

RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

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

Volume 37, Number 27

Published by The Glastonbury Citizen

October 12, 2012



Dogs and their owners occupied the Colchester Town Green last Sunday at the annual Pumpkins 'n' Pooches festival. Pictured above is a crew that resembled *The Wizard of Oz* cast, Brianna Masson, 14, as the Scarecrow, Amanda Piela, 12, as the Tin Man, Ava Piela, 6, as Dorothy, and Max, a 6-year-old Siberian husky, as the Cowardly Lion. The group won best in show for the costume competition.

Colchester Dogs Have Their Day

by Melissa Roberto

Who let the dogs out? Why the town of Colchester, of course. Last Sunday the town green was adorned with lavish and talented canines, flaunting their best costumes and tricks for the 14th annual Pumpkins 'n' Pooches festival.

Each year, the Colchester Lions Club organizes the event to raise money for local, regional and national charities.

Some of the most anticipated events at the festival include the costume and silly dog competitions, giving pooches the chance to show off in front of a panel of three judges.

Photo and pumpkin decorating contests also took place throughout the day, which gave those without tails a chance to showcase their creations.

The event provided a castle-shaped moonbounce for kids and various tents were set up to promote local artists and businesses. A total of 70 vendors were at the festival.

This year's best in show for the costume competition was awarded to a crew resembling the characters from *The Wizard of Oz*, with Max, a 6-year-old Siberian husky, as the Cowardly Lion. The husky posed with Brianna Masson, 14, as the Scarecrow, Amanda Piela, 12, as the Tin Man, and Ava Piela, 6, as Dorothy with her sparkly red shoes. The role of Toto was played by a stuffed animal.

Charlene Picard, event chairperson and member of the Lions Club commented, "I loved the *Wizard of Oz* crew because that's one of my

favorite movies".

Last year, Ava Piela won first place in the same category as Little Bo Peep in a pink and white ruffled dress, and her 3-month-old German shepherd, Mia, dressed as a white sheep.

This year's costumes also included many imitations of dinosaurs, princesses, pirates and prisoners. Even one dog was dressed as a pageant contestant in a green tutu and tiara with a sign that read "Honey Boo Boo," after the character on the new TLC reality show *Here Comes Honey Boo Boo*.

"They really put a lot of effort and creativity into the costumes," Picard said of the contestants.

Coming in second in the costume competition were Janet Schultz and Freddie Martinez and their two pups as, respectively, a milk carton and an Oreo cookie. Third place went to Fenris, a full German shepherd dressed as the Headless Horseman and Rhath Tokarz, 5, of Salem, dressed in knickers and a vest, portraying Ichabod Crane.

Schultz, a well-known contender each year, and Martinez also won Best Ensemble for their milk and Oreo duo. The humans wore "Got Milk?" T-shirts with their dogs, Betty, a 9-year-old German shorthaired pointer, as the milk carton, and Ice, a 1-year and 4-month old American pitbull terrier, wore an enlarged cushion Oreo on his back. The milk carton-shaped piece of cardboard read "Have you seen me?" on the

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Hebron Officially Names Tierney Town Manager

by Geeta Schrayter

From public works director to interim town manager, back to the former, then interim once more. Andy Tierney's title has changed quite a few times over the past four years. And now, it's changed once more.

At its meeting last Thursday, Oct. 4, the Hebron Board of Selectmen announced Tierney was moving from interim town manager to permanent town manager. The decision came after Tierney was asked if he'd be interested in the position by Board of Selectmen Chairman Jeff Watt in June. Tierney expressed an interest the following month, and since that time the board has been working to collect feedback on Tierney's performance to aid them in the decision process.

"We're all pretty excited about seeing Andy in this new position," said Watt.

Tierney, who has been the public works director in town since 1996, has stepped into the role of interim town manager on two occasions. He handled the town's duties as part of a three-member team with town planner Mike O'Leary and executive assistant Donna Lanza after town manager Jared Clark left in 2009. Then, when town manager Bonnie Therrien left in December 2011 Tierney stepped in again, and has been filling the role ever since.

Selectwoman Gayle Mulligan said at the

meeting the Hebron community was fortunate to have an employee such as Tierney.

"I don't think we've ever had a complaint" about him she said, adding it was "remarkable" what he's been able to accomplish with the town budgets as tight as they've been.

"He's genuine, compassionate and has a real concern for the community," she said.

Selectman Dan Larson said Tierney has shown good judgment "time after time after time" and keeps things moving forward.

"I don't think we could have ever found anybody any better."

Prior to working in Hebron, Tierney, an East Hampton resident, spent 10 years as the public works director in East Haddam. He mentioned Tuesday he was also president of the Connecticut Association of Street and Highway Officials Inc, a non-profit educational organization, from 2004-06, and is currently (but will be resigning now that he'll no longer be public works director) on that association's board of directors. In addition, he was president of the East Haddam Lions Club and said there were "a lot of leadership qualities" that came through on his resume because of such work.

Tierney added he also has family members who've worked for the state and plenty of valuable contacts as a result. Said contacts have already helped him, he said, citing his ability to

get a recent decision by the Department of Transportation to not lower the speed limit on a section of Loveland Road on Route 66 reversed.

Selectmen Mark Stuart said at the meeting it was Tierney's track record to get issues – like the above situation – resolved that made him qualified for the job. He said Tierney "always gets things done in a timely manner and is a team player."

In addition to the changes on Loveland Road, Stewart mentioned Tierney was able to move forward with the demolition of Old Fire Company No. 2 which was "languishing for years."

"Within months he was able to step in and clear that up," he said, also mentioning Tierney managed "in a very rapid manner" to get the moldy portables at Hebron Elementary School demolished and resurface the ground "all under budget."

"I could just keep going on and on with the list of what he's already accomplished," said Stewart, calling Tierney a high achieving professional who knows the residents "and understands the requirements to manage this whole community."

Stuart also noted the town's track record with town managers – Hebron has had four over the last 12 years – and said "in contrasting their tenure with Andy's two as interim, the perfor-



Andy Tierney

mance is starkly different."

Selectman Brian O'Connell also commended Tierney for his work, and said during the time

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Dog owners and their pets got creative Sunday at the Pumpkins 'n' Pooches event. Pictured above left are Janet Schultz and Freddie Martinez and their two dogs, Betty, a German shorthaired pointer dressed as a milk carton, and Ice, an American pitbull terrier clad as a giant Oreo cookie. (A closer look at Betty appears above at right.) Pumpkins proved to be just as artistic; pictured below is a pumpkin turned into a witch, with a black hat, long hair and googly eyes.

Dogs Have Their Day cont. from Front Page front and "Call 1-800 Pumpkins n Pooches" on the back. Her "nutritional contents" were also listed on the side of the milk carton, noting that the dog has 100 percent obedience, loyalty, devotion and love.

Schultz's mother, Joyce, designs and creates the costumes each year. This year, she even designed Oreo earrings for Janet.

"I like to be creative but I also need to make sure the dogs can still walk in the costumes," said Schultz.

In past years, Schultz and her dog have arrived as an airplane and flight attendant, Lady Luck with a craps table made out of a cat bed, and a jockey and racehorse. Schultz said they have always placed for their costumes, a majority being first place.

This year, however, Martinez came up with the idea for the milk and Oreo duo.

As for the funniest contest, first place went to a small dog dressed as a dust bunny sporting bunny ears and surrounded by grey and white cotton balls. Another contestant that grabbed the attention of the crowd was Tabatha Caruso, 10, of Preston, dressed as a dog and her 9-year-old lhasa apso dressed as a flea.

Other costume categories included: cutest, scariest and most original. The silly dog categories were best kisser, waggiest tail, most unusual trick, furriest, longest ears, biggest and smallest dog.

"I think the contests did fabulous," said Picard.

And if you think the dogs sound elaborate, the pumpkins were just as original. Among the painted pumpkins, many were Halloween inspired. These included a giant green eyeball and a witch complete with hat and long hair.

First place for the painted/decorated category

in ages 3-6 went to Gracie Gladding for her colorful fish pumpkin. The scales were made out of colored tissue paper and foil, and even included fins. First place for the same category in ages 10-12 went to Jacob Gladding and his black spider pumpkin. The pumpkin had pipe streamers coming out of the sides to imitate long spider legs.

The Dog Photo Contest was also a success, raising \$200 towards the Colchester Lions Club charity. Each vote cost \$1. This year's first place ribbon went to "Billy Bob," a black and white border collie chasing after a ball. The winning photo alone collected \$61.

As of Wednesday, Picard said she was not aware of the total amount of money collected from the event, but estimated it was over \$5,000.

All of the money that was raised during the event will go into the Lions club general charity fund. Each year the charity donates to scholarships and organizations. A lot of the money goes towards programs for the visually impaired. These programs include the Connecticut Lions Eye Research Foundation, Lions Low Vision Center of Eastern Connecticut and Freedom Guide Dogs for the Blind.

Locally, the club donates to scholarships and holiday food baskets for people in Colchester. Last year, 125 baskets were given out within the community.

And although it started to rain by the end of the afternoon, it did not stop attendees from sticking around for the final events.

"With the circumstances, I think it went very, very well," said Picard.

For more information about the Colchester Lions Club, visit colchesterlions.org.



Town Manager cont. from Front Page

he's known him, Tierney has shown himself to be professional, courteous "and always a champion for the community – that means a lot."

He added Tierney has saved the community "a ton of money," and Board of Finance member Malcolm Leichter agreed.

"They money he's saved this town – I can't even begin to add it up," said Leichter.

O'Connell said he looked forward to seeing Tierney work together with the employees and volunteers in town to make Hebron "the best town we can be and be proud of it."

"I know he can do that," said O'Connell. "There's no question in my mind."

On Tuesday, Tierney said he was "honored" about the decision but added "I don't have a big head about it. I'm here for the community and the people of Hebron."

His first challenge as town manager, he said, is to develop a good management team. He noted he needed to hire a new finance director and public works director (Tierney said his foreman William Standish has been taking care of

the extra duties at public works since he's been interim. Now that he's official town manager, the position of public works director will be advertised, but Tierney said Standish is "more than welcome" to apply). Tierney added some other positions may also need to be filled in the near future, due to upcoming retirements.

"I have a lot of hard work ahead of me," he said. "I'm not going to take the position for granted. It's a lot of responsibility and I'm going to do my best to prove to everybody that I was the best choice."

As town manager, Tierney will be paid \$110,000 up from the \$86,431 he was paid as the director of public works. Tierney noted as the public works director he had full use of a town vehicle and fuel which amounted to about another \$10,000 a year. As town manager, he'll no longer have access to the vehicle but will have a vehicle stipend of \$500 per month.

Tierney's position as town manager became effective the night of the meeting, Oct. 4.

Andover 7-Eleven Targeted Again?

by Geeta Schrayter

State Police say an individual matching the description of a suspect in two recent burglaries at the 7-Eleven on Route 6 in Andover tried to gain entrance early to the convenience store again last Sunday morning.

At 3:50 a.m. Oct. 7, State Police said a suspicious individual wearing all black with a black hood tried to enter the convenience store. State Police didn't return calls to elaborate as to why his attempts to gain entry were unsuccessful. The store is open 24 hours.

Last Wednesday, Oct. 4, a suspect described as a "light-skinned" male approximately 5'6"-5'8" tall and weighing 145 lbs entered the same store around 2:30 a.m., implied that he had a handgun and demanded cash and cigarettes, police said.

Another armed robbery took place the previous Wednesday, Sept. 26, around 12:30 a.m. The suspect then was also described as

between 5'6"-5'8" and weighing 145 pounds, but police listed him as "Hispanic." He entered the store brandishing a black semi-automatic handgun and demanded cash, police said.

In both instances the suspect was wearing a black long-sleeved hooded sweatshirt, black pants and black sneakers with two white stripes. Similarly, in both cases the suspect fled on foot heading north on Route 6.

On Wednesday, the manager at the 7-Eleven said it was against company policy to discuss the incidents, but she added as a result of the recent robberies "there's double coverage now," meaning there's more than one person working at the store at the same time.

Anyone with more information on any of the incidents is asked to call police at 860-537-7500.

Chatham Party Holds Forum, Sans Goff

by Mike Thompson

A Chatham Party-hosted forum featuring state representative candidates Chris Goff and Melissa Ziobron was due to be held last night as scheduled – despite the Goff campaign announcing last week he wouldn't be there.

The forum was slated for Thursday evening, after press time, at the Sears Park boathouse. Goff, a Democrat from East Hampton, and Ziobron, a Republican from East Haddam, are squaring off for the 34th Assembly District. The newly-redrawn district covers East Hampton, East Haddam and part of Colchester. The two are vying to replace Gail Hamm, who is not seeking re-election.

In a letter to the editor that ran in the *Rivereast* last week, Goff's campaign manager, Terry Concannon of East Hampton, announced the candidate would not be attending the forum, stating he would "rather participate in a non-partisan political forum open to the public at large," such as a debate presented by the League of Women Voters.

Chatham Party Vice Chairwoman Pat Gauthier said this week she was "very disappointed" to learn Goff was not going to participate in the forum, but said the show would nonetheless go on. Ziobron had already indicated she would attend, and was to answer the questions the Chatham Party had intended to ask both candidates.

Gauthier said this week the forum was going to be "very easy," with each candidate being given the same three questions, which would've allowed them "to present their vision for the district." There would have also been a certified moderator as well. "So what," Gauthier asked rhetorically, "is the problem?"

Gauthier had her own predictions as to why Goff declined the forum, such as him being "not comfortable talking with people."

Goff served on the East Hampton Town Council for four terms before opting not to seek re-election last year. During his time in office, the council was faced with several heated issues – most notably the 2010 controversy surrounding Police Chief Matthew Reimondo and then-Town Manager Jeffrey O'Keefe. Goff and the majority of the Town Council members supported O'Keefe's decision to lay off Reimondo – a move that was sharply opposed by many in town, including Chatham Party members such as Goff's fellow council member Sue Weintraub.

"During his time on the council, especially during the last regime when Sue was the only Chatham Party member, [Goff] usually voted

with the rest of the council and the vote was often 6-1 even when his constituents disagreed with the council decisions vociferously," Gauthier said, and added, "I believe he's more of a follower than a leader."

Because of the history between Goff and the Chatham Party, Gauthier said she wasn't surprised he turned down the invitation to participate in the forum, but said, "I had hope that maybe things could turn the corner."

Since the Chatham Party had been the group organizing the forum, "We thought it would be an olive branch-type of thing we would offer," Gauthier said. She stressed again Goff and Ziobron would've been given the "exact same questions," and each would have a period at the end of the forum to offer a brief summary of their views.

Gauthier noted the Chatham Party has yet to endorse a candidate for the 34th District – the party is next due to meet Wednesday, Oct. 17 – and this forum would've provided members of the party a chance to hear what the candidates had to say before they decided who to support. She suggested that, had Goff participated in the forum, he may have wound up winning the party endorsement.

However, while Chatham Party members have repeatedly stressed the forum would be non-partisan, Goff this week expressed doubt this would've really been the case. He noted that Chatham Party Chairman Kyle Dostaler has a Ziobron campaign sign up in his yard, and that her campaign website was set up by MAD Communications, which is run by Dostaler's wife Mary Ann, a fellow Chatham Party member.

"I have no problem with who they want to support; that's their choice, that's fine," Goff said. But, he added, "it's a little misleading" to then set up a forum and sell it as non-partisan.

"There's obvious signs they've already chosen who they're supporting," he said.

Goff stressed he's "not backing away from any issues or discussion." Rather, he said, he just didn't feel this particular forum was appropriate.

"If a forum is set up that is truly non-partisan ... I would have no problem doing that," he said.

Goff and Concannon also expressed displeasure with the way the forum was organized. Concannon said she wanted to see "a debate-type format," and she also wanted to see it open to the public. She said that, initially, each candidate was told they could bring 13 of their own supporters to the forum; there was no indica-

tion the event would be open to the general public. "So you'd be preaching to the choir," she said.

It wasn't until last week, Concannon said, when she saw the Chatham Party's announcement of the forum in the *Rivereast*, that she learned members of the public could indeed attend, provided they RSVP-d ahead of time.

"When we saw the ad in the *Rivereast*, it was a surprise to us," Concannon said, adding that "it might have made a difference" in the campaign's decision to skip the forum had it been open to the public all along.

However, Concannon, like Goff, had questions about the "issue of non-partisanship."

"There's a lot of evidence in town that people from the Chatham Party are supporting Ms. Ziobron," she said, and pointed to the same examples Goff gave. "Certainly no one from the Chatham Party has offered to help Chris with his campaign."

Dostaler said this week the forum would indeed have been a non-partisan affair, and that "we weren't going to pull any punches." He said Ziobron wouldn't have received any special treatment "just because certain people in the Chatham Party support her."

While he acknowledged there is a history between Goff and the Chatham Party, Dostaler said the controversial subjects from the past, such as the Reimondo/O'Keefe saga, wouldn't have even been broached.

"We did not want to go into that detail, because we did not want to see it become ugly," he said.

As for Goff and Concannon's concerns about the forum not being open to the public, while the letter to the two candidates indeed does not indicate the public would be invited, Dostaler suggested a phone call could've cleared things up (as they did for Ziobron, who said she emailed Dostaler after receiving the invitation letter and learned the forum was open to the public).

"If [the Goff campaign] had any concerns, they should've called me," Dostaler said. "This was a very simple thing to do, to meet the candidates, that turned into a very odd political debate itself. I cannot help [if] they read into [it] some things that were not intended."

Dostaler said he believes Goff's no-show at the forum will hurt his campaign "to the extent Chris was given an opportunity to speak to the public, and he refused to. He was given the opportunity ... and that opportunity is now lost to him, and that's unfortunate."

Ziobron confirmed Wednesday she was in-

deed heading to the forum – "I made a commitment to the public. ... If Chris doesn't show up, he doesn't show up. I want to meet people," she said – and added she was "extremely disappointed" in Goff for not showing up. She said she told Goff over Labor Day weekend she wanted to do debates with him, and that he agreed with her. And yet, she said, none have occurred.

Ziobron said she knows this is a forum and not a debate, and knows of "possible friction" between Goff and the Chatham Party. But, she wondered, "If he's afraid to participate in a forum with five members of the Chatham Party, what's going to happen when he gets to the state capitol" and is faced with 150 other legislators who may or not share his same viewpoints.

"Politics is not an easy thing to do," she said. "If he's afraid to put his positions out there with a small group of people, what's going to happen at the state level? Who's going to be there to hold his hand?"

Because of the history between Goff and the Chatham Party, Ziobron said she wasn't surprised by his decision, "but I thought Chris would try to rise above it," she said.

"I don't think Chris is a bad guy," she said. "I like Chris; I just don't want him as my state representative. If Chris had the passion for the job, he would be willing to go into a room with people he knows disagree with him."

Ziobron said Goff's decision not to attend the forum "speaks loudly to the tenacity in which he's willing to run the campaign."

She added, "I'm very transparent to the voter, and I don't think Chris can say the same thing at this point in the campaign."

Ziobron said that, while she's never been to a Chatham Party meeting, she does indeed know some of the party's members, such as the Dostalers. "I'm not embarrassed by the support I may get from some of the Chatham Party members," she said.

While last night's forum may not have gone the way it was initially planned, Ziobron still hopes for a debate between her and Goff sometime between now and Election Day.

"I really believe strongly the residents of this district deserve to see the differences between myself and my opponent," she said.

Goff "told me he wanted to have debates in this district," Ziobron added. "We've got three and a half weeks left in this campaign, and I have yet to see him work toward accomplishing that. That's what I want him to focus on right now."

East Hampton Police News

9/27: William J. Choma, Jr., 58, of 20 Namonee Trail, was issued a summons for interfering with police, East Hampton Police said.

9/27: Christopher Wessell, 29, of 1 So. Third St., Taftville, was issued a summons for second-degree threatening and second-degree harassment, police said.

9/28: Susan E. Bruzik, 47, of 17 Lisa Court, was arrested for DUI, police said.

9/29: Robert F. McGinn, 55, of 29 Waverly Ave., Portland, was arrested for DUI and failure to drive right, police said.

10/3: John E. Donnelly III, 47, of 14 Stoneywood Dr., Niantic, was arrested for DUI, police said.

10/5: Sarah A. Knobloch, 21, of 236 Church St., Hebron, was arrested for DUI and failure to drive right, police said.

Portland Police News

9/24: William Hanna, 31, of 49 Middle Haddam Rd., Middle Haddam, was charged with evading responsibility, Portland Police said.

10/4: Kathleen Carta, 52, of 28 Portland St., Middletown, was charged with violation of probation, police said.

Colchester Resident Charged with Negligent Homicide

A Colchester woman was arrested this week on a negligent homicide charge stemming from a March incident in which her vehicle struck a pedestrian, who later died from her injuries.

Eleanor Ball, 56, of 44 Hunter Court, was arrested Monday, Oct. 8, State Police said.

In March, Ball was traveling eastbound on Melanie Lane at around 11:15 a.m. when she struck Doula Michaud, 63, as Michaud was standing at a mailbox in front of her 49 Melanie Ln. home, police said. According to

police, Ball's Nissan Altima struck first the mailbox, then Michaud, with its front right end.

Michaud suffered serious head injuries in the crash, police said, and was flown by Lifestar helicopter to Hartford Hospital. She died from her injuries April 6.

Ball was not injured in the crash.

Ball was released on a written promise to appear, and is due in Norwich Superior Court Nov. 1.

Marlborough Resident Publishes Cookbook

by **Melissa Roberto**

Cindy Anschutz, a self-proclaimed personal chef and food enthusiast, has come full circle, taking favorite childhood memories of cooking with her “Nana” to publishing her very own Italian themed cookbook, *Cindy’s Kitchen*.

Cindy’s Kitchen is Anschutz’ first cookbook and is full of her grandmother’s traditional recipes and her own recipes she has created along the way.

Her fondness of cooking comes from the experiences she had as a young girl side by side with her grandmother, a native of Naples, Italy.

“I’ve been cooking ever since I could barely reach the counter,” commented Anschutz.

Anschutz was born in Methuen, Mass., and raised in Derry, N.H. Living close to her grandparents gave her the opportunity to help with the family’s traditional Sunday Italian dinners. Each week after church her mother would drop her off to help Nana prepare the feast. She said her greatest memory involves her ritual of running over to her grandparents’ stove, standing on a step stool and dipping Italian bread into Nana’s big pot of sauce.

“She always had a back up loaf, we would spend all day preparing the sauce and have the whole loaf to ourselves before the rest of the family arrived for dinner,” said Anschutz.

As the oldest of five, Anschutz communicated that her grandparents took on a parenting role as her parents were quite young.

Despite her continuous love of cooking throughout her life, Anschutz never considered cooking as a career path.

She graduated from Southern New Hampshire University, at the time called New Hampshire College, with a bachelor’s degree in Business. Anschutz entered the computer software industry for a company called Digital, teaching at the learning center there.

“I always wanted to be a teacher, but I knew I didn’t want to teach kids; I wanted to teach adults,” said Anschutz.

After Digital folded in the early 1990s, Anschutz remained in the software business by training individuals at various companies. She lamented the fact that she never felt she made a great employee because of her independent attitude. “You know, being Italian, it’s kind of like my way or no way,” Anschutz said, laughing.

After plenty of experience in the software training field, Anschutz started receiving calls from other companies to recruit her. This

pushed her to open up her own software training business. “I thought, if they want me, then I’m going to be good competition for them,” said Anschutz.

Anschutz started her own business, New England Software Training Solutions (NESTS), out of her own house. After 6 months she had an office in Salem, N.H., with over 40 employees and 60 consultants. During the first year of her business, NESTS won their first large contract with the State of New Hampshire.

Commenting on her success, Anschutz said, “When I set my mind to something, I jump in with both feet.”

And it seems Anschutz’ go-getter attitude never failed. As a single mother of two children, she always made sure she took good care of her kids. She mentioned that the software business died down in the summers, making it easy for her to spend time with her children, go on vacations and always place a healthy meal on the table of course.

“My kids never went to a McDonald’s when they were young,” said Anschutz. Every Sunday she would sit down with her kids and plan out menus for the entire week.

Even now, her kids request certain meals when they visit Cindy in Marlborough. Her daughter, Nikki, 26, a nursing student at the University of Maine, still sends emails one week before her homecomings to request her favorite dishes. Steven, 22, follows in his mother’s footsteps as a business major at SNHU and, Anschutz said, has an entrepreneurial spirit like her.

Anschutz also added that one of her favorite things to do throughout her life has been to entertain. She would constantly invite families from her children’s cheerleading and soccer practices over for dinner because she “always had extra food”.

“I used to call my house grand central station, I love having my house full of people,” said Anschutz.

Anschutz took her love of entertaining and feeding guests with her five years ago to Connecticut, when she moved to be with her husband, Glenn, the CEO of One Shield, a software company for insurance companies. The two live in a house in Marlborough that, Anschutz said, was built for entertaining. The house has a 1,000-bottle wine room right off of the kitchen.

When Anschutz moved to Marlborough, she referred to herself as an “empty nester” and

experienced much change. Anschutz dealt with the absence of her children and business by channeling her energy into cooking. She said the kitchen is her “happy place.”

The success Anschutz has gained in the past five years was not expected. While spending hours in her kitchen hosting dinner parties, Anschutz created a simple blog to post recipes. The positive feedback she received inspired her to create a Facebook page.

Now, her most recent website, cindystable.com, has turned into a popular place to follow the cook and all of her latest creations. The website includes a gluten-free section and offers tutorial videos. The website’s recipes range from Italian recipes, lunch time meals, breakfast ideas, appetizers and tapas, soups and salads and soon to come, various Crock Pot recipes for the fall season.

The website even includes a section dedicated to her 2-year-old Jack Russell terrier, Jake, called “Jake’s Treat Spot”. She shares dog recipes she has created for Jake, including peanut butter dog biscuits and hotdog meatballs.

Also in recent years, Anschutz has appeared on Fox, NBC and CBS cooking segments and appeared on the Mary Jones radio show in CT this past August.

Anschutz also was on the cover of the August/September issue of *Paleo Magazine*, a magazine dedicated to the Paleo lifestyle for individuals that want to lead healthy and active lives.

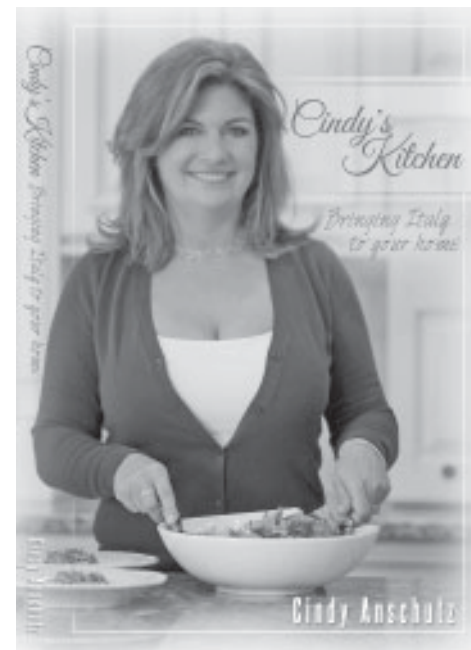
Among all of the press Anschutz has received, her cookbook is something more personal. It includes the first recipes she was taught by her Nana.

“The book is really dedicated to her,” added Anschutz, “it was really because of her love of food, love of our family together and her love for me.”

Cindy’s Kitchen is a cookbook with recipes that any cook, whether a beginner to advance, can make, said Anschutz. “I try to create easy to follow instructions and use items that you can find in any store,” she said.

Anschutz also includes family stories, tips and even alternatives for readers who are more health-conscious about what they eat. She likes to refrain from using a ton of ingredients and pans, “so during all of my recipes you can clean as you go so you don’t finish eating with a mess.”

Not to mention, the cookbook gives advice



Resident Cindy Anschutz recently published a cookbook, *Cindy’s Kitchen*.

on necessary items to keep in the house in case unexpected company arrives. “When you’re Italian, the first thing you do when company comes over is feed them, right?” Anschutz teased.

On Oct. 20, Anschutz will compete against 6 other contestants in a cooking competition at Veto’s By the Water in Windsor. She will also appear on the WTNH-TV Channel 8 show *Connecticut Style*, on Monday, Oct. 15, at noon, to promote the cookbook.

Readers that would like to pick up the cookbook can visit cindystable.com, which provides a link to the book on Amazon. Site visitors are also encouraged to sign up for the free monthly newsletter. Users are asked to provide an email address and will be the first to receive monthly updates on new recipes. Each month has a new theme. Cindy is now working on Halloween and fall recipes and will focus on Thanksgiving next month.

As for now, Anschutz is happy with her continued success and one day hopes to have her own cooking show. Although the cookbook is self-published, she said she hopes to be signed with a publisher in the near future. Her blog and recipe updates can be followed at her website.

Bacon Athletic Department Implements Changes

by **Melissa Roberto**

The Board of Education Tuesday discussed an evaluation of Bacon Academy's athletic program conducted by the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC) and reviewed this year's SAT statistics.

CIAC's mission is to assess high school athletic programs to ensure fairness and sportsmanship by student-athletes and coaches. The CIAC reviewed the strengths and weaknesses of the athletic program that is offered to students.

Bacon Academy Principal Mark Ambruso and the school's athletic director, Kevin Burke, presented a slideshow to show the steps they have taken this year to act in accordance with the CIAC recommendations. Last May, a visiting team of three school administrators and two athletic administrators attended Bacon Academy to visit with all stakeholders, including the Superintendent, Booster Club, Board of Education members, athletes, non-athletes and parents.

Superintendent of Schools Jeffrey Mathieu informed attendees that the CIAC wants to make this process mandatory for all schools to go through in the future.

The slideshow illustrated both recommendations and commendations made by the CIAC to Bacon Academy's athletic program. Ambruso and Burke discussed some recommendations they have already acted upon this year. The first change made to the athletic program was designing a process to monitor the academic progress of athletes. Burke announced that student athletes now have the ability to print out their report cards for a coach at any time during the season. He informed the board and attendees that football and wrestling have already taken advantage of this.

"We're trying to encourage other coaches so

we don't have to run into issues at the end of the quarter, let's tackle it now while we have this process," said Burke.

Another recommendation by the CIAC was to sponsor a "College Night for Student-Athletes" to assist athletes and parents in the college recruiting process. However, Burke informed the board that they already host a "College Knowledge Night" for Bacon Academy students and that the sessions are not only limited to athletes, but to the entire student body and their parents.

As for commendations, Bacon Academy was applauded by the CIAC for providing equity for all teams when assigning programs and funds.

"In terms of budgeted items for sports, we are very, very equitable," said Ambruso.

In addition, the CIAC was floored by the number of students that participate in sports at Bacon Academy. "They couldn't believe that 50 percent, so about 500 students, at Bacon Academy are engaged in sports," informed Ambruso.

Other changes that have been made by the school include a trainer's room that is now in a gender neutral location and the formation of a field maintenance schedule.

However, a recommendation that Ambruso and Burke feel may not be possible is to "create a plan to periodically rotate the location or orientation of overlapping practice fields," as stated by the CIAC.

"We're limited and we need to use all of our fields all the time," stated Burke.

Board of Education member John Reeve questioned one of the CIAC's suggestions to eliminate the Booster Club practice of funding

coaching positions. Mathieu helped Reeve understand the CIAC's view on this, saying, "The philosophy is if your committed to run that program, you should run that program."

Therefore, he said, the CIAC frowns upon the Booster Club funding extra coaches.

Ambruso also explained that some organizations are more active than others in fundraising while some sports do not feel they need more coaches.

Board of Education Chairman Ron Goldstein added, "This is where philosophy butts up against reality. We're not alone in having pay-to-play and having constraints in our athletic budget."

The pay-to-play program requires all student athletes to pay a fee for participating on a sports team to cover expenses the school cannot fund itself.

Bacon Academy has a plan to share its improvements with the CIAC in two years. Bacon Academy is also the 20th school in the state that has undergone this process. Ambruso and Burke also assured the board that although they may not be able to accomplish everything on the evaluation, they will try their best to complete it to the best of their capacity.

"Part of the reason we went through this process was because we are proud of what we had and we wanted to try to improve on what we had through athletics even more," said Burke.

The meeting also included a discussion on current SAT scores for Bacon Academy. Barbara Gilbert, the curriculum director for Colchester Public Schools, announced Bacon Academy's composite score – an average total of all students' combined SAT scores – was

1536. This score ranks Bacon Academy 64th out of 128 districts in the state. These results place Bacon Academy ahead of such high schools as Norwich Free Academy, Waterford, Cromwell and Vernon, but behind those in such towns as Old Saybrook, East Lyme and Stonington.

Bacon Academy has also gone up 12 points in reading, seven points in math and 12 points in writing since the 2005-06 school year, the first year to introduce the writing portion of the test.

Ambruso, also announced to the board that the school promotes the ACT, an alternative standardized test to the SATs, which is "better for a math and science type brain rather than a verbal and literary student".

The highest possible score for an ACT is 36, while the SAT is out of 2400 points. Ambruso also stated that ACT takers do not get penalized for guessing answers, whereas SAT tests do penalize for it.

The board also discussed the measures Bacon Academy is taking to prep students for the SATs. Ambruso informed the audience that 11th-grade math teachers are preparing students with SAT questions in class.

Emily Boucher, one of the student representatives on the school board, said, "I think maybe implementing a small classroom portion to explain certain things would be helpful." She also said that although using practice SAT books are beneficial, obtaining a teacher's explanation could make concepts easier to understand.

The next Board of Education meeting will take place Tuesday, Nov. 13, at 7 p.m., in room 120 at Jack Jackter Intermediate School, Rm. 120, 215 Hall Hills Rd.

Discount Prescription Cards Coming to Colchester

by **Melissa Roberto**

The Board of Selectmen last Thursday discussed a new initiative that provides discounts on prescriptions to all residents of Colchester.

Each resident, regardless of their health insurance situation, will receive a discount card in the mail. The card provides discounts on prescription medications, and also comes into effect for vision care, Lasik surgery, hearing aids and hearing testing.

First Selectman Gregg Schuster was authorized to sign the contract with the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM), the state-wide association of towns and cities, at last week's meeting. At least 40 CT towns have either started or are in the process of participating in the program. Towns that already participate and have received the discount cards are Coventry, Durham, East Windsor, Old Saybrook and Simsbury, to name a few.

The program was created by ProAct, Inc., an experienced discount card provider who negotiates discount rates directly with participating pharmacies.

To make residents aware of this new opportunity once it goes into effect, there will be posters in all of the local pharmacies that participate in the program – which include all major pharmacies – to provide appropriate information. Information about the program will also be available at Town Hall, the Senior Center, Cragin Memorial Library and the town website, colchesterct.gov, to provide residents with the appropriate information regarding their new discount cards.

All Colchester residents will receive a double-sided large postcard in the mail and will be able to punch out the discount card for immediate use. Derek Kennedy, executive assistant to the first selectman, said he encourages residents to look out for this card in the future, as it can easily become shuffled between documents. There will be one card sent to each household, but any resident can go to Town Hall or the pharmacies to request additional cards if needed.

Kennedy also wanted to make it clear that the card will not display any personal identification or health information made accessible by the town of Colchester, CCM or ProAct.

"It's a generic card," he said. "It can't be traced back to anyone."

Pharmacies, ProAct and CCM will only know how much it has been used, but it will not state by whom or for what.

Every card has a town ID number which is proof that the user is a Colchester resident. All cards look the same. If any cards are lost, residents may go to Town Hall, participating pharmacies, or to the town website.

Other states participating in the program are New York, New Jersey and Minnesota.

During the discussion of the discount card program, selectwoman Rosemary Coyle had a disagreement with fellow selectmen Greg Cordova and Stan Soby, over what she perceived to be a lack of adequate time spent on the details of the program.

"I just don't know why we're always in such

a hurry," said Coyle.

Cordova responded, "Sometimes I just don't know why we have to agonize over things."

The selectwoman defended herself by saying she likes to be aware of all details, and to not "just take things at face value."

Soby agreed with Cordova as he explained, "I think I understand it well enough to make my decision," as both agreed to move the motion.

Shortly thereafter, the selectmen authorized to sign the contract with CCM on the discount card prescription program once all selectmen fully understood the particulars.

The selectmen also began discussing a potential blight ordinance for the town. The board decided that the first and necessary step is to obtain opinions from the Planning and Zoning Department and Economic Development Commission.

Coyle was interested in how the ordinance could be applied. "How do we enforce it?" she asked. "And who's going to enforce it?"

Schuster said town residents will become involved and have a chance to express their opinions after it is discussed with these departments. "The more people that we hear from, the better," said Schuster.

The first selectman also announced new developments around town. He explained that new light fixtures on Lebanon Avenue are up and encourage all to check them out.

"Some electrical work and solar panels still

need to go up," said Schuster, "but will progress in the next couple of weeks."

Schuster also confirmed that the circulation of children's books at the library has increased in the last couple years.

"The library has put a lot of effort in the children's sections," said Schuster. The circulation has increased from 24 to 30 percent.

The board also re-appointed Morris Epstein as a member of the Conservation Commission for a three-year term that will expire Oct. 1, 2015. Valerie McGriff also filled a vacancy on the Fair Rent Commission and was appointed by the selectmen for a three-year term that will also expire Oct. 1, 2015.

The next Board of Selectmen meeting will be held Thursday, Oct. 18, following a special town meeting at 7:05 p.m. The special town meeting will deal with three items: the first regards changing the current town ordinance on Sunday alcohol sales so it complies with the new state law. The 1982 town ordinance permits alcohol to be sold from noon to 5 p.m.; however, the state now allows alcohol to be sold between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Sundays.

The meeting will also deal with modifying the town's makeup of the Open Space Advisory Committee, so that it would consist of a representative of the Colchester Land Trust, a representative of a fish and game club, and five members-at-large, which is up from two. Also to be discussed at the meeting is the renewing of the town's lease for Old Bacon Academy.

Obituaries

Portland

Leona H. Mathews

Leona H. Mathews, 98, of Portland, wife of the late Harry Wilkins Mathews passed away Thursday, Oct. 4, at Portland Care and Rehab.

Born May 8, 1914, in Middletown, she was the daughter of the late Garrison B. and Anna W. (Sauer) Hayes. She was employed at F.H. McGraw Company in Hartford for many years. Leona was a member of the Church of the Holy Trinity in Middletown, and she enjoyed traveling, flower arranging and was an accomplished artist (painting until age 98).

She leaves a son, Harry Wilkins Mathews II of Killingly; a sister, Luella C. Miller of Middletown; a granddaughter, Courtney Cadogan of Glastonbury; a grandson, Devon Mathews of Meriden; one great-grandchild, Cheyenne; and several nieces, nephews, greatnieces and greatnephews.

She was predeceased by a brother, Clarence S. Hayes and by a sister, Jeanette S. Cullinane.

Funeral services were held Saturday, Oct. 6, at Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland. Burial was in Swedish Cemetery, Portland. Relatives and friends called the morning of Saturday, Oct. 6, before the service, at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the Sjogren's Syndrome Foundation, 6707 Democracy Blvd., Suite 325, Bethesda, MD 20817.

To send an online expression of sympathy, visit portlandmemorialfh.net.



East Hampton

Ida M. Erickson

Ida M. (Thompson) Erickson, 87, of East Hampton, beloved wife of Dennis Erickson, died Thursday, Oct. 4, at Chestelm Health and Rehab in Moodus. Born April 14, 1925, in Lubec, Maine, she was the daughter of the late Harvey and Grace (Scoville) Thompson.

Ida worked for Middlesex Hospital for 17 years as the payroll supervisor and had worked as the assistant town clerk for the Town of East Hampton under former Town Clerk Pauline Markham. Ida was very active in community and Veterans Affairs, serving as a life member in the VFW Ladies Auxiliary of Post 5095, a member of the American Legion Post 64 Auxiliary, and the Democratic Town Committee for over 40 years. She was a past president of VFW Auxiliary 5095 from 1955-59 and was the 6th District president from 1957-58. Ida also served on numerous department commissions and was the only woman to ever serve on the Board of Fire Commissioners, first as secretary and then as chairman retiring in 1992.

Ida leaves her husband Dennis and was predeceased by her two sisters, Helen Thompson Mahar and Irene Mealey.

A funeral service was held Tuesday, Oct. 9, in the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, with Rev. Thomas Kennedy officiating. Burial followed in the Connecticut State Veterans' Cemetery in Middletown. Friends called at the funeral home on Tuesday morning before the service.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to VFW Post 5095, North Maple Street, East Hampton, CT 06424.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Colchester

Harriet Cohn Herman

Harriet Cohn Herman, 64, of Colchester, beloved wife of Jack, passed away peacefully Thursday, Oct. 4, at Hartford Hospital, surrounded by family and friends. Born Sept. 14, 1948, in Hartford, she was the daughter of the late George and Thelma (Weisman) Cohn. She grew up in Hartford and was a graduate of Weaver High School and the Chandler School for Women.

Harriet was most known for her work at Dr. Mark Solomkin's office, where she worked as a medical secretary. She then married Jack in 1972 and worked alongside him at the family business, Nathan Hale Pharmacy in Moodus. She loved to visit with the customers, both young and old, and do whatever she could to brighten their day. They would come to the store on certain days knowing she would be there to greet and chat with them. She loved giving out candy to the children when they came in.

However, her greatest joy in life was centered around her family as a loving wife, mother, grandmother, sister and aunt. She was especially devoted to her grandchildren and acquired the name "Goof-Goof."

In addition to her husband of 40 years, she is survived by her children and their spouses, Philip and Gabrielle Herman of Livingston, N.J., and Amy and Jason Rubinstein of Bedford Corners, N.Y.; four grandchildren, Asher and Oliver Herman and Max and Carlie Rubinstein; her brother, Marvin Cohn and his companion, Renee Goldstein, of Colchester; and numerous extended family members and friends.

In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by her brother, David Cohn.

Services were held Sunday, Oct. 7, in the sanctuary of Congregation Ahavath Achim, 84 Lebanon Ave., Colchester, with Rabbi Kenneth Alter officiating. Burial followed in the Ahavath Achim Cemetery, Gillette's Lane, Colchester. Shiva was observed at the family home at 89 Park Rd., Colchester from Wednesday, Oct. 10, through the afternoon of Friday, Oct. 12. Minyans was held Wednesday and Thursday night at 7 p.m.

Donations in her memory may be made to Congregation Ahavath Achim, P.O. Box 5, Colchester 06415.

Care of arrangements has been entrusted to the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester in conjunction with the Hebrew Funeral Association.

May her memory be for a blessing.

Portland

John Coolong

Graveside/funeral services for former resident John E. Coolong, who passed away Sept. 17, will be held Saturday, Oct. 13, at Center Cemetery, off Bartlett Street in Portland, at 10 a.m. There will be no calling hours or church service. There will be refreshments immediately following the service at the Trinity Church on Main Street, Portland.

In lieu of flowers please make donations in John's name to the CT Humane Society, 701 Russell Rd., Newington CT 06111, attn: Gay, phone 860-666-3337.

East Hampton

Alice Emma Guerrin

Alice Emma (Rayner) Guerrin, 87, of East Hampton, formerly of East Hartford, beloved wife of the late Wilfred Guerrin entered into eternal peace Friday, Oct. 5. She was born in Orange, Mass., on May 19, 1925, daughter of the late Joseph and Mildred (Munsel) Rayner.

Alice had a special bond with her grandchildren Johnny and Michelle. She loved spending time with her family working on jigsaw puzzles, watching birds on her custom bird feeders, and those special outdoor movie nights. Alice was active with the Marlborough Senior Center.

She is survived by her loving and devoted daughter Lorie Bigelow and her special son-in-law Dave of East Hampton with whom she made her home; her sons, Richard Guerrin of Vernon and William Guerrin of West Springfield, Mass.; her three brothers and two sisters; five loving grandchildren; one adored great-grandson Tristian; two special friends, Jeff and Jim, along with many others.

Besides her husband of 50 years, Alice was also predeceased by a brother, two sisters and a grandson.

Family and friends visited the D'Esopo East Hartford Memorial Chapel, 30 Carter Street, East Hartford, Tuesday, Oct. 9. The burial will be private and held at the convenience of the family.

For online expressions of sympathy, visit desopo.com.



Colchester

Arthur W. Harrington

Arthur "Beanie" W. Harrington, 90, of Vernon, loving husband of 58 years to the late Dorothy (Whitmore) Harrington (January 2012), passed away peacefully Friday, Oct. 5, at Rockville General Hospital. Born in Bath, Maine, the son of the late Irving and Nina (Havener) Harrington, he grew up in Phippsburg, Maine and lived in Colchester before moving to Vernon 55 years ago.

Arthur worked at the Bath Iron Works before he entered the Merchant Marines, U.S. Coast Guard, during World War II, serving from 1940 to 1945. Prior to his retirement in 1995, Arthur owned and operated the former New England Piping Services Inc. in Rockville for many years. He was previously employed as a foreman at the former Cobra Pipe Supply and Coil Company and the Nutmeg Piping Services where he and his son, Clifton were partners. Arthur was a member of U. A. Plumbers Local 777, Meriden. He worked on many bridges in New England, New Jersey and Pennsylvania with his sons, Clifton and Arthur Jr. and his grandsons, Dana and Robin.

Arthur and Dorothy owned Arrowhead Grove, a summer resort in Salem, on Gardner Lake, where they rented 17 cottages during the summer and fall for five years. He was a member of the Hartford Full Gospel Church where he served as Deacon and on the Board of Trustees for over 50 years. Arthur enjoyed spending many summers at their cottage on the Kennebec in Phippsburg, Maine, where they hosted "lobster feeds" and boat rides for family and friends.

He is survived by his beloved children, Clifton O'Donal and his wife Beverly of Colchester, Carol Ann Harrington of East Millinocket, Maine, Faith Tracy and her husband Roland of Tolland, Bonnie Szymanski of Rockville, who was Arthur's caregiver, Arthur Harrington, Jr. and his wife Diane of Rockville; two grandchildren who he helped raise, Joshua and LaToya Szymanski of Vernon, and 13 grandchildren, Cliff, John, Kim, Melissa, Jennifer, Justin, Richard, Scott, Dana, Robin, Melanie, Shane, and Troy; many great-grandchildren; a brother, Westley Harrington of Pepperell, Mass., and many nieces and nephews.

In addition to his wife and his parents, Arthur was predeceased by two brothers, Irving and Mark Harrington of Phippsburg, Maine. He will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.

His family received friends for calling hours Thursday, Oct. 11, followed by a funeral service beginning at the Ladd-Turkington & Carmon Funeral Home, 551 Talcottville Road (Route 83), Vernon. Burial followed in Linwood Cemetery in Colchester with military honors.

Memorial donations in his memory may be made to the American Diabetes Association, P. O. Box 11454, Alexandria, VA 22312.

For online condolences and guest book, visit carmonfuneralhome.com.

Marlborough

Suzanne Slivinsky

Suzanne (Ellington) Slivinsky, 62, of Marlborough, beloved wife of Mark A. Slivinsky, passed away peacefully, after a long illness, Thursday, Oct. 4, at Middlesex Memorial Hospital with her family by her side. She was born in Hartford Aug. 12, 1950, and raised in the Hartford area.

Suzanne was the daughter of the late Paul and Marian "Mary" (Piscatelli) Ellington. She graduated from Penney High School in East Hartford, Class of 1968, continuing her education at Marietta College. Suzanne was an engineering assistant at United Technologies in the research division, relocating to the Scientific Research Associates where she was comptroller. In addition to her love of cooking and reading, she enjoyed her and Mark's yearly trip to St. Maarten, West Indies, and their extensive traveling across the United States and the world, with her favorite city being San Francisco.

Along with her husband Mark, Suzanne will be fondly remembered by her brother and sister-in-law, Wayne and Tricia Ellington of Ellington; brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Charles M. and Gwen Slivinsky of New Britain; four aunts, Christine Warren of Pa., Willo Dean Davis of Little Rock, Ark., Maxine Ellington of Little Rock, Ark., and Margie Jefford of Friendswood, Texas; many cousins and dear friends.

In addition to her parents, Suzanne was predeceased by her brother Bruce Ellington.

Friends and relatives paid their respects to the family at the Farley-Sullivan Funeral Home, 34 Beaver Rd., Wethersfield, Monday, Oct. 8, at which time a prayer service was held in the funeral home. Interment followed in Cedar Hill Cemetery (Section 25), 453 Fairfield Ave., Hartford.

Memorial donations may be made in Suzanne's name to the Connecticut Children's Medical Center (CCMC), 282 Washington St., Hartford, CT 06106.

To extend online condolences to the family or for further information, visit farleysullivan.com.



Portland

Carl W. Ackley

Carl "Oz" Ackley, 60, of Meriden, formerly of Portland, beloved husband of over 34 years to Christine "Chrissy" Lafayette Ackley, passed away unexpectedly Friday, Oct. 5. He was born Aug. 27, 1952, in Rutland, Vt., to Teresea Sofia LaPlante and the late Myron Ackley.

Besides his wife, he is survived by his loving two daughters and sons-in-law, Amy Ackley York and her husband Rich of Kannapolis, N.C., and Lysa Ackley Arthur and her husband Ed of Portland; his stepmother, Marie Ackley of Canton and his sister Donna Ackley Daigle and her husband Dave of Collinsville. He is also survived by his mother and father in law Mary and Andrew Lafayette of Rutland, Vt., and brother and sisters-in-law Norma and Louis Rousseau, Andrew Lafayette Jr., and Andre Lafayette all of Rutland, Vt.

Carl was introduced to his wife Chrissy by their good friend Karen (Menze) Mastroianni. Carl was 19 at the time and Chrissy was 14. They have been together ever since and were each other's best friends and soul mates. They cherished each other and were always inseparable. A love like theirs was envied by all who knew them.

Carl was known as "Papa" to his four grandchildren: Eddie, Dakota, Charlie, and Brianna, who he loved and adored unconditionally. Whether it was playing, watching cartoons or rocking them to sleep, it always brought a smile to their Papa's face. He will be truly missed by them all.

Carl owned his own masonry business, J&B Mason Contracting for over 40 years. He worked in numerous communities throughout Connecticut doing what he loved most and took the utmost pride in. Carl was a talented and dedicated craftsman.

He is also survived by several aunts, uncles, and cousins. Besides his father, he was predeceased by his brother William "Billy" Ackley and Stepfather Francis Laplante.

Friends and relatives are invited to attend a Mass of Christian Burial today, Oct. 12, at 10 a.m., in St. Mary Church, 51 Freestone Ave., Portland. Burial will be in Center Cemetery, Portland. Everyone is asked to meet directly at church. Friends called at the John J. Ferry & Sons Funeral Home, 88 East Main St., Meriden, CT 06450, Thursday, Oct. 11.

For online condolences, visit jferryfh.com.



From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

“The baseball playoffs started last Friday and almost immediately, there was controversy. But, blown calls aside, I love this new one-game playoff.

The second wild card system – in which the two best second-place teams in each league faced each other in a one-game playoff to see who gets to face a division champ in the division series – has proven divisive ever since it was announced last year. Some argued that it wasn’t fair for a 162-game season to come down to a one-game playoff to see who could advance. Why not have at least a best-of-three series?

Others, including myself, said, basically: tough noogies. If you wanted to avoid that one-game playoff, well, win your division. Easier said than done, I know, but hey, that’s baseball. Until the 1995 season, there was no wild card, so if you came in second you didn’t even get that one-game playoff; you just went home. It wasn’t unheard of for teams to win more than 100 games and go nowhere once that last out of the regular season was made. It was win your division or nothing.

But then the wild card happened. For the next 17 seasons, if you had the best record of all the second-place teams in your league, you’d be guaranteed a minimum of one best-of-five playoff series, the same as the three division winners. Winning the division had lost a lot of its drama. There were no more instances where two great teams battled it out for one playoff spot; the teams would each know they’d be getting in, so they wouldn’t go crazy battling it out through the last day of the season.

Don’t get me wrong; the wild card led to a lot of September excitement that wouldn’t have otherwise been there. It also helped my Mets to the playoffs in 1999 and 2000. I liked it – but at the same time was a little disappointed that it weakened the concept of winning your division.

That’s why I think this new one-game wild card playoff is the best of both worlds. It allows just as much September excitement – more than ever before, in fact. But, by forcing those wild cards into a crapshoot of a one-game playoff before either can advance any further, it also restores a value to winning your division that it hasn’t quite had since nearly 20 years ago.

After a blown call in the eighth inning of the Braves-Cardinals wild card game last Friday – an infield fly was called much too late and, in my opinion, never should’ve been called in the first place, thus robbing the Braves of a bases-loaded, one-out situation in a game in which they were down 6-3 – there were calls by some for Major League Baseball to take this as a sign the one game playoff should be scrapped. If it was even a best-of-three series, they argued, it’d allow for blown calls to have less of an impact.

I hope MLB ignores these pleas. Like I said, I think the ump blew the call, and it’s unfortunate the way things turned out (particularly if you, like me, had little to no desire to see the Cardinals advance any further in the postseason than they already have), but it’d be even more unfortunate to see the division race watered down again. Keep things the way they are. Bad calls do seem to be happening more often these days, but perhaps use that as a cue for more umpire training (and definitely use it as a cue for expanded instant replay), not as a sign things need to be reworked. You’ve got it right, MLB; let’s keep it this way.

* * *

Now this is pretty neat. East Hampton’s Chatham Historical Society – as it does every year – has come out with 12-month calendars for the coming year, with each month showcasing a scene from Belltown’s past. For the 2013 calendar, however, the society has opted to use nothing but photos of the Bevin Brothers Manufacturing Company through the years – as a tribute to the longtime bell company, which as everyone knows saw its factory burn to the ground in May.

The calendar features such images as: C.

G. Bevin talking with pattern maker Robert Rich in 1955; the employees of Bevin Brothers Manufacturing, circa 1885; and construction of the earthen dam around Bevin Pond, circa 1899. The centerfold of the calendar features the presidents of Bevin Brothers – seven generations in all.

The calendars can be purchased at various spots in East Hampton, including the public library, Town Hall and more. Visit chathamhistoricalsocietyct.org for more information.

* * *

For the past several weeks, a pair of Portland residents has been trying to “scare” (that’s a joke, get it?) up some ghost stories from folks in town. Bronwynn Cummins and Ann Forella have been working on a project entitled *Portland Ghost Stories*, a collection of hauntings and other strange experiences in the area. They’ve been looking for residents who have scary stories of their own to contact them. If the women receive enough submissions, they said they will publish *Portland Ghost Stories*, for all to read. (And don’t worry; Bronwyn and Ann say they can publish tales anonymously if so desired.)

It seems like an interesting idea – but apparently the response has been rather anemic. So, before they give up the “ghost” (that’s another joke), the women asked me if I could share a sample submission they got, just so people can see what they’re looking for. It’s not really news, but I figured I could deposit it in my column, see if I can’t help them out. So, here’s the story:

“Our home was built in 1827 by Seth Johnson. We live in a neighborhood full of old homes and stories. Our home was the place where mothers would give birth to their babies in what is now our office and children would attend school up in our attic.

We began to experience things as soon as we occupied the home. When I was painting and renovating the second level, I heard doors close and open, creaky footsteps. At first it scared me, but not enough to make me want to move out. My husband and children, friends and family also experienced different spiritual events.

As I was told, a young family lived in our home with a little boy who died at the age of 10. All of us have heard him at one time or another. I think he must be lonely. Most of the experiences have happened in my daughter’s room in the upstairs north side bedroom. She has had something sit on her bed and touch her from behind when sitting at her desk.

Our bedroom has also entertained a few spirits. Every time I move our bedroom around, it must awaken them. In the middle of the night, both my husband and I are awakened at the same time by creaky footsteps in our room that persists for some time. I have heard a voice in my room on a number of occasions. Things have fallen off the refrigerator countless times. My husband has heard a women’s voice when no one else is around a number of times.

We aren’t imagining these thingsfamilies that have lived in our home before us have shared the same stories with us. These spirits aren’t evil or threatening at all...I think they have just lost their way and don’t know how to go on. At times they are mischievous, but not in a bad way. As of yet, no one has actually seen any spirits, but they sure do make themselves known by trying to communicate with us.

Yours truly,
A Portland Resident”

Like I said, if people have other stories to share but wish to remain anonymous, Cummins and Forella said they can publish your tale without your personal information. If interested in sharing a story, email portlandghoststories@gmail.com or write to P.O. Box 425, Portland, CT 06480.

* * *

See you next week.