

RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

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

Volume 36, Number 23

Published by The Glastonbury Citizen

September 9, 2011



Shown above, individuals line the fence to watch truck and tractor pulls, while others enjoy the show from great heights on the Ferris Wheel at the Lions Club's 40th annual Hebron Harvest Fair last year.

Hebron Harvest Fair Honors Lives Lost

by Joshua Anusewicz

This weekend will mark the Hebron Lions Club's 41st annual Hebron Harvest Fair, but it will also mark the 10th anniversary of the September 11 terrorist attacks. With that in mind, this year's theme will be "Honoring Heroes," and the fair will include a touching tribute to the unspeakable tragedy that took place a decade ago.

On Sunday, Sept. 11, at 1 p.m. there will be a special tribute featuring the Hebron Lions and the Hebron Volunteer Fire Department. Fair Superintendent John Johnson Jr. said there will be a five-minute moment of silence throughout the fair, followed by a performance by Darryl Worley, the fair's headlining musical act.

Worley's most popular song, "Have You Forgotten," is a tribute to those who died on September 11 and the soldiers fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan. (The song spent seven weeks at number one on Billboard's Hot Country Songs in 2003.) Worley will also have a separate performance at 3:30 p.m. on Sunday.

Johnson said the tribute is a "can't miss event" and said that the entire planning committee for the fair "wanted to do something to honor" those affected by the attacks.

As for the rest of the fair, which began last night, there will be new and old elements that will delight the more than 150,000 patrons expected over the weekend. Johnson said one of the events that will be returning is the New York Tractor Pullers Association, which he described as "big, super-modified trucks" that pull tractors through the mud.

After an eight-year hiatus, the fair will welcome back a lumberjack show in its family

"edutainment" area. The "edutainment" area will also feature the weekend-long DockDogs competition, where dogs launch off of docks into a large pool of water.

Other weekend-long events are the Civil War Encampment, juried artisan and craft tents, and the Rising Star Talent Show, which will declare two \$250 winners on Sunday night.

Throughout the weekend, there will also be various events for patrons of all ages, which include everything from games and rides, to farm displays, to a demolition derby. The fair will also include over 50 different concessions that will feature food from all over the country.

Another special aspect of this year's fair is the dedication to Ted Armata. Armata opened Ted's Supermarket in 1974 and was a staple in the community before he passed away earlier this year. According to Johnson, Armata worked with the Hebron Lions for the fair "closely for years" through selling tickets and sponsoring food drives.

"It was a unanimous decision," Johnson said of the Lions' choice to honor Armata. The Lions state that Armata "made Hebron a better place to live and his legacy will live on for years to come."

The fair kicked off last night and will be open today noon-11 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m.-11 p.m. and Sunday 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Tickets will be \$12 for general admission (free for seniors before 4 p.m. on Friday). There will also be family packs available, as well as discounted tickets for military personnel, police, fire, and EMT.

For more information, visit hebronharvestfair.org.

Colchester BOS Discusses Storm Difficulties

by Bailey Seddon

Tropical Storm Irene not only consumed conversations of residents across the state when she hit on Sunday, Aug. 28, but also consumed the conversation at a Board of Selectman meeting, last Thursday, Sept. 1.

At the meeting, First Selectman Gregg Schuster said that prep work for the tropical storm started well ahead of time, approximately four or five days before the storm hit. Schuster added that people were kept informed through an emergency notification system, which made calls the Saturday night prior, Aug. 27. Selectwoman Rosemary Coyle responded by saying that she had not gotten any of the calls. After this comment there seemed to be some confusion among the board, as some members of the board and local community said they had not received any calls prior to the storm, while others did. Schuster said the board would look into this.

However, the confusion did not end there as conversation turned to a town hall briefing on Saturday, Aug. 27 at 8 a.m. with members of the board. Coyle expressed annoyance, saying that she had never been informed of the meet-

ing. Schuster and selectman Stan Soby told her there was an e-mail sent out Friday informing board members about it, but Coyle said she had not gotten the e-mail.

Schuster next laid out the timeline of events. At 6:53 a.m. on Sunday, Aug. 28, Schuster declared a state of emergency for the town. At 7:08 a.m., Schuster said emergency personnel would only go out in the storm for emergency situations; then at 10:50 a.m. Schuster deployed a damage assessment team because, "the winds and impact were not" as bad as he thought they were going to be. At 11:30 a.m. public works were deployed, and started doing damage control. The state of emergency was not lifted until 9 a.m. Thursday morning. It could not be lifted until debris was cleared and emergency personnel could get to different parts of the town. There was ice and water available at the Colchester Hayward Fire Department, Schuster said, and showers were available to the public at Bacon Academy.

"Town employees really have been fantastic, filling in when they can," said Schuster.

He said the Fire Department had a "heavy

load," and staff and volunteers went out in the storm and risked their own lives to help people who needed medical assistance. Schuster also commended Public Works crews, saying they "have been working to the point of exhaustion."

Members of the board showed some frustration with Connecticut Light and Power (CL&P). Coyle said there was "a lot of talk but not a lot of action from CL&P," adding that she found the "lack of accurate information from CL&P," frustrating. Public Works Director, James Paggioli, said the "lack of trucks in the area has really slowed down recovery."

As of Thursday's meeting 49 percent of the town was still without power, according to Paggioli. (As of Tuesday, CL&P reported that the town was down to less than 1 percent without power.) Schuster said the board is trying to get information out through flyers and the website, colchesterct.gov. He said they were thankful the storm was not as bad as originally thought and many towns were still worse off; Salem, for instance, was still 100 percent without power as of last Thursday.

Upon further discussion of Irene, board mem-

bers also raised concerns with some citizen's behavior. "Unfortunately many people have been ignoring detours," said Schuster. He also said that people had been driving over power lines and stealing cones. "I had kids playing on a tree with wires," Schuster said in disbelief. He said this was especially bad because, "these things are becoming energized, so things that were down are becoming live now," and people will get hurt. Schuster also told of an instance of power coming back on when a family was not at home. He said the furnace kicked on, and a small fire started; luckily, he said, neighbors saw it and firefighters managed to put it out.

When it came time for public comment at the meeting, Richard Kemmett expressed his frustration with not only CL&P, but with the Board of Selectman as well. Kemmett said he talked to six of his neighbors, and compiled a list of grievances.

"There was some good things that were done," Kennett said, but expressed that it was not enough. "What was missing was local gov-

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ernment," he said.

Kemmett said that public works used to come out the day before a storm with traffic lights, so that traffic was not halted. Other grievances, he said, were that there was no ice available, no designated radio station and no contact from town officials. Kemmett said he felt that the town had not gotten into contact enough with CL&P, to try to get more trucks out to restore power. Kemmett also mentioned that he had seen officers from Troop K, out giving people speeding tickets instead of helping the town with disaster relief.

"When you have an event like this, you put the enforcement away," he said.

Schuster addressed some of Kemmett's complaints saying that signs were put up for traffic at intersections, but many of them were stolen. He also said that the board has been in contact with CL&P everyday, but representatives were not very responsive. In addition, Schuster said the board will have a debriefing on Irene, which follows any emergency of this magnitude.

Schuster said the town has gotten 16,000 messages from citizens after the storm, to report downed trees, power lines and other such damage, and the town is doing the best they can to keep up. Soby agreed with Schuster, saying the board was trying to keep people as updated as possible. "Things have gone out in a variety of different channels," said Soby. He also mentioned that town hall had been open all day Thursday, so people could come in if

they needed any information.

Next to speak up was Tom Tyler, who said he works for a large utility company, and therefore understood what it was like to have to do the kind of repair work the town was doing.

"The magnitude of the infrastructure that has to be done...it is an overwhelming task...a huge undertaking," Tyler said.

He said he felt that communication between the town and its residents was good and especially liked that the school start date was pushed back.

"[The towns response] seemed to be pretty good from where my perspective is," Tyler said.

Amongst the tensions between the board and town members, resident Herb Davis found a way to put everything in perspective. He said he knew this was a trying time for people but "the reality of the situation is we become spoiled, we get used to having things work," then when they don't people get upset and it is not always necessary. He said one of the most important things in a situation like this is community. "Having a good attitude towards each other when we are having problems," is a way to get through this situation, he said. Davis added that laying the blame will only make people angry and not help anyone get anywhere. Davis said people need to think in terms of how they can help not just, "something for somebody else to do."

"You guys are doing good," Davis said to the board.

From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Courtney Parent

Have you ever wondered what life would be like without things as basic as electricity and running water? Nowadays, it's hard to imagine a day without advanced aspects of life such as technology, let alone the most simplistic.

Well, after Irene rocked me like a hurricane, I got to experience the "simple life" for a week and boy let me tell you, it sure was interesting. Though I am a country girl, originally from Vermont, over the years I seemed to have forgotten what it was like back in the days when my friends and I camped out in the woods with nothing more than a tent, a sleeping bag and a bag of snacks.

When we're young, we see a lack of running water and electricity as an adventure. Now, on the other hand, we focus on all the things we can't do and how much of a general pain in the butt it makes our lives. The most common complaints I heard in the days following Irene's arrival were in regards to favorite reality television shows that would be missed, not being able to cook and not being able to flush the toilet without filling the tank each time.

While, I will admit, I too complained of the latter before the week was over, as the task did become rather tedious...I wonder where our creativity went. When did our society become so engulfed in the modern day advances, such as technology, that we forgot how to function without them? When did video gaming systems such as Wii and Xbox 360 make the classics like Yahtzee and Rummy go out the window? When did microwavable meals out reign a nice piece of meat grilled to perfection?

Now I won't lead you astray, I grew up in a world enriched by technology, which I too make use of on, in most cases, a daily basis. But in the aftermath of the disaster called Irene, isn't it nice to take a step back and realize all the simple things in life that we take for granted or perhaps overlook.

On a similar technological note, I find it amazing the amount of athletic activities that the youth of today are now taking part in inside the walls of their bedrooms rather than outside in the fresh air. The 21st century gaming systems such as Nintendo Wii and Xbox Kinect, allow children (and adults) to play sports, create exercise regimes, be part of a rock band and even hunt for deer from the comfort of their couches.

Well, I may be "old-fashioned" for a 25-year-old, but what is wrong with kids today?

I completely understand having a gaming system...it provides entertainment on rainy days or after dark when there isn't enough light to play outside. But, what I don't understand is why kids today seem to be only taking part in activities in the gaming world. When I was young we had Sega's, or Nintendo's, or Playstation 1's...but we only used them when we had no other option. Instead, we spent our spare time shooting baskets, playing softball on the front lawn, going for hikes or hunting real live animals.

With such a large emphasis on the rise of childhood obesity, I think that a focus should be placed on limiting children's indoor gaming time and increasing their outdoor physical activity. I love technology, but sometimes I feel that it makes activities too effortless, especially when it comes to children and exercise.

With the tenth anniversary of September 11 approaching this weekend, I find it necessary to acknowledge those who lost their lives and all those affected by it. While, it seems unbelievable that it has been ten years since the attack on our country, it seems more unreal that one instance could have such an impact on so many lives, even those who weren't directly affected.

Personally, I can still recall exactly where I was and who informed me: 10th grade Honors U.S. History, Mr. Kyle Ruby. A fellow teacher, Mr. Curt Hier, knocked on our classroom door and pulled Mr. Ruby into the hallway. When Mr. Ruby returned he had a solemn look on his face; he did not say anything at first, but simply turned on the news on the television. It was at that moment, that myself, along with many other naive 15-year-olds were given a glimpse of true tragedy.

I will never forget that moment. I will never forget the lives lost. And I will never forget the way it made me feel. I hope you never will either.

I would like to take this opportunity to say my farewell as I am headed on to my next journalistic adventure with WTNH, News 8. My time here at the *RiverEast* has been interesting, endearing and at times, intriguing; with story lines varying from cameras installed for bathroom peeping, to remembering a dear friend and beloved member of the community, to a mock accident meant to enlighten teens about the dangers of distracted driving. It has been a pleasure meeting with many of you and delivering the news to your wonderful small town communities.

Former Portland First Selectman Caught in Cyber Sting

by Joshua Anusewicz

Edward L. Kalinowski, former first selectman and police officer in Portland, was one of 15 men arrested during a seven-day sting operation in Volusia County, FL for attempting to solicit a child.



According to a press release from the Volusia County Sheriff's Office, Kalinowski, 59, of Ocala, FL, was arrested on Friday, Sept. 2 and charged with use of a computer to seduce or solicit a child, use of a two-way communication device to facilitate a felony and

traveling to meet or lure a child for sex. It is alleged that Kalinowski traveled to a home to have sex with someone he believed to be a teenage boy.

The arrest was part of "Operation Cyber Sting," which took place from Aug. 29 to Sept. 4, and was "a successful effort to protect children by getting those who might prey on them off the streets," said Volusia County Sheriff Ben Johnson.

According to Johnson, the offenders were found "lurking in e-commerce sites and social networks" and had made "overt declarations to undercover investigators of their intentions" to exploit children. The offenders had believed the children were between the ages of nine and 15. Johnson said that none of the men, who ranged from 21 to 66 years old, were registered sex offenders.

Kalinowski served as Portland's first selectman from 1993-2003 and was a police officer in the town prior to being first selectman.

Portland Golf Course Vandal Arrested

by Joshua Anusewicz

A Portland man was arrested over the weekend for damage he caused at the Portland Golf Course, Sgt. James Kelly said.

On Saturday, Sept. 3, at roughly 7 a.m., Portland Police responded to a call at the course, located on Bartlett Street, for reported vandalism. According to Kelly, the operator of an unknown vehicle had driven off of Collins Hill Road and onto the course's 4th green and "tore up" the grass by spinning the vehicle's tires. Kelly said a large portion of the green, which consists of "specialty grass," was damaged. The golf course has estimated the damages at roughly \$20,000, Kelly said.

Kelly said that police were able to collect evidence at the scene, including a tread mark from the vehicle's tires.

Police canvassed the neighborhood after collecting the evidence, where they found a witness that stated they had heard a "truck revving its engine" at around 3 a.m. Kelly said that at roughly that same time, he was en route to another call and had passed a "large red

pick-up truck" traveling westbound on Cox Road near Rose Hill Road. This area is less than one mile from where the vandalism took place, Kelly said.

Through further investigation, police were able to identify the operator and the vehicle, Kelly said, which matched the tire tread found at the scene.

Police arrested Cody Caron, 19, of 11 Middlesex Avenue Ext. Caron was charged with first-degree criminal mischief and third-degree criminal trespassing. Kelly said Caron was "cooperative" and "admitted to causing the damage." He was released on a non-surety bond pending a court appearance at Middletown Superior Court.

A representative from Portland Golf Course said Tuesday that there have been "some repairs" done on the green, but that a "temporary green" is being used on the fairway. The course is currently working with the police department to assess the damage.

Colchester Democratic Caucus Deemed Legal

by Bailey Seddon

A change in venue for this year's Democratic caucus, July 25, left one local resident dissatisfied; Nancy Riella felt that the change made the slate invalid and as a result, filed a complaint with the Democratic State Central Committee to this effect.

Riella, who is a Democrat, but not on the Democratic Town Committee (DTC), had the right to file the complaint under Article V of the Democratic State Central Committee rules. Under the rules she was able to dispute the disagreement before a panel, which heard both sides of the argument and decided who was right.

The hearing was held on Aug. 23, with a panel of State Central Committee members, where both Riella and former Democratic Town Committee Chairman Tim Gilman came and told their sides of the story. On Aug. 26, the panel came out with a four-page resolution saying that Gilman did everything the way he should have and the caucus was not invalid.

"We had a disagreement in interpretation," said Riella, who feels the vote should have gone in her favor. Riella did not talk with Gilman before going to the Democratic State Central Committee, saying "I thought it would be a waste of my time." She said past experiences have led her to believe that she would not have been heard.

The caucus in question, was held on Monday, July 25 at 8 p.m., at the Colchester Fish

and Game Club. The caucus was originally scheduled to be held in the DTC's regular meeting room, Room B, at Cragin Library, but the Friday before the caucus Gilman realized that the room would not be big enough.

Room B holds less than 40 people and Gilman said he knew more would show up. When Room B was not an option, Gilman checked to see if Room A was available as it is a bigger space, but it was being used. "That wasn't going to work," said Gilman.

"I feel that Tim should have known better, he had the library schedule in front of him all year," said Riella. "Foresight by management would have been a lot smarter."

According to the rules, said Riella, the Chairman needs to give five days of advanced notice about the meeting. Even though five days were given, the site was changed at the last minute, said Riella.

Before the change in location, Gilman contacted Legal Council Kevin Reynolds. Reynolds directed Gilman to find an alternative location, put a sign outside of Room B stating the new location and to hold the meeting 15 minutes later to allow people to get to the caucus after the change. Gilman then looked into many places the meeting could be held, but had difficulties.

Gilman said not many places could accommodate so many people on such short notice. After much deliberation he settled on the Game

Club, which was only one and a half miles away from the library and right next to the dump, "a location that is very well-known to Colchester residents," according to the resolution. Gilman put up a sign and held the meeting 15 minutes later; he also called every member of the Town Committee and notified the media.

Riella said she felt that while the media was notified of the change, it was done the same day as the caucus and was therefore useless. Riella also said that when Gilman called DTC members, he should have told them to reach out to non-members. The resolution cites Riella as saying she felt that the change in venue deprived at least one person of being able to attend; however, it also said she could not name who that person was.

"Venues have been changed before at the last minute," said current Democratic Chairwoman Dorothy Mrowka, "I don't think anyone was disenfranchised."

Riella, who was at the meeting, filed the complaint four days later. Gilman said he was surprised by this because Riella had not said anything to him at or after the caucus. He said he felt Riella had done this because she was not happy with the slate of candidates and had different candidates that she wanted to endorse.

"She did this to try to get the democrats [on the slate] removed...and deny the people of Colchester the chance," to vote for who was on the slate, said Gilman. "It was really disappoint-

ing."

Mrowka agreed saying, "she was just looking for excuses." Mrowka also mentioned that Riella had supported a Republican in the elections two years ago.

"I have a problem with that," said Mrowka.

Gilman was especially disappointed because he felt he had done all he could by the rules. "I went to great measures to make sure this caucus was done correctly," he said. He said he felt he had given everyone the opportunity to come to the caucus.

Gilman said he had only had one or two discussions with Riella in the past, but up until this point there were no problems between the two. However, Gilman said he had heard Riella had problems with the Democratic Town Committee in the past; what these problems were, he was not sure.

Shortly after the caucus, Gilman stepped down as chairman due to commitments to work and family life. However, he expressed gladness that his last action as chairman was making sure the caucus was validated.

"People deserve the opportunity to select the candidate they think is best," said Gilman.

Since the Democratic State Central Committee did not call for the invalidation of the caucus, Riella said she has gone to the State Elections Enforcement Commission, which will now conduct its own investigation of the caucus.

Portland Selectmen Discuss Corrective Storm Measures

by Joshua Anusewicz

For those affected by the major rain storm in Portland on July 8, Wednesday's Board of Selectmen meeting did little to answer their questions on what measures could be taken to repair their properties.

The meeting's main agenda item was a presentation discussing the storm damage, led by Director of Public Works Rick Kelsey, town engineer Geoffrey Jacobson, Small Business Administration (SBA) representative Bernard Sweeney, and Connor Quinn and Maureen Moriarty, representatives from the office of Congressman John Larson. Kelsey and Jacobson presented the damage from the town, while Sweeney, Quinn, and Moriarty answered questions from about 20 residents on hand.

Jacobson said there are currently five "problem locations" from the storm: the area around the police department, senior center, a residence at 4 Freestone Ave.; a Department of Transportation culvert on Route 17A and a watercourse between High Street and Main Street (Route 17A); a watercourse between Covell Hill Road, Edwards Road, and Main Street; a watercourse between William Street and Main Street; and a watercourse between a detention basin at Portland High School and Redberry Lane. Jacobson referred to these watercourses as "antiquated and undersized storm drainage conveyance systems" that aren't capable of handling major rainfall.

Another contributing factor, Jacobson said, is that the watercourse conditions are "dynamic, not static." The size and shape of the channels change naturally, he said, altering the how and where the water flows.

Kelsey referred to the problem locations as having "insufficient hydraulic capacity," which he recommended may need to be reconstructed. At the location around the police station and

senior center, for example, Kelsey said the current drainage pipe is a brownstone culvert that is over 100 years old and passes directly under the residence at 4 Freestone Ave. At the other watercourses, "severe erosion" has taken place on numerous properties and the stabilization of the bottom and sides of the watercourses may need to take place.

Jacobson said that the first step for the town, if they were to implement "corrective measures," would be to prioritize the areas that were impacted before finding the funding and designing the project. He added that it may be worthwhile for the town to act now, using this past year as an example of how weather can negatively affect the town.

"These '100 year storms' are happening more often, it seems," said Jacobson. "These areas have to be adjusted to accommodate this."

Jacobson said that aside from finding the funds for the projects, the town would have to secure "temporary or permanent easements" from multiple property owners to upgrade the watercourses, which he said was "not an easy or smooth process."

After the presentation, residents took the opportunity to express their concerns and discuss the damage that had taken place on their property. One resident on Spring Street said the storm dumped three feet of water in her basement, which was compounded with another 18 inches of debris that the water had dragged in.

Joelle Lentz, of Bartlett Street, said that water rushed through the Portland Golf Course and flooded into six rooms in her home. She said that she did have flood insurance and was currently working with the company to do the repairs.

Betsy Smith, of Main Street, said that a part of her yard was washed away and that erosion

continued after the recent rain from Hurricane Irene.

One of the residents from 4 Freestone Ave., Denise Rowland, said she lost a refrigerator, furnace, washer and dryer, and an oil tank in the flood. She expressed her concern that she needs a furnace with winter around the corner, and she currently can't afford to replace it.

"I just don't know where to go," Rowland said.

First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield said she had spoken with even more residents that do not have flood insurance and have damages in "the tens of thousands of dollars." Kelsey also added that several businesses on Main Street received damage, including some that lost significant stock.

Quinn said that he was on hand to hear the concerns from the residents and work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and SBA and bring the issues to Larson, who was unable to attend the meeting. Quinn said that FEMA had declared the town ineligible to receive funding, as the damage was not "widespread" and did not reach the "monetary threshold." He added that "there may not be a perfect answer or solution," which drew head shakes from many residents in attendance.

Sweeney said that to receive funding, the damage has to be verified by the town, the state government and FEMA. He said that the state did not look far enough into the damage, as each town in the state would have to be verified; states like New York, Sweeney said, are simpler because they have county governments that can report more easily.

To qualify for FEMA funding, Sweeney said Portland would have to verify that at least "25 homes or businesses" had over 40 percent of damage to their property from the storm. He

added that an individual would have to report the damage within 60 days, which just recently passed. However, an economic disaster could be declared within 120 days.

When pressed to see what measures could be taken to make repairs to their property, Sweeney said that one chance for the town could be to apply for FEMA funding from Hurricane Irene, which was declared a disaster in Connecticut last week. He said that the damage from the hurricane could be considered "a continuation" from the July 8 storm, which would give them "a slight window of opportunity."

Bransfield, who was visibly disappointed by the news that little could be done for the residents, said she would continue to give monthly updates at board meetings and would meet with Larson and his office to discuss the damage. She also encouraged residents to write to Larson and their state senators to ask for help.

"They need to hear how much our citizens are suffering," Bransfield said.

Selectman Mark Finkelstein said he thought Sweeney's response to citizens was "sincere" and that he wanted to help, but that "his hands are tied." He also added that he "didn't hear much" from Larson's office and hoped that people outside of Portland would realize the damage that was caused.

"There are people suffering, and nobody is helping," Finkelstein said. "Who can citizens turn to but the people they elected into office?"

* * *

The next Board of Selectmen meeting will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 21 at 7:30 p.m. at the Portland Library.

For more information on possible funding for damage, visit sba.gov or fema.gov and apply for assistance.

Treasures to Be Found at East Hampton Flea Market

by Joshua Anusewicz

Each day, thousands of drivers pass through the center of Cobalt on Route 66, a tiny blip on the map. Someone who is foreign to the region might not even know if it's part of East Hampton or Portland (it's part of East Hampton).

So it might come as a surprise to some that, in tiny Cobalt, you can get just about everything under the sun at the Cobalt Flea Market. Just pop in some time and owner Pat Knislis would be happy to show you around.

"Where else can you find something like this for this price?" Knislis asks as she showcases a stylish wine table for only \$35. "You're not going to."

Knislis started the Cobalt Flea Market after closing the grocery store that was in the same spot a few years ago. Knislis had worked in the food retail business for about 30 years, but when the grocery store wasn't doing well, she started to wonder what else she could do with the space.

The flea market began as an outdoor market in the summer, which thrived with as many as 50 vendors. When she decided to close the grocery store, she brought the flea market inside; the space started with just two or three of vendors, but today is almost a full house.

The Cobalt Flea Market now has room for roughly 15 indoor vendors, which feature everything from classic comic books and sports collectibles, to jewelry and household knick-knacks.

What makes this flea market unique is that the vendors do not have to be present to make sales. The vendors pay "rent" depending on the size of their space, which ranges from \$100 to \$400, and Knislis and her employees sell the items and take 15 percent from the sale. However, Knislis said, it's not a consignment shop.

Each vendor's display is separate from the one next to it and Cobalt Flea Market takes far less of a percentage, as some consignment stores, which take as much as 40 percent.

"I don't want to be part of the business; I just want to be the landlord," Knislis said.

With the economy struggling and families looking to save money wherever possible, Knislis said she is happy to provide an inexpensive alternative to buying everyday goods. She said that her hope is people will stop in and realize that the items in the market are "good quality" and will appeal to a wide array of patrons.

If you do stop in, you're guaranteed to find something that you would be hard-pressed to find anywhere else, particularly for the price. Classic military badges? Got 'em. A whole set of wine glasses? That, too. Homemade barbecue sauce? Believe it or not, a man from Manchester makes and sells his own in the store. Dart flights, cleaning supplies, kitchen tables, books and movies...it's all here.

And buyers aren't the only ones Knislis is trying to attract. There are still a few spots open for vendors looking to sell whatever they have. Even if you're just trying to clear out old things from your attic, Knislis says that as long as its good quality, you can "do very well" if you set up a table and display what you have.

"You'd be surprised by all of the things people come in and look for," Knislis said.

For those interested in either setting up a table or dropping in to check out what the market has to offer, Cobalt Flea Market is open Monday through Friday 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m. For more information, visit cobaltflea.com or call 860-529-0844.



From dishware to reading material to knick-knacks and more, area residents can find it all at the Cobalt Flea Market, located on Route 66.

Colchester Police News

8/31: Christopher Stratton, 22, of 706 East St., Andover, was charged with second-degree failure to appear, State Police said.

9/2: Bryan John, 20, of 157 Pinebrook Rd., was charged with DUI, police said.

9/5: Jeffrey Gorham, 44, of 37 Carpenter Ave., Bristol, was charged with DUI and traveling unreasonably fast, police said.

Marlborough Police News

8/30: Shelley A. Lewis, 47, of 2 Center St., Andover, was charged with assault of a medical persons and disorderly conduct, State Police said.

Hebron Police News

8/24: Sarah A. Steward, 22, of 460 Church St., was charged with disorderly conduct and third-degree criminal mischief, State Police said.

8/30: Shelley A. Lewis, 47, of 2 Center St., Andover, was charged with threatening and breach of peace, police said.

9/1: Police are investigating the break-in of a home on Church Street in Amston. Between 9:45 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. on Thursday morning, suspect(s) broke into the home and stole several items, police said. Anyone with information is asked to contact Hebron's Resident Trooper James Nolting at 860-537-7500.

9/4: Josepheny Robinson, 26, of 1185 New Britain Ave., West Hartford, was charged with DUI, operating a motor vehicle under suspension and improper turn, police said.

9/5: Hamlet L. Serra, 47, of 163 Oak Forest Dr., Manchester, was charged with improper passing, DUI and restricted turns, police said.

Two Sent to Hospital After Colchester Crash

Two women were transported to the hospital after their cars collided Saturday, Aug. 27.

The driver at fault for the accident, Maryjane Woods, 57, of 677 Old Hartford Rd., was transported to Backus Hospital and the operator of the second vehicle, Mary Talar, was transported to the Marlborough Clinic, both for minor injuries. Woods was issued an infraction for failure to drive right, Colchester Police said.

Both Talar's car, a 1996 Buick Regal and Woods', a 2005 Dodge NXT, sustained heavy damage, police said.

Portland Police News

9/3: Cody Caron, 19, of 11 Middlesex Ave. Ext., was charged with first-degree criminal mischief and third-degree criminal trespass, Portland Police said.

East Hampton Police News

8/20: Timothy Gagnon, 33, of 12 Cone Rd., was arrested for DUI, operating an unregistered ATV, failure to obey a stop sign, failure to drive right, operating an ATV on public highway and resisting arrest, East Hampton Police said.

8/24: Anthony Francis Longo, 51, of 104 Lewis Ave., Meriden, was arrested for DUI, failure to drive right and operating an unregistered and uninsured motor vehicle, police said.

Residents Warned to Boil Water

by Bailey Seddon

Residents had more than just a loss of power to deal with after Tropical Storm Irene struck the state. The Department of Public Health (DPH) issued a boil water advisory due to the amount of rain and runoff after the storm.

The first advisory came out last Thursday, Sept. 1 for 91 different public drinking systems. That number jumped to 144 on Friday, then to 157 on Saturday, before finally starting to fall on Sunday, Sept. 4. As of press time, there were 84 public drinking water systems that were under a boil advisory as a result of contaminated water. Amongst those located in *Rivereast* towns are: in Colchester; the State Police Fleet Maintenance and Colchester Courtyards; in East Hampton, the Chatham Apartments, Lakeshore LLC, Lakeview Court, Theater Square and Global Self Storage; and in Hebron, Abby Water LLC, Hebron Arms Apartments and Wellswood Estates Foundation Inc.

According to William Gerrish, Director of the Office of Communications for the DPH, there are 500 community public water systems which each serve between 25-1,000 primary residences in Connecticut. The only water systems under the advisory are the ones which belong to some of these 500 small public systems. Because of Tropical Storm Irene people lost their power for many days and the systems had a loss of pressure. Gerrish said the boil water advisory was done as a "precautionary measure" to systems believed to be vulnerable to contamination of the prolonged power outages.

"We are working diligently to help [residents] to return water in a fast and safe manner," said Gerrish. Once the advisory has been issued, he said, and power has returned, the water supply needs to be disinfected and flushed to clean it out, and then bacteriological samples can be taken and analyzed. It takes a minimum of 24 hours to determine if the system is clean, said Gerrish. If clean, people can start to drink their water.

If the water were to come back contaminated then the DPH would have to go back and start over. "If the samples show the pres-

ence of bacteria, then there could be another system disinfection and then another re-sampling," said Gerrish. This can be done as many times as it would take for the bacteria to be gone.

"We will continue to put out an update," Gerrish said.

"It's been difficult," said Noreen Pease, of Hebron Arms Apartments. Pease said the state did not call until late Tuesday and then she had to put up notices to let her tenants know.

"We didn't have ample notice," she said.

Pease said someone from Premier Water Lab would be coming out Thursday to test five different units that were under a boil water advisory. Then she would know within 24 hours if the water was safe for her tenants to drink. Luckily, Pease said, "the tenants have been great about it." She said no one has complained, just doing the best they can, after not having power and now having to boil their water. Hebron Arms Apartments should have their power back by Friday if the test results come out clean.

According to a DPH press release, "Safe drinking water is a top priority," said Lori Mathieu, Chief of DPH Drinking Water Section. "The vast majority of Connecticut residents are served by large drinking water systems, and we are fortunate that these systems have not been disrupted by the storm." Mathieu went on to say that people that were affected and were issued a boil water advisory should follow the guidelines listed on the website, ct.gov/dph. These guidelines include how water should be boiled and what to use to cook, bathe and drink.

It is not just city water users that are affected by contaminated water. In the press release, the DPH stated that "homeowners with private wells in flooded areas should consider their wells contaminated and disinfect their wells before resuming their use." It goes on to say that a person's private well may be contaminated if there is a notable change in color, taste or odor of the water.

For more information on private wells or to see the full list of contaminated public drinking water systems visit ct.gov/dph or call the DPH at 860-509-7270.

Obituaries

East Hampton

Carol Jean Varni

Carol Jean Varni, beloved lifelong partner of Craig Dilla, died Friday, Sept. 2. She was born Jan. 26, 1960 in Hebron, and lived most of her life in East Hampton. She was the daughter of the late Louis and Madeline (Higgins) Varni.

She leaves behind a myriad of friends and her deeply saddened family, Randy and Betty Varni, Lou and Mary-Kaye Varni, Mike Varni, Ken and Sue Varni, Lourie Turner, Mary Yarrow; her most precious nieces and nephews, Janis McLaughlin, David Varni, Jason Varni, Elisa Ottone, Mike Varni, Kristina Varni, Alicia Vlisides, Wade Turner, Brendan Turner, and the most recent apple of her eye, her 10 great-nieces and nephews.

Carol's life was rich in smiles, friends and laughter.

All were welcome to celebrate her life with her family and friends at Spencer Funeral Home, Thursday, Sept. 8. Her ashes will be buried today, Friday, Sept. 9, at 10 a.m. in Marlboro Cemetery, Rt. 66, Marlborough. All are welcome to attend.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to a charity Carol supported, the CT Humane Society, 701 Russell Rd., Newington, CT 06111.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Colchester

Daniel Januszewski

Daniel "Danny" Januszewski, 65, beloved husband of Nancy Clemons Januszewski of Salem, passed away on Thursday, Sept. 1, at the William W. Backus Hospital. He was born on March 30, 1946 in Bronx, New York, son of the late Frank and Ann Kindel Januszewski.

Danny ran the D&D Construction Company for many years.

Surviving besides his wife Nancy are two brothers, Jerome and Tyrone, both of Colchester; and six nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by two brothers, Roger and Allen.

Memorial Mass will be held Saturday, Sept. 10, at St. Andrew Church, Norwich Avenue, with visitation starting at 9 a.m. at the church. Interment private.

Belmont/Sabrowski Funeral Home of Colchester is in care of arrangements.

Portland

Richard Hladky

Richard Hladky, of Middlesex Avenue Ext., Portland, passed away Friday, Sept. 2, due to a massive heart attack.

His wife of 35 years, Carol and son Joshua of Portland were by his side when he passed.

He was an avid gardener, loved to fish and hunt and liked making Native American Arts.

He is survived by his sisters Teddy Hamilton and her husband Jim of Watertown, Lee Champagne and her husband Paul of Virginia and Nancy Hladky of Coventry; his brother Greg Hladky and his wife Janet and four nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be private. Biega Funeral Home has care of the arrangements.

Those who wish may send memorial contributions to American Heart Association, 5 Brookside Dr., PO Box 5022, Wallingford, CT 06492. To share memories or express condolences online visit biegafuneralhome.com.

Portland

John Francis Cunningham

John F. Cunningham of Portland died peacefully at Cobalt Health Care and Rehabilitation Center on Thursday, Aug. 25. He was born in Stafford, CT on Feb. 27, 1930 to Anna Depeau and John T. Cunningham.

John served in the United States Army of Occupation in Germany during the Korean War. He was honorably discharged and entered the University of Connecticut School of Engineering, from which he graduated in 1957. He immediately went to work for Pratt & Whitney Aircraft in East Hartford where he stayed for thirty years. He advanced from being a designer of jet engine test equipment to become a Group Leader and eventually, a Supervisor. John was well-liked and respected in all of those positions.

After early retirement he discovered the woodlands and parks of Connecticut and Massachusetts through membership in the Appalachian Mountain Club. He was an avid hiker and a hike leader who had the distinction of leading more hikes for the CT AMC than any other leader for several years in a row.

John is survived by his wife of 52 years, Linda; his daughter Catherine and her partner Michael Melo of Framingham, MA; daughter Karen and her husband John Helde of Seattle, WA; a sister-in-law, Mary Cunningham, and several nieces and nephews. He also leaves two very special hiking partners, Dodie Holland and Jack Shea, with whom he spent many hours hiking, laughing and swapping stories. John will also be missed by several "chosen" grandchildren: Christine and Adam Hunt and Heather McDougall.

He was predeceased by his brother, Richard Cunningham.

A service in celebration of his life will be held at First Congregational Church of Portland, 554 Main Street, on Sept. 17 at 11 a.m. Friends may meet with the family at that location after the service.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Connecticut Forest and Park Association (CFPA) for the Hibbard Trust for Land and Trails at 16 Meriden Rd., Rockfall, CT 06481 or another charity of your choice.

Portland

Helen D. Nielsen

Helen D. Nielsen, 90, of Portland, died Wednesday, Aug. 31 at Middlesex Hospital. She was the beloved wife for 61 years to the late T.Douglas Nielson.

Born in Waterbury, she was the daughter of the late Andrew and Anastasia David. She made her home in Portland after World War II, but has resided at 1 MacDonough Pl. since September 2010. She was a graduate of Wilby High School class of 1938 and Post College in Waterbury. She was also employed for 18 years as an executive secretary for the Middletown Press.

She is survived by a daughter; Laurie Ann Armstrong and son-in-law, Robert of Higganum, four beloved grandchildren, Daniel, Eric, and twins, Alison and Grant all of Higganum, and a sister, Anna Horbachuk of Greenville, NC.

She was predeceased by a son, Douglas David Nielsen and a sister, Mary Hoffer.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, Sept. 6, at Portland Memorial Funeral Home. Burial followed in Swedish Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Church of St. Mary, 51 Freestone Ave, P.O. Box 307, Portland, CT. 06480. To send an online expression of sympathy, visit portlandmemorialfh.net.