

RIVEREAST

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Heavy rain last Friday caused damage to much of Portland. Among the hardest-hit was the Friends of Portland Library organization, which saw its collection of donated materials, stored at Brownstone Intermediate School, destroyed.

Heavy Portland Rain Causes Damage

by Joshua Anusewicz

Torrential rains fell on Portland last Friday, damaging local homes and town buildings, and its remnants have put a hold on the town's fireworks scheduled for this weekend.

The weather was particularly rough on the Friends of Portland Library, as damage at Brownstone Intermediate School wiped out the organization's collection of donated books.

First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield said the Portland Fire Department estimated that roughly five and a half inches of rain fell in just two hours on Friday evening, which "wreaked havoc" throughout the town.

"We had no warning," Bransfield said Wednesday. "It just wouldn't stop raining, and it had nowhere to go but downhill."

That rain running downhill washed gravel, dirt, and mulch from yards and may have been "caught in the storm drains," Bransfield said. This "pipe failure" caused the water to gather in lower areas, particularly along Main Street, which was closed for a short period of time.

Bransfield said the townwide damage is still being assessed, but several residences were affected. One resident lost a large portion of their yard, Bransfield said, while another home had a basement apartment completely flooded.

Bransfield said that most home insurance does not cover water damage, so the town is currently "looking into assistance" for the resi-

dents affected.

Brownstone Intermediate School also suffered a considerable amount of damage; the school holds the maintenance office for the entire school district, and Bransfield said that many of the tools and equipment used for the schools and grounds were damaged by water.

"We're not sure yet what can be salvaged," Bransfield said of the maintenance equipment, adding that most of the important documents at the maintenance office will be salvaged.

An unfortunate loss at the school was 175 boxes of donated books, DVDs, CDs and other materials that were being stored at the school by the Friends of the Portland Library (FPL). According to FPL Treasurer Alison Harris, the boxes were under more than "two feet of water" and had to be discarded because of water and mold damage.

Harris said the FPL sells the donated items to help fund programs and services at the library, and the sale of donated items accounts for "almost 25 percent of the FPL's fundraising efforts every year," she said. Last year, Harris said, the FPL was able to raise \$7,000.

"We were told we couldn't take any of the books," Harris said. "So we have to build our supply back up." The FPL has already scheduled three "Read and Recycle" sessions at the

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AHM Summer Musical Makes Return

by Courtney Parent

You don't have to go to Broadway to see a top-notch musical. AHM Summer Youth Theater, which has been performing an annual musical for nearly 30 years, will be performing its summer show, *Bye Bye Birdie*, Thursday, July 21, through Saturday, July 23, at 7 p.m. in the RHAM High School auditorium.

Bye Bye Birdie is an amusing satire that spoofs and celebrates American society in the 1950s. The story is loosely-built around the real story of music legend Elvis Presley being drafted in the army. However, in this musical it is a rock star named Conrad Birdie who breaks the hearts of the teens from Sweet Apple, OH, as he prepares to leave for duty. The show is a well-known Broadway production which won a Tony Award and inspired two film adaptations, one on the big screen in 1963 and the other a TV-movie in 1995.

According to AHM Director Joel Rosenberg, Summer Youth Theater is the organization's longest running program. Rosenberg said the program has been up and running since 1983, even though AHM was not "officially recognized as a youth service bureau" until 1984. This was done through a "great group of initial volunteers" who wanted to launch a few programs prior to the official recognition being given.

Within the Youth Theater Program, youths from the ages of 12 to 18 spend five weeks of

evenings rehearsing and performing a major musical every summer. Some of the past productions include *Grease*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Cinderella*, *Peter Pan*, and *Damn Yankees*.

"Every year the quality of the show is absolutely amazing," said Rosenberg. "People who have attended feel that they have been to a professional theater."

This year there are approximately 60 youths participating as actors in the musical, as well as an additional 10 youths and adults serving on the technical staff and stage crew. Many of those participating this year are returnees to the program, according to Rosenberg.

"We not only have kids that come back every year," said Rosenberg, "but what's really nice is we have young people who have graduated high school and still come back and volunteer to work behind the scenes year after year."

On Wednesday evening, while area youths got their vocal chords ready for rehearsal, director Mary Rose Meade, along with some other members of the cast and crew, worked to get the stage ready (with many breaking out their "song voices" to bust out a random tune.)

The rest of the cast then entered the auditorium shuffling their feet as they dashed to get into position. And though Wednesday wasn't a dress rehearsal, most of the actors came in costume anyway – the girls twirling around in their poodle skirts and tops and the boys looking

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The AHM Summer Youth Theater will put on *Bye Bye Birdie* next weekend. Around 60 area youths are acting in the musical, which director Mary Rose Meade predicts will be a crowd-pleaser. Members of the cast are shown here rehearsing the song "The Telephone Hour" earlier this week.



According to Friends of Portland Library, 175 boxes of used books, DVDs, CDs and other materials had to be discarded due to the water damage. Sessions to help rebuild the donation supply sessions will be held at Portland Library July 30, Aug. 27 and Sept. 24.

Damage cont. from Front Page

Portland Library to help rebuild the supply. The sessions will be July 30, Aug. 27, and Sept. 24, all Saturdays, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. to collect books, puzzles, DVDs, CDs, videos and cassettes.

Bransfield said there was also water damage at the Portland Police Department, the Buck Foreman Community Center and the Food Bank located in the basement of the Senior Center. Some town documents, Bransfield said, located in the basement of the community center were damaged, but they will be salvaged.

The town is currently working with its insurance carrier, Connecticut Interlocal Risk Management Agency (CIRMA), to determine the extent of the damage. Bransfield said that CIRMA has already sent a cleaning and restoration company to begin "cleaning and drying" the affected property. She added that the insurance will cover costs of damage, which have to be determined.

Last Friday's deluge also derailed this weekend's Portland Fireworks show. According to Sharon Hoy of the Portland Fireworks Committee, standing water on the Portland Exchange Club Grounds on Route 17A will

Musical cont. from Front Page

classy in their dress shirts and sweater vests

While most musical productions attempt to focus the audience's attention at center stage, *Bye Bye Birdie* puts a spin on that. While all of the "action" may take place on the stage, the vocals heard throughout the performance give a surround sound effect. There were multiple times during Wednesday's dress rehearsal when voices could be heard coming from the perimeter of the auditorium; once from four females standing atop different platforms singing as they called each other on the phone, and another when the female cast exited the stage in two groups (one stage right, one stage left) singing "We love you, Conrad."

The playful, lighthearted nature of the musical shone through on the faces of the female actresses, as they smiled gleefully and giggled as they sang about their beloved Conrad Birdie. It could also be seen when the majority of the cast stood, sat and lay on the stage, equipped with telephones in hand, kicking their legs and bobbing their heads back and forth to the music.

Rosenberg said the children are in good hands, as Meade does a "great job" with the kids.

"We are always so incredibly impressed by how they are able to pull all the students together in such a short time," said Rosenberg. "So that takes dedication on the part of the kids, and Director Mary Rose Meade and the other staff."

Meade has been working for AHM since 1992, served as an English teacher at RHAM

postpone the show, which had been slated for Saturday night, until a later date.

Hoy said that because of the water on the field, there is "minimal parking" and the grass cannot be mowed, presenting a fire hazard.

Committee Chairman John Sobczyk said Wednesday the committee met on Tuesday to discuss a possible date for the fireworks. Sobczyk said that the company that shoots off the fireworks has only two dates available – one in July and one in late August. He added that the committee "needs an answer from the town quickly," particularly the police and fire department, as to which date would work best for them.

"But we are still going to have" the fireworks, Sobczyk stressed. "Everyone's geared up and ready."

Hoy said that the winners of the raffle will still be pulled on Saturday, and winners will not need to be present to win. Tickets can still be purchased at The Medicine Center, TopDog, Café 66, Bud's Café, The Connecticut School of Music and Dance or Farrell's Restaurant, or call Sobczyk at 860-490-3128 or Hoy at 860-685-1265.

and holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from New York University's Tisch School of Arts. Meade also spent time in New York performing on stage and film, as well as working behind the scenes on productions.

Meade said *Bye Bye Birdie* should be a crowd-pleaser, with lots of laughs and catchy tunes to hum to. One of which includes the song, "Put on a Happy Face," which appears early in Act 1 and features an attention grabbing tap number.

This year's returning actors whom are starring in lead roles include: Peter O'Connell as Birdie's songwriter Albert Peterson, Emily Shok as Peterson's secretary and lover Rose Alvarez, Elizabeth Quesada as Birdie's number one fan Kim MacAfee, Chris Yeterian and Kelly Whitesell as Mr. and Mrs. MacAfee. And making his debut appearance in the title roll of rock star and heartthrob Conrad Birdie is Dan Busa.

"I love seeing teens from three different towns come together to form a community of support, cooperation and friendship. That is first," Meade said. "I also love the fact that alumni return every year to be part of this special program. It sounds cliché, but we really are a family. It is incredibly special."

Tickets are \$9 for adults and \$6 for senior citizens and children under 12. For tickets or more information, call AHM Youth Services at 860-228-9488. Tickets are also available at the Hebron Town Clerk's office, located at 15 Gilead St., Hebron, and will be available at the door.

From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

Last Saturday was a lovely day for a parade – and fortunately, East Hampton saw one, as the annual Old Home Days Parade made a welcome reappearance.

As always, the parade featured appearances of members of the Town Council, waving hands at their constituents. And while most were clad in standard parade-walking fare, council member Sue Weintraub decided to make a statement. Sue walked wearing a T-shirt reminding residents to "Remember in November."

If you don't know what Sue is talking about, then you somehow managed to miss the whole Jeff O'Keefe-Matt Reimondo saga in East Hampton last year. O'Keefe's removal of Reimondo – and the Town Council's subsequent deletion of his position from the town ordinances (a deletion that was later reversed at referendum) – was highly controversial and proved incredibly unpopular in town. Weintraub was the only member of the council who expressed opposition to O'Keefe's and the council's actions. As I wrote in this space almost exactly one year ago, the impact of the whole ordeal will likely be felt come Election Day, as all of the council members' current terms are up.

However, nobody in East Hampton needed to be reminded of anything; despite it being several months since Reimondo got his job

back and O'Keefe left town, the issue has never gone away, for one reason or another (such as O'Keefe first being vindicated by the state, then asking the state to conduct its own investigation into Reimondo, and then getting embarrassingly shot down by the state's attorney; or the incredibly-drawn-out signing of the settlement with Reimondo).

But that's beside the point. Even if anybody in town did need to be reminded, the Old Home Days Parade quite frankly wasn't the time or the place to do it. Old Home Days is a happy event, an aptly-named "glorious celebration," in a town that's become increasingly divided, angry and vitriolic over the years.

It's one thing to encourage people to vote Democratic or vote Republican. But to march in the Old Home Days Parade wearing a T-shirt reminding people of an ugly chapter in this town's history is a different matter.

There will be plenty of other times over the next four months to tell people to "Remember in November," and plenty of other venues. (The *Rivereast* letters to the editor section seems to be a particularly popular such venue.)

Sue should've left the T-shirt at home.

* * *

See you next week.

Colchester Man Arrested After Fleeing Police, Crashing Car

by Shawn R. Dagle

A Colchester man fled from Glastonbury police last weekend, only to crash his car in Hebron, leading to him being arrested on multiple charges by two different police departments.

According to Glastonbury Police, Gordon G. Saucier Jr., 42, of 642 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester, was observed driving 74 miles per hour down Hebron Avenue and passing another vehicle in a no-passing zone just before 6:30 p.m. Saturday, July 10.

Saucier allegedly pulled over for police near Ridge Road, police said, but then made a U-turn in the intersection and sped off in the direction of Hebron.

Glastonbury Police said they gave chase, but eventually called off the pursuit due to the high rate of speed Saucier was allegedly driving.

However, just after 6:30 p.m. that same day, State Police responded to an accident in Hebron involving Saucier, near the Hebron/Glastonbury town line. According to State Police, Saucier was traveling south on Route 94, lost control of his vehicle, sideswiped another vehicle, and then went off the road and

struck a fence. Saucier ran from the scene, but was later apprehended by police, State Police said.

The vehicle Saucier allegedly struck was carrying six Wallingford residents. None of them were injured, nor was Saucier, State Police said.

Glastonbury Police said they were also notified of the crash, and upon arriving at the scene, identified Saucier's vehicle as the same 1999 Ford Taurus they had attempted to pull over earlier.

State Police charged Saucier with evading responsibility, reckless driving, improper use of registration and having an unregistered motor vehicle.

Glastonbury Police, meanwhile, charged Saucier with DUI, reckless driving, failure to bring a motor vehicle to a full stop when signaled, improper use of a license or marker plate, operating an unregistered motor vehicle, driving without insurance, speeding and passing in a no-passing zone.

Shawn R. Dagle is a reporter for the Rivereast's sister newspaper, The Glastonbury Citizen.

Crash Closes Arrigoni Bridge in Portland

by Joshua Anusewicz

A minor crash on the Arrigoni Bridge on Wednesday closed the bridge for roughly 20 minutes, police said.

According to Sgt. Scott Cunningham of the Portland Police, a Middletown Police officer stationed on the west end of the bridge responded to an accident on the bridge Wednesday morning. The crash took place in the east-bound lane (toward Portland), which backed up traffic into Middletown; Cunningham said Portland Police stopped traffic on the Portland side to clear the bridge so emergency vehicles had a clear path to the accident.

Traffic on the Portland side was backed up to Dairy Queen on Route 66, Cunningham said.

Nicole Hendry, 33, of East Haddam, "slowed for traffic," Cunningham said, and

was struck from behind by William Larson, 61, of Bozrah. Larson was then struck from behind by a motorcyclist, Kristopher Schonagel, 27, of East Hampton. Schonagel was treated for minor injuries and was transported by ambulance to Middlesex Hospital.

Cunningham said that all of the vehicles sustained minor damage.

This is the first accident on the bridge since construction began Tuesday, June 28. Cunningham said the response went "smoothly" and the bridge was cleared for traffic in 20 minutes. He added that the signs that indicate the status of traffic from the bridge, which are located in several spots in Middletown and Portland, were changed to say that the bridge was closed.

A Tail to Tell, Manx Kittens to Sell in Marlborough

by Courtney Parent

Some people are classified as dog people, others as cat people, but wouldn't it be wonderful if you didn't have to choose? Some don't. Resident Pamela Casale is one of those people. Casale has both owned and bred the canine-like cat, the Manx, for many years, and is currently selling her second litter of Manx kittens.

When most people think of felines, they think furry, sometimes feisty animals with long tails. However, not all felines fit this mold. Manx cats veer away from the stereotype in terms of both personality and appearance. They not only have what is considered to be a "dog-like" demeanor, but also have an unusual appearance in regards to the length or even existence of a tail.

The Manx is a breed of cat that has a naturally occurring mutation of the spine which shortens the tail, resulting in a variety of different tail lengths from normal to completely tailless. The majority of Manx cats are referred to as either "stumpy" (having a small stub for a tail) or "rumpy" (having no tail). The breed was named after the Isle of Man, where they originated prior to the 18th century.

Casale became a member of the Manx fan club 35 years ago, when she purchased her first one. Following the popular TV miniseries *Roots*, she named the cat Kunta Kitty after the miniseries' main character Kunta Kinte. Casale said the Manx was her "little black boy who lost his tail," named after the "little black boy who lost his foot."

Despite falling in love with the Manx breed, it was several years before she had the opportunity to make any other Manx a part of her family. Her next addition was a rescue of a "beautiful" litter of stray kittens, which a woman she knew had to give up.

Though Casale said she does not typically "promote purebred," she could not ignore her intrigue for the animals. As a result, four years ago, she began a search for her favorite feline breed. However, she said, they were not easy to find, as she had to go out of state to locate them, acquiring a female in New York and a male in Vermont.

The now mother and father have been part of the Casale family for four years and have just recently birthed their second litter of kittens. The seven kittens are just seven weeks old and are primarily black; a few with orange markings.

Casale's first encounter with Manx breeding occurred when the first litter was born this

winter. According to Casale, that first litter sold like hotcakes, taking just nine days to sell, after posting just a few flyers around town.

One member of that first litter of tailless treasures has a truly interesting tale to tell. Bailey is more than just a pet; he is also a source of amusement and enjoyment for residents at the Village at South Farms in Middletown. (The Village at South Farms is a senior living facility which provides assisted living, care for Alzheimer's patients and respite care.)

According to Bailey's owner, Peggy Waszkelewicz, the Manx makes a trip to the facility with her every Saturday. When Waszkelewicz makes a trip to visit her mother (who resides at the Village at South Farms) without the cat, residents ask "Where's Bailey?"

"They just love him," said Waszkelewicz. "He's like their mascot."

As a result of Bailey's appearance at the facility, Waszkelewicz said staff members at South Farms are now considering attaining their own cat. Waszkelewicz said they are also leaning toward the Manx breed because of the good temperament, which she described as "very even tempered, kind of like a dog."

In terms of unique personality quirks, Waszkelewicz pointed to Bailey's interesting feeding habits. Bailey, she said, will not drink water from his bowl; rather he drinks directly from a running faucet. However, Waszkelewicz said on occasion he will also drink from a cup if you fill it and leave it placed on a table.

Though Waszkelewicz was singing Bailey's praises on Tuesday, she said that she has always considered herself "more of a dog person." To a further extent, Waszkelewicz said her husband "doesn't really like cats," however, she said "he loves this cat." Waszkelewicz said it is likely due to their dog-like nature and features. Not only does the cat act like a canine, but also has a "little stumpy [tail] and it wags like a dog."

Casale also pointed to the breed's special personality, which she said shows off their loyalty. Specifically, Casale described times when their four-year old Manx, Big Bear, has gone on hikes with the family around some of the Connecticut trails and has gone out on boat outings with the family. Also, while the Manx is normally a quiet cat, Casale said Big Bear isn't afraid to speak his mind and let out meows to let the family know when he is done hiking for the day.

Casale said the Manx cat is also a very smart breed, describing one particular hike when she and her husband decided to hide on Big Bear



Four of resident Pamela Casale's seven Manx kittens for sale, lounge upon a four-story piece of feline furniture.

on a bluff, to see if he would continue down the path to the vehicle. Bear continued on, meowing as he went, suddenly Casale said they no longer heard the cat's cries. They began whispering among themselves, wondering where he had gone. She then looked down to see the cat seated between them on the bluff.

Casale's daughter, 17-year-old Anna, also commented on the unique personalities of their cats. Particularly, she pointed to 6-month-old Baby Bear and his fascination with the toilet. According to Anna, whenever he hears someone using the bathroom he races to the door to explore.

Anna described the kittens' presence in the Casale household as therapeutic. She and her mother both work in the restaurant world, which can be stressful, and she said coming home to the kittens is like therapy.

While Casale loves all Manx she did say she prefers the males. However, Anna said there is no difference between the males and females

and that her mom is "just obsessed with the male black bears."

Casale also noted that while the mother takes very good care of her seven kittens, 6-month old brother Baby Bear also enjoys giving his younger siblings baths.

"It's been very enriching," said Casale, "keeping one from the first litter."

Though it may have been an enriching experience, Anna said that all seven kittens in this litter are being sold as the family already has five of their own cats at the house.

So far, Casale said one of the kittens is headed to New York City, and another may also be going there. However, as the first litter stayed local, all going to homes in Marlborough and Hebron, she does hope that some will stay in the area.

Casale is selling the kittens for \$300 each, with a \$100 deposit. For more information or to set up a time to see the kittens, call 860-690-1143.

RHAM Administrators Receive Pay Increases

by Courtney Parent

RHAM high and middle school administrators started the summer with some good news, as their contracts were renewed for another year.

The RHAM Board of Education voted June 21 to extend the administrators' contracts one year, through June 30, 2013, and to give them each 1.5 percent pay raises. The increases went to the principal and assistant principal at both schools and to the regional school district's special education director. The contract for Superintendent of Schools Robert Siminski was not affected.

With the raises, high school principal Scott Leslie's annual salary will increase from \$143,090 this year to \$145,236 in 2012-13; middle school principal Michael Seroussi's will go from \$137,762 to \$139,828; high school assistant principal Don Wilson's will climb from \$118,394 to \$120,170; middle school assistant principal Carri-Ann Bell's will go from \$114,076 to \$115,787; and special education director Eric Protulis' pay will increase from \$122,220 to \$124,053.

Leslie said last week that he felt the 1.5 percent increase was a "fair and reasonable" one, adding there is "never any expectation" upon entering into salary negotiations.

Leslie said the salaries that RHAM administrators receive are "well within the norm" of administrators salaries. Leslie also said that the

salary increase percentage was more a "reflection of the times" than a "reflection of our job performance."

"You can't necessarily say you are doing a good job so you can get 'x' raise," said Leslie. "Where does it end? I'd love to think you can continue to get healthy raise after healthy raise, but you have to ask, are we fairly compensated?"

Seroussi concurred, saying that if you were to look at settlements around the state and consider the financial times it was a "fair increase."

Also, in an executive session at the June 21 meeting, school board members discussed Siminski's evaluation, which RHAM Board of Education Chairman Michael Turner described as very positive.

"Basically, everyone is happy with his performance," said Turner. "He's been handling the budget well and developed good relationships with other boards in member towns."

Siminski said that the evaluation was "pretty much" what he had expected. According to Siminski, the board told him that there was "little to criticize" as he had reached the goals set for the school year and showed his dedication to the education field.

Siminski said Wednesday that a few of the main goals for the upcoming 2011-12 school year include fully implementing the Scientific

Research-Based Intervention (SRBI) program through the use of a new software program, which will track student progress over time, the successful addition of a remedial math position which will supplement the reading specialist position, which was added in the 2010-11 school year; and working on benchmark assessments, which would give teachers immediate feedback on student performance.

Prior to entering into the executive session the board closed out the budget during its special meeting. The budget closeout included multiple transfers of funds.

According to minutes of the June 21 meeting, there was a motion made to transfer \$51,166 from the teachers' salaries line item to the appropriate account to liquidate the debt on the superintendent's office. Another motion was made to transfer an additional \$50,000 from the teachers' salaries line item to the technology line item to allow the purchase of replacement computers for the high school and middle school. Board members unanimously voted to approve both motions.

Siminski said this week there was available money in the teachers' salaries line item due to "hiring differentials," such as departing teachers being replaced by ones at lower salaries, or teachers on long-term medical or maternity leave being replaced by lower-paid substitutes.

Another unanimous approval derived from a motion to amend the financial hit taken by a harsh winter. A transfer was proposed in the amount of \$31,092 from the health insurance line item to be transferred to the contractual services line item to pay for snow removal.

The transfer that did not provide a unanimous vote was in regards to a \$50,000 transfer from the health insurance line item to the instructional supply account. Turner, school board vice chairman James Cherry and board members Danny Holtsclaw, Kenneth Lee, Laura Steiner, Debra Dee, Dieter Zimmer and Sandra Sudduth voted in favor of the increase, while Thomas Tremont and Maryanne Leichter opposed it.

Asked about her 'no' vote this week, Leichter said, "We're trying to earmark the money for something else." However, when asked to elaborate further, Leichter declined comment.

Tremont did not return a call for comment. Along the same lines, but to a smaller extent, was a proposed \$3,000 transfer from the health insurance line item to the appropriate line item for field repair. Member Debra Dee was the sole member to abstain from the vote, while all others voted in favor of the transfer.

The next RHAM Board of Education meeting is scheduled for Monday, Aug. 22 at 6:30 p.m. in the high school chorus room.

Tri-County Fitness in Hebron Wants to Pump You Up

by Courtney Parent

Have you ever made those corny jokes about selling tickets to the gun show while wearing a tank top? Have you ever flexed and gave that “bulging bicep” a kiss to amuse your friends? It’s okay, we’ve all done it – and now when you make those amusing gestures, you can actually have a few muscles to show off.

Tri-County Fitness, a new gym facility located at 7 Liberty Dr., officially opened its doors on June 18, welcoming any and all from the Tri-County area.

The gym is co-owned by three locals; Dave Rojas, Jeff Thibodeau and Al Lizarraga. According to Rojas, himself and Thibodeau have been friends since early childhood, while Lizarraga is his cousin.

Though each of the three holds a full-time job, they decided to collaboratively open a gym out of their passion for fitness and the fact that there was no local gym available to residents. According to Rojas, the closest facilities (prior to their opening) were located in Colchester, Glastonbury and Willimantic.

Rojas said the trio wants to give their community the opportunity to stay local for exercise, while also enjoying a family-run atmosphere.

As of last Friday, Rojas estimated there had been approximately 200 visitors to the gym, and 150 had left their contact information.

So far, Lizarraga said that clients are “psyched” to have a place to work out locally. He said that while many that have visited the gym are Hebron residents, there have been many others from neighboring towns. Rojas went on to describe the “tri-county area” as the RHAM towns – Marlborough (a Hartford County town), Hebron and Andover (both Tolland County) – with the addition of nearby Columbia (also Tolland County) and Lebanon (New London County).

Thibodeau agreed, saying that what he hears most frequently is about how “convenient” it is. He pointed out that for many the location will save a 20-minute drive to and from an alternative gym, as well as save a few dollars on travel with the current gas prices. He added that, because the gym is more conveniently-located, people will come more often.

Though convenience and a family feel are two things the trio is striving for, those cannot overshadow the new equipment and clean facility. According to Rojas, there are no other facilities in the area that offer the same level of new, state-of-the-art equipment. Tri-County Fitness also offers group fitness classes and sports instruction. Step aerobics, Zumba, yoga and pilates are just a few of the classes being offered. For those looking to beef up their batting averages, there will also be baseball hitting instruction with Tri-County legion baseball coach Mike Susi.

While it is still currently being coordinated, Rojas said a future opportunity at the gym will likely be a strength and conditioning program for athletes with RHAM varsity baseball coach Paul Steiner. As Rojas pointed out, the gym is just a “hop, skip and jump” away from RHAM and would give athletes the opportunity to access a state-of-the-art facility.

Lizarraga added that one particular piece of equipment that is proving to be a fan favorite is the elliptical. There are multiple elliptical machines at the facility, all with personal television monitors for individual enjoyment. While the ellipticals may have caught gym-goers’ intrigue, Lizarraga said “people have been raving” about how user-friendly all the machines are.

While Tri-County Fitness is now up, running and fully-equipped with anything and everything to get you jacked, pumped, toned, ripped and cut, it took more than just a love for squats and cardio to get to this point.

Lizarraga described the recent endeavor to get Tri-County Fitness up and running as a “labor of love.” From the beginning of April until the June 18 opening, the three said they put in an extra 50 to 60 hours a week (outside of their full-time jobs) to get the center ready. (Prior to serving as home to Tri-County Fitness, the space was used in a similar “fitness” context as a Curves for Women).

Lizarraga continued on to say that extra hours spent preparing the gym for the opening were the hardest, not due to the work it entailed, but due to the time spent away from their families. (Lizarraga, Rojas, and Thibodeau are all married with children.)



Local residents Jeff Thibodeau, left, Dave Rojas, center, and Al Lizarraga promote the “convenience” and “family-run” atmosphere that can be found in their newly opened gym: Tri-County Fitness.

The hours of operation are Monday through Thursday from 5 a.m.-10 p.m., Friday from 5 a.m.-9 p.m., Saturday from 6 a.m.-4 p.m. and Sunday from 7 a.m.-2 p.m.

However, residents will not be limited to just those hours. For those on a different schedule, members will have access to the gym at all hours of the day. Each member will be given a card key and through the software management system will be able to swipe that card gaining access through the side door. Lizarraga referred to these as “unsupervised hours of access” for convenience. For safety purposes, there are security cameras set up, as well as five panic buttons in case of an emergency.

According to Rojas, the main goal is to provide a convenient, family-run business. He

added that after everyone is trained, children, nieces, nephews and other family members of the trio will also come on as part-time staff.

To offer people the opportunity to find out more about Tri-County Fitness, the trio said they will likely have a booth at the upcoming Hebron Harvest Festival in September, at which they will offer specials. They also plan to give tours of the facility during next year’s Maple Festival. (There will also be a grand opening this fall, at a date to be determined.)

“We invite everyone to stop by and check us out,” said Rojas, “and see what we have to offer. Everyone can truly benefit.”

For more information about Tri-County Fitness, call 860-530-1373 or visit tri-countyfitness.com.

Hebron Residents Vote to Discontinue Roads

by Courtney Parent

At a special town meeting held on Thursday, June 30, six roads were discontinued – but one additional road that was up for discontinuance was spared, by a 23-19 vote.

The meeting had been scheduled for a week prior, on June 23, but that was scrapped due to a lack of quorum. (A minimum of 25 people are needed for a town meeting.)

The unimproved portions of West Street and Paper Mill, Slocum, Town, Crouch and Grayville roads were discontinued at the meeting.

While five of those six roads were discontinued via a voice vote, the Crouch Road discontinuance required an additional count, after the voice vote was unable to provide an accurate one.

According to meeting minutes, the main concerns connected with Crouch Road were presented by lawyer George Schober, who said he was speaking on behalf of the Ostragers who

are abutting property owners. Schober explained that the Ostragers have plans to develop their property in the future and that the discontinuance of Crouch Road would prevent them from doing so.

According to meeting minutes, Glenn Ostrager said that it would be in the town’s best interest to keep the road open and not to penalize taxpayers by denying development rights. When the results of an original voice vote could not be determined, moderator Kevin Connors asked voters who opposed the discontinuance to rise and be counted. After the tally was collected, the discontinuance passed with 31 ‘yeas’ and 11 ‘nays.’

The sole discontinuance to fail during the town meeting was the proposed discontinuance of Chittenden Road. The unimproved portion of the road up for discontinuance was 1,130 feet in length.

The main concerns revolved around safety.

According to the minutes, Gai and Charles Savitski, who live on Chittenden Road, spoke about increased danger at the intersection of Chittenden and Old Hartford roads. This week, Gai Savitski described the intersection as a blind one upon which she has had many “close calls.” She added that when there is an accident on Route 2 or road construction traffic often gets re-routed to Old Hartford Road, at which point it is nearly impossible to get out into the traffic.

Gai Savitski said another big concern with the possible discontinuance of Chittenden Road was that it would essentially be land-locking 160 acres of land, 60 of which her family owns. While she said she had no immediate plans for development, but would like to have it as an option for the future.

“I was happy” when the vote to discontinue Chittenden failed, Gai Savitski said, “but mostly

I was relieved because of the safety concerns and for the future development.”

At the meeting, Gai Savitski also said “return receipt notification” about Chittenden being up for discontinuance should have been sent to everyone on the street. However, Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said Wednesday, while residents of most of the roads were notified, by state law the town is not required to contact anyone.

When moderator Kevin Connors called for further discussion about Chittenden and there was none, he called for a vote. When the outcome of the voice vote could not be determined, Connors asked those who opposed the discontinuance to rise and be counted. After numbers were counted, it was announced that there were 19 ‘yes’ votes and 23 ‘no’ votes, and Chittenden wound up being the only road of the evening to stay open as a regular road.

Gong Bell Property in East Hampton Now Municipal Parking Lot

by Joshua Anusewicz

The conversion of the former Gong Bell property, located at 103 Main St., has been completed, the Brownfields Redevelopment Agency announced this week. The property has been turned into a municipal parking lot that will also accommodate the library and senior center on the bordering property.

“Once again, through the hard work and dedication of our agency members, the town has successfully cleaned up, and in this case successfully redeveloped, another Village Center property,” Dan Wolfram, chairman of the Brownfields Redevelopment Agency, said. “A blighted and significantly underutilized property has been transformed into a parking area that we believe will provide needed spaces as the use of the library and senior center continues to grow.”

The plan included removing contaminated materials and then regrading and isolating the remaining contaminated soil under an impermeable membrane, to prevent the contaminants from seeping into nearby Pocotopaug Creek. The project also included the removal of a “derelict structure” from the former Gong Bell Company.

Mary Ann Dostaler, a member of the Brownfields Redevelopment Agency, said Tuesday that the “amount of contamination and the amount of money received” through grants led to the choice of building the parking lot.

According to the agency, the group has received five Environmental Protection Agency grant awards for its various projects, which totaled \$975,000. In 2003, the town was awarded a \$175,000 “hazardous substances assessment

grant” to conduct historical records searches and preliminary site assessments at several “Brownfields properties” in the Village Center. This included soil and groundwater samples that were collected at the town-owned former Gong Bell property.

At the time, the samples showed several types of contaminants, including “oils and heavy metals,” which were a result of industrial use of the land in the past. The town then received a \$200,000 cleanup grant in 2007 to “remediate” the contaminated soil.

According to Wolfram, the town also received a \$200,000 cleanup grant in 2006 to assess and remediate a town-owned property at 13 Watrous St., a former “power house.” The town also received two additional \$200,000 hazardous substances assessment grants in 2008 and 2010, respectively.

Through the agency, the town was able to develop “a scope of work” and put the project out to bid, and awarded the contract in January. Site work began in April with “the demolition of the existing brick structure and removal of asbestos.”

The new parking lot is likely a welcome addition to the ever-expanding Village Center. Construction has begun on two projects – an extension of the Air Line Trail and a 1,500 square foot addition to the Senior Center – that town officials hope will draw more people to the area.

The agency is currently working on assessing the Epoch Arts property located on Skinner Street. Wolfram said that the \$200,000 grant that the agency received in 2010 will help as-



The former Gong Bell property, located at 103 Main St., is now a municipal parking lot, which will help serve the nearby library and senior center.

sess the property.

Wolfram said that the agency is actively looking for other properties that can be assessed for contamination, including personal property. He admitted that residents are less likely to agree because they are “responsible” for the project, but said that he hopes that “with recent success [from assessments], people will think about it.”

The agency describes itself as a volunteer group “tasked with facilitating the redevelopment of the Village Center area through the identification, assessment and remediation of soil and groundwater contamination.” The group meets every fourth Monday at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Hall; its next meeting will be Monday, July 25.

Friday Rains Don't Deter Successful Old Home Days in East Hampton

by Joshua Anusewicz

A successful Thursday and a rain-soaked Friday gave way to a “glorious” Saturday, as the Old Home Days “Glorious Celebration” took over East Hampton last weekend. And as the song goes, “two out of three ain’t bad.”

“It went remarkably well,” said Old Home Days Association President Jim Vick, who commended all of those involved with putting on the event, rain or shine. “I’d say, overall, it was another success.”

The events kicked off on Thursday, with the opening of rides, games, food booths, and live entertainment. Vick said that a new wrinkle he added – scheduling a magician, the Amazing Andy – was a “good move” and may lead to more “alternative entertainment” on future opening nights.

Friday was supposed to be another successful evening, but heavy rains kept most patrons at home. However, 241 hearty souls braved the elements and took part in the 13th annual Glorious Gallop 5K Road Race. The race, which snakes its way around Lake Pocotopaug and finishes at Center School, had only about 100 less runners than last year, according to Sheila Oakes, one of the event’s organizers.

“We had a ball,” said Oakes, laughing. “If you were a runner, you would understand.”

Vick added that from what he heard, “for every one runner that didn’t want to run, there were five that would have wanted to run.”

First place in the men’s division went to Rob Weston of Middletown with a time of 15:40, and first place in women’s division went to Allison Gates of Deep River with a time of 18:47. Belltown’s fastest representative was 18-year-old Bill Lonsdale, who finished sixth overall with a time of 16:43.

Friday also featured the Hartford band Neybas, who Vick said played to a crowd of about 30 fans who “danced all night.”

Mother Nature was kind on Saturday, as thousands gathered for what the Old Home Days Association bills as the “largest parade in Middlesex County” – the Old Home Days pa-

rade. This year’s parade featured 120 units, of various shapes and sizes that interpreted the parade’s theme – “Cosmic Carnival” – in many different ways.

The parade was led by the East Hampton Police Department, and followed by the police color guard, local Boy Scouts, members of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5095 and the Governor’s Foot Guard. Appearing in his 21st Old Home Days parade, Sen. Richard Blumenthal waved to the crowd and spoke with some of the spectators.

Members of the Town Council also marched in the parade, as well as Interim Town Manager John Weichsel, who enjoyed his first Old Home Days Parade from the backseat of a bright red convertible.

Music was a major theme of the parade as about a dozen different groups serenaded the crowd. The East Hampton High School and East Hampton Middle School marching bands, the East Hampton Third Connecticut Drum and Fife Regiment, Colchester Continental Fife and Drum, and the Marlborough Jr. Ancient Fife and Drum all participated.

A fan favorite was the South Philadelphia String Band, also known as the Mummies, who sported unique outfits and played catchy jazz tunes. The Mummies also performed at the carnival on Saturday afternoon.

Another favorite was the Shriners, which included clowns, motorcycles, and mini cars that bobbed and weaved strategically along the road.

The East Hampton High School baseball team, which won the Class S State Championship this spring, rode on a float that displayed their new championship banner and trophy; they showed their appreciation for the fans by showering them with squirt guns, giving some relief from the 85 degree weather. State champion pole vaulter and recent EHHS grad Nate Abraham was also part of the parade, riding in a convertible.

Many of the other floats looked to display the “Cosmic Carnival” theme as they saw fit,



The East Hampton High School marching band proudly performs a musical melody for crowdgoers during the Old Home Days parade last Saturday.

most attempting outer space or 1960s designs. First prize went to the Podium Players, second prize went to Outer Limits Salon, third prize went to Paul and Sandy’s, and honorable mention went to Cub Scout Troop 57.

Other notable groups were the Free Men of the Sea, a group of pirates that shot off cannons, a traveling Zumba class and members of the Young People’s Center for Creative Arts (YPCCA), who sang numbers from the musical *Footloose*.

“What a great parade,” Oakes said. “It’s always good, but this one was really good.”

The parade gave way to the carnival, which

had enough mole-whacking, balloon-popping, water-squirting games and topsy-turvy rides to keep everyone satisfied. The food options were plentiful, offering standards like hamburgers, hot dogs, and sausages, and interesting creations like fried Oreos, fried Twinkies and chicken on a stick.

Vick said Saturday was one of “the busiest days ever” at the Glorious Celebration, and thanked all of the volunteers and local businesses that helped put on the event. “The bands were exceptional, the rides and games and food got great reviews. It was terrific.”

Moodus Woman Crashes into Wall, Post and Fence in Middle Haddam

by Joshua Anusewicz

A one-car accident on Monday resulted in injuries to the vehicle's occupants and significant damage to property in the Middle Haddam Historic District.

According to East Hampton Police, the crash occurred on Route 151 (Middle Haddam Road) at about 11:40 a.m. A 1998 Nissan Maxima traveling north on Route 151 collided with a granite wall in front of Christ Episcopal Church, then veered across the road and collided with a fence and stone post on the property of 67 Middle Haddam Rd.

The driver of the vehicle, Danielle Jacobs, 22, of Moodus, sustained "moderate injuries," according to Sgt. Garritt Kelly, and was taken to Hartford Hospital via LifeStar helicopter for "precautionary" reasons. Kelly said that the passengers, Morgan Poulin, 20, of Colchester, and Thomas Freeman, 20, of Middletown, also sustained moderate injuries and were taken by ambulance to Hartford Hospital. Kelly said Tuesday the three had already been discharged from the hospital.

Kelly said an investigation is ongoing into the cause of accident, but said that it appears Jacobs was "distracted." He added that there "might be some substances involved," but none of the occupants have been charged yet.

Jacobs was involved in a similar accident just over a month ago; on June 8, she lost control of her 2001 Mercury Cougar on Route 9 South in Haddam and hit a guardrail, according to published reports, although no charges

have been filed.

However, Jacobs was arrested in February in East Haddam for second-degree robbery, conspiracy to commit second-degree robbery, two counts of second-degree larceny and breach of peace, according to the state's judicial website.

According to the state's judicial website, Jacobs was also sentenced to 30 days in jail in August 2010 for violating probation after she was arrested in West Hartford in February 2010 for possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia. The probation sentence was due to a third-degree assault that occurred in August 2008, where she received 18 months probation.

Susan Skoglund of Christ Episcopal Church said Tuesday there was "considerable damage" done to the granite wall at the church. Skoglund said that roughly 70 feet of the wall, which stands about two feet high, was affected. She said that the church is in the process of contacting their insurance company to find out the total cost of the damage.

The property at 67 Middle Haddam Rd. (the Capt. Ralph Smith House, built around 1780) suffered damage, but James Royster, chairman of the Middle Haddam Historic District Commission (MHHDC), said it "didn't seem that extensive." Royster added that ordinary repairs "can be done without the permission of the MHHDC," but permission is needed if the design is changed.

Portland Police News

7/7: Harry Scott Jr., 26, of 259 Injun Hollow Rd., Haddam Neck, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, Portland Police said.

7/9: Trina Jackson, 39, of 4 Chatham Ct., was charged with second-degree failure to appear, police said.

East Hampton Police News

6/28: Michael P. Distefano, 48, of 46 Edstrom Rd., Marlborough, was arrested for drinking while driving, possession of narcotics, having a weapon in a motor vehicle, failure to keep narcotics in the original container, having an obstructed view, misuse of marker plates, operating an unregistered motor vehicle and disobeying an officer's signal, East Hampton Police said.

6/28: Matthew Rice, 33, of 30 Grove St., Portland, was arrested for issuing a bad check and fifth-degree larceny, police said.

Colchester Police News

7/5: There was a reported larceny at Colchester Wine & Spirits, 99 Linwood Ave., State Police said. The incident is under investigation.

7/6: Christopher Emmerson, 43, of 60 Oak Leaf Dr., was charged with four counts of violation of protective order, State Police said.

7/6: Peter E. Kevorkian Jr., 51, of 44 Brainard Rd., was charged with third-degree burglary, third-degree larceny, third-degree criminal mischief and possession of narcotics, State Police said.

7/7: State Police said they are investigating a residential burglary that took place on Loomis Road between 6 p.m. and 11:30 p.m. Anyone with information is asked to call Troop K at 860-537-7500.

7/7: A burglary of a Windham Avenue home was reported at 4:25 p.m., State Police said. Reported stolen was approximately 20 feet of copper piping.

Obituaries

East Hampton

Gladys Smith Memorial Service

A memorial service for the late Gladys L. Smith will be held Saturday, July 16, at 10 a.m., at Christ Episcopal Church, 66 Middle Haddam Rd., Middle Haddam, with Rev. Page Rogers officiating.

A reception for family and friends will be in the church Parish Hall following the service.

Smith, a longtime East Hampton resident, died in April at the age of 101. For over seven decades, she was involved in most all aspects of civic, political, school and social leadership in East Hampton.

Colchester

Walter H. Joyner

Walter H. Joyner, 89, of Manchester and most recently Colchester, husband of Wilma (Shade) Joyner, passed away Wednesday, July 6, at home. He was born Feb. 9, 1922, in Buffalo, NY, the son of the late Walter B. and Lois Joyner.

His brother, Herbert Joyner, predeceased him. He proudly served in WWII as a bombardier navigator on B-25 aircraft. He enlisted 8-15-42 and was honorably discharged 10-11-45. He served in the Connecticut National Guard E Co 169th Infantry as a second lieutenant. Walter was baptized and joined Center Congregational Church of Manchester over 70 years ago and sang in the choir for many years. He was also a member of Gilead Congregational Church. He graduated from Manchester High School and later Trinity College in Hartford. After college, he worked as an underwriter for the Aetna Life and Casualty for over 10 years. He then joined his father in a maintenance supply and service business, retiring in 1986.

Walter was a member of Masonic Lodge 73 and Sphinx Temple Shrine. He was elected to the State House of Representatives in 1979 and served two terms. Following that he served as director and president of the Eighth Utilities District for 5 years. He was instrumental in developing better relations between the District and the Town of Manchester. With his wife Wilma he spent many summers in New Hampshire and winters in Florida. He was a life member of Rockville Fish and Game Club.

In addition to his wife of 65 years, Walter is survived by his three children: his daughter Christine M Joyner, son Stephen D Joyner and his wife Carol, and daughter Penelope Shimchick and husband George; his six grandchildren, Benjamin Kibbe and wife Kathy, Stephen M Joyner and wife Dawn, Dennis Joyner and wife Heather, Katie Barkasy and husband Joel, Eric and Gregory Shimchick; 5 great-grandchildren Emily and Grace Kibbe, Hannah and Megan Joyner and Addison Rose Joyner.

Family and friends are invited to attend memorial calling hours Monday, July 18, at Watkins Funeral Home, 142 East Center St., Manchester, from 5-8 p.m., with a Masonic service conducted at 7 p.m. A graveside burial with military honors will be Tuesday, July 19, at 11 a.m. in East Cemetery (Section P), 220 East Center St., Manchester.

Following Walter's burial, memorial services will be held at 1 p.m. at Gilead Congregational Church, 672 Gilead St. (Route 85), Hebron. Memorial donations may be made to Gilead Congregational Church, 672 Gilead St. (Route 85), Hebron, CT 06248; Hospice Southeastern Connecticut, 227 Dunham St., Norwich, CT 06360, or to a charity of the donor's choice.

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

Andover

Arthur Parker Horn

Arthur Parker "Pop" Horn slipped away peacefully Thursday, July 7, in his home in Andover. He is pre-deceased by his wife Ethel; brothers Eddie and Ray and sister, Eleanor (Martin).

Born and raised in Hartford, he was a very giving, handy, hard-working family-oriented man. He was a driver for the G. Fox Co. early on and became a 30-year man at Pratt & Whitney of East Hartford until retirement. He and his bride, Ethel (Humphrey), moved to Manchester after returning from World War II when he was stationed in England. They moved to his dream house on Andover Lake in 1966.

He leaves behind two sons: Bruce "Prof" Horn and wife Diane of Wolcott, Gregory Horn and Marcia Camp of Avon; and two grandsons, Zachary and Nicholas Horn.

Service and burial were held Tuesday, July 12, at Rose Hill Funeral Home and Cemetery, 580 Elm St., Rocky Hill, CT. Calling hours were Monday, July 11.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the National Kidney Foundation in the name of Arthur P. Horn are welcome.

Portland

Adolph A. Tetzlaff

Adolph A. "Whitey" Tetzlaff, 90, of Bartlett Street, Portland, beloved husband of the late Ellen Rockwell Tetzlaff, passed away peacefully at his home Saturday, July 9. Whitey was born June 24, 1921. Whitey retired from Johnson Controls at age 62 as an electrical engineer, was a 65-year member of the Masons and volunteered his support to many community service boards.

He leaves behind his son and four daughters, Tom Tetzlaff, Alice Guilmette and her husband Paul, Sue Johnson and her husband Ross, Carol Tetzlaff and her husband Jim Percoski, Sherry Tetzlaff, and his son-in-law Hudson Hilton. He was the loving grandfather to 11 children and their spouses and nine great-grandchildren.

He joins Ellen, the light of his life for 61 years, and their daughter Nancy Tetzlaff Hilton. They will always be with us in our hearts and will be deeply missed.

Funeral services were held Thursday, July 14, in the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland. Relatives and friends called at the funeral home on Thursday, prior to the service. Burial was in the family plot in Center Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be sent to Masonic Home Health and Hospice, 33 North Plains Industrial Road, Wallingford, CT 06492.

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

Portland

Edna R. Donnelly

Edna R. Donnelly, 80, much-loved mother and grandmother died on July 4, 2011, in Portland. Born in Everett, MA, on Jan. 15, 1931, she was the daughter of the late Herbert O. and Hazel (Hunter) Reicker.

Edna's greatest joys were spending time with her family and engaging in every opportunity to share her delightful sense of humor. Her faith was unflinching and she will always be remembered for facing the challenges of her life with great courage. Edna touched many lives and made friends every step of the way.

She leaves her daughters: Dian Martin and her husband Craig of Quonochontaug, RI, and Laurie Guilmette and her husband Donald of Portland; grandchildren: Katherine Martin of Watertown, MA, John Tyler Martin of Burlington, VT, Sara Chihocki and her husband Walter of Middletown and Rachel Wells and her husband Joshua of Portland; her sisters: Irene Smith of Wakefield, RI, and Dorothy Drake of Hudson, FL, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Her family would like to thank the many special people who helped to care for her during the last years of her life.

Her funeral will be private. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, CT 06480.

Donations in memory of Mrs. Donnelly may be made to the First Congregational Church, 355 Main St., Cromwell, CT 06416.

Colchester

Mary Ann Finnegan

Mary Ann Finnegan, 63, passed away Thursday, July 7, at Harrington Court in Colchester, after a brief battle with cancer. Born May 3, 1948, she was the daughter to the late William Pietrowski and Sophie (Birok) Pietrowski. Mary Ann married Michael Finnegan on Oct. 12, 1968, in Uncasville.

She was employed at Mohegan Sun for 15 years, most recently, as a collection agent. Mary Ann loved to travel with her husband and dearest friends. Her favorite destinations included Aruba, to which she traveled yearly for 18 years and Ireland, making the trip three times. Mary Ann's hobbies included reading, gardening, needlepoint, and baking. Mary Ann was known to the neighborhood and friends for her annual hosting of the holiday cookie exchange. She was an active participant of the community with former membership on the Lisbon Fall Festival Committee and she was a former Girl Scout leader.

Mary Ann's family would like to give a special thank you to the dedicated staff of Harrington Court for the wonderful care she received during her illness.

In addition to her husband, she is survived by son, William Finnegan and his wife Erin of New Bedford, MA; daughter, Kellie Brann and her husband Jeffrey of Jefferson, ME; sister, Kathy Scovish of Uncasville; several nieces and nephews; grandchildren, Timothy, Patrick, Molly, and Aidan Finnegan and Addison Brann.

Visitation was held Sunday, July 10, at Leffler Funeral Home, 30 N. Main St., Jewett City. A funeral assembles at Leffler Funeral Home Monday, July 11, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at St Mary Church, Jewett City. Interment followed at St. Joseph Cemetery, Norwich.

For online memorial/guestbook, visit lefflerfuneralhome.com.

Colchester

Madeline C. Kowalczyk

With deep sadness we announce Madeline Claire (Rodrigue) Kowalczyk, 87, of Scotland Road, Norwich, formerly of Colchester, passed peacefully Thursday, June 28, into the arms of the Lord, knowing she would now join her husband, Alex Kowalczyk, and their beloved "Gigi." Alex predeceased her on Oct. 10, 2005.

Madeline was born in Sherbrooke, Canada, on Sept. 2, 1922, to Marie (Baillarger) and Alphonse Rodrigue. At a very young age, she moved with her parents to Hamilton Street, Southbridge, MA. On May 12, 1945, a bright and sunny spring day, she married her sweetheart Alex Kowalczyk of Norwich, in the Church of the Notre Dame in Southbridge. They were married for 60 years and resided in Norwich all their lives.

For over 48 years, she worked as a buyer and salesperson in the blouse and sportswear departments of the Rein & Hughes Department Store on Main Street, Norwich, and later when they moved to The Meadows Mall, Norwichtown. Always personable, they enjoyed the company of their many friends at gatherings in their home in Norwich and vacations in Cape Cod. As a golfing wife, she and Al traveled to golf courses in the U.S., Spain, Scotland, Bermuda, etc. and were among the founders of the Pautipaug Country Club in Sprague.

Madeline leaves her niece and longtime caregivers, Mary Ann (Tamulewicz) Walter and David Walter and her much loved companion "Peni." Also nephews: Steven Swist of Southbridge, MA, and Daniel, Christian and Alain Rodrigue of South Carolina and Canada.

In addition to her husband, she was also predeceased by two sisters: Paulette Harvey and Georgette Swist both of Southbridge, MA and a brother Roger Rodrigue of Magog, Canada.

A very special thank you to Dr. Hanna Kackiello of Norwich for her sincere caring and understanding. Our heartfelt appreciation for the kindness, care and unforgettable treatment of Madeline go out to the staff and doctors at St. Francis Hospital in Hartford and at the Wm W. Backus Hospital, Norwich, also to the administrators and staff at Apple Rehab in Colchester, Masonic Care and Dr. LaPort. No one could have treated her with any more gentleness, respect and the dignity that she deserved.

To the many friends who were part of "Al and Mad's" lives over the years, a sincere thank you for your friendship, laughter, good times, and memories. There is an emptiness in our lives now in the passing of our "second set of parents" that years of memories will somewhat fill. Oh, the stories we could tell.

Visitation was held Thursday, June 30, at the Labenski Funeral Home, 107 Boswell Ave., Norwich, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at the Cathedral of St. Patrick at 10 A.M. Entombment to follow in St. Mary Mausoleum.

Portland

Vivian Mahar Trott

Vivian Mahar Trott, 96, of Dogwood Drive, Portland, died Saturday, July 9, at the Portland Care and Rehab Center. She was the wife of the late Charles Trott.

Born in Dennysville, ME, May 29, 1915, a daughter of the late Edwin C. and Roberta Gardner Mahar, she had been a Portland resident since 1962. She had been employed by Pratt and Whitney Aircraft until her retirement in 1980.

She is survived by her daughter, Sylvia Archer of Portland, and her sons, C. Dana Foster and his wife Mary of Wells, Maine and Florida, and Ray Foster and his wife Sara of Anson, Maine and Florida; her sister, Muriel Juksa and her husband William of Owego, NY; eight grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her nine brothers and sisters.

Funeral services will be held at the convenience of the family. There are no calling hours.

In lieu of flowers, gifts in her memory may be sent to the Protectors of Animals, P.O. Box 24, So. Glastonbury, CT 06073.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland.



Colchester

Karl and Amy Ferling

It is with great sadness that we, the family of Karl and Amy (Miller) Ferling of Colchester, announce their passing and return to the Father in Heaven. Karl, 80, passed away on Sunday morning, July 10, at home, followed by his beloved wife of 60 years, Amy, 81, a non-smoker, after losing her battle with lung cancer that she fought with dignity and grace, just a day later on Monday morning, July 11, at the Manchester Memorial Hospital.

Karl was born in Little Neck, Long Island, NY, on Nov. 23, 1930, the only son of the late Karl Oscar and Margaret (Garrity) Ferling. Amy was born in Middletown on March 31, 1930, a daughter of the late Clayton and Hannah (Antonson) Miller. A lifelong resident of Colchester, she was proud to raise their family in the Miller family homestead and to be a direct descendant of the Nathaniel Foote family (founders of Colchester).

Karl and Amy were high school sweethearts, both graduating from Bacon Academy in Colchester with the Class of 1948. They were married at the Colchester Federated Church on March 17, 1951.

Early on, Karl worked for the former C.H. Norton Co. in No. Westchester while Amy worked for the former Levine and Levine Dress Co. in Colchester. In February of 1952, Karl enlisted in the Army and served as a Morse Code operator in Germany during the Korean War. Following his service, he went on to earn his Master's of education from UConn and taught U.S. and World History at Norwich Free Academy for 33 years before his retirement in 1990. He was also involved with the Student Advisory Board, started the boys' soccer program and had served as a driving instructor during his tenure there.

They started their family and Amy left Levine and Levine to dedicate herself to raising their children and keeping their warm and inviting home and beautiful gardens on Miller Road. After their children were grown, she worked as a clerk for the Colchester Water Dept. for 15 years before her retirement.

They were both members of the Colchester Federated Church, where Amy was very active as a 50-plus year member of the choir, former chair of the Holly Fair and was a Deaconess Emeritus (just to name a few).

Their passing is mourned by their four children, David M. Ferling and his longtime companion, Linda Heatherly of Lebanon; Richard K. Ferling and his wife, Karen, of Harrisonville, MO; Betsy F. Hitriz and her husband, Stephen, of Moodus; and Susan E. Ferling and her longtime companion, Clyde Timothy Poole, of No. Franklin; five grandchildren, Meghan, Ryan, Billy, Kaylie and Sage; three great grandchildren, John, Scarlett and Hudson; Amy's brother, Robert B. Miller of Colchester; and numerous extended family members and friends.

In addition to their parents, they were predeceased by Amy's brother and sister, Clayton Miller and Betty Miller Johnson.

Friends called Thursday, July 14, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The funeral service will be observed at 10 a.m. today, July 15, directly at the Colchester Federated Church at 60 Main St., on the green. Interment will follow in the Ferling family plot in the New Lebanon Cemetery, Lebanon.

In lieu of flowers, donations in their memory may be made to the Colchester Federated Church.

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

East Hampton

Marguerite Golembieski

Peg Golembieski, 83, of East Hampton, passed away peacefully on July 7.

She grew up in Middletown before moving to East Hampton in 1966. She worked at Middlesex Hospital for nine years and after retiring she lived at Cape Cod and then spent 20 good years in Florida where she made many good friends. She enjoyed spending every day at the beach picking up beautiful shells and sharks "teeth."

Peg was the daughter of Bill and Grace Fitzpatrick. She was predeceased by her husband John.

She leaves a brother, Bill Fitzpatrick and wife Joan; daughters, Sue LePage, Joyce Denman and husband Tom; sons, Greg Golembieski, John Golembieski and wife Suzanne; four grandchildren, Bill Smigel, Peggy Harbec, Dave and Laura Kosciuk; many step-grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

We would like to thank the wonderful, caring staff at Marlborough Health Care and to the friends she had at Chatham Acres.

Memorial service will be private.

Hebron

Jacob Galper

Jacob Galper, 68, loving husband and best friend of Jean (Evans) Galper of Hebron, died on Monday, July 11, in the comfort of his home with his family. Born in New York, NY on Oct. 9, 1942, son of the late Samuel and Nettie (Cohen) Galper, he had lived in Manchester for 25 years before moving to Hebron four years ago.

Jake was an optician and owner of The Eyeglass Place in Newington for many years. He was a car enthusiast who enjoyed racing at Lyme Rock Park. Jake and his family enjoyed traveling, especially to the Caribbean. He inspired many people with his strength, determination and good humor.

In addition to his wife of 35 years, Jean, he was greatly loved by his two daughters, Sarah Meyers and husband Christopher and their son, Brennan and Julie Stoddard and husband Joshua and their son Maxwell Jacob. Jake also has a brother, Leonard Galper and his wife, Charlotte of Forest Hills, NY.

He was predeceased by his brother, Herbert Galper.

We are so grateful for the wonderful care from Dr. Dailey, Dr. Salner, Macia Caruso-Bergman APRN, Helen Martins, RN, and staff from the Helen and Harry Gray Cancer Center.

A memorial service will held Monday, July 18, at 1 p.m., at the First Church of Christ Congregational UCC, 2183 Main St., Glastonbury. Burial will be private. His family will receive friends Sunday, July 17, from 3-5 p.m., at the Samsel & Carmon Funeral Home, 419 Buckland Rd., South Windsor.

For online expressions, visit carmonfuneralhome.com.

East Hampton

Barbara Sanborn Chapman

Barbara Sanborn Chapman, 89, of Whippoorwill Hollow Rd., East Hampton, died peacefully Wednesday, July 13, at Middlesex Hospital Hospice Care Unit, after a brief illness. She was the wife of the late Frederick C. Chapman. She was born on March 24, 1922, a daughter of the late F. Leslie and Bertha Sanborn.

She was a lifelong Portland resident, except for the last few years of her life when she lived with her daughter's family in East Hampton. She was a graduate of Portland High School and the Morse School of Business. She had been employed in the Purchasing Department of Middlesex Hospital and before that at Strickland Farms in Portland as a bookkeeper. She was a parishioner of the Church of Saint Mary in Portland and a member of the Ladies Guild. She was a Golden Sheaf member of Hemlock Grange 182 which she joined in 1937. She served as secretary of the grange for many years. She had a gift for sewing and volunteered her talents to charity. She sewed hundreds of quilts to benefit children of AIDS in Africa and was an active member of the Lutheran Quilting group. She also made cancer patient pillows and head scarves for several years. She was a poll worker for many years.

Barbara grew up as the oldest of seven during the depression. She was a master at recycling and reusing before it was "green". She was a trusted friend and a person that could always be relied upon. She will be remembered most for her quick wit and clear high laugh that could be heard at any gathering. Her sense of humor was never dimmed and she will be greatly missed by her family and friends.

She is survived by her children, Timothy Chapman of Lake Worth, FL, Mark Chapman of Middletown, Stephen Chapman of Branford, CT, Matthew and his wife Robin Chapman of San Mateo, CA, and Amy and her husband William Biegaj of East Hampton. She is also survived by her grandchildren, Amanda and her husband Brandon Novak, Robert Chapman, Timothy Chapman, Michelle Chapman, Rosemary Biegaj and Joseph Biegaj and two great grandchildren, Max and Ava Novak. She is also survived by her brothers Frank and his wife Lorraine Sanborn and William and his wife Harriett Sanborn of Portland and her sisters Lorraine and her husband Joseph Rizzo of Niantic and Constance Berggren of Portland, and also numerous nieces, nephews and friends that were blessed to know her.

She is predeceased by her sisters Elizabeth Cunningham and Rosemary Wilson.

Family and friends can help celebrate her life at the Portland Memorial Funeral Home at 231 Main St., Portland, today, July 15, from 6-8 p.m. A funeral service will be held Saturday, July 16, at 10 a.m., at the Church of Saint Mary, 51 Free-stone Ave. Interment will be at Portland Center Cemetery.

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