

RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

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Sundae to Go... The Hebron Lions may not be holding a Harvest Fair this year, but they're making sure folks can get their fill of their favorite fair foods. Last weekend, the Lions hosted a drive-thru food truck fair and will do the same again this weekend. Pictured here, Lion Peter Fleig picks up his tray to deliver to a vehicle, while fellow Lion places her order at Ultimate Sundae. See story, additional photos on page X.

Hebron Fair Put on Hold

by Sloan Brewster

The Hebron Harvest Fair's 50th anniversary celebration is going to have to wait a bit.

The Hebron Lions made the difficult decision last weekend to scrap this year's fair, which was slated for early September. It would have been a golden jubilee for the popular four-day event, which first started in 1970.

The Lions had been hoping that, despite COVID-19, they'd be able to hold the fair this year. Pulling the plug, which the Fair Board voted to do last Saturday and subsequently announced on Facebook, was tough to take.

"It's horrible for us," said Russ Strumkas, fair superintendent for the Hebron Lions Agricultural Society.

Strumkas said there were several contributing factors to the decision.

After COVID-19 first came on the scene, the board continued planning the four-day September event, even publicly announcing in May that the Lions planned for the show to go on. But, according to Strumkas, questions continued to linger on how to follow through with the festivities amid the pandemic – including how to keep fairgoers socially distant.

"We were really thinking this through," he said.

The Lions looked at different scenarios, including how the fair would look if things improved on the COVID-19 front, and how to proceed if things stayed pretty much the way they are now, Strumkas said. In the end, they couldn't find a reasonable solution.

"We have to think about the public, keep them healthy," he said. "Trying to keep people six feet apart on the fairgrounds would be impos-

sible. Impossible. And limiting the number of people on the fairgrounds, that's hard too. How do we tell the people in cars, they can't come in now?"

Additional hiccups involved all the parts that make the fair whole.

Vendors, for starters, had lost other Connecticut fairs canceled due to the pandemic, Strumkas said. While most are from the northeast, some come from Virginia and the Carolinas, there are a few from Georgia, and one travels from Florida.

None of them come all this was for a single solitary fair in the hilltop community of Hebron.

"It's a route for these guys," Strumkas said. "Florida is 1,500 miles away. To drive up with a whole trailer and then stock it and then run it for four days wouldn't be cost-effective."

Then there's the carnival operation, which journeys from North Carolina to Connecticut.

"They lost all their fairs too," Strumkas said.

Even if the company that runs the carnival had no qualms about traveling to Connecticut for the Hebron fair, it would not make any money, he said, predicting that fewer people would have wanted to go on rides for fear of contagion. Beyond that, social distancing requirements would mean smaller numbers on each go round of the rides.

"There's no way they would have made just enough to break even," he said.

In an equally precarious situation would be groups from Rosaire's Racing Pigs, to Axe Women of Maine, to the folks involved in the tractor pull, to musical acts and other entertain-

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Hebron Fair cont. from Front Page

ers.

“It’s the same thing. It’s not cost-effective and it doesn’t work out,” Strumkas said. “What kind of Hebron Harvest Fair would it be, what kind of 50th anniversary would it be, without the carnival, without the vendors and without the entertainment?”

So the board made the painful decision to, for the first time ever, cancel the fair.

The difficult pronouncement was not made in a vacuum, according to Town Manager Andrew Tierney, who said the board reached out to him for input.

Tierney said the Lions held out for as long possible and in the end made the right choice.

“It’s unfortunate because it would’ve been their 50th year and they were looking to have a really good one this year. They have a really good one every year but this year was going to be really special,” he said. “That would’ve brought about 30,000 people to the town of Hebron and I was a little uncomfortable with that.”

Tierney added that the cancellation of the Big E was further proof that the Lions’ decision was the right one.

On Monday, Catherine Pappas, public relations and communications manager for the Eastern States Exposition, issued a statement announcing that the 104-year-old New England event that takes place in West Springfield, Mass., each fall had been canceled.

While being canceled is a first for the Hebron Harvest Fair, Pappas noted in her statement the event was put on hold during World War I and again during World War II.

“We’ve made it through difficult times before...the Flood of 1936...the Hurricane of 1938 and 9-11,” she wrote, “and together we’ll get through these unprecedented times as well.”

Strumkas said that while he is personally saddened about the cancellation of this year’s Hebron Harvest Fair, his disappointment reaches further than that.

The Lions’ biggest fundraiser of the year, the fair rakes in between \$80,000 and \$100,000 each year – money that, Strumkas said, is disseminated across a range of local charitable organizations and nonprofits, including the Russell Mercier Senior Center, AHM Youth and Family Services, the Douglas Library; state organizations, including the Hole in the Wall Gang; and low vision charities.

In addition, volunteers who work ticket booths during the fair are from local organizations and earn money that goes back to the organizations. For some of them, the fair is their primary fundraiser for the year.

“I joined the Lions to give back to the community and to know that I’m not going to be able to give that money to those organizations, that’s even more devastating,” he said.

Still, the Lions will hold some kind of festivity in the fall, though they do not yet know what shape it will take, Strumkas said. Details will depend on what the state allows.

One idea is a drive-thru food truck fair similar to the one that took place last weekend on the fairgrounds and that will be repeated tonight and tomorrow (see related story in this week’s paper).

“This weekend was an awesome success for us,” Strumkas said. “Everyone who worked it had a blast and so did the people driving through.”

In the meantime, planning for next year’s fair is already underway.

“2021 is going to be the best fair that we can possibly give you guys,” Strumkas said.

From the Editor’s Desk

Observations & Ruminations

By Mike Thompson

Black lives matter – and I gotta tell ya, it’s heartening to see so many people around here getting the message.

Marlborough was the latest *Rivereast* town to hold a Black Lives Matter rally, last weekend. As you saw in the cover story this week, it was very inspirational.

Now’s as good a time as any to apologize for the *Rivereast* not covering the BLM rally in East Hampton the week before. Due to scheduling conflicts, no one on staff was able to cover it. I hear it was very well attended, with upwards of 1,000 people there. I truly feel bad about not having coverage of the event. We’ve covered every other Black Lives Matter protest that has taken place in our towns in recent weeks, and East Hampton would’ve been nice to cover as well. My apologies to the organizers and participants.

That said – wow, that makes five of the six *Rivereast* towns to have Black Lives Matter protests. (Andover, you’re kind of standing out here.) It’s great to see. I’ve made no secret here of believing in the cause – and I’m thrilled to see so many others in the area do too.

It’s been awesome work, everyone. Keep it up, and don’t let your guard down. I worry the movement will eventually fade as other BLM movements have in the past. We can’t let that happen.

Black lives matter – we can’t forget that.

* * *

I was absolutely disgusted to read about a horrible racist incident that took place in my town of Manchester over the weekend. According to the *Journal Inquirer*, on Saturday night, three Black teens, ages 13-15, were headed to a local store to pick up diapers. They walked past a house on Main Street, and two white men, from their front yard, started calling them racial slurs. The men, whom police later identified as Matthew Lemelin, 27, and Michael Lemelin, 28, didn’t stop there.

In a video posted on Facebook, which the *JJ* described in detail, the mother of one of the teens said the Lemelins got in their vehicle and chased after the three teens. The kids abandoned their bikes and eventually hid in nearby bushes while the two men got out of their vehicle and continued to chase them. Matthew Lemelin then stole one of the bikes, the teens later told police.

Thankfully, customers at a nearby Cumberland Farms witnessed part of the incident, the *JJ* reported, and were able to help the teens. But the kids, understandably, are traumatized, according to Keren Prescott, who has organized daily rallies about racial injustice in Manchester since the May 25 death of George Floyd.

The Lemelins were both arrested Monday

afternoon, the *JJ* reported. Matthew Lemelin was charged with second-degree intimidation based on bigotry or bias – a hate crime – as well as risk of injury to minor, second-degree reckless endangerment, second-degree breach of peace, sixth-degree larceny, and third-degree criminal mischief.

Michael Lemelin was charged with risk of injury to a minor, second-degree reckless endangerment, and second-degree breach of peace.

The two are reportedly, as of Tuesday, each being held on \$150,000 bond, and are due in court Aug. 18.

It makes me absolutely sick that, in the year 2020, this type of racist incident can still occur. It’s appalling – absolutely appalling. And my heart goes out to those kids. Can you imagine how scared they must have been, being chased by grown men, twice their age, who wanted to attack them based on nothing other than their skin color? They must’ve been terrified. And I know it’s the kind of experience that will unfortunately likely stick with them for years. Nobody deserves to have their innocence, their sense of security, taken away from them like that, especially at such a young age.

Again: just absolutely appalling.

* * *

On a lighter note – baseball is back! Kinda, sorta.

After a very lengthy and often quite contentious back-and-forth, owners and players agreed Tuesday to a 60-game Major League Baseball season. Players will report to training camps July 1, with the season to start either July 23 or 24 – and the games will, at least at first, be played in empty stadiums.

In one of the smartest parts of this agreement, the “spring training” that this year will actually be in July won’t take place in Florida and Arizona, as it traditionally does. It will take place in the teams’ home ballparks. Since Florida right now is in bad, bad shape when it comes to COVID-19 – and Arizona’s not much better – it was a prudent move.

I’m decidedly less thrilled by the agreement to start all extra innings with a runner on second base. Supposedly this is just for 2020, but I have my doubts. Commissioner Rob Manfred has long pushed for this as a way to “speed up” the game, as he thinks a shorter game will put more fannies in the seats and attract more eyeballs to the TVs. (I guess he’s never looked at the huge ratings for often-interminable NFL games.) So this, to be quite frank, incredibly stupid extra inning idea will probably be here to stay.

So yay, baseball is back – but in my estimation this is a pretty lousy caveat.

* * *

See you next week.

Town Meeting to Decide New RHAM Board Member

by Sloan Brewster

Andover officials hope residents will participate in the town's first ever virtual town meeting and vote for one of three candidates wishing to fill an empty seat on the RHAM Board of Education.

Scheduled for next Tuesday, June 30, the meeting will fill the seat left vacant by David Gostanian, who resigned last month.

Gostanian, whose term ends in June 2023, gave up his seat due to an overabundance of commitments with the Andover Fire Department, of which he is a member. His fire department duties, including infection control training, have increased since the onset of COVID-19, he said.

Gostanian was involved with the RHAM board for many years, starting when he was Board of Finance liaison to the board, a post he held for about eight years.

Three residents have stepped up to fill the vacancy.

Local parent – with a seventh grade child entering RHAM in the fall – and PTA president Lori Blake wrote in her bio that she was “excitedly” submitting her name as a candidate.

An educator, she has worked in the field for more than 20 years and has extensive experience in higher and early childhood education, according to her bio. Currently, she consults in early childhood education in community-based settings and public schools.

“I am eager to serve on the RHAM Board of Education because I am invested in this com-

munity and all the schools my children and all residents' children will potentially attend,” she wrote. “I feel the RHAM Board of Education needs dedicated, ethical, objective members who seek to put students' needs first and understand the value of a high-performing school system; a value for students as well as for all the residents living in the town.”

Brian Clate, a parent with two children currently at RHAM, wrote in his bio that he and his family moved from Massachusetts to Connecticut because “we wanted our children to grow up in a town where education was valued.”

He brings more than 15 years of leadership experience in the private sector to the table, including serving on multiple executive boards where he helped organizations achieve goals, ensure they get maximum value for their costs and hold people in authority accountable for their decisions, according to his bio.

“I believe this experience will serve the town well as RHAM faces challenges around reopening, a declining student population, significant demands by multiple groups on their budget and a need to select a superintendent who will set the vision and direction of the district for years to come,” he wrote.

Ed Smith, a veteran teacher of 29 years, has been active in coaching athletics, preparing students for academic competitions, representing colleagues as their building union rep, including in contract negotiations, according to his

bio. He worked with the University of Connecticut and the U.S. Department of Energy in creating a National Science Bowl regional competition for middle and high school teams and has taught in high and middle schools.

“With this background I may be able to bring fresh ideas to the board and better support our students and the community,” he wrote.

Since the onset of COVID-19, the town has held virtual meetings of boards and commissions on Zoom.

Public attendance at virtual board meetings has been about the same as when the meetings are held in person – which is to say, not great, according to Town Administrator Eric Anderson said. Officials are concerned there won't be the minimum of 25 people needed to qualify as a quorum for the town meeting.

“We're always concerned with the town meeting, if it's not like a super hot-button issue, that we're going to have enough of a turnout to make it an official meeting,” Anderson said.

If fewer than 25 people attend, the meeting would have to be rescheduled and the RHAM seat would remain vacant until a vote is held.

“The town needs to have strong representation on the RHAM Board and, you know, we need strong leadership,” Anderson said. “The other Board of Ed representative from Andover [Stephanie Bancroft] is the chair of the RHAM school board, but we still need two strong voting members on that board.”

Directions for using Zoom

Anderson wants folks to know how the meeting will be organized.

Once people are logged in, they will be put in a virtual waiting room until their identification is verified by the moderator, he said. Once that is done, they will be let into the meeting.

First Selectman Jeff Maguire will chair the meeting, and there will be a moderator. The meeting will be recorded.

When the vote is called, there will be a roll call and participants will need to state who they are voting for. The votes will be tallied and the highest vote getter will take the vacant seat on the RHAM board.

Anderson said the procedures were designed to mimic in-person meetings as closely as was possible.

“We consulted with the town's attorney to insure we are following the executive orders and that we have a fair process,” he said.

Check-in for the meeting will begin at 6:45 p.m. on June 30. Participants should have their photo ID ready. The meeting will begin as soon as everyone is checked in by the registrar's office and is for registered town voters only.

To join the Zoom virtual platform by computer for video/audio go to: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89529973559>

To call-in via phone for audio, dial 1-646-558-8656. The meeting ID is 895 2997 3559 and the password is 956599.

Superintendent Wants Fall Reopening for East Hampton Schools

by Jack Lakowsky

Superintendent of Schools Paul Smith on Monday presented to the Board of Education preliminary plans for a return to traditional school days this fall, with new protocols aimed at preventing the spread of coronavirus in East Hampton's schools.

The state has yet to release its guidelines to Connecticut school districts. Smith said when the state does release its information, he will adjust his own plans, as necessary.

“If you plan for a full reopening, you can plan for every contingency,” Smith said in the meeting. Reopening schools, Smith added, would be far more complex than maintaining the current distance learning system, and therefore planning for in-person classes needed to start right away, with or without official guidelines from the state.

“Rumor has it the governor wants schools to reopen,” Smith said in the meeting.

While Gov. Ned Lamont's office did not return a request for comment for this story, earlier this month the governor stressed his desire to see schools open this fall during an interview with radio station WPLR-99.1-FM.

“Schools will be back in the fall,” Lamont told the station, according to Patch.com. He told the station guidance as for the reopening is still being worked on.

While waiting on state guidelines, Smith said he and other school officials have formed a com-

mittee to navigate the complexities of reopening. The committee will hold its first meeting in early July.

In his letter to the district, Smith encouraged parents to attend a summer meeting of the Superintendent's Advisory Council, set for July 17 at 9 a.m. in Town Hall. A Zoom option will be available. Further details of this meeting and the district reopening committee will be released in early July, according to Smith's letter.

Smith said the schools ordered thousands of pieces of personal protective equipment (PPE) including facemasks, gloves and Plexiglas shields that can be installed between desks to shield students. Smith said face masks will be for students and staff who forget theirs at home.

“We're in very good shape for those supplies,” said Smith.

Smith said his draft of a plan assumes that families will be diligent about taking preventative steps at home. Cooperation and consistency between families and the schools will be essential to helping any kind of reopening succeed, according to Smith. He said parents need to check their own health and that of their children every morning.

“This will need to be a partnership with families,” said Smith.

Smith said the pandemic situation may be very different in two months, but with this draft,

at least, the schools will be better prepared than when they closed in March.

“When people ask me if we're going to reopen, I say ‘yes,’” said Smith. “I just don't exactly know what it will look like.”

Smith said all plans will hinge on how many students the state allows in a classroom at single time. Depending on the limits imposed by the state, student schedules could be changed to an alternating basis, Smith suggested. For example, if a child were to attend classes on Monday, they would be given enough work to do throughout the following day at home and return to in-person classes on Wednesday.

“It's all a guess, but at least this way we start with something,” said Smith.

Smith added that vulnerable students, like the immunocompromised, will be accommodated with distance learning.

“We're going to continue to educate every student in the most appropriate way possible,” said Smith. “Planning for that begins right now.”

Smith said, regardless of any state or local planning, the discovery of COVID-19 cases would interrupt daily school life. Smith predicted that the presence of a single case would close a school building for between two and five days while the school is cleaned and contact tracing performed. Smith suggested group-

ing students into consistent groups that would remain together throughout the school day, thus easing the process of contact tracing.

Smith said the presence of three or more cases could cause closure of a given school building for weeks. Smith explained that any COVID-19 cases will be reported to Chatham Health District.

“We're going to operate as if every kid could potentially get it,” Smith said. Smith added that school environments, unfortunately, ease the spread of sickness.

Smith said he is committed to trying to reintroduce as many extracurriculars and athletics as possible.

“We're going to bring back everything we can,” Smith said.

Board of Education member Marc Lambert said it feels as if the schools are stuck between “a rock and a hard place.” Lambert asked what is being planned for students and parents who may not have a specific, diagnosed issue, but who are uncomfortable returning to such a public environment.

Smith said he'd need more information from state health officials before a plan like that could be discussed. Smith added that, even if schools begin modified operations in the fall, another wave of the virus would force plans to change.

Andover Lake is Open, but Summer Camp is Off

by Sloan Brewster

Andover Lake is open with social distancing requirements.

Mike Burke, president of the Andover Lake Property Owners Association, said in a phone call Tuesday afternoon that about 20 people were out on the beach. On Monday, a couple people were swimming when he checked out the scene, which he said he can see from his house.

The lake is governed by the association and is not a function of the town.

With the all-clear to swim – which some nearby lakes are prohibiting this year due to concerns with COVID-19 social distancing requirements – membership requests have been coming in, Burke said. Some people have handed in a check and asked if they could immediately go to the beach, which the association has been allowing.

“Coventry Lake isn’t having people in the water,” Burke said. “We don’t mind having people in the water. They’re in a group anyway so we feel they’re going to play in the water, [or] they’re going to play in the sand.”

Membership is open to locals and out-of-towners and while Burke said this year it sometimes feels like the number of requests is spiking because he’s fielding all of them, so far the numbers match last year.

The association implemented a list of rules and regulations due to COVID-19, Burke said. Those include, that groups congregating on the beach consist of no more than five people and be no closer than 10 feet from other groups.

“Ultimately, it’s our members who are self-policing that,” Burke said.

There are signs on the beach to remind people to practice social distancing and while the signs the association was able to purchase say to keep six feet away, the association rules say 10 and Burke advises folks keep up to 15 feet between them.

The rules also prevent members from bringing guests this year and the raft that usually gets floated to a spot on the water and serves as a destination for swimmers was not launched, Burke said. The association also took down the volleyball mat and has cancelled the first two summer concerts – the one that already would have taken place in June and the one that was

scheduled for July.

“Anything that would be inclined to draw a crowd,” is not being allowed this year, he said.

Staff will sanitize picnic tables and gate attendants will clean the handle of the portable toilet every half hour and check to see if it’s been used.

The association has joined a network of aquatic and lake directors and meets monthly to discuss the latest issues, what’s going on at the state level and to talk through challenges and come up with solutions, most of which are left to the facilities to decide on their own, according to Burke.

“Our facility is such that we don’t have the same challenges that other aquatic facilities have in terms of showers,” Burke said. “Those can cause contamination.”

No Summer Camp

Andover Summer Camp, which takes place at Andover Elementary School in the gym, music room and on the music stage and was scheduled to open later this month, has been cancelled, Anderson said. The town was planning work through any COVID-19 related challenges and hold camp.

“We cancelled camp primarily because there weren’t enough kids enrolled for them to be able to run it and break even,” Anderson said. “It’s certainly more difficult in this time to work it out but it’s not impossible.”

Last year – the first year the camp was held – 51 children participated throughout the summer season with about 33 on a given week, said Amy Knox, camp director. Initially this year, about 16 kids had enrolled but as it got closer to opening there were cancellations because folks could not afford it as they have not returned to work since the state shutdown to slow the spread of COVID-19.

Knox said she cancelled the first week and then, when more parents pulled their children, she decided to cancel all sessions for the season.

Last year, children in grades one through six and three, four, and five years olds were grouped together for summer fun, Knox said. They enjoyed trips to Andover Lake, hiking and fun in the woods on the trails behind Andover Elementary School, arts & crafts, field games, such as soccer and kick ball, walks to the nature pond



Folks hung out on the beach at Andover Lake with groups keeping social distance from other groups while the sweltering sun and humid air heated things up earlier this week.

to catch frogs and visits to the library to read or watch movies.

“What amazed me was how much fun these children had doing things in the woods,” Knox said.

She said it was a good set-up, with different entities, including Parks & Recreation, the library and the lake association working together to keep kids busy and happy.

She said she understands why fewer families enrolled this year, including out of fear of the virus but that doesn’t quell her disappointment.

“I’m very disappointed, very disappointed, because I think it was the one thing the kids could look forward to and seeing their friends,” she said.

Knox said her two 11-year old children were looking forward to the fun at camp this year and had planned to help out with activities.

Next year she plans to make it even better, she said.

Town Hall Remains Closed to Public

The reopening of Town Hall has not been scheduled yet, but Anderson said he anticipates the doors to reopen within the next month.

“At this point we are not open to the public, we deal with stuff on a case-by-case basis as it comes up,” he said.

The full staff is back in the office, however, and Anderson said that with adherence to state social distancing guidelines, the community room has been opened for gatherings, including regular meetings of boards and commissions and such things as Fire Department training sessions. The Republican Town Committee was the first group to use the room for a meeting after it was reopened.

Portland Police News

6/12: Sarah Ayotte, 35, of 625 Main St. Apt. 2, was charged with criminal violation of a protective order, Portland Police said.

East Hampton Police News

6/10: Jeffrey Green, 45, of 3 E. Hayes Rd., was arrested and charged with engaging police in pursuit, driving under the influence, failure to drive right and improper taillight, East Hampton Police said.

6/12: Gene Clodfelter, 57, of 16 Lake Blvd., was arrested and charged with driving under the influence, failure to drive right and operating an unregistered motor vehicle, police said.

6/14: Anthony Lamitie, 33, of Middletown, was arrested for driving under the influence,

failure to drive right and unsafe passing, police said.

6/18: Nicholas Lea, 23, of New Britain, was arrested and charged with second-degree harassment and second-degree threatening, police said.

Also, from June 8-15, officers responded to five medical calls, seven motor vehicle crashes, two alarms, one call for vandalism and one motor vehicle theft, and made 14 traffic stops, police said.

Colchester Police News

6/16: State Police said Anthony J. Biancardi, 58, of Southington, was arrested and charged with driving under the influence and failure to drive in proper lane.

6/20: State Police said Arthur Roetting, 57, 62 West Rd., was arrested and charged with third-degree assault and disorderly conduct.

Marlborough Police News

6/20: State Police said Evan Bromley, 27, 184 South Main St., Colchester, was arrested and charged with second-degree breach of peace and third-degree assault.

Hebron Town Hall to Open to Public

by Sloan Brewster

Hebron Town Hall will be opening to the public after the July 4 holiday weekend.

At last Thursday’s Board of Selectmen meeting, Town Manager Andrew Tierney told the board the plan was to reopen Town Hall, the Horton House and Douglas Library on July 6.

The town is certified to open to the public, department heads have been trained, procedures are set and sneeze guards and sanitizers will be in place before the doors open, Tierney said. The town also has machines to sterilize buildings once a day.

A reopening meeting earlier that day went well, he said.

“We’re well on our way, finalizing a few details,” he said.

People who go to Town Hall will have to wear facemasks and maintain social-distancing requirements, Tierney said in a phone call Tuesday. Markings on the floor will indicate the appropriate distance.

“I want to get back to some sort of normalcy, if there’s such a thing,” Tierney said. “I want to get back to some sort of normalcy and we’re here to service the public.”

Staff will be on hand to help expedite such things as helping people get a permit to put in a swimming pool, Tierney said. The transfer station, which has been open on a cash only basis, will reopen fully as well.

In the meantime, Rich Colarco, director of Parks & Recreation, has reopened playscapes and the skate park, soccer has started and baseball will start next week, Tierney said.

A shed will be placed in front of the Public Works facility to make room for an office so staff can follow social distancing requirements, Tierney told the board. Conditions in the facility are cramped and without the shed there would be no way to comply with the requirements.

Currently, the administrative assistant – who shares a tight office with Public Works Director Kevin Kelly – has been working remotely but she will need to return to the office when things reopen, Tierney said.

“Due to lack of office space we’re looking to purchase a shed from Kloter Farms and put it in front,” he said.

As the purchase will be less than \$13,000, Tierney said he did not need approval to buy the shed but wanted the board aware of the decision. Once the shed arrives, Public Works staff will insulate it and install sheet rock.

The selectmen also appointed an interim COVID-19 long-term recovery coordinator, who will serve as a liaison between the state and the town’s emergency management department.

The state has been asking for a name but no one qualified has volunteered to take on the responsibility, Tierney said. At his recommendation, selectman Peter Kasper was given the position.

“I kind of prodded Peter Kasper to step up to the plate,” Tierney said. “Peter has graciously accepted our offer.”

Kasper said he was happy to do the job but that time constraints with his regular employment may conflict with some of his duties. If conflicts do arise and he cannot fulfill the work requirements, he will let the board know.

“And maybe in the meantime we may have identified a more permanent solution,” he said.

Kasper refused to take any money, including a stipend, despite board members’ adamant offers.

“Oh, no, no, no, no. I – the only condition – I will not accept a dollar to do anything in support of our community and our town,” he said. “I view myself as a volunteer, and I will give my time, until I don’t have any.”

Members Clash on Colchester Board of Finance

by Karla Santos

For the Board of Finance, this year's budget season may be over, but it was clear this week hard feelings still very much remain, as board members accused each other of aggressiveness and bullying – and even called for one member's resignation.

Due to controversy surrounding his comments at past meetings, member Mike Egan, a Democrat, said this week he would step down from his position as vice chairman. But that's not enough for Republican board members Andreas Bisbikos and Andrea Migliaccio, who are calling on Egan to resign from the board altogether.

The calls come amid claims of inappropriate, aggressive, and even threatening behavior by Egan during the budget process this year.

Board chair Robert Tarlov, a Republican, said he felt "the demeanor of [Egan's] comments was on the aggressive side" at different meetings during the budget process as well as in private conversations.

Tarlov added that in a text message, Egan told him he is "trying to micromanage the safe opening of our schools from your kitchen in Florida."

Tarlov lives part-time in Florida – about 12 days of each month, he said; however, he was recently down there for much longer, as there were travel bans in place to prevent the spread of the coronavirus.

Tarlov said he has lived part-time in Florida since 2009, and stressed that he's been a Colchester resident for 35 years.

"I'm a Connecticut resident," Tarlov said. "I pay Connecticut state income taxes. My driver's license says I live in Colchester. I vote in Colchester. I spend the better part of every month in Colchester."

In an email to Tarlov, Bisbikos suggested that in the next board meeting, July 1, they should address Egan's behavior.

Bisbikos said he has also been threatened by Egan.

"Mr. Egan's threatening comment to me was that if either Rob or I didn't compromise on the budget, that he and the Democrats would get parents involved and wage a 'public campaign' on Rob Tarlov and his part-time Florida residency," Bisbikos said.

Migliaccio said that Egan's behavior toward Tarlov is no secret. She said that early in the budget season Tarlov told her about "inappropriate, vulgar voicemails and text messages he has been receiving from Mike."

Migliaccio said she suggested Tarlov take immediate action, "yet as the budget season progressed so did the temper of Mr. Egan."

Migliaccio said she was also aware of the threat to attack Tarlov's residency.

"A threat lacking substance and flimsy at best," Migliaccio said.

She added that Egan reached out to her once to talk but she didn't reply.

"I am not willing to accept bullying over my vote as I presumed the conversation would go," Migliaccio said.

Migliaccio said that next year's budget is expected to be "contentious with the delayed capital funding and coronavirus effects at forefront."

She said she doesn't have "tolerance for bullying" and said the finance board needs "a co-

hesive team to work together to navigate these difficult challenges."

"I feel Mr. Egan's temper should not be a burden we bear; therefore Mr. Egan's resignation would be appropriate," Migliaccio said.

Bisbikos also described Egan's behavior as "bullying" and "out of line."

"I believe Mr. Egan should resign from the Board of Finance effective immediately," Bisbikos said. "Anything less than that would be emboldening to a bully."

Egan Claims No Threats

Egan, meanwhile, said he has not made any threats. He said he has had discussions with Tarlov including private discussions regarding the budget.

"Those are basically private discussions between the head of the Board of Finance and myself," Egan said.

Egan said they also had a discussion on Sunday as far as how "we were looking at issues."

He said they also had previous discussions about Tarlov's vote.

When the *Rivereast* asked Egan if he told Tarlov that he was trying to micromanage board issues, Egan's response was that this is a discussion he had with Tarlov.

"These are discussions that we had with each other as far as how we manage this board and how we move forward as far as the board is concerned," Egan said. "When I had that discussion, that was a private discussion between the two of us and that was what it was."

Egan, who is a project manager with the engineering and construction firm CDM Smith, said work requirements and commitments have played a role in his decision to step down from his vice chair position.

Migliaccio said that Egan's documented "hot temper" was a concern when he first interviewed for a finance board vacancy in 2016.

"But he assured the board he would not demonstrate those behaviors," Migliaccio said.

In January 2010, Egan, then a Board of Education member, was charged with disorderly conduct and second-degree criminal mischief, stemming from an altercation in October 2009 at a Bacon Academy high school football game. According to an arrest warrant affidavit, Egan and his then-wife allegedly broke up a fight between their son and another youth before Egan threw a student's cell phone into the woods in attempt to keep the altercation off the internet. The charges were dropped in May 2010, after Egan read an apology letter in court and paid for the phone.

Bisbikos, in Egan's 2016 interview for the board, also relayed an alleged incident from earlier that year in which Egan stormed into Town Hall and verbally assaulted resident Jim Kelly in public, claiming Kelly had vandalized and stolen balloons from signs Egan had put up on the town green. Egan said during the interview that he had overreacted.

Indeed, when Egan was first elected to the board in 2017, Bisbikos said he felt the new member conducted himself "very well and turned over a new leaf in terms of his temperamental past" – and noted that he even eventually nominated Egan to be board vice chair.

But this time around, Bisbikos said, Egan intimidated Tarlov throughout the budget pro-

cess.

Tarlov, meanwhile, said he felt stress of the budget season had played a role in Egan's behavior.

"There's a lot of stress with COVID, both in our jobs and personal lives," Tarlov said. "We all react different to that. I think anybody that witnessed the meeting saw that he lost his temper on a number of instances."

Despite Egan's behavior, Tarlov and other Board of Finance members told the *Rivereast* that Egan is a valuable contributor to the board.

Board member Bernie Dennler, who like Egan is a Democrat, said Egan's leadership was "critical" during this unusual budget season.

This year's budget was different because of COVID-19 related expenses and because there was no referendum. Although the board was aiming for no increase on the town and education budgets, it achieved a no increase on the town side, keeping the mill rate the same as this year. The school budget saw a 0.2% increase.

"I believe that Mike Egan has been a tremendous resource to the Board of Finance both this year and for years prior to this," Dennler said. "He was a huge advocate for residents this year and for the needs especially of parents who have students in the school system which is such an important part of the town of Colchester."

Fellow Democrat and board member Mike Hayes also said that Egan has been a "very valuable member" as the vice chair.

Bisbikos Also Accused of Poor Behavior

But Egan is not the only Board of Finance member accused of behaving inappropriately.

Hayes said he is "a little upset" with Bisbikos over Facebook posts Bisbikos makes and then pays to promote on the platform. Hayes said Bisbikos is dividing the board with his comments.

"He is attacking board members through his paid ads," Hayes said. "It's just not acceptable. A board member does not call [out] a board member."

Hayes said the budget is already adopted and there's "no excuse" for what Bisbikos is doing.

Hayes also said that Bisbikos has made the board look bad when "attacking" First Selectman Mary Bylone, a Democrat, during public meetings.

Hayes said that when Bylone started her role as first selectman, she received a pay increase.

"He's constantly going after her about the fact that she accepted the raise," Hayes said. "It was just part of a standard increase across the board for everybody that works at town hall."

Hayes said Bisbikos was looking for town employees to take a pay cut for the year, compromising the increase they received.

In addition, Hayes said Bisbikos has also complained about not being able to have a budget referendum.

"He is right now not making a good presentation as an elected official," Hayes said.

Dennler said he is also unhappy about Bisbikos running sponsored Facebook adver-

tisements.

He said those Facebook posts are "essentially attacking the process as unconstitutional."

Dennler said that in some of Bisbikos' Facebook posts he identifies himself as a member of the Board of Finance.

"In my personal view, it's inappropriate," Dennler said. "I don't believe it has been helpful to the process this year."

In addition, Dennler, like Hayes, said he also thought that Bisbikos' comments were "excessive and targeting the first selectman" at a prior meetings.

One of Egan's accusations towards Bisbikos is that he has allegedly been putting out false information regarding the unemployment rates. Egan said that Bisbikos was indicating during board meetings, that unemployment rate was at 30%.

Egan said the state Department of Labor indicated that "in May, the unemployment rate for the entire state was 13%."

According to the state Department of Labor, the unemployment rate in the state was 9.4% in May. The unemployment rate in the country was 13.3% in May, down 1.4 points from April. The site was last updated on June 18.

Egan accused Bisbikos of exaggerating the unemployment numbers to "push reductions in the Board of Education budget."

"Those are things we see on a regular basis," Egan said of Bisbikos' behavior. "Certain people in town government are basically trying to manipulate the process [and] have been manipulating the process."

Bisbikos said he has been doing the Facebook ads to update residents on the budget process

"I have used my personal wallet to promote ads updating the community on the budget process because I believe that elected officials should communicate with their constituents as much as possible," Bisbikos said.

Bisbikos told the *Rivereast* of his disappointment that Bylone did not push back on the executive order that prohibited a budget referendum this year as a COVID-19 restriction.

"The first selectman is pictured at a rally exercising her First Amendment rights and openly defying an executive order regarding social gatherings, yet can't bring herself to fight for a referendum on the town's budget," Bisbikos said, referring to Bylone's attendance at the town's Black Lives Matter protest. "I do feel there is a hypocrisy there."

The one thing all Board of Finance members seem to agree on is their common goal of working for the best of the town and the school system. They also agree that this year's budget was difficult.

Tarlov said they'll start working on next year's budget as soon as possible to allow for open dialogs and avoid having work accumulate when time is ticking.

Bylone also said she expects the board to work together for the best of the town and that Tarlov has proven his commitment to the town even while he is part-time in Florida.

Fire Leaves Colchester Baby Badly Burned

by Karla Santos

A Tuesday morning fire on James Street injured two women and left a six-month old badly burned, according to Colchester Fire Marshal Sean Shoemaker said.

Shoemaker said the "small" fire occurred in the kitchen of the one-family home at 88 James St.

He said the three people injured all suffered burns in the incident, and were all taken to the hospital. The baby was initially taken to Connecticut Children's Medical Center but then transferred to Shriners Hospitals for Children in Boston.

The Colchester Fire Department responded to the incident, which occurred approximately at 7 a.m., Shoemaker said.

He said the fire had been extinguished by the time firefighters arrived to the scene.

While the incident is still under investigation, Shoemaker said both the mother and the baby were in the kitchen at the time of the fire. The baby was near the stove and the fire happened in the vicinity of the stove, Shoemaker said.

Initial media reports Tuesday indicated the baby was in a car seat that was located near the stove, but Shoemaker walked that back Wednesday, and it said it was now unclear if the baby was in the car seat or not. He said the "family is distraught" by what happened.

Shoemaker said that as far as he knows the family was not displaced.

\$397,000 State Grant Awarded for Colchester Town Green Facelift

by Karla Santos

The town green will get a facelift in different areas including its gazebo, after the state recently approved a \$397,000 beautification grant.

First Selectman Mary Bylone, former first selectman Art Shilosky, selectman Denise Turner, state Rep. Brian Smith (D-48) and members of the Historic District Commission were among the participants in a meeting Monday to discuss how the grant will be used.

Repairs to the gazebo, moving the electrical box and adding a bus stop shelter were among the updates discussed.

There was conversation about the specific requirements from the Historic District Commission and that some people may object to doing anything on the Green.

Ellen Sharon, Historic District Commission chairman, said the town applied for the grant and the commission recently heard it was approved.

According to Sharon, when the commission learned of the grant in 2018, it discussed the requirements and was in favor of some of the repairs, including the gazebo, the electrical box and the bus stop shelter and has requested that materials used in the project be historic nineteenth century materials.

"There is room for improvement in this green and we will do that using historically appropriate materials," Sharon said.

The project may also include adjusting traffic patterns on pathways to follow routes people take across the green.

Before the updates are made, the town will show the commission specifications for the overall plan, a list of materials to be used and samples of such things as light fixtures.

"If there's a problem we discuss alternatives and come to an agreement that's good for the town, good for the historical nature of the green and good for the ground," Sharon said.

Town Planner Matt Bordeaux was also at the meeting and said the grant is a "really great opportunity" to make some much needed improvements to the green.

Once the state approves the proposed updates, the town will petition the Historic District Commission for a certificate of appropriateness, Bordeaux said.

"We are in the process now of developing plans that we can submit to the state for final approval and get their blessing to move forward with a bidding process," he said.

The project may also include resurfacing the

trail from the west corner to the north, Bordeaux said.

He asked the community for feedback.

Shilosky explained that the bus stop was built by Boy Scouts a number of years ago and was taken down after it was destroyed by an accident. Before it was razed, there was a plan to make it look more like the gazebo.

Shilosky told attendees to take advantage of the funds because this is an opportunity that "you are not going to get again."

"We have to work together," he added. "We have to do this and do it as a team. Please work together and get this done."

Smith said this grant is an opportunity to start creating a relationship with the state for future improvements, including changing the speed limit in the center of town to make the area more walkable.

Arthur Liverant, a local business owner, said the gazebo has been updated a few times in the past. It used to be surrounded by wood about as high as the railing there now, he said. The wood was removed about 30 years ago.

He recalled when the gazebo was painted green in some areas and had shingles and said

unlike the rounded columns there now, the columns were square.

Bylone said she's excited about the project because Colchester is a "beautiful" place and a destination spot.

During her Facebook Live on Tuesday, Bylone informed the community of the meeting and the project and said it may include creating a road through the green that would extend the current path and come out on Hayward Avenue.

The goal is to enable drivers to go one way during events.

Bylone said town staff will put together some details regarding the plan and then get approval from the Historic District Commission.

"Then we will be able to get moving on doing some upgrades to the town green, which is a treasured piece of property and full of history," she said. "It's one of the best greens in the state of Connecticut. It has been noted that way in publications. We certainly want to be able to preserve the look and the culture, the history, but at the same time give it a facelift."

Leslie Moves to Superintendent Role, Bryzgel to RHAM Principal

by Sloan Brewster

As RHAM High School Principal Scott Leslie was given the keys to the superintendent's office this week, he handed the keys to his own office to Assistant Principal Penny Bryzgel.

On Tuesday – when Patricia Law officially departed the superintendent's position – Leslie, who has been principal at RHAM since 2000, officially took over as interim superintendent.

Law resigned in May amid changes on the RHAM Board of Education, including the removal of Susan Rapelye from the board chairmanship after she made a complaint to the Freedom of Information Commission. In the complaint, Rapelye accused the board of preparing the 2020-21 school budget "behind the scenes with selected board members and without being held in public."

The board selected Leslie as Law's temporary replacement for up to one year while it searches for a permanent superintendent. He, in turn, selected Bryzgel to take over as principal at the high school. She has been assistant principal at the school for the past seven years.

Leslie took a few minutes during his first day in the new role to discuss the transition. Though he's gone from overseeing the high school to overseeing the district as a whole, he said he intends to maintain relationships with teachers and staff.

"My role really is to, rather than just looking at one of the schools, looking at both the schools," he said, referring to both the high school and the middle school. "With an office down the hallway, my goal is not to become a stranger."

While Leslie said he thinks people will be happy that someone they know is in the superintendent position and will feel comfortable going into his office, he said he won't hesitate to direct folks to the right person if they are asking about things better suited to Bryzgel's role.

"I'll certainly be happy to tell people, well you should really be asking Penny that question," he said.

Leslie said he will maintain communications with local schools and other superintendents and focus on staying on top of decision making.

"I think what it really means for a superintendent here at RHAM at this moment is working closely with the Board of Ed," he said. "We certainly are at a time when there are a lot of critical decisions that have to be made."

Those decisions include what school will "look like" next year relative to COVID-19, a

matter on which, he said, districts are still awaiting guidance from the state.

"We have ideas what school will look like," he said. "It might look like this, it might look like that."

Leslie said the state hasn't given guidelines about the fall but that he anticipates more information in the next week or two.

"I'm hearing possibly next Thursday," he said. "I think all we need to do is look at the news to appreciate how difficult it's going to be to commit to those guidelines."

The declining number of cases of COVID-19 and hospitalizations in the state will help, he added.

Leslie said he'll be meeting regularly with the three other superintendents in the district, which covers Andover, Hebron and Marlborough.

"We're all in this together," he said. "Hopefully, whatever plans one school does will be in consort with the others."

Leslie is also keeping abreast of the construction on campus to reorient traffic patterns, he said. Contractors and the company overseeing the operation are keeping up communication with the district.

"It's going great; it's on schedule," he said.

When asked if he has any plans on retiring soon, Leslie said he plans to give the district at least two more years.

"I obviously I want to remain at what I'm doing as long as I feel I'm having an impact. I'm very fortunate to love RHAM and love the district," he said. "I'm not at all in that phase of my life that I'm looking at retirement."

A New Principal

When it came to naming his replacement at the high school, Leslie said there was no question it would be Bryzgel.

"It really, quite frankly, wasn't a matter of choosing, it was such a natural fit," Leslie said. "I can tell you with the staff, we were kind of inundated with, 'Well, it's going to be Penny, right?'"

Bryzgel has been assistant principal at the high school for seven years and is also an English teacher. Leslie, Bryzgel and Assistant Principal Chris Madder are a team, according to Leslie who said that Bryzgel works well with troubled and successful students.

An educator for 20 years, Bryzgel received her doctorate in education in December 2018 from Northeastern University and completed her dissertation in social emotional learning.

Prior to joining the team at RHAM, she was an assistant principal and English teacher at



Scott Leslie, left, officially started as interim schools superintendent this week, after 20 years as principal at RHAM High School. Penny Bryzgel, right, will take over as interim principal.

Somers High School.

Bryzgel decided to go into teaching because one of her teachers had such an impact on her.

"I had a teacher in 10th grade, an English teacher, that really inspired me and really helped me to understand who I really was in a way that teachers hadn't before and even family," she said.

When it came time to decide what she was going to do with her future she recalled how much that teacher had helped her and wanted to follow suit.

In working with students, she endeavors to build a rapport with them and their families. With students who have spent time in her office and were unable "to get through high school flawlessly," she always tries to build the relationship.

"I really wanted to work it down to the reason behind it and work through the situation," she said.

She recalled a student that was brought before the Board of Education for expulsion and said she had worked with the student and family throughout the situation.

"Despite the outcome, the mother came up to me and hugged me," she said. "It makes me realize that I'm not the bad guy; I'm just trying to help as best as I can."

When students visit the high school after they've graduated and moved on, she said she also realizes she helped them become productive members of society.

Bryzgel said she, Leslie and Madder work closely together.

"In the eyes of the staff they view us as the leaders," she said.

She said that, when Leslie is out of the building, she and Madder step up to make sure things remain smooth and that they are there for staff and students.

"When Scott's not here they feel comfortable coming to either of us," she said. "I think they do respond well to having a leadership team that can collaboratively work together, that it doesn't have to be any one person."

Bryzgel said she continues to learn and as an attendee and presenter at an upcoming virtual social emotional conference, she will bring initiative ideas back to the district.

Obituaries

Portland

Carol Ann Tetzlaff

Carol Ann Tetzlaff, 62 of Chaplin, passed away Wednesday, June 17, at Hartford Hospital. Carol was born in Hartford, the daughter of the late Whitey and Ellen Tetzlaff. She grew up in Portland and graduated from Portland High School.



Carol was an active member of The First Church of Christ, located in Mansfield. She was strong in her faith and committed to the Lord, generous with her time, her resources and her caring prayers for many years. She served as a deacon, helping to coordinate the communion bread and memorial receptions. Carol also managed the financial investments for the church and took great joy in the Wednesday book club.

Carol will be forever loved and missed by her sister Alice Guilmette and her husband Paul, her brother Tom Tetzlaff and his wife Gail, her sister Sue Johnson and her husband Ross, her sister Sherry Tetzlaff, along with many nieces, nephews, their children, her goddaughter Skyanne Robitaille, and her close friends.

In addition to both of her parents, Carol was predeceased by her sister Nancy Hilton and her husband Huddy.

Funeral services will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial contribution can be made in her name to a charity of your choice.

The Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, is in charge of arrangements.

Portland

James Andrew Sakal Jr.

James Andrew Sakal Jr., 62, of Portland, formerly of Phoenixville, Pa., passed away unexpectedly Monday, June 15. James was born March 4, 1958, to James Andrew Sakal Sr. and Helen Josephine Hejna in Phoenixville, Pa.



James was an avid tennis player for Phoenixville High School and also played football and baseball as a young boy. He loved coaching tennis and in his high school career, James was part of an award winning Ches-Mont League Championship tennis team. After graduating from Phoenixville High School in 1976, he went on to study at Penn State. James loved his gardens and grew award winning tomatoes and took pride in the peach tree him and his daughter planted in her backyard. He was a die-hard Eagles and Phillies fan. Above all, James loved his grandchildren and will forever be known as "pop pop."

James was predeceased by his mother and father, many aunts and uncles and other family members. He is survived by his sister, Helene (Sakal) Albright and her husband, Robert Albright; his son, Jordan; daughter Jennifer and her husband Edwin Morales; along with his grandchildren Emelia Rose Morales and Ethan Andrew Morales.

May he forever rest in peace. Burial will be at the convenience of the family in his hometown of Phoenixville, Pa.

A celebration of life will occur in Connecticut for all of those who cannot attend the burial.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Portland Food Bank, 7 Waverly Ave., Portland, CT 06480 or the American Diabetes Association, 2275 Silas Deane Highway, Suite 9, Rocky Hill, CT 06067.

To share memories or send condolences to the family, please visit www.doolittlefuneralservice.com.

Marlborough

Robert Alois Schneider

Robert Alois Schneider, 91, of Marlborough, formerly of Naugatuck, Cheshire and the Virginia shore, beloved husband of Mary K. (Neary) Schneider, passed away peacefully surrounded by his family Monday, June 22. Born Oct. 14, 1928 in Mount Vernon, N.Y., he was the son of the late George and Elizabeth (Stephan) Schneider.



Robert proudly served his country as an Army paratrooper during the Korean War. He was retired from the town of Naugatuck, where he had worked as a building inspector. After his retirement he and Mary moved to the Virginia shore before moving to Marlborough. He was a member of the East Hampton V.F.W., a member and Past President of the Kiwanis Club in Virginia, a member of the East Hampton Senior Center. Robert was very active in Scouting, having been one of the first male Girl Scout leaders.

Besides his wife Mary, he is survived by his son, Paul S. Schneider of Tennessee; his five daughters, Penny Piwowarski and husband William of New York, Amy Cappello and husband Paul of Naugatuck, Stephanie Schneider-Tattersall and husband Todd of East Hampton, Robin Durkee of Bristol, Susan Schneider of East Hampton; nine grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren, with one on the way.

Funeral services will be private at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to East Hampton Public Library, 105 Main St., East Hampton, CT 06424; or to East Hampton VFW Post 5095, 20 North Maple St., East Hampton, CT 06424; or to Richmond Memorial Library, 15 School Dr. Marlborough, CT 06447.

To leave online condolences, visit www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

East Hampton

Patricia Tozier

Patricia (Guerin) Tozier, 73, of Georgia, formerly of East Hampton, widow of the late Timothy Tozier, died peacefully Monday, June 15. Born May 24, 1947, in Greenfield, Mass., she was the daughter of the late Leonard and Geraldine (Burke) Guerin.



Patricia had worked as a dealer for Foxwoods Resort Casino for 20 years before her retirement. She loved to yell "BINGO!" Patricia enjoyed crafting especially ceramics, knitting, sewing and quilting.

She is survived by her three daughters, Dawn Wax of Georgia, Jennifer Davis and Heather Jennings, both of New Hampshire; her brother, Robert Guerin of New Hampshire; three grandchildren, Nicholas, Kaitlin, Emily; and a great-grandson, Tucker.

She was predeceased by her sister Virginia Guerin.

Graveside services were held Tuesday, June 23, in Lake View Cemetery in East Hampton.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to the Protector of Animals, 144 Main St., Unit O, East Hartford, CT 06118 or www.poinc.org.

To leave online condolences, visit www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Colchester

Francis Michael Pagliaccio

Francis Michael Pagliaccio, 88, of Colchester, passed away peacefully Tuesday, June 23, at Harrington Court. Born in Wildwood, N.J., Nov. 19, 1931, he was the son of the late Michael and Genovefa (Najka) Pagliaccio.



As a young man, Fran enlisted into the United States Navy, where he proudly served our country. He attended the Ward School of Electronics where he learned skills that helped in his employment with Colchester Tool & Dye, United Nuclear, Electric Boat, and Pratt & Whitney.

On April 28, 1956, Fran married the love of his life, Dorothy Lenore Polanski. The couple made their home and raised their family in Colchester.

Fran was an avid outdoorsman who enjoyed skeet shooting and hunting with his beloved dog, Duke. He also enjoyed both freshwater and ocean fishing; even teaching his grandchildren how to crab. Fran was a member of the Colchester Fish & Game Club and the NRA. He was a communicant of St. Andrew Church.

In addition to his beloved wife of over 64 years, Fran will be forever loved and missed by his daughters, Lisa and her husband Keith Deslandes and Andrea and her husband Stephen Sharpe; his grandchildren, Brandon Sharpe, Christopher Deslandes, Christine Sharpe, and Katherine Deslandes; great-grandson, Aiden Sharpe; as well as numerous extended family members and friends.

The family would also like to give a heartfelt thank you to Sandy, Carol, and the rest of the staff at Harrington court for their compassionate care of Francis during his stay at their facility.

A memorial service will be held at the Colchester Fish and Game Club, Old Amston Road, Colchester, Saturday, June 27, at 11 a.m., followed by a reception.

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

Portland

Lawrence J. Brown

Lawrence J. Brown, 62, of Middletown, formerly of Portland, beloved husband and father, passed away surrounded by his family at home Wednesday, June 17, as a result of FTD (frontotemporal dementia). He persevered through his illness for over a decade with courage and grace.

Larry was born June 19, 1957, the eldest son of the late Earl and Janet Brown.

Larry had an unwavering work ethic that he applied to all that he did. He demonstrated this during his nearly 40 years working for Superior Electric and Kaman Corporation.

Larry was active in his community, volunteering his time to countless public school events, coaching youth sports teams, and being a devoted member of his parish, St. Pius X Church.

He enjoyed the simple things in life, such as sitting around a campfire with close friends, attending local agricultural fairs, and working countless hours in his yard.

Left to honor and cherish Larry's memory is his wife of 35 years, Susan; his daughter, Sarah; and his son, Nathaniel. He is also survived by two brothers and their spouses, Richard and Mary Brown, and Michael and Lori Brown; his mother-in-law, Clara Daboll; his brother-in-law, Richard Parker; his goddaughters, Caitlin Brown Charest and Liliana Urso; as well as several nieces and nephews.

In addition, he leaves behind many extended family members including dear cousins, special aunts and true friends who provided unconditional love, prayers, and support throughout his illness.

The family would like to thank the hardworking staff at Arden Courts of Farmington for providing him with a loving and fun-filled home. They would also like to acknowledge the care, compassion, and respect shown to Larry by his countless medical providers.

Last but not least, Susan, Sarah, and Nathaniel would like to extend their deepest gratitude to the Connecticut Frontotemporal Dementia Foundation, as they offered guidance, knowledge, and heartfelt support throughout his final years.

There was a graveside service Monday, June 22, at Pine Grove Cemetery in Middletown. A memorial Mass and celebration of life will be announced at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation in Larry's memory to The Connecticut Frontotemporal Dementia Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box 462, Marion, CT 06444. For more information on FTD, please visit www.theftd.org.

To share memories or send condolences to the family, please visit www.doolittlefuneralservice.com.