perry Avenue," Dickerson said. "We need to know what's in those houses before they come



Demolition of some of the buildings on the former Elmcrest property started earlier this month.

down so that we'll know how to dispose of the material after the houses are demolished."

Dickerson indicated that typically, houses from that era contained materials which are now considered hazardous and that they have to be

"treated differently and can't just be thrown away."

"A lot of work went into getting us to this point," Dickerson noted. "We're happy to be moving forward."

Marlborough Selectmen Approve Updated Employee Handbook

by Karla Santos

On Tuesday, the Marlborough Board of Selectmen unanimously voted to implement changes to the employee handbook, a document that has not been updated since 2001.

The rules in the handbook apply to non-union town employees, including First Selectman Amy Traversa, her assistant, the town clerk, and the director of planning and development.

Traversa said she started to revise the handbook about a year and a half ago.

During Tuesday's meeting, she called it a "complex" document.

Attorney Erica Oates, who works with the town's Labor and Employment attorneys at Zangari Cohn Cuthbertson Duhl & Grello P.C., has been involved in the process of updating the handbook along with Traversa. Oates was present during Tuesday's meeting to help selectmen understand the changes. Hayley Wagner, the town's Director of Finance, also took part in Tuesday's meeting.

The new handbook will go into effect Oct. 1. "We rearranged everything so that it makes sense," Traversa added. "It was a very outdated document."

She said she started off with a template created by the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities, the state's largest association of cities and towns.

One of the changes was made to determine the employment anniversary of employees who moved from part-time employment to full-time employment.

"The employee's anniversary date will be the first day of employment as a full-time employee," Oates read from the handbook.

Another change was made to the handbook to make clear that the town is fully compliant with state statutes in regard to personnel records, including medical records.

Changes related to employee prescription medications were also included to the handbook.

"If you think that there's any way, shape or form that it might have impact on the performance of your job, it's the employee's responsibility to communicate that with the employer and to communicate with their physician about that," Oates explained. "In the event that they cannot come to work because of a certain prescription or over the counter drug, they need to use the appropriate personnel policies as they would for any other sick time."

Oates said employees can be disciplined for coming to work impaired by prescription medications the same way they could be disciplined for showing up drunk.

"Whether it would be a prescription, narcotic, whatever, people have prescriptions for all sorts of things that they can't operate safely under, so we just limited the discipline to reporting to work impaired."

A section was put in the handbook enabling the town to terminate employees who are out of work for more than 12 continuous months.

The new handbook also clarifies that employees may carry over up to 50% of their unused vacation to the following year, but it needs to be used within 60 days of their work anniversary. Special circumstances will be taken into consideration.

The updated book now incorporates "the special needs of the Department of Public Works unit," Traversa said. Their needs include overtime and uniform allowances, she added.

"Everything that we've done has been to try to balance out, make things even and more consistent across all departments and all locations that we have people working in," Traversa said.

Selectman Evelyn Godbout was ready to make a motion to approve the hand book from the beginning of the meeting. Selectman Cliff Denniss wanted to hear the discussion and then see the final version before approving it.

Oates said the new hand book for the town

of Marlborough employees is a "very, very comprehensive book."

"I do a lot of handbooks," Oates said. "This one is very thorough."

After 46 minutes discussing the changes of the handbook, the Board of Selectmen made a motion to approve the employee handbook with the modifications as discussed during Tuesday's meeting.

The Marlborough Board of Selectmen also approved the adoption of the fund balance policy during Tuesday's meeting.

Some comments from the public that Traversa read aloud before the vote praised a fund balance policy for maintaining fiscal stability, while other comments stated the policy is restrictive and unnecessary.

Traversa said that the policy has been revised by the town treasurer, the investment advisor for the town, the town's finance director, among others who approve the policy.

The new policy aims to keep 13-15% of the operating budget in the undesignated fund balance – or rainy day fund.

Traversa said the policy "provides guidance on how a surplus of over 15% can be used, and how to restore the balance if it should fall below 13% of the budgeted expenditures."

Growing Senior Population Spurs Housing Talk in Hebron

by Sloan Brewster

With a growing population of senior citizens, Hebron's Board of Selectmen is looking into building more senior housing in town – and for a way to fund the project.

Town Manager Andrew Tierney on Monday said the town would now begin the hunt for money to pay for a proposed project to build 40 units of senior housing on town-owned property adjacent to existing senior housing.

Tierney said he could not provide an estimated project cost at this time.

"I don't even have estimated costs to throw like spaghetti to see what will stick," he said.

Last Thursday, Town Planner Michael O'Leary, Town Engineer Tom Fenton and Teri Hahn, a consulting landscape architect, revealed a concept plan for the housing. They proposed a location next to Stonecroft Village, the town's 32-unit senior community, on a West Main Street parcel known as the Rifkin Property.

The town purchased the 4.43-acre parcel with the intention of developing it into senior housing, due to its proximity to Stonecroft, O'Leary said Monday.

Based on numbers in the town's Plan of Conservation and Development, by 2025, the town's senior population will reach 30% of the total population, O'Leary said during the presentation.

"We have a growing 55-and-over, 65-and-over population," he said. "There's some fairly strong increases in the older age groups in Hebron."

The town had the Rifkin Property, which had been on the market for years, appraised in 2016 and it came below asking price, O'Leary said.

The town made an offer and acquired the parcel in 2017 for \$385,000 after voters approved the transaction.

"It's a really uniquely located parcel," he said.

Because it's on West Main Street and adjacent to the senior center, which is next door to Stonecroft, it will allow residents to walk to the center of town or the senior center, he said.

Last year, O'Leary, Hahn and Fenton were asked by selectmen to develop a concept plan for the property, O'Leary said.

They have been working on it for about a year, Hahn said. Issues they faced included the lot's topography, which in spots is higher than the senior center. She said that is solvable by putting different things, such as terraces and parking, at different grades.

After looking at several options and considering input from the local Housing Authority and the director of the senior center, they opted for a three-story building with 40 units, community space and walkways to connect it to Stonecroft, she said. The plan also allows for an expansion of the senior center.

In looking at different building types, they found the barn-like style of the Orchard Gardens Apartments in Missoula, Montana, and decided that would match Hebron's character, O'Leary said.

"You could make the building work so it really fits in the landscape," he said. "This was sort of the picture that was in everybody's mind when we started."

After completing the presentation, O'Leary opened it for questions and comments from the board and audience.



Proposed senior housing adjacent to the Russell Mercier Senior Center could be constructed in a style similar to the barn-like apartment building shown here.

"At this point we're really kind of looking for feedback if you think we're on the right track or not," he said.

Sharron Garrard, senior services director, said her department was happy about it and it would be a "great addition" to the town.

"The layout of this is perfect," she said. "This brings everything together and it's a blessing to have the senior center right next to the property."

Selectmen concurred.

"This is very much needed," Gail Richmond said. "The population is very rapidly aging."

"I think conceptually everybody is on board," Daniel Larson, board chairman, said. "Definitely get moving forward. I think it meets all of the needs, all of the wants, it addresses the concerns."

Tierney said the town would push to get a Small Cities Grant for the project and recommended hiring a consultant to look for additional funding options.

Property Transaction in Hebron Could Benefit Town and Church

by Sloan Brewster

The town of Hebron is looking to purchase the eight-acre parcel containing St. Peter's Field and some parking for Hebron Elementary School.

While the deal will not be official without the approval of voters at an October 24 special town meeting, the plan is for the town to buy the land for \$130,000 from St. Peter's Episcopal Church, said Town Manager Andrew Tierney, adding that that is approximately the property's appraised value.

The field is used for local sports.

"This makes total sense and it's good for both entities, the town and the parish," he said. "If we lost use of that ballfield and we had to build a new one, it'd be triple the amount of that."

Funding for the purchase would be split between the Open Space and Land Acquisition Fund and the General Fund, with \$65,000 coming from each account, Tierney said. The town currently pays \$850 a year for the lease.

"It's been in place for a long time and they never increased it and we appreciate it," he said.

According to the Rev. Ron Kolanowski, pastor at St. Peter's, the town has leased the field since 1941.

The town has approached the church about purchasing the property a couple of times before but the parish would not sell, Tierney said.

The parish resisted the sale in the past due to concerns that there was no plan for how to use the proceeds, Kolanowski said. This time, it came up with a way to make an investment.

"We are creating an endowment for the first time in St. Peter's history," the priest said.

With the endowment, the church will be able to spend the interest but not the principal and will also have a safe spot to squirrel away legacy gifts.

"It gives us an anchor, a place to put other gifts," Kolanowski said. "We want it to be a long-term investment in the parish."

When the town approached the church about buying the property, Kolanowski said he told Tierney that they should go about the process differently than in the past, when it was perceived as a competition.

"So we approached this whole thing working in collaboration," said Kolanowski.

If the town purchases the property, it will have options, such as putting in a new bus entrance in the portion of the parking lot currently owned by the church, Kolanowski said.

"I hope that the citizens of Hebron see the benefit for the wider community and vote yes," he said.

The church is also "delighted" that the town has agreed to continue calling the field St. Peter's Field, the priest added.

The land, which also contains the rectory, or pastor's residence, was given to the church in the 1800s for the use of its pastors, he said. The rectory is the white house set back from Church Street on a three-acre parcel the church is retaining.

"It was common practice in all the churches to give the pastor a house and a 'glebe' – a piece of farmland that the pastor and the family would use to generate income and food for themselves," he explained. "So originally it was a piece of land for clergy to build a house and



There will be an Oct. 24 special town meeting to give voters the opportunity to weigh in on a plan for the town to purchase the St. Peter's Field shown here. The town has been leasing the field from St. Peter's Episcopal Church since 1941.

farm the land."

Kolanowski, who owns a house in Storrs, does not use the church-provided home.

"So we came up with an interesting strategy on how to use the house," he said. "I had this idea, how can we use the rectory for missionary and ministry purposes to support a family?"

In 2017, people who had been displaced by Hurricane Maria were coming to Connecticut from Puerto Rico, the priest said. He contacted someone he knew in Willimantic and found a family that already had a support system and employment in place and made them an offer. They could live in the house, and, in exchange

for rent the father would be the church's sexton – or parish janitor.

They accepted, Kolanowski said. The family's efforts to keep the church tidy are a big help in maintaining the new church hall, which was completed in the spring of 2018.

"It's sweet because the wife, the kids, everybody comes in from time to time to keep things clean," he said. "This guy and his family take care of the parish hall, so we're really blessed."

In the future, if the church wants a priest to move into rectory, that would still be possible, Kolanowski added.

Celebrate Colchester-57 Fest Coming to Town

by Karla Santos

On Saturday, members of the community will be able to gather together to enjoy live music, food trucks, inflatables, demonstrations and more at the 15th annual Celebrate Colchester-57 Fest.

The event will take place from 1-6 p.m. at the RecPlex, 215 Old Hebron Rd.

While the Celebrate Colchester-57 Fest is planned to be very similar to the fest of previous years, Saturday will be different because it will not include one of the main attractions – the fireworks.

“Due to the increased risk of the EEE virus in our area, we are taking a conservative approach to protecting the wellbeing of the Colchester community,” Tiffany Quinn, recreation director of the town of Colchester, said in a written statement. “Mosquitos are most active during the hour before dusk, so we have decided to postpone the fireworks to a later date.”

The deadly Eastern Equine Encephalitis virus was recently detected in an adult from East Lyme, according to the state Department of Public Health.

Quinn said the town has not picked a new

date for the fireworks show.

Sunday Sept. 22 is the event’s rain date.

“The weather looks wonderful, and I am sure that the event will be just as fun as it has always been,” Quinn said.

The Celebrate Colchester-57 Fest, originally known only as the 57 Fest, was named when Colchester was voted the 57th best town to live in nationwide in a CNN-Money Magazine poll.

While the event doesn’t start until 1 p.m., those who want to begin celebrating early can participate in the Free Fun Run at Bacon Academy. The run is for children and adults of all ages and individuals will have the option of running a quarter mile, half mile or a mile. Registration will take place from 8-8:30 a.m. and the run starts at 9 a.m.

Touch-a-Truck will be among the activities offered when the festival starts at 1 p.m.

Quinn said companies and organizations bringing trucks and tractors include the Colchester Fire Department, Colchester Public Works, DH Marvin and Gano’s.

“The purpose is to let the children learn more about vehicles of all kinds,” she said.

The second annual “Battle of the Teen

Bands” will also take place during the festival. Various bands will be able to participate in the contest and one will be named the “best teen band,” Quinn said. It will take place from 1-3 p.m.

From 4-6 p.m. there will be a community concert performed by the Bluesberry Jam Band.

The event will also feature a variety of food trucks including Munchies, Colchester Lions Club, Wojo’s Roadside, Supreme Hot Dogs, Greekin’ Out, J&R’s Lemonade, Classic Scoop Ice Cream, Ben & Jerrys and Uncle D’s Blazin BBQ. The food options will include tacos, hot dogs, burgers, ice cream, tater tots, gyros, fries, baklava, salads, lemonade and more.

During the event, the Colchester Fire Department will be doing car seat checks.

The festival will also have a Bacon Academy Robotics demonstration.

Quinn said the goal of the robotics program is to inspire and support youth members to continue on to higher education in science, technology, engineering and math.

A Life Star helicopter is also expected to land during the event. Cornhole and a tomahawk

throw will be some of the games available.

Greg Cordova, of Colchester, said he doesn’t attend the festival every year but when he gets a chance to go, he enjoys it.

“I think it’s a great thing,” Cordova said, adding that he hopes he is able to make it this year.

“I like to see the people having fun, the kids have fun,” Cordova said. “It’s just a good time. They do a good job with it.”

The event will conclude with a raffle drawing. Tickets will be sold for \$50 and 800 tickets are available. The first prize will be a \$20,000 gift certificate toward the purchase of a vehicle at Troiano Auto Group. The second prize is eight weeks of free summer day camp in 2020.

Apple Rehab, Voya, United Community Family Services, Edward Jones Investments, Children’s Dental Associates and Dutch Oil are among the event sponsors.

For more information about the festival, please contact the Colchester Parks and Recreation Department at 860-537-7297 or parksandrec@colchesterct.gov.

RHAM Residents Weigh in on Artificial Turf

by Sloan Brewster

While most speakers at a public session on a proposal to install a \$2.5 million artificial turf football field at RHAM High School were in favor of the idea, a couple speakers were opposed.

Schools Superintendent Patricia Law opened the meeting with a presentation on the turf, explaining that the Board of Education approved the plan to install turf on the high school competition field in July –but the proposal must be put before voters at referendum.

The board scheduled three public meetings – one in each of the towns in the district – to inform voters about what is going, Law said. In addition to Wednesday’s meeting in Hebron, the school board held one in Andover last Monday and will hold one later this month in Marlborough.

The board hired BSC Group to complete a feasibility study to evaluate the field, which is plagued with drainage problems, and offered options for fixing it, Law said. The \$10,000 study was paid for out of the district’s capital non-recurring fund account.

The \$2.5 million option, which also includes adding lights and fencing and moving the track and field closer to the competition field, was one of four proposals the board considered, Law said.

The board also considered remaining with the “status quo” and doing the best it can with the natural grass field, the superintendent said. That option costs about \$150,000 a year.

The current drainage problems exist because the field was installed incorrectly, according to Law.

Replacing the field with a new grass field that’s installed right would cost about \$800,000.

“Pulling together a beautiful facility with natural grass,” a process that would involve putting in a new field, adding lights and fencing and moving the track and field closer to the competition field, would cost \$1.3 million, Law said.

The board is looking at installing turf for two reasons, Law said. The first one is to fix the drainage issues, which regularly lead to the cancellation or relocation of games.

“We evaluate the condition of our fields and if they’re not safe for players we have to cancel,” Law said. “That happens quite often.”

In addition, there is not enough field space, Law said, explaining that artificial turf can be used more often than grass, which can only withstand about 200 hours of use per year.

“We also know that when we have 12 to 14 teams wanting to use grass fields that grass fields need time to rest,” she said.

Senator Cathy Osten, D-19, and Representative Robin Green, R-55, made appearances at the meeting. The duo has proposed a bonding bill that would bring \$2.42 million to the district to fund the project.

Osten said the state legislature will definitely pass a bonding package at some point, but she could not promise the funding for the project would be included.

“We have to have a bonding package,” she said. “I find it best to under promise and over deliver.”

Resident Carol Connolly voiced support for the project and said her son has come home with sprained ankles after practicing and competing on the current field.

“This is a health and safety issue,” she said. “Keep our children safe first.”

Connolly also said having a turf field would increase local property values.

One speaker, who did not give his name, suggested pushing the project ahead and going to referendum with it now.

Law responded that the board had not yet determined how to fund the project.

Resident David Morrison said he was not in favor of installing artificial turf, citing concerns that it can become too hot to play on and often contains lead, which he said was a health risk.

There are also potential health risks with the chrome rubber that is often used as infill, Morrison said.

“Many organizations have stopped using artificial turf,” he said.

Law said that the board is considering a variety of infills and has not made a decision which product it would use.

Vin Colonna, of the RHAM Sports Booster Club, who was applauded by students in the audience when he rose to the microphone, said physical education students as well as athletic teams would benefit from the turf. He described players practicing on muddy fields, spoke of all the games that have been moved or cancelled and said a turf field would increase student involvement in sports and thereby serve as a potential cure for childhood obesity and would help keep students from vaping.

“I’ll tell you what’s going to help, getting them on the fields,” he said.

To a question on the life expectancy of a turf field, Law replied that turf needs to be replaced approximately every 15 years.

“You might be able to save some of the infill,” she said.

The last of the three public sessions will take place Saturday, Sept. 28 at 10 a.m. in the media center at Marlborough Elementary School.

Marlborough Police News

9/11: State Police said Eugene Thomas, 46, of 80 South Adams St., Manchester, was arrested and charged with DUI, failure to drive in proper lane, possession of controlled substance and possession with intent to sell.

East Hampton Police News

9/6: East Hampton Police said Todd Bower, 30, of 221 Maromas Rd., Middletown, was arrested and charged with violation of a protective order and second-degree failure to appear stemming from a separate incident.

Also, from Sept. 2-8, officers responded to 13 medical calls, five motor vehicle crashes and six alarms, and made 30 traffic stops.

Portland Police News

9/12: Portland Police said Kevin Hassett, 29, of 17 High St., Canaan, was arrested and charged with possession of narcotics, possession of drug paraphernalia, failure to drive in the proper lane and DUI.

Obituaries

East Hampton

Richard John Swansiger

Richard "Dick" John Swansiger, 71, of East Hampton, departed from life peacefully on September 11. He was a very loving husband, father, uncle, and brother.

Richard was born in Bridgeport on January 12, 1948 to John and Catherine (Wozny) Swansiger. He grew up in Bridgeport with his older brother, Robert Swansiger, of Johnstown, Pa., and younger sister, Jean Cayer, of Shelton. Growing up, he attended Catholic school until graduating from Central High School. He continued on to the University of Bridgeport to receive his degree in mechanical engineering. He was employed by Pratt and Whitney Aircraft in East Hartford for nearly three decades as an engineer. He enjoyed spending time with his family and dogs and loved them dearly.

He also enjoyed traveling to Vermont and Cape Cod, gardening, following the weather and news, and reading book after book.

Richard intentionally chose East Hampton to build his family home and raise his children. He was married for 48 years to Marlene "Randi" (Randall) Swansiger. They were married in Morrisville, V.T.

Loved ones that will miss Richard are his loving wife, Randi, and their two children, Amy and Christopher Swansiger, of whom he was very proud. He is further survived by his brother and sister, numerous nieces and nephews, and a host of relatives and friends throughout Connecticut and many other states. He is predeceased by his parents, John and Catherine Swansiger of Windber, Pa.

In keeping with Richard's wishes, a private service will be held with his family. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be given to the East Hampton Public Library, 105 Main Street, East Hampton, CT 06424, to locally promote Richard's love of reading.

The family of Richard wishes to thank their friends and family for their outpouring of support and prayers during this difficult time. He will be truly missed. To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Colchester

David G. Stump

David G. Stump, 74, of Colchester, passed away on Monday, Sept 16 in Niantic. Dave was born in Detroit, Michigan on August 22, 1945.

He married Carol A. Clark on May 05, 2001. He worked as a Health Physics Technician in nuclear power. He was a veteran of the Vietnam Conflict in the Navy attached to the Marines as a hospital corpsman and was awarded the Vietnam Service Medal and the Fleet Marine Force Combat Operations Insignia. He was a volunteer member of the National Ski Patrol and was very active in the Cape Dory Sailboat Owners Association.

Dave is survived by his spouse Carol A. Clark and her extended family, and siblings Donald Stump, Linda Hansen, Cathy Michler and Lee Stump and their extended families.

A funeral service will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 21 at Mulryan Funeral Home, 725 Hebron Avenue, Glastonbury. Burial will follow at Mount Saint Benedict Cemetery, Bloomfield. Family and friends may call at the funeral home on Friday, Sept. 20 from 5-7 p.m.

Donations in David's name may be made to Disabled American Veterans of Connecticut, 35 Cold Spring Road, Rocky Hill, CT 06067.

The family of David wishes to extend our sincere thanks to Bride Brook Rehabilitation Center, Niantic. For online condolences, visit mulryanfh.com.



Colchester

Eva Marie Gustafson

Eva Marie (Fanning) (LaFlair) Gustafson was born on August 26, 1936, in Potsdam, N.Y., to the late Myrtle (Coffey) and Lyle Fanning. She passed September 14 under the care of the wonderful folks at Middlesex Hospital Hospice.

Despite having been a Colchester resident for more than 50 years, Eva always considered upstate New York home. Her fondest memories were of growing up on Munson Street in Potsdam, where she was also a graduate of Potsdam High School, and the time spent on her grandparents' farm.

Eva made her way to Connecticut after marrying. She had six children, and is survived by four: Michael LaFlair of West Hartford; Tim LaFlair of Fort Myers, Fla.; Tammy Barrett of Quinebaug; and Kelly (Mike) Gorreck of Colchester. She is also survived by ten grandchildren: Scott, Zachary, Breanna, Chaz, Kyle, Jenna, Grace, Nadia, Liam and Declan; and three great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by two of her children: Susan LaFlair in 1962, and Alan LaFlair, who also passed on September 14, exactly 32 years earlier. She was also predeceased by her husband, Charlie Gustafson; a brother, Bruce Fanning; and a son-in-law, Webster Barrett.

In her later years, Eva was active in the Colchester Senior Center, and loved nothing more than shopping, going to the movies, and to restaurants with friends, or playing cards and board games. She was also a great lover of animals, especially all the cats she cared for throughout the years. Besides her love for her family, Eva's great passions in life were singing, especially singing with the Colchester Seniors at the Wadsworth Atheneum's Festival of Trees and Traditions at Christmastime, country music and cleaning.

Anyone who knew Eva knows she was a force to be reckoned with. Multiple doctors and nurses correctly identified her as "one tough cookie." Though short in stature, she was large in spirit, and she kept her feistiness until the very end. She will be missed by all who knew her.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, Sept. 21 at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., beginning at 1 p.m. with a calling hour. A funeral service will follow at 2 p.m. Burial will be private.

Donations in Eva's memory may be made to the Colchester Senior Center, 95 Norwich Ave., Colchester 06415 or to a local animal shelter. For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.



Colchester

Angelina Armida Grant

Angelina "Angie" Armida Grant, 89, of Colchester, passed away at home September 13. Born in Pittsfield, Ma. on August 15, 1930, she was the daughter of the late Matteo and Concetta (Russo) Borletto.

Angelina married her beloved husband, Leon, in 1950. The couple raised four children and spent over 60 years together prior to Leon's passing in 2011. Angelina retired several years ago after working in the cafeteria for Colchester public schools. Angelina enjoyed traveling and gaming at the casinos with her husband. She was a talented crafter who enjoyed knitting and crocheting and was a great cook and baker who passed her skills on to her children.

She will be sadly missed, but remembered with love by her children and their spouses, Martin (Michelle) Grant of Colchester, Timothy (Rita) Grant of Salem, Janis (Paul) Cunningham of Westwood, Ma., Gina Brown of Sausalito, Calif; her grandchildren, Alicia Grant, Alexander Grant, Eric Grant, Ryan Grant, Tony Grant, Laura Cunningham, Neil Cunningham, Rocky Brown; great granddaughter, Makaylie; and numerous extended family and friends.

In addition to her husband and parents, she was predeceased by her brothers, Matteo and Joseph Borletto.

Funeral services will be held privately according to her wishes. The Aurora McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester has been entrusted with arrangements. For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.



Portland

Debra Rae Sheehan

Debra (Deb) Rae Sheehan, 65, of Portland, passed away peacefully at Middlesex Hospital September 15 after a long and courageous battle with cancer. She was born April 4, 1954 in Albany, N.Y., where she grew up before moving to Connecticut.

Deb is predeceased by her mother, Fern Louis Mast, and step father Ellsworth Mast of Pa.; and her father, Herbert J. Clifford of N.Y.

She is survived by her loving husband Kevin J. Sheehan of 26 years, whom she affectionately referred to as "My Hunny." She is lovingly remembered by her children Megan Creem of Middletown; Molly Beer and husband Matthew Beer of East Hampton; her two beautiful grandchildren Addison and Elizabeth Beer; brother Ronald Clifford of MO; and sister Wendy Walton of Calif.

Deb had a great love for her family and friends and had an extra special place in her heart for her three dogs, Carley Sue, Bailey, and Bentley, as well as her crazy cat Samantha. Despite her long battle with illness, Deb always saw the bright side and continued to love life and put her family first. Her infectious laugh could be heard for miles and will be missed by all.

Deb's life will be celebrated on September 28. Friends and family will be received from 10 a.m.-noon, with a Mass following, along with a reception at 1 p.m. All services will be held at St. Mary's Church, 51 Freestone Ave., Portland.



East Hampton

Barbara Gene Reed

Barbara Gene (Gubler) Reed, 77, of East Hampton, beloved fiancée of Joe Landry, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, September 17 at Hartford Hospital surrounded by her loving family. Born July 31st, 1942 in San Francisco, Calif., she was the daughter of the late Lloyd Gubler and Inez Cabral.



Barbara had retired from Whalen Engineering to pursue her love of traveling and spending time with her children and grandchildren. As a lifelong Catholic, her faith was an incredibly important part of her life. She attended Mass at St. Patrick's Church in East Hampton. Barbara loved to travel the world, cook homemade meals for anyone who came through her front door, bake Christmas cookies from scratch, and plant beautiful flowers in her yard for everyone to enjoy. Her favorite activities were those that involved her family and closest friends.

Besides her fiancé Joe, Barbara is survived by her son Kevin Reed and his wife Amanda of East Hampton, her daughter Theresa Eck and her husband David of Keene N.H.; four brothers, George, Martin, Joseph and Michael Gubler, and a sister Olivia Moniz; six grandchildren, Amber (Brian), Cayla, Sara, Bryce, Morgan, Jared, and two great grandchildren Konnor and Kassidy. She was predeceased by her son Stanley Reed Jr. and her former husband Stanley Reed Sr.

Friends may call at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton on Monday Sept. 23 from 5-8 p.m. A Funeral Liturgy will be celebrated on Tuesday at 11 a.m. at St. Patrick Church in East Hampton, followed by burial in St. Patrick Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be made to the Stanley Reed Jr. Scholarship Fund c/o Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St. East Hampton, CT 06424.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.