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Colchester to Celebrate 57 Fest This Saturday

by Kristina Histen

Colchester is getting ready for its fourth annual 57 Fest this Saturday, Sept. 27, and for the first time, a parade will precede the festivities.

The first 57 Fest Parade will be held Saturday on the Town Green at 2 p.m., leading up to the 4 p.m. start of the festival itself, at the Recreation Complex, 215 Old Hebron Rd.

The 57 Fest is "an opportunity to celebrate everything that's great about Colchester," Parks and Recreation Director Jason Cohen said. "Community members can see friends, neighbors and local businesses, all while enjoying a family event."

The Parks and Recreation Department began brainstorming a family festival about four years ago to add a nice addition to the community, Cohen said. There was no name yet, but organizers wanted a health and wellness focus. Then, in July 2005, CNN/Money Magazine named the town the 57th best place to live in the country, calling it a fantastic place to live, work, play and grow, the town's website, www.colchesterct.gov, said. It was especially fitting to celebrate the national honor with a family festival, the website said, since the town's community events and activities were some of the reasons Colchester was selected by CNN/Money Magazine.

However, the event is not only meant to celebrate Colchester's recognition, but also to encourage community members to live healthy and active lifestyles. Therefore, the event is sticking to its roots and taking it to the next level, with an expanded focus on health and wellness, the website said.

As a result, this year's event will feature more free family activities than ever before, the town's website said. Several organizations, businesses and individuals will be represented in the inaugural 57 Fest Parade. The parade will mirror the 57 Fest in its celebration of Colchester, with the theme being the town's motto of "Where Tradition Meets Tomorrow."

When the 57 Fest begins later that afternoon, community members can expect more family activities. A lot of resources have been used to make it a fun educational and interactive experience, Cohen said. Residents can learn ways to improve their health and fitness in the expanded wellness tent all while listening to the music of the Jimmy Buffet tribute band Changes in Latitudes.

There will be a variety of activities like moon bounces, face painting, arts and crafts, remote control racing, dancing, aerobics and much more, Cohen said. Although there are special activities and shows planned all day, community members also can use the year-round facilities at the Recreation Complex, the website said, including the play-

grounds, sports facilities, skate park and more. The evening will cap off with a fireworks display at 8 p.m.

To see the full schedule of planned activities, visit the town's website.

With the potential for bad weather on Saturday, be sure to check the event website and/or the department voicemail (537-7297) beginning today, Friday, Sept. 26, after 3 p.m. No postponement decision will be made before Friday afternoon, but it may be made as late as Saturday morning.

If the event is postponed due to weather, the rain date is the following day, Sunday, Sept. 28 and all events will take place at the same scheduled times.

About 5,000 people usually show up to the 57 Fest, Cohen said, and each year has been a "huge success." Although the Parks and Recreation Department coordinates the event, it is mostly a community-wide effort with each activity being produced by different organizations, sports leagues and schools. One of the event's key features is that it is entirely free, Cohen said. Other than food, there's nothing to pay for.

"Everyone comes together to create this event for and by the community," Cohen said. "Even the businesses in town are extremely supportive to produce it and sponsor it. The entire event is self-funded, there are no tax dollars used toward it in production."

Observations & Ruminations

by **Mike Thompson**

If you were around a TV or picked up a newspaper this past Sunday, chances are you saw or read something about Yankee Stadium closing. Sunday was the final game at The House That Ruth Built (they're going to tear it down and replace it with a new Yankee Stadium for next season). ESPN, for example, had all-day programming devoted to the stadium, up until its broadcast of the final game at 8 p.m. (The cable network even had a "countdown clock" letting viewers know just how many minutes before the start of the game – which struck me as just a little excessive.)

This Sunday, Sept. 28, I'll be at a stadium farewell of my own, as I have tickets to the game between the Mets and the Marlins; the last regular-season game at Shea Stadium. (It may or may not be the very last game ever at Big Shea; as of press time Thursday, the Mets are tied with the Brewers for the wild card lead and a game and a half behind the Phillies for the division lead. So postseason games may be in the Mets future – and hopefully are – but it's far from a guarantee.)

The closing of Shea isn't getting nearly the fanfare of the closing of Yankee Stadium, and I understand why that is. Yankee Stadium's been around since 1923, and has over the past 85 years been the home of baseball legends. I've come to accept that the names Seaver, Strawberry and Piazza will never carry the same weight with the rest of America as, say, Ruth, Gehrig and Mantle. (There's also the annoying little fact that the Yankees have 26 World Championships compared to the Mets' two.) But to me, the closing of Shea Stadium (which opened its doors in 1964) is a sad occasion. It's the place where I saw my first Major League Baseball game, and I've had many grand times there over the years.

My first trip to Shea Stadium actually didn't occur until 1995, when I was 16 years old. By that time I had been watching Mets games for several years on TV, and had a desire to see a game live. I finally was able to talk my dad into taking me down to New York to see a game there. The Mets weren't very good in those days, so even though I didn't call for the tickets until early June, I was still able to get three field-level tickets (for me, my dad and my sister) for a game in late July.

I remember us taking the train down to New York City, and then riding out to Queens (the home of Shea) on a subway. When we entered the stadium and got to our seats, I remember looking around and just being struck by the wonder of it all: the sky seemed so blue, the grass was so green, the stadium itself was so big. The Mets played the Pittsburgh Pirates that day, and won. It was actually Jason Isringhausen's (now a relief pitcher for the Cardinals, but then a starting pitcher) first major league win.

Since that time, I've probably been to a little more than 100 games. And they have been some great games: I was there on that day in September 1996 when Todd Hundley hit his 41st home run, establishing not just the Mets' team record for homers in a season but the major league record for homers in a season by a catcher. I also was at Shea for an interleague game in the 1999 season between the Mets and the Yankees. As one might suppose, there's something of a rivalry among fans of both teams, so the stadium was really hopping that day. And the lead went back and forth for much of the game, with the Mets finally winning in the bottom of the ninth inning, thanks to a two-run single hit off one of the all-time great closers, Mariano Rivera.

I've also been fortunate enough to have gone to several postseason games at Shea Stadium. The seats were mostly upper-deck jobs (and Shea Stadium has the highest upper deck in all of baseball), but it was postseason baseball; who cared about the seat? One of the best playoff games I went to was the final game of the 1999 National League Division Series, between the Mets and the Arizona Diamondbacks. The Mets won it in the 10th inning, thanks to a walk-off home run by Todd Pratt. I remember the headline from one of the New York papers the next day: "Pratt's All, Folks."

The Mets couldn't make it past the Braves in the League Championship Series that year, but the next season, in 2000, they made it all

the way to the World Series, where they took on the Yankees. I went to Game Three of that series, and while the Mets lost that game, it was still an experience I'll never forget. The Baha Men sang "Who Let the Dogs Out" (one of the biggest songs of 2000) before the game, and Sheryl Crow sang the National Anthem. All in all, it was a great night. Going to a World Series game is one of the dreams of a baseball fan, and I actually went to one.

The last playoff game I went to was actually the last time the Mets played a playoff game. It was Game Seven of the 2006 National League Championship Series. I knew going into that game that, depending on the outcome, it could either be the greatest Mets game I went to or the worst. But, still, it was Game Seven. Among sports fans, there are few things that carry as much weight as those two words. And again, as was the case with the 2000 World Series, I was fortunate enough to attend that game.

The score was tied at 1-1 for much of the game (a tremendous, over-the-wall catch by Mets' left fielder Endy Chavez helped to preserve that score), until the Cardinals took the lead, 3-1, in the top of the ninth. Though the Mets got the tying runs on base in the bottom of the ninth, Carlos Beltran struck out looking to end the game, and the Mets' season. I remember standing there in disbelief, watching the Cardinals celebrate their victory, surrounded by silence. Just dead silence. When you can hear a pin drop among a crowd of more than 55,000, it makes for something of a surreal experience, trust me.

Another night at Big Shea that I'll never forget occurred in 2001. I was able to land tickets to the Sept. 21 game against the Atlanta Braves. That night marked the first Mets home game, and in fact the first home game for either the Mets or the Yankees, since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. The game featured Diana Ross singing "God Bless America" and Liza Minelli performing "New York, New York." Rudy Giuliani, then mayor of New York City, also made an appearance, to a huge ovation. (It was like we all forgot he was a Yankee fan, just for that one night.)

Before the game started, Marc Anthony sang the National Anthem, and that was simply unforgettable. It wasn't so much his performance as the crowd's; as he sang those words, the fans in attendance slowly, quietly started joining in. I had been to many baseball games before then, and had never seen that many fans join in. They'd stand and remove their caps, but that'd be about it. But this time, the whole stadium joined in with Marc Anthony, with absolutely no prodding from Shea's public address announcer. My memory of this will always serve as a reminder of how truly united we all were in the days and weeks after those awful attacks.

As for the game itself, the Mets were down in the eighth inning when Mike Piazza hit a triumphant two-run homer to give New York a 3-2 lead. The stadium went wild. It was a big home run from a baseball point of view – the Mets were involved in a tight division race that month, and the Braves were the team in first place – but it also had more significance than that. It got everybody's mind off the attacks of 10 days previous, and served as something of a reminder that baseball will go on, that life will go on. Piazza, not surprisingly, got a curtain call and truly cemented his place in the minds and hearts of New Yorkers and Mets fans everywhere.

So, it will be with a heavy heart that I say goodbye to Shea on Sunday. Next season the Mets will play in their new stadium, Citi Field (that's the way of modern-bay stadiums. Why name something after a human being when you can net a corporate sponsorship?). And I'm sure it will be a beautiful ballpark. I've been to a few of the newer stadiums, and they do offer some nice amenities: wider aisles, more concessions, seats arranged to make you feel closer to the action than you did before. But Citi Field won't be Shea; I've got memories spanning 14 years that have come out of that place. Fortunately, though, that's the great thing about memories: long after Shea has been bulldozed to the ground (and that's what the plan is, to turn it into a parking lot for Citi Field), those memories will remain, ready to bring a smile to my face. So thanks, Shea, for everything.

Cobalt Lodge Gets a New Courtyard

by **Michael McCoy**

Though convalescent homes are not typically associated with festivity, a grand opening of sorts at Cobalt Lodge last Tuesday, Sept. 17, gave residents and family reason to celebrate.

The end result was in large part due to the efforts of Sandy Fries. While visiting her mother, Evelyn Harriet (a resident of Cobalt Health Care and Rehabilitation center) Fries gazed out the window at the unused area that the lodge surrounded on three sides, and thought there must be a way to put it to use for the benefit of the residents.

Fries is a member of Haddam Neck Covenant Church and during Lent in the 2006 her church participated in "40 Days of Purpose." So, Fries and some church members, who were looking for ways to serve the community, took on the project of constructing a courtyard for the nursing home.

From May 2006, Fries worked to raise funds to realize the project, and by this spring, they broke ground. Once grading the ground, which was formerly just a desolate slope, a patio was put in, as well as a white fence, and the Middle Haddam Garden Club spruced up the area with various plantings.

A schematic picture of the courtyard and its plantings was created by Nancy McMahan, another Haddam Neck Covenant Church attendee.

Fries managed to raise in excess of \$10,000 and the project, and the lodge paid the bulk of the costs for the project. However, with the exception of the grading that was performed at the outset, the labor was all performed by volunteers, a collective of individuals that Fries said totaled about 30.

The volunteers worked throughout the summer to see the project through, though Fries and Cobalt Lodge owner Mark Zagorski both say the effort is "ongoing." Despite the continuing improvements, residents have had access to the courtyard for much of the summer, assuming rain and heat permit it.

However, it was not all sunshine and roses. Thanks to this year's violent rainstorms, it was sometimes tough to stay on schedule. Sometimes the problem was too much sunshine, as several garden club members recalled blistering days that made outdoor work less than pleasant.

"It seemed like Mother Nature just didn't want to cooperate," laughed Fries' husband, Jim.

"It took much longer than I wanted it to," Fries said. However, she said the result far exceeded her initial expectations.

Fries also remarked, "The lodge supported it from the very start."

The plantings include a host of different types, including hydrangeas, holly, arbor vitae, mums, Rose-of-Sharon, lilac, rhododendron, and pine. Also, Fries' church, Bethlehem Lutheran Church and Christ Episcopal Church each donated a bench.

The lodge celebrated the official grand opening of the courtyard last Tuesday afternoon, which drew members of the church and garden club. It seemed that more than half the residents were also present in the courtyard, enjoying the fresh air. The lodge served up hors d'oeuvres, while The O'Trajus Brothers offered a selec-

tion of folk tunes.

The trio is made of Chuck Haller of East Hampton (guitar), Phil Hovey of Andover (banjo) and Peter Muzeroll of Marlborough (guitar). Though retired now, the three were, respectively, a biology teacher, graphic designer, and math teacher.

The name may sound curious and it is definitely worth explaining. The original trio (Hovey replaced one of the group's founding members just several years ago) formed in the late 1960s and began as strictly an Irish folk group, playing pubs of all sorts. (This included about seven hours worth of sets on a typical St. Patrick's Day.)

As Haller tells it, the group was friendly with a prominent Hartford Irishman who was planning an event. He asked Haller if his group would play, and Haller figured they could throw sometime together. The host asked Haller what they called themselves. Well, they did not have a name, so Haller asked him what he'd call "two Germans and one French Canuck who played Irish folk music." He responded, in his thick Irish brogue, "Outrageous." The name stuck ever since.

According to Zagorski, Cobalt Lodge opened in 1856 as a hunting lodge. It became a nursing home in 1922. However, the reputation of the lodge was so good, the new owner decided to simply retain the name. In 1965, Zagorski's parents, Ferdinand and Joyce, bought the lodge. Zagorski has managed it since 1995 and his brother Todd is the facility administrator.

The home cares for 60 residents and contains 30 private rooms. Even with the addition added in the 1970s, Mark says many find the latter fact hard to believe when viewing the lodge from outside. The lodge employs 85 staff members.

When asked if residents seemed to appreciate the new spot, Zagorski responded, "Oh, absolutely!"

Mimi Maynard, who lives at the lodge commented, "It's very nice. They worked very hard, and did a very good job. ... It's a beautiful courtyard." She also praised the lodge in general.

Connie LaBella, another resident, said, "I say the same thing she says."

Charlotte Markham, who has volunteered at the lodge for four years, said the courtyard was "wonderful."

Markham, who said she likes to perform volunteer work, spends two days a week at the lodge. "I love these people," she said. "They're like family now."

Zagorski also said that director of recreation Karen Finely uses the spot whenever possible for things like bingo. Zagorski said they also enjoy taking their coffee and coffeecake in the courtyard in the morning.

The continuing project will eventually involve a pergola, a sort of arbor that will provide some refuge from the sun.

Fries voiced her gratitude for all those who contributed money or sweat to this project. She made specific mention of all the business who pitched in, including American Distilling Rand Construction, Marozzi Construction, Paul's and Sandy's Too, Spencer Funeral Home, Portland Boat Works, Stephanie Fuss Associates, and Bark & Vine.

RHAM Teacher Charged with Online Sexual Interactions with Student

by Sarah McCoy

A RHAM High School teacher has been placed on paid administrative leave following his arrest on charges of having online sexual interactions with a student.

Bryan P. Moore, 25, of 139 Porter Brook Ave., East Hartford, turned himself into the State Police Troop K barracks in Colchester on Monday, Sept. 22. He was charged with risk of injury to a minor and enticing a minor, state police said.

According to state police reports, Monday's arrest came after a four-day investigation in response to a referral from the Department of Children and Families. In the referral, a teenage female accused Moore, her high school social studies teacher, of engaging her in sexually-based interactions online, police said.

The state police worked in cooperation with the state Computer Crimes Unit to investigate the case after the complaint was made on Sept. 17. Sergeant Sean Cox said there was a need to act swiftly because of the nature of Moore's position. "Because of the possibility of multiple victims we needed to move quickly," he said.

Cox said that he has no reason to believe that there are other victims with the same set of circumstances. "If there are, though, I en-

courage them to come forward," he said.

Because the female involved is a minor, most court documents on the investigation have been sealed. However, one unsealed document indicates that communication between Moore and the female student could have begun as early as Jan. 1, 2006.

Moore had just begun his second year of teaching social studies at RHAM High School. Superintendent of Schools Robert Siminski reported that Moore is currently on administrative leave and "arrangements have been made to protect the children."

At the present time, Moore's leave is paid, according to the school district.

Siminski also said that if Moore's legal issues aren't resolved quickly, the Board of Education has the option of beginning termination proceedings.

Siminski stressed that the regional school district, which serves students of Andover, Hebron and Marlborough, followed the state-recommended proceedings in hiring Moore. "His resume was thoroughly vetted, just like every other employee," he said.

Moore is free on a \$25,000 bond and is due in Rockville Superior Court on Oct. 7, police said.

Portland Selectmen Looking at Blight Ordinance

by Michael McCoy

Portland is currently in the middle of exploring a blight ordinance, and sentiments have been mostly split on the subject.

According to First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield, one family sent a questionnaire to all Board of Selectmen (BOS) candidates during last year's election, asking them if they would support a blight ordinance.

Then, around Christmas, that same family provided photographs to the selectmen, depicting images from their neighborhood and requested that the selectmen explore the matter.

The BOS subsequently formed a committee to look into the matter. The committee is composed of selectmen Brian Flood, Carl Chudzik, Kathy Richards and Mark Finkelstein, with Finkelstein chairing the committee. The committee met on July 16 to discuss the issue and give the public a chance to speak.

Then, on Sept. 17, the selectmen held a public hearing, designed specifically for people to voice their opinions. According to Bransfield, both sides of the argument were equally represented. Some of the critics felt the ordinance would be a waste of time, while others thought it infringed on property rights. Proponents, though, felt an ordinance was worth exploring, while the more fervent ones were specifically concerned with their own backyards.

In an effort to exhaustively address the issue from the ground up, Bransfield said the committee will look into just what blight is. Potentially this could include building appearance, debris on property or maintenance issues, such as tall grass, she said.

Bransfield also said it often becomes difficult to decide if a given issue relates more to zoning, health or blight.

Bransfield said the selectmen must look into what will best serve "the needs of the entire town," as opposed to just certain individuals.

Bransfield said the committee also received correspondence from the Connecticut Office of the Ombudsman for Property Rights, which outlines what blight ordinances have included and accomplished in the approximately 50 towns in the state that have adopted one.

"I would expect an additional public session" once the selectmen discuss the ordinance again, Bransfield predicted.

Finkelstein expected the committee to meet later this fall but figured there wouldn't be real progress until early 2009. "There's a lot of work to be done," he said.

"I would certainly support the committee if they decide to move ahead," Bransfield said.

According to Bransfield, there were a couple of unsuccessful attempts to enact a blight ordinance between five and 10 years ago.

East Hampton Man Strangled While Driving Car

by Michael McCoy

An East Hampton man was arrested early Tuesday, Sept. 23, after, police say, he strangled the driver of a car he was riding in.

About 10:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 22, police responded to a reported assault on Lakeview Street. The incident involved three passengers in a Volkswagen Passat. According to the person in the front passenger seat who reported the incident, Marshall Allan, 20, of East Haddam, was driving the car, when an argument began with Joshua Luena, 18, of 21 Spellman's Point Rd., who sat in the back seat.

East Hampton Police Chief Matthew Reimondo said the argument resulted because Luena suspected Allan of having a relationship with his girlfriend. The argument escalated to the point of Luena strangling Allan, who managed to pull the car over before passing out, police said.

When Allan came to, all three parties exited the vehicle, and Luena punched Allan in the face, police said. In an attempt to elude

authorities, Luena fled the scene. Allan did the same, for fear of more brutality on the part of Luena. The third passenger remained at the scene, and called the matter into the police.

Reimondo said the police's number one priority was to make sure Allan was all right. Fortunately, he came to the police station around 11:30 p.m.

Then, around 1 a.m., police tracked down Luena at his residence. Portland Police's K-9 unit aided the search.

Luena appeared in court on Tuesday and, as of press time, was still being held on bond. He was charged with third-degree assault, first-degree strangulation and reckless endangerment.

Reimondo said Allan's strangulation left "distinct markings," and added that the victim is alright.

"Several of my officers went to investigation classes for strangulation," Reimondo said, "and they know the tell-tale signs."



Resident Diana Tyler stands in her Hebron studio, surrounded by her watercolor paintings. Tyler will be one of the featured artists at the Artists Create event later this fall.

Hebron Artist Getting Ready for Fall Show

by Sarah McCoy

Local artist Diana Tyler said she's been painting since she was 3. "Let's just say it's been a long time and leave it at that," she said with a laugh.

Yes, it's been a while, but Tyler wouldn't have it any other way. "It's like breathing. It's something I've always done," she said Monday, looking around her studio adorned with nearly 100 prints.

Since 1981, Tyler has been operating Wythe Studios in her Hebron home. She specializes in watercolor landscapes and seascapes focusing primarily on Connecticut and the outlining New England areas. Tyler sells her original paintings and high-quality giclee' prints from her home, local art shows, and through the Mystic Seaport gallery.

She will be featured at Artists Create, a sale and exhibition of the work of Hebron artists, being held in November.

Tyler has lived in Hebron since 1952. After high school she went on to earn bachelor's and master's degrees in art education. Tyler went on to teach at RHAM High School. It was at RHAM that her career took a slight turn.

Tyler heard about an art show in Windham through a friend. She decided to take some of her students' work over. When she got there her friend asked where Tyler's work was. "It never occurred to me to bring some of my paintings," she said.

But Tyler agreed. The next day she brought five of her own paintings to the show. They all sold.

Tyler made producing and selling art her fulltime job in 1984 and hasn't looked back. "It's not like work," she said.

Don't let Tyler fool you. While it may not feel like work to her, behind every painting is a meticulous routine. It begins with choosing a location. This, Tyler said, is where her husband, Bill Drinkuth, comes in. "He has an eye for choosing scenes that people will like," she said.

Once she decides on a scene, Tyler creates a sketch of her ideas. She then takes countless photos of the area and then returns home to create the final piece.

When a painting is complete Tyler creates a high-quality scan of the image and makes giclee

prints using Epson archival inks and papers.

"If I hustle I can finish a painting in two or three days," she said.

In her school days, Tyler said, she struggled deciding on a medium to focus on. She dabbled in oils, charcoals, and even pen and ink before settling on watercolors. Once she decided on a method, she turned her attention to subject matter. As part of her master's degree Tyler had to produce a series of paintings on a common subject. She chose Hebron.

While she painted iconic areas of town for a grade, Tyler also found her future.

She and Drinkuth, now travel to various towns eyeing up Tyler's next painting.

Separate from their aesthetic value, Tyler also sees her paintings as preserving history. "It's my way of documenting the way things are," she said. "They can be used for looking back."

Tyler has always had a thing for history and "old stuff," as she puts it. Her paintings of quaint New England towns fit well in her house, built around 1780.

In the summer her paintings of the Connecticut and Rhode Island beaches are her favorite. As the holidays approach her favorite changes to the winter boat yard. "My favorites change with the seasons," she said.

This weekend, Tyler will have a booth at the Durham Fair, a tradition she's had for years. In preparation for the event she has a new painting of Main Street in Durham. After that she'll be stocking up and preparing for her next show: Artists Create.

The Hebron exhibition will take place Saturday, Nov. 1, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Artists will either set up booths in the Douglas Library, 22 Main St., or right next door at the Old Town Hall. Or, like Tyler, the artists will open their studios for visitors. "People can come, look at my work, ask me questions," she said.

Maps for the event will be located at both Douglas Library and the Old Town Hall.

The event is sponsored by the Hebron 300th Celebration Committee and marks the culminating event for the town's tricentennial.

Tyler said she will have a new painting of the Hebron town center to commemorate the milestone.

Tensions Rise Over Lake Lowering in East Hampton

by Michael McCoy

The Bevin Dam, which has been the subject of brief discussion at virtually every Town Council meeting this summer, caused one resident to sound off at Tuesday night's meeting.

John Jordan, who is vice chairman of the Lake Commission but made it quite clear that he was not speaking on the commission's behalf, said the lake was recently lowered two and one-half feet. According to him, thanks to newly exposed rock, the lowering caused damage to his boat and forced him to call someone to retrieve it from the water.

Jordan alleged that the dam was lowered 25 to 30 days before the agreed-upon date.

"I pay higher taxes for living on the lake; I like using the lake," he said. But, he added, Stanley Bevin, the owner of Bevin Manufacturing Company, "should not be in charge of lowering the lake." Bevin controls the dam, and residents have charged that he lowers the dam simply whenever he feels like it.

Then, seemingly suggesting a petition to have Bevin removed from control of the dam, he continued, "I am going to personally go door to door."

Jordan declared, "If ever there was a case for eminent domain, this is it!"

Town Manager Jeffrey O'Keefe said, "It appears that the lowering of the lake began a little bit sooner than we expected," and added that it was lowered sometime last week, though the town and the Bevin family had set the date for Oct. 1. He added that he has put a

call into the Bevin family. However, he said that while the town can make a request for dam activity, control belongs to the Bevin family.

While acting town manager Bob Drewry spent the better part of the summer reporting to the council that he had been trying to contact Bevin, he did not have success until August. (Some have suggested the difficulty in reaching Bevin was due to health issues in the family.)

The Bevin Manufacturing Company is the last remaining bell producer in East Hampton. Bevin, and his family before him, seems to have had charge over the dam for as long as anyone can remember. One account says that the family helped fund the dam when it was constructed.

Furthermore, consensus dictates that Bevin uses the dam to harness hydropower for the company. The dam is located between Lake Pocotopaug and American Distilling on East Main Street.

Several town officials have mentioned that former town manager Alan Bergren had a good relationship with Bevin, but it seems that level of amicable communication left with him.

According to Town Council chair Melissa Engel, the town tried to gain control of the dam some years ago, but ultimately failed in court. Lowering of the lake in the fall allows for the cleaning of sea walls, changing out of water, and the dredging of Hales Pond.

Colchester Man Killed in One-Car Crash

by Kristina Histen

A local man was killed in a motor vehicle accident Monday afternoon on Route 149 in Colchester, State Police said.

Around 4 p.m. Monday, Sept. 22, Calvin Sewell, 51, of 5 Cardinal Rd., was traveling southbound on Route 149 near River Road when, for an unknown reason, his 1995 Saturn left the travel portion of the road, State Police said.

The vehicle struck a metal beam guardrail and then a Connecticut Light & Power utility pole on the northbound shoulder of the road, police said. The roof of the vehicle made contact with the utility pole, which caused it to

cave in on Sewell's head and neck, police said.

A Middlesex Hospital paramedic presumed Sewell dead at 4:25 p.m. at the scene, police said.

The case remains under investigation, police said. Colchester Resident State Trooper Robert Girard said there were no mechanical defaults with the vehicle, and it appears that no other vehicles or people were involved in the accident. As a result of the accident, the power was out and the road closed down for a few hours, Girard said.

Sewell's obituary appears this week on page 15.

East Hampton Man Killed in Crash

A three-car accident Wednesday afternoon resulted in the death of a local man, East Hampton Police said.

The accident occurred at about 12:45 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 24, on Route 16 (Colchester Avenue) at its intersection with Smith Street, police said.

According to police, Jennifer Foster, 34, was driving a Toyota Highlander east on Route 16 and turned left to pull onto Smith Street. Foster's car then collided with a Jeep Cherokee operated by Steven Vernick, 48, who was traveling west on Route 16, police said. The resulting collision forced the Jeep into a Nissan Sentra operated by Andrew Giorgetti, 22, which was stopped on Smith Street at Route 16, police said.

Vernick was presumed dead at the scene at 12:52 p.m., police said, and added that all parties involved in the accident were transported to Marlborough Clinic.

Route 16 was closed for about an hour due to the accident, police said, and added that they are still investigating the crash.

Colchester Police News

9/17-Earl Cox, 76, of 174 Berry Patch Rd., South Windsor, was charged with speeding and DWI, State Police said.

9/18-Mary Ann Bojko, 43, of 55 Harvest Ln., East Hartford, was charged with DUI and failure to drive in proper lane, State Police said.

9/19-Carl Drewnowski, 29, of 21 McDonald Dr., Chicopee, MA, was charged with operating under the influence of drugs/alcohol and failure to drive in the proper lane, State Police said.

9/20-John Moroch, 49, of 127 McDonald Rd., was charged with DUI and failure to illuminate plate, State Police said.

9/20-Beverly Turner, 29, of 172 Maple Ave., Montville, turned herself in to State Police on the charge of bad check, State Police said.

9/22-Eileen Dumont, 43, of 86 Ambassador Dr., Manchester, turned herself in to State Police on the charges of third-degree burglary and fourth-degree larceny, State Police said.

Portland Police News

9/13 — Joe Kerrick, 61, of 25 Prospect St., was charged with third-degree assault and breach of peace, Portland Police said.

9/18 — Jason Prince, 28, of 33 North Main St., East Hampton, was charged with second-degree harassment and violation of restraining order, police said.

9/18 — Karen St. Paul, 50, of 54 Oak St., Middletown, was charged with second-degree failure to appear, police said.

9/18 — A 13-year-old male was charged with illegal possession of fireworks, reckless endangerment and breach of peace, police said.

Marlborough Police News

9/17-Barry Stephens, 26, of 59 Deerfield Ave., Hartford, was charged with possession of controlled substance, State Police said.

9/17-Sean Taylor, 31, of 126 Willowcrest Dr., Windsor, was charged with failure to register motor vehicle eligible for commercial registration, operating under the influence of drugs/alcohol and possession of controlled substance, State Police said.

9/19-Harold Cromack, 70, of 60 Pheasant Run, Newington, was charged with failure to drive at reasonable distance, operating under the influence of drugs/alcohol and speeding on highway, State Police said.

9/20-Ray Glaspie, 49, of 33 Meadow St., Mystic, was charged with improper registration, insurance coverage fails minimum requirements and operation of motor vehicle when registration or license is refused, State Police said.

Amid Tough Financial Times, AHM Auction Returns

by Sarah McCoy

After a year off, the AHM Goods and Service Auction is back on.

In 2004, AHM Youth and Family Services, which serves residents of Andover, Hebron and Marlborough, introduced a combination live and silent auction to its fundraising lineup. The event was more successful than anyone could have hoped for, bringing in \$14,000 to support the youth bureau.

In 2005 and 2006, the nonprofit organization held the event again with similarly successful results before taking a year off in 2007. "We wanted to be respectful to the town of Hebron," AHM Director Joel Rosenberg explained of the reasoning for foregoing the auction last year. "The 300th celebration committee had already planned a major auction and we felt it wouldn't be right to hold ours as well. A town's 300th birthday is something that happens once and should be celebrated."

This year, though, Rosenberg is hoping the event will be more successful than ever. With costs rising and interest rates plummeting, AHM is looking at another tough year. Rosenberg said the bureau could be facing a \$30,000-\$40,000 deficit, depending on fuel costs and other fluctuating items.

"Fundraising needs to be a larger part of what we do here if AHM is going to continue to exist," Rosenberg said frankly. "Last year was a really tough year and this year doesn't look much better. Fortunately, though, AHM has an amazing history of pulling through these times."

Rosenberg said the organization is looking at making possible cuts to the programming offered to residents, however it's difficult to gauge what, if any, cuts are needed. "We don't know what the winter is going to be like and our largest fundraiser [the annual telethon] doesn't happen until the last quarter of the fiscal year," he explained.

There has also been some preliminary discussion between AHM and the heads of the

three towns in regards to a possible change in the towns' contributions to the youth bureau. According to Rosenberg, when AHM was formed 25 years ago it was done so with the understanding that the towns would provide half of the funding for the youth bureau's operation.

While most of the 100 youth service bureaus in the state fall under the direct purview of a municipality, AHM is different. Only 28 percent of its operating costs come from town funding and the remaining 72 percent comes from a myriad of sources, including grants, fees, donations and fundraisers.

AHM runs three major fundraisers each year, a telethon, a golf tournament and the auction. These events typically bring in a combined \$75,000 for the organization.

Professional auctioneer Bruce Ingraham will return to the helm for his fourth AHM auction. He will auction off over 100 items including gift certificates, artwork, antiques, sports memorabilia and tickets. "The breadth of items we have to auction off is always astounding," Rosenberg said. "One year we even had outdoor power equipment."

AHM is still accepting donations from individuals, groups, or businesses who would like to make a contribution to this year's auction. Those interested are asked to call the youth service bureau at 228-9488.

This year's auction will be held Saturday, Oct. 18, with live bidding beginning at 7 p.m. Those who aren't able to attend may drop off bids up to 6 p.m. the night of the auction.

In addition to the live auction, attendees will also have the opportunity to purchase mystery balloons that may have gift certificates to local businesses. There will also be a silent auction for varying gift baskets. In the past these gift baskets have featured items for gardeners, cooks and even babies.

The auction will be held at the AHM building at 25 Pendelton Dr., Hebron. Admission to the event is free.

New Coin Business Opens in Portland

by Michael McCoy

Donald Lambert is a 20-plus year veteran of the computer software industry. But when he brought his business to Portland recently, he didn't bring a tech-related company. Rather, he opened up a shop dealing in gold, silver and collectible coins and currency.

Lambert's business, Coins N' Gold Exchange, is located at 238 Main St. It opened its doors in August.

Born in Providence, RI, Lambert, 46, grew up in nearby Foster, where he graduated from Classical High School in 1980. He then got a job at Radio Shack fixing computers.

After becoming a self-taught expert, Lambert started a software company in 1985 called Software Interphase. His specialty was developing programming tools for programmers to use. Among these items was Help Magician, which at one point was the number two selling program of its kind, approaching nearly a million in sales nationally during the mid-1990s.

Since then, the company has evolved into one catering to municipalities, specifically creating software to town clerks, aiding such matters as probate and dog licensing. Lambert deals directly with the municipalities that purchase his software. Appropriately enough, the company is now called Town Clerk Software.

Town Clerk Software "I consider to be a longtime business," Lambert said. His latest venture, he said, "is short-term. ... I don't think this gold and silver boom is going to last forever." However, he allowed room for the unexpected, saying, "It might surprise me."

Lambert recalled visiting a flea market with some friends in 1978 and coming across several coin collectors. He was immediately turned on to the world of coin and currency collecting, and subsequently joined the Coin Club of Rhode Island.

Since then, he has been a numismatics (the study of currency and its history) buff, and makes it to about three shows every month. In fact, this eventually led to his other venture. "With the whole silver boom of 1980, I sold enough to buy my first computer," he said.

At the behest of another dealer, Lambert began looking into opening a shop earlier this year. "In [the Portland] area, there's no competition," he said. In fact, his friend told him, "You've got to get a store open; you're missing the boat here." He originally began looking for spots in

Middletown, but ended up in Portland. The story is simple: "I drove about and saw it for rent," he said of his Main Street store.

"It's an untapped area," he figured, which makes it worthwhile for him to make the 90-minute commute from Rhode Island each day.

In July, Lambert secured the Main Street location and began moving in at the beginning of last month. After spending a few weeks getting ready, Coins N' Gold Exchange opened its doors Aug. 20.

Coins N' Gold Exchange is pretty much a one-man operation, though a good friend of Lambert's does help out part-time. Lambert said his wife, Bonnie, a high school science teacher, also contributed a lot at the outset. The two have been married for eight years and together for 15.

Coins N' Gold Exchange buys and sells rare and collectible coins and currency, as well as jewelry and other gold and silver collectibles. This includes quite an array of very old and interesting coins and bills from the United States and Canada.

Though Lambert hopes to attract more collectors, he said, "It's mainly a buying house." People are encouraged to bring in things like coins, jewelry, candlesticks and even teeth. Obviously, the hope would be that the item has some collectible value. However, even scrap gold and silver can be sold to refineries. It should be noted "scrap" gold or silver does not mean it has to appear a certain way, simply that it does not have collectible value.

The value gold has is based on carat and weight. Coins N' Gold Exchange will generally buy gold that has 10-24 carat purity. Silver must be marked "sterling" or ".925." The business buys platinum as well.

Gold – whether it's marked or unmarked – is always tested, Lambert said. He recalled that Jostens produced many class rings in the 1970s that were marked 10 carat, but were not. "Some people got bilked out of a lot of money," he said, and to this day, much to a customer's chagrin, those who own them experience a rude awakening when they have the rings appraised.

One of the reasons Lambert views his new business as possibly temporary is that "people are in financial trouble." According to Lambert, given the economy, people are looking to unload their gold and silver, exchanging it for cash.



Donald Lambert recently opened a new business, Coins N' Gold Exchange, on Main Street in Portland. He is shown here behind the display case at the new store.

He laughed that on more than one occasion those recently spurned by spouses or other romantic interests have come to the store and thrown down their rings, hoping for a return, when they previously might have hurled them into a river.

Lambert recalled another customer, who, after selling the business \$30 worth of gold, replied, "This is going right in my gas tank."

"We've had a lot of people show up," Lambert said of how business is going so far. "We're in the black, I will say that." It's unusual for a business to turn a profit, offsetting startup costs, a mere two weeks after opening.

According to Lambert, the shop offers him several more advantages than working a collectors' show, such as the ability to deal with individuals exclusively. "When people come to the store, they are dealing with you," he said, as opposed to dozens of other dealers who are mere feet away.

Furthermore, it adds a certain level of privacy for people getting rid of items that they, at

least at some point, considered to be valuables. "Sometimes, I act as a psychologist, and people tell me about their hard times," he said.

Also, Coins N' Gold Exchange is not a pawn shop, which Lambert said distinguishes his business from others, though they may sound similar. Lambert explained that pawn shops pay "pennies on the dollar" for items, often selling them back to the original owner with interest, amounting to something similar to a loan. At Lambert's shop, he gives people money for their items and that closes the exchange.

Lambert also does free verbal appraisals, and, charging by an hourly rate, also performs written insurance or estate appraisals.

Hours at Coins N' Gold Exchange are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Wednesdays through Fridays and 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturdays. By October, Lambert expects to have the business's website, www.coinsngoldexchange.com, up and running. The store also can be reached by phone at 342-2100.

Obituaries

Colchester

Louise Hodlin

Louise Kilpatrick Hodlin, 88, passed away peacefully Sept. 21 at Harrington Court Nursing Home in Colchester, surrounded by her family. Born Alice Louise Taylor in Newberg, NY, May 10, 1920, she was the daughter of the late William J. and Sara Alice (Taggart) Taylor.

She attended school in Newberg and moved to Cobalt, CT in 1941 with her husband, William H. Kilpatrick. Following his death in 1948, she raised her six children alone. She married Ernest Gatty in 1963. Following his death in 1964, she was employed as a waitress, did housekeeping and worked as a sewing machine operator at a garment factory. She married Charles Hodlin in August of 1974. Charles idolized her and gave her some of the happiest days of her life, until his death in 2003. Louise enjoyed spending time with her large family and many friends.

She is survived by her six children, Elizabeth K. Barrett, Shirley K. House, "Wink" Kristeller, Marjorie A. Kilpatrick, Patricia K. Sucharski and William H. Kilpatrick Jr., and many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, great-great-grandchildren and two great-nephews.

Besides her parents and husbands she was predeceased by her three brothers, Harold Taylor, Raymond Taylor and Warren Taylor, and one grandson, Eric Kristeller.

Louise's family would like to express their deepest gratitude to the staff at Harrington Court for the excellent care and love shown to their mother. Funeral services were held Tuesday, Sept. 23, in the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St, East Hampton, with the Rev. Jonathan Liebich officiating. Burial followed in Lakeview Cemetery. Friends called at the Spencer Funeral Home Monday, Sept. 22, and again on Tuesday, Sept. 23 before the service.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions can be made to the Hospice of Eastern CT, P.O. Box 716, Mansfield Center, CT 06250-0716. To leave online condolences or for directions visit www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com

Colchester

Calvin Allen Sewell

Calvin Allen Sewell, 51, of Colchester and formerly of Glastonbury, passed away Monday, Sept. 22, from injuries sustained in a motor vehicle accident. Born April 10, 1957, in Houlton, ME, he was the son of Janice (Bailey) Sewell of Colchester and the late Donald Earl Sewell.

He was a 1974 graduate of Glastonbury High School and went on to work as a construction contractor for many years. He was a member of the East Hartford Moose Lodge 1477. In his spare time, he was an awesome cook, enjoyed fishing, bowling, pool and darts and was an avid reader of many books, including the Bible.

Cal loved baseball – he was a great minor league pitcher for the Pittsburgh Pirates for a time and was an avid fan of the Boston Red Sox. His family thought of him as kind, generous, loving and compassionate and a "gentle giant" who always gave to others and never thought of himself.

In addition to his mother, he is survived by the love of his life and best friend, Mimi Lodge and her children, Jasmine, Jimmy and Charlie, all of Glastonbury; his sister and brother-in-law, Sharon and Michael Hull of East Hampton; his brother and sister-in-law, Donald and Trish Sewell of Blairsville, GA; nieces and nephews, Michael, Danielle and Matthew Hull and April, Donald III, Ashley and Sarah Sewell; a very special uncle, Jimmy Bailey of Houlton, ME; his fishing buddies, Wayne and Brian; and numerous extended family members and friends.

Friends called Thursday at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Road, Colchester. Friends may gather starting at 10:30 a.m. Friday at the funeral home before an 11 a.m. Chapel Service there. Burial will be private and the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to American Cancer Society, 106 Franklin Commons, Franklin, CT 06254, the Colchester-Hayward Vol. Fire Dept., 18-54 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester, CT 06415 or to The Hole in the Wall Gang, 555 Long Wharf Dr., New Haven, CT 06511.

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Portland

H. Erik Olson

H. Erik Olson, 74, of Portland, beloved husband of 49 years of Esther (Woodford) Olson died Sunday, Sept. 21. He was born in New Bedford, MA, the son of Harvey H. and Phyllis (Jason) (Olson) Hunt, and resided in Newington for 28 years before moving to Portland 20 years ago. He was a member of several Masonic and engineering organizations. He was familiarly referred to as "Mr. Goodwrench" and had a great interest in cars, motorcycles and clocks.

Besides his wife Esther, he is survived by his daughter Britta (Olson) Konopka and her husband Robert P., Jr., of Rye, NY; his grandchildren, Katherine Elisabeth Konopka and Robert Paul Konopka, III, of Rye, NY; his brothers, Rolf Olson and his wife Sioux of East Haddam and Dr. Neil Olson and his wife Katherine of Bristol; his aunt Marjorie Jenney of New Bedford, MA; his sisters-in-law, Helen Woodford and Lucy Wirsul, both of Bloomfield; and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Erik's memorial service will be held Saturday, Sept. 27, at 11 a.m. at the Congregational Church in South Glastonbury, 16 High St., Glastonbury.

Memorial donations may be made to the Congregational Church in South Glastonbury (Capital Campaign Fund/Handicap Accessibility), P.O. Box 187, South Glastonbury, CT 06073 or the Alzheimer's Memory Walk (Oct. 5, 2008) www.hartfordwalk.kintera.org (find a walker, Larry Golfin). Newington Memorial Funeral Home, 20 Bonair Ave., Newington, is serving the family.

To share a memory, visit www.newingtonmemorial.com.

Marlborough

Adolph A. Endrelunas

Adolph A. Endrelunas, 90, of Marlborough, died Thursday, Sept. 18, at home after a very fulfilling life. Born Feb. 22, 1918, in Hartford, son of the late John and Anna (Moteunas) Endrelunas, he was raised in East Hartford and had lived in Marlborough since 1965.

Adolph started the Holland Machine Company in East Hartford in 1943 and in 1952 founded the Unas Grinding Corp. in East Hartford, which he was still active with at the time of his death. Adolph stayed home during World War II under a medical exemption and started the shop with borrowed equipment. He was active in his younger years; Adolph was one of Connecticut's finest basketball players, playing for no less than five teams, including the Knights of Lithuania and the Burnside Eagles.

He is survived by his sister, Theresa Endrelunas of Marlborough; a brother, Aloisius A. Endrelunas of South Windsor; a dear sister-in-law, Helen Endrelunas of Bloomfield; and many nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews.

He was predeceased by two brothers, Robert J. and Daniel F. Endrelunas; three sisters, Albina Orzech, Jean Sills and Alexandra Niemczyk; and his brother-in-law and longtime business partner, Edward Orzech.

Funeral service was Monday, Sept. 22, from the Mulryan Funeral Home, 725 Hebron Ave., Glastonbury, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial in Holy Trinity Church, 53 Capitol Ave., Hartford. Burial followed in Mount St. Benedict Cemetery, Bloomfield. Friends called at the funeral home Sunday, Sept. 21. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Holy Trinity Church, 53 Capitol Ave., Hartford.

Marlborough

Lindsay T. Steele

Lindsay T. Steele of Marlborough passed away on Saturday, Sept. 20, in Hartford. Lindsay grew up in East Greenwich, RI and attended The Rocky Hill & Moses Brown Schools. As an adult, he spent many years in Vermont before moving back to the Steele family homestead in central Connecticut.

A quiet, contemplative man, Lindsay read widely, educating himself in a broad range of subjects. Though private and introspective, he was an engaging conversationalist who amazed friends with the breadth and depth of his knowledge. He was an avid bicyclist and skier, as well as a great lover of wildlife.

He is survived by his loving wife, Margaret Poland-Steele, brothers Lee and Scott Steele, a niece, Carolyn Dube, a nephew, Charles Steele and a great-niece, Nicole Dube.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Connecticut Audubon Society at Earle Park, Wildlife Fund, 1361 Main St., Glastonbury, CT 06033. Funeral services are private and at the convenience of the family.

Marlborough

Gregory Algert Yuska

Gregory Algert Yuska, 60, of Marlborough, beloved husband for 34 years to Constance M. (Foohey) Yuska, died peacefully at his home on Tuesday, Sept. 16. Mr. Yuska was born in Hartford on Nov. 14, 1947, and raised in Windsor, the son of the late Algert and Irene (Selleck) Yuska. He was the president, owner and administrator of the Portland Care and Rehabilitation Centre and an elected board member of the Connecticut Association of Healthcare Facilities.

He and his wife Connie met when they were both teachers in East Hartford and married on Aug. 21, 1974. He graduated from the University of Tennessee and received his master's degree from Eastern Connecticut State University and his administrator's license from the University of Connecticut. His many passions included jazz music; he was the founder of the Greg Yuska Jazz Alive Quartet and played throughout the state in many restaurants, including the Wadsworth Athenaeum, B.B. King's Night Club and every Thursday at his skilled nursing facility. Additionally he has numerous original compositions and published articles for *Jazz Improv Magazine* and *Vette Magazine*.

He had a love for life and great love for his wife and sons. He lived to the fullest, played golf and was an avid power boater and world traveler. Dedicated to his family, music and profession, he will be missed by many who knew him for his humor, political views and conversationalist.

Along with his wife he is survived by his two sons, George Yuska of Virginia and Gerald Yuska of Marlborough, and by his aunt, Jeanne Kolosowski of Black Point. He was predeceased his uncle, Edward Yuska.

Relatives and friends were respectfully invited to gather at the Glastonbury Funeral Home, 450 New London Tpke. on Monday, Sept. 22, for the procession to St. Paul Church, 2577 Main St., Glastonbury, where a Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated. The interment followed in Rose Hill Memorial Park, 580 Elm St., Rocky Hill.

Memorial donations may be made in his memory to the Portland Care & Rehabilitation Centre, 333 Main St. Portland, CT 06480.

Portland

Mark C. Bucheri

Mark C. Bucheri, 61, of Rose Hill Road, Portland, died Friday, Sept. 19, at Hartford Hospital. He was the husband of Rosemarie Salvatore Bucheri. Born in Hartford July 2, 1947, son of Salvatore Bucheri of Rockville and the late Ann Jason Bucheri, he was raised in Rockville and was a Portland resident for the past 23 years.

He had been employed by the Aetna Insurance Co., for 27 years and was a veteran of the Vietnam War, having served in the U.S. Air Force. He was very active in the Portland Republican Party, serving on the Republican Town Committee and had served as a member of the Portland Board of Education. He had served as a cubmaster for the Cub Scouts and was a parishioner of the Church of Saint Mary.

Besides his wife Rosemarie and his father Salvatore, he is survived by his sons Kyle Bucheri and Brett Bucheri, both of Portland; his sisters Karen Orfitelli and her husband Lonnie of Bourne, MA, and Sandra Gladden and her husband Dennis of Rockville, and several nieces and nephews.

His family received relatives and friends in the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, on Tuesday, Sept. 23. Funeral services were Wednesday, Sept. 24, from the Portland Memorial Funeral Home and in the Church of Saint Mary for a Mass of Christian Burial. Interment, with military honors, followed in the Swedish Cemetery in Portland.

In lieu of flowers, gifts in Mark's memory may be sent to the Portland Library, 20 Freestone Ave., Portland, CT 06480.

For directions or to express an online expression of sympathy, visit www.portlandmemorialfh.net.

Portland

Robert Downing

Robert Downing, 80, of Portland, husband of Isabel (Natale) Downing, died Wednesday, Sept. 17, at Middlesex Hospital. He was an Army veteran who worked for many years at New Britain Machine Company.

Funeral services were held Monday, Sept. 22, from the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, and at the Church of Saint Mary. Burial in the State Veterans Cemetery on Bow Lane, Middletown. Calling hours were Sunday, Sept. 21.

Should friends desire, gifts in his memory may be sent to the Church of St Mary, 51 Freestone Ave., Portland, CT 06480, or to the American Heart Association, 5 Brookside Dr., Wallingford, CT 06492.

For directions or to leave an online expression of sympathy, visit www.portlandmemorial.net.

Portland

Robert D. Willett

Robert D. Willett, 64, loving partner for 35 years of Judy Sundell, of Farrell Road, Portland, died Saturday, Sept. 20, in Middlesex Hospital. Born in Woburn, MA, on Oct. 10, 1943, a son of the late Edward F. and Mary J. Pandolph Willett, Sr., he was a Portland resident for many years.

He had been employed by the Connecticut Valley Hospital in Middletown for 39 years until his retirement in 2003. In his retirement, he enjoyed his beloved shelties Buddy and Arran, his family and friends, photography, and sitting at the lake. He was a lifelong football fan, playing when he was younger with Number 26 as his favorite number. He did the things he wanted to do.

Besides his beloved partner Judy, he is survived by her family, Carl and Charmi Sundell of East Hampton, David Sundell of Portland, Peter and Kay Sundell of New Port Ritchie, FL, George and Pauline Sundell of Cherry Hill, NJ, Marlo and Larry French of Middlefield and Brian and Phyllis Sundell and Mary Kuskey, all of Portland; his sisters and brothers-in-law; Joann and Guy Lalicata, Carol and Richard Quinn, Ruth and Timothy Dolan and his brother John Willett, all of Woburn, and many nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his brothers Edward F. Willett, Jr., Anthony B. Willett and Paul D. Willett, and his sister-in-law Anne Sundell. His family received relatives and friends in the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, on Monday, Sept. 22, and Tuesday at the McLaughlin-Dello Russo Funeral Home, 60 Pleasant St., Woburn, MA. A Mass of Christian Burial was held Wednesday, Sept. 23, at St. Charles Church, 280 Main St., Woburn, MA.

In lieu of flowers, gifts in his memory may be sent to the Connecticut Humane Society, 701 Russell Rd., Newington, CT 06111. For directions or to leave an online expression of sympathy, visit www.portlandmemorialfh.net