



Richard Trojanoski coils up some finished yarn at the Twist of Fate Spinnery in Portland. Trojanoski and friend Jeremiah Squier run the Portland-based business.

Origin of Portland Mill Makes for a Good Yarn

by Michael McCoy

Many Portland residents might not know this, but tucked away at 194 Rose Hill Rd. is a wool mill.

Twist of Fate Spinnery is run by Jeremiah Squier, 26, and Richard Trojanoski, 46. Though the two men are 20 years apart in age, they share a common passion, and have been able to turn that passion into a side business.

Interestingly, for both men, their interest in sheep began when they were nine years old. Trojanoski, a Guilford native, had recently joined the 4H Horse Club when an elderly gentleman looking to get out of raising sheep offered a bred ewe to any interested members.

"That's where it all started," Trojanoski said.

After graduating from Middletown Vocational-Agricultural High School, Trojanoski attended State University of New York at Cobleskill, where he received his associate's degree in Nursery Management.

Today, Trojanoski lives in East Hampton, but his full-time job is managing Penfield Farm on Ames Hollow Road right here in Portland. The farm raises sheep, beef cattle, chickens and a few hogs.

About 17 years ago, when he was nine, Squier got to know Trojanoski, who was

friends with Squier's mother. Squier helped Trojanoski out at a sheep show and was instantly hooked. He's been raising sheep ever since, and has been friends with Trojanoski ever since.

Squier, a lifelong Portland resident, raises sheep on top of a full-time job, overhauling and repairing jet engine components at Pratt & Whitney.

"I've always been interested in fiber processing," Trojanoski said. However, "All that was available [for purchase] were old wool mills." These sorts of mills can contain a single machine that would take up a two-car garage.

But in March 2004, Trojanoski spotted an article in the magazine *Country Folk* about a woman who ran her own mini-mill out of her home in New Hampshire. So, he and Squier took a trip to check it out. Three weeks later, they traveled to Prince Edward Island to tour the Belfast Mini-Mills headquarters. Six months and \$100,000 later, Trojanoski and Squier had their own mill.

Upon purchasing a mill, Belfast sends a trainer down to educate buyers on how to use it. That trainer was not immediately available upon delivery of the mill, so Trojanoski and Squier put it together themselves, and by the end of the first

day of ownership, they were already making yarn.

"We were the first mill [Belfast] ever dealt with where yarn was finished on the first day," Trojanoski said.

Squier said he and Trojanoski had become fully acquainted with the machines and were running the mill at top efficiency after just a week. "None of it's rocket science," Squier said.

Be it wool, alpaca, or yak, the first step in making yarn is to wash the raw fiber. This happens in a 3 x 4-foot stainless steel machine, which can wash up to 15 pounds. The fiber is then placed on drying racks for about 24 hours.

The fiber is then run through a picker, which conditions and applies anti-static agents. It is filtered into a small holding module, where it sits for about an hour. Then it goes into the carder.

This machine separates the desirable fiber from the undesirable, known as guard hair, as well as hay and other debris. The wool is typically fed through the carder 2 or 3 times. "The machines are designed to keep the good stuff," Squier said.

At this point, the fiber is now known as roving, and may be sent to small spinneries. However, there are still two steps yet to

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Jeremiah Squier keeps an eye on the draw frame at Twist of Fate Spinnery.

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turn the roving into yarn.

The roving is first put through a draw frame, which has three rollers that spin at different speeds. This blends out the uneven spots and applies a "false twist," which compresses the three strands of roving together. Then it goes onto the spinning frame. "A twist in the fiber is the only difference between roving and yarn," Squier said.

The roving can be spun at different speeds to adjust the heaviness of the yarn. The faster the roving is spun, the thicker the yarn. A different spool can spin at different speeds, affecting the twist per inch.

The roving is now yarn, but one step remains: it has to be steamed.

"Because wool has memory, it wants to go back to its natural state," Trojanoski said. The steam "reprograms it, so it stays twisted."

The yarn then either goes onto a cone or is loosely wound and twisted into a sort of coil known as a skein. Then, it is ready to be sold.

On average it takes 250 yards to make a skein. Trojanoski said that it takes about eight skeins to make a sweater.

Most of the wool comes from Twist of Fate's own herd of about 60 sheep, which Squier and Trojanoski shear twice a year; the rest of the fiber is purchased. In addition, a large part of the duo's business comes from processing raw fiber for other farmers. In addition to a variety of wool, Twist of Fate processes and sells angora, cashmere and mohair, as well as fibers

from raccoons, buffalo, camels and yaks. The business also processes felts, popular for slippers, vests, and rugs.

Twist of Fate does not dye any of its yarn. "All natural fibers, all natural colors, the way nature intended," Trojanoski said.

Squier and Trojanoski work from about 4-8 p.m. during the week, and they try to put in 8 hours on Saturdays whenever possible.

The two also show sheep and Twist of Fate's wares at such events as the Durham and Berlin fairs. They also do 1-12 shows per year, including the New York State Sheep and Wool Festival in Rhinebeck, NY, where the two offer all of Twist of Fate's products. That festival is only three weeks away, and Squier and Trojanoski predicted a string of long nights to prepare for that event.

Squier and Trojanoski run the entire operation of the mill, though the latter's 16-year-old son Tristan helps from time to time.

As for the name, Twist of Fate Spinnery, Jeremiah shrugged and said, "I never thought I'd be doing anything like this. It's just one of those things."

Twist of Fate Spinnery may be contacted by e-mail at info@twistoffatespinnery.com. Jeremiah Squier may be contacted at 759-9335, and Richard Trojanoski may be reached at 759-9334. More information on products, services, and more can be viewed at twistoffatespinnery.com.

Presentation on Proposed Zone Changes Coming Up in Colchester

by Jim Salemi

The Zoning and Planning Commission will hear next week about the town's property to rezone certain parts of town.

Next Wednesday, Town Planner Adam Turner will make a presentation to the Zoning and Planning Commission (ZPC) on five applications the town has submitted to ZPC as part of the implementation of the Plan of Conservation and Development. If necessary, the commission may schedule a special public hearing on the matter, Turner said, depending on how busy the commission's agendas are over the next few regular meetings.

The town is seeking a text amendment to zoning regulations that would allow residential development within business parks under certain conditions, called a special exception.

If this amendment is adopted, the zoning commission may consider and approve "mixed use" developments, such as New-England-style villages, a relatively new concept in municipal design. In these villages, a development would

be constructed largely of townhouse-style buildings, with commercial space at street level and residences above.

The proposals "are based on the Plan of Conservation and Development and promotes 'Smart Growth,' principles, such as putting commercial development near highways, have development connect to other development, such as the projects in the area of Parum Road and the state garage," Turner said.

The applications before the board call for a number of parcels currently zoned residential and transitional business to be changed to commercial or business park zones. Some changes requested call for some current commercial or transitional zones to be changed to residential.

Altogether, the proposed zone changes affect nearly 200 acres, primarily in the Parum Road area.

The public hearing will be held Wednesday, Oct. 3, at 7 p.m. at Town Hall, 127 Norwich Ave.

East Hampton School Officials Happy with CMT Results

by Michael McCoy

School officials and Board of Education members said this week they're pleased with the results of this year's Connecticut Mastery Tests (CMTs), although, they admitted, there is room for improvement.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Judith Golden gave a presentation to the school board Monday on the tests, which were administered in March. One thousand thirty four students in grades 3-8 took the tests; only certain handicapped students and English-language learners who have lived domestically for less than 10 months were exempt.

The CMTs tests students on math, reading, and writing and, Golden said, "We made some very good gains in several areas.... [But] we had several drops, and we are addressing that."

Test results fall into five categories, from lowest to highest: below basic, basic, proficient, goal, and advanced goal. No Child Left Behind mandates that 100% of students test at proficient by the year 2014.

Golden noted that 79.4 percent of last year's sixth-graders tested at the goal level, "which was a wonderful thing."

Administration seemed particularly proud of the mathematics scores. Eighty-one percent of sixth-graders reached the "goal" level. Among fifth-graders, 75.3 percent met goal; by comparison, 59.7 percent of the previous year's fourth-graders met goal in the math portion.

On the whole, 70 percent of students in grades 5-8 met goal level in the math portion of the CMTs; the state average was 62.75 percent.

In the reading section, East Hampton students also exceeded the state average at all grade levels. The results were most impressive among sixth-graders, as 79.4 percent met goal, compared with 64.3 percent who made goal at the state level.

Students again surpassed state averages in the writing section. Golden said 69 percent of eighth-graders reached the goal level, while 14.7 percent achieved advanced goal.

Overall, Golden likes the CMT system, including the fact that the tests are given in the spring now and not each fall, and that they are given to every grade level.

"If you look at the items on the test, they are good things," she said. "Some people ask, 'Aren't we teaching to the test?' Well, yes, kind of, but we are teaching things we want the students to be able to do."

Board of Education Chair Alan Hurst was happy with the CMT results, saying, "As chairman, I'm very proud of our school district." Hurst noted that the math scores of 3rd-graders moving into 4th-grade did dip somewhat, and said "we're looking at that." But, he added, in comparison with the overall achievements of the school system, "it's a blip."

Golden and Hurst both said that some of the CMT scores at lower grade levels can be lower, due to some kids not having the chance to be brought up to speed by that early age. "We don't have an all-day kindergarten, so maybe our kids are doing a little catch-up," Hurst said.

Ultimately, Hurst said, "Not everything is perfect [on the CMTs], but we are certainly making progress, and we're very pleased."

Hebron Gets Second State Trooper

by Sarah McCoy

For the first time in its history, Hebron has two resident state troopers.

Mark Gendron of Salem started work last month; he's the evening trooper for the town. Kelly Kraynak will continue as the daytime resident state trooper. The town also has six part-time local officers.



Town Manager Jared Clark had requested an additional state trooper in his proposed budget for the last two years. This year he got his wish, and the town began to collect applications this past May.

Law enforcement was never Gendron's planned course of employment. Born into a Navy family, he had intended on following his father's footsteps after graduating from Southern Connecticut State University. But, at the time, there were no naval officer positions available so Gendron decided to apply for a local police officer position in Colchester. He got the job in 1992, and remained there until 1998.

"It's not the career I had in mind at the start but it's been enjoyable and it pays dividends in the community," Gendron said. "Plus, unlike the military, I get to come home every night."

In 1998 Gendron was hired as a state policeman and graduated from the police academy in March of 1999. For the next seven years he served for Troop D in Danielson, before being reassigned to Troop K in Colchester in 2005.

"I have been wanting to go back to working one town," Gendron said of his decision to apply for the resident state trooper vacancy in

Hebron. "You get to really know a community, know the business owners and schools."

Unlike most town positions, the resident state trooper interview process was not conducted by Hebron officials. Instead, the decision rested in the hands of a state police lieutenant and two resident state trooper sergeants, who conducted the interviews. However, Clark sat in on all four interviews and was able to voice his preference.

"Fortunately my preference matched that of the three law enforcement officials," Clark said after Gendron's hiring. "When [Gendron] answered questions it was clear that he had the experience we were looking for in terms of conducting investigations and dealing with the kind of situations that might arise in Hebron like speeding, noise, and vandalism, to name a few."

Gendron was notified of his hiring on the afternoon of Aug. 10. It's a day he'll never forget, as he and his wife welcomed their first child, Mark Steven Jr., that morning.

It's been a month since Gendron's first day, Aug. 24. "A very, very busy month," he said. Between getting the new job, the new hours, and the Hebron Harvest Fair earlier this month, Gendron is just getting into the swing of things. But he's already become an active part of the RHAM High School community, hosting a class on drinking and driving and, soon, dating violence.

Gendron is also pursuing certification for bike patrol. Once he completes that training, the Hebron Resident State Trooper will be able to patrol Gay City State Park and the Airline Trail. This, he feels, will be a key method of integrating into the community.

"I want to be out there for people to give me feedback," Gendron explained. "That way I can take a community focus with projects that residents need and want."

Fourth Time the Charm for Colchester Budget

by Jim Salemi

It took four tries, but Colchester finally has a budget.

Voters passed a \$44 million spending plan Tuesday, by a vote of 1,989-1,404. It was the fourth attempt since May to pass a budget for the 2007-08 fiscal year.

Of the 9,153 eligible voters, 3,401 cast ballots [eight people submitted blank ballots], for a 37 percent voter turnout. Board of Finance Chairman Bruce Hayn called it "one of the biggest turnouts in recent memory. ... The people in favor [of the budget] really rallied together. They did a great job. The important thing is we have a budget and can move on."

In fact, turnout was so heavy that election officials ran out of ballots shortly after 7 p.m. Town Clerk Nancy Bray had ordered 3,200 special ballots for the referendum, which were coded so the new optical scan voting machines can read them. So, she had to make photocopies of one of the ballots to get the town to 8 p.m., when polls closed. The copied ballots were then counted by hand, since they could not be read by the machine.

Monica Swyden-Bolles was in favor of the budget, and had campaigned tirelessly since the last failed referendum. After the results of Tuesday's budget vote were in, Bolles sat at a table at the polling station at Town Hall and rested her head on it.

"Thank God this nightmare is over," she said. "This is clearly a mandate by voters and my faith in Colchester has been restored. ... I know it's been a hard year, with the school projects and revaluation. I'm so glad people made it to the polls."

The "nightmare" Bolles spoke of was the three prior defeats of the budget, and the sub-

sequent spending cuts that Bolles said were negatively affecting student programs and activities.

While this last budget adopted reflected a zero-mill increase in spending, many property owners have seen their assessments go up after revaluation, so they'll still pay more taxes because of the new assessment. Increased values range from a fraction of a percent to 100 percent, with a handful of property owners with assessments of over 100 percent.

Republican candidate for First Selectman Diana Norton Giles said she is glad the town can now move forward.

"It's been a long process," she said. "It's clear taxes are too high. I think the spending is responsible and there is effective management. We just need more business growth, not just for tax revenue, but people are driving out of town for the things they need. New business also helps existing businesses."

The Democratic candidate for First Selectman, Linda Hodge, currently sits on the education board, and said she supported the spending package. She said she thought the boards listened to the people and presented a budget with a zero-mill increase.

"I think it was prudent and I'm glad it passed," she said. "There is still a lot of work to do. I don't think any one person has the answer to the tax problem, but we definitely need to work on finding solutions."

Hodge said she thought the public debate during the budget season was a positive thing. "It really brought out lots of people," she said. "I think it's a good thing, and more people should be involved."

Two New Names for Hebron GOP Ticket

The Republican Town Committee (RTC) announced this week it has nominated two additional candidates for seats on the Board of Finance and local Board of Education.

The RTC voted Monday, Sept. 24, to nominate Terrence Piggot for the Board of Finance and Valerie Watt for the Board of Education.

Piggot lives on Wall Street with his wife, Annie. They moved to Hebron 30 years ago and raised their two sons here. He has been actively involved in coaching youth sports teams over the years. Piggot said he is running because he is concerned about the increasing strain on taxpayers.

"I have been in the automotive business for 36 years," he said. "I have managed dealerships, and have had my own business, making crucial financial decisions on a daily basis... hard choices, just as we face here in Hebron, but the bottom line is the same - we cannot conduct our own business or the town's finances in the red."

Valerie Watt, of Gilead Street, has three children currently in the school system and has been active over the years in a number of civic and sports activities. She was First Vice President of the Lions and as coordinator of the Girls' Basketball League. Watt also served as an alternate on the Parks and Recreation Committee.

A former computer systems designer, Watt is now the owner of Hebron Nail Boutique. She is married to Jeff Watt, a former RHAM Board

of Education member and current candidate for the Board of Selectmen.

Watt said she is running for the school board because she is concerned about getting "the best education possible to our children with a budget that all of Hebron can support."

"People need to understand that education comes from parents and teachers jointly," she said. "We need to be creative in finding ways to provide for our children for activities outside the core education to keep tax dollars down."

RTC Chairman Dave Schoolcraft said the addition of these two candidates fills out the GOP ticket and provides a good balance of talent and opinions.

"When I look at the list of GOP candidates this year I see a good mix of people from different backgrounds, with different perspectives," he said. "I am sure they don't agree on all the issues, but that's what we were looking for - reasonable, hard-working people, with a variety of points of view."

Schoolcraft said he encouraged the public to visit www.HebronRepublicans.org to learn more about the candidates.

Watt and Piggot were nominated by the RTC to take the place of Bruce DeGray and Jim Cordier, who at the committee's summertime caucus were nominated as placeholder candidates. Local parties sometimes nominate placeholders at caucus while they finalize their roster of candidates.

Hebron Parks Project Passes at Referendum

by Sarah McCoy

By a count of 787-647, voters this week approved spending \$4.49 million to construct a five-field complex along East Street, install a trail network on Church Street, and renovate the town's existing fields.

"I'm happy that so many voted and even happier they voted yes," said Parks and Recreation Director Rich Calarco. "It's a tremendous investment in the community and, just like a home, that investment will increase the value of the town."

Of the money approved by the taxpayers Tuesday at referendum, roughly \$3.4 million of it represents work on a parcel at 150 East St. Plans include adding two baseball/softball fields, a full-size soccer field, a football/lacrosse field, a multi-purpose field, a pavilion, bathroom, and park operations headquarters.

Across town there are conceptual plans to relocate fields at Gilead Hill Elementary School to provide more playing surface; add an additional soccer field to Hebron Elementary School; reorient the baseball field at Old Colchester Road and realign the parking lot; and turn a 65-acre parcel on Church Street into a trail network with a gravel parking lot.

"This will benefit all the citizens of Hebron," Parks and Recreation Commission Chairman Brian O'Connell said. "The parks give us an opportunity to expand programming for adults, seniors, and other groups in town."

In total 1,434 voters cast their ballot in Tuesday's referendum. This represents 24 percent of the registered voters in town, compared to a 65 percent in last year's November elections.

"It's tough with a single-issue referendum," Board of Selectman Vice-Chairman Mark Stuart said. "But, it is always disappointing when less than 50 percent exercise

their right to vote."

Stuart sprinted, literally, into Hebron Elementary School to vote just minutes before the polls closed at 8 p.m. Tuesday.

With the project now approved the work has just begun for Calarco. Next week he will meet with the town engineer, Board of Selectmen, and Planning and Zoning Commission to firm up a plan of action.

Calarco said he expects demolition work to begin within the month and all necessary building permits to be secured by January. The current, but tentative, schedule calls for construction to be completed by the fall of 2008. After another year for field maintenance, athletics are slated to open at the East Street complex in the spring of 2010.

"We're just at the beginning now but I foresee a wonderful end in sight," said Calarco.

Tuesday's referendum was the first time Hebron used the new electronic voting machines. Rather than going into a booth and flipping a lever voters colored in the bubble on a ballot sheet for their vote and slid it through a scanning machine.

"I was in and out in 60 seconds," resident Anne Fitzpatrick said of the new process.

At 8 p.m. the votes were automatically tabulated from the 14 voting machines; results were announced just a few minutes after the polls closed.

"We didn't have to seal the machines, open them up, call out the numbers, and then add up each separate machine," Registrar of Voters Jim Derby said. "Instead we could just read the results on the tape the machine printed out. It saved everyone a lot of time and seems to be just as accurate."

Derby added that he received no complaints about the new voting system.

Marlborough Playscape Closed.... For Now, Anyway

by Sarah McCoy

After nearly two decades, the Blish Park Playscape is closed to the public. But residents hope the playground will be open again soon.

In May of 1989 Marlborough residents volunteered their time and built the playscape from the ground up. But now, the structure is in need of repair.

Fencing lines the outskirts of the wooden playground to prevent park-goers from accessing the dilapidated structure. "It's both for safety reasons and to get the area ready for renovations come spring," Parks and Recreation Director Lara Kalmbach said.

Parks and Recreation Commission Chairman Barbara Lazzari is spearheading the renovation effort, scheduled for April 30-May 4, 2008. Plans include replacing all horizontal boards with a composite material and adding a tot section to the playground.

The renovation project is estimated to cost \$60,000; currently the Parks and Recreation Commission has collected only about half of that amount. "Our hope is that when people see the Playscape closed they'll realize we mean business," Lazzari said. "This demonstrates the urgency of the park's condition."

To get the project off the ground, Lazzari's main focuses have been fundraising and volunteer recruitment. The next big fundraiser will be a Town-wide Tag Sale to be held Saturday, Oct. 13. Residents can either host a tag sale at their house and be included on the Tag Sale Map, set-up a booth at Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall Elementary School, or drop-off their unwanted items at the school. Those looking for more tag sale or volunteer information can visit the Playscape's website, www.blishplayscape.info.

Colchester 57 Festival Coming This Saturday

by Jim Salemi

It's been two years since Colchester was dubbed the country's 57th best place to live, and people are still celebrating.

This Saturday, Sept. 29, the Parks and Recreation Department will hold the third annual 57 Fest, from 4 to 8 p.m. at the Recreation Complex at 215 Old Hebron Rd.

The rain date is the following day, Sunday, Sept. 30. To find out if the event has been rescheduled due to poor weather, you may visit the town web site www.colchesterct.net.

In 2005, the town was ranked by *Money* magazine and CNN as the 57th best place to live in the United States. The town celebrated with a festival, and has made the event an annual occurrence.

But there are a few changes this year.

For starters, the hours have changed. Parks and Recreation Director Jason Cohen said the previous seven-hour festivals were too long for most residents; so, now the festival will now be four.

"There will be as much going on, it will just be compressed," Cohen said.

Also, the "Wellness Tent" will be expanded to provide more information on nutrition and exercise, as well as information on new healthy guidelines.

Other events include the Community Arts Project, sponsored by Jack Jackter Intermediate School, where students and residents can display their work on "art cubes," which will then be brought to various locations around town for display.

Five lucky kids, who will be determined by a drawing, will each get a chance to kick a soccer ball through a target, with a \$5,000 prize if they are successful.

To be eligible for the drawing for one of the kicks, kids 15 and under must complete and submit an "Activity Passport." Passports will be available free at the information tent at the entrance to the park, at the Colchester Youth

Soccer booth, and at many of the passport activities. As kids visit various booths and take part in activities, they can have their passports stamped.

After visiting at least eight different activities, they can register for the drawing by dropping off their passport at the Colchester Youth Soccer booth by 5:45 p.m.

The drawing will take place at 6 p.m., with the kicks occurring at 6:45 p.m. by the Liberty Bank Stage.

Complete rules and details are available at the Colchester Youth Soccer booth.

Featured entertainment will be the band Mass-Conn Fusion, an R&B band composed of musicians hailing from Connecticut and Massachusetts. The band will perform from 6 to 8p.m. on the Liberty Bank Stage.

Festival-goers can park at any of the designated parking areas below, and shuttles will run to and from: Jack Jackter Intermediate School on Halls Hill Road, St. Andrews Church on Norwich Avenue, and the Lake Hayward Road Commuter Lot.

Limited parking will be available at the Recreation Complex near the concession stand, as well as at the annex near the tennis courts.

Handicapped parking will be available in the "north lot" of the Recreation Complex near the pavilion, directly across from the golf course entrance.

Street parking will be available along one side of the street on both Old Hebron and Stollman roads, with additional parking along Old Hartford Road, including the Commuter Lot by the Colchester Highway Department, and at Performance Oil & Lube. Access to the park from these locations is through the football field (behind the Commuter Lot) and up a stairway.

The festival is free, funded entirely by sponsorships, donations and program fees.

An Evening of Memories at the Portland Library

by Michael McCoy

More than 50 people packed Portland Library Tuesday night and took in some first-hand accounts of the town's history.

The Portland Historical Society hosted their second session of "Growing Up in Portland" Tuesday. The evening featured 10 panel members who discussed life in Portland during the Great Depression and World War II.

Each panelist spent a few minutes sharing a story or two that seemed to leave an impression on audience members. Historical Society past president Rick Gildersleeve moderated the event.

Hazel Robinson led off the discussion remembering Edith Randall, who founded Portland's chapter of the Friendly Rebekah Lodge; the organization is the ladies division of the Independent Order of Oddfellows. Installed at the old high school in 1949 before it became Brownstone Intermediate School, the group met at the Joe Bransfield Building on Freestone and Main Street..

"We had several nice dinners there for our state representative," Robinson said, and added that the group eventually folded since "like all your societies, we had people drop out, and there were no new people coming along."

However, a few years before the Portland chapter disbanded, Robinson said, the Glastonbury chapter had disassembled. She said members of that group had spilled into the Portland one, giving it a few more years that it might not have had otherwise. Robinson estimated the lodge discontinued their meetings in the late 1970s or early 1980s.

Marion Anderson also spoke, and began her remarks by saying, "I bet outside of the ones I've told, no one knows about this."

Anderson said she began keeping a scrapbook as a girl, and said she recently stumbled across an old clipping. A contest had been held among the town's students to name a new street that was being developed east of Main and north of Fairview. The prize was \$5. There were 35 entries, and Anderson (she was known then by her maiden name, Marion Johnson) won. The street was named Spruce Terrace.

Norm Hanson spoke of the days when his father, Axel, was the town sheriff. "No car," he said. "He was the law." But, Hanson joked, "There were no robberies, because nobody had anything to steal."

According to Hanson, one of his father's regular duties was to throw the drunks in jail on Saturday night and release them Monday morning when they sobered up. Hanson also recalled his father breaking up nighttime craps games by True Vine Church, after he would receive a call.

Once the sheriff sounded his siren, Hanson said, the players would run, leaving all the winnings behind. "He'd scoop [the winnings] up and deliver them to the minister," Hanson said.

Hanson added that his father "finally got wind that the minister was calling [the craps games] in."

Hanson also related a story of his days immediately after high school, which he graduated from in 1935. Hanson took a job at Steck's Bakery in Middletown, working from midnight to 8 a.m. Making a quarter a day, and paying his family a dollar a day for board, he was left with \$5 a week left to spend as he desired. "I'd go to the movies for 15 cents or an ice cream cone for a nickel," Hanson said.

Hanson remembered that one night he was walking to his job when "a state trooper came by with his light on." The police asked him where he was headed at that time of night. When Hanson said he was headed to work, the trooper didn't believe him, and actually drove him to the bakery. Once the trooper saw his blunder, Hanson kindly asked him to inform the other troopers that he would be walking to Middletown every night, and not to hassle him. But there was silver lining for the humbled trooper. "He got a couple jelly donuts," Hanson said.

Following Hanson, Ethel Peltz spoke, and corroborated Hanson's story of the craps games. As for the games' players, she said, "I tell you those kids invented the f-word."

Peltz also said that as a child, about a week before the Fourth of July, all the kids would patrol High Street and Freestone Avenue. "They would pick up anything that was burnable," she

said. Then, on the Fourth, the neighborhood would have a huge bonfire. "It was the big event of the season," she said.

Peltz said she grew up in the same spot where 80 Licks now stands; she recalled that, about 70 years ago, her family paid \$2,500 for their house.

Walt Dower spoke of the 1930s, specifically the Great Depression. But, he said, "The way I think of it, us kids didn't know it was a depression. I think our parents did. We were having fun; we didn't know we were poor."

Dower remembered those days when he and his pal Walter "Oatie" Johnson had *Hartford Courant* delivery routes. At the end of the route, they'd meet up, ride their bikes home, and fly their model airplanes before school started.

During the hurricane of 1938, Dower said trees fell all over Main Street. "Almost all of us boys were in the Boy Scouts then," said Dower. He helped clean up the mess and said, "I can remember being on East Main Street with my little hatchet."

Robert Johnson recalled buying a Model A Ford from his friend Bill Csere's father, Julius, in 1942. He said there was plenty of haggling over the car, as Csere was asking \$32 and Johnson was looking to pay \$28. They ended up splitting the difference: "I got the car for \$30" said Johnson, who added, "I took Grace Bergren out. We went to a ballgame in Hartford."

During the war, Johnson was stationed in Italy with the Navy. A friend of his, Alfred Wallin, also from Portland, was serving in the Army at the same time. While in Italy, Johnson received word that Wallin was in a hospital in Naples. When Johnson went to visit him, he said he was overwhelmed at finding thousands of soldiers there. Nevertheless, he said, "I found him right away."

Though the episode was sobering, Johnson built up to a humorous end to his story. Johnson decided to give Wallin the car he had bought from Csere. Wallin then "sold it to a professor at Wesleyan for \$75," Johnson said.

Ruth McGowan remembered that in 1941, the federal government began setting up spotter huts around the country. "We had to identify the planes that were flying overhead," said McGowan, who was 10 at the time. McGowan said she believed the hut was situated at the highest point on Wilcox Road. "Everybody was very interested in what was going on in the sky," she said. "It didn't matter how old you were or how young you were."

McGowan recalled seeing a plane fly right under the Arrigoni Bridge. While people looked on dumbfounded in the aftermath, the plane turned around and did it again.

Don Markham also spoke of his childhood. He recalled that, since town workers knew that the kids liked to sled on Perry Avenue after a snowfall, they would leave a cushion of snow at the edge of the road.

But one day they didn't. Markham remembered a widow that lived on the property placed a call and, "when we got home from school there were four town trucks spreading the snow."

Markham also recalled getting out of school in 1936 to watch the Hindenburg head toward Hartford.

Connie McBrien said she wanted to speak about "uptown Portland." She recalled, "I walked a mile and a half to school, morning and night. I'm lucky I had a ride home for lunch." McBrien, who lived on Bartlett Street, was part of the first class to attend the Brownstone School.

McBrien's husband, Bill, also spoke, and said when he was young "we used to swim in the quarry hole without any bathing suits," said McBrien. This later prompted a woman from the audience to crack, "We used to go swimming in the quarry too, but we wore bathing suits."

Rick Gildersleeve wrapped up the evening by pondering, "I wonder what our children and grandchildren will be talking about in 50 or 60 years." He suggested they might hearken back to the birth of the Internet; a member of the audience, meanwhile, wondered if today's kids would look back at the days when the library was situated on Freestone Avenue.

Grant Helps Marlborough Town Hall Records

by Sarah McCoy

With help from the state, town staff is working to make sure pieces of Marlborough's past stay well-preserved, and in turn become more efficient.

The town recently received a state grant worth just over \$28,000. The money is being used for records management, specifically the purchase of additional shelving and cabinets, as well as to help pay for visits from Peter Bartucca, the former Manager of Records in the Legislative Services division of the Secretary of State's office in 2003.

Since 2004, Marlborough has made records management a priority in town. In that time Bartucca, Town Clerk Nancy Dickson, and other town staff have worked to gain better control of documents in town by thinning out, organizing, and developing a system. In the past the town has paid for Bartucca to come once a week; now the grant will help pay for his visits.

"Records management has become a vital part in how we work," Bartucca said. "Maintaining these records preserves history and it makes the current working environment more efficient."

In 2006 the Connecticut State Library began offering a competitive grant for those towns looking to do more than just tread water in terms of documents. Nine towns in the state received additional funding for their projects last year. This year Dickson wanted desperately to be one of those select few. She attended coursework in preservation and filed her application this past April. In June the town was notified that they would receive the full amount requested.

"It's a tough task," Dickson said about maintaining the town's records. "You try to handle all the paperwork coming in while organizing the past 100 years' worth."

To accomplish this, Bartucca has spent the past three years implementing a plan at Town

Hall to give each document its place and headquarters, to help people know where to look to find what they need.

Last year, in the Building Department, Bartucca and town staff consolidated two rooms of filing cabinets into a shelving system, about half the size.

"Part of it is discarding what is no longer needed but what we found going through the building department is a tremendous amount of duplicates," he said. This same approach was later taken in the First Selectman's office.

Since she works as the Town Clerk, Dickson cannot merely shred or toss superfluous documents. She must first file an application for disposal and have that document signed by First Selectman Bill Black, the Public Records Administrator, and the Connecticut Archivist.

There is a timetable for every document that comes into Town Hall. Overtime payroll records must be kept three years, building inspection records five years after completion of the project, and written complaints must be kept for two years after resolution of the incident.

As town staff go through the hoards of documents, they've uncovered a number of historical documents traced back as early as 1803. Also found was the 1852 tax roll when the highest tax bill in town was a mere \$786.66.

With the additional funding, the Town Clerk's vault is the next project to tackle. One side of filing cabinets is on its way out, soon to be replaced by state of the art shelving that should provide more usable space.

Bartucca will be in town every Monday to help with the process.

"In the end it translates into money," he said. "The better managed any function is the less money it will end up costing over time. Marlborough is making some serious strides to streamlining its operation and this grant will help continue the progress."

Residents Give an Earful at Portland PZC Meeting

by Michael McCoy

Proposed changes to zoning regulations were on the mind of several attendees at last week's meeting of the Planning and Zoning Commission, as residents voiced concerns on topics ranging from chickens to a potential rezoning of Freestone Avenue.

Commissioners have been working on an overhaul of the town's zoning regulations since early last year, following the adoption of the town's Plan of Conservation and Development (PCD). According to Town Planner Deanna Rhodes, the commissioners' mission was "to create regulations that support the goals of the plan." Last Thursday, Sept. 20, saw the first Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) public hearing on the proposed revisions.

The hearing was held in the Brownstone Intermediate School auditorium, and began with a presentation by Bruce Hoben of Plainmetrics, which is also the firm that guided the commission through the PCD process.

Hoben told residents that many of the changes were merely for reformatting purposes, and others were included simply to comply with state mandates. He also said the regulations are "permissive," meaning that if a specific use is not outlined in the zoning regulations, then that use is not permitted. The proposed changes also list certain forbidden uses.

The public comments began with Joyce

Vacca, the owner of Quality Welding on Brownstone Avenue. Vacca expressed concern over the proposed deletion of the allowance for caretaker dwellings. Previously, these dwellings had been permitted in industrial zones, and Vacca said she is in the process of erecting such a dwelling. "I think the idea was that this was an antiquated provision that's not being used," she said.

But Rhodes said this issue emerged from concerns the commission had heard about residential uses in the riverfront area. "I think it was just the next logical step," said Rhodes, who added that the proposed change was not an attempt at causing inconvenience to business owners.

Scott Adamsons brought up chickens. Currently, the town requires that property must be at least five acres to be a farm. Under the proposed regulations, farm animals would be allowed to inhabit a property as long as it were three acres in size (however, the town would still define a "farm" as being five acres).

According to Rhodes, residents had expressed a desire to own chickens. So, the PZC decided to allow up to 15 "small animals" per half acre of property. The number of small animals is not to exceed 50; however, if a resident has three acres of land they can own as many farm animals – large or small – as they want. The zoning regulations defined "small animals" as chicken, ducks, geese, turkeys,

rabbits or any other similar animal deemed appropriate by the zoning officer.

Adamsons asked the commission to consider expanding those parameters. He said that homeschooling is on the rise, and felt that incubation and hatching of a chicken egg could prove a valuable science experiment for students. He said he felt that any home with a backyard would be suitable to keep five hens for up to two weeks after their first molt.

However, Carole Shade voiced reservations over chickens being allowed in a half-acre parcel. "Our property is next to a lot that is just under one acre," she said. "We enjoy working out in the yard and opening the window when the weather is nice." Worried at the odor and noise issues that the proposed regulation change could lead to, she said, "We ask that the setbacks be larger."

Shade's husband, John, added, "I can appreciate the feeling of people who want to keep small animals on their property. ... [but] you've got to keep people under control. They're not thoughtful. They like to keep things where it's convenient for them and not other people." As for enforcing the issue, he said, "You've got a bureaucratic process which can take a long time sometimes."

But, resident Roy Guild said, "If you take care of your chickens, they don't stink."

PZC Chairman Don Bascom said a state of-

ficial told him that a chicken could be raised successfully on two square feet of property.

Resident Bill Larson joked, "Maybe the chicken next door would be good. At least we'd have some soup."

Moving away from the chicken issue, resident Peter LaMalfa questioned the prudence of rezoning the south side of Freestone Avenue, spanning Main to High streets, from residential to commercial. "What's the urgency of rezoning Freestone Avenue?" he wondered.

Bascom said he felt the rezoning would lead to development moving down [Route] 66. (Rhodes said after the meeting that commissioners felt businesses on the north side of Route 66 might want to expand onto the south side of Freestone.) But, recognizing the tax revenue that would come from the addition of commercial space, LaMalfa said, "There's a price to be paid when you live in the town of Portland. I think it's worth every penny in our tax dollars to keep the way of life."

LaMalfa and several others also suggested that perhaps it would be wise to observe the aftermath of the Portland Town Center project before rezoning Freestone Avenue.

Rhodes said commissioners will discuss "all items that were brought to their attention at their meeting." The public hearing has continued to Thursday, Oct. 4, at 7 p.m. at the Brownstone Intermediate School, 314 Main St.

East Hampton Police News

9/11 — Shay F. Green, 35, of 3 Leitao Dr., Oakdale, was issued a ticket for following too closely, East Hampton police said.

9/12 — Amanda Slaper, 21, of 372 Main St., Portland, was arrested for sixth-degree larceny, police said.

9/14 — Karen Lizotte, 42, of 16 Stone Port Dr., Colchester, was issued a ticket for passing in a no-passing zone, police said.

9/15 — Melissa A. Pistilli, 20, of 19 Sunset Dr., was arrested for having a defective windshield and insufficient insurance, police said.

9/16 — Lynn Fries, 41, of 29 Watrous St., and Michael Reynolds, 32, of 40 Acer Dr., Middletown, were involved in a two-vehicle accident at the intersection of Middletown Avenue and Young Street, police said, adding that Fries was issued a ticket for failure to obey a control signal.

9/16 — Joseph A. Sorvillo, 21, of 12 Brown-ing Dr., was arrested for third-degree criminal mischief, operating an unregistered ATV on a public road and failure to yield to an officer,

police said.

9/17 — Michael A. Latronica, 30, of 159 Main St., was arrested on charges of disorderly conduct and second-degree failure to appear, police said.

9/19 — William W. Marchinkoski, 37, of 30 Mott Hill Rd., was arrested for violation of a restraining order, police said.

9/20 — David N. Cunningham, 44, of 255 Rock Landing Rd., was issued a ticket for operating an unregistered vehicle, police said.

9/20 — Heidi Schluntz, 49, of 9 Jackman Rd., Amston, was arrested for traveling unreasonably fast, operating an unregistered motor vehicle, and no insurance, police said.

9/20 — Brent Turchi, 35, of 4 Huntington Dr., Moodus, was arrested for speeding, police said.

9/20 — William W. Marchinkoski, 37, of 30 Mott Hill Rd., was arrested for failure to respond to an infraction and violation of a town ordinance, police said.

Portland Police News

9/24 — Robert Holley, 27, of 26 Oak St., Middletown, was charged with third-degree assault and disorderly conduct, Portland police said.

Obituaries

Hebron

Thomas M. DesRoches

Thomas M. DesRoches, 50, of Hebron, beloved husband of Tina-Marie DesRoches for 29 years, passed away Wednesday, Sept. 21. He was born Sept. 21, 1956, in Hartford. He was a graduate of Bulkeley High School, Class of 1974. Thomas was employed by AMTRAK for 30 years. He was presently the manager of the Providence, Rhode Island station. He loved camping, fishing, hunting and enjoying the outdoors. He was an award-winning professional photographer. Tom was an avid Red Sox fan who had a great sense of humor and always made people laugh. He was extremely giving and always willing to help anyone in need. He was a devoted, loving husband and father and was very proud of his family. He will be dearly missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing him.

Besides his wife, Tina-Marie, he is survived by his son Bryan G. DesRoches and daughters, Nicole L. DesRoches and Heather R. DesRoches all at home. Tom is also survived by many other relatives including his mother Therese (Morin) Bukowski, his brothers Dennis, Richard, Paul and Michael and sisters Lucille and Lorraine. Donations can be made in Tom's memory to an educational fund for his children. Make checks payable to the DesRoches Family and mail to P.O. Box 457, Old Saybrook, CT. 06475. For on-line expressions of sympathy please visit www.desopo.com.

East Hampton

Santina Sigleski

Santina "Sandy" Sigleski fought long and hard for the past 18 months, but finally succumbed to cancer on Thursday, Sept. 20, at her home with her family by her side. Santina was born in Solarino, Italy, on Aug. 14, 1920, to Salvatore and Salvatrice (Gibilisco) Oliva. She married Walter Sigleski on Oct. 27, 1941. They resided in East Hampton for all of their 49 years together. Sandy was Treasurer for the VFW Auxiliary in East Hampton for ten years and belonged to the Middletown Emblem Club for 17 years. She was an avid Red Sox fan throughout her life. She loved her flowers and was extremely proud of her family.

She leaves her two daughters, Mariana Sigleski and her husband George Petit, and Casandra Russell and her husband Douglas; her son, Salvatore and his wife Oksana Sigleski; her grandchildren, Kyle Pellegrini, Deanna Shickel and her husband Robert, Salvatore Sigleski Jr. and his wife Jocelyn; her great-grandchildren, RJ and Skylar Shickel; and her brother Joseph Oliva. She was predeceased by her beloved husband, Walter; her son, Walter Jr.; her grandson, Darryl Sigleski; and her brother, Jack Oliva. Special thanks to Dr. Miklos Fogarasi and the staff at Connecticut Oncology Group for lightening her journey. A memorial service was held Tuesday, Sept. 25, at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton. Burial will be private. Friends called at the funeral home Tuesday morning before the service. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions can be made to Middlesex Cancer Center, 536 Saybrook Rd., Middletown, CT 06457. To leave online condolences or for directions visit www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Colchester

Annette Gagnon Goslin

Annette D. Gagnon Goslin, 81, of Chestnut Hill Road, Colchester, formerly of Wallingford, died Thursday, Sept. 20, at the Marlborough Health Care Center. She was the wife of the late Harold J. Goslin. Born in Winterville, ME, April 27, 1926, a daughter of the late Robert and Elsie Distue Gagnon, she had been a Wallingford resident for 32 years until moving to Colchester. Annette had been employed by the Masonic Health Care Center in Wallingford for many years until her retirement.

She is survived by her two daughters, Mary A. Fritz of Colchester and Linda Michaud of Fort Kent, ME; her two sons, Harold R. Goslin of Southington and Daniel J. Goslin of Colchester; nine grandchildren; nine great grandchildren; three sisters, Lorretta, Jeannette and Anita, all of Maine and many nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by eight sisters and four brothers.

Her family received relatives and friends in The Wallingford Funeral Home, 809 North Main St. Ext., Wallingford, on Sunday, Sept. 23. Funeral services were Monday, Sept. 24, starting at The Wallingford Funeral Home. The funeral cortege proceeded to Most Holy Trinity Church, where a Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated. Interment in St. John Cemetery in Wallingford. www.wallingfordfh.com.

Hebron

Enrique Juan Nieves

Enrique "Richy" Juan Nieves, 40, of Hebron, died Friday Sept. 21, at his home, surrounded by his loving family. He had fought a valiant battle against cancer for over two years. Born Jan. 26, 1967, in Hartford he was the son of Juan Enrique Nieves - Ayala and the late Juanita (Davila). On March 9, 1991 he was married to the former Karen Soucy in Hartford. He worked as a printer most recently at Thames Printing in Norwich. Richy was a fan of the Boston Red Sox and loved to fish for bass. He had taken instruction in Tae Kwon Do at Tae San in Hebron. He was a communicant of The Church of the Holy Family in Hebron. A devoted husband and father, he will be missed by all who loved him.

Including his loving wife, he is survived by his children, Vanessa and Amanda Nieves of Hebron; his father and stepmother, Juan Enrique Nieves-Ayala and Marisol Rodriguez-Rivera of Bayamon, Puerto Rico; a brother, Ronald Nieves of Willimantic; a sister, Heidi Nieves of Willimantic; father and mother-in-law, Gilbert and Joaneen Soucy of Andover; a sister-in-law and husband, Julie and Patrick Hurley of Southbridge, MA; brothers-in-law, Gilbert Soucy, Jr. of Coventry, Daniel Soucy of Mansfield; a very close cousin, Lucy Aponte of Hartford; his beloved pugs, Jade and Bella; and numerous extended family and friends. Including his mother he was predeceased by a stepmother, Gladys Montanez.

Family and friends attended calling hours Monday evening, Sept. 24, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. Procession began at the funeral home Tuesday, Sept. 25, before a Funeral Liturgy at the Church of the Holy Family in Hebron. Burial followed in the Townsend Cemetery in Andover. Donations in his memory may be made to benefit his children, 46 Wellswood Rd., Hebron, CT 06231.

Salem

Lee Curtis Marquardt

Lee Curtis Marquardt, beloved husband of Frances Marquardt, passed away on Sunday, Sept. 16, with his wife, Frances, and children by his side after a brief but courageous battle with leukemia. Son of Ruth and Ira Marquardt, Lee was born March 5, 1935 in New London. He served an Army assignment as a communications specialist in Germany during Peace time following the Korean War. Lee retired in 1989 after a long career as an Insurance Adjuster with Middlesex Mutual Assurance Company in Middletown. He was the co-founder of Foundation Sealers which he continued to work alongside his son, Eric.

Since retirement, Lee enjoyed an active life with his wife and family. He was an avid golfer, fisherman, and "recreational" poker player. He enjoyed traveling and spending his days with his loving wife, children, grandchildren and many friends. He volunteered for Habitat for Humanity and strongly believed that you always needed to give back to the community. He was an avid sports fan of the University of Connecticut Huskies Women's Basketball team as well as the Connecticut Sun.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Frances Marquardt of Salem and his four children, Kimberly Whittle of Ledyard, Jill Scola and her husband, Nicholas of Griswold and Watch Hill, RI, Amy Meehan and her husband, Paul of South Easton, MA and Eric Marquardt and his wife, Karen of Salem. He leaves eight grandchildren, Kristy, Amanda and Morgan Whittle, Nicole and Bobby Scola, Jack and Patrick Meehan and Julia Marquardt. He is survived by his godchildren Sarah Edwards of Unionville, and Tony Bennett of New Albany, IN. He also leaves his older brothers and their spouses Toney and Mary Marquardt of Ocala, FL and Bruce and Martha Marquardt of Williamsburg, VA, and his sister-in-law, Ann Edwards of Montville, and his son-in-law, James Whittle of Preston. He will be fondly remembered by his many close relatives and friends.

Calling hours were Tuesday, Sept. 18, at the Neilan Funeral Home, 48 Grand St., Niantic. A memorial service was held at the funeral home Wednesday, Sept. 19. To send an online condolence, visit www.neilanfuneralhome.com. Donations in his memory may be made to Habitat for Humanity of Southeastern Connecticut, 377 Broad St., New London, CT, or to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society Donor Services, P.O. Box 4072, Pittsfield, MA 01202 or at (800) 955-4572. The family wishes to extend its most sincere gratitude to the staff at Lawrence and Memorial Hospital, especially the staff of the Oncology Unit. The family appreciated their support and care.

East Hampton

Harold John Nichols

Harold John "Harry" Nichols, 87, of East Hampton, beloved husband of Marie (Bernardi) Nichols, died Monday, Sept. 24, at Middlesex Hospital. Born Jan. 13, 1920 in Berlin, the son of the late Harold C. and Mae (Kane) Nichols, he had lived in Glastonbury before moving to East Hampton 49 years ago. He was U.S. Army Veteran having served during World War II. Harry had retired from Pratt & Whitney Aircraft after 20 years of service, he then worked for two years at Sikorsky Aircraft in Stratford under the Department of the Navy, he then returned to Pratt & Whitney under the Department of the Air Force where he was a Quality Assurance Officer. He was a Communicant of St. Patrick Church in East Hampton, a member of the American Legion Post 197 of Marlborough, the Elks Club of Middletown, and the East Hampton V.F.W. Fowler-Dix Park Post 5095.

Besides his wife he is survived by his two daughters, Julie Belcourt of Clinton, and Mary Ann Wall and her husband Dennis of East Hampton; his granddaughter, Pamela Oakes and her husband Timothy; and his two great-grandchildren, Sarah Marie and Samuel Thomas. He was predeceased by his son-in-law Thomas Belcourt; a brother, Raymond Nichols; and a sister, Florence Skinner. The family would like to thank the Middlesex Hospital ICU unit for the wonderful care they gave Harry during his illness.

The family received relatives and friends at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton on Thursday, Sept. 27. The funeral procession left the Spencer Funeral Home Thursday followed by the Funeral Liturgy in St. Patrick Church, East Hampton, with the Rev. Charles LeBlanc officiating. Burial followed in the family plot in Lakeview Cemetery. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions can be made to St. Patrick Church Renovation Fund PO Box 177 East Hampton, CT 06424 or East Hampton Ambulance Association PO Box 144 East Hampton, CT 06424. To leave online condolences or for directions visit www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

East Hampton

Gennille Shirley

Gennille Shirley, 31, of Brewer Road, East Hampton, passed away Monday, Sept. 24, at Hartford Hospital. She was born in Middletown, the beloved daughter of Charles Shirley of Cromwell and Maureen (Florkoski) Shirley of East Hampton. Gennille was a graduate of Hale-Ray High School in Moodus, Class of 1996. She enjoyed fishing with her Dad and loved her bulldog, Ozzie. She was fondly known as "Puddin" to her family and close friends.

Besides her parents, she is survived by a brother, Keith Shirley of East Hampton; paternal grandparents, Reginald and Faye Shirley, and Gay Spencer, all of North Carolina; several aunts, uncles, and cousins; and her close friends, Jen Marcaurel, Amanda Negri, and Gary Bailey. Gennille's family would like to thank the caregivers at Hartford Hospital and the East Hartford Dialysis Center for their care and compassion.

A Memorial Mass will be held Saturday, Sept. 29, at 10 a.m. at St. Patrick's Church, 47 W. High St., East Hampton. Burial will be at the convenience of the family. Friends called at the Biega Funeral Home in Middletown Thursday evening. Memorial contributions may be made to the Humane Society, 710 Russell Rd., Newington, CT 06111.

Portland

Claire Cosgrove Gubtil

Claire Cosgrove Gubtil, 80, of Pepperidge Rd., Portland, died Thursday, Sept. 20, in Bridgeport Hospital. She was the wife of the late Maynard Gubtil. Born in Hartford, Nov. 15, 1926, a daughter of the late James and Catherine Radigan Cosgrove, she was a Portland resident for several years.

She is survived by her son, Craig Gubtil of Portland; her grandchildren, Ashley Gubtil of Middletown, and Anthony Giordano of New Jersey; her brother-in-law, USAF Lt. COL G.R. Moore of Glastonbury; and several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her daughter, Denise Giordano; her sisters, Mary Moore, Kathleen Hayes, Alyce Tremaine, and Veronica Cosgrove; and her brother Francis M. Cosgrove.

Her family received relatives and friends in the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, on Sunday, Sept. 23. Funeral services were held Monday, Sept. 24, at Portland Memorial. Interment followed in Center Cemetery in Portland. www.portlandmemorialfh.com.

East Hampton

Rodney Paul Voisine

Rodney Paul Voisine, 50, of Stratford and formerly of East Hampton, died suddenly Saturday, Sept. 22. Born May 14, 1957 in Hartford, he was the son of the late Lawrence and Genevea (Corriveau) Voisine. Rodney is survived by his two brothers, Gilman of Vermont, and Douglas of Massachusetts; four sisters, Barbara of Arkansas, Margaret of Massachusetts, Jane of North Carolina, and Jacqueline of North Carolina. He also leaves his former wife, Vivian of Westchester; stepdaughter, Sherri of East Hampton; a granddaughter, Taylor; his girlfriend, Maria of Stratford and many loving nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by a brother, Raynold; and a sister, Diane.

He was employed by Arrow Concrete and formerly Marino Crane, Waldo Brothers and Christie Rigging & Trucking. He was a member of Anchor Lodge 112 A.F. & A.M. of East Hampton and former Governor of the Loyal Order of Moose of Marlborough. Funeral services were held Thursday, Sept. 27, in the Spencer Funeral Home 112 Main St., East Hampton, with the Rev. Charles LeBlanc officiating. Burial will be private. Friends called at the funeral home Thursday evening. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut, P.O. Box 70 Wallingford, CT 06492. To leave online condolences visit www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Portland

Anthony S. LaMalfa

Anthony S. "Tony" LaMalfa, 69, of Portland, passed away peacefully Tuesday, Sept. 25, surrounded by his loving family, after a courageous, seven-year battle with cancer. Tony was born Oct. 19, 1937, the son of the late Antonio and Frances (Arico) LaMalfa. He was beloved husband of Theresa (Bankowski) LaMalfa, and devoted father and father-in-law to Tony and Patti LaMalfa, Ann Marie and Bill Landers, John and Hillary LaMalfa, and Michael and Lorraine LaMalfa, all of Portland. "Pa" also leaves his twelve grandchildren, Nick, Adina, Marissa and Sean LaMalfa, Brittany and Ryan Landers, McKenzie and Samuel LaMalfa, Michael, Mya, Kayla and Joseph LaMalfa, all of Portland. Tony is also survived by his brothers, Joseph LaMalfa of Middletown, and Peter and Joan LaMalfa of Portland, as well as several nieces and nephews.

Upon graduating from Middletown High School he was drafted into the U. S. Navy where he served until 1958. Tony graduated from Vaugh's Barber School in Hartford and has been Portland's Town Barber for the past 47 years, closing his doors in December 2006. Tony was a 3rd degree member of the Middletown Knights of Columbus. He was also one of the founders of Portland Sports Night and served many years with Portland Little League. He was an avid Red Sox fan, attending many games with his sons. Tony spent endless hours in his garden and was in anticipation of having the first tomato of the season. He will be dearly missed by all his dear friends and patrons, as Tony always said "Once the Barber's pole is off you'll know its over."

Funeral services will be held Monday (Oct. 1) at 10 a.m. from the Biega Funeral Home, 3 Silver St., Middletown followed by an 11 a.m. Funeral Liturgy in St. Mary's Church, Freestone Ave, Portland. Burial, with Military Honors, will be in the State Veterans Cemetery. Friends may call at the Biega Funeral Home Sunday (Sept. 30) from 4 to 7 p.m. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Dana Farber Cancer Institute, 10 Brookline Place, Brookline, MA 02446 or to St. Mary's Church, 45 Freestone Ave., Portland, CT 06480.

Colchester

Katherine Reiter

Katherine (Gregory) Reiter, 80, of San Luis Obispo, CA passed away Tuesday, Sept. 25, at her residence. She was a graduate of Bacon Academy Class of 1945 and also a graduate of UConn. During the Korean War, she served in Germany for the U.S. Army, Special Services. She is survived by her daughter, Susan; one grandson; her brother, Robert Gregory; one nephew. Katherine was predeceased by her husband, Martin, her parents and a brother Paul Gregory. Services were held in California.