

# RIVEREAST News Bulletin

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**Making a Drive...** The East Hampton Hawks youth football squads took on the Durham Falcons last weekend. Shown here in the C Squad's game is Justin Edwards running for a 46-yard gain against the Durham defense. To see how the game ended up, as well as how the other three squads fared, see the related story on page 27.

## Hebron Board Names Acting Superintendent

by Geeta Schrayter

The Board of Education voted unanimously Tuesday to name Gilead Hill School Principal Kathy Veronesi acting superintendent of schools following current superintendent Ellie Cruz's departure in December.

Veronesi has been principal of Gilead Hill School for the past six years, prior to which she was assistant principal at the Middle School of Plainville. She is currently enrolled in the Superintendent Certification, or 093, program, a requirement of acting superintendents.

On Wednesday, Board of Education Chairwoman Kathy Shea explained the district will seek a waiver from the state allowing Veronesi to be acting superintendent since she's in the process of obtaining the certification. Historically, Shea said, the state Department of Education won't deny the waiver so long as the person is doing the coursework.

Shea added she thought Veronesi will do "very well" in the role.

"She's very well-known in the Hebron community and loved by the students at the school. There's a very good, warm atmosphere that goes on at Gilead," she said. "I think her skills that she's gained [as principal] will help her immensely as she oversees the district for those six months."

Cruz announced in August she had taken a

job as superintendent of schools in Plymouth; her last day in Hebron is Dec. 14. Veronesi is due to begin as acting superintendent the next day, Dec. 15, and will continue in the role through June 30. The board agreed to pay Veronesi an annualized rate of \$133,000, up from the \$120,731 she is receiving as principal.

On Wednesday, Cruz furthered Shea's sentiments, calling Veronesi "highly-qualified" and a "truly beloved member of this community."

Veronesi "has high expectations, tremendous passion for her work, enormous experience and is also well known for her philanthropic efforts in the community," Cruz said. She added Veronesi's personal attributes and professional skills make her "the perfect person to fill in as acting superintendent."

On Thursday, Veronesi said she was "honored" by the appointment.

"I see the work that has been done in this district to be of the highest quality," she said, "and I'm committed to continuing this work with the administrative team and teachers and staff."

Veronesi added she also sees the Hebron community as "completely committed" to the education of its children "and really invested

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## After Hiatus, Portland Fair Returns Next Week

by Joshua Anusewicz

After last year's weather-related cancellation, the future of the Portland Fair was admittedly in jeopardy, with no funds raised to carry over to this year. At the time, fair officials took a realistic approach, leaving talk of the future of the fair for another day, when the financial picture would be clearer.

For those who travel around Portland regularly, you now know how clear that picture is: the Portland Fair is back. Beginning next Friday, Oct. 12, the 13th annual Portland Agricultural Fair will make a triumphant return to its home at the (dry) Exchange Club Grounds on Route 17A.

The return of the fair, however, hasn't come without challenges, said President Don Bascom. At the time of last year's cancellation, Bascom admitted that the future of the fair would be up in the air and, even this year, fair officials were worried if the event would take place.

"We were all really concerned," Bascom said Wednesday, adding that the fair association regularly received calls from residents about the state of the event.

The concerns about the fair began last September, after Tropical Storm Irene blew through the area, causing the Connecticut River to rise

and the fairgrounds to be flooded with water. With the grounds unusable, the fair association targeted a 12-acre property near Route 66, known as the Jarvis property, as an alternative location.

The problem with the location, however, was that it was on private property; to hold the fair on private property, the town would need to be a co-sponsor of the event to obtain a special zoning permit. This raised multiple concerns from the town's Board of Selectmen, who enlisted the help of the town's public safety officials to approve the co-sponsorship so the fair could take place.

After weeks of deliberation, the matter came to a head at a contentious selectmen's meeting, where public safety officials advised the board that, given the shortened timeframe and the property's inadequacies for holding the fair, the town should not co-sponsor the event. Following the meeting, members of the fair association, visibly angry, announced that the fair would be canceled.

Bascom, who was also the president of the fair last year, admitted Wednesday that putting the fair together this year has been a serious challenge.

"We had to start all over," he said. Starting

See Portland Fair Page 2



After being canceled last year, the Portland Fair is returning next weekend. There will be food, entertainment, exhibits and activities aplenty. Pictured here is a crowd enjoying the 2010 fair, and checking out some square dancing.

**Fall Home & Garden Section Inside**

**Superintendent cont. from Front Page**  
in their future.”

The decision to appoint Veronesi acting superintendent meant a couple of other appointments needed to be made at Tuesday’s meeting as well. The board voted unanimously to make Hebron Elementary School Assistant Principal Eric Brody principal of Gilead Hill School for the same time frame. As a result of the change, he’ll be working 50 more days and be considered a full-time employee instead of part-time.

“That’s quite a bit more time,” said Cruz, explaining Brody’s salary would increase from \$101,924 to \$120,731.

Although Brody has only been with the district since April, Cruz added he’s already distinguished himself and “become a fixture at Hebron Elementary.”

“He hasn’t missed a step since he joined us from Marlborough,” she said, calling the opportunity “tremendous” for him, and a testament to his growth.

Finally, stepping into Brody’s shoes will be Hebron Elementary School math specialist Kristine Garofalo, who was also unanimously appointed. She will move from a teacher’s salary of \$74,497 to an administrative salary of \$97,070.

“She’s really been in the front in terms of demonstrating leadership and taking on initiatives,” Cruz said. “So she was an instant choice in terms of filling that position as interim assistant principal.”

But these changes are by no means permanent. Cruz stated the positions will be reviewed and evaluated at the end of the year and decisions will be made through the budget process

**Portland Fair cont. from Front Page**

all over included reapplying for insurance, reclaiming sponsorships, and patching things up with the emergency management of the town to get the fair off and running. Bascom added that due to the cancellation, the fair lost one of its biggest corporate sponsors, Stanley Black and Decker, and put many local organizations at a disadvantage, as they use the fair as a fundraiser.

But in true Portland fashion, Bascom said that the process has been “cooperative,” with help coming from all angles.

“In Portland, when you’re down, you always get people stepping forward to help,” he said proudly. Meetings with public safety officials have “been running smoothly,” he said, and First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield has “been on board,” even offering to be a judge in the talent contest. But best of all, Bascom said, most of the sponsors from last year did not ask for their money back for advertising, instead taking a small discount to advertise again this year.

All of that hard work – and teamwork – has gone into the fair’s return, which will include many of the same attractions that have been featured over the years, as well as some new ones. Bascom said that Coleman Brothers of Middletown will be providing the midway this year, which will include two or three new rides, including a larger Ferris wheel and the ever-

as far as filling them. And, Shea explained, there was plenty of discussion going on regarding how to proceed with the search for a permanent superintendent.

Shea said she’s currently gathering more information on various search firms to share with the board and said that while it may seem like the district has plenty of time, the possibility has to be considered that a prospective superintendent may have a clause in their contract similar to Cruz’s.

“For example, with Ellie’s contract, there was a 90-day requirement for notice, and it may be the same for who we hire,” said Shea.

Although the length of time could vary, Shea furthered firms she had already spoken to said the search process needs to begin this month.

“It takes a while to get all of the pieces in place,” regarding getting all the information on what the board is searching for, then finding potential candidates, said Shea. Additionally, work tends to slow down during the holidays.

“So it may seem like too early but it’s not really, because if a person needs 90 days then by April 1 we need to have a hire,” Shea said.

Shea has previously stated the district can’t be without a superintendent for a “single day,” so one needs to be hired for July 1.

“So we’re trying to get the board to come to a resolution quickly regarding are we or are we not going to hire a search firm,” Shea said.

Conversation regarding the search for a superintendent as well as the administrative structure will continue at the board’s regular meeting on Thursday, Oct. 11, at 7 p.m.

popular Ring of Fire.

This year will also feature an expanded tent area, Bascom said, with new displays and vendors, including local artists and artisans. There will also be a number of games and booths for local organizations – and a full list of food vendors, Bascom said, “even more than they normally have.”

For those who come for entertainment, each day of the fair will offer something for people of all tastes. Featured acts will include returnees like The Great Hill Mountain Band and local favorite Small Town Roots, as well as newcomer the Glamour Girls.

And for those who like their agricultural fairs sticking close to its roots, fairgoers can explore the various animal exhibits that feature local livestock that will be judged throughout the weekend. Attendees can also check out the truck and tractor pulls, as well as the brand new garden tractor racing event that is sure to be a hit.

The fair will be held on Friday, Oct. 12, from 5-11 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 13, from 10 a.m.-11 p.m., and Sunday, Oct. 14, from 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Admission is \$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors, and children under age 10 are free. Parking is available for free off-site.

For more information on the fair, visit [portlandfair.com](http://portlandfair.com) or contact [info@portlandfair.com](mailto:info@portlandfair.com).

*From the Editor's Desk*

## Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

Going on food adventures is one of my favorite pastimes, so last weekend proved quite enjoyable.

It started Friday with a soggy trip to The Big E. It rained most of the time, but I still had a good time – as did my taste buds. I always like discovering new taste treats, so I was pretty pleased when I came across deep-fried shepherd’s pie. They were five little balls consisting of mashed potatoes, ground beef and corn, breaded and then deep-fried. A nice brown gravy was then poured on top of them.

I wasn’t sure I’d be able to eat all five balls – I had already downed a deliciously-seasoned foot-long hot dog from the Frankie’s booth at the Connecticut building (there used to be a Frankie’s outlet in Manchester when I was very young, but it’s been gone for years; for those who have never eaten at one of the Waterbury-based Frankie’s restaurants, you’re missing out; it’s a fantastic hot dog), as well as some fried shrimp in Rhode Island and blueberry pie in Maine. But the breeding on the shepherd’s pie balls wasn’t too heavy, and it was well-seasoned too. In short, the deep-fried shepherd’s pie was even better than I thought it would be, and I love shepherd’s pie. I’ll definitely keep those in mind for next year.

Though I had eaten a ton already, no trip to The Big E – or the Hebron Fair, or the Portland Fair, or any fair, really – is complete without a horrifically-bad-for-you dessert. I opted to feast on something I’d never seen: a deep-fried whoopee pie. For those of you who don’t know, a whoopee pie can best be described as a giant version of the Oreo Cakester: vanilla cream filling inside two big sponge cakes. (There were multiple varieties available to be deep-fried; I went with the classic chocolate whoopee pie.) The deep-frying of the dessert made the vanilla filling similar to what you’d find in a deep-fried Oreo: warm and creamy. The sponge cake top and bottom was also rendered warm, moist and delicious. It was terrific.

(By the way, lest you health-conscious folk shake your heads with disgust at this point, rest assured I could have done far, far worse. I wasn’t even tempted – okay, maybe I was a teensy-bit curious – to have the Big E Krazee Burger, which is a bacon cheeseburger only, instead of on a bun, they put it in between two glazed doughnuts.)

Two days later, on Sunday, I headed up to the North Quabbin Garlic and Arts Festival, a neat little two-day event in Orange, Mass. I was tempted by the idea of various garlic-themed food items. A friend, who had been before, had mentioned garlic-themed ice cream; my curiosity was definitely piqued.

As we got there around lunch time, I was pleased to see there were plenty of tents selling, well, lunch food. After a rather ho-hum pulled pork sandwich, I feasted on some garlic cheese fries that were fantastic. These weren’t just fries tossed in garlic seasoning and then covered with cheese (although that wouldn’t have been bad either). No, these were plain fries, covered with a cheese sauce that had had the garlic mixed into it. It was just the right amount of garlic too; not overpowering, but more than just a “subtle hint.”

The same wasn’t exactly true for the garlic ice cream. Now, I had no idea what this would be like. Vanilla ice cream topped with garlic salt, perhaps? No, this was vanilla ice cream mixed with actual minced pieces of

garlic. The garlic was in every bite. You could still taste the vanilla ice cream, but there wasn’t enough just plain vanilla taste to cleanse the pallet in between bites of garlic. Not bad, and I’m glad I experienced what it was like, but I only made it through about half of a small cup of it before dumping the rest.

I loved the festival, though. And it had what I’d expect in an outdoor festival in northwestern Massachusetts: plenty of hippies. Perhaps my favorite was the middle-aged hippie reciting original poetry under a tent in the woods. In keeping with the theme of the day, one of his poems was about the purifying effects of garlic, and how perhaps a giant garlic aioli should be made and poured over all of the banks and mortgage houses to cleanse them.

\* \* \*

Colchester parents likely remember Janet Balthazar, who in 2005 came to town and was assistant principal at what was then-called Jack Jackter Elementary School for one year. Janet then served as assistant principal at William J. Johnston Middle School from 2006 until departing Colchester in July 2011 to become assistant principal at Gideon Welles School in Glastonbury.

Well, I’m pleased to report all those years of being assistant principal have paid off for Janet. Last week, she was named principal of Eastbury Elementary School, also in Glastonbury.

While Janet started as an elementary school teacher in Glastonbury, and had that stint at Jack Jackter in 2005, she’s been mostly with middle-schoolers ever since, between her time at WJMS and Gideon Welles, which is a school just for sixth-graders.

“To be amongst preschoolers in one hallway and then fifth-graders in another is difficult to describe,” Janet told the *Rivereast’s* sister paper, the *Glastonbury Citizen*. “I have loved every position I have held as teacher and administrator and I expect my new role to be another opportunity to work toward excellence in education.”

I know Janet was well-appreciated during her time in Colchester – last summer, then-Colchester Superintendent of Schools Karen Loiselle described Janet as “a strong, positive and energetic school leader who develops excellent relationships with parents, students and staff,” and said she is “one of the most creative and passionate school administrators with whom I’ve worked in my career” – and she’s obviously done well in Glastonbury, to be tabbed for a principal position after just one year on the job. Congratulations, Janet.

\* \* \*

On a much more somber note, the family of Jini Barnum – the East Hampton mother of two who went missing in July, and whose remains, tragically, were found in a shallow grave in Glastonbury last month – has announced funeral arrangements.

Services will be held in the spring of 2013 in Mattapoisett, Mass., where she will be placed in the family plot alongside her father.

Barnum’s obituary appears in this week’s *Rivereast*.

As for the investigation into Barnum’s death, East Hampton Police said this week it is continuing, and no arrests have been made.

\* \* \*

See you next week.

# EH Podium Players Bringing ‘Horrors’ to Halloween Season

by Joshua Anusewicz

In a time of year known for its tricks and treats, the community theatre group Podium Players' upcoming production of *Little Shop of Horrors* will be a real treat for those who want to get into the Halloween spirit.

"It's super awesome!" said an excited Meghan Gagne, a Podium Players veteran and producer of this fall's musical. "It's really well-known and something we've wanted to do for a while. Plus, it's perfect for Halloween."

For all of those reasons, the group chose the popular rock musical comedy that has seen numerous recreations over the years. According to director Ian Galligan, *Little Shop of Horrors* was originally made as a black-and-white B-movie in 1960 – starring a very young Jack Nicholson – that became a cult classic. With some significant changes, the story was crafted into a musical in 1982 by composer Alan Menken and writer Howard Ashman, where the story saw its popularity rise both on and off Broadway. The rise of the musical led to arguably the most famous adaptation of the story, the 1985 film of the same name, directed by Frank Oz and starring Rick Moranis, Ellen Greene, and Steve Martin.

Galligan said the musical takes place on "Skid Row" and focuses on a "nerdy, down-and-out" florist named Seymour, played by Ian Lynch-Passarelli. Seymour and Audrey – his crush, played by Katie Keough – work for the overbearing Mr. Mushnik, played by Ed Hobson. Soon, Seymour comes across a unique new plant in the shop that seems to thrive on human flesh and blood and begins growing and talking...

"But I can't give away too much of the story," said Galligan, smiling.

One of the biggest challenges of the show, Galligan said, is the plant itself, known as Audrey II, which is portrayed by a large puppet. The puppet is rented by Podium Player, Galligan said, and will require the work of two cast members – Jason Gagne as the "manipulator" and Val Bozzi as the voice of Audrey II.

Another challenge for the crew was whittling down the "huge turnout" for auditions, Galligan said, to the small cast for the show. Usually comprised of just eight roles, the number of roles was bumped up to 15, creating an ensemble cast of singers. The ensemble, he said, gives Podium Players a chance to show off the many talented thespians the group has to offer.

"We have very strong singers and actors this year, and they've worked really hard to embody these characters," Galligan said. "I'm extremely proud of them."

Playing the roles is a challenge in itself, he added, as the musical was written as a satire of '50s horror movies; while the premise of the story and some of the actions are unrealistic, Galligan said the actors "can't go over the top."

"It's written as a spoof, but we also wanted to maintain the heart the characters have so the audience can relate to them," he said. Fortunately, the roles are filled almost entirely by veterans of Podium Players, ranging from high school age to adults; also joining the crew are music director Tim Braun and choreographer Kim Cordeiro.

Galligan said the entire group has been hard at work in recently, with rehearsals usually four nights a week as the cast and crew look to perfect the roles before the show's opening. He added that, right now, everything is "right on schedule" and that the cast knows it will take a



Those looking for a scary good time this Halloween should look no further than the Podium Players' production of *Little Shop of Horrors*, held from Oct. 19-21. The cast is full of theatre veterans, including Ian Lynch-Passarelli as Seymour (holding Audrey II) and Katie Keough as Audrey.

full effort to make the show the best it can be.

"It's a labor of love," said Bozzi, one of the most veteran members of Podium Players. "The hours that you put in are hard to measure. But it takes every single person stepping forward to make it the best."

The show will be held for three days: Fri-

day, Oct. 19, and Saturday, Oct. 20, at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Oct. 21, at 2 p.m. All shows will be held in the auditorium at East Hampton High School, 15 N. Maple St. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$10 for seniors and students, and are available at the door or in advance at [podiumplayers.org](http://podiumplayers.org).

## Bevin Bells Back in Business in East Hampton

by Joshua Anusewicz

Bevin Bells will be ringing again this holiday season, as it was announced Wednesday that the historic manufacturing outfit would be producing bells for the Salvation Army this winter.

At a press conference Wednesday, company owner Matt Bevin, flanked by U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal and U.S. Rep. Joe Courtney, made the announcement that the company had been contracted to produce the bells for the well-known nonprofit that raises millions of dollars during the holiday season. The announcement is the latest step in the company's effort to rebuild after the devastating fire that destroyed the company's historic facility earlier this year.

The community was stunned last May to

hear that the bell factory that had given the town its nickname – Belltown – had been destroyed in a fire, believed to be caused by a lightning strike. Since the fire, support has poured in from all over the country for the last remaining bell manufacturer in the United States.

With donations and grants, the company has been able to remain up and running at a smaller, temporary facility elsewhere in the town's Village Center. The contract to manufacture the Salvation Army bells will be the company's first major order since the fire.

Those interested can continue to donate to the recovering company at [keepthebellsinbelltown.com](http://keepthebellsinbelltown.com).

## Funeral Details Announced for Barnum

The family of a resident whose remains were found in Glastonbury last month has announced funeral arrangements.

Services for Jini Barnum, 30, will be held next spring in Mattapoisett, Mass., where she will be laid to rest in a family plot alongside her father.

Barnum, a mother of two, went missing in late July. She allegedly walked out of her Main Street home on July 29 following an argument with her boyfriend, Anthony Garofalo, the father of Barnum's infant daughter. (Barnum also leaves behind a 7-year-old son from a prior relationship.)

On Sept. 9 – six weeks after she was last seen – Barnum's remains were found in a shallow grave by a Glastonbury woman walking her dog in a remote area near the Meshomasic

State Forest.

The cause of death was determined to be traumatic asphyxia from neck compression, or strangulation. The death was ruled a homicide.

East Hampton Police said this week they are continuing the investigation, and no arrests have been made. Garofalo – a convicted felon and registered sex offender, stemming from a 2001 sexual assault of a deaf woman he met at a bar – has not been ruled out as a suspect. He has been detained at Hartford Correctional Center since early August, on charges stemming from a parole violation. (Officials have refused to announce the reason for the violation.)

Barnum's obituary appears on page 22 of this week's *Rivereast*.

## East Hampton Man Charged with DUI, Assaulting Mother

by Joshua Anusewicz

East Hampton Police arrested a local man recently for allegedly assaulting his mother, drunk driving and resisting arrest, Sgt. Garritt Kelly said this week.

On Saturday, Sept. 22, police charged James M. Leask, 42, of 152 Chestnut Hill Rd., with DUI, failure to obey an officer's signal, interfering with an officer, assaulting an officer, using a vehicle without permission, disorderly conduct and third-degree assault on a person over the age of 60.

According to Kelly, the incident allegedly began with a dispute between Leask and his mother at his mother's home on Chestnut Hill Road, which led to a physical altercation that injured the woman "slightly." Kelly said that

the woman then called the police to report the incident, at which time Leask fled the home in his mother's vehicle.

Kelly said Sgt. Jared Boynton and Officer Mark Pekar were able to locate Leask on Route 66, where he was apprehended. Kelly added that he had been operating the vehicle under the influence of alcohol and was involved in a struggle with the officers prior to being arrested.

According to the state's judicial website, Leask was released on \$5,000 bond and is scheduled to appear at Middletown Superior Court to enter his plea Tuesday, Oct. 9, at 10 a.m.

## Details Emerge From Recent Assault Arrest in East Hampton

by Joshua Anusewicz

An affidavit on file at Middletown Superior Court, obtained this week by the *Rivereast*, provides details into last week's assault arrest of an East Hampton man.

The arrest of Stephen Garrett, 54, of 72 Comstock Trail, was announced last Wednesday, Sept. 26, by East Hampton Police. Police charged Garrett with second-degree assault, second-degree strangulation, risk of injury to a minor and disorderly conduct. According to the state's judicial website, the assault, strangulation and risk of injury to a minor charges are all felonies.

According to the sworn affidavit submitted by arresting officer Jason Wishart of the East Hampton Police Department, the incident occurred on Sept. 26 at 5:10 a.m. Wishart and fellow officer Kevin Wilcox responded to the report of a domestic dispute at the Comstock Trail home, where Garrett's wife claimed that "her husband had beaten her and she was locked in an upstairs bedroom with her two kids," the affidavit stated.

Upon arrival, Wishart stated that Garrett was walking out of the garage and put up his hands to show that he didn't have any weapons. When Wishart questioned Garrett about what had taken place, Garrett allegedly responded that "he just snapped" and attempted to break his wife's arm. Wishart stated that Garrett did not remember if he had hit his wife, and that noth-

ing had provoked the fight that morning.

Wishart stated that he then found Garrett's wife and two daughters in one of the rooms of the home; he stated that she had blood on the back of her head and lip and that she felt pain in her left arm.

According to Garrett's wife, the couple had been experiencing marital problems leading up to the incident. That morning, Garrett allegedly came into the room to speak with his wife before leaving for work; his wife alleged that he covered her mouth to prevent her from breathing and began striking her with his other hand. She stated that she was able to free herself and yell to her daughter to call 911; when the daughter entered the room, the affidavit stated, Garrett got off of his wife and left the room.

Wishart stated in the affidavit that Garrett's wife went to the hospital and received three staples in her head, but has since been released.

After taking Garrett to the police department, Wishart stated that Garrett admitted to hitting his wife with a "pull-down bar" from workout equipment in the basement of the home. Garrett claimed that he attempted to break her arm and didn't know that he had hit her in the head or why he had covered her mouth.

Since the incident, Garrett has been held on \$100,000 court set bond and was scheduled to appear in Middletown Superior Court to enter his plea yesterday, Oct. 4, after press time.

# Economic Development Coordinator Hopes to Bring Results in Hebron

by Geeta Schrayter

Randy Anagnostis is a fan of Hebron. He moved to town 15 years ago after driving through for work and discovering, quite simply, that he liked what he saw. So when he was looking to move and came across a house in Amston, he jumped at the chance to call Hebron “home.”

Now, Anagnostis has the opportunity to not only live in town but help shape its future, as he was recently named Hebron’s new economic development coordinator. The position is new this year: the initiative was part of the \$33.78 million budget that passed on June 5. On Tuesday, Anagnostis said since the position is new, he “definitely” feels pressure to bring about some results as soon as possible.

“The results have to justify the position,” he said, adding he was optimistic he’d be able to do so.

During his interview process with the town, Anagnostis said he was asked if he’d be able to make something happen in the next six months related to the Village Green District.

“Optimistically,” he stated, “I said I would like to believe that could happen. I don’t think that there will be an actual building, but I would like to see a shovel in the ground.”

Anagnostis said his invested interest in the town coupled with his background and the business contacts he’s made will help make that happen.

“A lot of my contacts in the business world from the past 20 years are people I can talk to that may not have looked at Hebron previously” as a place for development, he stated.

Before moving to Connecticut, Anagnostis handled marketing, business development and public relations for Keys Associates based out of Providence, R.I.; it was during this time that he’d pass through Hebron on his way to their Wethersfield office. Then Anagnostis worked with FIP Corporation, a real estate developer in Cheshire that prompted him to move to the state in 1985. After working with FIP for around 10 years, he left to set up his own corporation, Anagnostis Associates.

Anagnostis Associates handled marketing, public relations, graphic design and photography for both public and private sector businesses, non-profits and state agencies from 1986-2007 when he closed it to pursue photography fulltime. Anagnostis was also executive director with the Rockville Downtown Association which was part of the Connecticut Main Street Center, a non-profit that works to revitalize downtown areas through economic development and historic preservation.

“My experience working for the Connecticut Main Street program is very appropriate to Hebron’s situation,” he said, in looking to find a balance between new business developments and preserving the town’s history.

After Anagnostis moved to Hebron, he also became involved with the Economic Development Commission. He was an appointed member from 1997-2002, he said, before stepping down due to time constraints but remaining active as a volunteer.

“I’ve done a lot of things for the town volun-

tarily,” he said, citing the design of promotional brochures, the logo for the Hebron Shops Local program and work with the town planner. He added while he was on the commission, it was suggested to the town that an EDC would be beneficial.

“It’s taken 10 years to get funding, but it finally happened,” he said.

Now that it’s a reality, and now that he’s filled the position, Anagnostis said he has two main areas of focus: the Village Green District and business retention.

“The Village Green requires a lot of new business development effort,” he said, while “business retention is equally important to me in that in any community, you want to make sure that businesses that are there are being served well by the town and they’re not prompted to leave.”

As far as challenges, Anagnostis said there’s nothing too difficult, since Hebron has “an excellent planning department, an excellent town manager structure, and a Board of Selectmen, town planner and building inspector who are sort of progressive in their attitudes about development.”

He added they look carefully at their long-term planning strategies and their plan of development is put together “extremely well, more so than most communities.”

“I think they have already planned very effectively for good development to take place,” he stated.

Anagnostis said the challenge for him would

probably be finding the time to accomplish all he wants to in the next six months (the position is part-time, 16 hours per week, at a rate of \$20 per hour). And Anagnostis has wasted no time getting started. His first day was this past Monday, Oct. 1, and Anagnostis said the day was all about going around and getting acclimated with businesses in town. Then the next day he met with the broker for the Village Green District to get feedback and discuss what has and has not happened over the past five years. He added he’s already set up meetings with prospects for some development in the district.

“Gradually I’ll be making my way around to businesses to introduce myself,” he said, “I’ll be looking for feedback as to what’s been positive for them and what negative things they’ve confronted.”

In addition, Anagnostis said he’ll be looking to see how he can act as a liaison between Hebron’s business owners and the town, and spending a considerable amount of time at the state level looking for grant opportunities so residents don’t have to “front the bill” for new development.

Anagnostis stated he was looking forward to seeing the Village Green District come to life and “seeing the first tenant,” in addition a forming “a good collaborative relationship between business owners now that there is an EDC position.”

Hebron “is a great town,” said Anagnostis, and the hope is he’ll be able to build on that (literally and figuratively) to make it even better.

## Colchester Sued by Dog Owner

by Melissa Roberto

A lawsuit has been filed against the town regarding two dogs, Stella Blue and Tazzy, who were seized from their owner following an incident with two police officers last December.

The lawsuit was filed in the U.S. District Court on Aug. 17. The plaintiff is listed as Robin Mittasch, who was appointed the dogs’ trustee by their owner, resident Michelle Chapman-Avery, in order to care for the canines if they were returned.

In addition to the town, the suit lists as defendants Department of Agriculture Commissioner Steven K. Revczky, State Animal Control Supervisor Raymond T. Connors, State Animal Control Officer Linda Wenner Colchester First Selectman Gregg B. Schuster, State Police Sgt. Marc Petruzzi and two people simply identified as “John Does.”

On Dec. 19, 2011, the officers approached Chapman-Avery’s residence to investigate prior misdemeanors she was charged with. (Mittasch’s attorney, Joseph J. Blyskal, did not elaborate on the nature of the charges the officers were investigating, describing them simply as “lower-level misdemeanors.”) According to the lawsuit, Stella Blue, a 50-pound, 3-year-old Rottweiler, reportedly bit one of the officers after witnessing her owner being pinned to the ground by the police. Mittasch’s attorney, Joseph J. Blyskal, said the bite was more like a nip, and did not actually break the officer’s skin.

Following the incident, Chapman-Avery was charged with second-degree breach of peace, interfering with an officer and assault on a public safety officer.

According to the lawsuit, “sometime thereafter” Dec. 19, the dogs were seized by two employees of the animal control division of the Colchester Police Department. The lawsuit states the dogs were taken “without due process ... illegally taken, quarantined and held” by the town. The lawsuit states there was no warning the dogs were going to be seized.

Since the seizing, Chapman-Avery has been

denied the right to even visit Stella Blue and Tazzy, the lawsuit states.

Blyskal also believes that the Connecticut General Statute 22-358, which is being used in the case, goes against a person’s rights stated in the U.S. Constitution.

“If you look at the statute, it requires only notice to the person that was attacked by the dogs, not to the owner of the dogs,” Blyskal said. “She was required by the constitution that she should get notice,” due to the dog being her property.

Blyskal also argues that both dogs were taken and described as “dangerous” even though Stella Blue was the only dog that nipped the officer.

“It’s not entirely clear why the animal control officers decided to take both dogs from Avery,” Blyskal said, “There’s not definition under the statute that constitutes the danger of the dog.”

A hearing on the seizing of the dogs has yet to be held, the lawsuit states. Two hearing dates had been slated for August, but they were both postponed. There is currently a hearing scheduled for Oct. 15.

This week, Blyskal said he filed a preliminary injunction to ask the court to put a hold on all other cases in the state involving dangerous dogs until this one is resolved.

As for the dogs themselves, during his time in the custody of Colchester, Tazzy, who the lawsuit described as an elderly 11-year-old Rottweiler, lost 20 pounds and also got a cavity in one of his rear molars. In August, he was released and currently resides on a farm in Connecticut, where he is gaining weight and enjoying life, Blyskal said.

As for Stella Blue – who actually did the biting and “is believed to be the more dangerous of the two,” Blyskal said – her whereabouts are unknown. Blyskal said she “is being moved from one town to the next and we don’t know why.” He added, “There seems to be some unclarity as to where she is and who has custody of her.”



**Tazzy, pictured above, was seized from his owner and held for eight months by the town. The 11-year-old rottweiler is currently living on a farm in Connecticut.**

Blyskal said monetary damages are being sought – although he wouldn’t specify how much – but he said the most important thing is for the two dogs to be returned.

Blyskal also said he’d like a change in the way dangerous dogs are assessed – noting that only one of them bit the officer, yet both were seized – and how Revczky has control over

these animals, as Blyskal said he’s responsible for governing what animal control officers in the state can do.

“This isn’t about the money,” he said. “It’s about the wrongful and unconstitutional deprivation for dog owners.”

Petruzzi and Schuster declined to comment on the matter, as it is pending litigation.

# Portland PZC Takes ZBA to Court

by Joshua Anusewicz

The town's Planning and Zoning Commission and zoning enforcement officer are taking the town's Zoning Board of Appeals to court.

The lawsuit, filed last month by the firm of Murtha Cullina of Hartford, outlines the issue between the two commissions, which centers on the Main Street property of residents Karen and Richard Clark. The structure on the property, according to the suit, is a two-family dwelling located in an "R-10 Zone" between Middlesex and Indian Hill avenues. An "R-10 Zone" prohibits any structures that are greater than two living units, state the suit.

The suit continues to state that on April 27, the town's zoning enforcement officer Robert Spencer issued a "Notice of Violation" to the Clarks after being informed that a third living unit – an apartment – had been installed on the property without the proper zoning approval. Spencer then issued the Clarks a cease-and-desist order, the suit stated.

After receiving the order from Spencer, the

Clarks appealed to the ZBA on June 28, where the order was upheld, the suit stated. According to the suit, the Clarks then filed applications to the ZBA for several variances in hopes of legalizing the third living unit and permitting the installation of a fourth unit on the property.

The three variances were in attempt to: allow conversion of the existing building to four dwelling units; allow a use not otherwise permitted by the regulations; and allow a variance of the regulatory requirement that a multi-family structure provide a buffer when the property abuts a residential zone. A public hearing was held on the application on Aug. 23, at the close of which the ZBA voted to approve the application.

The PZC contests that the ZBA actions were "arbitrary, illegal and in abuse of its discretion" as there was "no legal hardship justifying" the variances and that "any presumed hardship was self-created," the suit stated. The PZC also con-

tends in the suit that the reasons given for the approval are "improper and are not supported by the record," that the "ZBA acted outside the scope of its legal authority," and the decision is "incorrect as a matter of law."

With the suit, the PZC hopes the court will "reverse the decision" of the ZBA and "issue an order that the variances are void," the suit stated.

The two sides have remained mum on the issue, not discussing the matter publicly. First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield did say Wednesday, however, that she "trust[s] that the both sides will work together to solve their differences."

"I don't see any reason why this can't be resolved quickly and efficiently," she said, adding that an instance like this is "not common" for the town but "does happen."

Though the PZC and Spencer have already obtained legal counsel, the ZBA had not until Wednesday night, when the Board of Select-

men approved the counsel of attorney Franklin Pilicy to represent the board. Pilicy came at the recommendation of selectman Brian Flood – an attorney himself – and was unanimously approved by the board over attorney Michael Dowley of Middletown.

According to Bransfield, Pilicy is from Watertown, where he served as the town's attorney for a number of years, on top of more than 30 years representing various municipal zoning agencies. Flood said he has known Pilicy for "many years" and stands by his reputation.

"He knows what he's doing," Flood stated.

Bransfield stated Wednesday that the town will pay for the legal counsel for both sides, which is standard for any town board or commission embroiled in legal matters. She added that legal counsel is factored into the town budget for matters like this, and that the town's insurance carrier has been notified as a standby for any assistance.

# More Discussion on Healthcare Center Sewer Project in Marlborough

by Melissa Roberto

The Board of Selectmen Tuesday discussed the idea of holding information sessions for the public about the Stage Harbor Healthcare Center sewer project and announced the town was awarded a Small Cities Grant Award.

First Selectwoman Catherine Gaudinski mentioned holding one or two info sessions to give the community an opportunity to gain knowledge and express concerns regarding the sewer project, which would involve connecting the center to the town's sewer line.

Gaudinski also said there will be a joint meeting of the boards of selectmen and finance next Wednesday, Oct. 10, to discuss logistics and obtain comments from them as well. Also later this month, the Water Pollution Control Authority hopes to hold a special meeting to discuss the project. The date has not yet been decided.

The goal is to have the draft developer agreement finished for the project by Oct. 18, Gaudinski said. Gaudinski met last week with the construction manager and engineer for the project to review where they stand. The first selectwoman also announced the hope of receiving a recommendation from the WPCA this month as the next step in the process, which will then be passed on to the Board of Finance in order to discuss a future public hearing and town meeting, which she hopes will be held sometime in January or February.

Gaudinski also said a contract with the firm

Weston and Sampson was signed to review the existing plan for any modifications, "so it will help us know what the actual cost will be and to let the healthcare center take a look at their plans."

The project – which Gaudinski has said will cost between \$900,000 and \$1 million – will also be discussed at an all-boards meeting on Oct. 29 at 7 p.m.

Also at the meeting, Gaudinski announced the town has received a \$300,000 Small Cities Grant award, to be used for housing rehabilitation projects. Fifty-six applications were submitted to the Department of Economic and Community Development and out of those 31 were funded. After a conversation with the grant administrator, Larry Wagner, Gaudinski commented, "It's nice that Marlborough received it because we wouldn't be considered a stressed community so it was a good sign with our grant application."

The next step in the process of housing rehabilitation is for homeowners to submit applications to verify their income and that they live in the homes, which will all eventually undergo a review process. This information will be handled internally to protect the confidentiality of the homeowners, Gaudinski said.

In order to monitor the funding, a meeting will be held between the fire marshal, building official, Town Planner Peter Hughes and the

assistant treasurer.

"We will have a meeting here at town with the key players because it's been quite some time since the town has received this type of grant and some of the regulations and requirements have changed," Gaudinski said.

Also Tuesday, Gaudinski announced that FEMA reimbursements from last October's snowstorm have been awarded. The town received \$39,158.87 as well as \$19,662.75, which is a 75 percent reimbursement of its expenses submitted, and a part will also go into the WPCA budget, due to the costs it incurred maintaining the pump house during the power outage that followed the storm. Gaudinski agreed with Dick Shea when he said, "This is pretty much in line with what we expected."

In addition to the monetary grants, the Marlborough Volunteer Fire Department secured a \$2,500 grant from the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, which was a 50 percent reimbursement of their costs and funds that can be used for such purposes as training, equipment, communications and more. Gaudinski mentioned she was very pleased to receive the letter – also pointing out it was for the same amount they applied for just last year.

The selectmen also appointed Steve Tourtillotte as a full-time member on the WPCA after receiving a letter of interest. Tourtillotte

resides on North Main Street and is within part of the sewer district. He will be fulfilling Bill LaPoint's term and hopes to "help bring Marlborough's future and growth in a positive direction," he said in his application letter. Gaudinski said she was happy to announce that he will fulfill the term.

The selectmen also discussed news regarding motor vehicles around town. A new senior bus was received on Sept. 20 but has yet to be out on the road. Gaudinski said she needs to meet with Senior Center Director Vi Schwarzmann in order to go over monitoring costs and driver salaries now that there are two vehicles.

The board also discussed an issue raised by the citizens of Marlborough who have noticed non-residents using the transfer station. Gaudinski discussed the idea of issuing permits to monitor those who use the transfer station.

"We had a good response by residents in term of lake parking permits so I think this might be helpful also," said Gaudinski, "if we can enforce that in a positive way, that's something that will be helpful for our budget."

The joint meeting between the selectmen and the Board of Finance will take place next Wednesday, Oct. 10, at 7 p.m. at Town Hall, 26 North Main St. The next regularly-scheduled Board of Selectmen meeting will be held Tuesday, Oct. 16, at 7 p.m., also at Town Hall.

## Marlborough Healthcare Associates Celebrates 25 Years

by Melissa Roberto

Barry Goodwill, the owner and founder of Healthcare Associates of Connecticut, is currently celebrating the 25th anniversary of his company.

Since the business first opened in 1987, it has expanded, with 2,500 clients all over the state. The business started off providing healthcare insurance for self-employed individuals and in the past 10 years they have morphed into Medicare solutions specialists.

"Ninety percent of what we do is to help people get through the maze of information that they get dumped on when they turn 65," Goodwill said. "I found there is a big need for someone like myself to help people understand what their options are."

The Healthcare Associates of Connecticut analyze individuals' health and travel habits, doctor's orders and medications in order to meet their requirements. Goodwill believes each individual or married couple has different needs and provides free personal evaluations to his clients.

Goodwill also pointed out that October is an important month for Medicare clients. The period between Oct. 15 and Dec. 7 marks the open enrollment fee, which is important to individuals that have questions or would like to change

their Medicare plans. The eight-week session takes place every year and is the only time those who have Medicare A and B can take advantage of it.

Goodwill also gave credit to the large number of referrals the business receives, which helps the business to continue growing. He also admitted he has similar values to his clients. As a 62-year-old, he said he understands the confusion individuals are faced with when hearing medical insurance jargon.

"There's either not enough info or too much info on what people's options are when they turn 65 so we try to shed some light on it by trying not to use big medical terms," said Goodwill.

Goodwill and his wife Donna – who works at Healthcare Associates – are the parents of three daughters. He plans on keeping Healthcare Associates of Connecticut around for quite some time. He said the business' success is gained through their constant contact with clients.

"We're a full-service company to people that are confident enough to put their business with us," he said. "They trust us and we stay in communication with them."

## Portland Resident Charged with Damaging Public Works Fence

A Portland resident is due in court next week on charges related to damage done to a chain link fence in front of the Public Works Department building on Glastonbury Turnpike.

Ryan Barber, 28, was charged Sept. 24 with traveling fast and evading responsibility, according to Portland Police.

Police said they discovered damage to the fence on the morning of Sept. 23. Police said a vehicle traveling south on Glastonbury Turnpike had slid off the road across a grass area and into the fence, damaging approximately 100 feet, and then fled the scene. However, evidence at the scene indicated a small-sized blue truck caused the damage, police said.

The next morning, police said, a Public Works employee and Portland resident ob-

served a blue pick-up truck with heavy passenger-side damage parked in a driveway on Penny Corner Road. Officers responded to the scene and determined "evidence seized at the initial scene matched that of the truck."

Police said they were unable to contact Barber, the owner of the pickup, and therefore the truck was towed. However, contact was made with Barber that evening, at which point he admitted to being the operator of the pickup and causing the fence damage, police said.

According to police, Barber admitted he was speeding and lost control of his pick-up, and then panicked and left the scene. He was issued a summons on the aforementioned charges, and is due in Middletown Superior Court next Wednesday, Oct. 10.

# Andover Selectmen Talk About Softball Museum's Future

by Geeta Schrayter

As a result of publicity it received in a *Rivereast* article last month, the Board of Selectmen Wednesday discussed the softball museum that sits beside the Museum of Andover History.

The museum used to be a garage belonging to Pete Maneggia, who was team manager of a fast-pitch softball team that got its start in town. The museum houses a substantial amount of memorabilia from the team including photos, plaques and 80-90 trophies from their numerous wins.

In an article in the Sept. 7 *Rivereast*, Maneggia said he was concerned with the future of the museum and its contents. His concern stems from the fact that the property the museum sits on belongs to the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. Maneggia's house used to sit nearby, but was torn down when Route 6 was widened in 1999. At the time, the garage was spared and the contents were able to remain as they were since the DEEP didn't have immediate plans for the property.

But now, in an effort to improve parking and access to the nearby Rail Trail, the DEEP is planning to build a parking lot that would require the museum be torn down as well.

At Wednesday's Board of Selectmen meeting, First Selectman Bob Burbank said he was "surprised" to see the article since he'd discussed the situation with Maneggia and DEEP. He explained while there was no resolution to the situation at this time, the department was "at least partially committed, if funding is available, to give us a small building to store those trophies so that they would be available for viewing by the townspeople."

Burbank added he had no idea when DEEP would be moving forward with the plans for the parking lot – "I don't know how much slower they can get," he said – but added he was in daily correspondence with the department via email and phone calls.

Selectwoman Cathleen Desrosiers inquired as to why the items couldn't be housed in the Museum of Andover History, and selectman Jay Linddy said some may consider the baseball paraphernalia as part of the town's history, while others may not.

Selectwoman Julia Haverl said she "personally feels" adding the collection to the town's museum would be fine, but added, "I think it may have to do with space or someone's perception that it's *not* town history."

Andover Historical Society President Scott Yeomans was present at the meeting and furthered both of Haverl's points. He mentioned the fate of the softball museum has been an "ongoing issue" since the building was first threatened. He added he spent many years of his youth traveling with the team (his father, Ed Yeomans started the original four team fast-pitch league in Andover in 1963; after the first season, an all-star team was formed with the league's best members) and there was only "a small amount" of material that had to do with the town.

"The players, by the time most of those trophies were won," he said, "weren't from town."

After the all-star team was formed, they went on to play in the Norwich and Willimantic leagues. In 1969, the team came under sponsorship of Reed Construction and started to pick up players from surrounding towns and even

out of state. The team then went on to play for 17 more years and saw 608 wins to 221 defeats, won seven state championships, seven New England Regional Championships and participated in eight National tournaments.

Yeomans added he would be "happy" to take some of the smaller things from the museum related to the town, but he added the "relationship to Andover, in my opinion, is tenuous at best."

"If [the items] are coming into the museum, I'm not going to shovel everything in there," he said.

It was noted at the meeting the museum is already strapped for room, and Linddy said the historical society isn't able to display everything they'd like to.

"Now you understand why I had asked for a separate building that would house it in entirety," Burbank said to the board. "And if that, for some reason, is not forthcoming, we will, as a board, address the subject at a later date."

But selectwoman Elaine Buchardt said according to a letter of understanding between former First Selectman Ed Turn, Maneggia and Yeomans regarding the softball museum, it was the historical society that needed to make a decision regarding the museum's contents.

The letter states the softball museum is to be maintained "as part of the Andover Museum housed at the Old Town Hall." If the Andover Historical Society decides "not to continue this collection as part of Andover's history," the letter continues, then the memorabilia will be offered to Maneggia or his family.

But the board decided neither the historical society nor the town needed to make a decision

at present. The board agreed they should wait to see if a new building is in the plan.

"We're waiting to see if a building can be built," said Desrosiers.

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Also at the Wednesday meeting, the selectmen appointed Kimberly Jackson as part-time municipal agent for the elderly and social services director.

Jackson is currently working towards her Certificate of Healthcare Facilities Planning and Design from Cornell University. She has worked as a program director in various capacities including as a therapeutic mentor who provided arts/recreational based services to children in the Connecticut Foster Care system, director of program development for the Hartford YMCA, disease surveillance program manager for the Columbus City Health Department in Ohio and program specialist for the Athens City Parks & Recreation department, also in Ohio.

On Thursday, Linddy said Jackson "has done a lot in Connecticut and in her hometown in Ohio."

"She's seen almost every program," he added, saying she had a "great resume" and although she currently resides in Hebron, it's near the Andover town line, making her "accessible to everyone."

Jackson will begin her work on Nov. 1 at a rate of \$4,300 per year. Her exact hours are yet to be determined.

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The next Board of Selectmen meeting will be held Wednesday, Nov. 7, at 7 p.m. in the Town Office Building, 17 School Rd.

## Armed Robbery at Andover 7-Eleven – Again

State Police are investigating a reported armed robbery that occurred early Wednesday morning at the 7-Eleven on Route 6 in Andover.

This is the second robbery reported at the convenience store in a week – and both incidents are incredibly similar in nature.

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

The suspect left on foot and headed north on Route 6. He was wearing a black long-sleeved hooded sweatshirt, black pants and black sneakers with two white stripes, police said.

Police said no injuries were reported.

Last Wednesday, Sept 26, an armed robbery took place at the same location around 12:30 a.m. The suspect in that case was also described as between 5'6" and 5'8", weighed 145 pounds – although police listed him as "Hispanic" – and was also clad in a black long-sleeved hooded sweatshirt, black pants and black sneakers with two white stripes. However, he demanded only cash as opposed to cash and cigarettes. He was brandishing a black semi-automatic handgun and – as was the case in this week's robbery – fled on foot, heading north on Route 6, police said.

Despite the similarities in the two incidents, police would not say Thursday whether the two robberies are linked.

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

## Portland Police News

9/22: Andre Frazer, 33, of 91 Burgandy Hill Ln., Middletown, was charged with two counts of possession of narcotics and possession of less than four ounces of marijuana, Portland Police said.

9/22: Clayton Mounts, 50, of 13 Fairview St., was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, police said.

9/27: Ernest Austin, 46, of 77 Chestnut St., Middletown, was charged with failing to drive right, police said.

9/29: Joseph Sorvillo, 26, of 12 Browning Dr., East Hampton, was charged with traveling too fast and evading responsibility, police said.

## Andover Police News

9/24: Stanley Jones, 69, of 40 Pine Ridge Dr., was charged with disorderly conduct, third-degree strangulation, and interfering with police, State Police said.

9/25: Greyson Snappy Meikle, 18, of 178 Bear Swamp Rd., was charged with second-degree forgery and sixth-degree larceny, State Police said.

## Colchester Police News

9/26: Brittany Rondeau, 25, of 18 High Meadow, Marlborough, turned herself in on an outstanding arrest warrant for second-degree failure to appear in court, State Police said.

9/26: James Philmore Clemons Jr., 46, of 53 Skyline Dr., was charged with DUI, passing on the right and reckless driving, State Police said.

9/30: Tyler Vashalifski, 20, of 8 Jan Dr., was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia and larceny, State Police said.

10/1: Police are investigating a robbery that happened at 2:57 at NuNu's restaurant. It is reported that numerous meats were stolen from the freezers, State Police said.

10/1: Michael McCarthy, 32, of 1 Alexander Dr., was charged with DUI and restricted turn, State Police said.

10/1: William T. Maheu, 20, of 339 Rt. 89, Columbia, was charged with second-degree assault and second-degree strangulation, State Police said.

10/1: Christopher Stratton, 23, of 706 East St., Andover, was charged with a second-degree failure to appear in court, State Police said.

## East Hampton Police News

9/22: Kristopher A. Schonagel, 23, of 68 Childs Rd., was arrested for disorderly conduct and interfering with police, East Hampton Police said.

9/24: Joseph Urbano, 22, of 12 Raymond Rd., Moodus, was arrested for following too close with the intent to harass, reckless driving, evading responsibility, reckless endangerment and breach of peace, police said.

9/25: Coty Rugar, 24, formerly of 9 Brook Hill Dr., East Haddam, was arrested for possession of a vehicle with a tampered Vehicle Identification Number, two counts of second-degree larceny, theft of a marker plate, misuse of marker plates, operating under suspension and operating an unregistered and uninsured motor vehicle.

# Obituaries

## Colchester

### Charles H. Conway Jr.

Charles H. Conway Jr., 88, of Colchester and formerly of Wethersfield and Kissimmee, Fla., died peacefully Sunday, Sept. 30, at the Middlesex Hospital with his daughter by his side, after a short bout with cancer. He was born in Hartford Aug. 20, 1924, to the late Charles and Mary Anna (Smith) Conway.

He served in the U.S. Army and was sent to Italy during World War II. After the war, he was employed by the U.S. Postal Service (taking great pride in delivering his own mail to his home on Greenfield St. in Wethersfield) and returned to marry Adrian "Doris" Lemieux Conway, formerly of Windsor, his loving wife of 64 years. They raised two daughters, Patricia Conway Picard (deceased) and Janet Conway Scott of Colchester.

In addition to his wife and daughter, he leaves his son-in-law, Chuck Scott; four grandchildren, Charles, Grace, Laura and Evan; and numerous extended family members and friends.

He was also predeceased by three siblings, Constance, Francis and Doris.

Friends may call from 5-7 p.m. today, Oct. 5, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. Funeral services will be observed at 10 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 6, at the funeral home, followed by interment with full military honors at the State Veterans Cemetery, Middletown.

He was a believer in Jesus Christ, son of God, and many scriptures from God's word were a comfort to him in those last days. We, his family, have a great hope and joy that we will be in his presence again together with our God for eternity.

## East Hampton

### Joseph Patrick Koch

Joseph Patrick Koch, 69, of Middle Haddam, died Monday, Oct. 1, at his home. He was born in Middletown, son of the late Francis Xavier and Margaret (Whalen) Koch.

Prior to retirement, he was the owner and operator of Koch's Exxon in Portland. Joe was loved and respected by all whom knew him and will be sadly missed. He was an avid football fan and had a passion for travel. His favorite pastime was any activity involving his grandsons.

Joseph is survived by his daughters, Rebecca Hodge of Cobalt; Rachel Steer and her husband Aaron of Middle Haddam; a brother, James Francis Koch and his wife Lois of New York; three sisters, Margaret Mary Wiernasz of Rocky Hill, Rita Elizabeth Sclafani and her husband Sal of Virginia, Gretchen Ann Koch of Middletown; two grandchildren, Tyler Hodge and Kendrick Steer.

He was predeceased by two brothers, John E. and Jerome W. Koch, and two brother-in-laws, Richard Wiernasz and James Ketola.

A memorial service will be held Monday, Oct. 8, at 11 a.m., at St. John Church, Middletown. Friends may call Sunday, Oct. 7, from 4-6 p.m., at Biega Funeral Home, 3 Silver St, Middletown. Burial will be at St. John Cemetery.

Those who wish may send memorial contributions to the East Hampton Volunteer Ambulance, P.O. Box 144, East Hampton, CT 06424.

To share memories or express condolences online, visit [biegafuneralhome.com](http://biegafuneralhome.com).

## Marlborough

### Caroline R. Rogers

Caroline R. Rogers, 82, longtime resident of Marlborough, passed away unexpectedly at home Friday, Sept. 21. She was born in Fall River, Mass., the daughter of the late James H. Booth and M. Ruth (Dedrick) Booth. She was a graduate of BMC Durfee High School. A (retired) state of Connecticut employee for 15 years, her last job was manager of the Florence S. Lord senior housing complex in Marlborough.

Caroline loved "her" pets, feeding birds, all animals, tending her gardens and playing the casino slots. If her beliefs in an after-life hold true, then she is now enjoying the company of her pets who have gone on ahead to wait for her and is reunited with her loved ones.

She is predeceased by husbands George M. Reagan and Anthony P. Rogers; and by her brother, David A. Booth; she is survived by her daughter, Maureen R. Reagan; and son, Brian J. Reagan and his wife Lisa.

As per her wishes, there were no calling hours or services. Burial will be private. Care of arrangements has been entrusted to the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to the Connecticut Humane Society, 701 Russell Rd., Newington, CT 06111.

## Portland

### Santina Carta

Santina "Sandy" (Lastrina) Carta, 93, of Portland, passed away peacefully Monday, Oct. 1, at Middlesex Hospital, surrounded by her loving family.

She was born in Middletown May 21, 1919, to the late Angelina (Giulitto) and Salvatore Lastrina who had immigrated from Melilli, Italy. She was employed for many years at the Russell Company in Middletown.

Sandy was a very spunky and independent lady who lived in her own home until the very end. Even as her body aged, her mind remained as sharp as ever. She was a wonderful baker, making the most delicious pies, cakes and cookies all from memory. Whenever there was a party, everyone could not wait to get their hands on her famous homemade cream puffs and pizzelles. She loved to shop and passed this passion onto her daughter, Janet, and granddaughters, Lindsey and Caitlin.

Sandy loved to travel, tatt, go dancing with her husband, watch the UConn men and women and enjoyed spending time at her daughter's cottage in Old Lyme soaking up the sun. She loved family gatherings and holiday get togethers. Sandy had many devoted friends whom she loved to sit and spend time with. She was known as Mom, Gram, Grammie, and Aunt Sant to all that loved her.

She was married to the late CJ Carta until his passing in 1977.

She is survived by her devoted daughter, Janet (Carta) Everin and her husband, Roger of Glastonbury, her five grandchildren, Lindsey and Caitlin Everin of Glastonbury, Adam and his wife Jen Carta of Newton, Nate and his wife Missy Carta of Southbury, and Emily Carta of Southbury; four great-grandchildren, Jack, Ben, Owen and Max Carta; her sisters, Josie Lipka, of New Britain and Joan Magnano and her husband Joseph of Florida; her brother-in-law, John Custy, and sisters-in-law, Eleanor and Pearl Lastrina; as well as many cherished cousins, nieces and nephews.

Sandy was predeceased by her son, William "Bill" Carta, her siblings, Mary Custy, Connie Markowski, Andy and Sonny Lastrina all of Portland.

Funeral services will be held today, Oct. 5, at 10 a.m., from the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, with a Mass at 11 a.m. at the Church of St. Mary, 51 Freestone Ave., Portland. Burial will be in St. Mary Cemetery, Portland. Relatives and friends called Thursday, Oct. 4, at the funeral home.

Memorial donations may be made to the Portland Volunteer Fire Department, P.O. Box 71, Portland, CT 06480 or to the Portland VNA, 309 Main St., Portland, CT 06480.

To send an online expression of sympathy, visit [portlandmemorialfh.net](http://portlandmemorialfh.net).

## East Hampton

### Jini Barnum

Jini (Hopkins) Barnum, 30, passed away Saturday, July 28, in East Hampton. After missing for over six weeks her body was recovered Sunday, Sept. 9, in Glastonbury.

Jini is survived by her son, Keith Barnum, 7 years old, and a daughter, Taylor Elizabeth, 15 weeks old. She has also left behind two sisters, Holli Hopkins of Seattle, Wash.; and Chey Cowan of Watertown, N.Y.; her mother, Becci Hopkins of Bullhead City, Ariz.; and grandparents Ron and Sue Devey of San Diego, Calif.

Services will be held in the spring of 2013 in Mattapoissett, Mass., where she will be placed in the family plot with her father and many loved ones.

Jini was an intelligent, young, vibrant woman taken from this world much too soon. She was a bright star that will now lead this family into a new future.

## Marlborough

### Gerardine Friel

Gerardine Friel, of Marlborough, formerly of West Hartford, passed away peacefully at her home, on Tuesday, Oct. 2, in the presence of her loving family.

In her life, she was a loving wife to her husband, Dr. Patrick B. Friel, who predeceased her, and a loving and devoted mother to her four children; Daria Friel, Sharon Friel Prevatt, Patrick Friel and Michael Friel.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, Oct. 6, with her Mass of Christian Burial at 10 a.m. in St. John Fisher Church, 30 Jones Hollow Rd., Marlborough. Burial will follow in Holy Cross Cemetery, Glastonbury.

Directions and online expressions of sympathy may be made at [molloyfuneralhome.com](http://molloyfuneralhome.com).

## Hebron

### Robert Gordon Switzer

Robert Gordon "Bob" Switzer, lovingly known as Pop, 76, of Hebron, passed away Sunday, Sept. 30, surrounded by his loving family. Bob was born in Hartford May 14, 1936. He was raised and attended school in East Hartford. He was predeceased by his parents, Robert and Dorothy Switzer.

Bob was employed for many years in the industrial design and manufacturing industry. In addition, he was a talented and knowledgeable mechanic. Bob enjoyed many sports and activities including snowmobiling, dirt-biking and ATV riding. One of his passions was restoring his antique vehicles. The fun and laughter of bob's wife and three daughters brought great pleasure to him.

Bob is survived by his loving wife, his "Special Angel", Jean A. (Lyman) Switzer, his three daughters and their families, Roxanne and Tom Oakley of Coventry, Kimberley Foote of Hebron, Tammy and Ken Keyes of Eastford; his grandchildren Kendra and Mark Oakley, Robert and Jennifer Foote, and Benjamin, Jacob and Anna Keyes. He also leaves one great-granddaughter, Madelyn Foote, and an honorary daughter, Lori Togo. He was godfather to Carrie and Sierra Young and Michael Lyman. He also leaves his sister, Sally A. Young and her husband Stephen of Glastonbury; a very special sister-in-law, Nancy Lyman of East Hampton; nieces Wendy Young, Tracy Shumbo and Lynda Whaley; many grandnieces and nephews; and longtime best friends Dottie and Dick Bergeron.

Relatives and friends may join the family at a memorial service to celebrate Bob's life Saturday, Nov. 3, at 2 p.m., in the Gilead Congregational Church, 672 Gilead St., Hebron.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Hebron Volunteer Fire Dept., P.O. Box 911, Hebron, CT 06248 or to the Gilead Congregational Church, 672 Gilead St., Hebron, CT 06248.

The family would like to express their deepest gratitude to the outstanding, compassionate staff at Manchester Memorial Hospital and Northeastern Pulmonary Associates.

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

## Portland

### Sarah D'Amato

Sarah (Trotta) D'Amato, 95, wife of the late Louis D'Amato of 616 High St., Middletown, passed away Friday, Sept. 28, at the Masonic Home in Wallingford. She was born Sept. 10, 1917, in Portland, daughter of the late Lorenzo and Josephine Trotta.

She was a member of St. John Church and prior to her retirement was employed as an inspector at Pratt Whitney Aircraft. Following her retirement she worked at Spencer School in the cafeteria.

She is survived by two sons, Dr. Raymond D'Amato of Wallingford and Louis D'Amato Jr. of N.J.; a daughter, Saralyn D'Amato Twomey of Haddam; her beloved granddaughters Lisa Bath, Ranae D'Amato, Donna Puggio, Neve Pascualano, Nicole D'Amato and Andrea D'Amato; three great-grandchildren, Nolan, Charleston and Vincent; and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, Oct. 2, from the D'Angelo Funeral Home, 22 South Main St., Middletown, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at St. John Church.

Burial will be in the family plot in St. Mary's Cemetery, Portland. Relatives and friends called at the funeral home Monday, Oct. 1.

## Andover

### Nellie Boisvert

Nellie Boisvert of Andover, widow of Raymond Boisvert, passed peacefully Thursday, Sept. 27. Nellie was born Aug. 9, 1918, the eldest child of Santo and Josephine Bordonaro Lombardo. She lived in Hartford for most of her life and moved to Andover in 1966.

After working several years for Traveler's Insurance Co., she started a new career at the State of Connecticut, serving in several administrative capacities. She was an administrative aide to Governors Grasso, O'Neill and Meskill, as well as to Attorney General Joseph Lieberman. Upon her retirement from the state, she served as Town Clerk for Andover for many years.

She will be missed by her loving daughters, Claire and husband James DiBerardino, Yvonne Boisvert, and Frances and husband Michael Curtin. She is also survived by her cherished and caring younger sister, Connie Boisvert, her grandchildren, Diane, Steven and wife Diane, Sharon, Lisa, Tanya and husband Kyle, Justin, Corinne, Chelsea and a special great-grandchild, Sorel. She is survived by a wonderful brother-in-law, John Saccente and many nieces and nephews.

Nellie was predeceased by her brothers Jimmy and Paul and her loving sister Frances "Honey" Saccente.

The family extends heartfelt thanks and appreciation to a group of individuals who cared and watched over Nellie during the past few years, allowing her to stay in the comfort of her own home. Thanks to Lynn, her daytime aide and trusted angel for over two years; Robin, our Sunday morning angel, and Stella who provided respite at night. Thanks to neighbors Richard, Diane, Stephanie, Rusty and the many other friends in Andover who watched out for her. Thanks to the Hospice Team from VNA East/Vernon and to the team at Glastonbury Health Care Center, who cared for her with grace and dignity over the past 6 weeks, especially to Connie and the VIP group for welcoming her into their circle.

Her family received relatives and friends Tuesday, Oct. 2, at Potter Funeral Home, 456 Jackson St. (Route 195), Willimantic, followed by a funeral Mass at St. Mary Church, 46 Valley St., Willimantic. Interment followed in Townsend Cemetery, Andover.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Nellie's memory may be made to Andover Public Library, P.O. Box 117, Andover, CT 06232, Andover Volunteer Fire Dept., 11 School St., Andover, CT 06232, or St. Mary Church, 80 Maple Ave., Willimantic, CT 06226.

For an online memorial guestbook and directions to the funeral home, please visit [potterfuneralhome.com](http://potterfuneralhome.com).