

RIVEREAST News Bulletin

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

Volume 34, Number 24

Published by The Glastonbury Citizen

September 4, 2009



The Hebron Harvest Fair returns next weekend. Pictured are former Hebron resident Lindsey Holland, left, and her sister Kerry, walking through the sheep barn at last year's fair.

Time Again for Hebron Fair

by Sarah McCoy

Yellow school buses on the road, a slight chill in the morning air- it can only mean one thing in Hebron.

No, not that fall is coming.

It's time for the Hebron Harvest Fair.

The 39th annual fair begins on Thursday, Sept. 10, and continues until Sunday, Sept. 13. This year Hebron's fair will feature many new events such as Dock Dogs, a talent competition and Freestyle MX Motorcycle show.

"We wanted to increase fairgoer participation," Fair Superintendent Steve Beauchene said earlier this week. "No one wants to come to the same fair every year. We hope the new events will bring people in."

Fair attendance was down slightly last year, although much of that can be attributed to the dismal weather on the Saturday of the four-day event. This year, Lions Club members are prepped for a big year. "This year, of all the fairs reporting their attendance so far 60 percent are reporting attendance higher than last year," Assistant Fair Superintendent John Johnson said. "And the other 40 percent hit bad weather."

Johnson added that the down economy might mean good news for the Hebron Harvest Fair. "People aren't traveling as much as they might have," he said. "But families are still looking for something to do."

That something could be countless rides, animal exhibits, three stages of entertainment and

more food than you can possibly cram into your stomach.

This year the rides will again be provided by Reithoffer Shows. Single tickets for the midway will be \$1.25 with most rides taking between 3-5 tickets. Wristbands allowing guests to ride as many rides as they'd like will also be available for certain hours of the fair. The cost for wristbands is \$25 at the fair or \$20 in advance.

Wristbands can be used during one of the following four time slots: all day on Thursday, Friday from noon-6 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. or all day Sunday.

Rising country star Chuck Wicks will be the featured entertainer this year. Wicks is known for debut single "Stealing Cinderella" as well as his participation in last season's *Dancing with the Stars*.

He will perform on the Lions Club stage on Sunday, Sept. 13, at 3:30 p.m.

Other musical acts include country band Ricochet and local bands Columbia Fields, Tip the Van and The Modern Riffs. Full schedules are available from the fair's website, www.hebrontharvestfair.org.

Dock Dogs is an event that has been featured on ESPN and ABC. It involves dogs leaping into a pool with the longest leaper winning. There will be shows all four days of the fair with the final competition taking place on Sunday.

See Fair on Page 2

Marlborough Man Gives Pillows to Soldiers

by Katy Nally

Four years ago, Marlborough resident Dave Busch embarked on what he said he was "meant to do" - and soldiers and veterans across the country are reaping the benefits.

Busch established a nonprofit in 2005 with an idea, a passion and an eagerness to give back. Now his organization, Pillows for Soldiers, has sent out its 535th pillow and in November, Busch will go down to a VA medical center in North Carolina to deliver 500 or more pillows to veterans.

"Pillows for Soldiers is a passion for me," Busch said. "It's not a job. It's just something that I have to do."

Busch takes requests through his website, www.pillowsforsoldiers.com, and sends pillows to soldiers, veterans and families of fallen soldiers who live all around the U.S. He also made a shipment of 35 pillows to a platoon that was stationed in Germany. Busch said 100 percent of donations fund the cost of the pillows and shipping. The monthly fee to host the site is paid out-of-pocket by Busch. "Your donation was to a soldier and that's where it needs to go," he said.

A donation of \$32 buys a "Snoozer" upper body pillow for one soldier. Attached to each one is a note thanking the veterans for serving in the military, which reads, "We hope every

time you lay your head on this pillow, you know how much we stand behind you." A donation of \$21 contributes to a bulk shipment of 500 pillows.

So why pillows and why soldiers? Busch said he bought a Snoozer pillow back in 2005 and thought, "wouldn't it be cool if I could send these to veterans to just thank them for their service?" The Snoozer upper body pillow is shaped like a crescent and is built to support the head, neck and back.

As for why he chose to deliver the pillows to soldiers, Busch said he has always wanted to give back to the military in some way. He grew up in a military household, with a father who served during the Korean War as a staff sergeant tank mechanic. Busch said it takes a certain type of person to enter the service: someone who never asks for much in return and is always selfless.

"If you know a military guy, that's just how they are," Busch said. "My father would give the shirt off his back if you needed it."

Busch said he was "meant" to found this nonprofit. He said his gut feeling was confirmed when he received his first letter of feedback. The wife of a soldier purchased a pillow to send to her husband and sent Busch a picture of him holding the pillow. Busch said he was shocked

See Pillows on Page 2



Soldiers received pillows sent from the nonprofit Pillows For Soldiers to their Army base in Germany. The platoon had spent nine months on the eastern side of Baghdad, Iraq, and was welcomed by packages of pillows and notes thanking them for their service. Marlborough resident Dave Busch founded pillowsforsoldiers.com in 2005.

Fair cont. from Front Page

Beauchene said that families are welcome to bring their dog to try out the event, the competition is reserved for pre-registered dogs. The Harvest Fair is one of the last opportunities for dogs to qualify for the National Championships so Lion's Club members expect a strong turnout from dogs and owners across the country.

There will be other new competitions at the fair including "Hebron's Rising Star," where participants from ages 4-21 can compete in categories for vocal performance, dance, instrumental, comedy, magic and band. The first round of this competition will be Saturday, at 3 p.m. Finals will be held at 5 p.m. on Sunday.

A maximum of 32 competitors can take part in the first Hebron Harvest Fair Guitar Hero Tournament. The winner of this event will receive a \$100 gift card.

The popular demolition derbies will be back at the fair this year. The traditional demolition derby will be held on Thursday at 7:30 p.m., while on Friday, at 7:30 p.m. the fair will play host to the Double Figure 8 Demolition Derby. Both events will take place in the Mechanical Pull Ring.

On Sunday, that same location will feature the new Freestyle MX motorcycle show where riders will take to the sky to complete jumps and stunts. This is the first year for this event, which will take place at noon, 2:30 and 5 p.m.

This year's fair is dedicated to Charlie Barrasso who served with the Lion's Club for over 35 years. A past president of the club and former fair superintendent, Barrasso passed away earlier this summer.

He was described someone always willing

Pillows cont. from Front Page

to see the man in the photo was "a spitting image" of his father as a young man.

Busch said the feedback he receives from soldiers and vets always conveys gratitude. The sergeant of the platoon in Germany wrote Busch a "thank you" note, saying, "Your wonderful gifts have helped all of us to feel secure, and to finally be able to relax. We are home, finally, and I thought you would like to know the wonderful part you played in welcoming us home, in a very real and caring way."

Busch said sometimes soldiers don't even have, "quite literally, a pillow to rest their head on."

Busch began the nonprofit by asking people if they knew any veterans who would want a pillow. From there, people submitted names through the site. Busch said he has built credibility through his single shipments, but is now looking to give pillows to veterans at VA centers across the country.

He is starting with the W.G. (Bill) Hefner VA Medical Center in Salisbury, NC, because it is close to where his webmaster, David Warner lives. When he first began Pillows For Soldiers, Busch said he was looking for a veteran to create his website when he found Warner, a Navy veteran who fought in Vietnam and is the owner of the web hosting site ewshost.com.

Nancy Perry-Brown, chief of voluntary and community resources at the VA center in North Carolina, said one veteran who has already received a pillow was "astonished and shocked" when he opened the package. "Once they've read the note it brings them to tears," she said.

to pitch in by his fellow Lion Club members. "You could always find him on the fairgrounds with a utility belt on going from point to point fixing things," club member John Soderberg said.

The Hebron Harvest Fair is the largest fundraiser for the Hebron Lions Club. To date the club has given away nearly \$2 million to international and local charities. Each spring the Lion's hold their annual Night of Giving to disperse checks to various groups and organizations.

In addition the fair acts as a fundraiser for many groups who operate booths during the fair. It is because of this that many of the Lion's Club members feel a little additional pressure. "So many groups rely on the fair to raise money for their good works," Harvest Fair Senior Advisor Robert Lee said. "That makes us want to put on a good show and encourage people to come."

The Hebron Harvest Fair will go from 4-10 p.m. on Thursday, noon-11 p.m. on Friday, 9 a.m.-11 p.m. on Saturday and 9 a.m.-8 p.m. on Sunday.

Tickets to the Hebron Harvest Fair will be \$10 for adults and children are free when accompanied by an adult. Senior citizens are admitted at no charge on Friday before 4 p.m.

Parking is \$5 per car.

Admission tickets as well as ride tickets are available for purchase from the fair's website. The schedule of events and more information about the vendors can also be found at www.hebronharvestfair.org.

"We're just tickled to be the pilot program for this," Perry-Brown said she was also impressed with Busch's sense of charity. "I think he's fantastic," she said. "And to use his own personal finances to do this says a lot about him."

Busch said after donating to several VA centers in North Carolina it's on to Georgia because that's where the owner of his pillow manufacturer, Todd Schaffner, lives. Then, it's on to Connecticut, he promised. The three men involved with Pillows For Soldiers have never met, Busch said, but will all be present in North Carolina to give pillows to veterans, many of whom served in WWII. Busch said he hopes the donation at Hefner center will "make a splash," so that more people will help with his cause.

But this is only the beginning for Busch. He has a book in the works called *How Good Can You Feel*, co-authored by Brittany Behrmann. The book is about how diet can change the way people feel. Busch said eventually the book might be sent with the pillow to soldiers. "It's a chance to offer them some healing," he said.

He said he also plans to place a pillow at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. "It's never going to end until we have one pillow for every soldier," he said. "We want to go to every VA hospital in the country – that's a huge endeavor. We want to leave a legacy of supporting our soldiers who defend and protect our liberty."

For more information, visit www.pillowsforsoldiers.com or call 295-8144. For information about the Snoozer pillow, visit www.snoozer.com.

From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

A couple of weeks ago, I logged onto Courant.com one afternoon just to see what was news. A headline from Manchester caught my eye, so I clicked on it. The story was there, but the Courant attributed it to the *Journal Inquirer*, and even had a link to the story on the JI's website.

My immediate reaction? "Geez, that's sad," I thought to myself. "Not only is the *Courant* not even bothering to cover Manchester anymore, they're openly telling you to go to the competition to find the story." I took it as yet another sign of just how far the mighty *Hartford Courant* had fallen.

However, the JI's reaction was a little different. They were mad, and a lengthy front-page story that appeared on the cover of last Saturday's JI showed just how mad they were. Turns out that story I'd seen on the *Courant*'s website that featured the words "the *Journal Inquirer* reported" wasn't exactly a one-time thing. According to the JI, over the past several weeks the *Courant* has lifted stories from newspapers across the state, including the JI, *Bristol Press*, *New Britain Herald*, *Torrington Register-Citizen* and *Waterbury Republican-American*.

And it's been happening an awful lot.

By doing a search on the *Courant*'s website, the JI found that the words "*Journal Inquirer* reported" had appeared 44 times since July 27. Also since late July, the words "*New Haven Register* reported" had appeared 26 times; "*New Britain Herald* reported," 21 times; "*Bristol Press* reported," 11 times; and "*Register-Citizen* reported," nine times.

Seems there are a lot of towns in the state the *Courant* is openly relying on other papers to cover.

But the JI story revealed two key pieces of information that pushed this whole mess from being sad to being something really, really bad. First of all, these "the *Journal Inquirer* reported" or "the *New Britain Herald* reported" stories aren't limited to the website; they sometimes make the print edition too. At least when the story is on *Courant.com*, people at least have the option of clicking on a link to the original, often longer (as what the *Courant* runs is typically a condensed version of the story), article, as it appears on, say, the JI's website. It's almost like the *Courant* is saying "Here's a summary of what happened, and if you want to read more about it, go here." But if the story's in the print edition, obviously, you can't include a link to anything. Instead, the *Courant* is simply filling their news pages with news they didn't write.

Also, according to the JI, there have been

instances where stories have been published in the *Courant* without any attribution to the original newspaper. The JI quoted the publisher of the *Bristol Press* and the *New Britain Herald* as saying reporting from his papers has been lifted with "minimal or no attribution" by the *Courant*. The story also makes reference to a letter JI managing editor Chris Powell wrote to *Courant* publisher Richard Graziano, in which Powell also says there have been some cases where the JI had not been attributed by the *Courant*, and therefore amounts to plagiarism.

Filling its pages with stories from other papers? Accusations of plagiarism? This isn't the *Hartford Courant* I grew up with.

Then again, the *Hartford Courant* I grew up with didn't have an "aggregation editor."

A what?

According to a memo posted on the website www.courantalumni.org (a site operated by former *Courant* reporters), there is a position at the *Courant* called "aggregation editor," a person who "aggregates/collects/rewrites content from around the state, acting almost as an Associated Press bureau for the *Courant* to broaden the news we offer readers online and in print."

It seems to me the *Courant* decided it wanted to get back into the local news game, and this was the only way to do it without actually hiring reporters (which it likely would have had to have done, since the paper has slashed its news department staff by nearly half since just last year).

The day after the JI story appeared, the *Courant*'s director of content, Jeffrey Levine, issued an apology of sorts, saying it "inappropriately dropped the attribution or proper credit and in some cases credited ourselves with a byline to a *Courant* reporter." (In the unintentionally funniest part of Levine's statement, he revealed that day's paper contained a brief about the Hebron school superintendent without proper attribution. He said it was "placed into distribution" before the paper "became aware" of the lack of attribution. However, Levine still didn't actually say what paper wrote the Hebron story the *Courant* had swiped.)

Levine's statement, though, gave no indication the aggregation would stop. The *Courant* will just make sure it gives people credit when it's swiping their work.

Something tells me the *Journal Inquirer*, *New Britain Herald*, et al., were hoping for something a little bit more.

So was I.

* * *

See you next week.

Campagna Restaurant Opens Again in Portland

by Michael McCoy

After a seven-year hiatus, Campagna Restaurant is back in Portland.

Campagna (which means “country house”) bills itself as “a fine Italian restaurant and bar.” It is located on Route 66, at 151 Marlborough Rd. The establishment was previously located at Quarry Ridge Golf Course, from 1996-2002.

Owner Eddie Cecunjanin, originally from Montenegro (a southeastern European country formerly part of Yugoslavia), moved to Manhattan in 1985. (Cecunjanin’s area of Montenegro harbors a healthy Italian population, as Italy is located just across the Adriatic Sea. This explains the Italian influence in his cuisine.)

He immediately began working at restaurants. In 1989, he moved to Connecticut when Mario’s Restaurant opened at Rolling Green Golf Course in Rocky Hill. Then, in 1996, soon after a change in ownership at Quarry Ridge, Cecunjanin was asked to run the golf course’s restaurant, based on Mario’s reputation.

After the restaurant closed at Quarry Ridge, Cecunjanin ran Portofino’s in Kensington. (He sold the restaurant in 2008, although it continues to operate.)

Despite Portofino’s success, Cecunjanin was drawn back into Portland by their reputation. “We were told from so many people, ‘Please come back; we like your food.’” So, as soon as he realized the “old brownstone” building on Route 66 was available last year, he jumped at the opportunity.

The restaurant opened in January, and Cecunjanin said all it took was installing the sign, for the old customers to turn up. Cecunjanin said this restaurant has the “same spirit” as the old Campagna.

Some of the lusted-after dishes include Chicken Campagna Ciappino, Veal L’Orange and Mediterranean Ciappino. In addition,

Campagna serves daily specials like veal chops, rack of lamb, and swordfish.

Appetizers include spedini (which is fried mozzarella with garlic, capers, prosciutto and a burgundy wine sauce), as well as Zuppa D’Mussels. Cecunjanin made it clear this is no mere pizza joint.

The cuisine tends toward a variety of elegant Italian-American dishes, but the entire menu is fairly vast. This includes the restaurant’s drink options. Campagna offers a considerable wine list and martini menu. However, the eatery is not exclusively high-brow. Campagna also features a lounge, which includes a full bar with no less than seven beers on tap, including Budweiser, Stella Artois and Guinness.

From Monday through Friday, Campagna runs a lengthy happy hour, from 2-6 p.m. During that time, all drafts are \$2, domestic bottles are \$3, and well drinks are \$4.50. In addition, selected appetizers run half-price. The lounge features a host of television sets, perfect for game night. Noting that the lounge sees heavier business when the Yankees and Red Sox face off, Cecunjanin chuckled, “That’s why I’m rooting for both teams to go to the postseason.”

As a chef, Cecunjanin spends most of his time behind the wheel in the kitchen. His nephew, Miki, is sort of the face of the restaurant, as he runs the front. Miki, who graduated from Central Connecticut State University in May, left Montenegro in 2001, and has worked for his uncle ever since.

Campagna, which employs around 15 people, also has a newly renovated banquet room, fit for showers, weddings, Christmas parties and functions of all kinds. The banquet room has its own bar and can accommodate up to 150 people. Cecunjanin recommends parties



Campagna Restaurant has opened again in Portland. Pictured is owner Eddie Campagna, left, and his nephew Miki, who is sort of the face of the business.

reserve the room well in advance. According to Miki, Campagna has already booked 20 functions for the next couple months.

On a related note, Campagna accepts reservations for their dining room as well, a courtesy fewer and fewer restaurants seem to extend now. Miki encouraged them and said that parties without them may expect to wait about

45 minutes for a table on the weekend.

Cecunjanin has a warm feeling for Portland, and seemed to take considerable pride in stressing, “We are back in town.”

Campagna is open from 11 a.m.-10 p.m. seven days a week (with the lounge often open later). The restaurant can be reached at 398-5411.

Portland Accident Victim Recovering, Police Look to Arrest Driver

by Michael McCoy

Over the next week, Portland Police said it seeks to arrest the driver who flipped her car two weeks ago, while the passenger will continue her recovery.

Around 11:50 p.m. on Aug. 9, Katherine O’Brien, 18, was driving west on Isinglass Hill Road when, police said, she veered onto the right shoulder, struck a guardrail and utility pole, and flipped the 2002 Ford Taurus onto its roof.

Though O’Brien reportedly came away with scrapes and “minor lacerations,” the 16-year-old passenger (who has since turned 17) had to be extracted from the vehicle and was initially listed in critical condition, largely because of trauma to her head. Sergeant Jim Kelly said this was most likely the result of a 2x6 plank of wood that penetrated the windshield and struck the passenger in the head. (Police declined to

name the passenger, due to her age.)

As of last Thursday, Kelly said the passenger was released from the hospital and given a “clean bill of health,” the latter comment something the passenger’s father, Frank Schroll, took issue with. “I don’t know where they got that statement from,” he said, figuring it doesn’t make sense for someone to be on a ventilator and listed in critical condition one week and be as good as new the next. “She’s got many doctor’s appointments scheduled for now and in the future,” he said.

Kelly said he received his updates from the passenger’s mother and was under the impression the passenger would only require the “normal follow-up” as far as medical attention goes. Furthermore, he said the comment “clean bill of health” referred to her being out of the woods as far as the matter of life or death went. “She

was out [of the hospital] sooner than, I think, most people expected her to be,” Kelly said.

In any event, Kelly said, “It might have been a misunderstanding between the mother and I.”

Schroll did not care to describe the procedures his daughter has undertaken since the accident and will in the near future, but he admitted that her release last Thursday was a big leap forward, since her life was in question just a week prior. Schroll elaborated that during the first five days she was “under 24-hour care.”

“It’s been a tough couple of weeks for us,” Schroll said, but, he marveled, “it’s almost like she’s not human the way she recovered like she did.”

Schroll commended the emergency personnel involved, especially Hunter’s Ambulance and the trauma unit at Hartford Hospital.

The investigation, led by Kelly and Officer

Dave Bond, is now drawing to a close, and Kelly said Wednesday he expected to apply for an arrest warrant against O’Brien in about a week. He would not elaborate on the charges. However, Kelly said last week he suspected alcohol and speeding contributed to the accident.

Kelly said last week he believed the girls were coming from a party at Isinglass Hill Road hosted by Angelo Lastrina, 18. That party was reportedly attended by about 10 individuals, all under 21, and Kelly said alcohol was consumed. Lastrina was charged with permitting minors to consume alcohol.

Schroll’s daughter is a senior at Portland High School, which just resumed classes this week. As of Wednesday, she had not returned to school, but Schroll estimated she may begin attending for half-days within a week.

Colchester DTC Explains First Selectman Situation

by Katy Nally

There was a special question and answer section of Monday’s Democratic Town Committee (DTC) meeting, so non-members could inquire about the surprise nominee for first selectman and the process by which Glenn Morron won the July caucus.

DTC Chair John Malsbenden began the meeting – the first since the July 28 caucus – by stating that he knew Morron was to be nominated the day before the caucus was held. However, as of 7:15 p.m. on July 28 there were no challengers for the position of first selectman, so the incumbent, Linda Hodge, was the DTC nominee heading into the caucus. Then Morron was nominated from the floor by Terrance Clark, a safety officer with Colchester-Hayward Volunteer Fire Department. Morron won the nomination through a secret ballot by a margin of four votes.

But Leslie Curtis, who is not a member of the DTC, wanted to know why Hodge was not informed that Morron intended on running. [Morron was not present at Monday’s meeting; reached by phone Wednesday, he said his absence was due to a “prior engagement.”]

“At the time, I was focused on the fairness” of the caucus, Malsbenden replied. “If I had to do it over again I would have called her. My focus to the committee was to be fair to every-

body – not to give anyone prior knowledge. I’ve got to be exactly even-handed in how I run the committee.”

But, Hodge said Tuesday, “Fairness would have been to tell their candidate; I was unanimously nominated by the DTC.”

Some residents were not satisfied with the response by Malsbenden and the other DTC officers (which included Dorothy Mrowka and Rosemary Coyle; officer Nancy Bray was not present at the meeting). Jim Kelly, another non-member, said “You’re pretty good at playing spin doctor up there,” referring to the three officers.

“You’ve made it pretty clear that you don’t want Linda Hodge as the first selectman,” Kelly continued. “It seems there’s some forces on the outside doing whatever they can to get her out of office. You left her out to dry and I think it reflects badly on you guys.”

Hodge agreed. She said Tuesday, “Jim Kelly was right when he said if it had been someone [the officers] liked, they would have warned them” about Morron’s challenge for the nomination.

Bill Hettrick, also the chairman of the Board of Education, said at Monday’s meeting he had warned Hodge one week before the caucus that she should ask her family and fellow

Democrats to come support her at the DTC meeting. He said he told her, “You gotta get people to the office; you never know what’s going to happen on the floor.” But Hettrick said Hodge implied she “didn’t want to fight them” – the “them” being the DTC’s nominating committee.

Hodge left the committee meeting before Hettrick commented. She said Tuesday that the DTC didn’t tell her she was its nominee until the afternoon before the caucus. Hodge said she had told Hettrick, “If I’m not the nominee, I’m not going to fight them.” Hodge continued, “Then when I was nominated the afternoon before the caucus, and no one alerted me that there were any problems, [so] I just went ahead with the caucus.”

When asked if he was surprised that Hodge seemingly threw in the towel, Hettrick said he was more surprised that Hodge wrote a letter to the editor in last week’s *Rivereast* asking people to attend Monday’s DTC meeting, instead of calling people to come to July’s caucus in a show of support.

Morron said Wednesday that he called some of his friends and asked them to come down to the caucus to support him.

Malsbenden maintains that “there was no

conspiracy” to nominate Morron. He said Morron was never interviewed by the nomination committee. “If I had to pick a candidate I never would have thought about Mr. Morron,” he said. “I only met Mr. Morron about three times at [Board of] Selectmen meetings, period.”

Other questions were raised about Hodge’s vote of no confidence back in January. Malsbenden said he and Mrowka (the DTC vice chair) went to Hodge and told her that she would not have the support of the DTC and would not be nominated for reelection by the committee. “At that point in time we believed she did not have the support of the DTC,” he said. Malsbenden added that this vote of no confidence was not shared with the other members of the committee.

Hodge verified this, saying that Malsbenden and Mrowka approached her and asked if she would consider pulling her name out of the running, then eventually asked her to resign. Malsbenden said, though, he asked if she would “consider” resigning. This was also not discussed with the rest of the DTC.

Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 3. Morron will face Republican first selectman nominee Gregg Schuster.

East Hampton Officials Prepare Voters for Town Meeting

by Michael McCoy

Town officials served as a panel Tuesday night, addressing concerns about a land purchase and easement.

But the word of the night was ‘water.’

Town Council members Thom Cordeiro, Melissa Engel, Christopher Goff and John Tuttle, along with Town Manager Jeff O’Keefe fielded land acquisition questions during an informational meeting at Town Hall. The session, attended by 25 or 30 people, was the second of two offered, the first being last Saturday.

The land discussed Tuesday is for the purpose of securing a water source, as well as a water treatment plant. The meeting was a prelude to a town meeting on the issue next week. That night residents (and qualifying property owners) will vote on a package that totals \$1.02 million.

Of that, \$790,500 will secure a permanent easement on 4.57 acres at 49 Oakum Dock Rd., owned by St. Clements Marina, LLC. In short, this is billed to be the long sought-after town water source, yielding the town 900,000 gallons a day.

Another \$220,000 will purchase the 10.3-acre Greer property, located behind Cobalt Market. The intent is to turn about two acres of that site into a water treatment plant.

If approved, the town will fund \$555,775 of this through remaining State Tribal Assistance Grant (STAG) money, and the other \$454,725 will come from fund balance.

The final component involves \$9,225 to secure a drainage easement for Flanders Road improvements. This money is already earmarked, as has the funding for the improvements themselves. Still, the town must approve the easement since it involves real estate.

The Town Council approved the plan on Aug. 11, two weeks after the deal was ironed out with the respective landowners.

Tuttle led off Tuesday’s meeting by explaining the funding, as well as the history of this project, which began in 1972 with the identification of Oakum Dock as a potential water source and climaxed with the failure of a water system at referendum two years ago. (On a side note, Engel also mentioned that voters also rejected a proposed water system in 1962.)

Tuttle promised that the land acquisition would have “no tax impact,” and asserted, “The money is there.”

Tuttle also alluded to some of the issues Portland has had over the years with water. “If I lived in Portland, I’d be right on our doorstep” asking the town for water, he said. Later, speaking further on how coveted water is in the area, Tuttle said, “American Distilling has a control room that looks like ground control at Kennedy Space Center” devoted to treating the company’s water.

Most of the evening’s questions had more to do with a future water system than the land acquisition up for vote on Wednesday. People wanted to know how far a water system would

reach, how it would be funded and what the cost would be. The feeling of the panel seemed to be that, while a desired water system years down the road is no secret, it’s not yet being planned, and none of the corresponding facts and figures are in place.

Speaking in no uncertain terms, Engel said, “There is no secret, nor should there be, that this is the precursor to a townwide water system.” And, she later added, “the source is the backbone to the whole system.”

Similarly, O’Keefe said of state legislators, “They weren’t even going to entertain giving us grants [for a townwide water system] until they know we have the water source to do it.”

Aside from O’Keefe, the panel was composed of two Democrats and two Republicans. Over the last month, the two Chatham Party council members have championed forming a master plan, including land acquisition and the system itself, before spending any more money. It seems to come down to two mutually exclusive philosophies, and both camps accuse the other of putting the cart before the horse.

Resident John Hines seemed to fall neatly into the Chatham Party camp. He came with a prepared list of questions about a future water system, dealing with things like total build-out cost user fees, tax increases, bonding and a timeline. When the panel explained that the system was far enough away that none of these concerns could be addressed, Hines responded,

“Nine questions presented, and no answers are available!”

But O’Keefe said when the town eventually explores a water system again, “You need to tell us. This is a public debate.”

However, representatives from Whitehouse Motel and the Bethlehem Lutheran Church told sad stories, which would seem to welcome any steps to get better access to water. For instance, the latter was told their best bet was to hook up to Shaw’s Supermarket for water...to the tune of \$70-75,000.

O’Keefe touted the value of the Oakum Dock easement in particular. “We have a valuable commodity,” he said. In fact, he pontificated that even if the town never built a water system, “We sell [the water] to Portland for triple the price we paid for it.” To the same effect, he said he was talking to someone the other day who said, “If the town doesn’t buy it, I’m gonna buy it.”

Engel said that if the town votes down the plan next Wednesday, “Portland will be calling Father Doherty [the founding trustee of St. Clements] on Thursday morning.”

The town meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 9, at 7 p.m., in the high school auditorium. Red McKinney will serve as the moderator. At the start of the meeting, it will be decided whether to cast secret ballots, use a show of hands, or have voters stand to one side of the room or another.

Marlborough Veterans Speak Out for Disabled Resident

by Katy Nally

War veterans from East Hampton, Hebron and Marlborough came to Tuesday’s Board of Selectmen (BOS) meeting in a show of support for their fellow vet, Wilfred Hodge.

The selectmen discussed Title 38, which exempts 100 percent disabled veterans like Hodge from property tax. Hodge is a Vietnam veteran who has been a longtime resident of Marlborough. A few months ago, the federal government awarded him a special adaptive housing grant to make his home handicap accessible, according to his wife, Robin Hodge.

Connecticut General Statutes Section 12-81 says veterans who have received this grant and are 100 percent disabled are eligible for Title 38. However, the decision to exempt him from property tax must come from the “legislative body” of the town, said Pasquale Amodeo, the Hodges’ attorney. According to town charter, Amodeo said, this body is not the Board of Selectmen, but a town meeting, where residents could vote on Title 38.

“It’s unfortunate our town leaders aren’t listening,” he said, adding that, depending on what the selectmen do, “I’m thinking about throw-

ing this to the ACLU.”

During the first half of the meeting, vets took turns telling Marlborough residents why they should support Title 38. Ron Winter of Hebron stressed what it’s like to be 100 percent disabled. “He gave mind, body, soul and limb,” he said. “He’s asking for about the cost of four hot dog buns a year.” Derek Backus of Marlborough said, “They protect our way of life. We should do what we can to protect their way of life.”

Robin Hodge said her husband’s leg was shattered after he was shot during the Vietnam War. He was “thrown in a body cast,” so the leg did not heal properly. The leg that was shot actually grew 2.5 inches longer than his other leg, Robin Hodge said. Since then, he has had problems with his knees and back. “He’s been in pain every day of his life since he was shot,” she said.

“I’m not looking for sympathy,” Robin Hodge added. “It’s something he’s entitled to – it’s a state statute.”

Robin Hodge said she and the selectmen have been discussing Title 38 since May. She

said when she first brought the matter before the board, First Selectmen Bill Black told her he “felt sorry for [her] husband, but it’s not the town’s responsibility to pay for him.” Hodge said the selectmen have been slow to take up the issue, so she hired an attorney, hoping, she said, to get things moving. “And I don’t have the extra money for an attorney, but that’s how much this means to me,” she said at the BOS meeting.

However, selectman Riva Clark disagreed, saying, “we haven’t been stonewalling this issue,” she said. “The process hasn’t been slow in coming.” Since May the selectmen have discussed Title 38 at the June 2 and June 16 meeting and according to Clark, they have talked with the town assessor to determine what it will cost each resident.

Hodge says it will cost less than 50 cents per resident. But Clark noted that Title 38 will fund the Hodges’ property tax even after her husband dies. Clark said there needs to be definitive numbers before the board can make any decisions.

Black mentioned the “most telling way” to

see if people would support Title 38 would be a referendum on the November ballot.

However, Amodeo said Thursday, the town meeting, where residents would vote, can take place at any time throughout the year. In fact, he said, the earlier this happens, the better. Amodeo explained that if the property tax on the Hodges’ home increases, the state, not the town, will pay the difference.

Some vets told the selectmen at Tuesday’s meeting that since Title 38 worked in Hebron, it could pass in Marlborough too. Hodge said the town of Hebron approved Title 38 in 1999 when a town ordinance was passed. The City of Hartford passed similar legislation, approving property tax exemption for vets who meet the two criteria, on June 8.

Hodge said only 19 residents in Connecticut are tax exempt through Title 38.

Selectman Joseph La Bella questioned what property tax has to do with being a veteran. He noted that being tax exempt was a legitimate ‘thank you’ for serving in the military, but asked if there was another reason for the exemption. No one in the audience gave an answer.

Andover Finance Board OKs Payout to Wrap Up Lawsuit

by Sarah McCoy

The Board of Finance (BOF) last week approved a payout of just under \$47,000 to close the books on a lawsuit stemming from a mismanagement of funds by the previous administration.

According to First Selectman Bob Burbank, Talbot Investments Inc. posted a bond for the construction of a new subdivision over five years ago. That bond, for \$34,232, was meant to ensure that the developer completed all work. Once the work was finished, the money was to be returned to Talbot.

Burbank reported to the Board of Finance that the bond was used by former First Selectman Charlene Barnett to pay bills when the town ran into financial troubles in 2005.

In fact, it was a news segment on Andover’s financial woes that lead Roger Talbot, President of Talbot Investments Inc., to check to

make sure his bond had been returned. Derek Oatis, attorney for the Talbot, said earlier this week that his client took legal action in 2006 after realizing the Town of Andover had not only kept the bond but used it for purposes other than what it was intended for.

That suit came to an end at the BOF meeting Wednesday, Aug. 26, when the finance board agreed to return Talbot’s bond along with interest and a \$2,767 penalty, an agreement last month when the two sides were in court. Those three items totaled \$46,624.

“It would likely cost us more in legal fees alone if we continued this,” Burbank said at the finance board meeting. “It’s apparent to me that this is the wisest decision for the taxpayers of Andover.”

Burbank also said the \$43,857 bond plus interest payment has already been set aside and

the \$2,800 conversion penalty would come from the town’s budget set aside for legal fees.

BOF member Dave Gostanian questioned whether or not the town could go after the person or persons responsible for the mismanagement in funds. Burbank responded that it would be difficult to do so as the town would have to prove there was a malicious intent in the actions that were taken.

With no other discussion, the BOF approved the payout unanimously.

“I think we should just cut our losses and move on,” BOF Chair Cathy Desrosiers said last Wednesday. “We should probably consider ourselves lucky to have reached the agreement we have.”

Burbank agreed with Desrosiers. He said that

Talbot’s attorneys were initially looking for a 10 percent penalty for mishandling the bond. The judge reduced that to \$2,800 – a number both sides were okay with. “It’s a reasonable solution for a problem that we’re happy to have settled,” Oatis said earlier this week.

Burbank, who has been in office since May 2006, said this is one of the final pieces of litigation remaining from Barnett’s term.

The largest outstanding case is one that the town has brought against Echo Bridge Inc. for failure to deliver on a bridge to cross an old train abutment along the Hop River State Park. Burbank said there has been no movement on this case and doesn’t expect the bridge to be built anytime soon.

Belton Mother Pleads for Kitten's Return

by Michael McCoy

Cheri Rivard-Lentz does not care about her jewelry and hasn't even let the fullness of the burglary sink in yet.

All she wants is her children's kitten.

Rivard-Lentz said her Hurd Park home was burglarized on the afternoon of Thursday, Aug. 27, and the trespassers took not only jewelry but the family's not-yet-12-week-old kitten, Socks.

Rivard-Lentz, her husband and four kids were away that day when the burglary happened. Rivard-Lentz returned home around 9 p.m. Though she said it was not immediately apparent that the home had been burglarized, she felt something was off when Socks didn't greet the family upon entering the home. So, she began searching for the kitten and noticed that a kitchen window had been lowered and the screen was gone.

Once she suspected the break-in, she dashed to her bedroom jewelry box, and found all six

drawers empty.

Rivard-Lentz said that Socks would have had to jump six feet to exit through the window, unlikely to be sure. Plus, Socks was not yet disposed to going outside. For these reasons, Rivard-Lentz was doubtful that she had escaped, as opposed to being taken. She looked outside nevertheless, but to no avail.

"I can't really describe to you the desolation in my home right now," said Rivard-Lentz, explaining that this was the family's first pet, with not so much as a goldfish before. Her children range in age from 3 to 12, and the oldest had been pining for a cat since she was about 3 years old, or "ever since she knew people had cats," Rivard-Lentz said. She said the time was simply not right until this summer. They had just picked up Socks from a Rockville family three weeks prior to the burglary.

Rivard-Lentz was quite aware that some might puzzle over fretting about a pet of three weeks, and suggest the family just get a new cat already. However, according to Rivard-Lentz, the children had formed a keen bond with Socks during that time, and when home, the kitten was quite literally always in the arms of one of the children.

"They played with no toys from the time we got her," she said.

Rivard-Lentz said that, aside from other family members, if her three oldest were asked to pick their favorite thing "in the whole world," "without thinking, they would say the kitten." And, Rivard-Lentz added, her 9-year-old daughter actually said, "Someone kidnapped my baby."

Understanding that many burglaries fuel a drug habit or other financial desperation, Rivard-Lentz said she is quite sympathetic to those stuck in such a situation. "I wish you had knocked on my door when I was home; I'd give you some money," she said to the hypothetical burglar. However, she said the burglars would have had to see the kiddie pool outside, step over Legos, and see bunkbeds and a crib while in the home – all of which indicating the



The Rivard-Lentz children are shown here with their beloved kitten, Socks. Pictured from left are Haley, 12, Nick, 5, Alex, 3, and Kate, 9.

presence of small children in the home – and this rendered the nabbing of the family pet unconscionable. "It enrages me," she fumed.

Though Socks only cost the family \$20, Rivard-Lentz said, "She's priceless for my family right now."

"My kids don't trust the world," she said. Figuring that should the kitten be returned, her kids' innocence might be restored, as well as no small amount of joy.

Rivard-Lentz said she has not given a thought to the jewelry, not to mention the feeling of violation that comes with your home being penetrated. Instead, it's been all Socks. "You can't replace a personality," she said. "You can't replace something that's alive."

As far as the reason, Rivard-Lentz figured one of the burglars may have been a female, and, without pausing to think the situation through, decided Socks was simply too cute to leave behind.

The burglary, which police said transpired in a matter of several minutes, may not be completely isolated. East Hampton Police Chief Matthew Reimondo said another home in town was burglarized the following night on White Birch Road. In addition, he said, several homes in Marlborough and Portland have been burglarized over the last week and a half.

Though he said he was unsure whether all burglaries were carried out by the same party, Reimondo offered, "We've had some leads we've been working on."

He said in all cases, the perpetrators targeted jewelry and change, the latter because it is hard to trace. As for Socks, he said, "It's unusual," though he said some years ago a small dog was stolen in town.

Reimondo initially seemed stymied as to why anyone would steal a kitten. Then, he of-

fered one hypothesis. "Burglars take what's referred to as 'trophy items,'" serving as mementos from their score.

In general, Reimondo said that daytime home break-ins spike when the kids go back to school in the fall.

Reimondo encouraged anyone with even the most seemingly trivial information on the stolen kitten, or any of the other burglaries to call the police at 267-9544 during business hours, or at 267-9922 after hours.

Eventually, if Socks is not returned, Rivard-Lentz said they would get another cat. However, she said, her two oldest daughters simply aren't ready yet.

Though the family never had a pet, Rivard-Lentz said her husband had cats all his life prior to their marriage. According to Rivard-Lentz, he called Socks "the friendliest, sweetest cat I've ever had." Rivard-Lentz said that replacing Socks with a cat that doesn't want to be held (which is the vast majority of the feline population) would be out of the question, and would only further remind her children that Socks was gone.

(She credited much of Socks' disposition to the Rockville family of the kitten's mother, especially their four-year-old daughter, of which Socks was her favorite. Rivard-Lentz has already contacted the family about getting another kitten from them.)

Rivard-Lentz is offering a \$500 reward for the return of Socks, a gray domestic shorthaired kitten. She also asked the captor to return her to the front porch, "no questions asked."

Rivard-Lentz has set up an e-mail account exclusively for information on Socks. Anyone with leads can e-mail her at bringsockshome@gmail.com.



Socks, sleeping in a basket.

BOS Considers Credit Card Tax Method at Town Hall

by Sarah McCoy

The Board of Selectmen Wednesday discussed a recommendation from the town Tax Collector to provide residents a way to pay their tax bills with a credit or debit card at Town Hall, and not just online.

In a Sept. 1 letter, Tax Collector Kristy Merrifield asked the selectmen to consider such a change to meet the increasing need. "As we know, writing checks is becoming obsolete," she wrote.

Presently, the town does allow taxpayers to pay their taxes online using a credit card or debit card. An outside company handles the processing. This process, which began last summer, charges users a 3 percent convenience fee for the service.

Even with the additional charge, Merrifield said in the last two months she has collected over \$27,557 in payments. This number, she continued, could be higher as Merrifield has fielded "numerous requests" from people wanting to pay over the phone or while they're at Town Hall.

First Selectman Bob Burbank said that

while he understands the convenience of paying with a card, the 3 percent fee isn't something the town can afford to pick up. In order for it to work, he said, there would need to be no added burden to the town.

Merrifield wrote that there are some companies that will allow towns to use swipe machines at no cost but charge the user a fee for this convenience. Selectman Elaine Buchardt said she'd like to look into this option further. "If we can use the machine for free and it's the same charge as the online service, I'm all for it," she said on Wednesday.

Burbank said after the meeting that the four-time a year collection has, at times, left the town in a precarious tax flow position. "We want to make it easier for people to pay their taxes because, in the long run, that's easier for us," he said. (The town is considering making tax collections two times a year and not four.)

At Wednesday's meeting all of the selectmen expressed a desire to learn more about the options out there.

A Year in the Life of Marlborough Arts Center

by Rachel Chemerynski

Walking into the spacious building, the afternoon sun shined brightly through the many windows onto the wooden floors, as various sculptures and paintings hung perfectly among white walls.

For those who don't know of this building, it's a shame; a hidden gem of an arts center that sits at 231 North Main St. in Marlborough.

It's hard to believe that it's already been nearly two years since the Marlborough Arts Center opened, when volunteers transformed the old building, that was once a town social hall for dances and gigs, into a beautiful art gallery.

However, Marlborough Arts Center is not just a typical art gallery as many may assume. President Donna Ulloa said that the center takes pride in the fact that they recognize both fine arts and performing arts, such as dancing and singing.

In the past two years, they have made great progress, offering a variety of classes, exhibits and entertainment at the art center, from pottery and jewelry-making classes, to various art showings and a holiday concert series.

"There's definitely something here for ev-

erybody," Ulloa said of the broad range of classes offered at the art center. "You can either create something from scratch or use the instructor's help to enhance your work."

One particularly popular class offered during the season is chef Diane Sandler's cooking classes, which will start up again this September.

Ulloa said the cooking classes, featuring Chinese, Italian, Mexican and other cuisines, attract a variety of people, from older women to younger men who may aspire to become chefs.

During the class, Sandler gives the participants a glass of wine, and then teaches the class how to cook a four-course meal, serving it up to the attendees at the end.

"It's wonderful!" Ulloa said and, bursting into a laugh, added, "It's like watching one of those food shows on TV!"

The arts center goes beyond the norm. Just this summer, for instance, the art center featured a segment called "Dancing with the Arts," with students and professionals, which showcased everything from tap dancing to hula.

This past year, the arts center held an An-

tique Doll and Dollhouse Exhibit as well, where parents, grandparents and children gathered with their dolls for a fun afternoon of food, drinks and even a puppet show. At the end, they also raffled off an American Girl Doll, which Ulloa said the children loved.

Ulloa stresses that Marlborough Arts Center is not only unique in the events it puts on, but also that it is a regional nonprofit charitable organization, made up of solely volunteers.

"I guess you could say we're just a bunch of dedicated, altruistic people who support the arts with all our hearts," Ulloa said with a grin.

The volunteers dedicate their time helping out with events, donating their time, knowledge and energy to arranging events, exhibits and fundraising events, such as the annual Festival of Wreaths holiday series.

Ulloa said that while it may be a lot of work at times, the volunteers come out because of their strong passion to help. "Why?" Ulloa said. "Because they love it and believe in the building and what we do here!"

The members of the arts center also believe

in supporting the local community. They are currently teaming with former Marlborough resident and film major Sean Hanley to help support him in producing his documentary on the town.

Hanley's film, entitled *Hindsight*, will be about his experience growing up in Marlborough, and will document life in the town over the course of a year.

Marlborough Arts Center is always looking for more volunteers and new members, who pay a \$25 individual fee and receive discounts on classes and tickets, access to members-only events and other perks.

"It's almost like we get to a certain age and realize it's time to give back," Ulloa said of the many members and volunteers.

"You don't know what you have in your town until you see it," Ulloa added. "It's been a pleasure for me to meet all of these interesting people."

Rachel Chemerynski is a Marlborough resident and recent graduate of James Madison University.

Colchester Police News

8/24: Taylor Suroviak, 21, of 188 Old Hebron Rd., was charged with possession of less than four ounces of marijuana, State Police said.

8/24: Reid Waller, 21, of 117 Lebanon Ave., Apt. 1, was charged with possession of less than four ounces of marijuana, State Police said.

8/25: Barbara Greco, 39, of 47 McDonald Rd., was charged with DUI and operation of a motor vehicle when license is suspended, State Police said.

8/25: Shannon Brown, 35, of 374 Beaumont Highway, Lebanon, turned himself in on an arrest warrant for third degree assault and disorderly conduct, State Police said.

8/25: Cody Eifler, 18, of 534 Norwich Ave., was charged with DUI and unsafe movement, State Police said.

8/27: Justin Mikan, 26, of 288 Lake Hayward Rd., was charged with possession of heroin and possession of drug paraphernalia, State Police said.

8/31: Robert Eldridge, 45, of 232 Norwich Ave. Apt. 3, was charged with breach of peace and interfering with an officer, State Police said.

Portland Police News

8/30 — Steven Vezina, 28, of 5 S Wangonk Trail, East Hampton, was charged with DUI and operating a motor vehicle under license suspension, Portland Police said.

Andover Police News

8/7- Joao Cordiero Jr., 34, of 5 Tremont St., Newington, was charged with risk of injury to a minor, third-degree assault, threatening, first-degree reckless endangerment and disorderly conduct, State Police said.

Marlborough Police News

8/25: Andrew Busey, 21, of 45 Pepperbush Dr., Amston, was charged with sixth-degree larceny, State Police said.

East Hampton Police News

8/13 — Alyssa Solak, 19, of 374 Hebron Ave., Glastonbury, and David Baribault, 49, of 33 High Point Dr., were involved in a two-vehicle accident on High Point Drive, East Hampton Police said. Solak was arrested for evading responsibility, operating an unregistered motor vehicle and operating a vehicle without a license.

8/14 — Michelle Poulin, 19, of 280 House St., Glastonbury, was arrested for evading responsibility and operating an unregistered motor vehicle, police said.

8/16 — Thomas Bezilla, 43, of 23 Seminole Tr., was issued a ticket for damage to property by intentional/reckless release of domestic animal, police said.

8/19 — Erika R. Bell, 44, of 478 Moodus Rd., was issued a ticket for traveling too fast, police said.

8/21 — Joseph J. Pistilli, 51, of 19 Sunset Dr., was arrested for operating under suspension, police said.

8/21 — Theresa M. Davito, 46, of 59 Free-stone Ave., Portland, was arrested for operating under the influence of alcohol, police said.

8/21 — Jean Vanbourondien, 22, of 6A Lakeview St., and Kayla Barnett, 21, of 2 Peace Ct., New Britain, were both arrested for drug paraphernalia and possession of drugs, police said.

8/23 — Troy T. McIntosh, 27, of 83 Middletown Ave., was arrested pursuant to two warrants for second-degree failure to appear, police said. The original charges were operating under the influence of alcohol, two counts of violation of probation, possession of controlled substance and use of drug paraphernalia, police said.

8/24 — Carey Hurlburt, 46, of 45 Daniel St., was issued a ticket for failure to obey a stop sign, police said.

8/24 — Daniel H. Cook, 45, of 16 East High St., was arrested pursuant to a court-ordered warrant for failure to respond to an infraction, police said.

8/25 — Jennifer A. Stiano, 37, of 319 New Britain Rd., Kensington, and a 17-year-old female juvenile were issued tickets for operating a motor vehicle while using a cell phone, police s

Obituaries

East Hampton

William P. Robertson III

William Post Robertson III, 85, of Franklin, ME, formerly of East Hampton, died peacefully Monday, Aug. 24, at Maine Coast Memorial Hospital after a brief illness. His wife, Charlotte Crooks Robertson, predeceased him by six years.

He leaves his sister, Nan Robertson Cartwright and her husband George of Redding, and their family of four children and 11 grandchildren.

Bill, as he was known, was born in Manchester, and grew up in East Hartford and East Hampton. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1943 at age 17 and served in the Pacific Theater. Attached to an amphibious attack transport, the U.S.S. Sanborn, he participated in the invasion of Iwo Jima and witnessed the famous flagraising on Mt. Suribachi that became the famous and most-published photograph of World War II. His ship and crew were also involved in the invasion of Okinawa and were anchored in Tokyo Bay at the signing of the Peace Treaty on the U.S.S. Missouri in 1945 ending the war with Japan.

Following his discharge in 1946 he joined the Navy Reserve Program. He was recalled to active duty during the Korean War and served for 22 months. After Bill and his wife moved to Maine, he enlisted in the Maine Air National Guard and served there until 1985. Bill has the unique distinction of being the last WWII veteran to be active full time in the Maine Air National Guard.

After his retirement, he enjoyed being employed as a greeter at Wal-Mart and volunteering at the Food Bank. He was deeply grateful for his long and happy marriage and for his extremely generous and supportive friends and neighbors. He was a member of the Union Congregational Church in Hancock, ME.

Interment will be private at the U.S. Veterans Military Cemetery in Augusta, ME, next to his wife, who was also a Navy veteran.

Portland

William J. McBrien

William "Mal" Joseph McBrien, 91, of Portland, beloved husband of Constance (Hughes) McBrien for 61 years, passed away on Saturday, Aug. 29, at Portland Care and Rehabilitation Center. Born in Portland, he was the son of the late Robert and Mary (Flynn) McBrien.

Bill was a veteran of the US Army during WWII in the Pacific Theater. He was a lifelong resident of Portland and known in town for his Christmas Tree Farm. He was the last surviving charter member of the Portland Firehouse No. 1, a member of the Portland Exchange Club, the Westbrook Elks, the American Legion and the Hemlock Grange No. 182.

Besides his wife, he is survived by five children, Albert Thomas McBrien and his wife, RoseAnn, James Emmet McBrien and his wife, Nancy, Joseph William McBrien and his wife, Donna, Nancy Lynn McBrien and Jonathan Howard McBrien, all of Portland; six grandchildren, Edward McBrien and his wife, Jessica, Kelly McBrien Walker and her husband, Brad, Matthew McBrien, Colleen McBrien, Meghan McBrien and Christine McBrien; two great grandchildren, Austin Walker and Haleigh Walker; and his brother, John E. McBrien.

Besides his parents, he was predeceased by his sisters, Hannah Josephine Agogliati and Mary DeBari and his brothers, Samuel, Charles, and Robert McBrien.

Bill's family would like to say a special thank you to the nursing staff at Portland Care and Rehabilitation Center for their wonderful care.

Funeral services and interment will be private and at the convenience of the family.

Friends called Wednesday, Sept. 2, at the Doolittle Funeral Home, 14 Old Church St., Middletown, and in lieu of flowers may make donations in Bill's memory to the charity of their choice.

Messages of condolence may be sent to the family at www.doolittlefuneralservice.com.

Colchester

Julie Lee Loftus

Julie Lee (DiBattisto) Loftus of Niantic, and formerly of East Lyme, Colchester and Glastonbury, beloved wife, mother and sister, passed away peacefully at her home at Giants Neck Beach on Monday, Aug. 31, after a courageous battle with brain cancer. Born Feb. 20, 1957, in Manchester, she was a daughter of the late Bob and Barbara (Burr) DiBattisto, both of whom she dearly missed since their passing.

A 1975 graduate of East Catholic High School, she went on to receive her associate's degree at the University of New England's Westbrook College campus, in dental hygiene. While keeping this to her family, she later learned that she received from the college the distinction of attaining the highest dental board scores of her graduating Class in 1978.

On Sept. 24, 1983, she and her husband Dan, to whom she had met 10 years before while growing up in Glastonbury, were married at St. Andrew Church in Colchester. The couple had just completed their 25th wedding anniversary upon Julie's passing, and enjoyed a wonderful trip to Aruba to mark the special event this past year, while Julie was still healthy enough to travel.

Julie enjoyed a nearly 30-year career as a dental hygienist for the office of Dr. Joseph Prignano in Marlborough, where she touched the lives of her co-workers and many patients as being skilled in their dental needs, while an excellent and trusted listener who could always be counted upon. She took special pride in bridging young children to the dental world by giving so many their first cleanings and exams, and in volunteering to her children's elementary school classes to teach the importance of early dental hygiene.

Among Julie's lifelong joys were her animals, to whom she was ever devoted, including Reilly, her faithful Golden. She had a great appreciation of tradition and place, learned over the years from her late parents. As someone who loved working in the soil, a point of pride was lovingly tending to her late mother's beautiful gardens and adding even more new flowers and plants.

In addition to her loving husband, she is survived by her two children, to whom she is especially proud, Bethany Rose, currently at The University of Massachusetts, and Patrick Robert, presently at East Lyme High School, both of Niantic; two sisters, Diane Kennedy and her husband, Brian of Niantic and Kathi DiBattisto of Westminster, CO; her brother, Steven DiBattisto and his wife, Brenda of Bloomfield; her special Aunt Marie; and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and other dear family members and friends, all of whom held a very special place in Julie's heart.

She is also predeceased by her first infant son, Joseph Patrick Loftus, who passed away at birth on Oct. 23, 1990.

The family wishes to especially thank the outpouring of love and support shown to Julie during her illness and all who touched upon her and the family's needs during this difficult time, from doctors, to caregivers, to co-workers, to friends both new and old. Thank you all from the bottom of our hearts.

Friends called Thursday, Sept. 3, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10 a.m. today, Friday, Sept. 4, directly at St. Matthias Church, 317 Chesterfield Rd. (Rt. 161), East Lyme, with Fr. Michael T. Donohue as principal celebrant. Interment will follow in the New St. Andrew Cemetery, Colchester.

Donations in her memory may also be made to The CT Brain Tumor Alliance, P.O. Box 370514, West Hartford 06137.

For online condolences, visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

East Hampton

John E. McKenna

John E. "Jack" McKenna, 75, of Woodford, VT, formerly of East Hampton, died Wednesday, Aug. 26, at his residence following a long illness. Born in Manchester, he was the son of the late John E. and Marjorie (Krah) McKenna.

Jack was a 1952 graduate of Woodrow Wilson High School in Middletown. In 1965 he founded J.E. McKenna Co. Inc. in East Hampton and expanded operations to Woodford, VT, in 1982 before retiring in 1996. A life member of the East Hampton Lions Club, Jack also served as a Boy Scout leader of Troop 8 in earlier years. An avid snowmobiler, Jack was a founding member and past president of the Woodford Sno-Busters. He served as the trailmaster of the organization for many years.

Jack was appointed to the Vermont Governors Snowmobile Council as the VAST representative where he served two terms and was also the Bennington County Trail Coordinator for many years. He always enjoyed a round of golf and played in a golf league for many years at Stamford Valley Golf Course, Stamford, VT.

He was predeceased by his wife, Janice E. Gallagher; his stepbrother, Charles Haig; and his grandson, Marty Oktavec.

He leaves behind his wife, Shereen McKenna of Woodford, VT; son, Michael McKenna and his wife Toni of North Richland Hills, TX; daughter, Sharon Tucker and her husband Thomas Ragion of Colchester; and son, Gene McKenna and his wife Jeanne of Bennington, VT. He leaves behind five grandchildren, Tamara Tucker of Colchester, Ryan, Justin, Megan and Kevin McKenna of Bennington, VT. He also leaves behind sisters, Priscilla "Jill" Lineberry and brother-in-law Howard, Marjorie Gray and brother-in-law Bill, both of Middletown; two half-sisters, Suzanne Robitaille of East Longmeadow, MA and Jean Broderick of Hampton, MA. Jack also leaves behind many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Friends called at the Mahar & Son Funeral Home in Bennington, VT, Saturday, Aug. 29. The funeral was held from the Mahar & Son Funeral Home on Sunday, Aug. 30, at 2 p.m., with Rev. Penny Rich Smith, pastor of the North Bennington Congregational Church, officiating. Friends and family attended a graveside service Tuesday, Sept. 1, at noon at Lakeview Cemetery in East Hampton with the Reverend Thomas Kennedy officiating.

Contributions in memory of Jack McKenna may be made to either Make-A-Wish Foundation of Southern Vermont, VNA and Hospice of Southwestern Vermont Health Care or the Southwestern Vermont Regional Cancer Center through the office of the Mahar & Son Funeral Home, 628 Main Street, Bennington, VT 05201.

Portland

Kathleen McGuigan

Kathleen Marie McGuigan, 29, of Portland and formerly of East Hampton, died Wednesday, Sept. 2 at Middlesex Hospital. Born April 30, 1980, in Middletown, she was the daughter of George McGuigan of Middletown and Donna (Zions) McGuigan of East Hampton. Kathleen attended East Hampton schools and had worked as a Certified Nurses Assistant until her illness.

Besides her parents she is survived by her three precious children, Alexis McGuigan, Robert Holley Jr., and Jasmine Holly; her two brothers, George McGuigan and his wife Sharon of East Hampton and Patrick McGuigan of East Hampton; a stepbrother, Steven Kielb of Middletown; and many dear friends.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, Sept. 5, at 11 a.m. in the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, with the Rev. Charles LeBlanc officiating. Burial will be private at the convenience of the family. Friends may call at the funeral home on Saturday from 9-11 a.m.

The family is establishing a scholarship fund for Kathleen's children. Information will be available at the funeral home.

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

Hebron

Ida V. Campbell

Ida V. (Pinney) Campbell, 85, of Hebron, beloved wife of 61 years to Ramon D. Campbell, died Tuesday, Sept. 1, surrounded by family at Manchester Memorial Hospital. She was born July 30, 1924 in Andover, daughter of the late Arthur Pinney Sr. and Hazel (Rose) Pinney and has been a resident of Hebron for 61 years.

Ida had worked at the Loring Studios in Hartford for several years before becoming a Weaver at the Cheney Brothers Silk Mills in Manchester where she worked until the Mill shut down. She retired in 1991 after almost 20 years with CUNO Industries of Enfield. Married Nov. 6, 1948, Ray and Ida celebrated their 60th anniversary last year at a party with family and friends. Ida loved to shop but loved gift giving even more. Her other favorite past times were Bingo, tag sales and opening her home every Sunday to family and friends for dinner and cards and there was always room for one more!

In addition to her husband, she is survived by four daughters: Sandra Lavigne and her husband Richard Nowisch of Coventry, Barbara Campbell of South Windsor, Wanda Campbell and her husband Joseph Korzon of Manchester and Carla Campbell of East Hartford. Other survivors include her brother, Arthur Pinney Jr. of Hebron; her sister, Gladys Castagna of Manchester; three granddaughters, Dawn Milnes, Michelle Vibberts and Jessica Lavigne; eight great-grandchildren, John, Stephanie, Jacob, Julianne, Elizabeth, Casey, Katlyn, Evan; and numerous nieces and nephews. She also leaves to mourn her passing childhood friends, Eddie and Jackie Sheehan, and lifelong friends, Ruth and Roger Crosby and Wayne Rogers.

Mrs. Campbell was predeceased by a grandson, Michael Vibberts; brother, William Pinney and two sisters, Eleanor Maloney and Dorothy Lavallee.

The family would like to thank Dr. Anderson for giving them two more years with her, Dr. Reale for the last few months and all of the staff at MMH that provided the care for her.

Calling hours will be held today, Friday, Sept. 4, from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the Holmes Funeral Home, 400 Main St., Manchester. Funeral services and burial will be private. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the John DeQuattro Community Cancer Center, 71-A Main St., Manchester, CT 06040.

East Hampton

Darren P. Palmer

Darren P. Palmer, 39, beloved son of Frank and Barbara Zawisza Palmer of Colchester, passed away Tuesday, Sept. 1, at the Middlesex Hospital. He was born on Jan. 28, 1970, in Norwich.

Darren was a graduate of Bacon Academy Class of 1988 and was an Eagle Scout. He worked for Tilcon as a mechanic and he also ran a landscaping business. He was a communicant of Saint Andrew's Catholic Church of Colchester.

Besides his parents, Frank and Barbara, he is survived by his two daughters, Victoria and Erika; a sister, Deborah and her husband Jeff Simes of Coventry; two aunts, Joan Palmer and Bonnie DuPrey, and his uncle Peter DuPrey; nephew, Brian and his niece, Amanda.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, Sept. 5, at 10 a.m., from the Belmont Funeral Home, 144 South Main St., Colchester, followed by an 11 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial at St. Andrew's Church on Norwich Avenue. Burial will follow in the new St. Andrew's Cemetery. Visitation will be today, Friday, Sept. 4, from 4-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Darren Palmer's Daughters' Educational Fund, c/o Savings Institute Bank, 63 Norwich Ave., Colchester, CT 06415.