

RIVEREAST

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Donating for Dog Operation...Resident Cassandra Hamilton recently held a tag sale to raise money for her service dog, Joy, who recently injured her knee, requiring surgery. Newfoundlands named Venus and Owen stopped by the sale to lend a paw. They're shown here visiting with Mary Lonergan, who works at the Marlborough Senior Center.

Residents Weigh In On Green Suspension

by Joshua Anusewicz

At the advice of the town's legal counsel, a special meeting of the Town Council to discuss the suspension of Sgt. Michael Green that was scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 12, was postponed until the completion of internal investigations into Green. However, at the recommendation of Chairwoman Melissa Engel, residents aired their opinions on the situation during the public comment section of Tuesday's regular Town Council meeting.

Green has been on paid administrative leave since July 27 because of the internal investigations into three separate incidents involving him that occurred last year. A draft report from the investigation, which was performed by Attorney Eric Daigle of Southington, outlines the three incidents where Green allegedly did not perform his duties as a supervisor of the department.

The draft report was sent to members of the Town Council, who planned to discuss the matters with Green in executive session; Green, however, requested the issue be discussed in public session at the Tuesday, Sept. 27, Town Council meeting.

At the Sept. 27 meeting, before the council discussed the matter in-depth, Lisa Lazarek, who was acting as the town's labor attorney, and Police Chief Matthew Reimondo advised the council not to discuss the matter, informing them that the report was just a draft and there were several inaccuracies. Lazarek also pointed out that discussing the matter could have a negative impact on Green's employment if the details were made public.

The council complied with the request, instead scheduling a special meeting for Wednesday, which legal counsel also re-

quested be postponed this week. Engel said Tuesday that the problem is not that they "can't" discuss the matter, but rather that they "shouldn't" discuss the matter.

Several residents did take Tuesday's meeting as an opportunity to share their opinion on Green's suspension, though, including Michael Salafia, the police union president, who made waves at the last Town Council meeting by sharing his support for Green.

Salafia presented the council with a petition from the police department in support of Green, which now has signatures from 10 of the 13 employees at the department. He said that the "men in the department" were hesitant to speak out against the suspension, which was levied by Reimondo. Salafia, who is also an East Hampton police officer, claimed that "threats and vendettas" had been made by Reimondo against some of the officers for supporting Green and speaking out against the way Reimondo ran the department.

"We're asking for your help," Salafia said to the council. "For so long, we were told we couldn't say anything. You need to look at the whole picture, and you'll see that things aren't right."

Resident Janice Cavanaugh also spoke in support of Green. She questioned the recent punishment of Sgt. Garritt Kelly, who received a 10-day suspension for sending inappropriate e-mails while at work. Cavanaugh said that residents – singling out members of the Chatham Party – had rallied against former Town Manager Jeffery O'Keefe for last year's firing of Reimondo, but nobody called for Kelly to be removed.

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Elementary School Welcomes Chinese Delegates

by Geeta Schrayter

On Oct. 12, Andover Elementary School held an assembly to welcome a ten member delegation from their sister school in China.

The principal, assistant principal, two teachers and six students arrived from their school, Lichen Hongjailou Primary, the day before and were greeted at the morning assembly with a chorus of "Ni Hao" from the students – "hello" in Chinese.

"This is really a thrill to have our visitors from China with us for the next two days" said Principal Dave Griffin.

Each faculty member was introduced and given a bouquet of flowers from a group of sixth grade presenters. After-

wards, the Chinese students' host families were asked to come forward and present a rose to the students they were hosting. Griffin explained the color of the rose – yellow – was selected for a particular reason.

"On behalf of the students and the staff," he announced "we'd like to present each one of the students with a yellow rose, which is significant of friendship and education and very appropriate for this visit."

As gifts from the sister school, Andover Elementary was given a plaque with the school names on it, a picture of a famous character from a Chinese opera, and a package of famous Chinese tea.

Superintendent of Schools Andrew

Maneggia also welcomed the delegation, expressing excitement and hope that their visit would be both enjoyable and educational.

"We've been anticipating your arrival," he said, "and we're happy you arrived here safely, and hope you have a wonderful week with us."

Classes in the first and fourth grade also welcomed the visitors with a series of presentations. The first graders presentations included a song about metamorphosis and sharing some of the highlights of October in New England.

The fourth-graders shared the importance of The Constitution with the visitors through

song, focusing on the preamble.

Shortly after its completion, the assembly came to a close.

During the day, the delegation shadowed classes, and took part in an after school routine with their host families that included activities like sport practice, kayaking, apple picking and pumpkin carving. On Thursday the group was scheduled to take a tour of the capital, enjoy lunch at Bushnell Park, a ride on the carousel and a "school bus tour" of Hartford.

The delegation's flight back to China was Friday afternoon.

Suspension cont. from Front Page

She insinuated that those same residents who had supported Reimondo now support Kelly, but not Green.

“There’s proof for Kelly, and there is no proof for Green,” Cavanaugh said. “And now this man’s life is destroyed.”

Cavanaugh also blamed Reimondo, who was not in attendance, for four council members’ – Engel, John Tuttle, Chris Goff and Thom Cordeiro – decisions not to run for re-election. “Reimondo has rid this town of good council members, and I’m scared for the future of East Hampton.”

The council has been at the center of the town’s controversy since O’Keefe and the council removed Reimondo last summer, citing “budgetary reasons.” Reimondo was reinstated to his position after residents and the group Take Back Our Town (TBOT) started a petition to push the decision to referendum in November, which ultimately got Reimondo his job back. During the time Reimondo was not working, Green ran the police department in a newly-added lieutenant position.

Over the past year, Reimondo filed a suit against O’Keefe, Engel, Tuttle and Green, believing that he was being targeted for looking into sexual harassment complaints against O’Keefe by three female town employees. This suit was ultimately settled and Reimondo was awarded \$275,000; the charges against Green were ultimately dropped, per the settlement agreement.

When asked this summer if the ordeal had any effect on their decision not to run for council again, only Tuttle admitted that it did.

“The political climate today in town has

brought us to a standstill,” Tuttle told the *Rivereast* in June. “Every task has become a struggle, every action arduous. Personal attacks on oneself and family are regular and deplorable.”

While some residents applauded the comments made by those in attendance who spoke in support of Green, those residents who supported Reimondo and the efforts of TBOT in the past did not speak out. One resident, Lori Weech, did say, however, that Cavanaugh was wrong in singling out the Chatham Party, stating it was “all residents” that had supported Reimondo being reinstated.

“You can stand up and say it was the Chatham Party, but this whole town took back our town,” said Weech. Cavanaugh retorted by saying that “a media campaign” had caused many people to sign the petition.

“They were not voting to support the chief; they were voting against the Town Council,” added Cavanaugh.

Council members did not discuss their opinions on Green’s suspension during the meeting, but Engel said that they would discuss the matter when the internal investigations are completed. The investigations, Engel said, are expected to be complete before the next Town Council meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 25.

The Oct. 25 Town Council meeting will be the last council meeting before the town’s municipal elections on Nov. 8. The only current council members who are running for re-election are Sue Weintraub, Barbara Moore and Chatham Carillo.

From the Editor’s Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

As I’ve written here before, I’m a Catholic. As area Catholics may have heard, recently the Vatican decided to make some changes to the liturgy – apparently to give a more literal translation of the original Latin than what we have now. The changes are going to take effect at the end of November, on the first Sunday of Advent.

The changes will alter what the priest says, as well as what the congregation says, during the Mass. A list of the alterations is available at old.usccb.org/romanmissal/samples-people.shtml. Many of the changes seem fairly meaningless – for example, the congregation’s familiar refrain of “And also with you” when the priest says “The Lord be with you” will be replaced by “And also with your spirit” – and even a little strange – the “Lord, I am not worthy to receive you” just before Communion will now be “Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof” – and I’m not really sure what they will add to the Mass.

Moreover, while the changes seem rather unnecessary, they also seem somewhat arrogant. There are many things I disagree with the Catholic Church about, and I am not alone. Many have clamored over the years for the Church to update its views on a host of issues, ranging from its stance on gay marriage to its baffling (and, yes, considering the dearth of priests these days it really is baffling) refusal to ordain women into the priesthood. And every time, the Church’s response has been a stubborn, “Nope; not gonna happen.”

But now the Church has agreed to make some changes – and these are them? I’m sure these alterations to the Mass will appeal to some people – Latin purists, for example (and there must be, oh, dozens of those out there) – but I can’t help but wonder how many folks will simply shake their heads, and wonder when, or if, the Catholic Church will ever really change.

* * *

A couple weeks ago in this space, I complained about Netflix’s idea to split into two entirely different companies: Netflix, for the streaming video offerings, and the insipidly-named Qwikster, for the DVDs-by-mail service. Public outcry against the move was loud, and it represented the latest black eye to a company that had been reeling since July, when it announced a dramatic price increase.

So, I was pleased this week when Netflix announced it had changed its mind; Qwikster was no more, and Netflix would continue to

offer the DVDs-by-mail under its own name. It still would offer separate packages for streaming video and DVDs-by-mail (you could combine the two; it would just cost you about 60 percent more than what you had been paying for your Netflix), but at least it all would be under one roof. And that dopey Qwikster name would vanish into the ether.

The Qwikster plan was incredibly ill-received, so abandoning it was a good move for Netflix. And the company issued a big apology, saying it had “greatly underestimated” the appeal of offering its services as one company. Netflix had listened to the fans, and all was right with the world.

Except part of me couldn’t help but wonder if this was Netflix’s plan all along.

Subscribers began fleeing in droves after the company announced its price hike over the summer. The company that had become everybody’s favorite way to rent movies was suddenly seen as the arrogant bully that had become too big for its britches. Netflix stock dropped like a stone. I highly doubt the company was in any real danger – it had helped to drive out all of the video stores; aside from Redbox, where would you rent movies if you didn’t have Netflix? – but it had clearly seen better days.

So perhaps Netflix thought it could come up with an idea guaranteed to annoy people: make folks go to two different websites, have two different accounts, pay two separate bills, in order to maintain their streaming and DVD services. (Netflix claimed it had no idea so many people would rather deal with one account instead of two; really, you had no idea? Do people ever say, “This is far too simple; let’s make it more complicated”?) Best of all, give the new company an embarrassingly stupid name.

Then, after people get good and angry, scrap the plan and say “Hey, look, subscribers! We’re listening to you! We’re not so bad!”

Did it happen this way? Did Netflix intentionally design the Qwikster plan to fail? We’ll almost certainly never know the answer. But if this was a diabolical scheme, hey, it worked. Netflix momentarily reversed the arrogance train it had been on for months, and was seen as the company who listened to its customers.

But get used to that 60 percent price hike; it ain’t going anywhere.

* * *

See you next week.

Marlborough Resident Named Glastonbury Teacher of the Year

by Chris Seymour

This past July, Christina Lower, a language arts resource teacher at Eastbury School in Glastonbury, got a call from the big boss – Glastonbury Superintendent of Schools Dr. Alan Bookman.

She was admittedly a little nervous.

“I was like, ‘Why is Dr. Bookman calling me on my cell phone?’” recalled Lower last week.

Fortunately, it was nothing but good news; Bookman was calling to tell Lower, a Marlborough resident, she had been selected as Glastonbury’s Teacher of the Year for 2011-12.

“When he told me, I was really shocked; it’s quite an honor,” said Lower.

Earlier in the year, Kathleen Lawlor, a fourth-grade teacher at Hopewell School (like Eastbury, another elementary school in Glastonbury), nominated Lower for the Teacher of the Year honor. Lower knew of the nomination, but confessed that after that time, “it kind of just went out of my head.

“There’s so many people in this district,” she added, “and I see what other teachers do and colleagues of mine have done, so I thought, ‘It’s nice to get nominated, I’ll take that and go home.’”

A veteran of Glastonbury schools since 1988, Lower spent the first 23 years of her career teaching various grades at Hopewell – with the last four years as a fifth-grade teacher.

This fall, though, Lower moved to Eastbury and began her new position as language arts resource teacher. “I thought, ‘They are going to bury me in the backyard at Hopewell, maybe I should try something new and different,’” she joked.

In her new role, Lower is collaborating with other teachers on lessons. “I will model some lessons and then they’ll do the lesson and we will talk about what we saw, what we can learn from each other, what we might do differently,” she explained. “That’s what I’m doing now. We are building a whole new literacy approach to teaching that Glastonbury has adopted, which is the Readers and Writers Workshop model.”

Lower has a bachelor’s degree in elementary education from Central Connecticut State University and a master’s in administration, also from CCSU. She is currently working on her sixth-year degree in supervision.

What does she think got her the Teacher of the Year honor? “I think it’s just that I’m friendly, I’m honest and I’m willing to support everybody, I consider myself still learning,” she explained. “Even here as a coach, I don’t have the answers for everything. But I’m willing to go try and find them or work together on [finding them].”

Lower said she has “loved every day” of her teaching career. “One of my goals is to take each child to their utmost ability,” she said. “I want to push them, I want to encourage them, I

want to work collaboratively with them.”

And like all teachers, Lower wants her students to feel good about themselves. “I want to make kids feel really confident in themselves and comfortable with who they are as long as they’re giving their best effort,” she added.

Lower also does her best to stay up-to-date on the latest educational issues.

“I try to stay abreast of new trends and issues in education, keep an open mind about that, try it, experiment with it in the classroom, see the results and work collaboratively with other people,” she said. “You can’t do it alone.”

Though she’s new at the school, Eastbury Principal Nancy Bean is already impressed.

“In a short time at Eastbury, Christina has engaged students in challenging lessons and has helped to establish a positive learning environment for all students,” Bean said. “Christina is a dynamic teacher leader.”

Lower said that, during her teaching career, she has received a lot of support from her family. She and her husband Thomas will celebrate 25 years of marriage next June. The Lowsers have two daughters: Kali, a freshman at RHAM High School, and Britta, a 2011 RHAM High School graduate, currently a freshman at Palm Beach Atlantic University in West Palm Beach, FL – who wants to follow in her mom’s footsteps and become a teacher.

Having conquered Glastonbury, Lower will now move on to the state Teacher of the Year



Christina Lower

competition. This week, a state winner will be announced, according to the Department of Education, and an awards ceremony at The Bushnell on Nov. 17 will honor each school district’s Teacher of the Year and the 2012 Connecticut Teacher of the Year.

Chris Seymour is a reporter for the *Rivereast’s* sister paper, *The Glastonbury Citizen*.

East Hampton Waives Fee for Disposing Leaves

by Joshua Anusewicz

At Tuesday's Town Council meeting, councilors voted 5-1 – with Thom Cordeiro opposed – to waive the fee residents are charged for the disposal of leaves.

The motion reversed a decision made at an April 26 Town Council meeting to raise certain fees at the transfer station, which came at the recommendation of Public Works Director Keith Hayden. Before the fee increases, the cost had remained the same for roughly 10 years, Hayden said in April, and that the revenue was not meeting the cost to dispose of the items.

In July, the council received a letter from resident Susan Lowe, who pointed out that the increases made the fees higher than those in towns like Glastonbury, Portland and Marlborough. Lowe focused particularly on leaves and brush in her letter, which were previously free, but were increased to \$10 per truckload.

"Charging \$10 per load for leaves when other towns charge nothing seems excessive," Lowe stated in the letter. In the letter, she attached a graph that showed Glastonbury, Portland and Marlborough all accept leaves at no charge, while Marlborough charges \$5 for brush, Glastonbury charges \$3-7 depending on the amount and Portland does not charge for brush disposal.

Lowe said Wednesday that the increases pose "a big problem" for her household, as she estimated the cost of disposing leaves from her yard at \$300. She said that, particularly in the wake of Tropical Storm Irene, there will be an increase in the disposal of leaves and brush.

At Tuesday's meeting, Town Council Chairwoman Melissa Engel – who felt in April that

the disposal of leaves and brush looked "a little expensive," agreed – calling the fee increase "ridiculous" and recommending the fees be waived "forever." While other councilors agreed that the fees could be waived, they did feel that looking into the issue and not using the other towns as comparisons would be the best course of action.

"It's hard to compare with other towns," said Vice Chairman John Tuttle, who said that each town has "different processes" they follow for their transfer station. Tuttle used Portland as an example, as they weigh bulky waste and charge by the ton.

Cordeiro agreed with waiving the fee, saying the town "provides so few services as it is." He did, however, say that the town should "analyze the situation more" before making the decision. Acting Interim Town Manager Anne McKinney agreed with Cordeiro, saying she had "only heard one complaint" about the fee increases.

Engel, however, pushed to have the fees for leaves and brush eliminated "forever," but amended the motion to eliminate the fees until a new Town Council came in after the Nov. 8 municipal elections.

Lowe said Wednesday she was pleased the council "did do something before leaf season kicks off." She also added that she felt the council was "totally unprepared" to discuss the issue at the meeting, and felt the councilors, for the most part, had been "unresponsive" to her request to discuss the letter she sent in July.

The council did not make any plans to further discuss the increases at the transfer station, which included a change from a \$10 life-

time permit sticker to \$10 annual fee. Hayden was not on hand at the meeting to discuss the fees. In April, Hayden had estimated that fee increases would decrease the amount that taxpayers are charged for the services at the transfer station. Hayden estimated that there were roughly 700 residents that used the transfer station, and that the cost per taxpayer was \$198 per user; with the fee increases, he estimated that the cost would be \$54 per user.

* * *

It was announced at Tuesday's meeting that the East Hampton Police Department had undergone a surprise inspection by Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). According to the agenda report, OSHA was responding to employee complaints made concerning the building's ventilation, air and water quality, and electrical problems.

The report states that after conducting tests for several hours, OSHA found no issues with the electrical and ventilation systems, and deemed all air and water levels within "normal ranges."

No violations or fines were imposed on the town, the report states.

Acting Interim Town Manager Anne McKinney said, however, that she recently went through the police department and "found some issues." She stated that she would start "taking action" on those issues, but did not say if those "issues" were related to the OSHA inspection.

This is the second instance in the past month where the working conditions at the police department were scrutinized; the first instance came in the 40-page report done by Attorney Eric Daigle during his internal investigation into

Sgt. Michael Green.

Daigle noted several problems while investigating Green, including the department's system for tracking cases, case management, supervising officers and housing prisoners. The council discussed several of these issues with Chief Matthew Reimondo at its Sept. 27 meeting, but no action was taken. It is expected that Daigle's report will be discussed at length when the internal investigations are completed.

* * *

Anne McKinney also took an opportunity during the meeting to update residents on the status of Interim Town Manager John Weichsel, who had a surgical procedure done two weeks ago.

McKinney said that she has spoken with Weichsel "almost every day" to stay updated on town affairs, and added that he is "improving." He is expected to be leaving the care center he is currently staying in by the end of the week, McKinney said.

Engel said she had spoken with Weichsel, who said that he was "very pleased" with the council's choice to appoint McKinney as acting interim town manager.

McKinney, the town's former probate judge, was appointed to the position during an executive session prior to the Sept. 27 council meeting. Weichsel had originally appointed the town's finance director, Jeff Jylkka, to the position when he announced he would be stepping aside, but Engel said that Weichsel would be recovering for "about three months" and that Jylkka would be busy working on the town budget and an upcoming town audit during this time.

Local Favorite to Celebrate 20th Anniversary in East Hampton

by Joshua Anusewicz

Looking back on two decades in East Hampton, the owners of Rossini's Italian Restaurant – Angelo, Mario and Luigi Simoni – are proud of how their family-owned eatery has become a staple in the community, serving great food with great service.

And looking at the three brothers, all donning Rossini's T-shirts under worn white aprons, you are able to see the hard work the family has put into the business that has been serving the town's hungriest for 20 years. But instead of asking for thanks, they are celebrating the anniversary by "giving back to the customers" that have supported them all these years.

This Saturday, Oct. 15, Rossini's will celebrate their platinum anniversary with special entrees, mini cannolis, and raffle tickets for gift baskets and gift certificates for every patron that day.

"It's our way of saying thanks to the customers," said Angelo Jr., one of the many family members who make Rossini's run. "We were welcomed with open arms. Without our customers, we wouldn't be here."

And if it weren't for a leisurely drive past Lake Pocotopaug, either, Rossini's might not be here. Mario recalled driving through East Hampton in the late '80s and falling in love with the small town and its lake. On a return trip, he saw that the property Rossini's sits on – formerly Wall's Dairy – was for sale and saw it as "a good opportunity."

At the time, the three brothers and their cousin, Antonio Rossini – whose last name gave birth to the restaurant's moniker – were helping run other restaurants in Colchester and Wallingford. They looked at the new property as an opportunity to combine their efforts into

one restaurant; and so, Rossini's was born.

From day one, the restaurant has been a family affair with wives and children all lending helping hands at some point. That family atmosphere has translated to its customers, who Angelo Sr. said will come from "over an hour away" just to grab a couple slices of Rossini's pizza.

What keeps people coming back? "It's good food, reasonable prices and big portions," Angelo Sr. said. Whether it's the pizza, pasta dishes or seafood that people liked the most doesn't matter; as long as they enjoyed the experience. "And there is always leftovers," he added, promising that the experience doesn't end when you leave the table.

But aside from serving food, Rossini's has been an integral part of the community over the past 20 years. It has sponsored local Little League baseball teams, donated to local charities and, last year, when a waitress' son was diagnosed with leukemia, the restaurant held a benefit for him, sharing proceeds from one day to help cover the medical expenses.

Recently, Rossini's was one of the only businesses in town open during Tropical Storm Irene. The restaurant, which ran on generators, was "extremely busy," Mario said, offering food to hungry residents and even Connecticut Light & Power employees.

"Someone joked, 'If you guys had showers, we wouldn't leave,'" Angelo Jr. recalled.

Sharing their food doesn't stop there, either; Rossini's caters for town events, holds birthday and graduation parties and will even freeze pizza and mail it to anywhere in the country. They say it's not uncommon for a former East Hampton resident who lives out of state to get a hankering for their favorite hometown pie, and



This Saturday, Rossini's Italian Restaurant will mark its 20th anniversary with a celebration featuring special entrees, desserts and gift baskets. Manning the kitchen, as they have since the restaurant opened, will be, from left, Luigi, Angelo and Mario Simoni.

the staff at Rossini's to honor the request by delivering them a pie.

So with a track record of going the extra mile, Rossini's will give back to its customers yet again this weekend for its anniversary. And you'll be sure to see the three brothers working hard in the kitchen, and the rest of the family hard at work keeping the customers happy.

"It's what keeps people coming back," said Angelo Sr.

For more information, visit rossini'seasthampton.com, or check out their page on Facebook by searching "Rossini's Pizza and Restaurant." Rossini's is located at 62 West High St.

Andover Becomes Energy Star Partner

by Geeta Schrayter

At the Board of Selectmen meeting on Oct. 5, Andover became a member of Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) New England's Community Energy Challenge.

As an EPA ENERGY STAR partner, Andover has made a commitment to protect the environment by working to improve energy performance in the town. In a letter pledging the town's partnership, it was stated that Andover would assess energy performance in the community, set a goal to reduce energy use by 10 percent or more, create an energy committee, promote energy efficiency and support clean energy use in at least 30 percent of Andover homes by 2015.

The program, which was brought to the attention of the board by Richard Linden, a chemistry teacher at RHAM High School, also opens up the possibility for the town to be approved for a \$4,000 grant from the Clean Energy Fund for energy-related projects with "no strings attached."

The Community Energy Challenge provides resources and tools such as a portfolio manager to track energy use and greenhouse gas emissions, and a Building Upgrade Manual to help "identify opportunities for energy use reductions through energy efficiency and renewables" to help partnering towns become successful in the challenge.

After the program was explained by Linden, Board of Selectmen Vice Chairman Jay Linddy motioned for a resolution on the issue, emphasizing that "[the program] doesn't tie us into anything," but would benefit the town.

The motion passed unanimously.

Along with sending in a letter pledging the town's partnership, which was signed by First Selectman Bob Burbank, forming an energy committee was also required to become a part of the program, which the selectmen addressed at the meeting.

Burbank explained that the energy committee would bring project ideas to the Board of Selectmen for approval, and they would then

be financed using money from a fund containing any grant money received.

Selectwoman Julia A. Haverl stated that she liked the idea of someone from the school board, the Board of Selectmen and three community members being on the committee. She added there should be no issue finding members of the community to join because energy and the environment is a "topic of interest for a lot of people now." She also volunteered to be the Board of Selectmen representative on the committee.

Linden stated that as the energy committee gets started, there are a few things that need attention right away. One of them was the implementation of the Property-Assessed Clean Energy program, or PACE.

PACE allows homeowners to borrow money from the state to pay for energy efficiency and renewable energy improvements. The money is then paid back over the years with the energy savings the homeowner would experience. "It's tough for homeowners to even think

about these large scale projects," Linden said, "but obviously it's something we should be thinking about."

The PACE program could make some of those projects feasible.

Linden added that he knows the Board of Selectmen has a lot on their plates, and it's his hope that "the committee could work on and then report back" on some of these energy issues.

Along with becoming an EPA ENERGY STAR partner, other energy-related events involving Andover include an upcoming assembly on climate change at RHAM High School on Wednesday, Oct. 26. The assembly will be the kick-off to a school-wide contest where students will work to achieve a variety of initiatives related to energy and sustainability, and earn points and prizes for each one that's achieved.

The next Board of Selectmen meeting will be held on Nov. 2 in Town Hall.

Tao Brings Wellness to Hebron

by Geeta Schrayter

Adjacent to the Ice Cream Stop and nestled in the lower level of the building housing Hebron Medical Associates is the Tao Center for Vitality, Longevity & Optimal Health.

Opened in July 2010, Tao offers an array of services meant to "maximize the quality of one's life." The emphasis is on Naturopathic Medicine, utilizing "nutrition, botanical medicine, homeopathy, functional medicine and conventional as well as alternative laboratory testing, acupuncture, and massage therapy" as a way to "induce a state of optimal health" in patients.

Rather than solely treating the symptoms of an ailment, Dr. Myriah Hinchey, Naturopathic Physician at Tao, works to discover the root of the current complaint, corrects it, and then focuses on preventative medicine in the future.

Hinchey received a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Connecticut in 2000 and a license in massage therapy in 1998. It was during her time at massage school that she was introduced to Eastern versus Western philosophy and came to understand preventative medicine and the concept of treating the whole person and the cause of an ailment, as opposed to just symptoms.

"It made a lot of sense to me," she said. "It made a lot of sense to try to prevent illness and use proper nutrition and things of that sort versus trying to fix someone after they had already acquired a disease."

It was that new knowledge which piqued her interest in the area. Then, after taking a Jin Shin Do class in acupuncture and learning how much it can affect the body, her interests expanded further to include acupuncture as well.

"There was one point where I had no idea that naturopathic medicine existed," she shared. While still in school for massage therapy, Hinchey said she was fretting over how long

she'd have to continue.

"I was like, 'Wow, I'm going to have to go to school for like 20 more years,'" Hinchey said, "'because I know I want to be a nutritionist, an acupuncturist, I want to learn about botanical medicine . . .'"

She wondered how she'd ever be able to do it, but a few months after graduating, a woman came in for a massage who changed all that. The woman talked about being stressed and in school, and when Hinchey inquired what she was going for, the woman said "Naturopathic Doctor."

The woman explained it was a doctor who worked with acupuncture, nutrition and botanical medicine, to which Hinchey exclaimed, "What? Something really exists [like that]?"

"I think from that moment on I knew what I wanted to do," said Hinchey. "Everything kind of fell together. It was great."

In 2005, Hinchey earned her Doctorate of Naturopathic Medicine from The University of Bridgeport College of Naturopathic Medicine. The following year she received a certificate in Medical Acupuncture for Physicians from Briarwood College, and in 2009, she received certification for First Line Therapy (FTL).

FTL is a therapeutic lifestyle change (TLC) program, "best used as a first line treatment for common, chronic health problems." The program focuses on the underlying causes of conditions such as obesity, high cholesterol and high blood pressure. It emphasizes regular exercise, stress management, and a diet full of foods low on the Glycemic Index to prevent and treat these ailments.

The program is tailored to each patient after a thorough exam, lab tests and Bioelectrical Impedance Analysis (BIA) to determine health parameters and risks, and then set health goals.

BIA is a test that sends an electrical current

through a patient's body and measures the reactivity and resistance of cell membranes. The test provides Hinchey with two numbers, which she then plugs into a program that will tell such factors as how many pounds of fat and lean fat the patient has, as well as metabolic rates that can later be used to determine caloric intake.

Hinchey has been using FLT and TLC programs for nearly two years.

"The reason I started doing this program was because it feels better to set out and do something good for yourself than to say 'I can't eat that, I can't eat that,'" she said. "So instead of being deprivation, it's more . . . setting out to do a good thing."

And doing a good thing is the underlying motivation behind everything available at Tao.

"There's always some aspect of your lifestyle and health that you can improve," Hinchey said, "and coming here would give you a lot of education on your options."

While there tends to be different misconceptions about naturopaths – "that we're a bunch of crazy witch doctors that have no education" – Hinchey explained they're just that: misconceptions.

And the biggest one tends to be that choosing to incorporate alternative medicine into your life means you have to forgo conventional medicine.

"I think that conventional medicine is necessary," she said. "It has a lot of great things to offer and I think that getting the best of both worlds is what is really important."

Hinchey stated she felt people should care for themselves naturally as much as possible, but added that there were certain instances that require conventional medicine.

"If any of my patients end up, for example, with strep throat or some sort of bacterial infection," Hinchey said, "they're going to their

doctor to get antibiotics."

But in the end, Hinchey feels everyone can benefit from a trip to Tao.

"No matter what the disease or the symptoms are that you're having, generally naturopathic medicine can help you," she stated, adding that often people don't realize just how well they can feel. "A lot of people don't even realize that they don't feel great until they start feeling better."

And seeing the difference naturopathy can make is one of the things Hinchey likes best. "There's nothing more rewarding than having someone come in and say they're sleeping better, their energy is better, their clothes are fitting . . . it's really rewarding to see people change," she said.

Along with naturopathic medicine, Tao offers detox programs, massage therapy, acupuncture, Pilates, yoga and an array of organic facials.

Hinchey said that she always wanted to open a wellness clinic and in the future, she'd like for it to be a kind of "one stop healthcare center."

At present however, "no one even knows we're here," Hinchey laughed. "That's what we get all the time; 'I was eating ice cream in the parking lot and saw your sign.'" But Hinchey hopes that will soon change. On Saturday, Oct. 29, the center will be sponsoring a blood drive at the Hebron Senior Center from 1-6:15 p.m. with free chair massages and healthy refreshments for donors. The center will also hold its annual open house on Saturday, Nov. 12 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. with free mini-massages, yoga classes and refreshments.

Tao is located at 269 Church Street in Hebron. For more information, visit www.taovitality.com or call 860- 228-1287.

East Hampton Cops Nab Two Acting As Family Members

by Joshua Anusewicz

East Hampton Police made two separate arrests this week in incidents where the offenders were acting as members of their family.

On Wednesday, Oct. 5, Michael Gustav Birner, 47, of 9 Redstone Dr., Simsbury, was arrested for criminal impersonation, interfering with a police officer/investigation, illegal operation of a motor vehicle with a suspended license and traveling unreasonably fast.

According to Sgt. Garritt Kelly, the arrest was "on a warrant" from a motor vehicle stop in March. When stopped by police, Kelly said, Birner pretended to be his brother to avoid being arrested. Kelly said Birner has been arrested over 45 times over the years for various crimes, and has been found guilty

on several larceny and drug-related charges.

Birner was released on \$500 bond and is expected to appear at Middletown Superior Court on Tuesday, Oct. 18 at 10 a.m.

The next day, Thursday, Oct. 6, police arrested Benjamin A. Lundgren, 23, of 78 Branford St., Manchester, for third-degree larceny and fraudulent use of an ATM.

Kelly said that Lundgren had been using his father's debit card to take money out of several ATMs. He said that the father had "discovered the fraudulent use" of the card and reported it to the police.

Lundgren was released on a promise to appear and is expected to appear in Middletown Superior Court on Friday, Oct. 28, at 10 a.m.

Colchester Pedestrian Struck by Motorcycle

by Bailey Seddon

A pedestrian was struck by a motorcycle Monday evening and flown to Hartford Hospital by LifeStar, Deputy Chief of the Colchester Hayward Fire Department Don Lee said.

David O. Carey, 21, of 43 Broadway, Apt. 1, was hit while crossing Broadway near the intersection with Windham Avenue, in front of a shopping plaza. Emergency personnel responded to the call and got to the scene at 8:53 p.m., said Lee. Carey was transported

to Hartford Hospital by LifeStar because of non-capacitating evidence of a head injury. He was later found to have only minor injuries in the form of a broken toe.

The man behind the wheel of the motorcycle, Jacob Dupre, 28, of 37 Lakeview Dr., fled the scene after hitting Carey with his 2008 R6S Yamaha while traveling on Broadway, State Police said.

The accident is still under investigation, State Police said.

Gilbertie's Owner Opens Mexican Restaurant in Colchester

by Bailey Seddon

Nearly two years after he started up the aptly-named Gilbertie's Place, Tyler Gilbertie has now opened a second restaurant: Lazy Burrito, a Mexican fast-food eatery, which opened its doors Sept. 30.

Lazy Burrito is located right next to Gilbertie's; in fact it occupies the space that used to be the banquet room of the restaurant. The banquet room was unoccupied most of the time, except for those rare occasions when people would call and reserve it for a party or gathering.

"It was kind of wasted space," said Gilbertie.

One of the main reasons that Gilbertie decided to open up a Mexican restaurant was because of one of his regular customers. She came in on Cinco de Mayo this year and asked if the kitchen could make her something Mexican. She was given a burrito and loved it.

"She came back the next day and asked if we could do it again, they were so good," said Gilbertie. After this, Gilbertie knew the time for Mexican food in Colchester had come; clearly, there was a desire for it.

Gilbertie said he also saw a society that had become increasingly busy and desired take-out meals, but also wanted a healthy option for that take-out. Mexican, Gilbertie said, is one of the new healthier trends because nearly everything except for the fattening sour cream and cheese is a healthy choice to eat.

"It is definitely a healthy alternative," he said.

So, armed with this knowledge, and noting there was no Mexican restaurant in Colchester, Gilbertie decided to open Lazy Burrito.

Gilbertie said he also hopes Lazy Burrito will be a good source of supplemental income; he said running a full-service restaurant like Gilbertie's Place is very expensive.

"The costs are staggering," Gilbertie said. Luckily though, he said, the fast-food business model is "more economically-feasible."

Gilbertie said he is following the business model of Chipotle Mexican Grill, a fast-food chain. Gilbertie likes the good quality and fresh food the restaurant has to offer.

"I mimicked that business model," Gilbertie said. "People are coming up with better-qual-

ity fast food" and he wanted to be a part of that, he said.

Everything is authentic and made fresh daily and the menu is gluten-free, with the exception of the flour tortilla. Customers definitely appreciate the gluten-free choices that the restaurant offers. In the short time Lazy Burrito has been open, one customer already said how happy he was with the selections that his son had to choose from, who could not eat gluten due to allergies.

The menu of Lazy Burrito is similar to that of most Mexican take-out places. However, the salsa page of the menu contains some interesting variations. Some of the more unique foods would be on the salsa page. These include roasted corn-red pepper salsa, which is made of roasted corn, red peppers, jalapenos and chilies, and the Salsa Colorado which is made of pureed tomato, garlic, cumin and chili pequin. There is also an interesting "Lazy Burrito" for kids which is described on the menu as a "flour tortilla stuffed with smooth peanut butter and melted marshmallows."

Gilbertie said one of his cooks, Tony Sanchez, helped him devise the menu. Sanchez knew many authentic Mexican dishes because his mother-in-law spends half the year in Mexico eating and cooking the local meals, which she then shares with Sanchez. Gilbertie said the foundation of a good burrito is the same for his restaurant: simple and catchy.

"It is as authentic as you can get really," he said.

It took Gilbertie and Sanchez four months to come up with the menu, but once they did they were happy with it. Before the opening of the restaurant the Lazy Burrito had a test run, in which 35 people were served. Gilbertie said he was glad he did the run and that because of it he changed the roasted corn salsa, making it even better.

Gilbertie also had to hire a half dozen more staff members – he now has 40 between both restaurants – and change the interior of the banquet hall to look like a Mexican restaurant.

Gilbertie was a 1991 graduate of Johnson & Wales University, receiving a degree in food service management. Before he owned his own



Tyler Gilbertie, right, recently opened Lazy Burrito, a Mexican fast-food eatery in Colchester. The menu was devised by Gilbertie and one of his cooks, Tony Sanchez, left.

restaurant, Gilbertie was the general manager of three different eateries, all with the same owner, in Fairfield County. Despite his degree in food, Gilbertie got out of the restaurant business and worked as a real estate agent for 12 years. He just thought it was "time for a change for a little while."

However, in 2010, Gilbertie heard about the restaurant opportunity from his father, who lives in East Lyme and thought his son should check out the building and talk to the landlord. After so many years of being out of the restaurant business, Gilbertie felt it was time to get back in.

The building Gilbertie's Place is in has been a part of Colchester's restaurant landscape for

decades; it was the Chestnut Lodge for 30 years and then Mariana's Restaurant for nine years after that. When Gilbertie acquired the building he did some work to the inside, giving it a "facelift" which "brought it into the look of 2010," he said.

Now, Gilbertie is happy he came back into the restaurant business.

"This place found me," he said. Gilbertie also liked the location in Colchester. He felt that the town had "very nice, down-to-earth people."

Lazy Burrito is open Sunday through Thursday, 11 a.m.-9 p.m., and Friday and Saturday, 11 a.m.-10 p.m. For more information call 860-531-9392 or visit Lazy Burrito's Facebook page at [Facebook.com/lazyburrito](https://www.facebook.com/lazyburrito).

Colchester Firefighters Practice in Real-World Situation

by Bailey Seddon

This week was Fire Prevention Week, and the firefighters of Colchester Hayward Fire Department were up and ready to go at 9 a.m. Tuesday to do a demonstration of their new "burn house."

The burn house was constructed in June of this year after receiving a \$30,000 donation from Dunkin' Donuts, which was spread over the last three years. The house is used for simulating live fires for firefighters to train in. They can go into the house, which will be filled with flames and smoke, just like any other house on fire would be, and get training in the many different skills they need when they go into a real burning building. They learn not only to put the fire out but to get any people or pets out of the house safely, and then to get themselves out.

There are many different situations that can occur, Deputy Chief Don Lee said, and it is important for the firefighters to be prepared for them all.

The burn house has 11 rooms and 1,400 square feet of training space. The building itself is composed of metal storage boxes. Across from the burn house is a "flashover simulator," another metal storage box-made facility that gives firefighter the chance to deal with a fire when it reaches the flashover point – the near-simultaneous ignition of all combustible material in an enclosed area. The point is reached when the temperature inside the fire reaches 930 degrees Fahrenheit.

"Flashover is a firefighter killer," said firefighter Tony Skut.

Lee gave a tour of the burn house Tuesday to the *Rivereast* and to WFSB-TV Channel 3 reporter Olessa Stepanova. Inside there are bedrooms, stairs and a mock kitchen and bathroom, to make the experience as real as possible.

"Kitchens are one of the leading causes of residential fires," said Lee as the firemen and news teams passed through the realistic-looking kitchen.

The burn house also has doors that can be

bolted shut with wood for the firefighters to practice breaking down – which is something Skut said firefighters have to do in 50 percent of blazes. There are also places where the firefighters can practice making a hole in the wall, through 16 inches of sheet-rock, in case they ever need to get out of a room and cannot do it through the door.

There is a ladder that goes from the second story that the firefighters have to practice going out of. This can be especially difficult as the firefighters not only have to go down the ladder with an extra 60 to 80 pound suit (not to mention any extra gear they may be carrying) but they also have to go down head first then flip themselves around. Skut demonstrated this while volunteer firefighter Keith Erickson stood outside on the window ledge attached to a rope in case anything went wrong.

Most of the building gets up to 400-500 degrees but there is also a part attached to the side that can reach 800 degrees, said Lee. The department wants the house to be "as close as we can get it," to the real thing, said Lee.

"It becomes very, very realistic," he said.

In case of an emergency, the side part of the building is also equipped with a sprinkler system built in; this way the firefighters can open a valve and stop the scenario, should they need to.

As if there wasn't enough in the burn house to occupy firefighters, the interior of the burn house features something else to keep them on their toes: movable walls. The walls are designed this way so that firefighters don't get too used to the same structure, as all homes are different. (Fire officials said the plan is to have firefighters train in the burn house once per quarter.)

In the months since the burn house opened, several non-firefighters have stopped by to see it in action – including family members, members of the media and town officials. "Everyone comes through here with new respect for what the guys do," Skut said.



Firefighter Tony Skut demonstrates the way firefighters have to exit burning buildings at the new "burn house" in Colchester, with volunteer firefighter Keith Erickson nearby for safety.

The burn house also demonstrates just how different firefighting can be from the movies. For instance, a firefighter cannot just run into a burning building; once a door is open he or she has to get in quickly, staying low to the ground to avoid the worse of the smoke. Firefighters also have to be careful not to leave doors open too much, as this allows more air to get in to fuel the flames.

"The more air, the more fire we have to fight," said Skut.

The burn house, which is located off of Volunteer Drive, isn't just for the Colchester Hayward Volunteer Fire Department. East Hampton, Deep River and other such surrounding areas can make use of the training facility.

"It's here for all the area departments to use," said Company President Dave Martin. Lee said the CHVFD relies "really heavily on mutual aid," for larger fires, he said.

"None of us can do this alone anymore," Lee said.

Interviews for Colchester Fair Rent Commission at Meeting

by Bailey Seddon

Fair Rent Commission, human resources and the new recreational manager were all discussed at the Oct. 6 Board of Selectmen's meeting.

First up at Thursday's meeting were interviews for the Fair Rent Commission. For the past two years, there has only been one person on the commission, First Selectman Gregg Schuster said, so he was glad people are applying to be on it.

The first interviewee, Kimberly Russo, moved to Colchester six years ago and works for United Way. Russo said she would like to be part of the commission because she would like to do more for her town.

"I'm at the point where I want to do something in my own community," she said. Russo said she wants to make sure people are able to voice their concerns, and if she were on the commission she would do her best to help those people. Russo also said she felt the commission needed to do more research. This would include, she said, talking with people in the community to see what they need.

"I really have to be able to look at a community" and see what people need, she said. Russo also said she felt her experience with United

Way would be valuable to the commission.

The second resident interviewed, Samantha Van Zilen, has lived in town for five years. Van Zilen said she works for an insurance company in Hartford, where she is a business continuity planning analyst.

Van Zilen said she is "very much invested in the town," and has always felt community service was important. She mentioned that she has a 2-year-old son at home, which also drives her to be more invested in her town.

"I want to see Colchester thrive," she said. As the Fair Rent Commission meets on an as-needed basis, Van Zilen said she thought it would be a good commission to join, as it is not as time-consuming as one that meets more regularly.

The selectmen will decide at their next meeting whether to appoint Russo and Van Zilen.

* * *

Also at the meeting, the selectmen also hired Wallingford-based Randi Frank Consulting, for human resource (HR) services. Schuster said this was made possible because of the result of reallocating \$25,000 in the budget from legal services to HR services.

Schuster said the reason for hiring Frank was

for day-to-day projects that the town might need consulting on. These consultations would include review of personnel policies, accident/incident investigations, review of job descriptions, revision of standard letters and forms and other such tasks.

Under the contract the selectmen approved at the meeting, Frank will receive \$85 per hour, plus travel expenses, as well as "unusual expenses." The unusual expenses, however, will need prior approval from the town before payment was made.

* * *

Another hire the selectmen made was that of a new recreational manager for Parks and Recreation, Cheryl Hancin.

The selectmen interviewed Hancin, and were pleased with how the proceedings went.

"I am very impressed with that interview, I felt that she would be a good addition to the town," said Coyle.

Schuster agreed. "She was extremely enthusiastic," he said.

Hancin will arrive at the end of the month to begin her job.

The selectmen are "looking forward to having her here," Schuster said. The board unani-

mously approved the hiring of Hancin.

The title of recreational manager had previously been the title of director. However, this was modified in August. The previous Parks and Rec. director, Jason Cohen, abruptly resigned last September, and Director of Facilities Greg Plunkett became the interim Parks and Rec. director.

The job of director was shared between the town and the school system. He or she had the responsibility of two functions, Schuster had said back in August. One function was for the recreational programs, which was the town side of the job, and the other was for ground and park maintenance, which was the school side of the job. There are 360 acres of town and school property, which the director would oversee, that needed mowing, upkeep and landscaping.

With Hancin's hire, Plunkett will go back to being the facilities director full-time, overseeing the grounds, while Hancin will deal with the recreational programs.

* * *

The next Board of Selectmen meeting will be held on Oct. 20 at 7 p.m. in town hall.

Colchester Second Story Fire Caused by Candle

by Bailey Seddon

A second-floor fire at a Linwood Avenue apartment displaced two residents, according to Deputy Fire Chief Don Lee.

Firefighters responded to a fire at 60 Linwood Ave. Monday afternoon, Lee said.

At 4:43 p.m., Lee said, the Colchester Hayward Fire Department got the call that a fire had started in the bedroom on the second floor of an apartment complex on Linwood Avenue. Firefighters arrived at 4:48 p.m., put out the fire and had cleared the scene by 6:44 p.m., he said.

Lee said the official cause of the blaze was a candle.

A woman and her teenage daughter lived in the apartment. Lee said that there could

have been less damage had the smoke detectors not been turned off on the second floor.

"By the time they realized what happened, the fire was well under way," Lee said.

Despite the fact that the fire was extinguished fairly quickly there was still a significant amount of smoke and fire damage done to the room.

"That unit is uninhabitable," said Lee.

In addition to the Colchester firefighters the Salem Fire Department also responded to the call to help put out the flames. The American Red Cross was also at the scene to help the mother and daughter find a place to stay, since their home is not fit to live in at this time.

Hebron Police News

10/9: Amanda Staub, 24, of 450 Church St., was charged with third-degree assault, disorderly conduct and violation of probation, State Police said.

Portland Police News

10/3: A 17-year-old male was given an infraction for possession of less than a half ounce of marijuana, Portland Police said.

10/4: Joseph Bortolan, 18, of 18 Murphy Rd., was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, police said.

10/4: Branden Mishler, 18, of 76 Linbert St., Middletown, was charged with possession of less than a half ounce of marijuana, police said.

10/6: JC Miller, 28, of 264 Mt. Hope Rd., Mansfield Center, was charged with operating under suspension, police said.

Marlborough Police News

10/5: John L. Miville, 34, of 34 Hillcrest Dr., Vernon, was charged with DUI and driving the wrong way on a highway, State Police said.

10/5: Jonathan A. Pierce, 24, of 104 Woodland Rd., in the Moosup section of Plainfield, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of heroin, State Police said.

10/7: Police are investigating a burglary on Standish Drive, where several items were reported stolen. Two men were seen in the area driving a small red two-door truck with a black or grey stripe down the middle, State Police said. One man was described as a "tan or Hispanic man" in his mid-20s. Anyone with information is asked to contact Officer Jeff Dunshee at 860-537-7555, ext. 4019. Information will be kept confidential, said Dunshee.

East Hampton Police News

9/24: Daniel J. Sullivan, 31, of 33 Langdon Ct., Berlin, and Mario Simoni, 56, of 199 White Birch Rd., were involved in a two-car motor vehicle accident on West High St. (Route 66). Sullivan was arrested for DUI and following too close, East Hampton Police said.

9/27: David R. Jensen Jr., of 31 Old Skinner St., was issued a summons for reckless driving, operating an unregistered vehicle and towing an unregistered and uninsured trailer after the boom of his utility bucket truck made contact with and detached utility wires from two SNET poles, police said.

9/29: Thomas Robbins, 74, of 53 Lafayette Rd., Marlborough, was involved in a one-car

collision at the intersection of Mott Hill and Brewer roads. Robbins was arrested for evading responsibility, operating a motor vehicle too fast for conditions and operating a motor vehicle without a license, police said.

10/5: Michael Gustav Birner, 47, of 9 Redstone Dr., Simsbury, was arrested for criminal impersonation, interfering with a police officer/investigation, illegal operating of a motor vehicle with a suspended license and traveling unreasonably fast, police said.

10/6: Benjamin A. Lundgren, 23, of 78 Branford St., Manchester, was arrested for third-degree larceny and fraudulent use of an ATM, police said.

Colchester Police News

10/4: John G. Anagnostopoulos, 21, of 3 Dutton Pl., Glastonbury, was charged with second-degree failure to appear, State Police said.

10/5: Daniel Villar, 22, 126 River Rd., Apt. B, was charged with DUI, failure to drive right and traveling too fast, State Police said.

10/7: Andrew Currier, 18, 190 Lebanon Ave., Apt. 2, was charged with third-degree assault, disorderly conduct and interfering, State Police said.

10/8: Christopher Wessell, 28, of 1 South

Rd., in the Taftville section of Norwich, was charged with DUI, drinking while driving, possession of less than half an ounce of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia, State Police said.

10/8: Stephen Naud, 41, of 426 Cabin Rd., was charged with failure to drive in the proper lane and DUI, State Police said.

10/9: Sandra Dennis, 43, of 108 Gill St., was charged with interfering with an officer and disorderly conduct, State Police said.

Obituaries

Portland

Warren Wentworth

Warren Deeble Wentworth, 87, of Portland, husband of the late Pearl (Hanna) Wentworth, died Sunday, Oct. 9, at Yale New Haven Hospital. Born May 27, 1924, in Middletown, he was the son of the late Nathan and Gladys (Robins) Wentworth.

He proudly served his country in the U.S. Army during WWII, where he was a member of the 1150th Engineering Combat Battalion. Warren had worked as a Heavy Equipment Operator and was a member of the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 478. He enjoyed restoring antique automobiles and loved traveling with his wife Pearl.

Warren is survived by his daughter, Amy MacNeil and her husband Wayne of Rocky Hill; his daughter-in-law, Barbara Wentworth of Glastonbury; his twin brother, Donald Wentworth of Oregon; a sister, Natalie Batchelder of Kentucky; three grandchildren, Morgan, Alison, Daniel; and a great-grandson, James, and many nieces and nephews.

A memorial service was held Monday, Oct. 17, in the Second Congregational Church in Middle Haddam, with the Rev. Lois Kennedy officiating.

Memorial contributions in his memory may be made to the Second Congregational Church, P.O. Box 206, Middle Haddam, CT 06456.

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

Colchester

Nina G. Viti

Nina G. Viti, 83, of Colchester, passed away early Sunday, Oct. 9, at Connecticut Hospice in Branford. She was born and raised in Manhattan, NYC. Nina moved to Colchester at the age of 17.

Nina worked as a paraprofessional for 20 years in the Colchester Public Schools. In the summer months, she worked for Colchester Parks and Recreation as a supervisor for the trips to Ocean Beach Park.

Nina was a communicant of St. Andrew Church where she was also formerly active with the Ladies Auxiliary. She was an avid reader, loved going to the theatre and sharing her love of the beach with her family. She was both a mother and friend to her children, and she adored her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She was referred to as "Nanny," not only by her grandchildren, but by all the many children who knew and loved her.

She will be sadly missed by her daughter, Diane and her husband Michael Gromko of Colchester; two grandsons, Christopher and his wife Jeanette Gromko of Stamford, Ryan Gromko of Manhattan; two great-grandchildren, Maximiliano and Raffaele Gromko and many cousins and close friends.

She was predeceased by her son, Philip R. Viti, in 1973.

Friends and family attended calling hours Thursday, Oct. 13, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. A memorial funeral liturgy will be celebrated today, Oct. 14, at 10:30 a.m., directly at St. Andrew Church on Norwich Avenue, Colchester. Burial will follow in St. Andrew Cemetery.

Donations in her memory may be made to: Hospice of SECT, 227 Dunham St. Norwich, CT 06360 or Connecticut Hospice, 100 Double Beach Rd., Branford, CT 06405

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Hebron

Marjory Nocker

Marjory Nocker, 96, of Hebron, formerly of Manchester, passed away Monday, Oct. 10, at Manchester Memorial Hospital. She was born Aug. 17, 1915, in Bolton, daughter of the late James Nocker who was a professional golfer and the late Lillian (Brookman) Nocker who was the neighborhood croquet champion.

She attended local schools and had resided most of her life in Manchester before moving to Hebron in the early 1990s. Marjory was employed for over 30 years with Pratt & Whitney Aircraft, retiring as manager of the personnel department. She was a longtime member of South United Methodist Church in Manchester. Marjory was an avid sports enthusiast, she enjoyed bowling and playing golf and she was a faithful fan of UConn women's basketball.

She leaves her extended family, Peter, David and Gary Gunas, Bonnie Hooker and Lisa (Gunas) Yopp and their loving families.

Funeral services will be today, Oct. 14, at 11 a.m., at Holmes Funeral Home, 400 Main St., Manchester. Burial will follow in East Cemetery. Calling hours are today, Oct. 14, from 10 a.m. until the time of the service.

Memorial donations may be made to the South United Methodist Church Memorial Fund, 1226 Main St., Manchester, CT 06040.

To sign the online guestbook, visit holmes-watkinsfuneralhomes.com.

Colchester

Phyllis Duncan

Phyllis (Bond) Duncan, 79, beloved wife of Walter, of Colchester and formerly of North Reading, MA, passed away peacefully after a long illness early Friday morning, Oct. 7. Born in Woodbury, NJ, on Nov. 12, 1931, she was a daughter of the late George R. and Edna (Summerill) Bond.

She married Walter Duncan on Nov. 24, 1956. The couple moved to North Reading, MA, where they settled and raised their family.

Phyllis graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Allegheny College and worked as a Bacteriologist in the medical field throughout her career. She enjoyed gardening, travel, reading and needlework. Most importantly, she will be remembered by her family for the love and devotion she gave generously to them.

In addition to her husband of 54 years, survivors include three daughters and their spouses, Lois Duncan of Durham, NC, Nancy and husband James Lawler of Colchester, Ann and husband Dave McMullen of Chester, NJ; a sister, Mary Ann Gebhart of Clarendon Hills, IL; three grandchildren, Jennifer Lawler, Kelly and Rachel McMullen; and a sister-in-law, Janet Bond of Claymont, DE.

She was predeceased by two brothers, Albert and Thomas Bond.

Friends attended calling hours Tuesday, Oct. 11, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. A memorial service followed in the funeral home chapel. Burial private in Springfield Cemetery in Massachusetts.

Donations in her memory may be made to benefit research for Lou Gehrig's Disease at alsa.org.

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Portland

Robert D. Dionne

Robert "Bob" D. Dionne, 54, of Portland, husband of Sue (Stratton) Dionne, died Sunday, Oct. 9, at St. Francis Hospital. He was the son of the late Leo James and Gilberte (Julie) (Chasse) Dionne.

Born Jan. 1, 1957, in Hartford, he lived in Portland for the last 22 years. He worked as a police detective for the Hartford Police Department for 22 years, until his retirement. He was a member of the U.S. National Guard having served in the 1970s, he was a member of the Hartford Elks Club, the Portland West Golf Club and St. Mary Church in Portland. He spent the fall actively coaching his daughter Lindsey's basketball team.

Besides his wife, he leaves his sons, Andy and Nick Dionne, both of Portland; daughter, Lindsey Dionne of Portland; two brothers and sisters-in-law, James and Linda Dionne of Walpole, MA, and Ron and Michelle Dionne of Fall River, MA; a sister, Jackie Dionne of Bristol; sister-in-law, Peggy Stratton of Portland; four nieces, Alyssa, Kristen, Katie and Ali; and a nephew, Chris.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, Oct. 12, at 10 a.m., from Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, with a Mass at 11 a.m. at the Church of St. Mary, 51 Freestone Ave., Portland. Burial in Cedar Hill Cemetery, Hartford. Relatives and friends called Tuesday, Oct. 11, at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Portland High School Sideliners, 95 High St., Portland, CT 06480. To send an online expression of sympathy, visit portlandmemorialfh.net. Bob's legacy will continue on in others by the gift of organ/tissue donation.

Portland

Dorothy B. Liappes

Dorothy "Dottie" (Brown) Liappes, 71, of Palmer Road, Portland, beloved wife of Charles M. Liappes, died Saturday, Oct. 8, at her home. She was born in Middletown Jan. 14, 1940. She was the daughter of the late Robert L. Brown, Sr. and Genevieve "Jennie" (Rozanski) Brown.

Prior to her retirement, she was employed with Newfield Publications/*Weekly Reader* and later at Haven Health Care/Saint Clemens Castle. After many years into her retirement, she took care of her granddaughter Amanda, who she loved dearly and whom she passed along an immeasurable wisdom that only she could ever do. Her dog Jessi will miss her immensely for her love and kindness.

She was an avid fan of the New York Giants, UConn Huskies (both men and women), the New York Yankees and the men's and women's professional tennis. She also enjoyed bowling. She bowled for a number of years in the Bloomfield and Middletown areas where she shined with her technique and love for the game. She had a tremendous knack for cooking the best meal you could ever dream to eat. She was a wife, mother, grandmother and very best friend who will be missed dearly. She will never be forgotten in the hearts that she touched.

Besides her husband, she is survived by her son, Michael Liappes and his wife Karen Liappes of Weirs Beach, NH; her daughter, Jennifer Liappes Giliberto and her husband Peter Giliberto of Middletown; a granddaughter, Amanda Lee Giliberto of Middletown; a sister, Marie B. Scandura and her husband Robert Scandura of Middletown; a brother, Robert L. Brown, Jr. and wife Jane Brown of Cypress, TX; a sister, Virginia Marino of Florida; a brother William Brown of Florida; a brother Thomas Brown of Florida; also several nieces and nephews.

A private graveside memorial service will be held at the discretion of the family in the State Veterans Cemetery, Middletown. There are no calling hours.

Those who wish may send memorial contributions to St. John's Church, 19 St. John's Square, Middletown, CT 06457. Biega Funeral Home has care of the arrangements.

To share memories or express condolences online, visit biegafuneralhome.com.

Colchester

John Kropp

John Kropp, 82, of Colchester and formerly of Salem, widower of the Lorraine (Vitale) Kropp, passed away Monday, Oct. 10, at Hartford Hospital. Born Feb. 10, 1929, in Edmonton, AB, Canada, he was the last surviving of the five children of the late Peter and Julia Kropp.

Mr. Kropp proudly served with the U.S. Army during the Korean War. He was a sheet metal worker for over 50 years with the Sheet Metal Union Local 40 before his retirement. In his spare time, John enjoyed gardening, woodworking and creating numerous types of concrete statuary pieces, as well as visiting local fairs and events.

Most importantly, he will be remembered as a devoted husband, as well as loving father to his son and daughter, John Robert and Debbie Ann, both of Salem; and brother, uncle, cousin and friend to countless others. He is also survived by his faithful companion, Blackie.

In addition to his loving wife of 35 years, he was predeceased by a sister, Mary Civitello and three brothers, William, John and Joe.

The family will receive guests from 9:30-10:30 a.m. today, Oct. 14, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The funeral liturgy will be celebrated at 11 a.m. today at Our Lady of the Lakes Church, 752 Norwich-Salem Tpk. (Route 82), Oakdale. Committal with full military honors will follow in the family plot in the Salem Green Cemetery.

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Colchester

Guy Garofalo III

Guy Garofalo III, 54, of Colchester, beloved husband of his high school sweetheart, Cathie (Currie) Garofalo for 34 years, slipped from this world on Monday, October 10th surrounded by his family at his home. Born in Middletown, he was the son of Rosemary (Anderson) Garofalo of East Hampton and the late Guy Garofalo, Jr.



Guy grew up in East Hampton, lived in the East Haddam/Moodus area for twenty years, has resided in Colchester for the last nine years and was a member of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in East Haddam. He worked at Jarvis Products Corp. in Middletown for sixteen years and was last employed at the Brian House in East Haddam as a group home manager.

Guy was a happy person who was content being home with his family; building furniture, fixing cars and remodeling his home and could fix almost anything himself. He loved his five American Foxhounds and they were his constant companions for the past nine years. Guy was a quiet and gentle soul who will be sorely missed by his family and friends.

Along with his wife, Cathie, he is survived by his daughters, Skye Garofalo and her spouse, Amanda of Moodus and Natalie Garofalo of Rego Park, NY; two brothers, Justin Garofalo and Rick Garofalo, both of East Hampton; two sisters, Laurie Taylor of Middletown and Gina Garofalo of Middletown; 13 nieces and nephews; a great niece and three great nephews.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, Oct. 15, at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 31 Main St., East Haddam, and interment will follow in Skinnerville Cemetery in East Hampton.

There will be no calling hours and in lieu of flowers, friends may make donations in Guy's memory to NLCC Guardian Fund c/o New London Cancer Center, 196 Parkway South, Suite 303, Waterford, CT 06385.

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

The Doolittle Funeral Home, 14 Old Church St., Middletown, is handling the arrangements.

East Hampton

Rodney George Wilkes

Rodney George Wilkes, 78, formerly of East Hampton, a Moon Township, PA, resident since 1969, passed away on Saturday, Oct. 8, at Sewickley Valley Hospital. He was born in Middletown on Jan. 5, 1933, to the late Charles Edward and Margaret Louise (Begley) Wilkes.

On March 24, 2003, he was preceded in death by his wife of 42 years, Doris Marie (Roberts) Wilkes.

Beloved father of Brian Wilkes (Cindy) of Houston, TX, and Thomas Wilkes (Lari) of Alva, FL; brother of Richard Charles Wilkes of Niantic and Donald Edward Wilkes of Daytona Beach, FL; proud grandfather of Landon, Aaron (Kelly), and Hannah Wilkes and one great grandchild, Kaiden.

He was a retired U.S. Air pilot, served in the U.S. National Guard/Air Force during the Korean War, and a 1951 graduate of East Hampton High School. He was a member of Cornerstone Christian Fellowship Church where he was behind the scenes with the camera and the sound board as well as a bus driver for underprivileged children. His hobbies included self-improvement and the study of herbs and scriptures.

Service will be held Saturday, Oct. 15, at 11:30 a.m., at Sewickley Cemetery Chapel in Sewickley, PA.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to Cornerstone Christian Fellowship Church, P.O. Box 1214, Moon Township, PA 15108.

Arrangements by Copeland's of Moon Township, PA.

Hebron

Christine Carroll Roberts

Christine Carroll (Enger) Roberts, 82, of Hebron, passed away Saturday, Sept. 17, at Manchester Memorial Hospital. She was born Dec. 7, 1928, to the late Christine Alice (Murdock) and William Theodore Enger in Cleveland, OH.

Christine was an avid horsewoman, competing in English Pleasure classes for several years. She married Ralph Richard Roberts April 26, 1950, in Cleveland. Following Ralph's retirement from Travelers, they traveled frequently. She enjoyed genealogy and researching the Enger name, traveling to Norway as a part of her research. Christine was devoted to animals and had several special dogs throughout her life. She enjoyed playing bridge and taught her children and grandchildren many card games during family vacations. She will be missed by her family and her many friends.

She is survived by her husband, Ralph; her sons, Peter (Shirley), Ralph (Leticia), and David (Ellen); six grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her sisters, Cathryn Patterson and Magdaline Harris.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, Oct. 15, at 11 a.m., at Gilead Congregational Church, 672 Gilead St., Hebron, with a light lunch following.

Memorial contributions may be made to Gilead Congregational Church.

To leave an online condolence, visit glastonburyfuneral.com.

Portland

Isadore Cycan

Isadore "Izzy" Cycan, 102, of Middletown, formerly of Portland, husband of the late Josephine (Tuccio) Cycan, passed away on Friday, (October 7) at Middlesex Hospital. Born in Poland, he was the son of the late Alexander and Rose (Pansy) Cycan.

Izzy was a longtime member of the Congregational Adath Israel Synagogue and an avid supporter for the State of Israel. He came to the United States at seven months old and grew up in Paterson, NJ, later moving to Middletown and then to Portland, where he resided for many years. Izzy worked as an accountant for many years and enjoyed fishing, traveling and playing the fiddle.

He is survived by his niece, Pesa; nephew, Charles; and several step-grandchildren and step-great-grandchildren.

Along with his wife and parents, he was predeceased by a step daughter, Dolores Ellis and step son Sebastian "Mickey" Cannata.

A graveside service was held Tuesday, Oct. 11, in Adath Israel Cemetery, Pine Street, Middletown. There were no calling hours.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Isadore's memory to Congregation Adath Israel Synagogue, P.O. Box 337, Middletown, CT 06457.

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

The Doolittle Funeral Home, 14 Old Church St., Middletown, is handling the arrangements.