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Darrell Netto, center, stands with some of his campers at Blish Park last Friday, July 27. This summer the camp is celebrating its 25th anniversary.

Marlborough Camp Celebrating Silver Anniversary

by Sarah McCoy

Kids are dripping with a combination of sweat and water, rubber balls are flying across the bombardment line and arts and crafts projects are lining picnic tables.

It must be summer at Netto's Camp.

For the past 25 years Darrell Netto has run Netto's camp for Marlborough elementary school students. Each year parents rush to sign their child up for the hottest ticket around, a chance to run, swim, create and play with the rest of their friends. This year is no different.

Netto must have found a recipe worth keeping.

"The kids don't change. The games they play don't change. All that's changed is that I'm a lot older than I want to be," he said with a laugh.

In 1982, Netto worked as the camp director for the Hebron Parks and Recreation Department when neighboring Marlborough called him in.

"Marlborough wanted to start up a summer camp of their own, and asked me to make a presentation on how to get it up and running," he said.

He outlined some steps for the town and planned to return to Hebron. But his plans took a turn when Marlborough asked him to stay on board and direct the camp.

"I was already teaching at the school, so I knew the kids," Netto said. "Staying in town just made sense."

At that point he had been teaching in town for nine years and had been running an indoor soccer program for three years. Netto was well-known among the students for his outgoing and bubbly personality and well liked amongst parents for his eagerness to help kids. He seemed the perfect fit for Marlborough's first summer camp.

Twenty-five years later, he still is.

Students look to him to start the games of Capture the Flag. They come to him with their cuts and bruises. And they tell him when someone else has done them wrong. Even after 25 years, Netto enjoys these responsibilities. He relishes the opportunities to play with the kids. He can apply Band-Aids and wipe away tears.

And he has learned how to walk the fine line between role model and disciplinarian. "You need both," he said. "But the trick is to let the kids see you as their friend."

Not everything about Netto's Camp is the same as it was a quarter century ago. Initially, Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall Elementary School hosted the camp. It stayed this way for more than 15 years, until the school underwent its most recent renovations. At that point, Netto and his campers moved across town to the fields and fire station along West Road.

Even though the construction project

is now complete, Netto's Camp is only held at the elementary school three days a week. The other two days, it takes place at Blish Park.

Though it locates here, campers' experiences aren't limited strictly to Marlborough. As he has done in the past, Netto runs field trips each week. Campers go all over the state, from Newgate Prison in East Granby to Mystic Seaport, and have also taken in such sights as Ocean Beach Park in New London and the Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, MA.

But for Netto, one of the best parts about camp is watching the kids grow. Students can attend camp the summer before they enter first grade and can continue until the summer before sixth grade. In those five years, Netto says, he has seen kids mature and come into their own.

And it seems many aren't ready to go even when they've outgrown the program. Over half of the counselors at camp were once campers themselves.

To celebrate the camp's silver anniversary, Netto has been throwing a party each week for the campers. Last week the kids had pizza and cake, and next week there will be a cookout. The hoard of elementary school-age campers might not understand the longevity of 25 years, but they're certainly not about to turn down pizza and dessert.

Bransfield Seeking Reelection, Unopposed in Portland

by Michael McCoy

Susan Bransfield has been the town's First Selectwoman since November 2003, and it looks like she'll continue in that office for at least a couple more years.

The Democratic Town Committee (DTC) endorsed its slate of candidates for the November election Monday, July 23, at the town's senior center.

The Democrats unanimously endorsed Bransfield to run for another two-year term. And, as the *Rivereast* reported last week, the Republican Town Committee (RTC) at its caucus did not select anyone to run for First Selectman on the GOP slate.

Before the caucus, Bransfield spoke about a number of issues she sees as important during her new term, such as road construction and maintenance, due to development in town.

Bransfield also said she hopes to see steps taken in the development of a riverfront park that would begin on Brownstone Avenue.

"We want to make it available to people, but not turn it over to private hands," she said. "The Brownstone Festival is attempting to get people down there to see what's going on."

This year, the annual festival will be held on Saturday, Sept. 15.

Bransfield said the water system is in need of improvements in the coming years. "It's wonderful to have a water system, but it's getting old," she said. "We've had several water mains break."

Also, she added, she wants to continue working with the Clean Energy Task Force. "They do a lot to increase awareness," she said.

Bransfield said the town is also considering investing in new software for the finance department. "We're spending people's money all the time, and they should be able to easily see how that money is spent," she said.

As for the Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC), Bransfield said, commission members are "in the middle of rewriting the zoning regulations so the rules will match up with the Plan of Conservation and Development." The PZC adopted a new Plan of Conservation and Development last year, something that had not been done since the late 1960s.

Bransfield also said she was looking ahead to such ongoing projects as the Brownstone Exploration and Discovery Park and the Portland Town Center endeavor, which is still in its infancy, as well as a prospective boat launch.

While she looked towards the future, Bransfield also reflected on the past, and commended the work of many town employees and volunteers.

"I can't say enough good things about our

10-person police department, our all-volunteer fire department, and our emergency team," she said. "We couldn't afford the emergency medical and the fire protection that our volunteers provide under Chief [Robert] Shea. Our police department has a high crime solve rate; it's a 24-hour-a-day force."

Bransfield went on to praise such departments as the library and youth services. And, she added, "What I've tried to do at town hall is create a team effort," singling out such employees as Youth Services Director Mary Pont, Interim Town Planner Deanna Rhodes, Building Official Lincoln White, Fire Marshall Gary Ouellette, Public Works Supervisor Rick Kelsey, and Finance Director Rob Buden.

This is the second straight election that the Republicans have not endorsed a candidate for First Selectman.

"Basically, there wasn't anybody that was qualified that was interested," RTC chairwoman Cindy Varicchio said. "It's a big commitment and for some people, it's a cut in pay. We didn't have anyone step up to the plate. It's disappointing, but we're confident that we will find someone two years from now."

The rest of the Democratic ticket includes incumbent Board of Selectmen members Mark Finkelstein, Brian Flood, Sharon Peters Gibala and Kathleen Richards, all running for re-election.

"I'm thrilled that they're agreeing to run again," Bransfield said. "I think it's a pretty good management team."

She said Finkelstein, who serves as Deputy First Selectman, is a chief financial officer for a health care facility, Richards is vice president of Henkels & McCoy, and Flood and Gibala are attorneys.

Endorsed for re-election to the Board of Education were Christopher Phelps and Mary Anne Rode. Mary H. Flood will run on the ticket for the Board of Assessment Appeals, alongside longtime member Richard P. Murphy this year. Gloria Gdovin and Ben Srb will also seek to retain their seats on the Zoning Board of Appeals, and Bernadette Dillon will run for re-election to Town Clerk, a role she has had for 30 years. Dillon is also acting chair of the DTC, a position that hasn't been formally filled since Steve Kinsella gave it up after winning the race for Judge of Probate last November.

Around 25 people attended that gathering, with everyone voting unanimously to endorse the candidates. Former selectman Tom Flood served as chairman of the Democrats' nominating committee.

Back to the Drawing Board for Colchester Town Budget

by Jim Salemi

With a third straight budget defeat behind them, members of the Board of Finance Tuesday directed town department heads and Board of Education members to look at their proposed 2007-08 spending plans one more time.

The finance board is poised to slash the tax rate to reflect a zero-mil increase, which translates to 0.3 mils or roughly \$400,000 in cuts in spending. But, rather than making a decision on a cut, finance board members instead urged town departments to look for any cost savings that might be had as a last-ditch effort to possibly save something regarded as "essential" by the respective departments.

The Board of Finance will hold a public information meeting on the next budget on Thursday, Sept. 6.

Voters have rejected three proposed 2007-08 budgets at referendum. The last defeat, which came July 24, was by a wider margin than the second one. Tax bills were mailed out at the beginning of the month – the first tax bills since revaluation was completed earlier this year.

A significant number of residents – almost half – saw increases in their property values, and by extension, their tax assessments. Some saw significant increases, as demand for property in the town has skyrocketed over the past five years, driving up values. Property values are determined in revaluation by what buyers are willing to pay for property in a given area.

"The consensus was to start the process all over again," Board of Finance chairman Bruce Hayn said after the meeting.

In response to a question by school board member Mary Lynn Burke, regarding how the cuts will be divvied between the town and the school district budgets, Hayn said,

"There is no dollar amount to cut for the town or the Board of Education at this time. At minimum, there has to be a zero-mil increase, in my opinion. It will take \$400,000 to get to zero. It's going to be hard. ... I urge you to re-evaluate your entire budget and make sure nothing has changed.

"At this point we don't know [how the cuts will be divvied]," Hayn continued. "If we can only cut \$150,000 from the town, for example, then yes, the remainder will be coming from the school [budget]."

Hayn said there have been changes in spending and fund balances since the initial budget was presented in March. For example, he said workman's compensation claims are down, which leaves more money in that account. On the other hand, the town maintenance department is seeing its funds dwindle as it makes repairs to an older truck that was slated to be replaced in the presented budget.

The Board of Education is set to meet Wednesday, Aug. 15, to work on trimming its budget. Among some of the first cuts being considered are sports at the high school, including

golf, cross country, tennis and freshman soccer.

The school system, according to Superintendent of Schools Karen Loiselle, may possibly cut a third grade teacher, depending on the amount the school board is directed to trim from its budget.

Loiselle told the finance board that her ability to sign on teachers is severely restricted since she can't guarantee a salary without an approved budget.

"Our inability to offer permanent contracts is making candidates uneasy. We're looking at a third-grade teacher. The class size might go up if we have to cut the position," she said.

While the majority of citizens present at the meeting supported further reductions to the budget and some letters to newspapers and the finance board were in support of reducing the budget up to three mils, Hayn said it would be "devastating" to cut that much.

"We have a responsibility to all taxpayers," he said. "Cutting one, two, three mils would not be responsible. We might as well close the library. I consider the library essential."

Resident Bob Wilson, who previously served on the education board and will be running for a seat on the board again in November, said a 0.3 mil reduction will have a scant effect on tax bills with significant increases.

"No matter what you do, you won't satisfy people who have been hit hard with 30, 40, 60-percent increases in their revaluations," he said.

"In order to adjust down that far you will have to drop four-to-eight mils. That's a five-to \$9 million reduction."

Wilson also reminded the board that the town will be subject to penalties by the state if the education budget is cut too deeply, as state grants for education must be used for education.

"I think you have to go to 23 mils. Unless you take an unbelievable amount out of the town budget, you won't get down to what people want," he said.

"I've been hearing people can't afford it," said resident Steven Schuster. "It's difficult for someone to say that, but that's what I'm hearing. Last weekend I read there were 20 more houses foreclosed on in Colchester. I can't imagine being foreclosed. It must be devastating. I don't know what the solution is. Colchester has a problem."

While most taxpayers at the meeting advocated budget reductions, several residents urged the board not to slash education.

"When do we stop (cutting)? Is there any cutoff point or can we keep cutting until we shut down school buildings?" resident Renie Besaw asked the board.

Another resident expressed concern about reallocating education funds.

"There's not enough curriculum, and classes have been slashed," the woman said. "Now we're cutting sports. That's unfair."

Edgemere II Hopes to Spearhead Lake Effort in East Hampton

by Michael McCoy

Expressing a desire to ease the burden on Lake Pocotopaug, the Board of Directors of a North Main Street condominium complex recently canceled their contract with a popular lawn fertilizing company.

The five-member Board of Directors for Edgemere II voted unanimously in May to end their 10-year contract with TruGreen. The 120-unit condo complex is located near Lake Pocotopaug, and the directors said fertilizers including phosphorous are a chief cause of algae blooms, a problem that has become fairly severe in the lake.

Board member Kristen O'Brien, who lives at Edgemere with her husband Sean and yellow Labrador Georgia, said, "My opinion is if we reach out to the community, it's easier to get people involved if you're taking the initiative to teach them."

Board member Dave Korman said the board's hope "is that if we take the initiative, people will follow suit." While the board is severing its TruGreen ties, it cannot prohibit residents from treating their own lawns.

Korman said while members of the Board of Directors had suggested cutting TruGreen in the past, no serious discussion began until May. He said having the greenest lawn possible is nice, but, "We're willing to give up whatever that was doing for us."

O'Brien said the constant presence of signs on lawns warning people off chemicals discouraged her from enjoying her yard. "I couldn't feel comfortable having a picnic outside," she said. "I put paw protectors on my dog."

Korman said synthetic chemicals often turn out to be dangerous, regardless of the amount. "How many times do they say, 'Well, this much is okay?'" he said. "And 50 years later they say, 'Well, it wasn't OK.'"

Despite her fervor for cleaning up the lake,

O'Brien said she knows Edgemere II's step is a relatively small one. "This is a project that will take years," she said. Korman added, "As a board we can only do so much. As a community, we can do more. This is an initiative by this board to hopefully open some eyes. We're truly excited about it."

Korman said many people rationalize away responsibility for the lake's condition. "They make it sound like the lake did it itself, not man," he said. "I think they look to blame a natural cause."

"My feeling is we are too close to the lake to be dumping pesticides in there," he added, "and there are people living a lot closer."

Like O'Brien, Korman also has pets: two cats named TC and Zipper. He has been a part of the complex for 12 years.

Lake Pocotopaug Commission (LPC) vice chairman John Ciriello agreed that phosphorous is harming the lake and said, "You don't really need that to have a good lawn."

Ciriello praised the Edgemere II Board of Directors for its decision, and said he felt it could be a good idea for homeowners all over town.

"We all live in a watershed," Ciriello said. "A lot of people forget that."

Ciriello advocated organic lawns, saying, "Basically, when you cut your lawn, you can have a nice green lawn just from leaving the clippings."

He added, "Some people want as green as green can be. They want a lawn without weeds. That's fine if you're in England."

Ultimately, Ciriello said, "You want to keep phosphorus out of the lake. [Edgemere II's] doing the lake a lot of good."

LPC chairman Robert Hart said most lawn fertilizers are made up of nitrogen, phosphorous, and potassium. But, he said, it's only the phosphorous that harms the lake.



The Board of Directors at Edgemere II, a North Main Street condominium complex, has severed its relationship with a lawn fertilizing company in an effort to help clean up Lake Pocotopaug.

Town Manager Alan Bergren praised the actions of the condo complex's Board of Directors, saying, "I find Edgemere II's steps good ones for everyone to emulate."

Bergren also praised the LPC for its efforts. "Our Lake Commission has been working very diligently on education programs," he said. "It's kind of a number one priority for the town."

Bergren said the Inland Wetlands Commission began exploring the possibility of prohibition of phosphorous including agents. He said

more details would be coming and said Inland Wetlands plans to send the issue to the Town Council later this year.

Ciriello said anyone interested is welcome at the Lake Commission meetings, which are held the third Thursday of each month in the Town Hall's Eaton E. Smith Meeting Room at 7 p.m. The next meeting is Aug. 16. Ciriello mentioned that the commission tries to bring in a guest speaker for all meetings.



Members of local and national environmental organizations recently removed a dam from Raymond Brook, located in the Amston section of town. At left, contractor Carl Bender checks out the dam, and at right, how the brook looks now.

Group Removes Dam On Raymond Brook in Hebron

Members of local and national environmental organizations recently removed a dam from Raymond Brook, a move they feel will eventually allow the brook to return to its natural state.

Starting July 19, members of the Connecticut River Watershed Council, American Rivers, The Nature Conservancy, NOAA Restoration Center and the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, Inland Fisheries Division, began removing the four-foot man-made dam located on Raymond Brook, which is in the Amston part of town and is a tributary to the Jeremy, which in turn is a tributary to the Salmon rivers.

The project, which was made possible through a \$25,000 grant from NOAA (the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) wrapped up last Friday, July 27.

Members of the groups say the removal of the dam means that over time the brook will

return to its natural state, allowing fish to pass in both directions and providing other species, such as freshwater mussels, with a higher-quality habitat.

The dam was initially put in to form a swimming pool at the site about 50 years ago, for a camp that operated there at that time, according to Laura Wildman, director of river science with American Rivers, which provided field investigation and engineering services for the project.

"This small dam blocked a huge amount, over 16 miles, of upstream riverine habitat within the Salmon River watershed," said Brian Murphy, senior fisheries habitat biologist with the CT DEP Inland Fisheries Division, the lead agency responsible for making this project happen. "With its removal, juvenile Atlantic salmon, American eel and native resident riv-

erine species such as brook trout will now be able to access a more complete suite of instream habitats necessary for survival."

Wildman said the removal of the dam results in the reconnection of 41 miles of high-quality habitat.

"Rivers and streams throughout New England are fragmented by dams," she said. "Raymond Brook dam is just one of thousands of small dams that no longer serve a purpose. ... By removing these remnant structures from our rivers, our communities can once again experience abundant fisheries and healthy rivers. This project is a great example of how landowners, conservation groups and agencies can work together to restore our region's natural heritage."

The dam owner, Joseph Ierna, tired of the liability associated with a deteriorating dam and

looking to turn a sand-filled pond back into a stream, was supportive of the restoration project, Wildman said.

"The diversity of species found in the brook upstream and downstream of the dam made removing it an easy decision for us to make," said Shelley Green, program director for The Nature Conservancy, which played an integral role in funding and conducting a mussel survey at the site. "We were also very lucky to have the owner of the dam willing to have it removed."

Megan Hearne, River Steward with the Connecticut River Watershed Council, the project manager for removal of the dam, said the council is "proud to continue its 10 years of success in restoring habitat connections for migratory fish. Removing a dam restores a river's integrity; I'm looking forward to seeing fish swim through there for the first time in 50 years."

Arrests Made in RHAM Vandalism Case

by Sarah McCoy

Three arrests have been made, and a fourth is expected, in connection with a June vandalism case at RHAM High School, police said.

David M. Burg, 18, of 103 Jerry Daniels Rd., Marlborough, was arrested and charged with conspiracy to commit first-degree criminal mischief and conspiracy to commit third-degree burglary, police said.

Police said the charges stemmed from a June 14 incident at RHAM High School. During the incident, Superintendent of Schools Robert Siminski said, "multiple" students allegedly painted on the floor of the atrium and squirted glue inside the key wells of door locks in the school.

About \$5,000 worth of damage was done to the school, police said. RHAM High School serves students in Andover, Hebron and Marlborough.

Siminski said the students, whose names and

ages he would not disclose, are "being disciplined appropriately and coinciding with the Board [of Education's] policy."

The paint on the atrium floor was removed the night of the incident and new door locks have already been ordered. Siminski said he expects the lock installation to be completed next week.

Burg, who is a RHAM High School graduate, is free on \$5,000 bail, police said, and is scheduled to be in court on Aug. 8.

According to state police, two other arrests have also been made in connection with the case. Coby Boyce, 18, of 21 Roberts Rd., Marlborough, was charged with third-degree burglary and third-degree criminal mischief, police said. Boyce is also a RHAM High School graduate. The name of the third arrestee was not released.

All three were due in court Aug. 8, police said, who added that they expect another arrest to be made in this case.

Andover Attorney: Petitions 'Without Cause'

by Jim Salemi

The Board of Selectmen Wednesday took no action on two petitions concerning the approved raise for First Selectman Robert Burbank, after learning that, in the opinion of the town attorney, the petitions are "without cause."

Burbank's raise was approved at town meeting May 10, by a single vote. It brought his annual salary to \$45,000. But two petitions were circulated following the approval for the raise, one calling for another vote, and another, in response to the first, to let the vote stand.

According to the opinion drafted for the Board of Selectmen, there are no provisions in state statutes or the town charter allowing a recall of the approval by petition.

Initially, the requested raise would have brought the salary to \$47,240, but that was shot down by a vote of 36-31.

Burbank noted that the petition supporting the approval of the pay increase garnered more signatures than the one to hold another vote on the issue. He said most prior selectmen signed the petition to let the vote stand, and former and sitting finance board members also supported the raise.

A raise for the town clerk that would bring the salary for that office to \$39,900, was also approved at the May 10 meeting, and that vote went unchallenged.

Shea Stepping Down as Hebron Finance Board Chair

by Sarah McCoy

Citing a new job and family reasons, Brendan Shea has stepped down as chairman of the Board of Finance.

Shea stepped down at a special meeting of the board last Thursday, July 26; he will continue to serve as a board member. Finance board vice chairman Michael Hazel was unanimously elected the new chair.

Shea, a Republican, has been on the Board of Finance (BOF) for the past six years, and has been chairman the last four years.

Hazel, on the other hand, is a relative newcomer to the BOF. The Republican joined the board last fall, when he was appointed to fill a vacancy. He works as a CPA for The Hartford and also serves on the board of trustees

and as chairman of the finance committee for a Hartford nonprofit organization, which he did not name. Hazel came to Hebron three years ago, and before that served on the Board of Finance in Colchester.

"Mike [Hazel] has a strong background in finance, experience on a Board of Finance in a neighboring town, and has showed great leadership on our board," Shea said after the meeting. "It is no surprise, to me, that his appointment was unanimous."

Also at the meeting, Philip LoBianco was elected the board's new vice chairman. LoBianco, a Republican, was also an appointee to the board, and previously served on the local Board of Education.

Portland Woman Arrested On Animal Cruelty Charges

A Main Street woman was arrested by Portland police last Thursday, nearly a month after officers allegedly discovered animals in her apartment living in their own urine and feces.

Briana Dekorte, 35, of 224 Main St., was arrested July 26 and charged with cruelty to animals, police said.

According to police, on June 30 officers responded to the Main Street address to a report of strong odor coming from an apartment, along with the presence of "numerous" flies. Upon opening the apartment door, police said, officers immediately detected a strong odor of animal urine and feces.

While police said they found no one inside the apartment, they did turn up "a variety of animals" living both in and out of their cages. Portland Animal Control was contacted and "several" animals were seized, police said.

Police said all of the animals appeared to

be living in urine and feces, and that two animals were found dead inside their cages. No food was visible, police said, but some of the animals had water.

According to police, the apartment housed "a number" of animals, including hamsters, rats, mice, rabbits, a parakeet, a dove, a snapping turtle, and four adult cats. Since two of the animals had already died, and the conditions of the live animals' cages were unsuitable, all of the animals were removed from the home, police said.

Police said Dekorte was unavailable at the time of the seizures, so an arrest warrant was applied for, and last Thursday she was arrested.

Dekorte was released on a \$250 non-surety bond, police said, and is due in court in Middletown Aug. 14. All of the seized animals will remain under the care of Portland Animal Control pending direction from the court, police said.



The town recently purchased a 2000 Kenworth T800 tri-axle dump truck. The truck is now the largest the town owns and will be used to haul asphalt, gravel, sand, and salt around town.

Meet the New Dump Truck in Hebron

by Sarah McCoy

"It does what three other trucks used to do." That's how Public Works Director Andy Tierney described the 2000 Kenworth T800, a tri-axle dump truck that is the newest addition to the town's Public Works fleet.

The largest vehicle the town owns, this dump truck holds 24 tons of asphalt, sand, salt, or whatever else Tierney needs. Before last week, the largest truck in Hebron could only hold 16 tons.

The town purchased the truck at the beginning of the month. Since the truck is used, the town only spent \$82,000 on it, as opposed to \$160,000 for a new model. The monies were appropriated from the Capital Improvement Program budget.

Last week the Public Works department put the truck to work as they paved Hall Road and

Carriage Drive. The truck carried asphalt from the Old Colchester Road garage to the work sites.

"I used to have three trucks, with three men, and three times the gas out there with asphalt," Tierney said. "This way we can work more efficiently. It makes the job go that much faster."

Next week the truck will again be used to haul asphalt, this time as Public Works repaves Abby Drive. Once winter hits, Tierney said, the truck's primary function will be to transport the salt/sand mix used for the roadways.

When the town purchased the tri-axle from Tri-State Diesel in Sparrowbush, NY, the cab was bright blue. Tierney opted to keep it this way, rather than paint it orange, the signature color for the Hebron Public Works fleet.

"I can't paint it," he said. "It's just too nice."

Colchester Police News

7/20—Police say they are investigating a break-in to a car parked at the Airline Trail parking lot on Bull Hill Road. The driver's side window was smashed and a wallet was reported stolen, according to police.

7/22—Police say they are investigating two car break-ins to cars parked in driveways off Cabin Road. Anyone with any information is asked to call 537-7555, ext. 4071.

7/23—Ralph A. Palozzi, 47, of 147 South Main St., Apt. R, was arrested for disorderly conduct and third degree assault following an alleged domestic dispute, according to police.

7/24—Jeremy C. Broad, 23, of 36 Ridgeview Dr., East Hampton, was arrested for violating a protective order and criminal trespassing, according to police.

7/27—Deshond R. Griffin, 34, of New Britain, was arrested for DWI, reckless driving, failure to stay in her lane, failure to obey an officer's signal, theft of a license plate, carrying an improper license, failure to carry minimum insurance and driving an unregistered motor vehicle, according to police.

7/27—Police say they are investigating the theft of handguns from a Windham Avenue residence. The theft occurred between July 11th and July 27th, according to police.

7/27—Janice Dubay, 46, of Lebanon, was arrested for DWI and failure to stay in her lane, according to police.

7/27—Joseph Lepac, 50, of 102 Bull Hill Rd., was arrested for failure to wear his seat belt and DWI, according to police.

7/28—Bernard Jarzabek, 47, of 16 Myrtle Rd., Portland, was arrested for illegal use of high-beams and possession of cocaine, according to police.

7/28—Trevor Carpenter, 25, of 7 Phoenix Dr., and Dean Molinari, 20, of 343 Windham Ave., were arrested for criminal mischief after allegedly damaging mailboxes, according to police.

7/29—Vaughn Evans, 59, of Westchester Rd., was arrested for breach of peace, threatening, failure to obey an officer's signal and speeding, according to police.

7/31—Shaun Weeks, of Middletown, was arrested on four warrants charging him with three burglaries on Paper Mill Road, police report. Weeks was charged with four counts of third-degree burglary, two counts of second-degree larceny, two counts of third-degree larceny, two counts of fifth-degree larceny and two counts each of first, second and third-degree criminal mischief, according to police.



State police are investigating the reported armed robbery of the Bank of America branch in town. The incident occurred shortly after 3 p.m. last Thursday, July 26, police said.

Marlborough Bank of America Robbed

by Sarah McCoy

An armed man robbed the Bank of America on East Hampton Road last Thursday, July 26, according to state police.

The individual entered the bank shortly after 3 p.m. and approached the teller counter, police said. According to police, the man brandished a handgun and demanded money, and then left the bank on a motorcycle.

The motorcycle is described as a newer-style

racing model, police said, and is possibly cobalt blue in color. At the time of the robbery the subject wore a black helmet, black jacket, gloves, and jeans, police said.

State police Troop K in Colchester is currently investigating the incident and ask anyone with information to call Detective DelGrosso at 537-7522.

East Hampton Police News

7/17 — David J. Smith, 56, of 310 Boston Post Rd., Waterford, was issued a ticket for following too closely, East Hampton police say.

7/18 — Sebastiano Nane, 19, of 29 Lakewood Rd., and Robert Metoyer, 52, of 1096 Stafford Ave., Bristol, were involved in a two-vehicle accident at the intersection of Rt. 16 and Hog Hill Rd., police say. Nane was issued a ticket for failure to obey a stop sign, according to police.

7/20 — Mark Kneeland, 24, of 82 Main St., was arrested pursuant to a warrant for third-degree assault and second-degree breach of peace, police say.

7/20 — Sarah M. Shook, 30, of 52 White Birch Rd., was arrested for operating under the influence of alcohol, police say.

7/20 — Dawn Kochuk, 59, of 17 Middletown Ave., was arrested for interfering with a police officer and traveling unreasonably fast, police say.

7/20 — James F. Kochuk, 20, of 17 Middletown Ave., was arrested for fourth-degree larceny and interfering with police, police say.

7/21 — Todd J. Tyborski, 19, of 69 Parker

Hill Rd., Killingworth, and Daniel Scranton, 50, of 28 West High St., were involved in a two-vehicle accident on Rt. 66, police say. Tyborski was arrested for operating an unregistered motor vehicle, misuse of plates, operating without insurance, evading responsibility and passing on the right, according to police.

7/22 — Michael Mullen Jr., 21, of 66 Strongs Ave., Portland, and Karen Wassermann, 60, of 88 Ridgewood Ave., Waterford, were involved in a two-vehicle accident on Rt. 16, 200 feet east of Main Street, police say. Mullen was arrested for following too closely and operating under suspension, according to police.

7/23 — Donald B. Pecor, 58, of 68 Green Briar Rd., Glastonbury, was arrested pursuant to a warrant on charges of disorderly conduct and third-degree assault, police say.

7/24 — Elias R. Rodriguez, 24, of 44 Auburn Knoll, was arrested pursuant to a warrant on charges of operating under the influence of alcohol, failure to drive right and traveling too fast for conditions, police say.

7/25 — Christopher Taylor, 32, of 20 Lowell Rd., was issued a ticket for traveling too fast, according to police.

Marlborough Police News

7/20—Police say they are investigating the theft of three cartons of cigarettes from a store on North Main Street. According to police, the cartons were taken off the front counter by a male, who ran to a waiting car. The car was seen entering Route 2 west, police say.

7/20—Police say they are investigating a suspicious incident where a man was seen in a residential back yard by a homeowner. When the homeowner approached him, he fled to a car parked on Park Road near Fuller Road, police report, adding that the man was described as six feet in height and wearing an olive colored windbreaker.

ored windbreaker.

7/22—Fred Karaballi, 43, of Queens, NY, was arrested for DWI and failure to stay in his lane, according to police.

7/31—Jeremy Coelho, 19, of Colchester, was arrested for possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of narcotics, possession of a weapon in a motor vehicle and failure to display a license plate, according to police.

7/31—Dana Hobbs, 39, of Rocky Hill, was arrested for issuing a bad check, according to police.

Colchester Resident Killed in Tractor Accident

A Taylor Road resident was killed Saturday, July 28, after his tractor was struck by a trailer being towed by a pickup truck, state police said.

Police said Charles Probus, 63, was at the end of his driveway at 144 Taylor Rd. when his Kubota tractor, equipped with a front loader and backhoe, entered the roadway.

David Gesiak, 35, of 36 Esther Ln., Colchester, tried avoiding the tractor by ma-

neuversing his 2006 Chevy Silverado into the opposite lane. But the box trailer the truck was towing caught the tractor's front loader and knocked Probus off of the machine, police said.

Emergency responders brought Probus to the Middlesex Hospital Medical Center in Marlborough, where he was pronounced dead, according to police. Probus' obituary appears on Page 16.

Hebron Police News

7/20—Zadwga Newton, 41, of Bolton, was arrested for DWI and failure to stay in his lane, according to police.

7/31—A 17-year-old youthful offender was arrested for conspiracy to commit burglary, third degree burglary and conspiracy to commit criminal mischief, according to police.

Portland Police News

7/23 — Two males, ages 15 and 16, were arrested and charged with criminal trespass and attempted larceny from a motor vehicle, according to police.

7/24 — Tina Burbee, 42, of 4 Mannz St., Apt. 2, Hartford, was charged with insufficient insurance, police report.

Obituaries

Colchester

John Bashiloff

John Bashiloff, 89, of Colchester, passed away quietly and gently on May 26, while in Tampa, FL. He was predeceased by his wife of 49 years, Stella Olubowic. He leaves behind his companion of 20 years, Olga Seaberg; his daughters, Peggyann Willasch, Sandra Lee Holmich, Sally Ann Rich and Jayne Felciano; six grandchildren; and his sister, Mary Raczewski. He lived his entire life in Colchester and was a graduate of Bacon Academy.

He enlisted in the Navy in 1943 and served as a Seabee in the South Pacific during World War II. As his father before him, he was a carpenter/builder, and he was well known throughout the state for his many accomplishments: large projects such as town halls, schools, nursing homes, churches, apartment buildings; and smaller projects such as renovation of the Colchester Congregational Church steeple and furniture-making. His love of wood-working continued to the end of his days.

He became a resident of Colchester Commons Retirement Community in 1988 and served on its Board of Directors. He spearheaded the modernization of the Commons' water system, and aided many of the residents with maintenance and repair projects. He loved to polka dance and traveled around the country to festivals. He hunted and trapped since boyhood; and he especially enjoyed fishing, joining a group of town regulars for over 40 years on the annual trek to the Miramichi River in Canada for salmon. John's zest for life, positive outlook and integrity has served as an example to all who knew him, and his memory will never grow old to those who loved him.

There will be a calling hour at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 18, at Belmont Funeral Home on South Main Street, Colchester, followed by a memorial service at noon at St. Andrew's Catholic Church. Interment will be at New St. Andrew's Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Colchester Fish & Game Club Scholarship Fund, Old Amston Road, Colchester, CT 06415 or to LifePath Hospice, 12973 Telecom Parkway, Suite 100, Temple Terrace, FL 33637.

East Hampton

Zenon Lloyd Vernik

Zenon Lloyd Vernik died on Monday, July 23, in Zephyrhills, FL. He moved to Zephyrhills, FL, from East Hampton in 1988. He was a U.S. Navy veteran. He is survived by his wife, Julia Vernik; sons, Steven, Victor, and Bruce Vernik; granddaughter, Samantha Vernik and grandson, Jesse Vernik; also a great granddaughter, Gianna Violette; as well as a brother, Leonard Vernik. There are no calling hours. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Hernando Pasco Hospice 37445 Clinton Ave., Dade City, FL.

Portland

Eleanor Irene Scionti

Eleanor Irene (Wawroski) Scionti, wife of the late Louis J. Scionti died Tuesday, July 24, at Middlesex Memorial Hospital. She was a Portland resident for 55 years. Born in Hamtramck, MI, in 1917, she was the daughter of the late Anthony Wawroski and Victoria (Chiemlecka) Wawroski. She was the sister of the late Frank Wawroski of Moodus.

She is survived by a son, Anthony Scionti and his wife Stephanie of Middletown; a daughter, Lauretta Scionti and her husband Jack Hetzel of Portland; grandson Anthony Gerrits of New York City, grandson Matthew Gerrits and his wife Jamie; and great-granddaughter, Maya of Farmington. There will be no calling hours and burial will be at the convenience of the family. A memorial funeral mass will be celebrated at St. Sebastian's Church on August 4, at 10 a.m. Those who wish may make a memorial contribution to Middlesex Memorial Hospice, 28 Crescent Street, Middletown, CT 06457.

Portland

Lucille Strubell

Lucille Strubell, formerly of Portland, passed away at the age of 82 on July 7, after a short illness. She is survived by her six children and six grandchildren. She passed away peacefully. She will be deeply missed by all who knew her. The family will hold a private service. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to: Vitas, Innovative Hospice Care, 18001 Old Cutier Road Suite 454, Palmetto Bay, FL 33157.

Colchester

Noel Anthony Cormier

Noel Anthony Cormier, 53, of Windham Avenue, Colchester, beloved husband of Susan (Draper) Cormier, passed away Tuesday, July 24, at home, after living courageously with cancer for the last year and a half. Born Nov. 6, 1953, in Chicago Heights, IL, he was the son of the late Joseph and Ruth (Rostek) Cormier. He received a Bachelor's Degree in Geography from Wittenburg University in Springfield, OH in 1975.

On May 15, 1976, he and Susan were married in Cherry Hill, NJ. Mr. Cormier was a Systems Analyst for AT&T in New Haven for the past 14 years. He was an avid fan of Bruce Springsteen and baseball, and played in a Strato-baseball League for many years. Noel also enjoyed spending time with his pets, but his true love was being a devoted husband and father.

In addition to his loving wife of 31 years, he is survived by his daughter, Ellen; two sisters, Michelle (Cormier) Monteleone of Bristol and Suzanne Cormier Gehringer of Springfield VA; three nieces, Emily Newton of Charlotte, NC, Alison Gehringer of Denver, CO, and Katherine Gehringer of Washington, DC; and numerous extended family members and friends. He was predeceased by a sister, Jennifer Cormier. A memorial service will be announced at a later date. Details will be posted at <http://noelcormier.wordpress.com>. Donations in Noel's memory may be made to the American Cancer Society, 106 Rte. 32, Franklin 06254-1800. Care of arrangements has been entrusted to the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester.

Colchester

Minnie Levine

Minnie (Jaffe) Levine, 92, of Stamford, formerly of Colchester, died Thursday, July 26, at home. Born in Hartford, she was the daughter of the late Rose and Abraham Jaffe. After graduating from business school, she worked in the family business, Levine & Levine Coat Company in Colchester. She was a dedicated and loving mother, bringing up her three sons. She was active in the local chapter of Hadassah, serving as president. She was also active in the Sisterhood of Congregation Ahavath Achim. Upon retirement, she moved to Pompano Beach, FL, where she led an active social life with her husband, Hyman. She loved to cook, entertain, play golf, garden, and travel.

She is survived by a son, Dr. Arnold Levine of Greenwich; a daughter-in-law, Susan Levine of Bluffton, SC; four grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and a brother, Dr. Rubin Jaffe of Naples, FL. She was predeceased by her husband, Hyman, and by two sons, Stuart and Laurence. Funeral services were Sunday, July 29, in the sanctuary of Congregation Ahavath Achim, 84 Lebanon Ave., Colchester, with Rabbi Kenneth Alter officiating. Interment followed in Congregation Ahavath Achim Cemetery, Colchester. Donations in memory of Mrs. Levine may be made to Support Colorectal Cancer Research at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, P.O. Box 27106, New York, NY, 10087. Arrangements are entrusted to Weinstein Mortuary, Hartford. For more information or to share memories of Mrs. Levine, visit www.weinsteinmortuary.com.

Colchester

Charles Thomas Probus

Charles Thomas Probus, 63, of Taylor Road, Colchester, beloved husband of Arlene (Herbert) Probus, passed away on Saturday, July 28, as a result of injuries sustained in a motor vehicle accident. Born Oct. 1, 1943 in Hartford, he was the son of the late Charles S. and Winifred (Killoran) Probus. Charlie loved books and was a voracious reader. He was also once a formidable bowler and played on several leagues. He was a member of the Elks Club in Middletown and he enjoyed traveling extensively with his wife, Arlene. For the last 38 years, Charlie was a Technical Rep. and Inspector for S.G. Marino Crane Service in Middletown. For over 40 years, he was a member of the Operating Engineers, Local 478. His knowledge and skill was widely known in the industry, as well as his genuine willingness to help and give guidance whenever needed.

In addition to his beloved wife of eight years, survivors include three sons and their spouses, Stephen and Sandra Probus of Oakdale, John Probus of Colchester, Rob and Christy Probus of Spring Hill, FL; twin grandchildren, Bailey and Sophie Probus; and numerous extended family members and friends, all of whom will sadly miss his warm smile, devotion and willingness to lend a hand. Friends and family attended calling hours on Wednesday, Aug. 1, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. Funeral services will be private, at a later date. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations in his memory be made to the library of the donor's choice.

Colchester

Joan Hnath Flynn

Joan Hnath Flynn, 39, of Colchester, went away to be with the Lord after a brief illness on Tuesday, July 31, at the Hartford Hospital. She was born Aug. 10, 1967 in Southbridge, MA, and was the daughter of Peter and Patricia Racicot Hnath of Ashford. Joan received her B.S. from the School of Allied Health at the University of Connecticut in 1989 with a degree in Medical Technology. She was employed as a medical technologist in Transfusion Services at Hartford Hospital and Clinical Laboratory Partners.

In 2000, Joan became the Clinical Laboratory Instructor graduating many valuable Medical Technologists from the University of Connecticut. She obtained her specialist in Blood Banking Certification in 2002. In 2005, the faculty and staff at the University of Connecticut awarded her the School of Allied Health Outstanding Clinical Education Award. She will be greatly missed by all her students and colleagues. Joan served on the Board of Directors for Castle Day Care and was an Assistant Den Leader Pack 13 Cub Scouts. The family would like to extend their sincere appreciation to all the dedicated and special staff in the Neurotrauma ICU 9C910 at Hartford Hospital.

In addition to her loving parents she leaves her son, Shaun Flynn; Shaun's father Raymond; a brother and his wife, Paul and Carol Hnath of Ashford; two sisters and two brother-in-laws, Dora and Joe Ulanowicz of Coventry, Susanna and Rick Todd of Mansfield; Joan's special nieces and nephews, Wade, Joe and Christine Ulanowicz, Jim, Jon, Jacquie Hnath, Chris, and Aimee Todd and Shaun's grandparents, Linda Miller and Rick Flynn.

Funeral service will be held on Saturday, Aug. 4, at 9 a.m. from the Belmont Funeral Home, 144 South Main St., Colchester, followed by a 10 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial at St. Andrew's Catholic Church, Norwich Avenue, Colchester. Burial to follow in St. Phillip's Cemetery in Ashford. Visitation will be on Friday, Aug. 3, from 5-8 p.m. at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in memory to a special scholarship in her name through the UConn Foundation, Department of Allied Sciences, 358 Mansfield Rd., Storrs, CT 06269-2101.