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News Bulletin

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

Volume 33, Number 22

Published by The Glastonbury Citizen

August 15, 2008



The landmark store Marlborough Barn will close its doors this month after almost 50 years of service.

Marlborough Barn Closing its Doors

by Kristina Histen

One of Connecticut's best-kept secrets will close its doors later this month, due to a slipping economy and a more competitive market.

For 48 years the landmark Marlborough Barn has been the premier destination for shoppers seeking top of the line furniture and accessories. But the three-generation store will close after business hours on Sunday, Aug. 17, Company President Deborah Leonard said.

The store will remain closed from Aug. 18-25, and will reopen for a private by-invitation-only sale on Aug. 26, 27 and 28. A "store closing retirement sale" of remaining inventory, open to the general public, will take place from Aug. 29 through Labor Day, Sept. 2.

"We have to embrace change and move on," Leonard said.

The closing will not affect the hardware store and the restaurant on the grounds of the Barn, which is located on North Main Street. Both New England Traditions and Sadler's Ordinary are independently operated and will remain open.

All 40 employees that will be affected were informed of the closing on Sunday, Aug. 10, Leonard said. She said her biggest regret is the impact the closing will have on her staff. "We have a fabulous

staff," she said. "A lot of people have been here for 20 or close to 30 years. We've really worked as a team."

Leonard emphasized that the staff was like an extended family in many ways and their association was rich and rewarding, both personally and professionally. "I have the utmost confidence in this group as professionals," she said, "and I know each and every one of them will go on to do great things."

A slipping economy, a more competitive market place dominated by foreign imports and a rural location all contributed to the closing. "It's about the way people shop today," Leonard said. "They have less leisure time and for convenience they resort to catalog and Internet shopping. And they're also concerned with the price of gas."

The increasing struggle to be unique while remaining competitive in the marketplace had become too much, Leonard said. "Unfortunately it's the wave of the future and Marlborough Barn has had a great run," she said, but "the cost of doing business has increased substantially."

The "Marlborough Country Barn" opened its doors in 1960, the brainchild of Leonard's father, Marlborough resident Carl Zirkenbach Sr. A former Fuller Brush

salesman with a passion for Shaker and handcrafted furniture, Zirkenbach transformed a vacant dairy barn on his North Main Street property into one of the most successful retail furniture outlets in New England.

Starting in the single old barn with penny candy, gifts and an assortment of furniture, the Marlborough Barn complex evolved into a series of four spacious Colonial-reproduction buildings, each with its own specialized inventory. A popular restaurant and hardware store also became part of the complex.

Leonard was asked to join her father's business in 1980. A few years later, she was named vice president and then president. Holding her father's vision, business acumen and high regard, to this day she sees him as a man before his time in many ways.

"It wasn't just the furniture," she said. "It was the dining room tables and with that the linens that went on them and the dishes and everything you could need. He was the first one to do that. Everyone does it now, but no one did it back then. He's kind of a visionary and had a real eye for the way things should look. My father was very instrumental in knowing exactly what

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he wanted. He did it right and people wanted to copy it.”

Over the years, the Barn became one of the top taxpayers in town and gained the reputation for high quality “traditional” items, expanding into “furnishings adaptable to today’s lifestyles,” Leonard said.

In time the inventory ranged from sofas to curtains, lamps to art, fine china to pewter, hand-made chairs to hooked rugs, mirrors to clocks, Christmas to women’s accessories and occupied a complex over several acres. A swampy pasture behind the complex was transformed into a pond where visitors enjoyed having lunch and feeding the ducks.

Zirkenbach also founded a second business in Old Saybrook. That business, “The Shops at Saybrook Country Barn,” is now independently owned and operated by Keith Bolles and is not connected with the Marlborough Barn or its closing. Leonard said she was unsure what would become of the Marlborough Barn building once the store closes.

“For me, this marks the end of a dynamic era,” Leonard said. “We made a little history and we feel very proud of what we’ve done. His vision was to put a New England shopping center here. It has been a tremendous experience for me professionally and personally.”

She again expressed appreciation for her staff and for all the Barn’s loyal customers over the past nearly 50 years. “I want to thank them for their business patronage,” she said. “I appreci-

ate our clients, many who have come for many years.”

Patrons at the Barn on Tuesday were shocked at the news of the closing. “I’m visiting from California,” California resident Sarah Robinson said, shaking her head. “I come here for shopping every time I’m here.” Her mother Sue from Hartford was also upset. “This is horrible,” she said. “I really like coming here, it’s a good little secret and [the closing] will hurt the area tremendously.”

First Selectman Bill Black also seemed to have the same reaction. He was very sad and even choked up when he heard the news. Not only has he known of the Barn even before he was a resident, but is very close to the family.

“They are a big part of our community,” he said. “For so many years, on a personal level, I myself have been visiting and utilizing their services. Not only do they have a quality product, but they have become a destination. I’m very sad to hear they are going to be leaving us.”

Letters of invitation to the three-day private sale will go out next week to customers on the Barn’s mailing list, Leonard said.

Hours for the first week of the general sale will be as follows: Tuesday, Aug. 26, through Friday, Aug. 29, from 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Saturday, Aug. 30, from 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sunday, Aug. 31, from 12-6 p.m. List prices will be drastically reduced in this storewide inventory clearance.

From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

As I was watching it pour Monday afternoon (and it poured here at the *Rivereast* offices in Glastonbury, so much so that the parking lot resembled a small lake), I got to thinking: has this been a stormy summer or what? It feels like it’s rained at least 3-4 times a week every single week this summer. And it hasn’t been just a steady stream of drizzle, either. There have been some spectacular storms. It sure has felt like a much rainier summer than usual. But I know the old adage, that things are never as bad as they seem, so I did some research. Has this indeed been a wetter summer than we’re used to seeing around here? And according to weatherunderground.com, yes, yes it really has been.

Through Wednesday, Aug. 13, Bradley International Airport in Windsor Locks (the official weather station for the state) has seen 6.21 inches of rain this month. The average rainfall for the first 13 days of August? 1.13 inches. We’re more than five inches ahead of where we should be. Also, unless you’re just returning home from a three-month vacation in some other state, you know that the rain we’ve seen in Connecticut this summer hasn’t been confined to August. June and July were pretty freakin’ rainy too. But how much rainier than usual? According to weatherunderground.com, we’re normally supposed to see 27.93 inches of precipitation each year by the 13th of August. This year? We’ve had 42.77 inches. Granted, that total also includes snow (well, sort of. Precipitation totals measure liquid precipitation, i.e., rain; generally speaking, 10 inches of snow equals one inch of rain), but I don’t remember it being much snowier than usual this year. Even if it was, it shouldn’t account for the nearly 15-inch difference in precipitation totals.

What does all this rain mean? Well, there’s certainly no drought. In fact, the average yearly precipitation total through Dec. 1 is 42.69 inches. It could be bone dry for the next three and a half months, and we’d still be a little ahead of where we should be. That won’t happen, of course. And chances are by the time you read this on Friday or Saturday it will have stormed again. But look on the bright side. Maybe, just maybe, this all means we won’t get a lot of snow this winter. I’d be fine with that.

As I indicated in last week’s column, I enjoy eating. And Monday night I saw something that I almost couldn’t pass up. I went with some friends to the Red Robin in Manchester for dinner, and shortly after sitting down I spotted a new addition to their menu: a burger that was topped with au gratin potatoes and a brie cheese spread. The potatoes intrigued me greatly; I once had that Loaded Smokehouse Burger from Burger King, which featured mashed potatoes on the sandwich, and it made for a pretty great meal. With au gratin potatoes on this one instead of just mashed potatoes, this burger seemed even more adventurous. And since I had had a decidedly unadventurous lunch at Subway that day, I very nearly took the plunge.

But I confess, the brie cheese spread scared me off. While I like most cheeses, I’m not a big brie fan. So, I instead opted for the Bleu Ribbon Burger, a burger basted with steak sauce and sprinkled with bleu cheese and fried onion straws. I was satisfied, but I remain a little intrigued by that au gratin burger. Perhaps I’ll tackle it one day.

It’s apparently Teen Tournament week on *Jeopardy!* While I prefer the regular show myself, at least it’s better than the children’s tournament on the show. I’ve just never liked that tournament, and I can’t really explain why. Maybe it’s the fact that Alex Trebek talks down to the contestants even more than he talks down to the regular adult contestants. Maybe it’s that those kids standing there on the podium remind me of those annoying old Hooked on Phonics commercials (“Hooked on Phonics worked for me!”). But whatever the case, I really don’t care for it. I’d rather watch paint. Not even watch it dry; just watch it sit there in cans.

So the Teen Tournament is at least better than that. But I prefer the regular version of the show, with the adult contestants, as the questions are obviously more challenging. Still, I admit it feels kinda good to be able to correctly answer the questions more often than not. There’s a certain satisfaction in being able to identify the author of the words “shall I compare thee to a summer’s day” while some 15-year-old sophomore just stands there with a blank expression on his face. Take that, Dylan!

You might have noticed I haven’t mentioned the Olympics yet. And there’s a reason for that: I’m just not really that into them. I’ve never really gotten into the Olympics as much as other people have. I don’t dislike them. I’ve just never really caught the “Olympic fever.” However, there’s usually a story or two out of each Olympics that grabs my attention, like Michael Phelps and his quest for gold medals this year. And I recently came across a story about something that happened during the 1964 Olympics in Tokyo that was pretty interesting.

Four years earlier, in 1960, an Ethiopian named Abebe Bikila won the gold medal for the 26-mile marathon, and became the first black African to win a gold medal in any event. However, his chances of repeating in the ‘64 Olympics were slim. Very slim. He had an emergency appendectomy just 40 days before the race. But Bikila raced anyway – and won. In fact, he finished four minutes ahead of the second-place runner, set a world record and became the first person ever to win two marathon gold medals.

When Bikila stood for the medals ceremony, he received a bit of a surprise. Japan’s national anthem was played, and not Ethiopia’s. It seems no one had dreamed Bikila would win (having just received that appendectomy), so the Japanese orchestra hadn’t bothered to learn Ethiopia’s anthem. Uh, woops.

See you next week.

The Return of Marlborough Day

by Kristina Histen

The Marlborough Business Association (MBA) is bringing back Marlborough Day at the Lake.

The event will be held rain or shine Sunday, Aug. 24, from 11 a.m.-4 p.m., at Blish Park. Admission is free.

There will be over \$2,000 in door prizes, and activities like face painting, music, magicians, celebrity-lookalike impersonators and dance instruction. It’s sure to be an event the whole family can enjoy. There will also be booths set up to represent a “mini Taste of Marlborough,” as all the food will be provided by local restaurants like Sadler’s Ordinary, Marlborough Tavern and Marlborough Pizza, MBA Board and Community Awareness Committee member Sharon Reiner said. Also, volunteer firefighters will put on a fire hose demonstration over the boat launch and the civic organizations will be running activities and games for kids to do all day long, President Donna Finocchiaro said.

“One of our goals this year was to bring back Marlborough Day at the Lake as a town day to bring everyone together,” Reiner said. “It had been going on in the past so we wanted to look at an event that would make sense for the business community and the Marlborough community itself.”

The MBA is a nonprofit organization made up of businessmen and women that represent over 50 businesses in the town’s region, its web site www.mba-ct.org said. With 14 board members and an additional 64 members, the MBA tries to promote business growth, foster the overall economic climate in the community and work toward an enhanced quality of life in town, the web site said. The MBA works closely with town government, town boards and commissions to present the issues and concerns of the business community, the web site said.

The main emphasis of the MBA is to provide events and opportunities for members

to build crucial business relationships that will assist them in growing their businesses, the web site said. To become a member, one must be a business owner and either live and/or work in town or have a local business that supports the Marlborough community, Finocchiaro said.

Since January, the MBA has been planning on bringing back Marlborough Day at the Lake and have been actively working on it in the past four months, Finocchiaro said. The town’s Park and Recreation Department last held Marlborough Day at the Lake in 2003, Reiner said. By resurrecting the event, they felt it was an opportunity to showcase business in a fun way and could get everyone in town involved, Finocchiaro said.

“This is something we want to give back to the community and raise awareness in a fun day at the lake kind of event,” Finocchiaro said. “We want people in town and the surrounding areas to know that there are businesses that exist in the Marlborough area. There are a number of Marlborough based businesses that the community does not know about. We hope to bring awareness to the people that the Business Association is actively doing things for the community.”

The event is being funded through sponsorship by the larger local businesses, Finocchiaro said. MBA members themselves are also helping to subsidize the event, as there is a nominal fee to join the association. All door prizes were donated and five prizes will be given away every hour on the hour, with a grand prize of \$600 worth of home heating, Finocchiaro said.

“If this year is successful, we hope to bring it back every year as the Business Association’s signature event,” she said. “We want people to know it as our event and look forward to it by putting it on their calendars 12 months in advance. That’s the goal.”

Watt Named New Hebron Chairman of Selectmen

by Sarah McCoy

The Board of Selectmen (BOS) unanimously approved Republican Jeff Watt as chair of the board last Thursday, Aug. 7.

Watt fills the void left by David Schoolcraft, who was forced to resign from the BOS earlier this summer due to his recent appointment as a Worker’s Compensation Commissioner for the State of Connecticut.

“I’m honored to be considered,” Watt said last week after being nominated by Gayle Mulligan, who has been the acting chair since Schoolcraft resigned.

Watt also said he’s proud to be a part of a board that “works collectively for the good of Hebron.”

Being a board chairman is nothing new to Watt, as he served as chair of the RHAM Board of Education in 2003. Watt is also a former president of the Hebron Lions Club.

Also at last Thursday’s meeting Mulligan, who before Schoolcraft’s resignation had been serving as the vice-chair of the BOS,

stepped down from her position due to health reasons. Mulligan was diagnosed with cancer earlier this year. She plans to remain on the Board of Selectmen (she was elected last November) but said she cannot “guarantee” that she’ll be able to fulfill the requirements of the vice-chair position.

To fill her void, Mulligan nominated board member Mark Stuart, a Democrat. The nomination was approved unanimously.

Elected in 2005, Stuart is the longest-tenured member of this Board of Selectmen. He is a former chair of the town’s Board of Finance and a longtime member of the Capital Improvements Plan Commission.

Selectman Brian O’Connell said Stuart’s “experience has put the town on a positive course.”

With the appointments of Watt and Stuart, the Board of Selectmen now has a chair and vice-chair from different political parties. This is the first time in more than five years that there has been such an occurrence.

Resident in Hot Water Over Colchester Construction Project

by Sarah McCoy

The former interested buyer of the Peters House has found himself in legal trouble as a result of an alleged faulty construction project.

Hebron resident Jeffrey Farber is due in court later this month, charged with two counts of home improvement violations. Earlier this summer a judge ruled in favor of a Colchester couple in a civil suit against Farber to the tune of nearly \$75,000.

According to court documents, Edward and Michelle Kozlowski hired Farber's contracting company, Wexler Construction LLC, to build a three-car garage at their Colchester property in June of 2007 for the agreed upon price of \$45,300.

On July 23 of last year, the court documents say, Farber began construction but was approached by the Kozlowskis soon after for what they felt were errors in construction. These errors included improper electrical trench construction, not square foundation footings, lack of drainage for backfill, inadequate foundation footings due to insufficient concrete, installation of a defective foundation drain and illegal dumping of tree stumps or town property, according to the court documents.

"During the course of the summer we had numerous conversations with Mr. Farber about wanting things done by a certain time," Edward Kozlowski said this week. "He still didn't complete his end of the bargain in a timely manner, and, after we had hired someone else to finish the job, discovered that he didn't do things prop-

erly according to standard construction procedure."

By the start of last September, the Kozlowskis informed Farber that his services were no longer needed as he had failed to correct the errors in construction, court documents indicate. Up to that point the Kozlowskis had paid over \$24,000 towards the construction of the garage.

The Kozlowskis went on to hire Colchester general contractor Richard Baldi to finish the project for an additional \$41,700. The Kozlowskis said they were more than satisfied with Baldi's work.

However, in an attempt to recoup the money expended for the project, the Colchester couple filed a civil lawsuit in February, seeking the \$74,633.82 they paid to Farber, the additional contractors they hired to complete the job, and legal fees. Judge Joseph Purtill ruled in favor of the Kozlowskis in June, awarding them the whole amount they were seeking.

Edward Kozlowski said that he never saw Farber in court and, to his knowledge, the Hebron resident has yet to reply to any court documents.

Almost two months later, the Kozlowskis say they have yet to see any of that money owed to them.

According to Kozlowski, Farber told him after the judgment in June that he was in the process of filing for bankruptcy. At press time, Edward Kozlowski said he and his wife were

looking into their options as to how to proceed.

"It is my understanding that not all debt can be dissolved by filing for bankruptcy," Edward Kozlowski said.

According to federal bankruptcy laws, individuals who file for bankruptcy aren't relieved of their obligation to pay child or spousal support. Kozlowski said he and his lawyer, Kevin Emerson, are looking into whether Farber would be required to pay the judgment even if he does file for bankruptcy.

Also stemming from the Kozlowski job are two criminal charges against Farber. In February, the Kozlowskis reported Farber to the state Department of Consumer Protection (DCP). Following a lengthy interview with the couple, the state opened an investigation on Farber, according to court documents too. And in May, state police arrested the Hebron resident and charged him with impersonating a registered home improvement contractor and making home improvements without being registered to do so.

According to DCP records, Farber had let his Home Improvement Contracting License, No. 575473, lapse. Owing more than \$11,000 to the Home Improvement Guarantee Fund to renew his license, the DCP contends, Farber applied for a new license under the name Christine Neff on June 21, 2007.

Neff is listed as a resident of 4 Rham Rd. in Hebron, where Farber also resides. Her relation to Farber is unknown.

On June 22, 2007, Farber applied for a building permit in Colchester, claiming to be a registered contractor. Court documents indicate he was not at the time.

Farber has pled not guilty to these two charges and is due back in court on Aug. 25. "They are charges we dispute but I'm not willing to get into our defense," Farber's attorney, Jeremy Weingast, said.

Edward Kozlowski said he plans to be there when Farber returns to court. "We expended almost double what we planned to undo and redo the work done by Mr. Farber," Kozlowski said. "We are just trying to follow our legal recourse to get our money back."

Jeffrey Farber is a name many Hebron residents may be familiar with. Last summer, Farber began negotiations with the town to purchase the house located at 150 East St., also known as the Peters House. A series of public hearings and meetings followed, and Farber ultimately withdrew his offer at the beginning of 2008, amid pressure from taxpayers for town officials not to sell the property.

"Our dealings with Mr. Farber were always cordial, very business-like and satisfactory," Town Manager Jared Clark said. But, he added, "As we came close to the end, and the town was looking for supporting details to move the purchase forward, it became evident that the project was more than Mr. Farber wanted to take on."

Portland Filmmaker Returns to Hometown to Tell Nostalgic Tale

by Michael McCoy

Though more and more films are being shot in Connecticut (most notably the university sequence of Indiana Jones' latest romp), one still wouldn't expect to see movie cameras in Portland.

Though Hollywood has not yet started seeing brownstone, hometown boy Jack Kearney is doing them one better. He spent half of this week shooting a film that documents his days spent growing up near Indian Hill Avenue in Portland. (Kearney and his family actually lived on Taylor Drive.)

Kearney describes the short film as a "coming of age story" about a group of kids around Indian Hill Avenue. "It was a good place to grow up," Kearney said. More specifically, it documents a summer where Jack and his friends try to climb Indian Hill on their bikes, a rite of passage in the neighborhood while Jack was growing up in the 1970s.

"When you could get up Indian Hill, you were no longer one of the little kids," Kearney remembered. Other regular pastimes included kick-the-can and kickball, also documented in *Indian Hill*.

One year after Kearney made it up the hill in real life, he and his family moved to Arizona. "I think we defaulted on the house," shrugged Kearney. As he remembers it, his father threw a dart at a map to figure out what to do next.

The Kearneys only stayed in Arizona for a few years before moving to North Haven and later, Wethersfield. In addition to Jack, the family consisted of three brothers, a sister, and parents Richard and Barbara.

Kearney graduated from Wethersfield High School in 1981 and eventually joined the Coast Guard for two years, working as a sonar technician. While meeting with a recruiter, Kearney figured, "A year in San Diego? Where do I sign?"

Soon after, he began a 20-year career as a standup comedian. "I think it was kind of a left-over of being a smartass," he laughed.

In the mid-1980s he found himself at an open-mic night at Toad's Place in New Haven. Upon hearing his routine, the owner later asked him if he could do 30 minutes opening for Warren Zevon. "I lied through my teeth and said, 'yes, I can.'"

During his standup days, Kearney said he played all over from "North Dakota to Texas," though most of his gigs were up and down the eastern seaboard.

Kearney's switch to film was not completely

out of nowhere. "I've been writing screenplays for years," he said. In fact, he said, a few years ago, a production company was about to pick up a screenplay he had written called *Retribution*. However, when the director of development left to start his own company, "they pretty much tossed everything," which Kearney remarked is a fairly normal practice. He figures he was at one point merely days away from a "six-digit payday."

This prompted him to quote a common showbiz adage: "You didn't get paid 'till the check clears."

Two and a half years ago, he moved to Atlanta to devote himself to film fulltime.

"Atlanta's got a really good art scene," he said. This is the home of his production company, named The JAX Company.

Kearney found himself looking for a story for a short film after plans to shoot after another feature fell through, and that's when he was inspired to document the fond memories of his old stomping grounds. So he teamed up with his friend Justin Burgess, who has his own production company called JQwest.

Now, "Atlanta's got *some* hills," Kearney said. However, it simply did not have the proper landscape to shoot the film. So, he decided the best move was to simply come back to Portland, and shoot at the real location.

Kearney and his crew held auditions for the film last Saturday at the public library, where they were casting four boys and four girls. (This is the same makeup as Kearney's real-life childhood group of friends, and the names are the same as well.) That day, 23 girls and only six boys showed up. Though seemingly happy with the cast, Kearney admitted, "The boys don't look exactly like we did."

Since this is a period film, certain measures had to be taken to achieve the correct sense of time. Most notably, Kearney was able to borrow six bikes from the New England Muscle Bicycle Museum in Bloomfield, thanks to owner and operator Jim Barnard. "That's a real cool museum," remarked Kearney.

In addition, he had to get his actors out of the habit of saying "dude." Nobody said 'dude' yet," he said. "We said, 'man.'"

The film includes a scene where the kids crash a picnic thrown by the fire department's Company Two. This was shot on Wednesday during an actual picnic of the company's. Kearney said he and his friends really did use to crash those picnics, as his friend Chris' father, Buddy Hernandez, was part of the depart-



Jack Kearney, left, is making a short film based on a childhood episode of his in Portland. Also pictured is Lisa Prout, a boyhood friend of his who's portrayed in the movie.

ment. Incidentally, Buddy plays "Mr. Shear" in the film, while Buddy is portrayed by George Gilbert. (The Shears were famous in the neighborhood as a dependable source of bubble gum.)

Kearney also recalled playing Little League under coach Tony LaMalfa, the late owner of longtime local fixture Pete's Barber Shop. "When we got a home run, we got a free haircut," Kearney said.

One scene in the film depicts the kids skipping rocks along the Connecticut River. "I had a 33-skipper in '75," Kearney grinned, adding that the record at the time was 27 by someone in Minnesota.

Unfortunately, these memories are all somewhat bittersweet, as two members of the eight-kid clique passed away during the same year. Kearney's brother Billy was hit by a train in Germany, and Chris Hernandez was in a car accident.

Though most of the film takes place in 1975, some scenes are set in the present day, including a visit to Billy's grave in North Haven. The 1975 and 2008 sequences were shot with two

different cameras to highlight the difference.

"The kids did a great job, and it's really been my pleasure to share a little bit of Portland with the world, because it really was a great place to grow up," Kearney said.

He also voiced his thanks to Portland Library, especially director Janet Nocek, as well as Buddy Hernandez for giving him use of the firemen's grounds.

The shoot ran from Monday to Wednesday, and Kearney spent the rest of the week visiting family. He plans to begin editing the film next week. He hoped to return to town in October or November for a premiere of the film, with a DVD release to follow.

More about the film and Kearney is available at thejaxcompany.com and myspace.com/thejaxcompany. The principal cast list includes: Steven Agogliati as Jack,

Jayson Menders as Chris, Brendan Unikewicz as Jeff, Hunter Weitowitz as Billy, Alexis Steele as Barb, Vail Madrak as Kim, Shelby Stanton as Sheila and Maisy Lang as Lisa.

Portland Teen Heading South With Big Scholarship

by Michael McCoy

Miranda Galvin always wanted to attend a big school and leave her small town roots behind. So, how is it that in one week she'll end up at a school in rural Virginia, with just 1,800 undergrads?

Miranda, 17, who has lived in Portland since 2001, is headed to Washington and Lee University, located in Lexington, VA. "It's kind of a fluke that I even applied," Miranda said. "I wasn't looking to go south. I wanted the big name."

On a whim, though, Miranda applied after receiving information in the mail. However, "I wasn't excited about the school," she admitted. Growing up in Portland, she was not interested in going to college in a small town.

Then, she received a letter saying that not only was she accepted, but she was a finalist for the Johnson Scholarship, a merit-based award, worth around \$50,000, which would pay for every expense during her four years there.

To receive the scholarship, Miranda had to attend a series of interviews in February. This raised enough interest for Miranda to scope things out in Lexington, though she was not looking forward to it. Defying her expectations, she left with a completely different take.

"I just fell in love with it," she said.

Chief among her change of heart was the warm environment she found herself in.

"Anytime you see anyone, you say 'hi,'" Miranda said of the practice at Washington and Lee. "This extends to those you do not know."

Furthermore, "I had heard about the honor code," Miranda said. However, she remained skeptical. That was before she saw someone's personal belongings (including keys and a laptop) sitting out unattended. When Miranda's tour circled back to that spot hours later, they were still there."

Miranda added, "My host left her dorm room open all the time. It's just such a welcoming environment."

However, Washington and Lee is not a cheap school, and, without the scholarship, it may not have been feasible. "I wasn't willing to put myself out for \$200,000 worth of debt," she said.

On March 29 (which she called "a day that will forever be in my memory"), Miranda was gearing up for a long weekend with her aunt and uncle when she received an envelope from Washington and Lee.

According to tradition, Miranda said, those who receive a complimentary phone call from one of the faculty interviewers can bank on getting the prestigious scholarship. Miranda never got one, though she did receive an e-mail.

When Miranda opened the envelope, welcoming her to the school, she saw nothing about the scholarship.

"My heart just fell," Miranda said. "It was a very scary moment for me."

Minutes later, in a moment straight from *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, she took a closer look in the envelope and found a piece of paper that said, "Congratulations."

That was all she needed to read before erupting in celebration.

According to Miranda, of around 2,000 prospective students, 160 were called to an interview. Sixty-five were awarded the scholarship, and out of those, 40 decided to attend the school.

The scholarship even left enough money to pay for books and sorority dues. According to Galvin, 75 to 85 percent of Washington and Lee students belong to fraternities or sororities.

"I didn't want a school that was completely Greek," Miranda said. "I had heard horror stories." However, according to Miranda, there is no hazing at the fraternities and sororities on the Washington and Lee campus. Miranda's host was in a sorority, and the extent of her pledging was her "big sister" decorating her room for her. "It really is a sisterhood...It's 'what can we do together.'"



Miranda Galvin will head to Washington and Lee University at the end of the month. The school is located in Lexington, VA, which has a population even smaller than Portland's.

said Miranda.

"These are all people who pride themselves in excelling," Miranda said. Washington and Lee University was named after George Washington and Robert E. Lee and, Miranda said, "Everything you do adds to Robert E. Lee's legacy and George Washington's legacy."

All told, the school has about 1,800 undergraduate and 300 law students.

Miranda will major in political science, though she hopes to double major. (The school does not grant minors.) "Why limit myself to political science," she said.

"I have always wanted to be a lawyer," Miranda said, adding that she hopes to work for the state judicial system. More specifically, she has her sights set on being Connecticut's Attorney General. This is part of her effort to "hopefully make the world a better place."

But don't label Miranda sentimental just yet. This is the same person who, when asked to write a high school paper about her hero, wrote about how "heroes didn't exist."

However, as she prepares to head down to Virginia one week from today, she is decidedly more optimistic, and seemingly ready to embrace the way of life there. "It's not about how far you're going and how fast you're getting there," she said. "It's about how much you're enjoying what you're doing."

The only thing she seems to lament is not being around while her siblings grow up. (Tyler is five, and Lily is two.) In fact, when Miranda's mother Tara informed Tyler that Miranda would no longer be living at home once she left for college, "he sat on the couch for an hour and a half, and wouldn't talk to anyone."

Miranda will visit home, of course. However, with an eight-hour train ride each way, the first time the trip will be feasible will not be until Thanksgiving.

For the past four years, Miranda has been quite active at St. Mary's Church, and at school (she is a 2008 graduate of Portland High School) she played trombone with "just about any band you can name." She has already signed on to be part of Washington and Lee's wind ensemble.

In addition, she plans to become part of the Young Democrats and participate in the mock party conventions on campus.

Miranda has spent the better part of this summer enjoying time with her family before she ships off. However, she did help out with Girls State this summer and occasionally babysat for neighbors. In future summers, she hopes to secure an internship with the attorney general's office in Hartford.

East Hampton Town Council Compensates Drewry

by Michael McCoy

The Town Council voted Tuesday evening to reimburse acting town manager Bob Drewry, thanking him for pulling double duty for the better part of the past year.

While the town won't be giving him any monetary compensation, the council members agreed to pay for the health insurance for Drewry and his wife from his Dec. 26, 2008, retirement date through December 2010, when he becomes eligible for Medicare.

Town Council Chair Melissa Engel said this carries a dollar value of \$41,905.51 – an amount that didn't sit well with all of her fellow councilmen.

During an executive session that preceded their regular meeting Tuesday night, the Town Council discussed the issue and subsequently came out of executive session to vote. However, prior to that vote, councilman Scott Minnick said, "I don't agree with this."

While commending Drewry on the job he has done, he said, "It's a little bit extravagant with taxpayer money. . . . I think it's too much." The council voted 5-2 in favor of the compensation package, with Minnick and Sue Weintraub voting against it.

Engel offered details of the compensation package after a pair of citizens requested the information during the public comment section of the regular meeting.

Engel said the compensation was "far cheaper than if we paid a professional town manager." She continued, "I don't think a professional town manager would have done nearly as satisfactory a job as Bob did."

"Bob came to me with a compensation proposal," Engel said Wednesday. "I thought it was very deserved and reasonable." Previously, Engel had speculated that the Town Council would offer some sort of compensation to Drewry for his extra efforts. She said council members eventually would have offered him something, but "he beat us to it."

Figuring that hiring an interim town manager from outside would have run the town around \$80,000, Engel said, "Not only did we get the best guy for the job, we got good value for our money."

When asked what kind of hours Drewry has been putting in, Engel said, "He's gotta be doing at least 50 or 60 [per week]," and added, "I'm sure he's exhausted. . . . It's a lot to do."

"It wasn't that we didn't want to compensate him," Minnick said after Tuesday's meeting, and added that he felt \$20,000 "would have been appropriate." He said he had no problem

with paying for Drewry's health insurance or granting the additional vacation time, but that he objected to paying for his wife's insurance.

"He did the job; let's pay him," Minnick said. "This is about him, not his family."

Minnick also said that Drewry "taking on that position was not the same as hiring a professional." He said Drewry "juggled [both jobs] well. . . . he did a fine job at that." But, he added, "He didn't put in the time a full-time town manager would have put in. . . . He didn't work an excruciating amount of hours."

Minnick continued, "I'm worried this could set a precedent for other staff."

Minnick, a member of the Chatham Party, said it was the Chatham Party that "asked [Drewry] originally to keep the boat afloat, and that's what he did." However, Minnick said they did not anticipate that Drewry would serve in that capacity so long. (In October of last year, the council hired Jim Thomas to be town manager, but following the election a month later, which switched the party distribution, the council terminated that contract.)

Minnick made it clear he felt Drewry has done a fine job, and said, "We appreciate it; don't get me wrong." And while he was not sure what the cost of hiring a retired town manager in the interim would be, he said, "There's no doubt it would have been more [than \$40,000.]"

But, figuring that would have been money well spent, Minnick remarked, "You get what you pay for."

"If we had a town manager, we would have gotten a lot more done, and, yes, it would have cost more," he added.

Minnick said Drewry simply did not have the time to be a full-time interim town manager, and said Town Council members "are doing his job," adding that he and Weintraub have put in a number of hours carrying out such tasks. He said Engel has done the same, spending many hours at the town hall. "Her truck is always there," he said.

The Town Council fired former town manager Alan Bergren in June of last year. Drewry, who is director of Public Works, has filled in as acting town manager since October when Bergren left. In June the council hired Jeffery O'Keefe as their new town manager. He will start on September.

When being asked about his retirement after the meeting, Drewry sounded upbeat. Alluding to O'Keefe's arrival come Labor Day, he smiled, "I'm retiring from *one* position in two weeks."

Separate Permits for Marlborough Transfer Station and Blish Park?

by **Kristina Histen**

The Board of Selectmen (BOS) is looking into the possibility of having separate stickers for parking at Blish Park and for use of the transfer station, First Selectman Bill Black said.

Currently, the two locations are combined as one sticker and haven't been updated in many years, Black said. "We have a number of stickers out there that we're just not sure where they are or where they should be, so we're looking at exploring various options," he said.

Just a few months ago, the selectmen started looking into the entire process after an inspection of the parking and transfer station stickers, Black said. It was determined that the stickers needed to be reissued to make sure they are adequate and kept under control. The selectmen had their first workshop about it last Tuesday to consider some options, but still need a plan and input from residents.

Nothing has been formalized yet, but if a fee schedule and process is put into place, the separate stickers could take effect in the fall.

"We want to keep our residents involved in the process," Black said.

The transfer station fees have been around since 1991, Black said, and they've remained the same for about 10 years. What the BOS is looking at doing is issuing new stickers not only to get their data base updated, but to also consider some sort of dollar amount to recover the costs of issuing stickers and then trying to track them down. There would possibly be a small processing fee of \$10 per sticker to cover the costs of paperwork, Black said, and they would be reissued every two years.

The BOS is considering making two separate stickers because it was cleaner and residents have different needs, Black said. Some people just utilize the transfer station while others only utilize the parking at Blish Park. Although there are some residents that make use of both, other towns have taken advantage of the transfer station, and Black believes that keeping the stickers separate will help take care of the Marlborough residents.

Originally, the BOS had started to look into the transfer station fees and noticed that since

the early part of the year, tipping fees continued to climb. There was an increase in costs to operate, Black said, and the selectmen began wondering if influences from outside towns were upping the costs. One day, Black said, he received a call from someone that was outraged at the fees he was going to be charged to drop demolition work. When Black inquired about where he was calling from, he found out the man was from East Hampton and was using the Marlborough Transfer Station on a regular basis.

"Marlborough is unique because we don't charge," Black said. "We decided we're still not going to charge for tipping or dumping, but at least we'll charge a fee with the sticker to cover some costs. That way, we'll make sure the transfer station is kept available for our residents. But, we need to keep some controls in place to make sure that happens."

Black said he has heard other complaints from residents that people from surrounding areas were using the dump all the time. According to Black, household waste won't be taken at other transfer stations, and places like Colchester and Columbia charge on a per-bag basis. He said he has been receiving input from Public Works to try and understand their concerns and how to make the situation better. It is understood that they all want to make sure the transfer station remains very accessible to Marlborough residents and that they do not charge per bag or restrict household waste.

"We would look to issue the stickers on a convenience basis to residents," Black said. "We may have a task force of people right at the transfer station on a particular day to install the sticker right away on the windshield. Or, we may even have people come to Town Hall and have staff available to take care of it right at the parking lot. People would just need their driver's license and registration. The stickers could be issued and installed on their windshields right then and there so they are ready to go. This will make sure it is visible so it is easily identifiable."

Police News

7/25 — Mark J. Rohde, 48, of 15 Hayes Rd., was issued a ticket for nuisance dog, East Hampton Police said.

7/28 — A 14-year-old male juvenile was referred to Juvenile Court for third-degree criminal mischief, police said.

8/1 — Michael L. Copeland, 30, of 4230 Whitney Ave., Hamden, was issued a ticket for towing an unregistered trailer, police said.

8/1 — John Paul Fournier, 19, of 45 Forest St., was issued a ticket for improper parking, police said.

8/1 — Leon R. Naud, 44, of 13 Long Crossing, was arrested for disorderly conduct and criminal mischief, police said.

8/2 — Brandon L. Bilodeau, 34, of 48 Middle Haddam Rd., was issued a ticket for towing an unregistered trailer, police said.

8/4 — Mary E. Fries, 42, of 159 Flood Rd., Marlborough, and Bhupinder Singh, 48, of 440

Legacy Blvd., Greenwood, IN, were involved in a two-vehicle accident on East High Street, 40 feet west of Princess Pocotopaug Trail, police said. Fries was arrested for operating an unregistered motor vehicle, failure to have insurance, failure to renew license and failure to drive right, police added, and Singh received a written warning for following too closely.

8/4 — Jonathan J. Jonah, 37, of 61 Loomis Rd., Colchester, was arrested pursuant to a warrant on charges of third-degree burglary, fifth-degree larceny, first-degree criminal mischief, conspiracy to commit burglary, conspiracy to commit larceny and conspiracy to commit criminal mischief, police said.

8/7 — David Korman, 27, of 24 Flanders Rd., and Gregg Mooney, 51, of 24 Keirstead Circle, Marlborough, were issued tickets for operating unregistered motor vehicles, police said.

Hebron Police News

8/6-Michael Lovejoy, 22, of 80 Walker Rd., Oakdale, was charged with second-degree failure to appear, State Police said.

Marlborough Police News

8/5-Jean Jacques, 55, of 405 Jones Hollow Rd., was charged with five counts of sale/delivery or transfer of pistols/revolvers, State Police said.

8/6-Jeffrey Rule, 20, of 84 Cheney Rd., was charged with second-degree failure to appear, State Police said.

8/9-Brandon Pirruccio, 22, of 22 Oak Dr., was charged with evading responsibility, improper turn and interfering with a police officer, State Police said.

8/9-David Zaino, 20, of 22 Oak Dr., was charged with interfering and breach of peace, State Police said.

Salem Police News

8/5-Nancy Armstrong, 47, of 688 Old Colchester Rd., was charged with DWI and failure to drive right, State Police said.

Portland Police News

8/7 — Scott Daniels, 39, of 10B Riverside St., was charged with second-degree criminal mischief, Portland Police said.

8/10 — David A. Smith, 18, of 7 Freestone Ave., was charged with two counts of first-degree failure to appear, police said.

Colchester Police News

8/4-John Alexander, 56, of 56 Hammond Ct., was charged with DUI and operation while license is suspended, State Police said.

8/4-Marcia Deforest, 47, of Bokeelia, FL, was charged with second-degree failure to appear, State Police said.

8/7-Lori Wilbur, 25, of 2 Friar Tuck Dr., Gales Ferry, was charged with operating without insurance and reckless driving, State Police said.

8/8-Christopher Little, 33, of 312 Chestnut Hill Rd., was charged with DUI and failure to display lights, State Police said.

8/9-Michael Ryan, 19, of 187 Halls Hill Rd., was charged with failure to drive right, operating under the influence of drugs/alcohol and traveling unreasonably fast, State Police said.

8/10-Joshua Rodriguez, 26, of 677 Old Hartford Rd., was charged with third-degree burglary, second-degree criminal mischief, fifth-degree larceny, conspiracy to commit third-degree burglary, conspiracy to commit second-degree criminal mischief and conspiracy to commit fifth-degree larceny, State Police said.

8/11-Lindsay Witkowski, 24, of 104 Hamlin St., Manchester, was charged with first-degree larceny, State Police said.

8/11-Jonathan Champagne, 18, of 39 Talcott Ave., Jewett City, was charged with first-degree criminal mischief, State Police said.

8/12-Albert John Fargo Jr., 45, of 452 Rt. 32, Franklin, was charged with violation of probation, State Police said.

Obituaries

Colchester

Leonard S. Stevens

Leonard S. Stevens, 84, of Apple Lane, Colchester, formerly of Wallingford, went home to Heaven, Sunday, Aug. 10, at Harrington Court Health Care Center. He was the beloved husband of the late Florence Lazz Stevens.

He was born in Schnectady, NY, Nov. 6, a son of the late Stanislaw and Katarazyna Derenski Stycynski, and had been employed as a salesman for the former Dubuque Packing Company. He was a World War II veteran having served in the U.S. Army Air Corp. on a B-17 as a tailgunner and was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Maj. Raoul Lufberry Post No. 591. He attended SS. Peter and Paul Church in Wallingford.

He is survived by his daughter, Nancy and Michael Fauchon and their daughter Lauren Fauchon of Colchester; his son, Michael Stevens and his wife Joann Stevens, and her sons, Jason and Michael Barabash of Pine Bush, NY ; his brother, Henry Stevens; and several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his three sisters and two brothers.

His family would like to express their deep gratitude to the Nurses, CNA's, and faculty of Harrington Court for their compassion and comfort.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Wednesday, Aug. 13, in SS. Peter and Paul Church, 139 North Orchard St., Wallingford. Interment was at Sacred Heart Cemetery in Meriden. There were no calling hours. Arrangements were under the direction of The Wallingford Funeral Home, 809 N. Main St. Ext., Wallingford. www.wallingfordfh.com.

Portland

Rose Marie Schmittberger

Rose Marie (Muscatello) Sienna Schmittberger, 95, of East Main Street, Middletown, wife of the late Joseph Schmittberger and the late Joseph Siena, died Wednesday, Aug. 6, at Waters Edge Health Care in Middletown.

She was born in Portland on Feb. 7, 1913, the daughter of the late Sebastiano and Sebastiana (Bartolotta) Muscatello. Rose grew up in Portland then moved to Middletown in 1952. She retired as a weaver from the Russell Company in 1978. After retirement, Rose enjoyed many hours knitting and crocheting afghans, hats and mittens for her family. She also spent her free time reading, enjoyed cooking and canning fresh fruits and vegetables.

She is survived by three sons, Joseph Siena of Haddam, Donald Sienna and his wife Delores of Union, and Paul Sienna and his wife Patricia of Middletown; a daughter, Venita King and her husband Thomas of Middletown; a brother, Michael Muscatello of Windsor; ten grandchildren, Joseph Siena, Jr., Frank Siena, David Siena, James Siena, Dean Sienna, Dennis Sienna, Paul Sienna, Jr., Jeannie Narducci, Melissa Sienna, and Katie King; 14 great-grandchildren; three great-great-grandchildren; also several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by two brothers, Joseph and John Muscatello; a sister, Mary Piche; and a granddaughter, Michelle King.

Funeral services were held Saturday, Aug. 9, at Biega Funeral Home, 3 Silver St., Middletown. Burial was in St. Mary's Cemetery, Portland. Friends called at Biega Funeral Home Saturday, Aug. 9, prior to the service.

Portland

William J. Skoronski

William J. Skoronski, 64, of Portland, husband of Anna M. (Maciurzak) Skoronski went in peace at Hartford Hospital, Thursday, Aug. 7. He was born in New Britain and lived there many years before moving to Portland. He was employed by the Connecticut Army National Guard in Hartford.

Besides his wife, he leaves two daughters, Katharine Coleman and her husband Robert of Higganum, and Christine Lee of Portland; a brother, Thomas Skoronski of New Britain; a sister, Joanne Gualano and her husband Robert of Newington; three grandchildren, Caroline and Stephanie Coleman and Harley Carroll, and three nephews and a niece. He was predeceased by his parents Joseph and Jane Skoronski.

A Requiem Liturgy was held Monday, Aug. 11, directly at St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church, 135 Wethersfield Ave., Hartford. Burial with full Military Honors followed in St. Michael's Ukrainian Cemetery in Glastonbury. Calling hours were Sunday, Aug. 10, at the Talarski Maple Hill Chapels, 380 Maple Ave. in Hartford, during which time a Panachyda service was held. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Helen and Harry Gray Cancer Center, 80 Seymour St., P.O. Box 5037, Hartford, CT 06102.

Colchester

Stella Davis

Stella Davis, 85, of Colchester, wife of the late Milton Davis, passed away Thursday, Aug. 7, at Windham Community Memorial Hospital in Willimantic. Born on Jan. 4, 1923, in Ivenitz, Russia, she was the daughter of the late Samuel and Anna (Bogorad) Gelper.

Stella is survived by her son, Jeffrey Davis and his wife, Barbara of Morganville, NJ; her daughter, Risa Lazur and her husband, James of North Windham; two brothers, Abe Gelper of Lakewood, NJ, and Ralph Gelper of Boynton Beach, FL; a sister, Arlene Gerard of Commack, NY; and three grandchildren, Samantha Shugarman, Stacie Davis and Becka Lazur.

Stella lived in East Haddam from 1946 until 2008 where along with other family members owned and operated the Davis Poultry Farm until the early 1970s. She moved to Colchester three months ago and was a member of Congregation Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek in Deep River.

A graveside service was held Sunday, Aug. 10, in Rodfe Zedek Cemetery, Leesville Road, Moodus. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Stella's memory to the American Heart Association, 5 Brookside Dr., Wallingford, CT 06492. Messages of condolence may be sent to the family at www.doolittlefuneralservice.com. The Doolittle Funeral Home, 14 Old Church Street, Middletown is handling the arrangements.

Colchester

Linda P. Sawicki

Linda P. (Hamel) Sawicki, 48, of Colchester, formerly of New Britain, died Friday, Aug. 8, at home. Born in Fayetteville, NC, the daughter of the late Andre and Henrietta (Bischof) Hamel, she was raised in New Britain and moved to Colchester 20 years ago. She was the wife of the late Richard Sawicki. Among her hobbies, Linda loved pets and gardening.

She is survived by her son, Justin Sawicki of Colchester; two sisters, Madelien Miller of Windsor and Jane Conway of Hebron; a brother, Jules Hamel of Maine; and several nieces and nephews, including Patricia Miller, her goddaughter Heidi Aponte, Marcel McGray and Shaun McGray.

Friends and family attended a Memorial Mass Thursday, Aug. 14, at St. Joseph's Church, 195 So. Main St., New Britain. Burial followed in Sacred Heart Cemetery, New Britain. Visitation was Wednesday, Aug. 13, at the Farrell Funeral Home, 110 Franklin Sq., New Britain. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Cancer Society, 538 Preston Ave., Meriden, CT or to the George Bray Cancer Center, c/o 100 Grand St., New Britain, CT 06050. For online condolences or to light a memorial candle, visit www.FarrellFuneralHome.com.

Colchester

Charles Zadroga, Sr.

Charles Zadroga, Sr., 74, of Hickory Road, Colchester, husband of the late Sophie E. (Rutka) Zadroga, died Friday, Aug. 8, at Chestelm Health Center in Moodus. He was born in Middletown, the son of Doris (Scovill) Clark of East Hampton, and the late Stephen Zadroga. A 20-year veteran of the U.S. Air Force, retiring as a Tech. Sergeant, he served in the Korean and Vietnam wars. Charles later retired from the State of Connecticut.

Besides his mother, he is survived by three sons, Anthony Zadroga of Middletown, Charles Zadroga, Jr. of Salt Lake City, UT, and Michael Zadroga of Kentucky; a daughter, Sharon Churchill and her husband Jay of Chester; five brothers, Joseph Zadroga, David Zadroga, William Zadroga, Eugene Zadroga all of Middletown and Gerald Zadroga of California, a sister, Elizabeth Ann of California; also eight grandchildren and many great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by a brother, Richard Zadroga.

Funeral services are private and burial will be at the convenience of the family. There are no calling hours.

Andover

Edward R. Farley Jr.

Edward R. "Ned" Farley, Jr., 63, of Andover, formerly of West Hartford, beloved husband of Patricia A. (Page) Farley died Tuesday, Aug. 12, at St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center, Hartford. He was born in Waterbury, son of the late Edward R. Farley, Sr. and Mary Louise (Corbett) Farley. He was raised in West Hartford and was a graduate of William H. Hall High School, West Hartford.

Ned was a member of the West Hartford Fire Department for 26 years prior to his retirement in July 3, 1995. He joined the department on April 28, 1969, and was promoted to MPO on March 2, 1975, and for most of these 20 years was a driver at Station 3, Elmwood. Ned was a veteran of the U.S. Army.

For many years while his boys were growing up he served as a coach in the West Hartford Youth League Football Program. After his sons aged out of the program he continued his love of coaching baseball with the Fire Department Alumni League team. To his credit, he had the support of the same assistant coaches throughout his coaching career. After settling in Andover, Ned, along with his wife, Patricia took on a new love and with great pride have been raising and training guide Dogs for Fidelco.

Besides his wife, he is survived by his two sons and a daughter-in-law, Shaun and Debbie Farley of Cromwell, and Christopher Farley of Washington, DC; two grandsons, Cody and Ryan Farley; a brother-in-law, William Berryman of Pittsfield, MA; a nephew, William Berryman, III and his wife, Darlene of Pittsfield, MA; and a niece, Megan Berryman of Pittsfield, MA. Besides his parents, Ned was predeceased by two sisters, Susan F. Berryman, and just this March 17, 2008, by Joan C. Farley.

Calling hours are today, Friday, Aug. 15, from 4-7 p.m. at Sheehan-Hilborn-Breen Funeral Home, 1084 New Britain Ave., West Hartford. The funeral procession will be Saturday, Aug. 16, at 9:15 a.m. from the funeral home. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10 a.m. in the Church of Saint Brigid, West Hartford. Cremation will follow.

Colchester

Gail Dawnorowitz

Gail Dawnorowitz, 51, of Colchester passed away Saturday, Aug. 9, at Middlesex Hospital in Middletown. She was born on Feb. 4, 1957, in Manchester, daughter of Janine Dumais Dawnorowitz of Colchester and the late Henry "Hank" Dawnorowitz.

Besides her loving and caring mother Janine, she leaves a brother Darren Dawnorowitz of Clayton, DE, a sister Debra Kilham of Lyme, NH, three aunts Cecile White of Bangor, Maine, Rita Westman of Van Buren, Maine and Genie Dumond of Nashua, NH, a special cousin, Carla Lapierre of Hartford, numerous other cousins. Gail loved to cook, enjoyed gardening, flowers, and animals.

Funeral services were held Thursday, Aug. 14, at the Belmont Funeral Home, 144 South Main St., Colchester. Interment followed in St. Joseph's Cemetery. Visitation was held Thursday before the services. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Connecticut Humane Society, 169 Old Colchester Rd., Quaker Hill, CT 06375.