

# RIVEREAST News Bulletin

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Kids in Jen Totten’s fifth-grade class can look forward to entering this room next Wednesday, Sept. 1, when all Colchester students begin their school year. Totten gave each student a treasure chest in keeping with her adventure-themed classroom.

## Colchester Prepares For New School Year

by Katy Nally

As teachers prepare their classrooms and students enjoy their last days of summer, Colchester Superintendent of Schools Karen Loiselle is getting in the mindset of doing “whatever it takes” to have a successful school year.

And that’s her theme for the 2010-11 year. For the past few weeks, Loiselle and Curriculum Director Barbara Gilbert have been mulling over Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) and Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT) scores and churning out data. She said this week students at the middle school had surpassed scores from similar communities, in every subject area.

Exceeding scores of the District Reference Group is always something Loiselle is striving for, she said.

About 88 percent of the middle school students reached proficient on the CMTs and about 90 percent of them reached the same level in math.

“But you know what, that’s not good enough for us,” Loiselle said, adding 100 percent of Colchester students should be reaching these standards. And that’s where her theme comes into play.

Loiselle said this year will be about doing whatever it takes to “ensure that students are successful.” This might mean implementing

creative tactics to reach certain students, like working differently with parents, teachers and professionals.

Before school starts next Wednesday, Sept. 1, Loiselle will meet with the 500 staff members and drive home her theme during professional development activities. On Monday, teachers will work collectively and study the student data to address certain needs in subject areas.

Her theme, she said, “will kind of be integrated into all the activities of the development days.”

Incidentally, Loiselle’s mantra is similar to the one students will become accustomed to at Jack Jackter Intermediate School (JJIS). Principal Deb Sandberg said, this year her theme is “We’ll figure it out and make it happen.”

A program that went into effect last summer – Scientific Research-Based Interventions (SRBI) – will help Sandberg and her students do exactly that.

Through data gathered from SRBI, Sandberg said the administration would really be able to “help teachers help their kids.” The program groups students into three tiers to target their specific needs, then an intervention method can be tailored to each group.

“I believe in effort-based ability,” Sandberg stressed. “If you work at something, you can

See Back to School Page 2

## ‘Hot Box’ Leads to Blaze at Asphalt Plant

by Claire Michalewicz

Firefighters from several towns battled a blaze at a Portland asphalt plant Sunday morning.

The damage at Triram Connecticut, LLC, was contained to one building, and no hazardous chemicals escaped into the nearby Connecticut River, Portland Volunteer Fire Department Chief Robert Shea said.

Fire marshals are still investigating the cause of the fire at the Brownstone Avenue plant, which produces liquid asphalt, Shea said.

Shea said the 911 call came from a group of divers on their way to an early morning SCUBA class at Brownstone Discovery and Exploration Park, located across the street from Triram. When firefighters arrived on the scene, Shea said, they saw 30-foot flames shooting out of a storage tank at the plant.

Middletown and Glastonbury sent trucks to the scene of the fire, while East Hampton firefighters covered Portland in case they were needed for another emergency, Shea said.

“As usual, they are a huge help,” said Shea, thanking the other towns for their assistance.

Because of the large volume of fire, Shea said, firefighters weren’t initially sure what was

burning. Firefighters knocked down the bulk of the fire within about 20 minutes, Shea said, and the fire was completely under control within an hour and a half.

David Fletcher, president of Triram, said the fire broke out in a “hot box” area, in which emulsifier is heated before being added to the asphalt mix.

“As far as we know, it overheated,” Fletcher said, though the cause of the fire was still unknown. The damage, Fletcher said, was contained to one corner of one building, and crews were already working to clean up the building and start repairs.

Jeff Chandler, an emergency response supervisor from the Department of Environmental Protection, said a DEP crew arrived on scene because the Portland firefighters were concerned about hazardous materials being released from the plant. Several containers, including drums and pails of asphalt ingredients, had been damaged in the fire, Chandler said. He said the DEP crew safely isolated those containers and ensured that no hazardous materials escaped.

See Hot Box Page 2



Damage from Sunday’s fire at a Portland asphalt plant was limited to one building, and no hazardous chemicals escaped into the Connecticut River, according to Portland Volunteer Fire Department Chief Robert Shea.



**Back to School cont. from Front Page**

be very successful.”

Along with SRBI, Sandberg also plans to make the arts happen for her students. As a HOT (Higher Order of Thinking) school, JJIS provides venues for students to showcase their abilities, be it karate, playing the bagpipes or writing poetry, which are just a few among many other talents exhibited at the school, Sandberg said.

JJIS is one of 14 HOT schools in Connecticut, which are recognized by the Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism.

Each week, JJIS students partake in a “production company,” which are groups like Eco Kids and French Club, run by teachers. The groups’ activities culminate at monthly “town meetings” when students perform.

“As a HOT school, we really want to hear students’ voices,” Sandberg said.

And these opportunities to perform and create services for the community, Sandberg said, are especially relished by incoming third-graders.

While new third-graders are grasping the prospects of a HOT school, high schoolers will be adjusting to block scheduling at Bacon Academy.

Principal Jeff Mathieu said Bacon students will switch from the traditional schedule of seven 49-minute periods a day, to four 88-minute periods. Classes will meet every other day.

The change was a way to “slow down the school, rather than every 49 minutes jumping up and changing classes,” Mathieu said. The block scheduling will also allow for teachers to go more in depth into lessons, he added.

The scheduling change was piloted twice last school year and both times it was “overwhelm-

ingly successful and very positive,” Mathieu said.

With the new blocks, students at Bacon now have eight total periods, instead of seven, which allowed the administration to up the credit requirement for graduation from 22 to 25. Mathieu said the new requirement will come in science, and two new courses will be offered this year – forensics and alternative energy.

The latter course will be taught by both a science and a technology education teacher, and an ultimate goal is to create solar-powered vehicles.

“Going to block,” Mathieu said, “allowed us to do that.”

Unlike the other three schools in the district, Bacon is the only one to show an increase in enrollment, as of Wednesday’s figures. This year, 1,013 students have registered at Bacon, a slight uptick from last year’s enrollment of 1,004.

At William J. Johnston Middle School, 710 kids are registered, and last year that number was 768. JJIS is at 687, and last year it was 706, which is similar to Colchester Elementary School, at 684 for this year and 714 for last year. However, all four schools noted these numbers can change very quickly as new students enroll.

In total, the district-wide enrollment is down by 102 students. Loiselle said that was “about what was projected,” but said there are “always last-minute changes.”

So even though there are only five more days left of summer vacation for Colchester kids, it seems there are plenty of things to look forward to when the first day of school rolls around next week.

**Hot Box cont. from Front Page**

As a precaution, though, the crew had also brought booms to contain any hazardous materials in case they did escape into the river, Chandler said.

Middletown and Portland fire departments both sent their marine units, which were prepared to pump water onto the fire from the river if it was necessary. Since the trucks had the fire under control, Shea said, the boats worked to lay out the containment booms in case any oil reached the river.

Shea said Portland firefighters lost some of their equipment in the blaze, including boots and hoses which were contaminated. The department is working with the town and their insurance company to replace the equipment, he said.

Shea said it was fortunate so many trucks arrived on the scene quickly, as the fire would have been much larger and involved many more hazardous materials if it had been allowed to spread for even a few more minutes. Near the scene of the fire, he said, was a 100-pound tank of liquid propane, which could have caused an explosion and heavy damage had it ignited.

First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield said firefighters averted a larger disaster by responding to the fire so quickly, before it spread out of control.

“We were very, very lucky,” she said. “It could have been a tragedy.”

Portland Deputy Fire Marshal Peter Willse said Wednesday the cause of the fire is still under investigation.

# Andover Officials Looking Forward to Start of Year

by **Lindsay Fetzner**

Even though school doesn’t officially start until next Monday, administrators at Andover Elementary School (AES) said earlier this week they’re “ready to go.”

Board of Education (BOE) Chair Jay Linddy said the school year will start on a positive note, in light of the recently released Connecticut Mastery Test scores, where students made strides over last year’s results.

“The staff and everybody else is really happy about that and that’s important,” Linddy said.

A total of 337 students are enrolled at the elementary school, down by 12 from last year. One factor that affected enrollment figures was that the 49-student graduating class who went on to the middle school was smaller than this year’s incoming class.

But, Superintendent of Schools Andrew Maneggia said this week, “the biggest news is we have two new teachers replacing the retired teachers.”

Sara Cathell-Williams will teach music and Courtney Strekel will teach third grade. Joan Disco, who taught fifth grade, and Karen Krinjak, who taught music, both retired this year after teaching for 24 years at the elementary school.

In light of the retirements, Linddy said, “That’s going to be a void but the new hirees are great. They are really energetic.”

The biggest expenditure that directly affects the students, Maneggia said, is the replacement of approximately 10 computers in the computer lab. Computers that were in the lab will be transferred to and used in various classrooms within the school, Maneggia said.

“Once again, we’re getting everything that we need to make sure the kids have the tools they need,” Linddy said.

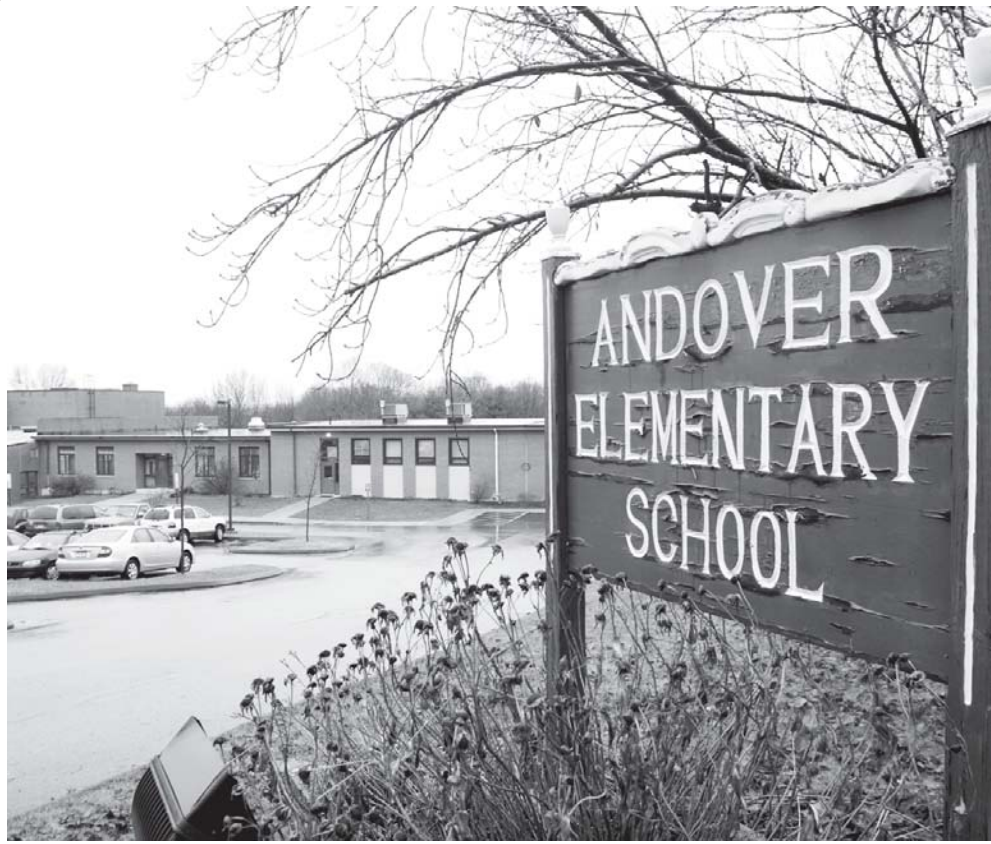
Principal David Griffin said with the start of the school year, new state education standards will definitely be an area to address, making sure that Andover is in alignment with them. In July, the state Department of Education (DOE) adopted new national academic standards, known as the Common Core State Standards in both English language arts and math. These standards “establish what Connecticut’s public school students should know and be able to do as they progress through grades k-12,” according to the DOE website, [www.sde.ct.gov](http://www.sde.ct.gov).

In language arts, standards require that “students systematically develop literacy skills and understandings through reading, writing, speaking and listening,” according to the state DOE. And in math, the standards are designed to “focus on developing students’ understanding of mathematical concepts and acquisition of fundamental reasoning habits, in addition to fluency skills,” the state DOE’s website states.

For a few grade levels, in the subject of math, Griffin said expectations have moved down a grade. He provided the example of students exiting the fifth grade, who have to be able to multiply fractions. This particular skill was one of the things that were expected for students exiting the sixth grade. Griffin said the grade-level expectancies for language arts are “not as dramatic” as those for math. The biggest impact, however, will not be at the elementary schools, but rather at the high school level, Griffin said.

One other aspect the school will continue into this year will be moving forward with universal screenings to be in compliance with Scientific Research-Based Interventions. Griffin said these efforts started last year.

AES will be starting school on a positive note, Griffin said, by “stepping forward and



keeping us moving in [the] direction to be a great school.”

Over the past two weeks, Maneggia said the teachers have been coming in and getting their rooms ready for Monday’s opening. Over the summer, Maneggia said the teachers didn’t have access to all areas of the building due to the custodians washing and waxing the floors, but

that work has been completed.

“Most of the teachers could start school tomorrow morning with no problem,” he said Tuesday.

He added that the elementary school has been thoroughly cleaned and all of the traditional summer work in preparing the building has been completed.

“Everything is done and we’re ready to go,” Maneggia said.



# New Year Brings Changes for RHAM High and Middle Schools

by **Lindsay Fetzner**

Freshman orientation and the return of teachers this week was a small reminder that come next Monday, Aug. 30, the doors of the RHAM middle and high schools will open to mark the beginning of the school year.

A number of initiatives and changes on the academic front are in store at both schools; some are brand new, while others that have carried over from last year.

Superintendent of Schools Bob Siminski said one initiative the district will be implementing this year is the long-range strategic plan. The plan, first completed in 2006, was revised in November 2009.

“We believed most tenets of the other [plan] were satisfied,” Siminski said, which prompted looking at the objectives again.

Among the goals and objectives on the strategic plan include aspects of the curriculum, programming, social and civic engagement as well as the community. They include: developing, implementing, reviewing and revising the curriculum based on student performance and research; enhancing and expanding program alternatives and instructional methods as a mean to “maximize student potential;” designing and supporting programs and services that “increase social awareness and civic responsibility;” and maintaining and improving communications with the communities to “ensure a thorough understanding” of the district’s mission, the plan states.

Enrollment at the high school is one overarching issue that administration had to tackle, which RHAM High School Principal Scott Leslie said was the “biggest issue to address.” Leslie said this year there is an increase of about 80 students, bringing the total population at the high school to 1,180 students. The capacity, he said, is roughly 1,200 students.

With the graduation this past June of about 220 students, this year brings just over 320 new freshmen. Next year will not provide much relief either, as Leslie is anticipating an additional 30-60 more students. “That’s going to be a challenge,” Leslie said. But, once those students are absorbed into the high school population, the enrollment is expected to “level off,” Leslie said.

Without the addition of any new staff, Leslie said the high school is “using every classroom everyday.” To combat this problem, sixth assignments were added. Siminski explained that usually out of the seven periods in the day, the teachers teach five periods and the other two were spent on other duties and a preparation period. Now, however, teachers will teach an extra assignment.

Enrollment at the middle school is nowhere near the issue that the high school has been faced with. RHAM Middle School Principal Michael Seroussi said the overall population in the building is hovering around 620 students, which is a slight decrease over last year, when enrollment was 655 students.

Seroussi also said there are four new hires in the building, which are due to retirements. Assistant Principal Carri-Ann Bell will also open up school for the first time in her new role. In February, when the former assistant principal Anne Starr left the district, Bell became the interim assistant principal. And in April, Bell officially assumed her post as assistant principal.

At the high school, a change to graduation requirements surrounding the Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT) and this year’s sophomores will take place this year. In the past, students had to score at the proficient

level on the test in order to graduate. Now, that requirement has been raised to the goal level. This was adopted by the Board of Education last November.

One of the reasons for this change, Leslie said, was that the percentage of students scoring at the proficiency level was in the 90 percentile. Those scoring at the goal level hovered between 60 and 80 percent. Leslie said on this year’s CAPT, scores increased, which showed the school was “on the right track.” Siminski agreed and said, “This year’s CAPT results showed some increases.”

Another initiative for this year, continuing from last school year, is the development of benchmark assessments. Leslie said each department is creating these assessments. For each academic expectation listed within the high school’s mission statement, Leslie said key assessments would be done during different periods of the school year.

This year, Leslie has set his sights on getting the benchmarks in place. And, by next year, Leslie said he hopes to pilot a standards-based report card, using those benchmarks. The standards-based cards would be in addition to the regular report cards sent home each marking period. They would offer a more specific record of how well each student is progressing with key skills, he said.

In addition to the civic and social student expectations, the academic portion includes skills in reading and writing, speaking and listening, problem solving, logical thinking, creative expression and applying technology.

Leslie said he also hopes to “retool the mission statement” of the high school this year. He hopes to make the message “more concise and something you can measure” as opposed to

abstract statements, in which student growth and achievement is hard to measure.

In terms of the curriculum, Leslie said both art and business offerings were expanded due to their increased popularity. Additional computers were purchased for the graphics communication courses, and additional sections will be offered. Leslie noted that the business program is tied into the school store, which students are responsible for running, marketing and managing.

Leslie said the school is “very fortunate” to be able to expand these programs, and said that both subject areas “address creativity, but are very practical.”

Looking ahead, the middle school will continue this year with Rachel’s Challenge, which was started last year. Seroussi said Rachel was the first victim of the Columbine High School shooting in 1999. Last year, the guidance department brought in a speaker on the topics of bullying and getting along with others. This year, Seroussi said he hopes to expand upon the program.

During the first year of Rachel’s Challenge, the program consists of a school assembly, peer training session and an evening community event. As the school enters the second year, referred to as Rachel’s Legacy, the program encourages students to “recognize their full potential and significance in life.”

More information on Rachel’s Challenge can be found on their website, [www.rachelschallenge.org](http://www.rachelschallenge.org), or on RHAM Middle School’s webpage, [www.rhamms.reg8.k12.ct.us](http://www.rhamms.reg8.k12.ct.us), on the left hand column, under “Rachel’s Challenge.”

## Marlborough Elementary School Begins ‘New Era’ Next Monday

by **Katy Nally**

Next Monday, Aug. 30, will usher in a “new era with new faces,” as Superintendent of Schools David Sklarz put it.

The day marks the start of the inaugural school year for Principal Scott Nierendorf and Assistant Principal Dena DeJulius at Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall Elementary School. The two replace former Principal Loraine Giannini and Assistant Principal Maylah Uhlinger, who had each worked at the school for about a decade, Sklarz said.

“It’s a new year with new faces, but the same enthusiasm is still here,” Sklarz added.

Nierendorf said he’s excited to begin working at the elementary school, adding “getting kids in the building will be a good thing.” Over the summer, Nierendorf said he’s had the help of office staff to get assimilated.

“I’m very fortunate to have some hard working folks here,” he said.

DeJulius, a former administrator from Manchester, will join Nierendorf in September. “She’s really a strong addition to the group,” he added.

Besides new administrators, the 676 students at Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall this year (that number is down from last year’s 673) will also encounter some new changes in the classroom. Nierendorf, who has a background in technology, having worked as the director of educational technology at the Capitol Region Education Council, will introduce “clickers” into a pilot classroom.

“Clickers” is actually a nickname for a classroom response system made by Turning Technologies. With the system, teachers can present a question and students use small remotes to key in their answers. Sklarz noted this is a way to “assess students immediately,” as not all children raise their hands when asked a question.

Nierendorf said the clickers are commonly used in large lecture halls in college, but they can be applied to a classroom of 20. The response system is only a pilot program for this

school year, but both Nierendorf and Sklarz had high hopes for the project.

Teachers too, were enthusiastic when given a demonstration of the clickers earlier this week, Sklarz said.

“When you get technology, you want teachers to embrace it,” Sklarz said. “Scott will be that instructional leader who can maximize [teachers’] use of technology.”

And students as well, Sklarz and Nierendorf said, will be excited about the new addition. The clickers should be an intuitive skill for even kindergarteners, Sklarz noted.

“Kids do love it,” Nierendorf said, adding the response system will provide more engagement in the classroom.

But the clickers will be one of several technological accoutrements for the teachers at Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall. Sklarz said every teacher this year will be equipped with a laptop, and many will have SMART Boards.

“This will move us to the next phase, which is really important,” Sklarz said.

In addition to new technology and new faces, this year will also be the first year the Marlborough Education Foundation (MEF) can distribute its “mini grants” to teachers. Chari Norton, co-founder and co-president of MEF, said Nierendorf will meet with teachers during the first few weeks of school to discuss how to apply for the grants. The deadline to submit an application is Oct. 15.

Norton said MEF raised \$4,500 to be distributed to teachers, and the amounts awarded will depend on the number of applications MEF receives.

Lisa Seethaler, also of MEF, said the mini grants should be awarded later this fall.

The foundation is also committed to creating a new science resource room for students. Norton said the school is already on its way to creating the space, as a room has already been designated and a planning committee will soon be established.

“The foundation really wants to support that,”



**It’s back to school for kids in Marlborough, who will join their new principal, Scott Nierendorf, next Monday, Aug. 30, at Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall Elementary School.**

Nierendorf said.

Part of the push to create a science resource room came from Giannini before she left. Norton said Giannini asked for donations to be made to MEF, specifically for science, in lieu of retirement gifts. And because the foundation can set aside money for long-term projects, it was able to create the Loraine Giannini Science Fund, Norton said.

As far as what equipment the lab will have, Norton said the MEF would leave that up to the school and teachers’ discretion. But, she added, “Why not make it state of the art?”

Lastly, throughout the year, MEF will exercise its “Talents on Tap” program as a way “to make those lessons really come to life,” Norton

said.

Through Talents on Tap, Norton said teachers can utilize members of the community who are experts in a specific field and have them come in to supplement a particular curriculum.

“Everybody has something to offer,” Norton stressed, and Talents on Tap would be a free way to “tap” into those skills.

For more information about Talents on Tap, call Becky Granatini at 860-262-3145.

With the new additions to this school year, like MEF’s mini grants, Nierendorf’s technological expertise and new staff members, Monday, Aug. 30, does indeed look like the start of a “new era” for Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall students.



# Marlborough Residents Brave Pouring Rain to Celebrate Town

by Katy Nally

The ground may have been mucky, and the tents were wet, but inside the pavilion, residents were all smiles as they celebrated the third annual Marlborough Day.

Despite a sloshy, rainy day, residents still came out to Blish Park in droves to celebrate their beloved town Sunday, Aug. 22.

The event began at 11, and by noon, already 100 people had turned out. An organizer of the celebration, Jessica Olander, said the total headcount for the day was 385, based on the number of raffle tickets that were given to each event attendee. Last year, about 800 people showed up.

“It was a great turnout for such a crummy day,” Olander said. “To have almost 400 people there in the pouring rain really speaks to the community’s support.”

According to [weather.com](http://weather.com), Sunday yielded the most rain all month in Marlborough, accumulating 1.57 inches. Eight other days in August have had rain, but accumulated only fractions of an inch. And the rain began early – well before the event started. But, the weather didn’t stop two teams from participating in the wiffle ball tournament that began at 9 a.m., even though it had technically been canceled due to the rain.

Marlborough Day is held annually by the Marlborough Business Association (MBA), which organizes and sponsors the event. This year, 35 vendors signed up and – despite the rain – 33 of them came out, Olander, an administrative assistant with the MBA, said. Last year, there were 29 vendors. The increase, Olander said, “is surprising to me, considering the economy.”

Vendors such as Sadler’s Ordinary came out to sell hot dog and hamburgers, as well as other eats. The Marlborough Republicans’ fried dough was another hit, as event participants sprinkled on powered sugar to their fried “elephant ears.”

This year’s set up was unusual, because the booths were arranged near the pavilion in an attempt to stay dry. The Marlborough Education Foundation’s booth was continually busy, with contests and craft projects provided. One draw was a chewing gum bubble blowing contest for kids. The prize for all the participants was, of course, some Silly Bandz.

The winner, Seth Valentine, took home the grand prize after blowing a bubble of about three inches wide.

Each for-profit organization pays \$50 to set



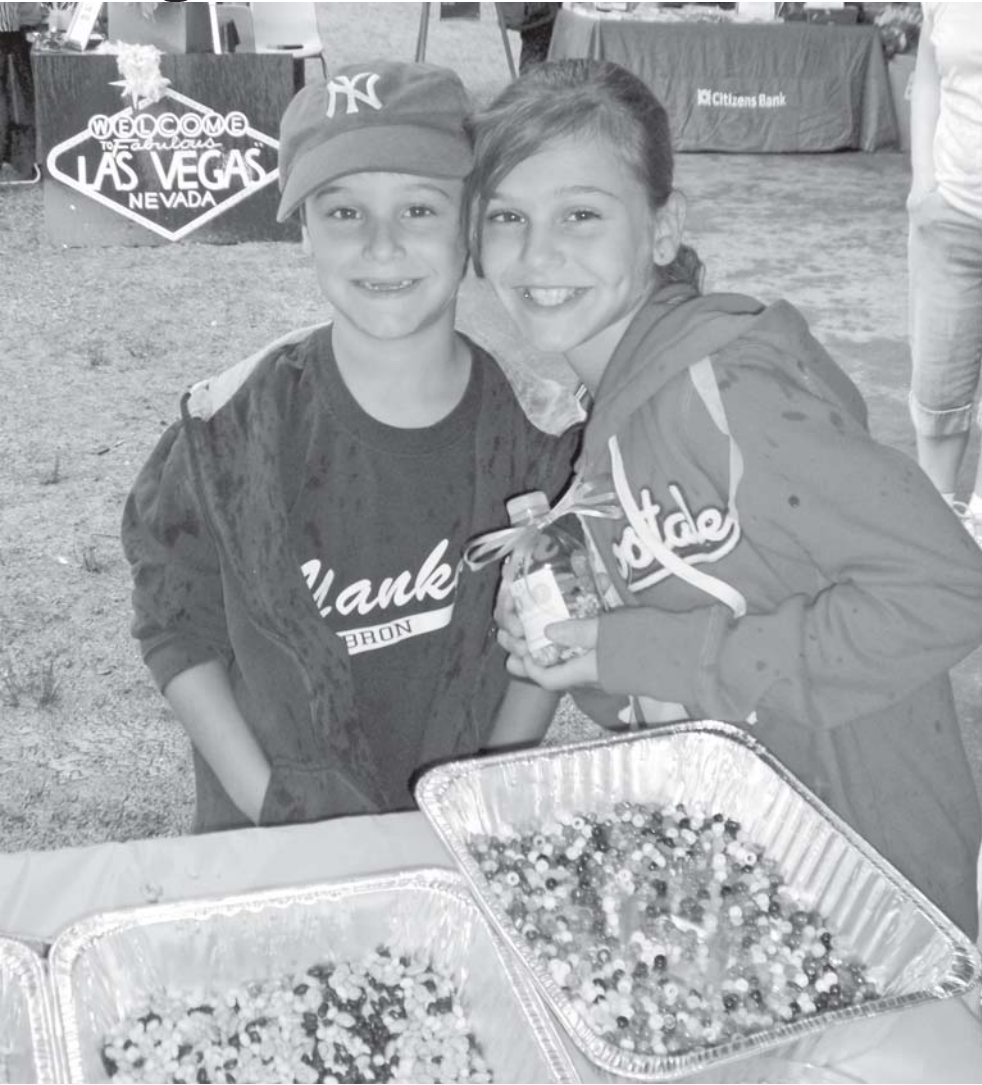
**Seth Valentine was the winner of the bubble blowing contest at Marlborough Day.**

up a booth at the annual celebration, Olander said, and the profits are funneled back into the MBA. From there, Olander said the proceeds are used for a scholarship fund, as well as other events and programs the association organizes. Nonprofits receive booth space for free.

For most of the vendors, Olander said, “it’s not about what they can get out of it, it’s about what they can give back.”

New to this year’s event was a chocolate chip cookie baking contest, which, Olander said, would definitely come back for the 2011 event. In addition to activities put on by each booth, every event attendee also received a raffle ticket for a wide variety of door prizes. The two grand prizes, \$250 for groceries and \$250 for gas, were provided by the Marlborough Health Care Center. Others included gift certificates to area businesses like It’s So Ranunculus Flower Shoppe and My Gym. Some organizations awarded their services, like Jacqueline Roach School of Dance, which gave free dance lessons.

Throughout the day, musicians also took to the makeshift stage to sing and perform. Dino



**Brother and sister Dante, 8, and Seraphina, 11, Marino, made maracas in the Marlborough Education Foundation booth during the third annual Marlborough Day.**

Marino, who will be a freshman at RHAM High School, kicked off Marlborough Day’s live shows, with his band Dino & The No Names. Other performers were the a cappella group The Sweetest Key, Back Beat City and Alex Flanigan.

Bob Bloom from Drumming About You encouraged all kids and parents to come and dance to his funky drumming styles. Several children shook the maracas they made at the Marlborough Education Foundation booth, to

Bloom’s beats.

Although the 2010 Marlborough Day is over, Olander said plans for next year’s celebration are already in the works. One idea was to set up a Guitar Hero/Rock Band booth for kids to give their best rock star impression. Also, there might be a “best booth” competition, where each vendor is judged by a panel, Olander said.

Next year’s event will be held Sunday, Aug. 21, at Blish Park. For more information about the event, visit [mba-ct.org](http://mba-ct.org).

# Hebron Selectmen Appoint Bifurcation Study Committee

by Lindsay Fetzner

After more than a month of uncertainty, the Board of Selectmen last Thursday, Aug. 19, followed through with its original intentions to appoint members of a Bifurcation Study Committee (BSC).

At Thursday’s meeting, seven people were appointed, including Judith Podell, Carla Pomproicz, Lorraine Davey, Kathleen Williams, Richard White, Loreta McDonnell and Marie Egbert.

The selectmen voted in June to form a committee to study bifurcating the vote on the annual town spending plan. The BSC was to look at various forms of government and which would be the best fit for the town. Additionally, the committee would look at how other towns administer the budget voting process and whether Hebron should have a definite end to the process. Researching other municipalities that have chosen bifurcation and their experiences were also an area the committee would address.

The original motion the Board of Selectmen (BOS) made to instate the committee included a total of five citizens-at-large. However, that was amended Thursday night to include all eligible voters, with the exception of those residents on the boards of selectmen, finance or education. The maximum number of members was also bumped up from five to seven. (Currently, Podell is on Planning and Zoning and Davey is a member of the Capital Improvement Plan Program. Pomproicz is also town clerk.)

It was resident Kathy Shea who expressed concern with members being on these other aforementioned boards, in addition to the delay in appointing the committee. (Shea is a member of the Board of Education, but was speaking as an individual.)

In reference to a poll conducted by the selectmen at one of this year’s budget referen-

dums, Shea said, “Voters spoke overwhelmingly about having bifurcation.” She later added, “I certainly hope that you collectively agree the right thing to do is to get moving. Form the committee, appoint your people. Just because someone has an opinion doesn’t mean they can’t serve [on the BSC].”

White agreed with Shea, and said later in the meeting, “I don’t want the committee formed by just educational people or finance people because I think that would sway everything,” he said. “If you form that committee, it should be somebody who’s trying to do the best for the town.”

The move to appoint the BSC came after a great deal of discussion in whether to appoint the committee, or to jump ahead with a Charter Revision Commission (CRC) instead. Board members were split in their views on how to move forward.

Board of Selectmen Chairman Jeff Watt suggested that “instead of a bifurcation committee, to consider folding that subject matter into a CRC.” He then called upon his colleagues to share their opinions in moving forward with either entity.

Selectwoman Gayle Mulligan said she “would have liked to have seen a Bifurcation Study Committee originally,” and was disappointed that it did not move forward at the July 15 BOS meeting, when two residents (David Morrison and Harvey Desruisseaux) withdrew their names over a difference of opinion.

Mulligan agreed with Shea, and said, “It’s very difficult to find people anywhere without an opinion. If you don’t [have an opinion], you should.” She added, “If you tell us that your here to serve the community, be open minded and do your job, we should trust that’s what your going to do.”

For BOS member Brian O’Connell, he

stressed that forming the BSC was “imperative.” “I have a lot of questions on how the impacts of a bifurcated budget would be versus non-bifurcated,” he said.

O’Connell later added, “Sentiments will change over the years, opinions will change, things will ebb and flow but a properly functioning government does not need to react at every bump in the road. We need to look forward and look at how you want to be governed and what is the most practical way in doing such.”

Mirroring the thoughts of O’Connell, BOS member Mark Stuart agreed and said, “A well functioning government should not have to change its core set of guidelines every time we hit a bump in the road.”

Like Mulligan, BOS member Dan Larson wanted to see the issue move forward. Although Larson said he believed the CRC could do the same study as a BSC, “it is definitely something that needs to get done,” he said. “I want people to think with their minds and not with

their hearts per se. This thing needs to get moved ahead somehow, someday.”

The selectmen then addressed the potential committee members, and asked if they still had interest in serving on either the BSC or the CRC. With most of the candidates in the audience, enough showed continued interest in allowing the BOS to move forward with the formation of the BSC, and to appoint the seven members.

“I think we’ve got some good people that would be willing to come forward,” Watt said after the candidates each individually spoke.

Discussion then ensued on the number of committee members as well as excluding other board members (the selectmen, finance and education boards), and the opportunity to open it to all registered voters. The appointments followed shortly after.

The next meeting of the BOS is slated for Thursday, Sept. 2, at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Office Building, 15 Gilead St.



# Portland School Staff Anxious for New Beginnings

by Claire Michalewicz

Portland schools are opening their doors for the start of classes next week, and Debby Graner will be ready to greet her new students. The Valley View School principal said she’s “delighted” about the start of school next week.

Classes at all five of Portland’s schools start next Wednesday, Sept. 1.

“New beginnings are wonderful,” Graner said, as she looked forward to welcoming Portland’s youngest students to school next week.

“We have a wonderful sense of community purpose,” Graner said.

Graner said that while there won’t be any major changes at her school this year, she’s excited about the new technology that the school has been accumulating in recent years. Every classroom at Valley View has SMART Boards and interactive clickers for answering questions. Now that they’ve had the technology for two years, Graner said, teachers fully understand the ways they can use it.

With the variety of software available for the SMART Boards, she said, teachers can use the technology to help both students who are struggling, and those who need extra challenges beyond the regular curriculum.

The teachers, Graner said, were looking for new ways to use the technology. “We need to be relevant,” she said. “We’re teaching 21st century skills.”

Up the street from Valley View, Portland High School and Middle School Principal Andrea Lavery and Assistant Principal Scott Giegerich said they’re also excited for the start of school.

“It’s been very quiet this summer,” Lavery said of her two schools, adding that the lack of activity it gave teachers plenty of time to prepare for classes.

Still, she said, that doesn’t mean that there won’t be anything new this year. The high school and middle school both have several new staff members. Giegerich said one new language arts teacher was chosen from a pool of 75 candidates, and was selected with the input of students. This summer, he explained, a group

of eighth-grade students volunteered their time to come to the school and attend sample classes from the three top candidates. The teacher the students chose, Jeff Naidorf, was also the administration’s top pick.

One new program Giegerich said he is especially excited about is the Rachel’s Challenge program, which is funded by a Gildersleeve Grant. The program, part of an ongoing focus on character education, is aimed at creating a “chain reaction” of kindness among students.

After introductory assemblies in October, Giegerich said, students at Brownstone, PMS and PHS will form groups called Friends of Rachel, who will create monthly events and programs to encourage kindness.

“If you’re kind and compassionate and you do good things, others will do good things,” Giegerich explained. “We’re excited about it.”

There are some other changes at the school as well – Lavery explained that the BOE had allowed the high school to have a delayed opening once a month, to allow teachers to fit in some extra professional development time to work on curriculum. The fact that teachers at the high school and middle school have been able to work closely together, Lavery said, was a big factor in Portland’s recent success on standardized tests.

Laurie Boske, principal of Brownstone Intermediate School, said staff members were eager to meet the new students next week, many of them with butterflies in their stomachs – “just like the kids do.”

Every year, Boske said, “it always feels like a brand new school,” explaining that because there were only two grades at the school, there was a quick turnover of students. In addition, she said, incoming fifth-graders were always excited about the Brownstone building, which has two stories, unlike the two elementary schools.

Boske also addressed concerns about the school’s roof, which had been leaking over the summer. The roof was patched, she said, though the town and the Board of Education were still



**Portland High and Middle School Principal Andrea Lavery, right, and Assistant Principal Scott Giegerich, left, are looking forward to the start of school next week. They are shown in front of a new mural at the PHS, depicting the school’s various sports teams and its mascot, the Portland Highlander. The mural was painted by Class of 2010 members Kayley Ryan and Christie Scheer.**

looking for a more permanent fix. But, she said, all the classrooms were clean and safe and ready to go for the first day of school. The staff is, too, Boske said, noting that “there’s always excitement about the new students.

Graner agreed. The beginning of the school year, she said, is always an optimistic time. “It always has that great possibility of working together,” she said.

Second-grade teacher Amy Raines, who was preparing her classroom for next week’s start of classes, said she was looking forward to meeting the new students.

“I enjoy the different personalities I get each year,” Raines said.

Graner agreed, and said she would keep an eye out for any kindergarteners who might need an extra smile or hug as they arrived at the school. When the students got off the bus on Wednesday, she said, “some of them will be wide-eyed and scared.”

Teachers and staff, Graner said, would have to be prepared to reassure them and tell them “It’s gonna be okay,” she said. “We’re gonna have a wonderful year.”



**Two trash cans were intentionally set on fire at the snack shop in Veterans Park last week. The cement wall under the wooden overhang pictured above still has smoke and heat damage.**

## Hebron Officials Suspect Foul Play in Trash Can Fire

by Lindsay Fetzner

Firefighters responded to a call in the early hours of Friday morning and arrived to smoking trash cans at Veterans Park.

State Police said the call came in at 1:16 a.m. on Aug. 20 and it was reported that a garbage can was set on fire at the snack shop at the park on Wall Street. Fire Marshal Randy Blais said foul play is to blame, as the fire in two trash cans was “intentionally set.” At the time of the fire, the trash receptacles were under a wooden overhang, up against the building. The overhang, Blais said, measures approximately 12 by 20 feet.

The damage, according to State Police, was “extensive smoke and heat damage.” Blais said there was no other damage to the park besides the concession stand. The lighting at the stand had previously been taken out due to damage

in the past, when the lights “kept being broken,” he said.

“They’ve had vandalism there before,” Blais said. But “fire-wise,” Blais said, incidents do not occur at the park often.

The estimate to fix the damage, Blais said, is approximately between \$8,000 and \$10,000. He said the cement block at the stand might have to be repainted and added that the fire charred some of the wood on the structure.

Blais said the park is not used much over the summer months, but with the start of school and sports again, the park will see more traffic and use.

The investigation into the incident is still ongoing, Blais said, due to the act being intentional.

## Colchester BOE Catches Up With 2008 Bus Route Elimination

by Katy Nally

The Board of Education (BOE) is just now cashing in on an \$80,000 credit for a bus line that was eliminated in 2008.

“It should have been noticed earlier that we were not getting the right credits on our bill,” BOE Chairman Ron Goldstein said this week. “It’s everybody’s understanding that there certainly was an oversight.”

However, despite the fact that the credit had not been applied until now, the town will not miss out on collecting the money.

“The district and the town were never at risk of losing the money,” Goldstein said. “It’s just being accounted for in the correct fiscal year.”

Because the route was eliminated for the 2008-09 school year, half the credit, \$40,000, will be applied to that fiscal year and be deposited into the town’s general fund, “just like any unanticipated revenue,” Goldstein said.

The other half, which would apply to the 2009-10 school year, will be used in the BOE’s budget for the 2009-10 fiscal year,

which hasn’t been closed out yet. Goldstein said accounts in the 2009-10 BOE budget are still being audited.

The route was cut when a bus that carried Colchester students to Windham Technical High School was merged with a van that brought kids to Grasso Regional Vocational Technical School in Groton, Goldstein said.

He said the elimination of the route could have been missed because it was cut after the budget and before the start of school. Although Goldstein said he wasn’t sure how the credit went unnoticed, he said a “communication gap” played a part in the oversight.

“The Board of Ed. is trying to ask [how this happened] and we’re making sure it’s appropriately accounted for going forward,” Goldstein assured.

The board’s budget now shows the correct expenditure, he said.

“It’s accounted for correctly in this coming fiscal year,” Goldstein added.



# Hebron Consignment Shop Offers Clothes, Toys and More

by Lindsay Fetzner

For the mother-daughter team of Linda and Sheri Harbec, Emma's Closet marks the first business endeavor for the both of them.

Linda, a Columbia resident, and Sheri, from Manchester, opened the doors of their consignment shop on June 22, and said business since then has become "steadily better for sure." Sheri estimated last week that the company has racked up about 85 consignors, and one day brought in as many as six new people. "The good days are getting better all the time," she said.

Emma's Closet offers a wide variety of consignment items geared toward infants, children and pregnant women, as well as other baby gear, toys, books, shoes, games and accessories.

The name of the store draws a more personal connection to the family, as it is named for Sheri's 8-year-old daughter Emma. Sheri said she wanted "something that meant something to us" and the choice does just that.

Sheri lightheartedly said that Emma is "obsessed with clothes" and, coupled with the fact that the mother-daughter team has "always shopped consignment," opening the store seemed to fit the bill. Sheri also said consignment shops are a great way to recycle clothing and toys. "Why bother to keep filling landfills?" she asked, adding that it's one way of "going green."

Choosing Hebron for their location was more or less a process of elimination. After unsuccessfully trying to purchase another location in town, the Harbecs looked into East Hampton and Marlborough, but did not find the purchase options they were looking for. Sheri said when she and her mother walked into the Liberty Drive unit, "We looked at each other and said, 'we'll take it.'" Within one week, Sheri and Linda were in the unit, preparing to open the store.

And choosing Hebron for their location has proven to be a good choice. "They like the concept of our store," Sheri said.

The store has also drawn people from towns as far away as Middletown and North Windham; in the latter town, consignment shops are harder

to come by.

One of the many hurdles Linda and Sheri have faced in the almost two months of operating the business has revolved around finances. "Making rent," Linda said, "is always the biggest scare." The next biggest obstacle, the two said, is getting a paycheck.

"Everyone's telling us 'wait until September,'" Linda said, a time when families have returned from vacation and are in the back-to-school mode.

But both Linda and Sheri have stayed positive despite these two hurdles. In addition to having "a really great stock," Sheri said the important thing is to inform people that the business doesn't just cater to babies, but also newborns and older children. In addition to the infant and maternity clothing, sizes at Emma's Closet go up to 20 for boys and 10 for junior girls.

"There are really great deals to be had on these things," Sheri said.

The best part of having their own business, Sheri and Linda said, has been the flexible schedule, allowing Sheri to spend time with her two children Emma and Xander, who is 2 years old.

"Working for ourselves," Linda said, is also a plus, adding that, "We have a say in what's going on." Both Linda and Sheri said jointly owning their own business offers the opportunity to set their own quality levels and standards; they are the only two employees at the store.

In addition to the clothing and goods that the consignors bring to Emma's Closet, the store also offers items from local artisans. Some of these unique goods include a felted bag line from Bundles O'Bags and children's jewelry from SiS Jewelry.

Emma's Closet, Sheri said, is unique in the way they reimburse their consignors. As opposed to receiving money up front when consignors drop off their goods, they are given a percentage of what the item sells for – the split is 60-40 (60 percent to the store and 40 percent to the consignors). There is also an option of a



**Linda Harbec, left, and her mother Sheri opened the consignment shop Emma's Closet in June. Business at the store is "getting better all the time."**

50-50 split toward a store purchase. The items are left on the floor for 60 days.

If the clothes do not sell, or something comes into the store that does not merit putting out on the floor, the consignors can choose to either take the items back or donate to a local charity, Covenant to Care for Children.

Looking ahead, the consignment shop will also offer an event on Sept. 18 called "Liberty Square Artisan Sampler." It will take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. between Emma's Closet and Liberty Square Collectibles. Sheri said the event will be a "rotating make and take from local artisans."

Local artisans will be at the event with ac-

tivities and crafts for children to assemble and take home. There will also be an opportunity for children to get their faces painted. The event is free, but visitors are asked to make a one item school supply donation to Covenant to Care for Children.

"Anything that would be on a kid's back to school list," Sheri said, will be accepted.

Emma's Closet is located at 7 Liberty Dr., Unit 2, next to the Post Office. They are open Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Thursday from 9 a.m.-7 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. For more information, Emma's Closet can be reached by phone at 860-530-1255 or by e-mail, at [emmascloset2010@aol.com](mailto:emmascloset2010@aol.com).

# Hebron Schools Welcome New Students, Staff

by Lindsay Fetzner

While Hebron kids have been busy on summer vacation, the administration at Gilead Hill and Hebron Elementary schools was hard at work preparing for opening day to arrive.

That day will come next Monday, Aug. 30, when over 1,100 students will enter their respective classrooms between the two schools.

Superintendent of Schools Ellie Cruz said a district implementation plan was developed last year. "We felt it was important to connect all the pieces together," she said, adding that is a cohesive and clear plan of "what our vision and belief systems" are.

Two district-wide goals that were initiated last year will continue into this year, Hebron Elementary School (HES) Principal Kevin Hanlon said. One revolves around models of professional practice and the implementation of Scientific Research-Based Interventions (SRBI) practices. Hanlon said this accounted for a "huge amount of work last year with teachers."

"We decided to go feet first and give it our best effort," Cruz said of SRBI.

She said there has been collaboration between teachers in the district, including sharing teacher strategies and visiting each other's classrooms for both personal and professional development.

"The teachers are working together and we are extremely excited about the whole idea," Cruz said, which goes back to "learning together and teaching together."

The second district goal is based around literacy. Cruz said under the literacy umbrella, fluency, the understanding of reading and expression in writing are some of the areas that were addressed and continue to be on the forefront.

Gilead Hill School (GHS) Principal Kathy Veronesi said especially in the area of literacy, the administration is "constantly looking at how best to encourage students to develop those skills."

Cruz noted writing scores on the Connecticut Mastery Tests dipped this year, but said the hypothesis is that it was not due to content or instruction, but rather the editing and revising aspects. Cruz said because of the significant attention given to SRBI, it may have taken away from practice time and thus, reflected on the scores. She said these aspects will be built into the teaching schedule.

"These are the things that we continue to work on because they are district-focused areas," Veronesi said of the two goals. "It's not brand new work; it's a continuation of the work to be done. What I anticipate, is that our work will become more sophisticated and stronger."

There are also six new hires in the district. At GHS, Heather Wright will assume her post as a special education teacher. In addition to Wright, five other people will begin their careers at HES – Scott Rossignol as a school psychologist, Karen Coxen will fill a special education position, Hannah Shephard will be a .5 FTE special education teacher, Christine Gee will be the new .7 FTE music teacher, Heather Wright as a special education teacher and Rebecca Campbell was hired as part of the Clinical Behavior Program.

These six will also join two long-term substitutes, Cruz said. Several other teachers in the district have also changed assignments.

"We have a great set of new staff to our building," Hanlon said, adding that starting the Clinical Behavior Program and "getting that off the ground" has been an exciting component to the

beginning of the school year.

"There are so many benefits to keeping students in their home district," Hanlon said.

In addition to the six new hires, which have all replaced retirements or resignations, four administrators will come back to school either in a different role or open school for the first time. Since he started in the middle of last September, this will be Hanlon's first opening day, as it will be for special education director Lisa Wheeler, who was hired in January.

Next Monday will also be a new day for Amy Campbell, who started as HES' new assistant principal in July, and thus hasn't had that many day-to-day interactions with Hebron kids. The woman she replaced, Vonda Tencza, will start the school year in her new position of curriculum and technology director (she was hired to the role in April).

Hanlon said he is "excited to have people come back into the building," including students, faculty, staff and administration. "That's why we're here," he said. "I can't wait to get them back."

## East Hampton Resident Killed in Cromwell Motorcycle Crash

by Claire Michalewicz

An East Hampton man was killed in a motorcycle accident in Cromwell on Saturday evening.

Kevin Naughton, 24, died when he crashed his motorcycle on South Street in Cromwell, said Cromwell Police Captain Edwin Kosinski.

Kosinski said a passing motorist called 911 around 10 p.m. to report a motorcycle lying in the road. When emergency personnel arrived on the scene, they found Naughton in

the road near the motorcycle. He succumbed to his injuries at the scene, Kosinski said.

Kosinski said it appears that Naughton hit a guardrail post while traveling west on South Street. Naughton was not wearing a helmet, Kosinski said, and his autopsy concluded that he was killed by blunt force trauma.

Kosinski said Naughton crashed in a quiet residential area, and he does not know of anyone who heard or saw the accident. The incident is still under investigation, he said.



# Colchester’s ‘Service Above Self’ Celebrates 50 Years

by **Katy Nally**

The Colchester Rotary Club turned 50 this month, and the group’s many accomplishments were recognized at an awards ceremony Wednesday, Aug. 25.

State Senator Eileen Daily, House Representative Linda Orange and First Selectman Gregg Schuster all presented proclamations to the Colchester Rotary Club at Gilbertie’s Place, as part of the celebration.

“Your dedication to the community goes without saying,” Orange told Colchester Rotary president Linda Hodge.

Daily and Orange presented their proclamation, then read a letter from Congressman Joe Courtney.

“As a community organization, you have contributed greatly,” Daily read from Courtney’s letter. “You have made a difference in the lives of many.”

In the past, the Colchester Rotary Club has sponsored Jack Jackter Intermediate School’s efforts to begin an ambulance service, assisted residents in need after natural disasters and supported local projects like the Colchester Dog Park and the food bank.

“What you’ve been able to accomplish has been truly outstanding,” Schuster told Hodge as he presented his proclamation from the Board of Selectmen.

Perhaps one of the most well-known projects the Colchester Rotary heads is its annual Thanksgiving basket drive.

Each November, the Rotary Club convenes at the Colchester Hayward Volunteer Firehouse on Old Hartford Road and packs cars with frozen turkeys, stuffing and a multitude of holiday food. Then, one by one, the cars leave the station and deliver the boxes of food to local families in need. Schuster mentioned this project as one of the Rotary’s notable achieve-

ments.

“You should congratulate yourself on a job well done,” he told the group.

The Colchester Rotary also participated in a spring clean-up day this April by mulching and landscaping the gardens around Town Hall. The group then honored veterans a month later by marching in the annual Memorial Day parade.

After hearing from local leaders, a fellow Rotarian also thanked the Colchester group for its 50 years of service.

“Fifty years is a very important milestone for Rotary and obviously the city of Colchester really, really appreciates everything you’ve done for it,” Rotary District Governor Julie Reppenhagen said to Hodge.

Reppenhagen made note of the Colchester group’s plans for the upcoming months, including a family literacy project. In conjunction with Cragin Memorial Library, the Colchester Rotary Club plans to embark on several literacy projects including Book-it and the Family Reading Winter Extravaganza.

“I can’t wait to hear about it once it’s done,” Reppenhagen told Hodge excitedly.

Although its 2010-11 projects are just beginning, Reppenhagen noted the Colchester Rotary’s reputation for “pushing the envelope,” and she thanked the group in advance for all it plans to accomplish.

She asked that Hodge’s group “utilize this plaque, to give you a goal for this coming year.”

Reppenhagen also touched on Rotary International’s theme for this year: Building communities and bridging continents.

As an international club, Reppenhagen said Rotary strives to foster relationships with people across country lines. She noted one exchange program that provides students with a year abroad in another country, living with a fellow Rotarian family.



**The Colchester Rotary Club turned 50 Aug. 8. Above Rotary District Governor Julie Reppenhagen presents Colchester Rotary President Linda Hodge with a plaque to commemorate the group’s anniversary.**

The group has also begun an initiative to help earthquake victims in Haiti, Reppenhagen said. She passed around a box to collect spare change, which would be used to purchase seeds for families in Haiti. The project would teach Haitians about gardening and, Reppenhagen said, they would be able to grow their own food and sell the surplus.

Reppenhagen thanked Hodge and the Colchester Rotary by looking ahead to the next half a decade.

“I leave you with one challenge as you continue your next 50 years,” Reppenhagen said. “To continue to build communities and bridge continents and make a bigger, better and bolder Rotary Club of Colchester.”

## Colchester Selectmen Consider Building Permit Late Fees

by **Katy Nally**

Selectmen agreed last Thursday, Aug. 26, to create a proposal that would initiate late fees for people who did not pay for the original building permit when starting construction; however, no action to establish the fee was taken.

Also, First Selectman Gregg Schuster said during his report, the town had downsized its truck fleet by purchasing five new vehicles to replace eight old ones.

The idea for a late fee came in response to “numerous cases of individuals and businesses not applying for the proper permits,” Building Official Tim York said in a memo.

Schuster said there was one instance of a resident who should have taken out a building permit three years ago, but did not, and the “town never knew about it.”

Many times, York said, the town will become aware of new changes made to homes only after it sells when a realtor inspects the property.

Being behind on permit information, York added, “really does create a burden for the staff.”

There was no consensus at Thursday’s meeting as to what amount the fee should be, but York suggested doubling the original cost of the permit fee, to be paid after a six-month moratorium. In Colchester, there is a \$20 building permit fee per \$1,000 of the estimated construction cost.

Other towns, like Montville, Middletown and Hartford, double the cost of a normal permit fee. Some towns include caps on the amount charged, like Bolton, which doesn’t charge more than \$200. Several towns also have day-to-day penalties, such as Durham, which charges the cost of the original permit fee, and \$100 per day thereafter.

Whatever the cost would be, Schuster stressed “we’re not trying to gouge people.” The late fee, selectmen agreed, would be an incentive to pay the original permit charge.

While selectwoman Rosemary Coyle said the late fee could streamline the building permit process, she had concerns about enforcing the fee fairly.

Coyle questioned who would be liable to pay the late fee if a building permit were not issued for a project on a property that was inherited or sold.

Selectman James Ford stressed there should also be an appeals process put in place for residents who might want to challenge the late fee.

Selectmen and York agreed to consider the questions and formulate a proposal for a future meeting. Coyle said she would want the language of the proposal to “include as many different scenarios as possible,” and to be fair, so that “everybody is treated in the same manner.”

All in all, Coyle said “it’s a good idea because, quite frankly, you improve public safety by doing it.”

After discussing late fees, Schuster informed

selectmen, the Board of Finance had unanimously voted Aug. 18 to purchase one new plow truck and four pickup trucks, which can double as plows and sanders.

The plow totaled \$160,000 and the trucks, \$123,000. Funds for the plow are slated to come from a Town Aid Road (TAR) fund, provided by the state, and Colchester’s equipment reserves would cover the trucks. The TAR fund balance is \$384,177, which does not include money received for the 2010-11 year, and the equipment reserve comes in at \$174,663, as of Aug. 19.

These five new vehicles will replace a 1990 dump truck, a 1991 Ranger, a 1995 pickup, a 2003 pickup, two 1993 pickups and two mini dump trucks – one from 1996 and the other from 1997. The two mini dump trucks will be sold, Schuster said.

The next regularly scheduled Board of Selectmen meeting will be Thursday, Sept. 2, at 7 p.m., at Town Hall, 127 Norwich Ave.

## East Hampton School Board Talks About Bus Safety

by **Claire Michalewicz**

The Board of Education (BOE) revisited the issue of bus safety at its meeting Monday night, the first regularly scheduled school board meeting since June.

Nichols, which serves students in Portland, East Hampton and other nearby towns, came under scrutiny in March, when a *Hartford Courant* article highlighted the poor safety records of many Connecticut bus companies. Nichols’ record was the third worst in the state.

Nichols Bus Services has since taken steps to improve its safety standards, Superintendent of Schools Judith Golden said. The company had obtained one brand new bus and had taken all buses made prior to 2002 out of service.

Golden said Nichols owner Charlie Nichols was also trying to replace the company’s fleet of vans. Golden said it was difficult to find vans that seated seven passengers, though these were most cost-effective than vans with smaller capacities.

“We need to allow him some time and leeway to get those replaced,” Golden said.

BOE Chairman Michael Vasquenza said all of Nichols’ vehicles had been thoroughly inspected in June, and Golden added that the buses and vans would be inspected again this weekend, before the start of school on Mon-

day.

As part of Nichols’ contract with the BOE, Golden said, the company had agreed to remove all vehicles older than 10 years old, though some of the vans were older than that.

“So he hasn’t complied with his contract?” BOE member Don Coolican asked. “The kids are riding in vans that are more than 12 years old?”

Golden explained that the vans were not usually included in this contract agreement. Assistant Superintendent of Schools Kevin Reich added that all the vans had been deemed roadworthy, and again explained that seven-seater vans were difficult to find.

“I understand that from March to now, that was a very difficult timeline,” Golden said, pointing out that Nichols had faced some challenges in the past few months, including a fire in their garage in March. But, Golden said, the company had made some improvements in safety in the past few months, including updating their filing system to keep track of safety violations.

“We’ll continue to be vigilant,” she said. “Charlie will continue to repair those vans. We will be ever watchful.”

Also at the meeting, Reich provided an update about the improvements to school facili-

ties that had been made over the summer. A full presentation about all the facilities updates was on the meeting’s agenda, but Golden explained that it had been pushed back to a later meeting.

Reich thanked the schools’ custodians for all their work over the summer to ready the schools for the upcoming year. New carpets had been installed in the high school library, Reich said, and the school’s gymnasium had been freshly painted and the floor restored. Other changes at the school included new surfaces and other safety updates at the elementary schools’ playgrounds.

“We went above and beyond to make sure everything was safe,” Reich said.

The middle school’s network had been updated to provide wireless Internet access throughout the school, and Reich said the high school could also have a wireless network as soon as next year. In addition, he said, every computer in the middle school had been replaced.

“We’re looking forward to continuing to improve what we have and provide students and staff with the best environment possible,” Reich said.

In other business at the meeting, the BOE voted to approve the senior class trip to Wash-

ington, DC, in October, an annual tradition for graduating classes from the high school. The BOE also accepted a \$31,250 grant from the state Department of Education, to be used for a mental health program at Memorial Elementary School. The program, Golden explained, would identify at-risk first-grade children who might benefit from a program that addresses emotional and behavioral difficulties they are having.

At the beginning of the meeting, Vasquenza noted that he was looking forward to the start of a new school year, which would give students, teachers and administration a fresh start.

East Hampton had a difficult summer, he said, with the town embroiled in an ongoing political controversy regarding the town manager’s laying off of the town police chief. In addition, two middle school teachers, Robert Hodgson and Robert Surdel, had recently died.

Golden praised middle school Principal John Fidler for helping his staff cope with the two losses. “We’re all part of a district family,” she said.

The next BOE meeting will be held on Monday, Sept. 13, at 7 p.m. in the high school library.



# Colchester Police Department Welcomes Two New Officers

by Katy Nally

The Police Commission swore in two new officers to the town’s force at its Monday, Aug. 23, meeting.

The commission also discussed short- and long-term plans for the police department and recognized Officer Tim Edwards’ achievement. A five-board meeting between the Police Commission, the Police Retirement Board and the boards of selectmen and finance, is scheduled for the end of September or early October, Police Commission Chairman Glenn Morron said.

Jonathan Goss, 25, of Lyme, and Craig Scheel, 22, of East Lyme, are the two new officers who will join the Colchester force. Both will enter the police academy for six months, beginning today, Friday, Aug. 27. After that, the two will begin 15 weeks of field training with another Colchester officer, Morron said.

Goss and Scheel were two of 40 people who showed up for the agility test held in May. Twenty-seven individuals passed that test and progressed to a formal interview. Morron said 11 from that group moved forward and came before the Police Commission. The top five were chosen and subjected to psychological and physical tests, as well as a polygraph and a background check.

“They both went through with flying colors,” Morron said, adding it’s rare a police department will receive its top two choices when it comes to prospective officers.

“We’re pretty happy to get them on board,” he said.

Both Goss and Scheel were chosen not only because they passed all the tests presented to them, but because they “fit the mold of Colchester,” Morron said.

The two officers will join the seven that are currently part of the Colchester Police Department. Morron said the commission is also seeking one certified officer, which would bring the total up to 10 on the town force.

An agility test for certified officers was held

Aug. 3, and two of the three officers who participated, passed, Morron said. Those two later passed a written test, and interviews for both officers are being scheduled.

The three openings on the town force came about when three officers resigned earlier this summer. Because they resigned, their positions had already been budgeted for, Morron said. In the meantime, to help with staffing issues, one of two resident state troopers, whose position was slated to be cut for the current fiscal year, was reinstated on a six-month contract. Morron said that contract would probably be extended for another six months, until the two new officers can join Colchester.

Morron said the commission would most likely forgo purchasing a police cruiser, and use the savings to “offset the shortage of manpower.”

“The commission is trying to do everything in can to make this work,” Morron added. Since of the shortage of officers, Morron said there had been concerns about keeping the position of the school resource officer, stationed at Bacon Academy, as the police department’s “main priority is to patrol the town.” It was decided the school resource officer position would continue for the upcoming school year, provided there are no future losses in police staffing.

Officer Rob Suchecki, who was the school resource officer last year, might continue to keep the title, unless he becomes a sergeant, Morron said.

“He did a tremendous job last year; he was very successful,” Morron added. On June 28 the commission announced it would initiate a sergeant’s exam for its eligible officers.

Morron said Tuesday three officers plan on taking the exam, and if they pass, one will become a sergeant on the Colchester force. The position would provide “more money and more



**Two new police officers, Jonathan Goss, far right, and Craig Scheel, were sworn in Monday night by First Selectman Gregg Schuster and the Police Commission. The Commission members pictured from left to right are John Jones, Glenn Morron and Don Philips.**

responsibility,” Morron said, though he wasn’t sure what the exact pay increase would be. And for next year, “if all goes well, and I have no doubt that it will, we’d like to get another one in the next fiscal year,” Morron said.

\* \* \*

Also at Monday’s meeting, the Police Commission honored Edwards for an incident that took place nearly four years ago.

In October 2006, while on patrol, Edwards observed three individuals in a commuter parking lot who were “acting really strange,” Morron said. When Edwards approached the suspects, he realized he was outnumbered, but he was “still able to keep a handle on things,” Morron said.

Then, when one fled into the woods, he chased after him for 150 yards. And even after

the man pulled out a switchblade knife, Edwards was still able to apprehend the suspect, Morron said.

The three individuals were later found to be in possession of \$5,430 cash and a large quantity of narcotics.

Although the incident happened in 2006, Morron said the commission redid its award policy in 2008, and then it was tied up with other issues, so Edward’s recognition was just “recently picked back up.”

“It’s too bad it took so long to do it, but we still felt he deserved the recognition,” Morron said.

Regularly scheduled Police Commission meetings are held on the fourth Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m., at Town Hall. The next meeting will be Sept. 27.

## Engel Says ‘Silent Majority’ in East Hampton Supports Reimondo Removal

by Claire Michalewicz

Two months after Police Chief Matt Reimondo was laid off, some of the residents who support the Town Council and town manager’s actions – who Town Council Chairwoman Melissa Engel calls “the silent majority” – are starting to speak out.

Since Town Manager Jeff O’Keefe removed Reimondo from his job on June 22, most of the residents who have spoken publicly have denounced O’Keefe’s decision and the Town Council’s support for him. But Town Council members say they have supporters, many of whom are afraid of speaking in support of the town’s actions for fear of retaliation from the police department.

On Aug. 17, the day after the Town Council voted to delay action on changing the ordinance, Engel sent out an e-mail to several dozen East Hampton residents, urging those who support O’Keefe and the Council to speak out.

“I wish I were inviting you to a wedding... but [this] is far more important than that!” Engel wrote. In the e-mail, she explained that the council had spent the past several meetings “looking out at a sea of angry faces that I do not believe represent the majority of our thoughtful residents.”

Engel said she sent the e-mail out to her personal e-mail list of family members and close friends – people she knew supported her.

“It wasn’t like I sent it to strangers,” Engel said this week, explaining that she hoped her supporters started speaking out at meetings. She said it was frustrating for the council to know that while they might have supporters in the town, they were not speaking out.

“I still maintain that those 125 people do not represent the 12,500 in town,” Engel said. Many of those who were speaking out, she added, were Reimondo’s friends.

Barbara Suprono said she knows Reimondo has more than 125 supporters. Suprono has been circulating a petition demanding Reimondo’s reinstatement and O’Keefe’s resignation, and collected over 300 signatures so far – three times

more than Engel was expecting, she said. In addition, she said, other town residents had additional own copies of the petition, which she was expecting them to return to her this week.

But council member Barbara Moore echoed Engel’s concerns, saying that there are more people in town whose voices aren’t being heard.

“At first, I was pretty upset sitting at the table hearing people yelling at us,” Moore said. Moore said she wondered why so few people spoke in favor of the cuts to the police department, but now she understood that most of those who did support the council were afraid of saying anything.

Engel pointed out that two years ago, when the town addressed a series of complaints filed against police officers, many people avoided speaking out for fear of retaliation from police. Now, she said, residents were worried about the same thing.

Engel said she trusted that “the majority” of the town’s police department would not single residents out.

East Hampton Police Acting Lieutenant Michael Green said he’d heard that residents were afraid of retaliation. “It’s a commonly-held belief that people have,” he said, but offered assurances that no police officer would target residents for political reasons.

“There’s none of that feeling going around that I’ve perceived,” Green said. “We’re certainly not going to exploit political issues. Not among our guys.”

Reimondo called the fears of retaliation “absurd.” East Hampton police officers are professionals, Reimondo said, and there had never been any signs of retaliation from the department. Reimondo said that if residents had any concerns about retaliation from officers, they should bring it forward.

Engel said that while the media was focusing on the public outcry about Reimondo’s removal, residents were approaching her and telling her they agreed with the decision to downsize the police department. These support-

ers have been telling her not to back down, she said.

“They want to save \$400,000 this year,” Engel said. “They think the police department is too big.”

“It’s a difficult thing to stand up and be in vocal opposition to a member of the police department,” Engel said. By sending the e-mail, she hoped more people would start attending meetings.

Moore agreed, explaining that she had sent a letter to some of her supporters to encourage them to attend the Aug. 31 hearing about the police department ordinance, which has since been canceled.

“I must speak to about 10 people daily about it, and there are supporters out there,” Moore said.

Some of these supporters said the police department had grown too large and needed to be trimmed to save money.

“I always liked Matt Reimondo,” said Mark Philhower. But, he said, he supported the town manager and Town Council’s decision.

“I feel that the department had gone way overboard,” Philhower said. “I truly believe it was budgetary.”

Sue Weintraub, the only Town Council member to speak out against Reimondo’s layoff, has consistently pushed to have Reimondo reinstated and O’Keefe placed on administrative leave. She said that from her perspective, public opinion has always been on Reimondo’s side.

Weintraub said she believes the majority of the town has “stopped listening to the out-of-control spin” from the Town Council defending O’Keefe’s action. The other Town Council members, she said, “absolutely do not have the support of the majority.”

Reimondo himself agreed. When asked if he thought the majority of residents supported him, he responded, “You’ve been to all the public meetings. You’ve seen the support.”

Weintraub said she receives phone calls and

e-mails supporting her on a daily basis, and in reviewing the comments she’s seen online about the case, she said a majority of commenters oppose the town council’s actions. Many of the residents that contact her, she said, have been apologizing for not voting for her and asking what they can do to help her.

“The good people of East Hampton won’t come out and condone sexual harassment,” Weintraub said. She said that while some residents might feel loyalty to the Town Council, she didn’t believe that they supported what she called their “unethical, immoral” actions.

In terms of public opinion, Weintraub said, the town of East Hampton had reached a tipping point. An article published in *The Hartford Courant* on Sunday laid out a series of e-mails between O’Keefe, Town Council members and others in town, and showed that O’Keefe did not correspond with anyone about making cuts to the police department until after he learned of the harassment allegations against him in late April.

“This is not political,” Weintraub said. “This is not about politics. The line has been drawn and you’re either in or you’re out.”

Richard Kochuk acknowledged that while there might have been tension between O’Keefe and Reimondo, “that’s between the two of them.” Kochuk said he believed that the layoff was done only for budget reasons.

His wife, Dawn, emphasized the financial savings of the police department cuts. “We can’t afford the taxes,” she said. “I think the Town Council are trying to do something to help.”

Kochuk said she planned to attend the next Town Council meeting to offer her support to the council.

“Some people are afraid,” she said. “That’s the way the small town works.”

Engel said she hoped some of her other supporters would also start attending meetings.

“Government is for the people,” she said. “We know we have all this silent support.”



# East Hampton School Board Talks About Bus Safety

by Claire Michalewicz

The Board of Education (BOE) revisited the issue of bus safety at its meeting Monday night, the first regularly scheduled school board meeting since June.

Nichols, which serves students in Portland, East Hampton and other nearby towns, came under scrutiny in March, when a *Hartford Courant* article highlighted the poor safety records of many Connecticut bus companies. Nichols' record was the third worst in the state.

Nichols Bus Services has since taken steps to improve its safety standards, Superintendent of Schools Judith Golden said. The company had obtained one brand new bus and had taken all buses made prior to 2002 out of service.

Golden said Nichols owner Charlie Nichols was also trying to replace the company's fleet of vans. Golden said it was difficult to find vans that seated seven passengers, though these were most cost-effective than vans with smaller capacities.

"We need to allow him some time and leeway to get those replaced," Golden said.

BOE Chairman Michael Vasquezna said all of Nichols' vehicles had been thoroughly inspected in June, and Golden added that the buses and vans would be inspected again this weekend, before the start of school on Mon-

day.

As part of Nichols' contract with the BOE, Golden said, the company had agreed to remove all vehicles older than 10 years old, though some of the vans were older than that.

"So he hasn't complied with his contract?" BOE member Don Coolican asked. "The kids are riding in vans that are more than 12 years old?"

Golden explained that the vans were not usually included in this contract agreement. Assistant Superintendent of Schools Kevin Reich added that all the vans had been deemed roadworthy, and again explained that seven-seater vans were difficult to find.

"I understand that from March to now, that was a very difficult timeline," Golden said, pointing out that Nichols had faced some challenges in the past few months, including a fire in their garage in March. But, Golden said, the company had made some improvements in safety in the past few months, including updating their filing system to keep track of safety violations.

"We'll continue to be vigilant," she said. "Charlie will continue to repair those vans. We will be ever watchful."

Also at the meeting, Reich provided an update about the improvements to school facili-

ties that had been made over the summer. A full presentation about all the facilities updates was on the meeting's agenda, but Golden explained that it had been pushed back to a later meeting.

Reich thanked the schools' custodians for all their work over the summer to ready the schools for the upcoming year. New carpets had been installed in the high school library, Reich said, and the school's gymnasium had been freshly painted and the floor restored. Other changes at the school included new surfaces and other safety updates at the elementary schools' playgrounds.

"We went above and beyond to make sure everything was safe," Reich said.

The middle school's network had been updated to provide wireless Internet access throughout the school, and Reich said the high school could also have a wireless network as soon as next year. In addition, he said, every computer in the middle school had been replaced.

"We're looking forward to continuing to improve what we have and provide students and staff with the best environment possible," Reich said.

In other business at the meeting, the BOE voted to approve the senior class trip to Wash-

ington, DC, in October, an annual tradition for graduating classes from the high school. The BOE also accepted a \$31,250 grant from the state Department of Education, to be used for a mental health program at Memorial Elementary School. The program, Golden explained, would identify at-risk first-grade children who might benefit from a program that addresses emotional and behavioral difficulties they are having.

At the beginning of the meeting, Vasquezna noted that he was looking forward to the start of a new school year, which would give students, teachers and administration a fresh start.

East Hampton had a difficult summer, he said, with the town embroiled in an ongoing political controversy regarding the town manager's laying off of the town police chief. In addition, two middle school teachers, Robert Hodgson and Robert Surdel, had recently died.

Golden praised middle school Principal John Fidler for helping his staff cope with the two losses. "We're all part of a district family," she said.

The next BOE meeting will be held on Monday, Sept. 13, at 7 p.m. in the high school library.

# East Hampton Students, Teachers Prepare for New Year

by Claire Michalewicz

This week, East Hampton's schools were filled with teachers decorating their classrooms and students trying to find their way around new schools – all in preparation for the first day of school next week. Classes start at all four of East Hampton's schools on Monday, Aug. 30.

For the most part, teachers and administrators say they're focused on continuing with the work they've been doing in previous years, but that doesn't mean there won't be any changes. Three of the district's schools have new assistant principals this year – Don Gates at the high school, Nancy Briere at the middle school and Maryssa Edele at Memorial.

Edele, who started with the district in July, said she loves her job so far, as she and Fitzsimmons have spent the past few weeks getting ready for the start of school. This year, Edele said, Memorial has a new theme, "We Shine."

"Everybody's really looking forward to it," she said with a smile.

On Monday, Fitzsimmons and Edele hosted an orientation program for incoming kindergarten students, in which students met their teachers and took their first school bus ride around town. Some of the children said they were excited about starting school next week – Shea Thibodeau said she was happy about playing with other students, and Gregory Thomas said he was excited about the big playground at the school.

A new district-wide initiative is Positive Behavior Intervention and Support, which focuses on being proactive and rewarding positive behaviors, Fitzsimmons explained. The program was especially important at the elementary level, Fitzsimmons said, because teachers and administrators could identify and work to change any problematic behaviors.

"It's all going on a positive slant," Fitzsimmons said. She said that at the elementary level, teachers would focus on making sure students behaved during naptime and recess, and the rewards for good behavior would in-

volve things like stickers.

Fitzsimmons said she liked working with elementary school students because they're "a true community." The students show a level of empathy that adults frequently don't, she said, and the parents are often just as excited or as apprehensive as their children.

At the middle school on Monday, incoming sixth-graders were also getting their bearings in a new school, finding classrooms, opening their lockers and joining fellow students for ice cream.

Rich Storrs, a social studies teacher and Student Council advisor, greeted new students and sent them around the school with older students volunteering as tour guides. Storrs said he looks forward to each school year because he knows it will be different from the previous one.

"It's never the same," he said, explaining that each group of students brings fresh ideas both to their classes and to the school community. "I like the variety."

Storrs said he was already planning some fundraisers and events for the Student Council, but said he wanted to wait to hear what kind of ideas the students brought. This year, he said, the Student Council's focus would be on helping people both in East Hampton and elsewhere.

"In light of the economy, there are so many people and so many organizations that need help," Storrs said.

This summer has presented some challenges for the middle school, including the deaths of two faculty members – social studies teacher Robert Hodgson and world languages teacher Robert Surdel. Principal John Fidler said he would work with his staff and students to help them cope with the losses, but tried to focus on the positive as he prepared for next week.

"We always look forward to a new school year," Fidler said. "Every year it's a fresh start."

Fidler said that while there won't be any major curriculum changes this year at the school, teachers would continue their focus on reading and math skills, and work to provide extra help to students who might be struggling.



**Shea Thibodeau and Gregory Thomas, shown at left, are all smiles at Memorial School's kindergarten orientation this week. At right, Adam Paquette checks his new locker combination during East Hampton Middle School's orientation.**



EHMS has seen large improvements in Connecticut Mastery Test scores in the past few years, Fidler said, and his main goal for the upcoming year was to continue improving. The teachers, he said, have been working "incredibly hard."

"There's not a lot of change, but we'll try to continue with what we're doing," Fidler said.

There have also been improvements to school facilities throughout the district. As Assistant Superintendent of Schools Kevin Reich explained at a Board of Education meeting this week, the changes include playground upgrades

at the two elementary schools, new computers and a wireless network at the middle school, and fresh paint and a new floor in the high school gymnasium.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Judith Golden said that while there were a few new programs and new faces in the schools this year, the main focus is on carrying on the work the teachers are already doing. The district, Golden said, had made progress in the past few years, and teachers were continuing to look at new teaching strategies to help students succeed.

"We're just continuing our work and making it better every year," Golden said.



Obituaries

East Hampton

Thomas J. Close Sr.

Thomas J. Close Sr., 49, of Westbrook and formerly of East Hampton, passed away suddenly Thursday, July 1. He was the son of the late George and Bernice (Brennan) Close.

Tom was employed with local Carpenter Union 24. Tom was known for his hard work and dedication to always getting the job done the right way. Tom and his “silly dancing,” always singing in stores will be missed greatly by his children, family and friends. Thomas is survived by his brother, Mark Hobson of Ivoryton, sister Claudia Craft of MS, brother Brian Close and his wife Colleen of MA, and his sister Carolyn (Rose) Jackson and her husband Donald, and niece Alexandra, all of Guilford. He is also survived by his niece Jessica Drudi and grandniece Isabella of Florida.

The loves of Thomas’s life were his three children, Megan, 14, Riley, 11, and Thomas Jr., 10, of East Hampton. The children have fond memories of playing on the beach with their dad, watching the Celtics play and eating many bowls of ice cream together.

Tom has left behind many special people who cared for him deeply, who will miss him as he continues on his journey, including Susan, aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

Tom is predeceased by his brother-in-law William Rose.

Family and friends visited the Swan Funeral Home, 80E Main St., Clinton, Thursday, July 8, followed by a service.

Visit [www.swanfh.com](http://www.swanfh.com) for tributes and condolences.

Andover

Donat A. St. Pierre

Donat A. St. Pierre, 84, of Hartford, formerly of Andover, the loving husband of the late Muriel (Leonard) St. Pierre, passed away Wednesday, Aug. 18, at Hartford Hospital. Born in Berlin, NH, to the late Irene and Albina (Dumont) St. Pierre, Donat lived most of his life in Hartford.

A veteran of the U.S. Army during World War II, Donat worked as a carpenter for his family’s business, St. Pierre Builders. He enjoyed fishing and spending many happy summers with his family and friends at his home on Andover Lake in Andover.

Donat leaves his beloved children; his sons, Gerald St. Pierre and his wife Linda of Hartford, Russell St. Pierre and his wife Cheryl of Bolton, Ronald Hunsinger and his wife Carol of Newington, and his daughter Carla Damour and her husband Brian of Andover; his brother, Pete St. Pierre and his wife Joan of Simsbury; his sisters, Yvette Charron of Enfield, Luciena Arsenault of E. Hartford, Lorraine Brodeur and her husband Gus of Granby, Doris Cadorette of Springfield, MO; 11 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. In addition to his beloved wife Muriel, Donat was predeceased by his siblings Munn, Rodger, Gus, Robert, and Pauleen St. Pierre.

Donat’s funeral service was held Monday, Aug. 23, beginning at the Newington Memorial Funeral Home, 20 Bonair Ave. Newington, CT 06111, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at St. Lawrence O’Toole Church in Hartford. Burial took place immediately following the Mass at Rose Hill Memorial Park in Rocky Hill. Relatives and friends called Sunday, Aug. 22, at Newington Memorial.

Memorial donations may be made to the American Cancer Society, 825 Brook St., I-95 Tech Center, Rocky Hill, CT 06067.

To share a memory with his family, visit [www.newingtonmemorial.com](http://www.newingtonmemorial.com).

East Hampton

Mary Ann Lambert

Mary Ann Lambert, 46, of East Hampton, passed gracefully Aug. 18 in the presence of her loving family, after losing her fight with lung cancer. Mary Ann was a trustworthy friend, a caring mother and her husband Marc’s best friend and companion. Her strength and compassion for others will remain a source of inspiration for all who knew her for the rest of their lives.

Born Oct. 12, 1963, in New Haven, she was the daughter of Ann Marie (Duggan) Giordano and the late Frank Giordano. She was a 1981 graduate of Amity Regional High School, a 1985 graduate of UConn and had received her CPA. Mary Ann had worked as an accountant for Deloitte Touche, Aetna, Middlesex County Community Foundation and most recently Structural Graphics. She was a communicant of St. Patrick Church in East Hampton.

Mary Ann loved being outdoors whether it was at the beach, near a pool, walking the quiet streets near her home or simply doing work in the yard. Memories of her will be filled with thoughts of her smile, her laughter and her desire to have fun. She was intensely devoted to her children and spent countless hours volunteering to assist in their childhood activities. She volunteered to help for school functions, cub scouts and her daughter’s many theatrical plays in town. In addition, she shared her love of God through the teaching of religious education.

Mary Ann is survived by her loving husband Marc Lambert of East Hampton, her mother Ann Marie Giordano of Middletown, her sons Jason and William and daughter Elizabeth all living at home in East Hampton, four brothers Frank Giordano of Durham, William Giordano of North Haven, Michael Giordano of Andover MA, and David Giordano of Clearwater Beach, FL, and Linda Borruso of Hamden, who was like a sister to Mary Ann.

The funeral procession left Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, on Monday, Aug. 23, followed by the funeral liturgy in St. Patrick Church. Burial followed in St. Patrick Cemetery, East Hampton. Friends called at the Spencer Funeral Home Sunday, Aug. 22.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, 538 Preston Ave., P.O. Box 1004, Meriden, CT 06450. To leave online condolences, visit [www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com](http://www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com).



East Hampton

Kevin R. Naughton

Kevin R. Naughton, 24, of East Hampton, beloved son of Robert and Cynthia (Shail) Naughton of East Hampton, died tragically Saturday, Aug. 21, due to injuries sustained in a motorcycle accident.

Born July 18, 1986 in Middletown, Kevin was a lifelong resident of East Hampton and was a 2005 graduate of Vinal Tech in Middletown. Kevin was employed as a landscaper with the Down To Earth Works landscaping company. He was a sports fanatic and loved the Red Sox, and the Flyers, as well as NASCAR.

Besides his parents, he is survived by his paternal grandfather, William J. Naughton Sr. of East Hampton; his maternal grandmother and her husband, Phyllis and John Kruger of Haddam Neck; and his maternal grandfather, Arthur Shail of Middletown; his two sisters, Katy and Kelly Naughton, both of East Hampton; his nephew Adrian Jeffers and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.

He was predeceased by his paternal grandmother, Jean Naughton, and his uncle, James K. Naughton.

Friends may call at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, today, Aug. 27, from 6-9 p.m. Funeral services will be private at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Kevin’s memory may be made to Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, 20 Batterson Park Rd. Third Floor, Farmington, CT 06032 or American Diabetes Assoc., 1701 North Beauregard St., Alexandria, VA 22311.

To leave online condolences, visit [www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com](http://www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com).

Obituary Policy

**Rivereast will publish obituaries free of charge if the deceased person is a resident or former resident of any of the towns we circulate in.**  
**Charges apply for obituaries of persons who were not residents. Contact the advertising director at (860) 633-4691 for rates.**

East Hampton

John L. Mock

John L. “Jack” Mock, 70, of East Hampton, beloved husband of Lorrie (Garner) Mock, died Friday, Aug. 20 at Hartford Hospital. Born Aug. 28, 1939 in Lake Trobe, PA, he was the son of the late Cecil and Ruth (Robson) Mock.

Jack had lived in Middletown before moving to East Hampton more than 23 years ago. Jack had a passion for fishing and was a member of the Bass Master’s. He was a retired auto body mechanic and had worked at several local shops, most recently, Caulkins Auto. Jack had honorably served his country in the U.S. Navy.

Besides his wife Lorrie, he is survived by his sons, Michael Vingris of Middletown, and Christian Mock of Colchester; a daughter, Jacqueline Etheridge and her husband Donn of Portland; a daughter-in-law, Dee Vingris of Middletown; two brothers, Thomas Mock and his wife Joni of Pennsylvania, and James Mock and his wife Linda of Texas; a sister, Joyce Lewis of Pennsylvania; six grandchildren, Megan, Matthew, Alex, Abigail, Logan and Andrew.

He was predeceased by a son, Roger Vingris. Friends called at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, on Wednesday, Aug. 25. Funeral services were held Thursday, Aug. 26 in the Spencer Funeral Home with the Rev. Thomas Kennedy officiating. Burial will be private at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Hartford Hospital Cardiac Unit, 80 Seymour St., Hartford, CT 06102.

To leave online condolences, visit [www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com](http://www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com).

Colchester Police News

8/17: Jesse Tarr, 19, of 163 Lake Rd., Andover, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of a controlled substance and labeling of package or container of a controlled substance, Colchester Police said.

8/17: Anthony Brennan, 59, of 3 Carolina Dr., Oakdale, was charged with third-degree assault, disorderly conduct and interfering with emergency calls, State Police said.

8/20: Michael Tancredi, 34, of 32 David Dr., was charged with third-degree assault and breach of peace, Colchester Police said.

8/22: Roommates Valerie Marco, 32, and Kerry Shorey, 48, both of 55 Gill St., were both charged with third-degree assault and disorderly conduct, State Police said.

Marlborough Police News

8/18: Leona Bilodeau, 44, of 137 South Main St., 6, was charged with disorderly conduct and interfering with an officer, State Police said.

8/18: A burglary at a residence on Stage Harbor Road was reported at about 2 p.m., State Police said. The front door was pried open and damaged, and a 40-inch Sony Bravia television was stolen. Anyone with more information about the incident is asked to contact Trooper Randy Ransom at 860-537-7500.

East Hampton Police News

8/11: Barry W. Andross, 66, of 10 Fairlawn Ave., was arrested for driving while intoxicated, evading responsibility, traveling unreasonably close, failure to drive on the right, second-degree breach of peace and second-degree reckless endangerment, East Hampton Police said.

8/12: James Edward Paholsky, 30, of 38 Lakewood Rd., was arrested for traveling too fast for conditions, failure to drive right, evading responsibility, possession of marijuana, possession of cocaine and possession of drug paraphernalia, police said.

8/15: Stephen Nardi, 47, of 172 Ridge Rd., Glastonbury, was arrested for failure to drive right and DUI, police said.

8/16: Wesley Zaino, 21, of 136 Lake Dr., was arrested for second-degree failure to appear, police said.

8/22: Several items and \$950 in cash were stolen from an unlocked vehicle on Waterhole Road, State Police said.

Portland Police News

8/17: Janet Dow, 33, of 45 Chatham Ct., was charged with fifth-degree larceny, Portland Police said.

8/18: Thomas Debari, 41, of 127 Pepperidge Rd., was charged with failure to respond to an infraction, police said.

Salem

Ruth Fuller

Ruth Fuller, 99, wife of the late Raymond C. Fuller of Salem, passed away Sunday, Aug. 22, in Old Saybrook. She was born March 29, 1911, in Bloomfield, daughter of George and Marie Strobel Sellew.

Ruth worked for many years as a telephone operator for the Connecticut Mutual Insurance. She was a member of Salem Seniors and Salem Congregational Church.

Surviving is her son and daughter-in-law, William and Soham Fuller of Kentucky and her devoted and dear friend Debbie.

She was predeceased by two brothers, Russell and Raymond Sellew, and a sister, Helen Hart. Visitation was held Wednesday evening, Aug. 25, at the Belmont/Sabrowski Funeral Home, 144 South Main St., Colchester, followed by a service. Burial will be private in Salem Green cemetery.



# Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

It happens every year at about this same time. No, not the Hebron Fair; that’s still a couple weeks off. I’m talking about the first day of school.

This is the *Rivereast*’s annual back-to-school issue, where you’ll find a smorgasbord of school-related information, including bus routes, “welcome back”-style notes from school superintendents, school schedules and much more. You’ll also find stories about the upcoming school year in each of the six *Rivereast* towns.

With all this back-to-school info that’s been coming my way these past couple of weeks, it’s been difficult not to think back to what it was like when I was young, getting ready to go back. While reading the bus schedules doesn’t bring back many memories for me – up until high school, I walked to school each day – other pieces included in this back-to-school issue do, such as the school schedule (I’d forgotten just how early the school day starts!), lunch information (if only I could get a full lunch for \$2.50) and even the talk about open houses (for an elementary school student, this was a rite of early fall; waiting for mom and/or dad to get home – even if entails staying up a wee bit past your bedtime – to find out just what your teacher is saying about you).

To students and parents alike, best wishes for a successful and enjoyable 2010-11 school year.

\* \* \*

While we’re on the subject of late summer/early fall traditions, I saw the Red Sox put in a waiver claim on Johnny Damon this week, no doubt hoping he would help lead them to the postseason. The move smelled a little bit like desperation on Boston’s part; the Yankees and Rays continue to battle it out atop the American League East, and the Red Sox continue to sit on the outside, looking in.

Or should I say, looking up. As I write this Tuesday, they’re in third place, five and a half games behind Tampa Bay and an even six behind the Yankees. Those aren’t insurmountable numbers, even for late August, but the injury bug has not been kind to Boston this year;

Kevin Youkilis, Mike Cameron and Jacoby Ellsbury are done for the season, and Dustin Pedroia is back on the DL again with the same broken-bone-in-the-foot problem that kept him out for nearly two months.

Perhaps the Red Sox were hoping Damon would give them that push they need at this point if they’re going to make the postseason. His numbers aren’t that great this year (as of Tuesday, he’s batting .272 with seven home runs and 41 runs batted in), but I’m sure the Boston brass were thinking about that magical 2004, when Damon helped lead them to their first championship in 86 years. He hit .304 that year, slugged 20 homers and drove in 94. Plus, he was seen as one of the leaders of that merry band of idiots, and the fans loved him. Personally, I don’t think he’d recapture that kind of success, and I’m not sure fans would accept him either. As much as they loved him in 2004, many Boston fans seemed to hate him even more when Damon bolted for the Yankees after the 2005 season. Had it been for any other team, things might’ve been different, but this was the Yankees, the Red Sox’ sworn enemy. Boston fans felt stabbed in the back, and piled on the hate. Even though he escaped the Evil Empire after last season, I’m sure plenty of Red Sox fans still have a sour taste in their mouths, and they might not have welcome him back, even when reminded of that 2004 magic.

As it turns out, we’ll never know if I’d have been right or not. Damon still needed to approve the trade to Boston, and Tuesday he nixed it, opting to stay in Detroit, saying, “The guys really like me here.” He also, optimistically, said he hasn’t given up on the Tigers’ season yet either (although it looks pretty bleak, since, as of Tuesday, they’re 63-63, in third place in their division and nine games behind the first-place Twins).

Ultimately, I think it’s a good thing Damon’s staying put. I just don’t think it would’ve worked well, for the Red Sox or for Damon. It’s not 2004 anymore.

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See you next week.