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The Young People's Center for the Creative Arts (YPCCA) will perform *Jesus Christ Superstar* next weekend in East Hampton. Shown here is the hedonistic Herod, played by Conor Grady, surrounded by his harem during "Herod's Song." The number serves as the light-hearted break before the musical's bleak last gasp.

Summer Musical Time in East Hampton

by Michael McCoy

The East Hampton-based Young People's Center for the Creative Arts (YPCCA) is gearing up for its annual summer musical – and this year, it's an Andrew Lloyd Webber classic.

YPCCA will perform *Jesus Christ Superstar* Thursday, July 30, through Sunday, Aug. 2, at East Hampton High School, 15 North Maple St.

YPCCA, started in 1982 by the late Mike Mansfield, is a nonprofit organization that aims to give kids a creative outlet that exceeds what school might provide. The camp runs for four weeks, with the time being split between workshops and master classes, as well as the kids preparing for their performance, which caps off the camp.

Last year, the group performed *Grease*, and earlier this year YPCCA mounted its first spring production in a decade, when it performed *High School Musical*. Earlier this month, YPCCA Junior staged *101 Dalmatians*. This was the first year for YPCCA Junior, which is comprised of children entering kindergarten through fifth

grade in the fall. YPCCA starts with those entering sixth grade, and ends with 2009 high school graduates.

"It was amazing," said house director Rachel Mansfield (Mike Mansfield's daughter) about YPCCA Junior, which will continue next year. Mansfield also plans to add another YPCCA camp at the Region 13 district (Durham/Middlefield.)

YPCCA won an award this month for its float in East Hampton's annual Old Home Days parade. The float featured a performance of "The Age of Aquarius/Let the Sunshine In" from *Hair*. Mansfield laughed, "We definitely didn't win for our design. I think it was for our singing."

Grease, *High School Musical*, and *101 Dalmatians* are all whimsical, even campy at times. So, the elegiac *Jesus Christ Superstar* marks a decided shift in tone. "From Judas's perspective, it's a very dark musical," said Spencer Kelly of Wallingford, who plays Judas in the

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RHAM Technology Teacher Honored with Award

by Chris Seymour

RHAM High School teacher David Ruddick was recently named the Connecticut Technology Education Association (CTEA) Teacher of the Year and received the International Technology Education Association (ITEA) Teacher Excellence Award.

Ruddick, a Glastonbury resident who has taught at RHAM since 1999, said the recognition was "a surprise and an honor."

"I feel that this award justifies a lot of hard work on my part, not to get an award, but to make the classes that I teach the best they possibly can be," he said. "It also creates a lot of self-imposed pressure to improve the rigor of the class, the quality of the instruction and the performance of the students."

Among the courses Ruddick teaches are Introduction to Engineering Design, Principles of Engineering, Digital Electronics and Aerospace Engineering.

The CTEA Teacher of the Year is chosen from nominations submitted to the CTEA Board of Directors. Ruddick was asked to submit an application by Greg Kane, retired state Board of Education consultant in charge of technology education for the state.

The winner from each state is also submitted to ITEA for approval for its Teacher Excellence Award (Ruddick called this "usually a formality").

Asked what he finds to be the most rewarding aspect of teaching, Ruddick responded "that's a pretty easy question to answer."

He explained, "I touch the future. The young men and women I teach are going to be the people who solve the world's problems in the next 40 to 50 years. As I tell the classes, 'I've already solved the problems that were given to

me – now it is up to you to create workable solutions to the energy, climate, population, pollution, housing and societal problems. You are the future.'"

Originally from Seymour, IN, Ruddick received his Bachelor of Science degree in technology education from Ball State University in Muncie, IN in 1969 and his Master's of Science degree in secondary education from Indiana University in Bloomington, IN, in 1973.

He worked for nine years in the Fort Wayne (IN) Community Schools, teaching technology, manufacturing and construction to junior high school students. He followed his now ex-wife to Connecticut in 1978, when she got a promotion and a transfer with Aetna Life and Casualty. He is now married to Marna Walter, an emergency room nurse at New Milford Hospital. She has two daughters, Adrienne and Jennifer, and Ruddick has one, Katherine.

Before RHAM, Ruddick worked as an engineer for 21 years. "I did the physical design of electronic equipment for several companies: Microtime Inc (now defunct), a manufacturer of equipment for the television broadcast industry; Corometrics Medical in Wallingford, a manufacturer of devices that monitor babies before, during and after they are born; ADC Telecommunications in Wallingford, a manufacturer of equipment for data, video and voice telecommunications; and some others," he noted.

He left engineering in 1999 after 21 years to return to teaching at RHAM. In 2000 the district implemented the 'Project Lead the Way' curriculum – the third school in Connecticut to do so.

Project Lead the Way is a not-for-profit organization that was formed in the early '90s in



RHAM High School teacher David Ruddick (far right) was recently named the Connecticut Technology Education Association (CTEA) Teacher of the Year and received the International Technology Education Association (ITEA) Teacher Excellence Award. Pictured from left are ITEA President Ed Denton, CTEA President Paul Hoffman, incoming CTEA President Jerry Stevens and Ruddick.

hopes of alleviating the shortage of qualified engineers in the U.S. According to Ruddick, research showed that the majority of college freshmen who declared engineering as a major dropped out before graduating. The organization reasoned that if those freshmen had a better idea of what engineering involved, they would stick with it through graduation. Hence, by creating a comprehensive curriculum for high school students, there would be a better chance

of creating graduating engineers.

Ruddick does his best to raise awareness about engineering careers. Each February, he and the RHAM guidance department sponsor a "Women in Engineering" day. "We bring in six or seven successful women engineers to talk to seventh-, eighth- and ninth-grade young women, their parents, and interested community people about RHAM's engineering pro-

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show.

Mansfield acknowledged the emotional complexity of the musical. "It's anger. It's rage. It's fear," she said, figuring many students were challenged by its thematic demands.

Jesus Christ Superstar, first performed in 1971, is a retelling of the last week of Jesus' life. It focuses largely on his inner conflict and relationship with Mary Magdalene. The other key aspect portrayed is Judas' struggle with Jesus' transition from hippie guru to a revolutionary now claiming to be the Son of God.

Interestingly enough, Spencer's brother Trevor plays Jesus.

The other major lead, Mary Magdalene will be split between East Haddam's Brittany Ciullo, 16, and Lindsay Shea, 17, of Portland. Brittany will play the part Thursday and Saturday, and Lindsay takes on the role for Friday and Saturday.

"I was not expecting to be Mary at all," gushed Brittany. Lindsay humbly admitted, "I would have been happy with an ensemble part."

"Initially, I wanted to be Herod," said Spencer of the one-scene character who provides the musical's burlesque comic relief. By auditions, however, he was hoping for the meatier Judas role, while brother was shooting for Jesus. (Herod is played by Conor Grady.)

Mansfield said she picked *Jesus Christ Superstar* this year because, while most years tend to have a surplus of girls, this year was split fairly evenly. So, she figured she'd give the guys a chance to shine and pick a masculine show.

"It's been a little rough on the girls," Mansfield said. However, she added that with the only female lead being Mary Magdalene,

Teacher cont. from Front Page

gram and the profession in general," Ruddick said.

The evidence indicates that Ruddick, and RHAM's engineering program, are succeeding.

"In the last 10 years, RHAM has placed graduates into engineering and architecture programs at UConn, the University of Hartford, CCSU, Rochester Institute of Technology, Purdue, Penn State, University of Texas, the Air Force Academy, Worcester Institute of Technology and many others," Ruddick said. "I think our engineering program is doing its job."

she cast girls in the roles of Simon Zealotes and Annas.

But it's not the glory of leading roles that have the actors smiling. "We wait for this all year," said Lindsay, and Brittany added, "Everyone's so nice to each other."

Spencer went so far to say, "This is my favorite place on the planet."

Mansfield has directed the shows for years, though she was absent last summer as she had recently given birth. Technical director Chris Briggs filled in for her, as he has in the past. But Mansfield is back for this year's show (and previously helmed *High School Musical* and *101 Dalmatians* earlier this year). Other staff members include choreographer Jennifer Friday, music director Matt Campisi, lighting designer Brian Schlosser, and costume designer Marilyn Friday. Mansfield said no costumes were rented this year, as Friday made them all, something that has not happened for years.

All told, there are 12 staff members and 73 cast members, with the latter being all students.

Mansfield also praised Briggs' imposing, mobile, wooden set. "I feel like it's a 74th character in the show," she said.

Mansfield said she expects to stage a more old-fashioned musical next year, musing, "I think it might be time to go back to a Rodgers and Hammerstein."

Showtimes for next Thursday's, Friday's and Saturday's shows are 7 p.m. The Sunday, Aug. 2, performance kicks off at 2 p.m. Tickets are available at the door and at the website, www.yppca.org and cost \$12 for adults and \$8 for kids 16 and under.

From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

Glastonbury resident Cindy Lattanzio stopped by the office this week. It seems her family's beloved Australian Cattle Dog, Chandler, has gone missing, and if you live in the Hebron area, you may have seen the pooch.

Chandler was last seen Saturday, July 18, at 266 Millstream in Hebron. Cindy's daughter was visiting some friends, some firecrackers were set off, and Chandler got scared and took off into the woods.

Chandler's coat is a grayish color, Cindy says, with black spots. She has a brown- and black-colored face. She's wearing a tag that says "Erin," as the collar she was wearing the day of her Hebron trip actually belonged to one of the Lattanzios' two other dogs. (Chandler doesn't normally wear a collar, as the Lattanzios have an invisible fence at their home.)

Chandler, who is 9 years old and weighs about 40 pounds, is very friendly, Cindy says, and will not bite. If you call her sweetly, she'll come. Also, she's microchipped, meaning if you take her to the vet, they can ID her.

Cindy placed an ad in this week's *Rivereast*, offering a \$500 return for Chandler's return. The ad appears on page 7.

If you happen to spot Chandler, give the Lattanzios a call. They can be reached at 860-657-8029 (home), 860-977-5557 (cell) or 860-983-4997 (alternate cell).

I'm a dog lover myself. I grew up with them, and know they truly become one of the family. I hope Chandler finds her way safely home.

* * *

I've noticed the past few years there never seems to be a mailbox when I need one. At first I thought it was a byproduct of a spoiled youth; I had grown up around the corner from a mailbox, and would make frequent use of it, especially if my parents or myself had missed the mailman. (The pickup at the mailbox was about 5 p.m., whereas the mailman would drop off and pick up items around noontime.) Perhaps one of the harsh realities of adulthood is that sometimes a mailbox is more than half a block away.

But nope, it turns out the reason why it seems mailboxes are tougher to come by than they were when I was growing up is that they really *are* tougher to come by. I read a story over the weekend about a small town in Maine that has been fighting with the U.S. Postal Service to keep its lone public mailbox. (The town doesn't have its own post office, or even its own ZIP code.) And the story presented a rather startling statistic: nationwide, more than 188,000 mailboxes have been removed this decade (there are 176,936 remaining, or at least there were as of July 15). Why? Mail volume is down. Thanks to technological ad-

vances like e-mail and online bill paying, the U.S.P.S. is projecting it will handle fewer than 180 billion pieces of mail this year, down from 213 billion pieces just two years ago.

According to the Postal Service, removing a box saves money as you don't have to pay to maintain them, or pay a mail carrier to pick up the mail in them. In fact, the U.S.P.S. has devised it takes 25 letters being delivered to a mailbox per year for the box to be worth the money.

I imagine the U.S.P.S. will handle decreasing amounts of mail as the years go by, as e-mail gets even more widespread (and it's already pretty widespread as it is) and more people begin to pay their bills and such online. So the mailbox will go the way of the pay phone, the VCR and analog television: A victim of technology. Meanwhile, the list of items that have been rendered obsolete during my lifetime continues to grow.

* * *

Speaking of VCRs, here's a piece of utterly useless trivia (my mind is full of such nuggets of unnecessary knowledge): What was the last major Hollywood movie commercially released on VHS? *A History of Violence*, which bowed on videotape in 2006.

* * *

It's been another rough week for the Mets, losing three of four games in Atlanta and then losing two of three against the lowly Nationals. As bad as things are, though, at least they're not at 1993 levels (the year they lost 103 games). And it was on this date, July 24, in 1993 that Mets reliever Anthony Young notched his 27th consecutive loss. It's a Major League record, and, in my opinion, one that will likely stand for a long, long time. Young really wasn't that bad a pitcher; his earned run average during the losing streak was a fairly-respectable 4.36. Also at one point during the streak, he converted 12 straight save opportunities, filling in for injured closer John Franco.

It was a lot of bad luck that did him in, a lot of errors. In fact, four days after losing No. 27, Young was about to get dealt his 28th straight loss, after a Todd Hundley throwing error in the top of the ninth led to an unearned, tie-breaking run. But the Mets scored two in the bottom of the ninth, and Young's long, strange trip was finally over.

(By the way, in case anyone's wondering, the record for consecutive losses had been held by Cliff Curtis, who lost 23 straight in 1910-11. More than 80 years passed before Young finally broke his record; even Lou Gehrig's streak didn't last that long. So I've got a hunch Young will own this distinction for a while.)

* * *

See you next week.

Hebron Democrats Release Slate of Candidates

by Sarah McCoy

Uncontested and with unanimity, the Democratic Town Committee (DTC) this week put forth its slate of candidates for the November elections.

Board of Selectmen (BOS) incumbent Mark Stuart is seeking his second term on the board. Peter Moon joins him on the ticket. Moon formerly served on the town's 300th Celebration Committee and has been a member of the DTC since coming to town in 2002.

Stuart said he is seeking reelection to offer continuity to a board with about 11 years of cumulative experience between the five members. He added that he'd like to be a part of the continuing search for a new Town Manager and next year's ominous budget situation. "I feel that the current board works pretty well together," he said after Tuesday's Democratic caucus. "I'd like to continue that."

Moon, who said he's been involved in politics since high school, admitted that he initially thought about running for the Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) but was convinced otherwise. "I've come to know a lot of people in the town and have become familiar with some of the issues," Moon said. "I hope to be an effective leader for Hebron."

Each party may endorse two candidates for

the BOS. Voters will vote for two candidates with the top two being elected. Stuart and Republican Will Moorcroft's terms are expiring in November.

For the Board of Finance (BOF), the DTC endorsed current finance board member Mal Leichter and former BOS chair Karen Strid. The party was able to endorse three candidates but only Strid and Leichter were interested in running.

Strid, who has also served on the PZC and currently chairs the Charter Revision Commission, hopes to bring a long-term perspective to the BOF. "I want to see us budgeting for the future rather than just the current year," she said.

Leichter is seeking his second term on the BOF. With his children now grown and a background in finance, Leichter said the BOF is a logical place for him to give back to Hebron. After Tuesday's caucus he said that he'd like to see the town become more affordable for residents while maintaining the assets of the town.

The terms for Leichter and fellow BOF members Laurine Bow (a Democrat) and Philip LoBianco (a Republican) expire in November. Voters will cast their ballots for three candidates, with the top three being elected to serve.

It took until the very end of Tuesday night's caucus for Hebron Democrats to find any candidates for the local Board of Education (BOE). In the end, Michael Stone and Ellen Hetherington were endorsed for the position.

Two Democrats, David King and David Burgess, are not seeking reelection to their post on the BOE. Republican Kathy Shea's term is also expiring in November.

Each party can endorse up to three candidates for the BOE with the top three being elected.

(The Republicans will hold their caucus next Tuesday, July 28, at 7:30 p.m., in the community room of the Town Office Building, 15 Gilead St.)

RHAM BOE incumbent TJ Morelli-Wolfe is seeking reelection to his post. Lorraine Davey, a former member of the Hebron BOE, joins him on the ballot. Davey ran for the RHAM BOE in 2007, but lost by just six votes.

The Democratic party could have endorsed three candidates for the RHAM BOE. Voters can select three candidates with the top three being elected. Morelli-Wolfe's, Democrat and current RHAM BOE Chair Sue Griffiths' and Republican Debra Dee's terms will expire in

November.

Judith Podell and Bruce Raymond are both seeking reelection to the PZC. Three candidates will be elected to this post.

Jeffrey Schwarz is seeking reelection the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA). Two candidates will be elected to this board.

Diane Christensen was endorsed as a candidate for the ZBA. Three candidates will be elected to this board.

There are no Democratic candidates for alternates to the ZBA or PZC.

DTC Chair Bill Rudis said he felt the party did better than he expected at filling out its slate of candidates. "We are living in, what I consider to be, extraordinary times," he said. "More of our families are facing dilemmas we haven't seen in decades. It's difficult to encourage people to make the commitment to something like public service."

Nevertheless, Rudis is "thrilled" with the candidates endorsed by the party. "We have individuals who can really lead Hebron and its residents," he said.

Municipal elections will be held on Nov. 3, with voting taking place between 6 a.m. and 8 p.m. at Hebron Elementary School.

Friends, Family Say Goodbye to Fran Williams in Hebron

by Sarah McCoy

Led by a motorcycle escort, a University of Connecticut fire truck carried the casket of Francis Williams, a longtime Hebron resident and former Hebron Volunteer Fire Department deputy chief, into New Hebron Cemetery last Thursday, July 16.

According to friends and family, Williams loved family, friends, food and firefighting. The 43-year resident of Hebron passed away last week, at the age of 64. Francis and Kathy Williams were married 44 years. They came to Hebron in 1966 and raised two sons in town. He started his involvement with the Hebron Volunteer Fire Department (HVFD) as a firefighter and worked his way up to deputy chief. He was named a lifetime member of the department, an honor bestowed to volunteers serving more than 15 years.

Kathy Williams said his involvement with the fire department “fulfilled a childhood dream” for her late husband. “He loved every aspect of it,” she said.

Bruce DeGray, a current member of HVFD, said Williams was one of the most well-liked men in the department. “I never heard him say something bad about anybody and nobody had anything bad to say about him,” DeGray said. “He was enthusiastic, a good facilitator, and he led by example.”

After volunteering in Hebron, Williams decided he wanted to make it his career. He was hired by the University of Connecticut Fire Department in 1972 and was currently serving as chief of the department upon his passing.

He had been nationally recognized in the firefighting industry in the past for getting dangerous halogen torchiere banned on campus. Williams was also an instrumental force behind the installation of showers in each of the residential buildings at UConn.

Earlier this summer, Williams had accepted

the state’s early retirement package and was in the process of transitioning out of the chief role. “Last week was supposed to be a retirement party,” Kathy Williams said.

Williams handed down his love of public service to his sons. His eldest, Keith, currently serves as an emergency medical technician for HVFD.

In addition to the local fire department, Williams had another love in town: Gina Marie’s Restaurant. “He was here almost every day,” restaurant owner Troy Kelsey said. “He’s trained almost all of our waitresses. When someone new would start we’d send them over to Fran. He always showed them the ropes.”

On the day of the funeral the staff at Gina Marie’s placed a candle and a reserved sign at the Williams’ usual table.

Kathy Williams said her husband had recently fallen in love with Gina Marie’s bacon double cheeseburger pizza with the topping “out to the edge.”

In a way, Williams’ pizza was like his life. He didn’t like any wasted space. Considering the pizza crust to be just that, Fran ordered his toppings to the edge and taught his five granddaughters to do the same.

Between his granddaughters, two sons, a job he adored, and annual trips to Stowe, VT, Williams’ life was full to the edge as well. “Those girls were his life,” Kathy Williams said of her granddaughters.

At Thursday’s funeral service, which was held at UConn, the two eldest granddaughters, Ashley and Kaitlyn Williams, now 17 and 18 years old, spoke about what their grandfather meant to them. They spoke about how he went to every concert, birthday and dance recital, how he taught them to wear socks with sandals, and that, if you can write an explanation on how to make a peanut butter and jelly sandwich, you can do anything.



The casket of Francis Williams is lifted off a University of Connecticut fire engine at New Hebron Cemetery last Thursday. Williams, who died last week, had been chief of the UConn Fire Department and was a lifetime member of the Hebron Volunteer Fire Department. Photo by Matt Troy

But more than all else, the girls said, “He was the grandpa who treated our grandma like a princess and showed us how great of a man we deserve to marry someday.”

Kathy Williams said her husband was a romantic at heart. For years he had flowers delivered every month – a tradition that will continue even after his passing, as he had pre-ordered flowers until the end of the year.

Once, Williams surprised his wife with a weekend away. “He told me to pack things that were classy but casual and mosquito repellent,” Kathy Williams recalled.

The two spent that night enjoying a picnic watching an outdoor concert by the Vermont Symphony Orchestra. “It was magical,” she said of the night.

The family has plans to return to Vermont next month for their yearly family trip. While Kathy Williams hasn’t decided about attending, she’s thrilled to see the rest of the family share in Fran’s love of the area.

“He’ll continue to be with us in different ways,” she said. “I love that I have so many things to remind me of him.”

Schuster Announces Colchester First Selectman Bid

by Adam Benson

The Colchester Republican Town Committee (RTC) will head into its July 28 caucus carrying a full slate of candidates, with its own chairman at the top of the ticket.

RTC head Gregg Schuster announced this week his intention to run for First Selectman, citing concerns over the town’s long-term economic viability and swelling bureaucracy at the state and local level.

“This is a job I’ve wanted for a while, and something I’d love to do,” Schuster, 33, said Wednesday. “I think I’d be great at it.”

RTC Nominating Committee Chairwoman Diana Norton Giles said Schuster has its full support.

She said Schuster was interviewed “at length” Monday before winning the committee’s endorsement.

“I have every confidence that he’s going to win. He’s got the energy, he’s got the enthusiasm, and he’s certainly got the dedication to Colchester,” Giles said. “He also has the calm and steady judgment that as challenges come up, he’ll be able to handle them.”

She added that Schuster likely will step down – at least temporarily – until the elections are over.

“You just can’t do both,” she said of running a campaign and leading the RTC. “You don’t have the time or the energy.”

Schuster said the RTC “is not sure who yet” will take over in the interim. Giles said the RTC will revisit in November the issue of appoint-

ing a permanent chairman should Schuster win the office.

Schuster said he held off on his announcement until this week because his wife, Faith, had a baby, Leah, just four weeks ago and he wanted there were no health concerns with either of them.

“The thing that really held me back is, ‘how the heck can I make a commitment to run for office when I’m having a baby.’” Schuster said. “I wanted to make sure that everything was stable and that I had a healthy family.”

If elected, Schuster said among his first acts would be to hire an economic development coordinator in an effort to strengthen Colchester’s commercial base and ease the tax burden on residents.

“We’re in an economic slump right now, but what you have to start doing is preparing the town to come out of that, and the way you do that is by investing in the town,” Schuster said. “We’ve got to find the revenue from businesses, and we’ve got to get them in here now.”

Schuster said town officials should consider installing more utility hook-ups ahead of businesses arriving as an incentive.

“We should put everything on the table to see what it’s going to take,” Schuster said.

Schuster said he’d also work closely with elected boards and commissions in neighboring communities in finding ways to streamline services.

“Every town has a fire department, a police department, a public works department,” he

said. “There has got to be a way to put regional resources in place.”

He also envisions himself working closely with the Board of Education (BOE) in helping to keep state lawmakers out of the local school district.

“Democrats or Republicans, I believe the Board of Education does a fairly good job of setting policy and running our school system. I want them making the decisions, not people in Hartford,” Schuster said. “Education is the silver bullet. If you get a good education, there’s no telling what you can do in your life.”

Schuster said the RTC also has several nominees for upcoming vacancies on the BOE. There are four seats up for grabs, including Republican Mary Lynn Burke’s, who is not running again.

Giles said the Nominating Committee is backing incumbent Betsy Ciccone for reelection to the BOE, and has also endorsed current Board of Finance Vice Chair Ron Goldstein and Mitch Koziol, a political newcomer.

Giles said she believes Republicans are well-positioned heading into the election season

“It’s really hard to tell exactly what this campaign will be like, but I think, looking at some of the turmoil we’ve seen in the Democratic Party, it gives us an even better opportunity to win,” she said. “Voters want someone who is committed to doing the job and not worrying about what someone else is thinking or doing, or being in the position of being bogged down



Gregg Schuster

with all these political machinations.”

The DTC has yet to publicly endorse any candidate, and incumbent First Selectman Linda Hodge said she hasn’t heard from party leaders about who they plan to back.

Hodge’s executive assistant, Mike Caplet, last week declared his intention to seek the DTC’s nomination for First Selectman.

Marlborough Memorials on the Move

by Adam Benson

Two longtime downtown landmarks will be moved in the coming weeks as part of Marlborough's \$900,000 town center improvement project – and some in town have expressed concerns about the relocation plan.

First Selectman Bill Black said this week a pair of war memorials currently on Town Hall property will be relocated a few hundred feet up North Main Street to anchor a proposed plaza that will be the centerpiece of an enhanced green. Each will be surrounded by scenic lighting, a brick walkway and a circle of flags.

The work should be completed by the end of August, but it's up to crews working on the revitalization effort to move the markers.

"They're going to be relocated with great care into a place of honor," Black said.

One of the memorials – constructed by former American Legion Post 197 member William Nystrom – recognizes all fighting forces that have served throughout the nation's history. The other, a smaller plaque affixed to a rock, is dedicated to every Marlborough resident that has enlisted or served in the military since the town was established in 1803.

Nystrom's structure, which has a cinderblock interior with a fieldstone facade, has been in place since the mid-1980s, and is a regular element of Marlborough's Veterans' Day celebrations. Its plaques have already been removed and set aside for safekeeping, though Black said workers discovered cracks in some places along the memorial's exterior that might need to be re-mortared.

Town leaders signed off on the relocations in 2006, when the project as a whole was approved. But some residents have expressed concern over whether moving the structures is ap-

propriate given their age and condition.

"The plaques have been removed and some excavation has begun, but its construction raises concerns about the ability of movement without causing structural damage," resident Ken Hjulstrom said, and added, "Will the monument survive? I have serious doubts. If there is any concern that it cannot be moved safely, then its relocation should be reconsidered."

American Legion Post 197 Commander Bernie Hoyland said Black and other town officials have met with members several times over the life of the project.

He said he liked the concept of moving the memorials to a higher profile area, but is worried about their preservation during the process.

"I have no problem with the movement of the monument, provided they don't destroy it," Hoyland said.

E. Russell Johnston III, commissioner of the Nature and Trails Commission that has worked the closest with town leaders in drafting plans for the town center project, said the monuments will be a better fit on the green.

"It'll be in a better location for when the Memorial Day and Veterans' Day activities happen," he said.

He echoed Hoyland's concern and urged crews to take care moving the memorials.

"Certainly, we as a commission are concerned that they be maintained," he said. "Nobody wants to see them broken."

Black said he was bewildered by the newly-sparked worries over the plan.

"I would hope there's not a lot of anxiety over this, because Lord knows we've communicated it with the world. The stakeholders have known about it," he said. "This has been out there since the planning efforts got under way."



The War Memorial Monument, which sits by the side entrance to Town Hall, is due to be moved, although some in town have expressed concerns about the relocation plan. Photo by Ken Hjulstrom.

BOS Agrees to Colchester Dog Park Plan

by Adam Benson

The Colchester Board of Selectmen (BOS) last week signed off on a building plan for a two-acre dog park along Old Amston Road.

The unanimous vote July 16 in support of the Parks and Recreation-sponsored facility clears the way for further fundraising that will enable construction to begin at the site.

Keith Kelley, chairman of the dog park committee, said the first leg of construction is expected to cost \$44,240, with annual maintenance fees of roughly \$2,000.

"We've had a lot of feedback from dogs, and they're very interested in it," Kelley told selectmen.

Work on a draft plan began in October 2008, and the Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) already approved the park's initial plot plan.

Kelley said committee members were discerning in evaluating possible locations for the park, but coalesced around the Amston Road location because of its accessibility to the Air Line Trail, natural landscape and vegetation features, proximity to the center of town and its seclusion from residential areas.

But most important, Kelley said, is that the town already owns the land. That will save on snow removal and regular upkeep since the

park's proprietors won't have to find a private contractor to do the work.

According to plans presented at the July 16 meeting, the park will be broken into two sections – one for small dogs and one for large ones. Sick, aggressive dogs or those under four months of age will not be allowed in the facility, and all dogs must be neutered, spayed and licensed with a municipality before being able to use the park.

"When we looked at this, we had a lot of discussion, and the precedence within Colchester is we're not writing a lot of rules. The only actual rule we have is they have to have their tags and be licensed," Kelley said. "All of the other rules that we'll have posted will be posted as guidelines, because they're truly not enforceable."

Still to be determined is when the park will open to the public. Kelley said the committee won't go to bid until it has enough money to cover costs. Over the past two months, members have brought in \$1,832, Kelley said.

But with the BOS signing off on the plan, Kelley announced the committee received a \$20,000 donation from Mary Gagnon that was contingent upon the park's approval. Kelley said

Gagnon offered the money as a tribute to her son Scott, a dog lover who died in February.

Her donation will be recognized by a plaque to be placed at the completed park.

Kelley said several other fundraising efforts are planning, including a dog walk at the Recreation Complex on Sunday, Sept. 20, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Other proposed fundraisers include a golf tournament, craft sales, holiday pet photo sales and sponsorships of local businesses.

Kelley said the committee is resolved to keeping maintenance costs off the backs of taxpayers.

"The committee has been doing the leg work as opposed to some of the other towns where they've got a couple of (paid) people staffing this," he said. "We as a committee are really committed to reducing the costs to the town. Anything we can pay for, we're willing to."

Kelley said the committee would like to see the park expand its offerings as money comes in, perhaps with the construction of a gazebo and benches. Plans also call for the purchase of agility equipment, toys and additional fencing as funds become available.

"Future enhancements, we're not even ad-

ressing right now," Kelley said. "We want a safe park first."

Kelley said organizers have seen interest in Colchester's dog park from pet owners across the region.

"We've had a lot of questions from people outside of town. We are planning to be open to everybody," Kelley said.

The park is expected to provide an economic benefit to the town's commercial tax base as well, with patrons – particularly those from out of town – expected to spend money on food and other items in Colchester.

And with nearly 1,800 unregistered dogs in Colchester, Kelley said the town can expect to see a sharp increase in its licensing fees, since untagged animals are not allowed to use the park.

"It has been shown in several towns that the licensing of animals goes up even with the announcement or planning of a dog park," Kelley said. "Some of our residents have said even though they have yards, their dogs want a different place to play."

For more information about the dog park or upcoming fundraisers, visit the dog park's website at www.colchesterct.gov/dogpark.

East Hampton Republicans Announce Candidate Slate

by Michael McCoy

The middle of July tends to mark a reprieve from business as usual (town festivals, cancelled meeting due to vacation). But, technically speaking, this week was about as political as it gets.

Not one but two parties in town caucused on the same night, at the exact same time no less, announcing their slates for November. The Republican Town Committee (RTC) event was held Tuesday night at Angelico's Lakehouse Restaurant.

All three GOP Town Council members will seek to hold onto their seats, as Thom Cordeiro, Bill Devine and council chair Melissa Engel will all run. Also looking to hop onto the chief legislative body are Kevin Reed and Board of Finance chairman Ted Hintz, Jr.

RTC chair David Balthazar said of the three incumbents, "I think they've performed exemplary." He continued, "I think they've been doing a remarkable job, and they'll continue to."

The only incumbent running for the Board

of Finance (BOF) is Henry Thorpe, while Maria Peplau, James Swindal and Patience Anderson round out that ticket.

Anderson's inclusion is notable since the last time she sought office, two years ago, she was running on the Chatham Party ticket for Town Council. However, Balthazar said she got in touch with him about half a year ago, looking to join the RTC. This is somewhat serendipitous, because Balthazar said he remembered her speaking up at a Town Council meeting several years ago and thinking to himself, "Now there's a very intelligent and articulate woman. I hope she stays involved."

Balthazar said she has "a lot of energy," and after a chuckle, repeated, "a lot of energy." He added, "I think she'll add a lot to the BOF."

"I obviously was leery," admitted Engel of Anderson's approaching her to get involved with the town Republicans. After all, she was not only a one-time Chatham Party candidate, but a former chairman of its town committee.

However, Engel continued, "In time, it be-

came apparent to me that she truly held to the core, basic Republican principles." In other words, Engel said, "She convinced us." Engel also explained that her understanding was Anderson became "disillusioned with the Chatham Party" and "wanted to work with a party that could make a difference."

Engel also called her "an honest girl" and lauded her financial background. "She gets her hands in there and does some hard work," Engel said.

Perhaps even more striking is the Board of Education slate, which offers five fresh faces: Karen Lee, Sal Nucifora, Eric Peterson, Josh Piteo and Gina Ritchie. Conversely, the two Board of Assessment Appeals candidates are both incumbents: George Coshow and Barbara Suprono.

Other candidates include incumbent Mark Philhower, who is running for the Midstate Regional Planning Agency. Finally, Zoning Board of Appeals candidates are incumbent Winnie Jacobson, Don Martin and Balthazar.

Balthazar, who said he usually prefers to work behind the scenes, has been RTC chairman since January 2008. "I'm just kind of recovering from all the planning," he said.

In general terms, Balthazar sounded quite invigorated by the newly announced lineup, but he also expressed pleasure over a mix of veterans and "new blood" on the GOP ticket.

Balthazar also said he drops into neighboring towns' RTC meetings occasionally to keep a fresh perspective. He singled out Portland as having an extremely active committee, calling Cindy Varicchio "an excellent town chair."

Engel called the slate "enthusiastic and energetic," as well as "hard-working," calling the last quality "the key ingredient."

The Republicans next event is scheduled for Aug. 23, which will be a cocktail party at Wayne and Maria Rand's Old Saybrook castle.

However, Engel said their keystone fundraiser just happened two weeks ago: their fried dough booth at Old Home Days. "It's a little blessing that we have that," chirped Engel.

Another Strong Show, But Future of Portland Fireworks in Doubt

by Michael McCoy

The Portland Fireworks Display has become an annual highlight, and last weekend was no different. But will there be a 2010 event to look forward to?

This year's show, which was last Saturday, July 18, drew its usual crowd to the Exchange Club Grounds, and the fireworks capped a beautiful New England summer evening.

Portland Fireworks Committee Chairman John Sobczyk said there was rain Friday and a little on Saturday morning. But, by the afternoon, the weather was brilliant, and it remained so for the rest of the day. Going forward with the show was a no-brainer.

Though Sobczyk said he had no estimates of attendance, he figured it was on par with last year, when about 3,000 showed up.

And those 3,000 were solicited for donations during the show, as the committee looked to recoup costs of the event. Key donors this year included Middlesex Hospital Vocal Chords, Dunkin Donuts, the Portland Fire Department Co. 1 Golf Tournament, Top Dog, Chris Cote's Golf Shop and, most notably, Tri-Town Foods.

Despite these donations, as well as those from literally hundreds of other organizations, businesses and households, the committee was about \$10,000 short of its \$30,000 budget by the time the show started. This meant the committee had enough to pay the fireworks provider, Ocean State Fireworks, but virtually no one else. Other expenses include police protection, advertisement and sanitation. (Sobczyk assures those other expenses will all be paid for; the committee just needs to figure out how much money it raised last Saturday night.)

The committee was in a similar situation last year. However, the money the committee generated the night of the show through donations, a percentage of food vendor intake and its own sale of glow sticks and similar souvenirs was enough to make up the difference. Sobczyk figured this would be nearly enough to make up the difference this year, as well. The problem is, the committee usually hopes to enter fundraising for the next year's show with a head

start. This year, Sobczyk said, they're starting from scratch.

Last year, donations for the show were down, which Sobczyk chalked up to the economy, but he said fundraising was even slower going this year. "Everything's down," he said of this fiscal void. "It chews up our cushion."

He also noted that the event carries no admission, nor does it receive any money from the town. "We get [other types of] support from the town," he said. "We don't get a budget from the town."

Currently, Sobczyk said, the Portland Fireworks Committee is composed of 11 people, who will meet soon to discuss next year's show. (Anyone is welcome to attend the meeting and get involved. However, Sobczyk did not have a date or place for that meeting yet.)

But next year's show did not sound like a foregone conclusion. "Can we raise the money?" wondered Sobczyk, later answering his own question: "It's going to be tough." He said the feasibility of the 2010 show would be discussed at the next meeting.

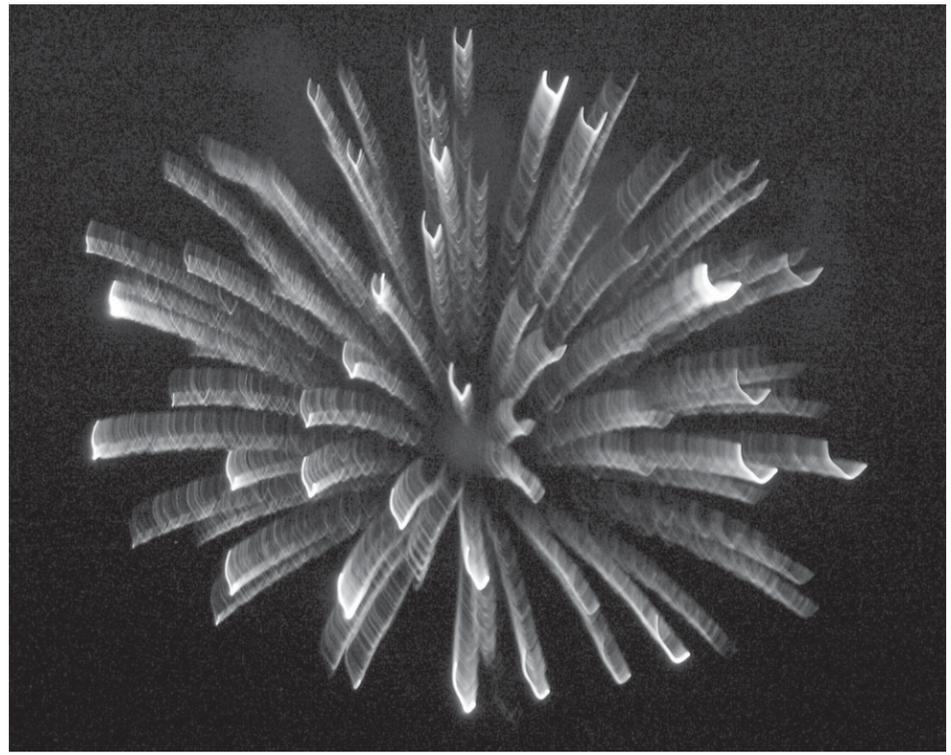
If this year's show is any indication, there will be plenty of people disappointed next year if the fireworks don't happen.

Ed Quick, a Glastonbury resident who has come to the show for a decade, said organizers "do a great job" with the fireworks. He said coming was always "very worthwhile."

Mike Orzolek made the trip from Lebanon with his wife and four kids and said the fireworks were some of the best he'd ever seen. As for returning to next year's show, he suggested, "Put it on the calendar."

"They were splendid," Colchester resident Barbara Devine said of the fireworks. Devine was part of a crew that arrived at 7:30 p.m. and packed a picnic. Among her party was Scott Rioux of Glastonbury. When asked if they'd be back next year, he replied, "Definitely, if they put it on."

Obviously, the big draw of the night was the fireworks themselves, but the evening offered a bit more. The Exchange Club Grounds, lo-



cated along Route 17A, opened at 5 p.m., with plenty to do before the 9:15 kick-off. This included food (hot dogs, hamburgers, fried dough and ice cream) as well as music (local rock outfits Players Club and Swagger.)

Just before the show, Sara Duchovny, a Philadelphia resident and Hartt School graduate, sang "The Star-Spangled Banner." Then perennial MC Dave Kuzminski announced that Sarah Black, 4, of Portland was the lucky girl chosen to push the button that ceremonially sets the show in motion.

"I had a fun time," said First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield, who was in the Exchange Club booth serving up burgers. Bransfield was there for the whole evening, arriving at 4:30

p.m. and heading out just as the show ended at 9:45 p.m.

"There were a lot of us walkers," said Bransfield, who parked on Victoria Road, near Firehouse No. 2, to avoid traffic.

"It was a nice family night," she said. She also said "the bands were outstanding," and added this was a sentiment relayed to her over and over. She also noted the lovely weather. "You could see the stars," she said of the sky's clarity.

Bransfield also beckoned people to remember the show is free and consider contributing either time or money to next year's show. "They are stupendous," she remarked on the final product.

East Hampton Democrats Gear Up for November Elections

by Michael McCoy

November is closer than you think, and this week made it feel even closer.

Tuesday night, the East Hampton Democratic Town Committee (DTC) approved their slate of candidates for the November election, and it carries a mix of familiar and fresh faces. The event took place at the public library.

Current Town Council members John Tuttle and Christopher Goff will once again be on the ticket, as well as newcomers Nancy Ninesling and Jill Simko, a former Board of Finance (BOF) member. DTC Chairman Barbara Moore rounds out the Town Council candidates. Currently, Moore serves on the BOF. In 2005, she made an unsuccessful bid for Town Council. In addition, Moore has been the committee chairman since 2003.

Speaking about Goff and Tuttle, Moore praised their work over the last two years. "They've introduced some new things," she said. Moore continued, "The makeup of the council [three Republicans, two Democrats and two Chatham Party members] is a little hard at

the moment," but she figured Goff and Tuttle make the best of it. "Nobody gets along all the time anyway."

The four Board of Finance (BOF) candidates are all new, as far as the office goes. They are Tim Csere, Tom O'Brien, David May and Matthew Walton.

Conversely, the Board of Education (BOE) candidates are chock full of experience. Incumbents Joanne Barmasse, Glenn Gemma, and Mark Laraia will all return to the campaign trail. Joining them are Rich Leone and Chris Hetrick. Leone is currently chairman of the Economic Development Commission.

Hetrick may sound like a new name, but he is far from new to education. After spending his entire life in Portland, Hetrick moved to East Hampton in March. He served on Portland's BOE from 1995 to 2008, and was chairman for the last eight of those years.

"I have a lot of experience," Hetrick said, adding that the experience could be "beneficial to the town and the school system."

When asked what made him run after leaving the Portland BOE just a year ago, Hetrick said he got involved with the DTC in East Hampton through an old friend, and "one thing led to another." Before he knew it, he was asked to run, and after some "soul searching," he agreed.

Despite his experience, however, he recognized this will still be a new experience, noting this is a "completely different school system, different town, different citizens."

"I'm a person who likes to stay involved," Hetrick said, adding that he is not running to address specific ills he sees on the board. "Portland was an excellent experience. Hopefully, I'll be able to lend a hand here."

"He certainly has a lot of experience," Moore said of Hetrick's credentials. "Portland was sad to lose him."

Other candidates include Charles Gotta and Jim Vick for Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA), as well as Robert Hines, Tom Keegan and in-

cumbent Brian Spack for ZBA alternate.

In addition, incumbent Kevin Flannery and John Wright are running for Board of Assessment Appeals, while Andrew Tierney is vying to reprise his role in the Midstate Regional Planning Agency.

"I'm equally excited about all of them," Moore said. "We've been working on it for months."

She also said the mix of experience and fresh ideas was good for the whole slate, figuring, "They feed off each other."

The DTC will hit the ground running next month. On Aug. 2, the committee will help with the hot dog eating contest at Angelico's Lakehouse Restaurant, 81 North Main St., which benefits the Food Bank. Then on Aug. 16, they will hold what Moore called, their "first official fundraiser," which will be a cocktail party at the home of Ruth and Ted Rossi. On Sept. 17, the DTC will hold an auction, which will also be at Angelico's.

RHAM School Board Gives Siminski Good Review

by Sarah McCoy

The RHAM Board of Education (BOE) gave Superintendent of Schools Robert Siminski its seal of approval at their June meeting.

Board members commended the job Siminski is doing during their annual review of the leader of school district.

In reviewing superintendents, the BOE uses a rating tool from the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education. The rating scale considers various aspects of the job including the compilation of a budget, community relations, planning, and building management.

While the ratings from each school board member are not part of public record, the BOE did release a summary of its evaluation. In it, the board praised Siminski for his leadership with the curriculum rewriting, communication with the board and community at large and handling of personnel issues.

Siminski said he appreciates the support from the BOE and looks to build on it.

Over the course of the next year, Siminski said, he plans to place a stronger emphasis on measurable data to ensure that growth is happening in the school district's target areas. "By quantifying progress we will be able to support the programs and initiatives we have in place," he said.

He added that he'd also like to continue the work being done on curriculum rewriting, pacing guides and mapping. Siminski said these tools ensure that all students are exposed to the same materials and keep teachers on target to cover the necessities.

Shortly after he arrived at RHAM in 2005,

the district adopted a plan through which all curriculum is rewritten every five years so that all information reflects "current thoughts in the discipline," Siminski said.

Siminski has already begun work on the budget for 2010-11. Fearing an even worse situation than this past season, he said board and staff members will have to come together to find creative solutions. "We have a number of challenges in front of us but, I believe, we have the right people and skill sets to get through it," Siminski said.

BOE Chair Sue Griffiths said that the annual evaluation allows for the BOE to step back to consider its goals and how the superintendent is working in support of them. She praised Siminski's focus on student achievement and well-being. "Bob works in support of the board's goal areas for improvement," she said. "We have no major concerns about the job being done."

In the fall, Griffiths said, she hopes the board and school staff will begin work on the second version of the district's strategic plan. This plan will map out where the district hopes to be both in the long and short term.

Once this process is complete, Griffiths explained, the board will have a better idea of its goals and where they desire Siminski to place his efforts.

The RHAM Board of Education will meet next on Aug. 24 at 6:30 p.m. in the music room of RHAM High School, 85 Wall St., Hebron. Griffiths said she expects this meeting to be an overview for the coming school year.

The first day of school is Aug. 26.

Town Seeking Funds for More Bike Patrol in Colchester

by Adam Benson

Colchester might soon have an increased police presence, if officials receive a federal grant that would allow the town to add two additional bike officers.

On July 9, the Board of Selectmen (BOS) unanimously approved a \$9,100 Justice Assistance Grant application that would provide enough cash to purchase bicycles and other equipment and also cover costs for a five-day training for two current patrolmen to become certified.

First Selectman Linda Hodge said town leaders are anxious to get the money and training in place, and she hopes to hear by August whether the application was accepted by the state.

"It will provide us with a second-shift presence in places," Hodge said of the new bike cops. "It will also increase our bike patrols at events."

Tim Edwards, one of three certified bicycle police officers currently with the department, said local law enforcement fully endorse the plan.

"It's really an effective tool with a lot of benefits," he said. "We haven't used it as much as we'd like, but it's been very effective when we have."

Edwards said the department has explored the possibility of bicycle police since 2002, but the unit wasn't established until 2006 when the police union spent \$3,000 to purchase equipment and train officers.

Since then, bicycle patrols have been used regularly at town events like the annual 57 Fest, public activities on the green and in hard-to-reach areas like the Air Line Trail and recreation complex.

"It's effective in community policing," Edwards said. "Especially in these summer months, just because there are more people out

and about. It might not be for criminal enforcement activity, it could simply be to make people feel more safe."

Hodge said giving police more personal interaction with residents is as important a part of the bike patrols as keeping outlying areas of the municipality safe.

"It gives them access to areas they typically don't have access to and also provides additional opportunities for one-on-one interactions between police officers and individuals," she said.

Edwards said bicycle patrols are also frequently used during night-time events like Halloween, and the unit has become an effective law enforcement tool because of its mobility.

"Every time we've gone out at night, we've interrupted criminal activity," Edwards said. "You're able to cover a lot of areas and make some good contacts."

Edwards, who's also a certified bicycle instructor and former bicycle mechanic, said officers in the unit also get the chance to display safe driving, riding and equipment skills to residents on a daily basis.

The department offers safety classes during the summer, but adding more officers will allow police to further demonstrate the lessons offered there.

"Nothing wrong with a little leading by example," Edwards said.

And, Edwards added, officers on bicycles have more success reaching out to children and other members of the community than those in cruisers do.

"People feel they can walk right up to you. It's a nice break too for kids, because sometimes they're intimidated when they see a vehicle and the badge and the gun," Edwards said. "It just makes you a more accessible person in the community. It's full of pluses for everybody."

Weekend Fire Destroys Andover Barns

by Sarah McCoy

An early morning fire ripped through a series of barns last Saturday leaving destruction but no injuries.

James Hemmond, of 330 Hebron Rd., woke to the sound of barking dogs just after 2:30 a.m. last Saturday, according to Andover Fire Marshal John Roache. When he looked out the window he saw his horse barns engulfed in flames.

Roache said the barns were fully involved when firefighters arrived on scene at 2:50 a.m. "By that point only the frames of the barns were left standing," he said.

The cause of the blaze is still under investigation.

Roache said that two or three barns were built adjacent to one another and held horses. While all the animals survived, the barns themselves burnt to the ground. "[Barns] are open wood structures with hay and other combustibles. They burn quickly," Roache explained. "Sheet rocks does a lot of contain fire."

Fortunately, fire crews were able to contain the blaze to the barns. The Hemmonds' house was left undamaged by the fire, Roache said.

The Andover Volunteer Fire Department was aided by firefighters from Columbia, Bolton, Hebron and Tolland.

Colchester Police News

7/14: Sean Anderson, 22, no known address, was charged with failure to pay or respond to a ticket, State Police said.

7/15: Kyle Czaplicki, 19, of 6 Stony Brook Dr., Marlborough, was charged with first-degree failure to appear, State Police said.

7/18: Jeremy Eselunas, 27, of Lebanon, was charged with driving while intoxicated, State Police said.

7/18: Deborah Sawyer, 49, of 9 N. Moodus Rd., was charged with DUI and failure to drive right, State Police said.

7/19: Aaron Ogden, 18, of 48 Novelli Place,

was charged with breach of peace and criminal trespass, State Police said.

7/19: Christopher Day, 23, of 75 West Rd., was charged with DUI, State Police said.

7/20: David Taylor, 34, of 15 Sullivan Rd., was charged with DUI, State Police said.

7/20: Gregory Ostiguy, 45, of Cromwell, was charged with DUI and failure to maintain the proper lane, State Police said.

7/21: Ralph Pallozzi, 49, of 147 S. Main St., was charged with violation of probation, State Police said.

East Hampton Police News

7/4 — Justin T. Stockburger, 22, of 35 Ola Ave., was arrested for possession of narcotics, East Hampton Police said.

7/5 — David Larson, 18, of 25 North Main St., was arrested for breach of peace and second-degree threatening, police said.

7/6 — John Spaulding, 46, of 222 East High St., was arrested pursuant to a warrant for failure to appear, police said.

7/10 — Angel L. Rios Jr., 28, of 44 Race Brook Dr., East Hartford, was arrested for operating under the influence of alcohol and traveling too fast, police said.

7/10 — Patricia MacFarland, 43, of 376 Valley Rd., Danielson, was arrested for operating under the influence of alcohol, police said.

7/10 — Timothy Sherrick Jr., 19, of 33 Terp Rd., was arrested pursuant to a warrant for second-degree criminal mischief and first-degree larceny, police said.

7/10 — Nicholas R. Fischlein, 23, of 186 Liberty St., Middletown, was arrested for misuse of plate, operating without insurance, operating an unregistered motor vehicle and traveling too fast, police said.

7/10 — Christopher L. Dunn, 47, of 376 Valley Rd., Danielson, was arrested for operat-

ing under the influence of alcohol, operating under suspension and failure to drive right, police said.

7/11 — Eric Cook, 23, of 28 Bevin Blvd., was arrested pursuant to a warrant for third-degree assault and disorderly conduct, police said. Cook was also arrested for possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of marijuana and possession of a prescription drug not in its original container, police added.

7/13 — Caleb Sonnichsen, 20, of 137 Ague Spring Rd., Haddam Neck, was issued a ticket for failure to renew registration, police said.

7/14 — A 17-year-old male juvenile was issued a ticket for making unnecessary noise, police said.

7/14 — One 16-year-old male juvenile and three 17-year-old male juveniles were issued tickets for creating a public disturbance, police said.

7/15 — Christopher L. Dunn, 47, of 376 Valley Rd., Danielson, was arrested for operating under suspension, police said.

7/16 — Joseph H. Kishimoto, 52, of 7 Hills Ave., was arrested pursuant to a warrant for third-degree assault and disorderly conduct, police said.

Andover Police News

7/15: John O'Connor, 25, of Willimantic, was charged with operating a motor vehicle under a suspended license, operating a motor vehicle without insurance and failure to properly display a plate, State Police said.

Portland Police News

7/14 — James Granata, 51, of 16 Coe Ave., was charged with disorderly conduct and criminal trespass, Portland Police said.

7/17 — Jeffrey Roath, 23, of 432 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester, was charged with DUI, traveling too fast for conditions and failure to drive in established lane, police said.

7/17 — Cheryl Russin, 51, of 188 Main St., was charged with DUI, police said.

7/19 — Richard Fillback, 46, who police have no certain address for, was charged with violation of probation, police said.

Marlborough Police News

7/16: Antonio Garcia, 35, of South Windsor, was charged with operating a motor vehicle without insurance, State Police said.

7/18: Doris Conway, 69, of 212 S. Main St., was charged with DUI, State Police said.

Obituaries

East Hampton

Leland S. Plummer Jr.

Leland S. Plummer Jr., 81, of East Hampton, beloved husband of Ann Loretta (Nichols) Plummer, died Saturday, July 18, at Middlesex Hospital with his family by his side. Born Dec. 15, 1927, in Bath, ME, he was the son of the late Leland S. and Marion (Foster) Plummer.

Leland entered the service at the age of 17, and proudly served his country in the U.S. Navy for four years on the U.S.S. Tarawa. He was a life member of the East Hampton VFW Post 5059, and had served as the Commander of the post for one year. He had been a Constable with the East Hampton Police Dept. for many years.

Leland had worked for Gorin's Electric and Oil Co. in East Hampton for many years and eventually started his own plumbing company, Lee Plummer's Plumbing, which he operated until his retirement.

Besides his wife, he is survived by his three sons, Gregory, Timothy and Gerald, all of East Hampton, and his two devoted granddaughters, Brittany and Elizabeth Plummer, both of East Hampton.

He was predeceased by his brother, Bud Plummer.

A memorial service was held Wednesday, July 22, in the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton. Burial will be at the convenience of the family. Friends called at the funeral home on Wednesday morning before the service.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in his memory to the American Cancer Society, 538 Preston Ave., P.O. Box 1004, Meriden, CT 06450. To leave online condolences, visit www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

East Hampton

Catherine Grabener

Catherine R. (Reisinger) Grabener, 91, of East Hampton, widow of the late Charles Grabener, died Sunday, July 19, at her home. Born Jan. 1, 1918, in Rhode Island, she was the daughter of the late Wolf and Katie Reisinger. She was a life-long resident of East Hampton having worked at the Gong Bell Company before her retirement.

She is survived by her four grandchildren, Jayson Merritt, Tyler Merritt, Kimberly Pelletier and Colin Merritt; five great-grandchildren, Jamie, Catlin, James, Heather and Erin.

She was predeceased by her daughter, Mary Merritt.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, July 22, in the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, with the Rev. Charles LeBlanc officiating. Burial followed in the family plot in Skinnerville Cemetery.

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

Salem

Martha Gural Kopak

Martha Gural Kopak, 93, wife of the late John Kopak of Salem, passed away Wednesday, July 15, in Colchester. She was born Dec. 23, 1915, daughter of the late Frank and Mary Szybor Gural.

Surviving are a daughter, Mary Ann Evans of Salem; three sisters, Ann Gorski of Westerly, RI, Catherine Green and Pauline Savalle, both of Salem; two grandchildren; three great-granddaughters and numerous nieces and nephews.

Martha was predeceased by her son, John J. Kopak; two brothers, Edward Gural, Peter Gural; and a sister, Sadie Meronek.

Calling hours were Friday, July 17, at Belmont Funeral Home, 144 South Main St., Colchester, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at Our Lady of Lakes Church on Route 82, Oakdale. Burial followed in New St. Mary's Cemetery, Colchester.

Memorial donations may be made to Gardner Lake Volunteer Ambulance Fund, Route 354, Salem, CT 06420.

Colchester

Chester "Chet" Goller

Chester "Chet" Goller, 96, of Colchester, widower of the late Mary (Stroich) Goller, went home to Heaven to rejoin her on Wednesday morning, July 15. Born Jan. 23, 1913, in New York City along with his twin, William, he was the last surviving child of 13 of the late Theophile and Lydia (Rickleby) Goller.

Mr. Goller worked for the Colchester Highway Department for many years before his retirement. In his spare time, he enjoyed dealing in antiques.

Graveside services will be observed 9:30 a.m. Saturday at the Linwood Cemetery, Colchester. There are no calling hours.

Donations in his memory may be made to Easter Seals Camp Hemlocks, P.O. Box 198 Hebron 06248-0198.

Care of arrangements has been entrusted to the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester. For online condolences, visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Portland

Alice Caroline Bisi

Alice Caroline (McPherson) Bisi, 78, of Portland, wife of the late Andrew J. Bisi, passed away on Tuesday, July 21, at Cromwell Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center. Born in Bridgewater, ME, she was the daughter of the late Guy and Bernice (McNinch) McPherson. Alice graduated from Glastonbury High School in the Class of 1948, had lived in Portland the majority of her life, was a member of The Congregational Church in South Glastonbury and enjoyed sewing and quilting.

Alice is survived by her son, Andrew Bisi and his wife, Donna of Newington; her daughter, Lisa Pentlicki and her husband, Anthony of Cromwell; two sisters, Barbara Warren of East Baldwin, ME and Irma Tallman of Portland; six grandchildren, Sara, Adam, Rachel, Janelle, Dayna and Renee; and her daughter-in-law, Corynn Bisi of Rocky Hill.

Besides her husband and parents, she was predeceased by a son, Michael Bisi; a sister, Marilyn Nelson; and her grandson, David Bisi.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, Sept. 12, at 10 a.m., at The Congregational Church in South Glastonbury, 16 High St., South Glastonbury, with the Rev. Richard C. Allen officiating. Interment will be private and at the convenience of the family. There will be no calling hours.

In lieu of flowers, friends may make donations in Alice's memory to The Congregational Church in South Glastonbury, P.O. Box 187, South Glastonbury, CT 06073. Messages of condolence may be sent to the family at www.doolittlefuneralservice.com. The Cromwell Funeral Home, 506 Main St., Cromwell, is handling the arrangements.

Portland

Pearl Florence Wentworth

Pearl Florence (Hanna) Wentworth, 88, of Portland, beloved wife of Warren Wentworth, died Friday, July 17, at her home. Born Aug. 30, 1920, in Portland, she had lived in Middle Haddam most of her life before moving to Marlborough and then Portland in 1969.

Her church was a very important part of her life. She was a lifelong member of the Second Congregational Church in Middle Haddam. She enjoyed her work as a legal secretary, having retired from the law firm of Dzialo, Pickett and Allen in the year 2007 at the age of 86.

Besides her husband, she is survived by her son and his wife, Peter and Barbara Wentworth of Glastonbury; her daughter and her husband, Amy and Wayne MacNeil of Rocky Hill; two sisters, Margaret Williams of Portland and Ruth Johansmeyer of Portland; three grandchildren, Morgan, Alison and Daniel, and a great-grandson, James; also many nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held at a later date in the Second Congregational Church in Middle Haddam. Burial will be private.

Memorial contributions in her memory may be made to the 2nd Congregational Church Middle Haddam, CT 06456.

To leave online condolences, visit www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com. Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, has care of the arrangements.

Portland

Mary Sweeney

Mary Frances Jackson Sweeney, 84, of 179 Jobs Pond Rd., Portland, passed away Saturday, July 18, at Middlesex Memorial Hospital. A native of Asheville, NC, she and her husband raised their family in Connecticut. Upon her retirement from the State of Connecticut, they moved to Asheville, NC, where she was an active member in the Order of the Daughters of the King in the Episcopal Church. Mary returned to Connecticut four years ago to live with her family in Portland.

Mary was predeceased by her husband, Joseph F. Sweeney, and her two sons, Dennis F. Sweeney and Paul J. Sweeney.

Mary is survived by her two daughters, Jo Ann Sweeney and Carol Sweeney Winiski; a son-in-law, Frank M. Winiski and daughter-in-law Vicki Rodgers Sweeney; 10 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandson; as well as many nieces, nephews and friends she held dear.

Funeral services were held at the Doolittle Funeral Home, 14 Old Church St., Middletown, on Wednesday, July 22, at 1 p.m. Interment will be in Green Hills Cemetery in Asheville, NC, at the convenience of the family.

There were be no calling hours and in lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her memory to the Weiss Hospice Unit, c/o Dept. of Philanthropy, 55 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457.

Doolittle Funeral Home, 14 Old Church St., Middletown, is in charge of arrangements.

Colchester

Charles R. Lewis Sr.

Charles R. Lewis Sr., 63, of Milton, NC, husband of Carol (Banks) Lewis, died Tuesday, July 14. Born Aug. 14, 1945, in Hartford, son of the late Ernest Burt and Wilhelmina (Rahner) Lewis, he had lived in Glastonbury and Colchester prior to moving to Milton 16 years ago.

Prior to his retirement in 1990 he was president of the EB Lewis Co. in East Hartford, a company for non-destructive testing and ultrasound transducers. He was a graduate of Glastonbury High School in 1963 and from the Coast Guard Academy. After graduation from the Coast Guard he served four years as an electrical engineer.

When he lived in Glastonbury he was an active member of the Congregational Church of South Glastonbury, a member of the men's club and a Sunday School teacher. In Colchester he was a member of the Westchester Congregational Church, a deacon and served on the Prudential Committee. In Milton, NC he was a member of the United Methodist Church, a deacon, a trustee, a lay leader and a youth leader. He was a past Boy Scout Leader and the East Hartford Rotary, a volunteer with Meals on Wheels, active with animal shelters and operated an animal rescue shelter in North Carolina. He was a volunteer with the Thomas Day restoration, an historical building in North Carolina that was destroyed.

Besides his wife, he is survived by his children and their spouses, Christine E. and Kenneth Lyons of Halifax, MA., Charles R., Jr. and Aimee Lewis of Ellington; his grandchildren, Kaelin Lyons and Amanda Lyons, Charles R. Lewis III and Elizabeth Lewis; a brother, David E. Lewis of East Hartford; a sister, Wilma L. Hammond and her husband Robert of Laytonville, MD; and his beloved animals.

A memorial service was held Sunday, July 19, in the Congregational Church of South Glastonbury, corner of Main and High streets, South Glastonbury. Burial will be at the convenience of the family. There were no calling hours.

Memorial donations may be made to Congregational Church of South of South Glastonbury, P.O. Box 187, South Glastonbury, CT 06073 or to an animal charity of the donors choice.

The Mulryan Funeral Home has care of arrangements.