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The consensus among Netto's campers, from left, Tyler Jordan, Greg Jordan, Joshua Gianetti and Noah Kaiser, is that the best part of camp is being able to choose their own activities.

Netto's Camp Marks 30 Years

by Katelyn Kelleher

Campers and counselors at Netto's Camp in Marlborough celebrated its 30th anniversary last Friday with cake, balloons and a visit from a special guest – Mr. Netto himself.

This year would have marked the third decade Darrell Netto, a Colchester resident and Marlborough Elementary School teacher who retired from the camp last year, directed Netto's Camp.

It's the first summer off in over 29 years for the camp's eponym, but Netto managed to make a visit out to the Pavilion at Blish Park on a rainy afternoon last Friday, July 20, to celebrate with the kids.

Camper Alex Banes had just one thing to say about his favorite part of camp: "Mr. Netto is the best!"

Though no longer directing the camp, Netto has hardly disappeared from the community. He continues teaching sixth grade in Marlborough, as he has been for the past 38 years, and runs a fifth- and sixth-grade indoor soccer program in the winter. "So I still get to know a lot of the kids," he said.

Sometimes he even runs into former campers around town who are now adults. "Everywhere you go you get someone going, 'Oh, you know, I went to Netto's Camp,'" he said.

"I love the town; the parents are always supportive," Netto said of working in Marlborough.

Fortunately for Banes and the other Netto's campers, who range in age from entering sec-

ond to entering seventh grade, they have two familiar leaders. Teachers Katie Sullivan and Melissa Kaika were appointed to the director and assistant director positions of Netto's Camp earlier this year. Sullivan and Kaika have worked at the camp for seven and six years, respectively.

The two had been working with Netto for years and left the structure of the camp largely the same. "We feel like [Netto has] laid a great foundation for the camp to start on," Sullivan said.

As a result, Sullivan said it was an easy transition from counselor to director. "It just felt very normal; like coming in every summer."

Kaika said it was definitely taking on a larger responsibility, but she and Sullivan quickly got a handle on their new director positions.

Kaika herself started as a camper and had Netto as a teacher. "She came right up through the ranks; she came to Netto's Camp," he said.

"I actually have Netto's Camp shirts from the early 90s that I still wear," Kaika said with a laugh.

Netto called Sullivan and Kaika "so knowledgeable and so energetic," and said they "could run the camp better than I'll ever be able to run it."

"The staff of that camp over the last four to six years is probably the most experienced in the state," Netto said. "The parents felt very

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Inspiring Local Artist Remembered

by Joshua Anusewicz

Art can do many things. It feeds our basic instinct for balance and harmony; it helps us express our imagination and our inner creativity. It can help us communicate with others on multiple levels and can be used to psychologically heal. A piece of art could mean something different to each person who looks upon it, inspiring different feelings and emotions based on the subject, colors, and angles.

East Hampton resident Kathy Berlin had a knack for art. Her paintings, mostly watercolors and pastels, had a way of framing a particular subject and preserving its richest qualities. The passion she had for art was infectious, inspiring her contemporaries and other aspiring artists to portray their emotions onto a page or a piece of canvas to make their works meaningful.

"She was such a positive influence on young artists," said her husband, Bob, who added that the words "gentle" and "smile" were always words he heard about Kathy. "She always had a good thing to say and was encouraging. That's the type of person she was."

On Friday, July 20, Kathy passed away after a battle with cancer at the age of 57. She leaves behind her son, Jason, and her two daughters, Jennifer and Jeanne Rose, as well as Bob, with

whom she owned and operated Thatcher's Pharmacy in Marlborough for many years.

It was a move to East Hampton 18 years ago that truly allowed Kathy to share her artistic abilities, Bob said. Soon after the move, Kathy became an active member of both Marlborough Arts Center and the East Hampton Art Association, eventually opening "The Art Alcove" within Thatcher's, which served as an art supply store and art studio where she was able to share her passion with others. Kathy was also a member of the Connecticut and American Watercolor societies.

The subject of her art usually focused on landscapes, particularly those with aesthetic and historical value to the local communities. This included paintings of Lake Pocotopaug, the East Hampton Village Center, Bevin Bell factory, Goodspeed Opera House, and Gillette Castle, just to name a few. Some of these works were so well-received that they now have permanent homes in places like the Chatham Historical Society, Cragin Memorial Library in Colchester, and Sears Park, where one of her paintings of the park was etched into granite and now sits in the park's pavilion. (A selection of her artwork can be found at fineartamerica.com by searching "Kathy Berlin".)

Aside from holding intrinsic value for the community, her works were often used to help the community in other ways. On multiple occasions, her works were able to raise money for local causes, such as the East Hampton Food Bank. On another occasion, Bob said, Kathy designed and created T-shirts and sweatshirts that were used to raise money for the cleanup of Lake Pocotopaug.

Patty Bullock of the Marlborough Arts Center said her "encouraging" nature and "happy soul" helped inspire numerous artists, as well. Bullock recalled a friend of hers who was a talented painter, but took an extended respite from art. With Kathy's encouragement, Bullock's friend got back into painting and has now progressed into an award-winning artist.

"She had such a positive effect on people," Bullock said. "She was just a genuinely nice person. We'll miss her... a lot."

Although Kathy is gone, she won't soon be forgotten. Marlborough Arts Center, which held a fundraising art show in her honor while she was in the hospital, is expected to dedicate a painting workshop to her later this year, Bob said. He added the East Hampton Arts Association is planning a similar tribute to her, as well.

See Kathy Berlin Page 2



Local artist and former owner of Thatcher's Pharmacy Kathy Berlin passed away earlier this month at the age of 57.



Darrell Netto, who started Netto's Camp 30 years ago and retired from the camp last year, was well-received by the kids when he stopped by last week for a 30th anniversary celebration.

Netto's Camp cont. from Front Page

safe that, since they had kids in and around the water, they knew they were in good hands."

Netto said the camp is usually suggested for new families in town.

"Marlborough is a big area. It gave kids an opportunity to go to a place during the week to meet their friends or meet new friends," he said. This year, a young girl who lives in New Jersey is spending her summer with family in Marlborough – and at Netto's Camp.

Besides making friends, the kids have plenty to do at camp, and not everyone has to do the same thing. Caden Talbot, who stayed out of the rain and played a game at a picnic table with fellow campers Benjamin Macri, Nick Hale and Colin Donnelly, said he likes the freedom. "We get to choose what we want to do every day," he said.

Even under the shelter of the pavilion the kids were active – tossing a ball, coloring, playing with all kinds of gadgets. "They pick the activities they want to do and we help facilitate them," Sullivan said.

One of the favorite activities, a peanut hunt, was started by Netto and is a continued tradition, Kaika explained. The campers are sorted up by grade level and go searching for peanuts. "If they get the golden peanut, they win," she said.

The campers, the majority of whom attend between five and seven weeks of the summer, get to go on field trips too.

Kathy Berlin cont. from Front Page

"It shows, at least to me, how she was thought of by other people," Bob said. "She had a profound effect on a lot of people."

In that respect, Kathy's life could be described much like one of her pieces of art. It stirred emotions, it inspired, and it put a smile on people's faces. It was gentle and kind. And, most importantly, it had a profound, long-lasting effect on the communities she adored, something that won't soon be forgotten.

A full obituary for Kathy Berlin appears on page 29 in this issue.

"A lot of the trips we kept the same from previous years, [such as] wOcean Beach, Lake Compounce," Sullivan said. "We've been to a trampoline place where we go every year, a Rock Cats game every year, the kids love that, [Veterans Memorial Park] in South Windsor, an advanced sports complex in Middletown."

While partaking in the fun, campers will work to become a COW—Camper of the Week. "Every Friday the counselors come together and usually pick two or three campers and they get their own certificate," Sullivan said. "Kids who are always helping out, good sportsmanship, setting a good example for other campers."

"Some of them strive for COW," she said. "They work for it. A lot of them, they're thinking about it all week."

Macri was certainly thinking about COW. He received the award for good sportsmanship last week and proudly sported the title.

Some of the campers expressed their disappointment in heading off to seventh grade in the fall, ending their eligibility to partake in Netto's Camp. And, just like Netto, Sullivan and Kaika will see their campers move on.

"It's just funny to see them grow up," Sullivan said. "You feel like they're your kids for the summer."

There is one more session open for Netto's Camp, and it runs Aug. 6-10, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. each day. Cost is \$135 for the week. For more information and to sign up, call Marlborough Parks and Recreation at 860-295-6203.

From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

Like a lot of America, I woke up last Friday morning to the news of that horrific shooting in Aurora, Colo. It was, quite understandably, all anyone could talk about. And, as happens so often when something like this takes place, what seemed to matter simply didn't, at least not for that day. Obama and Romney scrapped campaign appearances. Overseas premieres of *The Dark Knight Rises* were canceled. All attention was focused on Colorado, and the shock over it all.

But then, after the shock started to wear off, and people began to process what had occurred in a *movie theater of all places*, and the commentary started. "Not to be insensitive, but what were parents bringing their young children to a midnight showing of a violent movie for?" was one such statement that started to circulate. (And I hate to say it, but that's kind of a good point. If you can't get a babysitter, don't bring your 5-year-old or your 2-year-old to a midnight movie. Just don't go to the movie; you can always see it later. It's a *Batman* movie, after all; it won't be exiting theaters anytime soon.) And another one: Who's to blame for this?

I heard people opine that this is Hollywood's fault. The movies have gotten too violent, and things like the violence seen in things like the *Batman* films both desensitizes and even encourages other violent acts. I disagree with that hypothesis. Violent movies have been around for decades, and the comic book movies with the most, well, comic book-style violence typically rake in big box office numbers and are seen by many, many people. But, we don't have a country full of serial killers. If the vast, vast majority of people are able to watch violent movies without then going out and killing a dozen people themselves, then how is this Hollywood's fault?

No, this was the work of a very sick, very twisted individual who unfortunately was able to easily access the assault weapons he used in this massacre. And that's what it comes down to: gun control needs to be tightened.

I'm not talking about revoking anyone's Constitutional rights or anything like that; it's one thing to have a right to bear arms, but does one have to bear so many – and do they have to be so easily borne too?

Police have said the alleged shooter, James Holmes, used three weapons in the shooting – a semi-automatic rifle (which thankfully jammed during the massacre, apparently because of a problem with the *100-shot maga-*

zine feeding it, according to CNN), a handgun (which had an extended magazine, holding 40 rounds) and a .40-caliber pistol.

According to NBC, all of the weapons were purchased legally, and all of them since May. ABC News reported the sales took place at Bass Pro Shops and Gander Mountain Guns. Yep, no black-market purchases, everything on the up-and-up. A 24-year-old man was able to walk into a store and walk out with an assault weapon. How in the world is this right?

Yes, he had no criminal background. But still, acquiring that many weapons – police have said there was another Glock he may or may not have used in the theater as well – in a three-month period of time simply shouldn't be allowed to happen. How about some limitations on how many guns one can own? How many do you possibly need? At the very least, shouldn't there be some sort of time parameters involved – like a certain number of months need to pass before you can purchase another gun?

And, for that matter, why do you need an assault weapon, like the semi-automatic Holmes used, at all?

(Also troubling, and something that really should be addressed: Holmes reportedly purchased 6,000 rounds of ammunition *online*. I don't think ammo of any amount should be able to be purchased online – certainly not 6,000 rounds of it.)

Of course, gun control is an incredibly heated topic in this country, and in the days since last week's shooting there have been plenty of people saying stepping up gun control isn't the answer. (A couple of politicians even suggested – in all earnestness, apparently – that if the moviegoers in Aurora had only been packing heat themselves, Holmes could have been stopped. When gun violence is a problem, arming even more people doesn't really seem like a great solution.)

I therefore don't really expect heightened gun control to come out of this massacre. It should, though; it really should. At the very least, there should be an assault weapons ban. Pointing at Hollywood won't solve anything. Developing wild conspiracy theories – I seriously saw a lengthy theory the other day giving a list of reasons why the FBI was behind the shooting – won't solve anything. But preventing guys like James Holmes from stockpiling so many deadly weapons in the future just might.

* * *

See you next week.

Police Charge Two Portland Youths in Burglaries

by Joshua Anusewicz

Portland Police Sgt. Scott Cunningham said Wednesday two local youths have been arrested for their involvement in a series of home break-ins earlier this month.

According to Cunningham, on Sunday, July 15, two 15-year-old males, both of Portland, entered into two separate homes in the northern section of town through unlocked doors, stealing various electronics from the residence. The two burglars then returned to the two homes on Wednesday, July 18, Cunningham said, breaking into the home by forcing open a window, and stealing jewelry, watches, cameras, walkie-talkies and BB guns.

To add insult to injury, Cunningham said that one of the burglars defecated in the closet of one of the homes during the sec-

ond burglary.

Residents in the area were notified of the break-ins, Cunningham said, and the police received a phone call on Thursday, July 19, of two "suspicious people" walking in the neighborhood. Officer David Bond was dispatched to the area and was able to locate one of the youths, who then informed Bond of the identity of the other youth, Cunningham said. He added that after interviewing both suspects, Bond was able to obtain confessions and recover many of the stolen items.

Both suspects were charged with third-degree burglary and third-degree conspiracy to commit burglary; they will also receive larceny charges, Cunningham said, which will depend on the dollar amount of the items that were stolen. Court dates have not been set.

Colchester School Board Ponders Best Approach for Selecting Principal

by **Katelyn Kelleher**

The search for the next principal for Bacon Academy is underway, as the Board of Education discussed the hiring plan for the soon-to-be vacant position Tuesday.

Board members came to a resolution to post the position opening internally and externally for two weeks, beginning Wednesday, to “cast a wide net” of candidates. It was announced Thursday, July 12, the high school’s current principal, Jeffry Mathieu, will be replacing Superintendent of Schools Karen Loiselle-Goodwin, who has given notice she will retire Dec. 31.

Board of Education Chairman Ron Goldstein laid out three search options for the board to consider: hiring a consultant to conduct a full search, the district conducting an external search itself, or the district conducting an internal search. An internal search, Goldstein explained, would exclude external candidates. An external search, however, would not exclude internal candidates.

Loiselle-Goodwin said one internal and one external candidate have already expressed interest in the position.

The option to hire a consultant for the search was quickly shot down by board members. “I think in a district where a referendum just failed [two] times, hiring a search consultant...going outside and making that kind of financial commitment...would be premature,” board member John Reever said.

Board of Education Vice Chairman Donald Kennedy was also against the first option, but said he had nothing against searching externally and suggested posting the position opening in professional journals.

Reever agreed, but wanted to proceed so that

internal staff would also apply. “I do think we need to set a tone that this is by no means discouraging internal applicants,” he said. “I think that’s an important thing because at any good company I’ve ever known, it inspires other people when you see people move up and have opportunity.”

There was no question among board members that there are qualified applicants among the staff within the district with the necessary certifications, which includes Connecticut School Administrator (092) certification.

Knowing this, board member Michael Egan said he saw no reason to look outside the district.

“If we know that there are potentially people that are qualified people that we have in mind for it internally, I don’t see where I think to actually go forward on an outside search,” he said. “To me it doesn’t make much sense.”

One benefit to hiring internally, Egan said, is that the district is already familiar with the applicant’s work. “Nothing can indicate performance like past performance,” he said.

Along the same lines, board member Mitchell Koziol said an external hire might have misconceptions about the district.

“We know, internally, whoever gets this job knows exactly what the job is going to require,” he said. “You can have someone externally coming in thinking that they’re going to have this massive staff working for them and that’s not the case.”

Goldstein said he favored a search that included internal and external candidates to keep the option open. He added that in the case of two equal candidates, the hiring committee

would likely lean toward the internal applicant.

“I think including the opportunity for external to apply is important for credibility and for the community to see that we are not just assuming we have the best people,” he said. “In some ways it ends up helping the person chosen because the person chosen can say they came to the top.”

Mathieu explained Bacon’s two current assistant principals went through an extensive hiring process that included spending a day at Bacon meeting with students. “By the end of the day they spent the entire day at Bacon Academy and had nine interviews,” he said.

Egan said the board should take note of that. “We have two assistant principals at Bacon who have been questioned five years ago who went through a pretty exhaustive search,” he said. “I’m just throwing it out there.”

Curriculum Director Barbara Gilbert said the assistant principals have been mentored by Mathieu and, for the most part, assistant principals are aspiring to achieve a higher position.

Director of Pupil Services Katherine Shaughnessy said she thinks Colchester spends the time training candidates who then leave for other districts. “I’d like to see us train for us instead of other districts,” she said.

Loiselle-Goodwin suggested posting the position on Connecticut REAP, an education employment website, professional journals and at the University of Connecticut, which she said has a good administrator certification program. She added that the high school principal position is the most difficult position in a school district to get candidates for.

Gilbert recommended not posting the posi-

tion at UConn, as the district would want an experienced candidate for the position. “We don’t want people who just got their 092,” she said.

The board then discussed who the “level one,” the paper screening committee, and the “level two,” the interview committee, should consist of.

The paper screening committee, which would go through applicants’ résumés, would include one board member (Reever volunteered), the current principal and superintendent, the curriculum director, two teachers (one a department head and one not), and one classified staff member.

The interview committee would consist of one board member, the current superintendent and principal, one guidance counselor, one classified staff member, two teachers, one student from the student council, the athletic director, one special education faculty, one parent leader from either the Parent Teacher Organization or Project Graduation, one community member at large, and any current assistant principal at Bacon not applying for the position.

The board will be sending out a notice that it is looking for an interested community member at large to partake in the interview level.

A third level will also be implemented, likely during the first week of school, where the candidates can be evaluated interacting with students and possibly leading a professional development workshop.

Mathieu and Loiselle-Goodwin will work to finalize the plan for the Bacon Academy principal hiring process.

Updates Provided for Colchester WJJMS/Senior Center Building Project

by **Katelyn Kelleher**

The Board of Selectmen received updates on the William J. Johnston Middle School/Community Center/Senior Center building project from the building committee chairman Thursday, July 19.

Building Committee Chairman Thomas Tyler said the architects for the project, which would involve expanding the existing WJJMS building on Norwich Avenue to include the senior center and the youth center, have completed rough schematics and will soon have a preliminary budget estimate.

Board of Education Chairman Ron Goldstein said the application deadline for any state reimbursement this year for the project has been extended to Nov. 30 and if the town can submit the application for the project, the town will be reimbursed according to current enrollment. Because enrollment in Colchester’s schools is projected to decline, if the application is submitted next year, with the deadline date of June 30, 2013, the town might not be reimbursed for as large a school.

At Tuesday’s Board of Education meeting, Director of Facilities Greg Plunkett said the architects are 85 percent done designing the project.

“The building committee has been pushing to move for that fall referendum and they just want some direction,” he said. “Due to the budget going out for three votes, everything got pushed back. All the work is done; it’s just waiting for a final estimate.”

First Selectman Gregg Schuster said he was “apprehensive” about pursuing a referendum for the project for the fall. There were concerns

about rushing the public on the project.

Schuster said in March combining the middle school, senior center and youth center in one building would allow for expanded programs. Also, he said the youth center, located across from Town Hall on Norwich Avenue, is currently inadequate in size, and the senior center is housed in a rented building.

Also at the July 19 meeting, the selectmen accepted a request from resident Ryan Sherry to construct a driveway from a property on Scott Hill Road over the abandoned portion of Reservoir Road, located just beyond the west end of paved roadway.

Town engineer Salvatore Tassone said in a letter to the selectmen the town “has no intention at this time to resume maintenance of this abandoned portion of Reservoir Road.”

A letter from soil scientist Wesley Wentworth to Tassone said building the driveway over this portion of Reservoir Road “would eliminate the need to disturb and fill extensive wetlands and abutted regulated upland area.”

Selectman Greg Cordova motioned to approve the driveway construction “with the understanding that the driveway will not be maintained” by Colchester, and the town would be held harmless of any liability.

Schuster suggested checking with the town’s insurance broker to determine how legally binding the language is that the town be held harmless, but the selectmen voted to pass the motion without doing so.

Job descriptions for two positions in the town’s information technology department were

discussed. The town’s current information technology coordinator, Marc Tate, will be returning to school and requested a reduction in hours, so the current budget calls for the town to hire a part-time computer network technician to work under him.

Selectman Stan Soby commented that the job descriptions for the two positions were fairly similar, which Schuster said is because the two department employees will be working at separate times and must both be able to handle the workload. The IT coordinator, Schuster explained, will manage projects.

Soby asked about differentiating the education requirements between the two positions; however, Schuster said a degree requirement might prevent a qualified candidate from applying to the position. The board took no action on the job descriptions.

In another agenda item, Schuster said it would be in the board’s best interest to elect a vice chairman, in case he misses a meeting or must abstain from a vote. Selectman James Ford moved to elect Rosemary Coyle as vice chairman, then Cordova moved to elect Soby, which Schuster seconded. Coyle and Ford abstained from the vote and Cordova and Schuster voted in favor, passing the motion to elect Soby.

The selectmen also discussed the replacement of a fire rescue truck for the Colchester-Hayward Fire Department. Schuster said the fire department’s current rescue truck is out of service because of maintenance issues. The

truck needs extensive brake work which would cost between \$8-10,000.

Public Works Director Jim Paggioli said the proposed plan to replace the truck would be a five-year lease-to-purchase for the truck, which would be “exactly the same” as the current truck.

The selectmen took no action on the item but decided to move forward with gaining information for the replacement of the fire truck.

The 2013 Historic Documents Grant resolution was passed to authorize Schuster to sign a contract with the Connecticut State Library for the grant. The grant is used to categorize town records.

The selectmen accepted the resignation of Historic District Commission member Mike Trocchi and interviewed John Carroll for an alternate vacancy position on the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Schuster also updated the board on the status of the former Norton Paper Mill, which caught fire two weeks ago. “Twenty towns responded [to the fire] on some capacity,” Schuster said, adding he sent thank you letters out to those towns.

As for what will come of the building, that is not yet clear. The town is working with the owners of the property to “see what the future of that is,” Schuster said.

The next Board of Selectmen meeting will be held Thursday, Aug. 2, at 7 p.m. at Town Hall.

Acting Colchester ACO Officially Made Permanent

by **Katelyn Kelleher**

Colchester has promoted the assistant animal control officer as the new animal control officer as of Thursday, July 19, though he has been serving as such since late February.

The Board of Selectmen appointed Bill Paul, the town’s assistant ACO, to the position after a quick executive session. Paul has been the town’s acting ACO since former ACO Don Favry was placed on administrative leave March 7, while the town conducted an investigation on allegations of misconduct.

Documents pertaining to the investigation revealed several instances where no paperwork could be found to confirm Favry had taken out several advertisements in local newspapers for found dogs.

After a *Rivereast* article published complaints by Connecticut Animal House President Chris Lamb that Favry refused help to adopt out dogs, a public forum was held Feb. 23 to address animal control issues in town, at which many residents voiced their anger over Favry’s

practices as ACO.

Favry resigned from his position May 18.

After Favry’s resignation, First Selectman Gregg Schuster said the town was looking into combining with other towns for animal control services. Colchester and Marlborough share Colchester’s animal control officer and facilities – and Paul has been acting as Marlborough’s ACO as well.

Though Paul has not been appointed yet in Marlborough and is still the acting animal control officer, First Selectwoman Catherine Gaudinski said the appointment of an animal control officer will be an item for a future meeting and the town does not have other ACO prospects at this time.

Paul said the transition from being the assistant to the ACO has been fairly smooth. “It’s going pretty well,” he said. “I’ve implemented my own changes.”

Although he said there may be policy changes in the future that he is not currently at

liberty to discuss, Paul has developed his own structure to accomplish the tasks of the position.

Paul’s supervisor, Resident Trooper Supervisor Marc Petrucci, said Paul has been working on getting more services for dogs that the town is trying to adopt out. He also reached out to the John Gagnon Pet Resort in Colchester, which agreed to work with the town to provide some training for dogs the animal control staff has difficulty with.

Although he made no mention of name, Paul made a point to separate himself from the former ACO. “I’m a different person,” Paul said.

For the last several months Paul has been working without an assistant, but has been able to manage on his own. “I’ve got the call routine down,” he said.

First Selectman Gregg Schuster said there are no plans at the moment to hire a new assistant. “In discussion with Bill Paul, he feels right

now he can handle the job on his own,” he said. “If circumstances change, though, there is money in the budget for it.”

Paul said he originally took the assistant ACO position in 2007 hoping to eventually move up. “That was the intent,” he said. “I knew I wanted to become ACO somewhere.”

Schuster said the Board of Selectmen appointed Paul to the position because they received positive feedback from him. “He’s been proactive with getting the dogs up on Petfinder and talking with residents,” he said.

Overall, he’s been doing a great job since taking over, Schuster said.

Petrucci agreed. “His performance is going quite well,” he said. “I’ve gotten a couple of contacts from citizens he’s interacted with thus far and they’ve all been complimentary.”

“There’s always a learning curve with someone taking on a new position but we’re moving along fine,” he said.

Solar Power Coming to RHAM High School

by Geeta Schrayter

The RHAM Board of Education Monday approved a grant from the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund which will bring 700 solar panels to the roof of RHAM High School.

The project, which was first presented to the regional school board in May, was approved after some desired changes were made to the proposed contract with DBS Energy, Inc. (DBS), the company that will install, own and maintain the panels.

The contract is similar to one DBS entered into with Hebron Public Schools for the installation of 442 solar photovoltaic panels on the roof of Gilead Hill School, which started running after April vacation earlier this year.

Under the 20-year contract with RHAM, which is also referred to as a long-term power purchase agreement, the cost of the installation will be fronted by DBS in conjunction with the \$264,000 grant. The grant will cover approximately 35 percent of the installation costs, which are expected to total \$760,000.

DBS will then make its money back by selling the produced electricity to the school, but at a lower rate than if the school bought it directly from Connecticut Light & Power.

The panels would be located on the flat portion of the school roof.

At a June RHAM Board of Education meeting, DBS representative Erik Bartone explained the company is able to make a profit due to grants from the state and a tax credit provided by the federal government to non-profit entities. The solar grant, which helps offset the capital cost of the project, means the actual amount

of time it will take for DBS to make back its investment is 13 years. The tax credit then drops that number another five years.

"If you run the numbers out," Bartone said, "after eight years we recoup our investment, then over the remaining 12 years, minus operating expenses, we're able to get a profit and still give a discount to the customer."

RHAM is projected to save at least about \$10,000 annually, for approximately \$200,000 in savings over the 20-year term. Bartone said at Monday's meeting the \$10,000 savings is a conservative estimate, and the actual savings are usually 6-8 percent more.

"To be honest, for either side, I don't think there's a downside," he said. "If for whatever reason the system doesn't produce the power you're still paying the same cost as you would be from buying power from the grid. If you produce more power, then that's more savings to be garnered from the system."

On Tuesday, Superintendent of Schools Bob Siminski said the annual \$10,000 savings was important, but said another benefit for the regional school district is that "part of the grant has an educational component, so that both the science programs in middle school and high school will be able to use" the system for educational purposes.

"It'll be part of the curriculum," he said, mentioning aspects such as determining calculations for panel placement, energy consumption and the impacts of solar energy as educational opportunities.

At Monday's meeting, Siminski explained

the changes made to the contract were mainly in regards to what happens if at some point during the next 20 years, the roof needs to be fixed or replaced and the system has to go offline for a period of time. The contract had called for RHAM to pay for removing the panels before the roof is fixed.

But, the revised contract now states that, if the roof needs to be replaced or repaired during the term of the agreement, it was added to the contract that DBS "shall be responsible for removing and replacing the solar array at its sole expense in order to accommodate the replacement of the roof areas."

Bartone said he agreed to the change "not happily, but I did agree to take [RHAM] off."

Siminski also told the board the original contract stated the system could be down for seven days with no penalty paid to DBS – but it was tweaked so that "those seven days can be cumulative."

"So if 10 years off, we need to have the roof replaced and we didn't have any days where the system was down, we have 70 days in the bank to have [the system] off and not face a penalty," he said. The penalty fees would be based on the actual payments RHAM made to DBS during the same period the previous calendar year, as well as a separate fee based on the value of the lost solar renewable energy credits at the time the system went offline.

Aside from any possible penalty fees, Bartone stressed there would be no monetary cost to RHAM at all.

However, if the board sought to terminate the

agreement early, it would be required to purchase the system. For example, if termination was desired in year 10, the cost is listed in the contract as \$387,107.

Board member Laura Steiner added her own thoughts at the meeting, asking for a definitive answer as to whether or not the system would save the district money.

"If the answer's 'yes, we're going to save money' then ok," she said. After she received a positive answer, Steiner was one of five who were in favor of the motion to approve the solar grant, which passed 5-1, with board chair Michael Turner against.

On Tuesday, Turner explained it was the length of the contract that bothered him.

"Twenty years is a long time," he said, "and the \$10,000 estimated savings each year is kind of a small reward. So there's really not a lot that kind of entices you to go for something like that."

"But the other side of that," he added, "is it gives grant money pretty much up front so there's no risk of losing funding partway through and the solar panels should be fairly low maintenance, so it may work out. It's just that there's a lot of uncertainty 20 years down the road."

Turner said it was apparent when discussion first began in May that the majority of the board was in favor of the opportunity. He said there were just a few contract issues that needed to be – and had been – worked out.

Siminski said he expects part of the system to be installed in the fall.

Food for a Cause at New Portland Eatery

by Joshua Anusewicz

It's not uncommon for people to change careers throughout the course of their lives, but it does stick out a bit when someone changes their career drastically. Like a surgeon becoming a construction worker. Or a police officer becoming a computer programmer.

Or how about a professional boxer becoming a cook? For one Portland man, it doesn't seem that far-fetched.

"I've always been a cook," said Craig Salamone, owner and the lone chef at Liana's Luncheonette, a new food trailer that will be located in the parking lot of Brownstone Exploration and Discovery Park on Brownstone Avenue. "My mother is from Sicily, my dad could always cook. I was always surrounded by great food."

And it's great food he plans to bring to his hometown of Portland. A graduate of Xavier High School in Middletown and Mitchell College in New London, where he starred in basketball, Salamone took an interesting turn after leaving college: he became a professional boxer. A hulking figure, well over six feet tall, Salamone grew to become good enough of a fighter to compile a 15-4-1 professional record, fighting at notable venues like the Mohegan Sun and Foxwoods casinos.

But that all changed five years ago, with the birth of his daughter, Liana. Salamone, referring to his career as "semi-retired," continued to promote and manage other fighters while serving in a management position at The Lion's Den, a gym in Middletown that specializes in training for boxing and mixed martial arts.

Working for somebody else, though, wasn't in the cards for Salamone.

"I needed to make a career change," he said. "I didn't want to be at someone's beck and call. I wanted to be my own boss and be able to make my own decisions."

So, Salamone decided to turn one of his passions into a career. But the story doesn't just

end with him buying a restaurant and flipping burgers at the stove; how he came across his food trailer is an interesting story.

A close friend of his, David Bordonaro, another Portland native, gave the trailer to Salamone to start up his business, but with a recommendation: part of the profits should go to bone marrow charities. Salamone said that Bordonaro himself went through a bone marrow transplant recently and realized the benefits of bone marrow donation. Giving his trailer to his friend, Salamone surmised, was his way of giving back.

"Even when he was sick, he was always giving back," Salamone said. "There are not too many people like that."

And Salamone will continue the giving with his friend's recommendation, by giving 10 percent of every purchase to bone marrow charities.

Salamone expects the purchases to flood in, too, as he expects patrons to enjoy all of his fresh, homemade ingredients. Using "family recipes," Liana's will serve up his two specialties – sausage and peppers and pulled pork – as well as breakfast, macaroni and cheese, coleslaw and various snacks.

"I put a lot of time into it," Salamone said. "When everyone is still asleep, in the middle of the night, I'm still turning my ovens on and off, cooking." That care is noticeable in the ingredients, from the fresh pork bought from a market in Middletown, to the local, farm-fresh eggs used in the breakfast sandwiches.

The sandwiches have already been a hit with the employees at Brownstone Exploration and Discovery Park, with the word quickly spreading that the sandwiches are as good as it gets. Salamone said he has a good relationship with the owners of the park, who he said don't mind that his business is there. And he said it's those patrons, as well as visitors to the new Riverfront Park, that he plans to attract.

"I want to establish this place as the best



Former professional boxer Craig Salamone, left, has traded his boxing gloves for oven mitts and opened his own food trailer, Liana's Luncheonette, in the parking lot of the Brownstone Exploration and Discovery Park. At a grand opening ceremony on Aug. 4, Salamone's friend and local rocker Tony Rome, right, will entertain with some classic rock n' roll.

place around to get pulled pork and sausage and peppers," he said. "Other places around here don't serve that; they serve burgers and hot dogs."

And if you stop by, expect Salamone to be there. The self-described "people person" will be manning the grills from open to close, which will be seven days a week from 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. An official grand opening is also scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 4, beginning at 1 p.m.

Featured at the grand opening will be Salamone's close friend and local music favorite Tony Rome, who will perform classic rock hits while patrons enjoy their meals.

"All the good songs you want to hear," said a laughing Rome, who recently performed at the Portland Fireworks.

Good food, good music, all on the shore of the Connecticut River. How can you go wrong?

Burbank, Lewis to Square Off in Andover Primary

by Geeta Schrayter

The 2012 primaries are fast approaching, and when Aug. 14 arrives, along with voting for state officials, Andover Democrats will have the opportunity to vote for the person they'd like to replace retiring registrar Kaye Cardin to become the new Democratic registrar of voters: Marie Burbank or Catherine Magaldi-Lewis.



Magaldi-Lewis

On Tuesday, Magaldi-Lewis said she was asked to run for the position by various members of the Democratic Town Committee.

"I thought about it for a while to make sure it was something I wanted to do," she said, and then the DTC endorsed her at the Democratic caucus on May 25. In addition, she said she wanted to be the registrar of voters because she likes being involved with the community.

"I want to know what's going on and I want to contribute," she said, adding for her, it was important everyone in the community became involved. "I even wrote a letter saying whatever way you vote, just come vote and get involved."

Following Burbank's failure to be endorsed at the caucus, she opted to primary against Magaldi-Lewis. Whoever wins the primary will most likely become the Democratic registrar of voters, as no other Democrat is running for the position. (There is a possibility for whomever loses the primary to run as an independent, but the paperwork for that would need to be filed with the state by Aug. 8, and

the primary isn't being held until Aug. 14.)

For Burbank, the decision to run stemmed from her experience.

"What made me really decide [to run] is that I have so much more experience than Catherine Lewis," she said.

Burbank noted she was presently moderator for the elections, which requires a course every two years, "so my knowledge of elections is current."

In addition, she said she was town clerk for 12 years "and during that time the town paid for my education as far as [election laws] are concerned."

Burbank added some of the duties she had as town clerk – such as pre-election work like ordering ballots, putting out notices and setting up the machines – were switched over to the registrar's office so she'd already be familiar with them.

"I have run elections and am very familiar with procedures," she said.

Magaldi-Lewis said her experience with management and development training made her qualified for the position, and she mentioned she has presentation and facilitator skills as well, and as a registrar "that's kind of what you are."

"You have to be organized, you have to keep up with the laws," she said.

Magaldi-Lewis added she was already familiar with some laws but they're "always changing."

"It should be something I can fall into fairly easy, I would hope," she said.

But Burbank stated she would be able to do the job immediately, while she said Lewis "is going to probably have to have an extended training period."

Burbank continued on to say she was told at the Democratic caucus her years of experi-

ence didn't matter. She said she was told "we can't look backwards."

"I resented fully the comments that were made that my past experience didn't matter," she said. "That's an insult to the present town clerk, because you're saying in 10 years her experience won't mean anything?"

But on Wednesday, Democratic Town Committee Vice Chairwoman Joan Foran said "no one was demeaning or devaluing" Burbank's time as town clerk.

"We were just trying to enumerate the numerous qualifications of Catherine," Foran said. "Of course we would have to consider [Burbank's] time, but also Catherine's professional experience."

Foran added, "You can't say I'm qualified for these reasons and only these reasons, and someone isn't for having different qualifications."

Foran said "of course" knowing state law is important, "but the expectation that every person running must know all the law before they even are elected is unrealistic."

"What you do is you find a capable person, you train them and then you move forward," Foran continued. "The most important aspect is truly a desire to serve, the willingness to work hard and the commitment and energy to do everything you need to do that job."

Foran noted Magaldi-Lewis was also currently enrolled for moderator school begin-



Burbank

ning in September and was already reviewing the manual.

Even so, Burbank mentioned Magaldi-Lewis' lack of knowledge of election law. She said Magaldi-Lewis stated at the May caucus she had "fresh eyes," but "fresh eyes don't make a difference when you're dealing with election law. You have to know it."

But Magaldi-Lewis asserted she'd be able to get the job done, and said she couldn't think of any initial challenges she'd face.

"It's just, with any job, when you first go in you're going to have questions," she said but added she'd already utilized the government website to download information and "there's a lot to help out there."

For Burbank, the hope was the decision would come down to experience, and she said she would present hers to the public "like a job resume," then leave it to the voters.

"I'm going to present my credentials," she said. "I'm not going to get into any more."

Burbank added even though she had a busy time coming up, with her daughter's wedding coming less than a week after the primary, she considered the position worth it.

"I just feel it's important enough," she said.

Magaldi-Lewis stated she wanted to be the sort of registrar voters would find approachable and helpful.

"I want somebody to be able to come in and know that they are dealing with someone that's approachable and can explain things to them if they have questions," she said. "And again, it doesn't matter to me if they are Democrat or Republican if they have questions."

But just what sort of credentials *do* matter, when it comes to being a registrar of voters, will be determined at the Aug. 14 primary, when the new registrar will be determined.

Burbank Recovering After Heart Valve Replacement

by Geeta Schrayter

Andover First Selectman Bob Burbank is currently recovering in Hartford Hospital after undergoing surgery Wednesday morning, and wife Marie Burbank said the procedure went "very well."



Bob Burbank

The surgery, to replace one of his aortic valves and unclog an artery, was a result of the discovery he was suffering from atrial fibrillation. According to information available on the website for the Massachusetts General Hospital Heart Center, atrial fibrillation is a type of arrhythmia "where the electrical signals in the atria are fired in a very fast and uncontrolled manner." Arrhythmias, or abnormal heart rhythms, cause the heart to pump less effectively.

On Tuesday, Burbank explained he started to experience acute shortness of breath over the weekend of July 14. His wife added it was difficult for him to walk across a room.

"He's had shortness of breath before," Marie

said, "but nothing like what happened last week. I mean, it was terrible. He just couldn't even walk across the room at all."

Marie explained her husband went to see his primary physician Monday, July 16, who sent him to a cardiologist the following day.

"The cardiologist said he would try to treat him at home [with medication] with the agreement that if he wasn't better in two days, then he would go to the hospital," she said.

He didn't get better, and so, Burbank explained, "the cardiologist sent me into Middletown [to Middlesex Hospital] where they took an angiogram and they decided it was advanced enough to go to Hartford Hospital where there's a team" of cardiologists.

He was transferred to Hartford Hospital last Thursday night and, he said Tuesday, "that's where I am right now."

Doctors determined Monday Burbank would need to undergo the surgery, and Burbank said he wanted "to make it clear I did not have a heart attack. What I did is I had a heart malfunction," he said. "The valve shut down certain chambers of the heart and made it not run efficiently."

Yet even though he was bedridden Tuesday – "there are probably 20 to 30 wires attached

to me," he said – Burbank, who has been first selectman since 2006, was still all about Andover.

"I've been in touch with the powers at be every day so the town is operating normally," he said. "Nothing at this point is lacking. The town has always taken a prime responsibility for me so I'm going to make sure I do everything in my power to make sure it's running efficiently."

Burbank said he'd even been on a conference call with selectman Jay Lindy and a grant administrator as the town is looking to apply for Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) funding to repair the bridge on Times Farm Road. Burbank said he had no intention of allowing his stint in the hospital to make the town miss the Aug. 1 application deadline.

"We'll get it in," he said. "I'll get it in one way or another. I've already made all the arrangements."

On Tuesday, Lindy said he was in contact with Burbank daily and had gone to see him in the hospital.

"He is still first selectman," he stated. "I'm just filling in as vice first selectman, doing my job. We are operating as regular and we want him back as soon as possible, but his health is

the number one concern."

"Things are going well," Marie said Tuesday. "Things look brighter than they did last Thursday. He's reached the point that he's just bored lying in the hospital bed. He's not used to doing that."

And as far as when Andover's first selectman will return to his customary post at Town Hall, Burbank said doctors don't anticipate he'll remain in the hospital more than a few days after the operation. But "whether there's some time that I need to recuperate I'm not sure," he said. "As far as I'm concerned, if I could get back to the office next week, I would."

On Wednesday evening, Marie said Burbank came out of the operation "very well."

"The doctors did what they wanted to do and were pleased," she said, but added at this point she hadn't been informed how long it would be before he was discharged and could head back to work.

And going forward, perhaps Burbank might listen to his wife more when it comes to his health.

"He usually doesn't listen to me when I tell him to go to the doctor's," Marie said Tuesday, "so now my kids said he might listen once in a while."

Tierney May Become Permanent Hebron Town Manager

by Geeta Schrayter

Andy Tierney is currently in his second stint as Hebron's interim town manager – and he soon may have the word “interim” stripped from that title.

Tierney told the selectmen at their July 19 meeting he's interested in becoming the permanent town manager. The announcement comes after Board of Selectmen Chairman Jeff Watt asked Tierney last month if he was interested in the permanent position.

Tierney said he had a heart-to-heart with his wife and “she left it up to me,” he laughed. He noted he's been in town for 17 years, and acknowledged the fact it was his second time in the role of interim town manager.

Tierney was first in the position as part of a three-member town manager team with town planner Mike O'Leary and executive assistant Donna Lanza after then-town manager Jared Clark left in 2009. The team lasted until April 2010, when Bonnie Therrien began. He then took on the role solo in January after Therrien left at the end of 2011.

“At this point in time,” he said, “I would be interested in entering into negotiations for the full-time position if the negotiations are in the best interest of both parties.”

On Wednesday, Watt explained his rationale for asking Tierney if there was interest.

“My feeling is that from what I was hearing, from not only the Board of Selectmen but from the town, Andy has done a very good job in the current role,” he said. “I wanted to see if my colleagues thought Andy should go through the process by himself versus opening it up to the public.”

Watt added it became “pretty clear” from the conversation that other members “felt that Andy should be given the first opportunity – and especially since he *is* interested in being the permanent town manager.”

On Wednesday, Tierney, an East Hampton resident, said he has been in local government for over 30 years and has a lot of support from

other town managers, boards and commissions throughout the state and Hebron.

“One thing I bring is the 17 years of experience dealing with the public and department heads in other capacities,” he said, noting he kept the largest department and the largest budget apart from the schools as the director of Public Works. He added he's seen “a lot of big projects through,” and the Board of Selectmen recognizes he gets along with the different departments in town.

During the meeting, the selectmen discussed what the process should be for Tierney to transition from interim to fulltime, and decided on getting input from different groups in town: other boards, department heads and the schools' superintendents.

Selectman Dan Larson said the process shouldn't be the same as when an unknown applicant tries for the job, since Tierney is already known around town.

“It was a different situation” not knowing the applicants, he said. “We all *know* Andy. Just going to other boards is going to give us the information we need to make a definitive decision.”

Board member Brian O'Connell said he'd rather see the professional side of the situation because at this point, most residents have had interactions with Tierney. And selectwoman Gayle Mulligan added she had already received feedback by simply being around town.

“I've gotten a lot of feedback just being out in town working, grocery shopping – I've gotten a lot of feedback in regards to his position now and what they feel,” she said.

“I think what you're looking for,” said Board of Finance member Malcolm Leichter, is Tierney's ability “to work with others and knowledge of things as well – and I think [the Board of Finance] can make a statement on that.”

Tierney added Wednesday a town manager's “fit” in town was just as important as their quali-

fications.

“Bringing someone in from outside, they may have all the qualifications but not the fit – and fit is one of the biggest parts of filling the position,” he said, adding that in East Hampton “they've gone through a number of town managers, and Hebron's been doing the same thing.”

Were he to make the transition, Tierney said “there's always going to be challenges,” but he said he has “a good demeanor and a reputation as being a straight-shooter.”

“My personal feeling,” furthered Watt, “is that Andy has done a very good job.”

He added the feedback would either “confirm what I think has been an obviously good job or will bring out some other areas for us to consider” along with areas Tierney could develop.

“I hope this is going to be a good change for myself and the town of Hebron,” said Tierney.

The board decided at the meeting the liaisons would be responsible for requesting their respective boards review Tierney's performance over the past seven months during an executive session at an upcoming meeting. They would then come out of the session and make a formal recommendation. The selectmen said they'd like to be able to move forward with the process by the end of August.

* * *

The board also authorized a Small Town Economic Assistance Program grant application for various improvements to the town center.

The application for \$500,000 in funding would be used to construct a parking lot on Pendleton Drive, an expanded parking area behind the Douglas Library, improved pedestrian crossing at the intersection of routes 66 and 316 and a safe walkway to AHM Youth and Family Services.

In a letter from Town Planner Mike O'Leary, he explained last year, then-town manager

Therrien and the Board of Selectmen “reviewed a number of potential projects for future STEAP grant applications.”

“This grant round has been put together specifically for the whole downtown area,” explained O'Connell.

“This fits with what we want to do downtown to address parking congestion and improve pedestrian safety,” added selectman Mark Stuart.

Economic Development Commission Chairwoman Vickie Avelis stated in a letter to O'Leary that by improving these areas, the commission believes “businesses and town facilities will benefit. However, safety is the prime concern with these recommendations and they are interconnected.”

The board unanimously approved the application. The deadline for submittal is Aug. 1.

* * *

The selectmen also moved to adopt an ordinance regarding the elderly/totally disabled renter grant program, which is a reimbursement program for elderly or totally disabled renters whose incomes do not exceed certain limits, according to the state website, ct.gov.

The ordinance transferred ordinance-related duties and responsibilities from the town assessor over to the Senior Services Coordinator Sharon Garrard and Social Worker Patricia Placido.

Stuart explained the transfer was “due to the fact the assessor's been doing things that should be the responsibility” of Garrard and Placido.

A public hearing was held prior to the meeting regarding the ordinance, but no residents attended.

The ordinance was adopted unanimously.

* * *

The next Board of Selectmen meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Aug. 2, at 7:30 p.m., at the Town Office Building, 15 Gilead St.

Hebron Improves Fire Insurance Rating

by Geeta Schrayter

As a result of a public protection classification survey conducted by Insurance Services Offices, Inc. (ISO), Hebron has upgraded its insurance rating – which may mean some residents can lower their insurance rates.

Fire Marshal Randy Blais explained at the meeting New Jersey-based ISO collects and evaluates information from the fire department concerning fire calls throughout town. He said the company also evaluates how fire alarms are handled, as well as certain things such as hydrant sizes, in-ground water lines and dry hydrants.

In a summary of the report from ISO it was explained the town is evaluated using criteria that includes how fire alarms are received and handled, the fire department and water supply in town.

The fire department evaluation includes examining the location of the different companies and the training and equipment available, while water supply is the condition and maintenance of hydrants, alternate water supplies and evaluations of the amount of water available versus the amount needed to suppress fires.

Receiving and handling the fire alarms includes evaluating the telephone systems, lines, and staffing and dispatch systems.

“It comes down to handling fire alarms and dispatch services,” he said, explaining ISO then uses its findings to assign a public protection

classification (PPC) number, ranging from 1 to 10. According to ISO, one represents “an exemplary fire suppression program,” and 10 indicates “the area's fire suppression program does not meet ISO's minimum criteria.”

In a letter from ISO to Interim Town Manager Andy Tierney it was stated the classification system “plays an important role in the underwriting process at insurance companies. In fact, most U.S. insurers – including the largest ones – use PPC information as part of their decision-making when deciding what business to write, coverages to offer or prices to charge for personal or commercial property insurance.”

Hebron received a rating of 4/8B, which means part of the town is a 4, while the rest is an 8B.

The 4 applies to properties within five road miles of a recognized fire station and within 1,000 feet of a fire hydrant or alternate water supply, it's explained in a recent memo. The 8B applies to properties beyond the 1,000 feet but within five road miles of a recognized fire station.

It's further explained in ISO's summary that Class 8B is a special classification. It recognizes “a superior level of fire protection in otherwise Class 9 areas.” The classification represents a “superior” fire protection delivery system except “for a lack of a water supply system.”

“That's very good because we're at a 9 now,” said Blais. “Going to an 8 we save people some money.”

“This is a big ‘hat's off’ to the fire department,” said selectman Brian O'Connell. He added it's important “for the voters to understand the money that has been expended on the fire department, obviously for the short-term is important and one thing, but this also has a long-term effect for the community in saving money in insurance.”

He added that residents should understand putting money aside for the fire department isn't a want, but a need.

“We need people to understand it's not a ‘want to have.’ It's something we *should* have for safety and to save money,” he said.

Blais said the department had been diligent in getting the final report, and now that the town had it, “it's a win-win and we should boast it.”

The results of the survey go into effect in October, and Blais said the department has started to work on a chart that would allow residents to look up their house address and see which classification it falls under.

Board of Selectmen Chairman Jeff Watt added that even if residents have already had their insurance renewal, “I would encourage people to call their insurers and see if [the rating] impacts their policy.”

Marlborough Agrees to \$50,000 Appropriation for Water Plan

by Katelyn Kelleher

Residents Monday voted to contribute \$50,000 toward a public water system in the center of town, contingent on Marlborough receiving a STEAP grant.

The motion to approve the appropriation passed 79-66, allowing the town to go forward with its plan of contributing \$50,000 from its undesignated fund balance for construction costs to the project upon receiving a \$500,000 2013 STEAP (Small Town Economic Assistance Program) grant.

Board of Finance member Ken Hjulstrom was pleased the appropriation passed, but said he was skeptical enough residents would come out to support it, based on the turnout of the public hearing July 2, where many residents voiced their concerns and opposition to the project.

First Selectwoman Catherine Gaudinski read a letter addressed to town officials from Town Treasurer Michael O'Neil explaining, in his opinion, using \$50,000 from the undesignated fund balance would not weaken the town's financial condition.

As of June 30, 2011, the undesignated fund balance was \$1,865,554, 8.81 percent of the budgeted general fund expenditures for the 2011-12 fiscal year. "The use of \$50,000 would lower that ratio to 8.58 percent," O'Neil's letter stated.

"According to state data for fiscal year 2010 for all cities, towns and other jurisdictions, Marlborough ranks 62 out of 170 based on its level of undesignated fund balance as a percentage of general fund expenditures, placing it in the second highest quartile," the letter continued, adding the use of \$50,000 would not change those rankings.

The undesignated fund balance "represents the town's reserves that are not maintained for a specific required purpose" and "prudent financial management dictates that some level of unrestricted reserve should be maintained in the event of unforeseen circumstances," O'Neil's letter said, and "the use of [\$50,000] to leverage an additional \$500,000 of grant revenue represents a legitimate and reasonable use of the undesignated fund balance."

Gaudinski said the town has received letters of commitment from three property owners to contribute a total of \$43,000 so far to the project, with other property owners still in consideration. Connecticut Water Company has also committed to at least \$150,000 for test well drilling, construction and engineering.

"We feel, based upon the infrastructure and the requirement of the STEAP application, that we need to provide as much detail as to the commitment from the town and the property owners that we're willing to invest in this ex-

penditure of state tax dollars," she said.

Gaudinski explained Marlborough has two exclusive service area (ESA) providers: the town of Marlborough is the ESA on School Drive for the elementary school, senior center and library. All other property in town, with the exception of private community systems such as Birchwood Water Association, has been designated to Connecticut Water.

"Originally the agreement was Aquasource in the early 2000s, then Aquasource was bought out by Birmingham Water Utilities and, following that, Connecticut Water bought Birmingham out and the rights of those water companies transferred with the sales," Gaudinski said. "We are obligated to have discussion with Connecticut Water in terms of non-municipal property."

She said the town can choose another water company for its property and has not chosen a company at this point, but she has spoken with a representative from Aquarion Water Company and "Aquarion is very well aware of what we are doing here in Marlborough."

Fred Klein, an attorney for Aquarion, said the company is interested in the project, but several questions need to be answered before making a proposal to the town.

"We would like to set up a meeting with [Gaudinski] or [Town Planner] Peter Hughes

to go over some of those and determine what investment has to be made," he said. "The company wants to understand what needs to be invested and what it gets out of it. Does the town transfer the ESA or does the town keep it?"

Aquarion currently serves the 91 customers in the Birchwood Water Association.

Before the vote, residents Amy Traversa and David Morganson expressed concerns that a water system would bring the wrong kind of development to the town.

"I can see multi-family housing going up, impacting our services and school system with no benefit from the town," Traversa said.

Morganson said it could put the town in danger of overdevelopment. "I'm not really certain what business type this would help to bring additional revenue to town," he said, adding he feared it could bring large apartment complexes to town with "10 families utilizing town resources."

Resident Bill Mogensen said the town couldn't expect to attract a supermarket or national tenant without public water for fire suppression. "Any time myself or my wife or daughter... get in the car to go to Colchester or Hebron or East Hampton to do commercial service shopping we're paying a silent tax because they could do it in the center of town," he said.

Camp Invention Proves a Hit in Marlborough

by Katelyn Kelleher

Creative young minds from several local towns participated in Camp Invention, hosted by Marlborough Elementary School July 9-13.

The national program, which aligned with the school's STEM initiative, which integrates science, technology, engineering and mathematics in the curriculum, was attended by a total of 34 students entering first through sixth grade from Marlborough, Hebron, Andover, East Hampton, Glastonbury and Middletown.

Marlborough was one of 10 towns in the state to hold the camp, along with Waterbury, Stamford, Bristol, Darien, Stonington, Orange, Branford, Westport and Shelton.

Math and science teacher Patti Hahn led the summer camp at the school, taking over for Eric Brody, now the principal of Hebron Elementary School, who began the application process for the camp before leaving the district.

Along with Hahn, teachers David Wasserman, Kelly Miranda and Shelby Bobbi facilitated the camp. Two RHAM High School students, Colin Quint and Tyler Neary, who will be seniors this fall, helped out as leadership interns.

Neary said he wished he could've gone to Camp Invention as a kid. "It seemed like an interesting camp to help out with," he said. "If I was that age I probably would have gone to it, too."

Hahn said she wasn't really sure what to expect when she took over the camp for Brody. "Some of the stuff got lost in translation," she said, adding she had hoped there would be "at least 30" students participating in the camp.

The camp was split into four modules: Power'd, Hatched, I Can Invent and Action and Adventure Games. Wasserman led two modules and Miranda and Bobbi, who split the week because of other commitments, led the other two.

In Power'd, the children built a robot pet. "They got a little motor; they used Styrofoam," Hahn said, adding the children brought in recycled materials on their own and had a list of materials to bring in for the week. "Camp Invention provided googly eyes, though, so they looked real."

Neary said he thought the pet robots were among the most interesting creations the campers came up with.

The campers built an economy designed around a virtual world and had avatars of themselves in Hatched. "The virtual world was falling apart and needed a new economy and they had to start brainstorming what people need," Hahn said. The virtual world had to include an aqueduct to bring water from one part of the world to the other.

In I Can Invent, the young inventors had to design a machine that would break a balloon. The campers were split up into two age groups, first through third grade and fourth through sixth grade, and the youngsters had a shorter distance from which they had to break the balloon.

Hahn was impressed with the way the campers utilized recycled materials to build their inventions. "Their imaginations just went wild," she said. "It was amazing to see how they took this pile of stuff that most people would consider taking to the dump to create what they were."

Much to Hahn's surprise, however, the kids didn't take too well to the fourth module, Action and Adventure Games. Instead, they wanted to get back inside to work on their projects. "We even had water balloons," Hahn said with a laugh.

The three building modules were a hit, though. "They ate it up, and it didn't matter if they were the young kids or older kids," Hahn said.

Neary agreed. "I thought it was good for the



The 34 kids at Marlborough's Camp Invention ditched the beach for a week in favor of building robots, machines and even a model community. At the end of the week, they got to show off their inventions.

kids and a good learning experience overall," he said.

One camper was unsure on his first day. "We had a little boy who came from Middletown. On the first day his grandfather left him off he was scared. We got him in with a group and he started building," Hahn said. The next day, Hahn asked the boy's grandfather if he liked his first day. "He goes, 'best day of his life, he loves it here,' and there was no question he was coming back for the rest of the week."

Parents even got to view the projects on the last day of camp, before the kids took them

home.

Hahn said she would direct the camp again in a heartbeat and hopes enough children enroll next year to have one teacher for each module.

"I really thought the materials and things that [Camp Invention] sent got them interested in science and math," she said. "The kids really liked it. They loved the thinking and science and the hands-on activities."

"I think that the smiles on the faces definitely showed us that it was very successful," she said.

Storm Leads to Closing of Route 2 in Marlborough

by Katelyn Kelleher

A tree removal during a thunderstorm shut down all three eastbound lanes on Route 2 in Marlborough last Wednesday, July 18.

A tree was partially struck down by lightning in the roadway around 5:30 p.m., causing crews from the state Department of Transportation to shut down all eastbound lanes on Route 2 near exit 13 Wednesday evening, DOT spokesman Kevin Nursick said. He said the highway was only shut down for a few hours and the incident was minor. Traffic was rerouted through Marlborough during the tree

removal.

Earlier this year, DOT crews removed trees on Route 2 in Glastonbury for motorist safety, spurred by the damages from the October snowstorm. Nursick said the tree removal may or may not have prevented other downed trees on Route 2, but "it certainly didn't hurt."

Mitch Gross, a spokesman for Connecticut Light and Power, said 900 customers lost power in Marlborough and all were restored by 5 a.m. Thursday, July 19. Gross said the majority of customers in Marlborough were restored by 2 a.m.

Fire Causes Damage at Public Schools Office in East Hampton

by Joshua Anusewicz

A fire apparently sparked by downed electrical wiring caused damage at the East Hampton Public Schools building on Main Street on Wednesday morning.

Officials said Thursday the incident was caused by a dump truck from a paving crew that was working on the driveway of the building, located at 94 Main St. The truck, traveling with its bed in an upright position, struck a power line that was attached to the building, pulling the wire down and causing a fire to start.

The fire caused minor exterior damage to the building, with no damage to the interior,

officials said. The truck sustained minor fire damage, as well.

The East Hampton Volunteer Fire Department was quickly on the scene and was able to quickly extinguish the fire, officials said. Mutual aid was also received from Portland, Marlborough and Colchester. Connecticut Light & Power was also on the scene to disconnect the power to the building, and was at the building on Thursday to help reconnect the electricity.

Employees within the building were quickly evacuated, officials said, and no injuries were sustained.

STEAP Grants Topic of Discussion for East Hampton Council

by Joshua Anusewicz

At an abbreviated special meeting Tuesday night, the Town Council went over two applications for Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grant funding, one for the Colchester/East Hampton Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA)/Joint Facilities and another for Epoch Arts. And while the WPCA grant was quickly supported by the council, the grant for Epoch Arts spurred a more lengthy conversation.

According to Town Manager Michael Maniscalco, the grants are applied for by the entities seeking the funding and that the town generally provides a “letter of support” along with the application. The town does not need to provide any matching funds, he added, and the projects would require “no work from the side of the town.”

The first application that was provided was for the WPCA, which is seeking \$250,000 for improvements to the WPCA infrastructure to “improve the efficiency of the treatment process.” The letter to the Office of Policy & Management (OPM), which handles the STEAP applications, states that this will be done by “lowering transportation costs, enhancing the environment by producing ‘drier’ sludge that will use less energy to process and benefit all communities served by the wastewater treatment plant by minimizing sewage treatment costs.”

Vincent Susco, the town’s public utilities administrator, said Tuesday East Hampton’s application would be paired with an application from Colchester for the same amount of

funding, which has already received the backing of Colchester’s Board of Selectmen. Maniscalco added that by applying for funding for a more regional project, OPM would most likely look at the project favorably and approve it.

Town Council Chairwoman Sue Weintraub agreed. “I can’t see them turning it down; I’d be shocked,” she said.

The council voted unanimously to support the project, 4-0. (Councilors Barbara Moore, George Pfaffenbach and Kyle Dostaler were not present.)

A letter of support for Epoch Arts, however, wasn’t going to come as easily. The non-profit arts program for at-risk youth has applied for \$223,988 for the installation of a new roof for its 42,000-square foot facility on Skinner Street, which would allow for more youth programming. Currently, Epoch Arts serves roughly 500 children and 3,000 families.

Parks and Recreation Director Ruth Plummer said Tuesday a committee consisting of herself, Finance Director Jeff Jylkka and other department heads reviewed various proposed projects throughout the town to choose one that needed the STEAP funding the most. Plummer said that the decision to choose Epoch Arts was based on the amount of children that utilize the program and the “phenomenal work” the organization has been able to accomplish. Plummer said the parks and recreation department, youth and family services and the public library, all of which work in close partnership with Epoch

Arts, have provided “stellar letters of support” for the funding.

While the council agreed that Epoch Arts has been an asset to the community, some councilors felt that providing funding to a non-municipal entity might set a bad precedent.

“It’s not a town property, and I’m wondering how it’s going to be perceived by the state and also the townspeople,” Weintraub said.

Councilor Ted Hintz Jr. had additional concerns, including the lack of time the council had to review Epoch Arts application. Hintz said the council didn’t receive the proposed letter of support until last Friday, and that almost half the council was not included in the meeting. He added that there may be other possibilities for the STEAP funding and that by supporting the Epoch Arts application at the last minute – the due date for applications is Aug. 1 – those projects might be overlooked in haste.

“Why are we getting this at the 11th hour? Where else could it go?” Hintz said. “It’s going out to a private agency when we have areas of need in town, like the Company One firehouse.”

Hintz continued to the council, “I hope you don’t think I’m not in support of Epoch Arts, because I am; it’s a great program. I just think we’re being backed into this at the last minute. I really take offense to only having three days notice. I can’t support it...it’s not appropriate.”

Hintz then requested that the matter be tabled until the council’s next meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 14, as Plummer said Epoch Arts could

proceed with the town’s letter of support, which she said could be turned in after the deadline.

Councilor Derek Johnson advocated for supporting the application. “It would be helpful to support it,” he said. “I don’t see any downside or risk.”

Vice Chairman Glenn Suprono took it a step further. “It’s not that big an issue,” he said. “We have competent people working with us. We’re not putting up the Empire State Building here; this is too simple. I think to table this is a waste of our time. They need a roof and they are a good organization. I don’t doubt them.”

“I don’t want it on my conscience, as chair, that we made it seem like we chose one over the other,” Weintraub added.

But Hintz stood his ground. “I will not be bullied into a ‘yes’ vote tonight,” he said, adding that Moore was out of town and hadn’t even seen the proposal.

Maniscalco and Jylkka both advised the council that tabling the issue and sending the letter of support after the application deadline would be a better option. “Better late than never,” Jylkka said.

The matter was ultimately tabled and will be discussed at the council’s next meeting. “Terribly unfortunate,” Johnson said after the discussion.

* * *

The next regular meeting of the Town Council is scheduled for Tuesday, Aug. 14, at 6:30 p.m. at East Hampton High School, 15 N. Maple St.

Report Clears Kelly, Reimondo in Engel Investigation

by Joshua Anusewicz

The results of an independent investigation into Sgt. Garritt Kelly and Police Chief Matthew Reimondo and their handling of an SEEC complaint against former Town Council Chairwoman Melissa Engel has ruled Engel’s “rights were not violated” and there was no evidence of a violation of the police department’s Code of Ethics.

The investigation, performed by attorney Michael Harrington of the firm Murtha Cullina in Hartford, stems from a formal request from Engel to former Interim Town Manager John Weichsel, who approved the investigation in April. Engel’s request came after charges that she “impermissibly handled absentee ballot applications” before a townwide referendum in November 2010 on reinstating Reimondo as chief were dropped by the State Election Enforcement Commission (SEEC) in March.

The matter surfaced in October 2010 after Kelly, at Reimondo’s order, submitted the com-

plaint to the SEEC after he had performed a preliminary investigation when a citizen had filed a complaint to East Hampton Police. That complaint claimed that Engel had obtained an excessive amount of applications for absentee ballots and distributed them to other individuals prior to the referendum.

Although the investigation ultimately clears Kelly and Reimondo of wrongdoing, it does take both to task for their handling of the situation. In the report, Harrington’s findings include that Kelly’s investigation prior to the SEEC investigation was “unreasonably delayed” and that a “sworn written complaint” was never obtained from the resident, Angela Sarahina, who initially filed the complaint against Engel. Kelly handing the investigation over to the SEEC, however, was deemed “proper,” and it was determined he did not violate the department’s Code of Ethics as it pertains to “conduct unbecoming of an officer.”

As for Reimondo, Harrington rules the police chief provided “inadequate” supervision over Kelly during the investigation, stating that Reimondo “failed to document” Sarahina’s initial complaint and allowed the investigation to be “unnecessarily prolonged.”

Harrington concludes that the investigation by Kelly “could have been handled more efficiently,” but “given that Mrs. Engle [sic] was found innocent by the East Hampton Police Department and by the SEEC...I am unable to conclude that this situation was handled in a discriminatory manner.”

Though the conclusion seems to effectively end the matter, Harrington also attached a memo to Town Manager Michael Maniscalco that includes suggestions on how he believes the town can “avoid a similar problem in the future.”

These recommendations include: complaints

being documented in writing by the officer taking the complaint or by the complainant; periodic updates from supervising officers; supervising officers insuring case reports are accurate and clear; additional training on writing accurate case reports; and officers not making themselves a complainant in matters they are investigating.

When asked Wednesday how he would proceed with the report, its findings, and its recommendations, Maniscalco kept his comment short. “At this point, we are doing some research into how it was handled so we can make the appropriate decision,” he said, declining to comment any further.

Engel also remained tight-lipped Wednesday, stating that, at the advice of her legal counsel, she “can’t respond” on the matter.

Kelly and Reimondo were not available for comment.

Colchester Police News

7/17: Jessica Wasgah, 22, of 32 Oak Knoll Road, East Hampton, was charged with DUI, possession of narcotics and possession of drug paraphernalia, State Police said.

7/17: A 17-year-old fell asleep at the wheel on Middletown Road when his vehicle swerved right, struck a metal guard rail and turned over on its roof at 4:36 p.m. The driver was transported by East Hampton EMS to Marlborough Medical Center for evaluation of possible injuries, State Police said.

7/17: Andrew Bates, 19, of 19 Gustafson Road, turned himself in on an arrest warrant for first-degree failure to appear in court, State Police said.

7/20: Noel Irizarry, 33, of 52 Balaban Road, Unit 303, was arrested on active PRAWN warrant for failure to appear in court, State Police said.

7/20: Todd Pugh, 44, of 128 Norwich Ave., was charged with criminal violation of a restraining order, State Police said.

7/20: David Kokoszka, 39, of 235 Phoenixville Road, Chaplin, was charged with second-degree failure to appear in court, State

Police said.

7/21: A vehicle window was smashed on Old Hartford Road and the victim reported his wallet was stolen, Colchester Police said. The incident is under investigation.

7/21: Kimberly Kleinschmidt, 29, of 229 Hop River Road, Bolton, was charged with breach of peace, two counts of second-degree reckless endangerment and unlawful discharge of a firearm, State Police said.

7/21: Scott Raczewski, 35, of 112 Shailor Hill Road, was charged with DUI and making an improper turn, State Police said.

7/22: Andrew Pisano, 23, of 132 Pinebrook Road, was charged with operating a vehicle under suspension and operating a motor vehicle without insurance, State Police said.

7/22: Jeffrey Armington, 38, of 530 Burlington Ave., Bristol, was charged with third-degree assault and disorderly conduct, State Police said.

7/22: Keri Shipman, 43, of 35 Lafayette Road, Marlborough, was charged with third-degree assault, disorderly conduct and criminal mischief, State Police said.

Marlborough Police News

7/18: Anne Rinaldo, 60, of 44 Jerry Daniels Road, struck a power line support cable that was knocked down from a fallen tree on South Main Street. Rinaldo’s wheel became tangled in the cable, causing the vehicle to flip onto its side. Rinaldo was transported to Middlesex Hospital for lacerations to her left arm, State Police said.

7/21: Matthew Barnett, 25, of 85 N. Main St., Unit 9, East Hampton, was charged with DUI and speeding, State Police said.

7/21: Alphonse Richards, 52, of 104 Vista Drive, East Hampton, was charged with DUI, passing on the right, signal violation and speeding, State Police said.

Hebron Police News

7/21: Kevin Strid, 23, of 443 Old Slocum Road, Hebron, was charged with DUI, improper parking, operating a vehicle without carrying a license and making a traffic violation in a highway construction zone, State Police said.

East Hampton Police News

7/14: Brian K. Staples, 50, of 41 East High St., was arrested for DUI, failure to drive right and operating an unregistered motor vehicle, East Hampton Police said.

7/14: A 15-year-old juvenile of East Hampton was issued a summons for criminal trespass, police said.

7/17: Ryan M. Bogan, 27, of 11 Starr Place, was issued a summons for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license and traveling too fast for conditions, police said.

Obituaries

East Hampton

Katherine Mary Berlin

Katherine Mary (Heim) Berlin, of East Hampton, wife of Robert J. Berlin, died Friday, July 20, at Hartford Hospital. She was born in Hartford Aug. 17, 1954.

She was predeceased by her father Ronald Antone Heim and her mother Jeanne (Piro) Heim.

She grew up in East Hartford and lived in Bolton prior to moving to East Hampton, where she and her husband owned and operated Thatcher's Pharmacy.

Kathy received her Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of Connecticut. She was an avid painter and a member of the Connecticut and American Watercolor Societies. Her paintings have brought joy to many observers at art shows and permanent displays at Sears Park in East Hampton, Chatham Historical Society and the Cragin Memorial Library in Colchester. She enjoyed teaching others to paint at her art studio and supply store "The Art Alcove" in Marlborough. Kathy was a former board member of the Marlborough Arts Center and East Hampton Art Association. She has helped many civic organizations raise funds through her work. Her portfolio can be viewed at fineartamerica.com.

Kathy was a dedicated wife and mother who gave priority to her family's needs and interests. She found great joy in celebrating their accomplishments and teaching them to see the beauty in life every day. She was a caring individual who touched the lives of all those who knew her.

Besides her husband Bob, she is survived by her son, Jason Berlin and his wife Rachel; her daughters, Jennifer Berlin and Jeanne Rose Berlin; her brothers, Brad and his wife Heidi, Jeff and his wife Kelly and Ronald E. Heim; her sister-in-law, Lauren Heim; her stepmother, Betty Heim; and several nieces and nephews.

The entire family would like to thank Dr. Gorusu, the doctors and nursing staff at Hartford Hospital, Helen and Harry Gray Cancer Center and Wethersfield Infusion Center for their compassionate care.

Calling hours will be held today, July 27, from 10 a.m.-noon, at the Brooklawn Funeral Home, 511 Brook St., Rocky Hill. Burial will follow at Bolton Center Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be made to the American Cancer Society. Condolences may be sent to brooklawnfuneralhome.com.

Colchester

Priscilla M. Bailey

Priscilla Mae Barbieri Bailey, 93, of Wallingford, formerly of North Haven, died Sunday, July 22, at Harrington Court of Colchester. She was the beloved wife of the late Volney W. Bailey.

Priscilla was born in Italy Oct. 24, 1918, a daughter of the late Vitali and Angelica Barbieri. She was employed at Burndy Corporation in North Haven for 35 years. After her retirement she worked for the Wallingford Board of Education. She was a member of the First Congregational Church of Wallingford, the Wallingford Senior Center and the Red Hat Society.

Priscilla leaves behind her children, Linda (Mrs. Del) Young of Wallingford, Ron Bailey and his wife Sari of Tennessee and Dennis Bailey and his wife Sue of New Hampshire; her 10 grandchildren, Doreen Converse of Portland, Regina Ventura of Wallingford, Brian Ventura of Florida, Jessica Bailey of Tennessee, Lori Bailey of Florida, Ronelle Bailey Daniels of Florida, Jennifer Bailey Edwards of Maryland; Jeff Bailey of Canada, April Smith and Sarah Bailey of New Hampshire; her 12 great-grandchildren, Tisha Ventura, Paige, Sean and Shane Selander of Wallingford, Amber and Jenna Converse of Portland, Tyler and Alexa Ventura of Florida, Ivory and Tucker Bailey of Canada, and Brody and Bryce Smith of New Hampshire; her special great-grandson, Carter John who will join us in November; many nieces and nephews; and several friends.

She was predeceased by her two sisters and five brothers.

Priscilla loved to spend time with her family and was a great cook. She enjoyed playing cards with her great grandchildren and was a loyal fan of the Boston Red Sox.

Her family received relatives and friends in The Wallingford Funeral Home, 809 N. Main St. Ext., Wallingford, on Wednesday, July 25. A funeral service was held that evening in the funeral home. Interment was private in Center Cemetery in North Haven.

Gifts in her memory may be sent to the First Congregational Church of Wallingford, 23 South Main St., Wallingford, CT 06492.

To sign an online guestbook, visit wallingfordfh.com.

Portland

Graham B. Carlson

Graham B. Carlson, 84, of Portland, passed away Saturday, July 21, at Middlesex Hospital. Graham was born Nov. 21, 1927, in Middletown, to the late John Aaron and Florence (Strickland) Carlson.

Graham was a graduate of Portland High School, Class of 1945. He was drafted into the United States Army in January 1946 and served in the occupation of Japan until March of 1947. In April of 1947, he was hired by the Middletown Savings Bank, now Liberty Bank, in the mortgage department. He worked at the bank for over 43 years, retiring in December of 1990 as senior vice president and chief financial officer.

During his employment, he was active in both the state and national Association of Savings Banks, serving as president of the auditors and comptrollers association of Connecticut and a member of the National Association of Mutual Savings Banks. He was an honors graduate of the National Saving Banks Officers School.

After retirement, Graham spent many memorable days at his cottage on Rogers Lake in Lyme where he loved to boat and fish. He also traveled extensively and spent numerous winters with Mary in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. Locally, Graham was campaign chairman and president of the Portland United Way, as well as secretary and president of the Exchange Club where he was a member for over 50 years. He was an active member of Trinity Church in Portland, where he served as a member of the vestry, treasurer, and senior warden.

He is survived by his loving wife of 57 years, Mary (Zappulla) Carlson; four children and their spouses, John and Nancy Carlson of Avon, Jeanne and Tony Ambrosio of Farmington, Raymond and Patricia Carlson of Windsor and Donald and Kathleen Carlson of Portland; seven grandchildren, Megan Carlson Langman, Lauren Carlson, Matthew Carlson, Michael Ambrosio, Shawn Carlson, Amanda Ambrosio and Mark Carlson; and a great-grandchild, Andrew Langman.

He was predeceased by a sister, Janice Carlson and by his grandchild, Jeffrey Graham Carlson.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, July 25, from Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, with a service of Holy Eucharist at Trinity Episcopal Church, 345 Main St., Portland. Burial was in Center Cemetery, Portland. Relatives and friends called Tuesday, July 24, at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Trinity Episcopal Church, 345 Main St., Portland, CT 06480.

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

Marlborough

Rene P. Gauvin Sr.

Rene P. Gauvin Sr., 82, of Norwich, died unexpectedly Sunday evening, July 22, at the Middlesex Medical Center in Marlborough. He was born in Norwich Dec. 20, 1929, the son of the late Philemon and Regina (Bertrand) Gauvin.

Rene was employed as a cook at the former Norwich Hospital in Preston for 17 years and last employed at the Department of Corrections in Somers for 11 years before retiring on Feb. 1, 1980. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. Rene was a communicant of Sacred Heart Church in Taftville.

On June 26, 1954, he married Geraldine (Gasper) Gauvin in New Britain, who survives him.

Besides his wife he is survived by two sons, Rene P. Gauvin Jr. and his wife Paula of Canterbury and Robert Gauvin and his wife Gloria of Plainfield; four daughters, Donna Grayeck and her husband Robert of Norwich, Marcia Gale and her husband Tony of Preston, Linda Gauvin and her husband John Ferguson of Canterbury and Gail Savage and her husband Craig of Plainfield; 13 grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; and nieces and nephews.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Thursday, July 26, at Sacred Heart Church in Taftville meeting directly at church. Burial will be private. Calling hours at the Guillot Funeral Home, 75 South B. St., Taftville, were held Wednesday, July 25.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Sacred Heart Church, 17 Hunters Ave., Taftville, CT 06380.



Hebron

Ruth C. Simon

Ruth C. (Thompson) Simon, 94, of Glastonbury, formerly of Hebron, wife of the late John J. Simon, died Saturday, Dec. 31, in Glastonbury.

She is survived by her daughter, Joan M. Conley; four loving grandchildren, Deborah (Conley) Hamm, John T. Conley, Kevin J. Conley and James E. Conley; and her sister, Mary Sparkes.

There will be a celebration of Ruth's life Saturday, Aug. 4, at 11 a.m., at Gilead Congregational Church, 672 Gilead St., Route 85, Hebron.

Memorial contributions may be made to Gilead Congregational Church or to the Russell Mercier Senior Center, 14 Stonecroft Drive, Hebron, CT 06248.

East Hampton

Joan Lee Hurne

Joan Lee Hurne age 79, died Thursday, July 19, in Murrells Inlet, S.C. Born in Reading, Pa., she was a daughter of the late Raymond and Ruth Gates.

Mrs. Hurne was a registered nurse in the health care profession and was an active member at Pawleys Island Community Church. She enjoyed using her artistic talent doing oil paintings mostly of landscape scenery. She also enjoyed playing cards, games and doing puzzles.

Survivors include her husband of 59 years, Chuck Hurne of Murrells Inlet, S.C.; four sons, Kevin of Murrells Inlet, S.C., Darin of East Hampton, Douglas of East Hampton and Scott of Montville; seven grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and sisters, Annabelle Broderick of Marco Island, Fla., and Carol Golando of Naples, Fla.

A memorial service was held Wednesday, July 25, at Pawleys Island Community Church with Reverend Don Williams officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Pawleys Island Community Church Missionary Program, 10304 Ocean Highway, Pawleys Island, S.C. 29585.

Goldfinch Funeral Home, Beach Chapel is in charge of the arrangements. Sign an online guestbook at goldfinchfuneralhome.com/obituaries.

East Hampton

Anita Marie Ackerman

Anita Marie Ackerman, 22, of East Hampton, beloved daughter of Michael Ackerman and Cheryl Rand, both of East Hampton, died Friday, July 20, at Middlesex Hospital Marlborough Medical Center.

Born Sept. 14, 1989, in Hartford, Anita had lived in Hebron for 10 years before moving to East Hampton 12 years ago.

Anita was a 2007 graduate of East Hampton High School, where she had many close friends. She loved animals (especially her dog Dozer), fast cars and watching movies. She had a passion for music and was an avid reader and was very close to her family and grandparents.

Besides her parents, she is survived by her great-grandmother, Helen Badrick; her paternal grandparents, Arlene and Peter McArthur of East Hampton; maternal grandparents, William and Gail Rand of Old Saybrook; two sisters, Emilie and Olivia Ackerman of East Hampton; paternal aunts and uncle Colleen Ackerman, Jeff and Melissa Ackerman and cousin Christopher; maternal aunts and uncles Kathy Erlandson, Valerie Stockberger and Don Richards, Wayne and Maria Rand, Mary Beth and Danny Julian and many special cousins and close dear friends.

Funeral services will be held today, July 27, at 11 a.m., in the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton. Burial will be private at the convenience of the family. Friends may call at the funeral home this morning from 9-11 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the A.S.P.C.A. at aspca.org. To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.



Colchester

Janice Blake

Janice (Meadows) Blake, 73, of Colchester and formerly of East Hartford, loving wife of over 52 years of David F. Blake, peacefully entered into her final journey of life Saturday, July 21, surrounded by her caring family.

Born in Hartford April 7, 1939, a daughter of the late Hugh Edward and Clara A. (Perry) Meadows, she had been a resident of East Hartford for 38 years prior to moving to Colchester seven years ago. A graduate of Windsor High School, Class of 1957, Janice was a systems analyst, retiring from Travelers Insurance Company, Hartford, after 18 years of dedicated service.

Janice was a talented craftswoman who loved making various crafts and arts, paintings, and ceramics. She also enjoyed boating, but most of all, Janice was a proud and caring wife, mother, and grandmother who took great pride in supporting them at various sporting events and school activities.

Besides her beloved husband, Janice is survived by her three devoted children, Dawn Blake Holmes and her husband, David Holmes, of East Hartford, David Edward Blake and his wife, Jane, of Glastonbury, Douglas Allen Blake and his wife, Maria, of South Glastonbury; and seven special grandchildren, Jaclyn J. Holmes, Mathew L. Holmes, Amanda J. Blake, David F. Blake II, Victoria E. Blake, Allen D. Blake and Janice M. Blake. She also leaves two brothers, Carl E. Meadows and his wife, Linda, of Andover, and Robert Meadows; a sister, Carol Morin and her husband, Donald, of Spring Hill, Fla.; and several nieces, nephews, and dear friends.

Funeral services will be held today, July 27, with a celebration of Janice's life at 11 a.m., at the South Congregational Church of South Glastonbury, 949 Main St., South Glastonbury, with Rev. Richard C. Allen officiating. Private burial will be held at the convenience of the family. Relatives and friends called at the D'ESOPPO-East Hartford Memorial Chapel, 30 Carter St., East Hartford, Thursday, July 26.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Janice's name may be made to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, 300 Research Parkway, Suite 310, Meriden, CT 06450.

For any online expressions of sympathy to the family, visit desopo.com.

Portland

Donald Edward LePard

Donald Edward LePard, 73, of East Hartford, entered into eternal rest Wednesday, July 18. He was born in Portland Feb. 12, 1939, to Anna and Alexander LePard.

He earned both bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Hartford. He retired from ABB in 1998, where he was a corporate travel manager. He was an active member of his community including serving as the commander of the Manchester Power Squadron, fund raising for the American Lung Association and teaching computer skills at the the East Hartford Senior Center. Donald was passionate about boating, fishing, clamming, and biking at his cottage in Charlestown, R.I.

He is survived by his wife of 46 years, Emily (Strnad) LePard; daughter Kristen LePard Vrabie, of Marlborough; daughter Michele Magnano, of Bristol, Vt.; son Matthew LePard, of Exeter, R.I.; and daughter Andrea Daniels, of Charleston, S.C. He is also survived by his brother, Wayne LePard of Higganum, and sister, Margorie Casper of Charlestown, R.I.; and his five grandchildren, Anya and Isaiah Vrabie, Sarah LePard, and Emily and Jack Daniels.

A memorial service in celebration of Donald's life was held at Crossroads Community Cathedral (crossroadscommunitycathedral.com), 1492 Silver Lane in East Hartford, on Sunday, July 22. Friends and family visited with Donald's family in the church sanctuary before the service. A private burial will be held at a later date.

Donald's family would like to extend their gratitude to the staff at Buckingham Estates Memory Care Community for all their care and compassion during his stay.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to the Alzheimer's Association (2075 Silas Deane Highway, Suite 100, Rocky Hill, CT 06067 or alz.org/ct).



Marlborough

Robert J. Crossley

Robert J. Crossley, 85, of Waterford, the beloved husband for the last 63 years of Helen (Labis) Crossley, passed away peacefully Monday, July 23. He was born Nov. 26, 1926, in Chicopee, Mass., the son of the late Samuel K. and Bella (Burgess) Crossley.

Bob served in the U.S. Navy during World War II aboard the destroyer escort, USS Wingfield in the South Pacific Theater. He was a life member of the VFW in East Hampton, a former member of the Marlborough Loyal Order of Moose, and a former member of the Hazardville Volunteer Fire Department for 20 years.

Besides his wife, Helen, he is survived by his daughter and son-in-law, Catherine C. and Stephen J. Negri of Waterford; his son and daughter-in-law, Alan R. and Donna Crossley of Marlborough; two grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; four step-grandchildren; 14 step great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews. He loved them all. He also leaves his faithful dog, "Alfie."

He was predeceased by a brother, Joseph and a sister, Isabelle.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated 11 a.m. today, July 27, in St. John Fisher Church, 30 Jones Hollow Road, Marlborough. Burial with military honors will follow in Marlboro Cemetery, Marlborough. Family and friends called Thursday, July 26, at the Mulryan Funeral Home, 725 Hebron Ave., Glastonbury, and may also call from 9:30-10:15 a.m. today.

Memorial donations may be made to the Goshen Volunteer Fire Department, 63 Goshen Road, Waterford, CT 06385.

To share a memory, visit mulryanfh.com.

Portland

William E. Nelson

William E. Nelson, 60, of Durham, formerly of Portland, beloved husband of nearly 39 years to Jacquelyn (Healy) Nelson, passed in his home of complications arising from a courageous battle with cancer Tuesday, July 17. He was born in Middletown on Feb. 12, 1952, the eldest child of William R. Nelson and Barbara (Swallow) Nelson.

Besides his wife, Jackie, Bill is survived by his son, Joshua Nelson and his wife, Mindy, of East Hampton; his daughter, Sara Hartley and her husband, Brian, of Durham; three brothers, Peter Nelson of Florida, Thomas Nelson of North Carolina, and Steven Nelson of Florida; a sister, Deborah Fritze of Florida; two sisters-in-law, Linda Healy of Middletown and Angela Gulielmetti of Durham; the center of his universe, his grandchildren, Noah William Nelson, William Isaac Nelson, Ella Rose Hartley, Tess Grey Hartley and predeceased granddaughter Madelyn Grace Hartley; as well as countless friends, none closer than Jacob Peter Schilling III of Rockfall and Howard Randlett of Middlefield.

After living the first nine years of his life in Portland, Bill and his family moved to Durham in 1961. It was here where, at the age of 16, he met the love of his life, Jackie. After graduating from Durham High School in 1970, he worked as a production manager at Heublein in Hartford, while studying design at the Porter and Chester Institute. Together, he and Jackie began cultivating the family he so passionately loved. After 22 years at Heublein, he left and established a lawn care service where many of his customers also became dear friends.

A cuddly curmudgeon, he was known to family and friends as a knowledgeable, kind-hearted, good-natured, humble man who was always ready to lend both his expertise and a strong helping hand to anyone he could benefit. A perfect role model, Bill possessed a stark sense of fairness and an unparalleled respect for nature and all its wonders. He was a gentleman in the truest sense of the word: his twinkling-eyed smile, quick wit, selfless kindness and indefatigable spirit will be missed by all who had the privilege to have known him.

A memorial service was held Sunday, July 22, at the United Churches of Durham. A private burial will be held in Mica Hill Cemetery, Durham. Memorial contributions may be made to: The Yawkey Family Inn, Boston, Mass.