



RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

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

Volume 37, Number 25

Published by The Glastonbury Citizen

September 28, 2012

Sunny Skies Bring Food, Money for Andover Pantry

by Geeta Schrayter

The first day of fall arrived Sept. 22 with warm temperatures and cloudless blue skies. The weather was the perfect accompaniment to the Andover Food Pantry Fundraiser that took place at the ball fields on Long Hill Road. The event, which raised \$6,250 and provided a school bus and small trailer full of food for the Andover Food Pantry, had something for everyone.

Cheers could be heard from the celebrity softball game between the WFSB-TV Channel 3 News Team and the Andover Home Team, while friendly chatter took place at the nearby food area as individuals enjoyed a menu including hot dogs, hamburgers and an old fashioned pig roast from such donors as Flanders Fish Market, Ted's, Bogner's and the Farmer's Cow. Not far off, kids jumped on bounce houses and had their faces painted while people perused a variety of raffles and wandered around a selection of antique cars.

Ansley McBride, 14, chowed down on a hamburger, cotton candy and iced tea while her brother Robert, 12, ate a hot dog, cotton candy and lemonade. With his hunger satiated, he was all about the nearby bounce houses – until one of them deflated, that is.

"I liked bouncing on that bounce house," Robert said, pointing to what was once the "Candy House" but now looked like a pile of melted ice cream. His enthusiasm remained

intact, however, as he added he liked seeing some of his friends at the event as well. Then, when the Candy House came back to life a few minutes later, "it's back to business!" he exclaimed exuberantly before running off to re-join the fray.

For Ansley, it was the raffles that caught her interest.

"We put most of our tickets in for [tickets to] Old Sturbridge Village," she said. "If we don't win, I'll be very concerned."

Other raffles included signed photographs of various athletes, movie tickets, gift cards to different restaurants and admission to places like the Eastern States Exposition and Six Flags.

Over at the cars, Jason Sandberg admired rides like a 1968 Camaro, '57 Chevy Bel Air and a '54 Ford Skyliner as they gleamed in the afternoon sun.

"The old-fashioned cars were my favorite," he said. "But overall it was nice to see a community come together."

And he wasn't the only one to feel that way about both the cars and the community. State Rep. Pam Sawyer volunteered at the event with her husband Ric, and after selling raffle tickets she spent her time at the car show where the car her husband's had since before he went to Vietnam was on display.

"It was great to have so many people bring out their treasured cars and share them," she said, adding, "The whole day was special and



Inflatables were among the many draws at the Andover Food Pantry Fundraiser last Saturday. The event raised \$6,250 in cash and scores of food donations.

of course, the weather couldn't have been any more perfect."

But, Sawyer went on to say, "the most special part was to see the turnout from the town – and it was huge."

Food Pantry Director Joan Soucy said about 500-600 people showed up for the event – enough

for organizers to run out of raffle tickets.

"We were using anything and everything for tickets," she said, adding everyone seemed to enjoy themselves.

"Everyone we spoke with thought it was wonderful," she said Thursday. "There were a

See Sunny Skies Page 2

Thousands Flock to Colchester 57 Fest



The band Explicit B entertained patrons as they enjoyed the numerous booths and activities available at this year's Colchester 57 Fest, held last Saturday.

by Geeta Schrayter

The Colchester Recreation Complex saw quite a bit of activity last Saturday, Sept. 22, as residents gathered for the town's eighth annual 57 Fest.

Autumn was in the air Saturday evening with cloudy skies, cooler temps and a slight breeze,

but no one seemed to mind as they enjoyed the numerous activities and booths that were available. On the health front, that included the American Cancer Society and Backus Hospital who provided health screenings and the Chatham Health District with flu related information and flu shots.

The annual 57 Fest celebrates the town's 2005 recognition by *CNN/Money Magazine* as the 57th best place to live in the country. Parks and Recreation Director Cheryl Hancin said Wednesday Colchester earned its recognition due in part to the health and wellness centers and opportunities available in town, and as such, the 57 Fest would continue to be a way to promote those lifestyles.

"We'll still be focusing on that," she said, pointing as an example to a Zumba performance designed "to encourage people to get up and move." She said conversations are already in place regarding the addition of some organized games next year such as football and soccer.

But many in attendance Saturday already seemed active as it is: some kids ran around the field chasing friends, while others enjoyed the playground and showed off their tricks at the skate park.

There were bounce houses, an inflatable obstacle course and "jumbo" games of bowling, basketball, soccer and ring toss – using larger-than-average bowling pins, basketballs, soccer balls and rings. Activities such as jousting and spin art, a photo booth, face painting, laser tag and remote control car racing kept people busy as well, and ensured there was something for everyone. Hancin explained there were 14-16 more booths this year providing a variety of activities, and the increase didn't go unnoticed.

Sherry Smith explained she'd been to the event a couple of times, and said "it's coming around."

"It's a lot better – there's more vendors," she

said, adding the 57 Fest should continue since there aren't many community events in town. "It's really nice," she stated, reiterating that it was "very improved," and commenting on the number of people in attendance.

And Hancin said that number reached a record high of about 5,000 people, up from around 4,000 last year. Crowd favorites were the inflatables, the band Explicit B and, of course, the fireworks.

"We had a bigger and better fireworks show this year," she stated, adding, "We got more bang this year and we got good response from the crowd."

It was apparent those in attendance were excited for the show, as numerous people had their blankets and chairs laid out before the sun had even set.

Deb Gallacher was in search of a prime spot with her daughter Meagan and friend Maggie Eberle a little before 7 p.m., about an hour before the fireworks were set off. The girls had enjoyed a hula-hoop contest and garnering necklaces from one of the sports booths, and were now looking forward to the show.

"I've been to all of [the 57 Fests] and they're really fun," said Gallacher. "Now, we're looking forward to the fireworks."

Kristi Rhodes was chatting in lawn chairs with her friend Tracy Fox, waiting for the display to light up the sky as well.

"We come every year," said Rhodes. "It's just a really nice tradition."

Rhodes added her two sons were off enjoy-

See 57 Fest Page 2



One of the highlights of the Andover Food Pantry Fundraiser last Saturday was a celebrity softball game between members of the WFSB-TV Channel 3 news team and a team composed of Andover residents and area officials. The two teams are shown here. Channel 3 won the lighthearted game, by a score of 27-19.

Sunny Skies cont. from Front Page

lot of comments that it was such a wonderful occasion with something for everyone.”

Residents Martha and Alex Brimshaw agreed. “It was wonderful,” Martha said. “It was nice bumping into people we haven’t seen in a while.” Alex added it was a great way to show support for the community, and said “overall, it’s a fantastic event.”

As this was the first time for the fundraiser, Soucy said there were a few minor bumps that had to be handled, such as dealing with expected booths that didn’t show up and a lack of bases for the softball game.

“We had to improvise,” she said, sharing the mats from one of the cars that belonged to a member of the Channel 3 Team were used for

bases.

“Just minor things like that” which turned into jokes, she said.

Soucy added the plan was to “absolutely” hold the fundraiser again, and “we will fix those bumps next year and make it bigger and better.”

The day was full of fun with a purpose, and as a result, Soucy explained the Food Pantry, which feeds 180 families per week in conjunction with FoodShare, now had an array of non-perishables and money to help get them through not only the holidays, but the lull that comes afterwards. Soucy said people tend to “open up their hearts” and are extra generous during the holiday season, but donations slow from January to the end of April.

Attendees at the 57 Fest camp out with blankets and chairs and chat with family and friends as they listen to live music and wait for the start of the fireworks show.

57 Fest cont. from Front Page

ing the different amusements with Fox’s son – along with the fried dough and frozen custard.

And while the food, which also included subs, ice cream, sausage and hotdogs came at a price, every other aspect of the 57 Fest was free – something Hancin said people really appreciated.

“A lot of parents comment that they usually go to a fair, spend money to get in, spend money

to park, then pay for all the rides and all the experiences, where this is free,” she said. “So a lot of parents thanked us for that. They’re happy to have a nice family event without breaking the bank.”

Moving forward, Hancin said the plan is to continue to grow the 57 Fest so there’s more booths and an even greater attendance, and overall, she said she was “very happy” with this year’s town celebration.

RHAM Schools Go Into Lockdown

by Geeta Schrayter

The RHAM middle and high schools went into lockdown for a short period Tuesday afternoon after a report was received by police of a despondent 13-year old male with a gun in close proximity to the schools, State Police said.

State Police said the Hebron resident trooper and troopers from Troop K in Colchester were told the male had walked off into the woods after threatening an adult and pointing a BB gun at the person. A K-9 team was used to successfully track the juvenile, who was then taken into custody without incident.

On Wednesday, Superintendent of Schools Bob Siminski said the lockdown occurred around 1:30 p.m., after high school Principal Scott Leslie received a call from police. He explained lockdown drills periodically occur at the school, so people are familiar with what protocols to follow. These include knowing the type of classroom to go into, locking the doors, then getting away from the doors and windows so they can’t be seen.

Although the lockdown was short in duration – Siminski said it lasted only about five minutes, until the 13-year-old was located and taken into custody – Siminski explained it’s always a learning experience.

“Every time you do something like that you always find something that you can do better, and you learn from what you do,” he said. “I think there are always some better ways to communicate.”

Last December, RHAM went into lock-

down for about three hours after the car a suspect drove off in after robbing a bank in Plainfield was discovered abandoned at Veterans Memorial Park, which is located across the street from RHAM. Siminski said that incident was “very, very different” from Tuesday’s since it occurred in the evening, after school had been released, but when various Parks and Recreation activities were being held.

“So resulting from last time we spent some time with Parks and Recreation people and got some procedures from them,” Siminski said.

This time, the procedure for students who are in the cafeteria when a lockdown occurs is something to be examined.

“I think one of the things that we have to be careful of and sensitive of is that kids are having lunch: where do you put a cafeteria full of middle school students?” he said, noting the cafeteria has lots of windows.

During Tuesday’s lockdown, the students in the cafeteria went into the stairwell that’s located between the cafeteria and the middle school. Siminski said that when he sits down with the school principals to debrief on the situation, “that’s one of the areas we’ll be looking at,” to see if there would be a better place to put those students.

“You learn from each experience,” Siminski added.

Schools returned to normal after the lockdown Tuesday afternoon, and the day continued as usual on Wednesday.

“We’re hoping this will give us a good jump right through the holidays and when we have that slump time, it will help us out,” said Soucy.

But while the fundraiser was a hit, the pantry is always accepting non-perishable food items and monetary donations.

“When you’re feeding 180 families a week, it goes really quick,” Soucy said.

Non-perishables can be placed in a drop-off box located behind Andover Congregational Church, 359 Route 6, Andover. Monetary donations earmarked as a food pantry donation can be made out to Andover Congregational Church and sent to P.O. Box 55, Andover. Anyone looking for more information can call Soucy at 860-208-3226.

From the Editor’s Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

Head to Wendy’s and buy that Baconator before the price skyrockets. Get thee to a Sam’s Club or BJ’s and stock up on bacon while you still can.

For it seems like there are dark days ahead for what is perhaps the finest of the many fine salted meats.

Yes, folks, due to drought conditions throughout North America and Russia and their adverse effects on the food supply, “a world shortage of pork and bacon next year is now unavoidable,” the National Pig Association in the United Kingdom announced this week.

The droughts have meant less food to go around, which in turn means less food for farmers to give their pigs. As a result, some have pared their herds – which the NPA predicts will lead to the number of slaughtered pigs dropping by as much as 10 percent next year. And this in turn could cause prices of UK pork products to double.

But that’s in Britain, you say. *What about here in the United States?*

Well, here in the U.S., things appear to be not quite so dire – but not great either. According to the National Pork Producers Council, farmers here have been paring their herds due to high feed costs, but not quite as much as in the UK and other European Union nations.

Indeed, Steve Meyer, the president of Paragon Economics and a consultant to the pork industry, predicts U.S. pig farmers will probably only pare their herds by about 3 percent – but still, that could lead to an 8 to 10 percent raise in retail prices of bacon and other pork items.

And, Meyer tells CNBC, while he doesn’t think there will exactly be lines for bacon, he agrees that “a global reduction in supply is almost unavoidable,” and predicts there will be less product in the second half of 2013.

So it seems like next year will be rough not just for bacon-lovers but all pork fans. Although I predict Spam will somehow pull through this all unscathed, like it always does. Side note: I hate Spam.

Speaking of bacon, I’m sure a lot of you are familiar with the party game “Six Degrees of Kevin Bacon.” For those who aren’t, it’s based on the idea that Kevin Bacon has been in so many movies that pretty much any actor – living or dead – who’s ever been in a movie or TV show has either directly been in a production with Bacon, or is no more than six people removed from someone who has.

It’s a fun little guessing game, and a way

to really test people’s pop culture knowledge. And now, as it has done with so many things, the Internet has basically rendered the game moot. Google recently came out with a tool called “Bacon number.” Simply go to google.com, and in the search box, type in an actor’s name followed by the phrase “Bacon number,” and then hit enter. Instantly, you’ll be greeted with how many degrees the actor in question is away from Bacon.

Be warned – It probably won’t be six. Or even five. I spent some time Tuesday trying to think up pretty obscure, long-dead actors and the furthest away I could get from Bacon is three. So head over to Google – after you get done with the *Rivereast*, of course – and give it a try. It’s a bit of a time-waster, true. But it’s a pretty fun time-waster.

Lastly, readers in all of the *Rivereast* towns – well, except East Hampton; I blame the Chatham (kidding!) – have been participating in “East of the River Reads,” a regional program in which patrons of area libraries and local book stores are encouraged to read the same book at the same time, creating a type of regional book club. A different book is selected every summer, and it’s a pretty neat idea, I’ve thought.

This year, the book was *The Lifeboat*, a novel by Charlotte Rogan. Copies of the book are available at all participating libraries and local book stores. The book is set in the summer of 1914, when Europe is on the brink of war. Grace Winter and her new husband set sail for New York where Grace hopes to win over her new mother-in-law. The ocean liner suffers a catastrophic explosion en route, and Grace finds herself wedged into a lifeboat with 38 others. But the boat is over capacity, and in order for any to live, some must sacrifice their own lives. The question then becomes if Grace will live or die.

Rogan’s childhood experiences among a family of sailors coupled with the discovery of an old criminal law text provided the inspiration for *The Lifeboat*, which is her first novel.

A Connecticut resident, Rogan will speak about the book next Wednesday, Oct. 3, at 7 p.m., at Riverfront Community Center, 300 Welles St., Glastonbury. So if anyone out there’s been participating in the program and wants to meet the author, I’d encourage them to head on over to Riverfront – which is a beautiful community center, by the way, having just opened in 2005 – and check out the program.

See you next week.

Hebron Selectmen Continue Charter Revision Discussion

by Geeta Schrayter

The Board of Selectmen at its meeting last week further discussed how to move forward with revising the town charter.

The selectmen reviewed a workshop on the charter that was held Saturday morning, Sept. 15. The workshop was attended by the selectmen, but only about five members of the general public.

Interim Town Manager Andy Tierney explained two proposed timelines were created, one that would have the revisions completed for the 2013 election and the other, which would have things finalized for a vote in 2014.

Board of Selectmen Vice Chairwoman Gayle Mulligan – filling in for chairman Jeff Watt, who is continuing to recover from a mild heart attack suffered last month – stated after going over the two timelines, the selectmen agreed at the workshop to go with the timeline bringing the vote to 2014.

Mulligan added that though the turnout was low at the Sept. 15 workshop, there was some “good discussion,” and a list of recommended changes was compiled from the previous Charter Revision Commission and the public.

“People that came provided a lot of input,” she said, adding the list of recommendations was “rather lengthy.”

Some of the areas identified related to Open Space, Wetlands, changing the fiscal year from

July 1 to Oct. 1, and the issue of bifurcating the town and education budgets so that they are voted on separately at the annual budget referendum. There were a number of questions around the budget process as well, Mulligan continued, including the wording of the referendum questions, what to do when the budget fails and establishing the interim mill rate.

Discussion on charter revision was to continue at a special Board of Selectmen meeting held Thursday night, after press time.

Also at the meeting, the selectmen voted unanimously to extend the contract of Fire Chief Fred Speno for 18 months. On Wednesday, Tierney explained the contract is usually for a period of three years, but the decision was made to make the contract shorter due to the fact the selectmen are in the process of forming a committee to examine the guidelines of the fire department – and specifically, the appointment of the chief and other top fire officials.

For the past six years, the fire chief has been appointed by the town manager, Tierney said. Prior to that, he was elected by members of the fire department. If the committee opted to go back to the former appointment method, or go with something different altogether, the selectmen didn’t want to appear contradictory by undermining the recommendation of its own

committee by having a chief that was tied to a three-year contract.

“It’s not a reflection of the chief himself,” said Tierney. “It’s a six-year review. It’s about the guidelines that are in place regarding choosing the chief and the chief officers.”

Tierney added the selectmen were hoping the review would be completed prior to the chief’s reappointment, but that didn’t happen. The hope now, he continued, is that a committee will be formed and their recommendations will be presented at the end of the 18-month period.

“So the 18-month extension is to finish that process and then move forward with the recommendations,” he said.

On Thursday, Speno added that he was actually the one to suggest the abbreviated extension.

“We didn’t want to go another whole three years,” he said. “So my suggestion was that we extend it for 18 months rather than three years, and in that period get the document redone so it’s more functional.”

After the 18-month period, Tierney said the selectmen will move forward with the recommendations “and at that point we’ll either give [Speno] a new contract, or do what the committee says.”

Also at the meeting, the board appointed Hebron resident Randy Anagnostis as the town’s economic development coordinator, a new position that was included in this year’s budget. Selectman Brian O’Connell said he was “very convinced” Anagnostis was a highly-qualified candidate.

“He’ll bring a lot to the table,” he said. “He’ll be a great accent to the Economic Development Commission and I look forward to seeing some of his work.”

Anagnostis’ appointment is effective Oct. 1. He’ll work 16 hours per week at a rate of \$20 per hour. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board of Selectmen also unanimously approved a contract with the clerical union that runs from July 1, 2012, through June 30, 2015. Under the new contract, members will receive a 2 percent general wage increase in each year of the contract. Employee premiums for health insurance will increase by 1 percent per contract year. Tierney explained Wednesday the clerical union contains about nine employees in the town office building.

The next regular Board of Selectmen meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 4, at 7:30 p.m., at the town office building.



This summer, local Eagle Scout candidate Eli Gates, far right, and over 30 volunteers helped prepare more than 15 beds and install 287 plants at the new municipal parking lot near the Village Center. The parking lot, a former Brownfields site, is used often for the adjacent senior center and public library on Main Street.

East Hampton Eagle Scout Candidate Beautifies Public Parking Lot

by Joshua Anusewicz

With the help of a local Eagle Scout candidate, the municipal parking lot located next to the senior center and library has been spruced up with new flowerbeds and plants, a welcome addition to the former Brownfields site.

According to a release from Cindy Karlson, chairman of the East Hampton Brownfields Redevelopment Agency (BRDA), the project was a partnership between the BRDA and other local organizations and businesses, spearheaded by East Hampton High School student Eli Gates, an Eagle Scout candidate from Boy Scout Troop 8.

“The project was an incredible success!” Gates stated in the release. “I learned very much and am greatly satisfied with the overall outcome.”

Between May and July, Gates organized three volunteer work parties to prepare more than 15 raised beds and install 287 plants under the supervision of his Scoutmaster, Rich Arnold. In all, 34 volunteers contributed a total of 180 physical work hours to complete the project. With the help of BRDA and the consultation of the East Hampton Garden Club, the appropriate plantings were identified and the landscaping was planned with the new raised beds.

Karlson added in the release that the project was also aided by the East Hampton Belltown Garden Club, Paul’s and Sandy’s Too, American Distilling, McDonald’s and the town’s public works department.

The landscaping helps frame the lot, located at 103 Main St., a former Brownfields site that was once home to the Gong Bell Company. Through the BRDA, the town was able to receive grants to clean up the site in 2003 and 2007. The work done on the site included capping impacted soils with a specially designed impermeable liner and soil and paving the remaining areas. The goal of the grant funding, Karlson said, was to “provide convenient parking and mitigating environmental threats to Pocotopaug Creek with a vegetative buffer.”

The new parking lot has been a welcomed sight for the ever-expanding Village Center, providing additional parking for the recently-expanded senior center and public library. The beautification by Gates, Karlson said, was a “win-win” for the town.

“The success of this project is a testament to the dedication and hard work of all those who helped transform this site,” Karlson added. “The [BRDA] is grateful to all who volunteered.”

Armed Robbery Reported at Andover 7-Eleven

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

The robbery took place around 12:30 a.m. Wednesday, state police said. Police said a Hispanic male approximately 5’6”-5’8” tall, weighing 145 pounds entered the store, brandishing a black semi-automatic handgun, and demanded cash from the register.

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

No injuries were reported in the robbery, police said.

State Police Detective Chris Burns said Thursday police didn’t know the exact amount taken, but said it was “probably a couple hundred dollars.”

Anyone with information in the case is asked to call police at 860-537-7500 or 860-537-7522.



This surveillance camera footage from State Police shows a man who reportedly robbed the 7-Eleven early Wednesday morning on Route 6.

Fire Seriously Damages East Hampton Home

by Joshua Anusewicz

A structure fire near Lake Pocotopaug caused serious damage to a local residence last Wednesday, East Hampton Police said.

According to Sgt. Michael Green, the fire occurred just after 4 p.m. on Sept. 19 at 13 O’Neill Ln. Green stated in a release that a neighbor noticed smoke coming from the home and notified the fire department; when the fire department arrived, the home was “actively burning from within,” Green said.

East Hampton firefighters were able to put out the blaze before the house became a total

loss, Green said, though the interior of the house was heavily damaged. He added that no injuries were sustained as a result of the fire and the residents of the house were not home at the time.

As of this Wednesday, the cause of the fire has not been determined, said town fire marshal Richard Klotzbier, and remains under investigation by the local and state fire officials. Green said that the cause of the fire does not appear to be arson.

East Hampton Focus Group Targets ‘Open, Honest’ Superintendent

by Joshua Anusewicz

Wednesday night marked the first Superintendent Search Focus Group for parents and residents to discuss what the town should be looking for in a new superintendent of schools. The meeting was held at East Hampton Middle School.

Though only a handful of parents attended – all mothers – a laundry list of thoughts and ideas were compiled, giving the school board’s search firm a strong, albeit small, sample of what parents hope to see in a leader for the district.

Bobbie D’Alessandro, a representative from the board’s search firm Future Management Systems of Beverly, Mass., facilitated the meeting by offering the parents in attendance a list of nine questions that would draw out what the district should and should not look for in a new superintendent. The list covered a range of topics, including the strengths and weaknesses of the East Hampton school system in its current state, which challenges a new superintendent would face and what personal and professional characteristics the new individual should have.

“We’re on our way to creating a leadership profile,” said Board of Education Vice Chairwoman Joanne Barmasse at the beginning of the meeting.

The school board is reaching a critical point in its search for a replacement for current Superintendent of Schools Dr. Judith Golden, who announced earlier this year that she would be retiring at the end of December. Earlier this month, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Kevin Reich announced he would also be stepping down from his post, leaving a large void at the top of the district.

Barmasse said the board has already begun accepting resumes for superintendent and will begin interviewing candidates in October, with plans to hire someone before the end of the cal-

endar year.

But before interviews are set to begin, the board has enlisted the help of parents and residents, as well as teachers throughout the district. D’Alessandro said there were two additional focus groups earlier in the day Wednesday that provided additional input for the search firm, one for teachers from Memorial and Center schools and one for the middle and high schools.

Wednesday night’s conversation began with a discussion of the strengths and weaknesses of the district, drawing a host of comments from the parents, who were told by D’Alessandro they didn’t need to supply their names, so that they could feel more comfortable in offering opinions. The district’s biggest strength, the parents said in agreement, were the teachers, particularly in the two elementary schools. One parent stated the small size of the schools provides the teachers the opportunity to build strong relationships with the students and parents, creating “a community” that fostered better learning. The parents also praised the district for providing opportunities for the parents to get involved in their children’s education.

“You’re all echoing what the teachers said,” D’Alessandro related.

As far as what the district should work on, the parents were in agreement that the school needed to improve technology, which one parent stated was “eons behind” where it should be in updated infrastructure, equipment and training. D’Alessandro said she had heard similar concerns from the teachers and reminded the parents that technology is always a concern due to budget constraints.

The parents also expressed concerns with what they perceived as a lack of cohesion from school to school; one parent gave an example of how teachers in the same grade can instill

different standards, putting one set of students at a disadvantage when they move on to the next school.

“I think there needs to be some more continuity,” said the parent, adding that the superintendent should work hard to maintain “regular and active” communication with the administrators of the four schools.

The biggest challenge the parents listed was the yearly budget, which has been a hot-button topic in recent years. In the past two fiscal years, the budget has been voted down on the first referendum before significant cuts were made to education spending, which is perennially the largest chunk of the town’s budget. The parents said that most challenges the superintendent would face would be affected by the budget, so the individual should have experience in dealing with business matters.

“I think the budget is something impacting every district across the country,” D’Alessandro said. One parent recommended that the new superintendent be familiar with the various Connecticut taxes and laws, which she said were much different from other states in the country.

As for leadership qualities in a candidate, the parents agreed that the new superintendent should be “open and honest,” as well as “approachable” for parents, teachers, and, most importantly, students. One parent said it’s important for the superintendent to develop a “strong sense of community” and have plans to “invest” in East Hampton by planning to stay in the district for a considerable amount of time.

The parents also commented that the new superintendent should have experience working in a classroom, knowing what it’s like to be a teacher. The parents agreed that the candidate should also have experience in the business side of education, but should always put

the welfare of the students ahead of the bottom line.

“They should always put what’s best for the children first,” one parent said.

D’Alessandro complimented the group of parents for their suggestions and admitted that many new ideas were brought forth during the focus group for the search firm to consider. She added that it was “a little disappointing” that only a few parents showed up, but admitted that it could show that the community has “trust in the process.”

One parent, however, disagreed. “The parents I spoke with said, ‘why bother?’” she said. “‘They [the school board] won’t listen to us.’ Some parents feel the board will choose who they want.”

D’Alessandro assured the parents this wasn’t the case, and said each member of the Board of Education would get a list of input from the three focus groups before the interview process commenced. She added that the search firm would be working with the board to make the process as clean as possible.

“We’re really trying hard to make sure this is a fair and open process,” D’Alessandro said. “And we plan to stay on after this person is hired to help transition this person into the job.” She continued, “We serve you.”

D’Alessandro said after the focus group that Wednesday’s meetings were promising.

“They all went very well,” she said. “We have the possibility to bring a great superintendent.”

The process of garnering input from the community will continue in the coming weeks, with additional focus groups and meetings being planned for the community. D’Alessandro said there is also an online survey available for parents on the district’s website, easthamptonps.org, which will provide additional input for the search firm.

Marlborough Police News

9/22: Taylor Nadolyn-Sipes, 21 of 41 Audubon St., New Britain, was charged with reckless driving and DUI, State Police said.

East Hampton Police News

9/11: Two 16-year-old juveniles of East Hampton were issued summons for sixth-degree larceny and conspiracy to commit same, East Hampton Police said.

9/17: Edward Earl Atkinson, 50, of 8 Old Middletown Ave., was arrested for third-degree stalking, first-degree criminal trespass, second-degree harassment, disorderly conduct, DUI and illegal possession of a firearm under the influence of alcohol.

Colchester Police News

9/20: Eric H. Kellenberger, 35, of 65 Parker Bridge Rd., Andover, was charged with first-degree failure to appear, State Police said.

9/21: Nicholas Inkel, 22, of 32 Hammond Ct., was arrested on a warrant for first-degree failure to appear, State Police said.

9/22 Thomas Michael Soboleski, 21, of 19 Miller Rd., was charged with two counts of violation of probation, State Police said.

9/22: Steven M. Genovese, 22, of 93 Chestnut Hill Rd., was charged with third-degree criminal mischief, State Police said.

Canine Tracks Down Portland Armed Robber

by Joshua Anusewicz

Portland Police, with the help of a local canine unit, tracked down an armed robbery suspect last Thursday who allegedly held up a gas station.

According to Sgt. Scott Cunningham, John Senesac, 40, of 1503 Portland-Cobalt Rd., was charged with first-degree robbery, second-degree threatening, and fourth-degree larceny for his involvement in the crime, which took place at the Citgo gas station located at 1633 Portland-Cobalt Rd.

The incident, Cunningham stated, took place Sept. 20, just after 12:30 p.m., when police were dispatched to a panic alarm activation coming from the Citgo. Upon arrival, the cashier informed police that a white male had entered the store, displaying a knife and demanding money. The white male, Cunningham stated, was reported to be 6 feet tall, wearing a black fleece jacket, sweatpants, sunglasses, and a baseball cap.

The cashier informed police that the suspect then fled westbound on foot, and then turned onto Brickyard Road.

Police then canvassed the area, Cunningham said, and were soon joined by a canine unit from the Middletown Police Department. While following the suspect’s trail, the dog was able to locate the black fleece he had been

wearing near the banks of the Connecticut River. The dog followed the trail further, Cunningham said, which led officers to the Riverdale Motel.

The dog was able to identify Senesac as the suspect at the motel, where he was arrested on an active court-issued parole violation. While investigating the robbery, Cunningham said officers were able to find the knife, the stolen money totaling \$510, and the clothing reported by the cashier in Senesac’s apartment. Video surveillance at the gas station and the motel confirmed Senesac’s involvement, he added.

Senesac is currently being held on \$150,000 bond and is scheduled to appear at Middletown Superior Court on Thursday, Oct. 4, at 10 a.m. to enter his plea.

According to the state’s judicial website, Senesac’s parole violation stems from an additional armed robbery charge from April 2011 in Coventry, where he was sentenced to six years in prison; the sentence was suspended after one year and Senesac was given three years of probation. Senesac has also been arrested and served prison time for possession of narcotics in the past several years.

East Haddam Man Dies in Colchester Crash

An East Haddam man died last week losing control of his motorcycle, State Police said.

Joseph Madona, 47, of 25 Sims Ln., was driving southbound on Westchester Road at around 7 p.m. last Thursday, Sept. 20, when he lost control of his motorcycle and went off

the road, police said.

Madona was pronounced dead on the scene, police said.

Investigation into the crash is ongoing, police said, and anyone who witnessed the accident to call Trooper Joshua McElroy at Troop K at 860-537-7500.

East Hampton Man Arrested for Assault, Strangulation

by Joshua Anusewicz

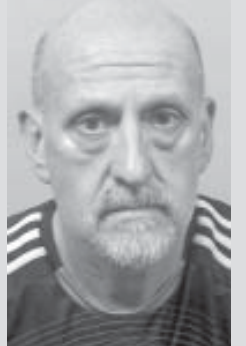
East Hampton Police arrested a local man Wednesday for allegedly assaulting a female, Sgt. Paul Battista said this week.

According to Battista, officers Jason Wishart and Kevin Wilcox responded to a 911 call on Comstock Trail, whereupon they arrested Stephen Garrett, 54, of 72 Comstock Trail. Garrett was charged with second-degree assault, second-degree strangulation, risk of injury to a minor and disorderly conduct, Battista stated.

Garrett is being held on \$100,000 court set bond and is scheduled to appear in Middletown Superior Court on Thursday, Oct.

4, at 10 a.m. to enter his plea.

Battista said that a female victim was sent by ambulance to a local hospital due to her injuries, but stated that “no further information can be released at this time.” The case is still under investigation, he added, and additional charges may be pending.



Stephen Garrett

EH Council Approves Second Reading Policy, Talks iPads

by Joshua Anusewicz

Appropriately on the second reading, the Town Council voted to approve a new “Second Reading Policy” at its regular meeting Tuesday night.

The policy, presented to the council by Town Manager Michael Maniscalco, will require items brought before the council to be discussed at two meetings or more before action is taken on the matter. According to the policy, this will apply to all citizens, staff, organizations and entities that bring business before the council.

The idea for the policy was hatched recently in hopes that it will eschew items being pushed onto the council for approval at the last minute, with the thought that the council would have less time to discuss the matter before acting upon it. With the policy, items would only be acted upon on the first reading if it were of an “immediate nature” or if the council felt it had sufficient materials and review time to make a decision.

To continue normal council business, certain agenda items would be exempt from the policy, such as tax refunds, appointments, proclamations and approval of minutes.

For an item to be deemed of an “immediate nature,” the council can vote to waive the Second Reading Policy to take action on the item on the first reading. At its last meeting, the council had discussed possibly needing a “supermajority” to waive the policy, but the council elected to use a majority vote instead.

Councilor Derek Johnson stated that only a majority should be needed to waive the policy,

as the council typically doesn’t use a supermajority on any other matters. “Why would we require that if we don’t usually use it?” Johnson asked rhetorically.

Councilor Kyle Dostaler agreed. “I don’t see anyone taking advantage of that,” he said of waiving the policy.

On the flip side, councilor George Pfaffenbach said that a supermajority would make the policy “much stronger,” but added that he would not vote against enacting policy.

The Second Reading Policy was approved unanimously, 6-0. (Councilor Ted Hintz Jr. was not present for Tuesday’s meeting.)

* * *

Another holdover from the council’s last meeting was a discussion of the town’s tax deferral program, which fixes the tax assessment of a commercial property that is being developed in hopes of attracting additional tax dollars and jobs to the community.

The program was brought before the council in August at the request of local developer Wayne Rand, who is currently building a new commercial building at 201 W. High St. As the council reviewed – and eventually approved – Rand’s request, some of the council members found what they perceived to be “flaws” within the program, which has gone mostly unchanged since the 1980s.

Before Tuesday’s meeting, Maniscalco looked into the program to review the language and spurred the council’s conversation, which centered on how the tax deferral would affect the average East Hampton taxpayer.

Dostaler recommended that, in the future, developers should request to take part in the program prior to beginning any construction. “It’s fair to the business and it’s fair to the taxpayer,” he said.

Pfaffenbach concurred. “I’m all for it, but I’m wondering if it should apply to existing, expanding businesses,” he said.

Johnson felt that the town should look into the actual benefit of offering a program like this to developing businesses.

“Given the effect it has on the taxpayer, it should show the benefit the businesses will have on the town with respect to its burden on the taxpayers,” Johnson said. “Sometimes, I’m not sure if it’s as beneficial as you might think. It often subsidizes business activities that would have otherwise occurred anyway.”

Chairwoman Sue Weintraub listened to the concerns of the council members, eventually suggesting that each councilor look over the program details and email suggestions to Maniscalco to discuss at a future meeting. “I think that will get us moving forward with this,” she said.

* * *

Maniscalco also brought forth an interesting new idea to the council: the possibility of purchasing iPads for each council member.

According to Maniscalco, the iPads would cut down on paper use at meetings and would provide each council member an easier way to follow along with presentations from town staff. He said that each iPad would cost \$459 and would be taken out of the council’s budget line

item, which currently sits at around \$5,000.

The idea of receiving new technology certainly piqued the interest of some of the councilors, but most felt that using town money on the gadgets would send the wrong message to taxpayers.

“I think that the temptation to use it for non-town purposes would be overwhelming,” said Pfaffenbach.

“I agree,” said Johnson. “I don’t think it’s necessarily appropriate. I’d rather see [that money] go to other boards or commissions that need it.”

Vice Chairman Glenn Suprono lightheartedly disagreed. “I want one! I don’t care what he said!” he exclaimed, pointing at Johnson. He then got serious and mentioned that, as an iPad owner, the various applications and programs could be “a powerful and useful tool” for each council member.

Councilor Barbara Moore agreed that the iPads could be useful, but wouldn’t be upset if the council decided against them. “I don’t have an opinion either way,” she said.

Weintraub recommended the possibility of each council member purchasing an iPad for themselves, but buying them in bulk, all at once, thereby perhaps getting a discount. Maniscalco said he would continue to look into the matter if the council showed interest in purchasing the iPads.

* * *

The next regular meeting of the Town Council is scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 9, at 6:30 p.m. at East Hampton High School, 15 N. Maple St.

Benefit Sunday for Portland Family Affected By Fire

by Joshua Anusewicz

“Overwhelming” is the only word Candi Meadors can think of when describing the community reaction to the recent fire that destroyed her home. The emotion in her voice is noticeable every time she thinks about it.

“It’s been overwhelming support from the community since day one, since the morning of the fire,” she said Thursday. “We’re just overwhelmed by the emotional and financial support of this community.”

That overwhelming support will no doubt be on display this Sunday, when the community will host a Fall Fun Day to benefit Candi and her son, Erik, at the Portland Fire Company No. 2 picnic grounds on Indian Hill Ave. The event will be the latest – and most likely biggest – show of support to the two residents, who have seen their community step in when they needed it the most.

Many were shocked to hear in the early morning hours of Wednesday, Aug. 22, a fire ripped through the well-known family’s home on Breezy Corners Road. The large fire required mutual aid from several towns, who fought the

fire for well over an hour. The extensive damage left the home inhabitable to the Meadors, who have been living with family and friends since the fire. (Meadors said the family’s four dogs and two cats also survived the fire.)

Meadors, a lifelong Portland resident and a teacher at Gildersleeve School for 33 years, said the community support kicked in almost immediately, as several friends showed up at 2 a.m. to be alongside her as firefighters battled the blaze. Since that morning, the support hasn’t subsided, Meadors said; donations from complete strangers have flooded in, she said, and she has had several local restaurants pick up the bill for the family’s meals. She said a recent fundraiser at Winchester Café drew over 100 people, with the proceeds going to her family and their effort to rebuild.

The support has also poured in from their respective workplaces and the town’s police and fire departments.

“It’s been five weeks and I still cry almost everyday when I think of the support,” said an

emotional Meadors. “I’ve lived my whole life here, and I guess that’s the perk of living in a small town - you know almost everyone.”

As an engrained member of the Portland community, Meadors admitted she hasn’t been completely surprised by the “overwhelming” support. She did say, however, that she’s amazed by the amount of work that has gone into planning the Fall Fun Day, which has been spearheaded by resident Joyce Murphy. Meadors has worked with Murphy and many others on the town’s fair and fireworks committees and said, with the Portland Fair just weeks away, she can’t believe how anyone has found the time to coordinate such an event for her family.

“We’re all great friends with the family and it’s just something we all wanted to do,” said Murphy on Wednesday.

The Fall Fun Day will be held from 1-6 p.m. on Sunday at the picnic grounds and will cost \$10 per person and a donation of a salad, side dish or dessert. Hamburgers, hot dogs and soda will be provided, and the event is BYOB. For

entertainment, there will be volleyball, baggo and horseshoes for adults and others for children. There will also be a silent auction featuring gift baskets and gift certificates.

Tickets can be purchased at various locations throughout town and also at the door. Those who cannot attend but would like to donate can make a donation to the Meadors Family Fire Fund at Liberty Bank, 245 Main St. For more information, you can contact Murphy at jmurphy5-06480@yahoo.com or 860-342-0188.

The event is sure to be an emotional – or “overwhelming” – day for the Meadors’ family, who have already seen the big hearts of the members of their community. Meadors admitted to being “nervous” to see the amount of support that Sunday will bring, but is “looking forward” to seeing all those who have helped her family – and are sure to continue that help – as they look to replace what they’ve lost.

“We lost a lot that’s irreplaceable, but we’re alive,” she said. “And we’ll rebuild.”

Obituaries

Marlborough

Michelle Anne Cullen

Michelle Anne Cullen, 47, beloved wife of Paul Cullen of Marlborough, passed away Tuesday, Sept. 25, at Hartford Hospital, with her loving family by her side. She was born Oct. 27, 1964, daughter of Jean R. and Carol R. Zack Bouchard of Enfield.



Michelle was a chief compliance officer for USB Fund Services Realty Investors, council member of Securities Industry/Regulatory Council on Continuing Education, member of the Association of Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialists (ACAMS), past President of MECCA and worked for ING and Advest.

She loved spending time with her family and friends, but mostly loved traveling with her husband and son. One of her many enjoyments was watching her son Nick playing sports.

Besides her husband Paul and her parents, she leaves her son Nicholas; two brothers, Dan Bouchard of Maine and Paul Bouchard of Enfield; her sister, Susan Hamilton of West Hartford; two nieces, Sarah and Sydney; three nephews, Jake, Aaron and Mitchell; mother-in-law Sandra Cullen of West Willington; and many cousins.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held Saturday, Sept. 29, at 10:30 a.m. at St. John Fisher Catholic Church, 30 Jones Hollow Rd., Marlborough, with burial to follow in Marlboro Cemetery. Visitation will be held today, Sept. 28, from 6-9 p.m., at the Belmont/Sabrowski Funeral Home, 144 South Main St., Colchester.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Melanoma Research Foundation, c/o your local chapter.

Colchester

Dorothy S. Hiller

Dorothy S. Hiller, 87, of Middletown, passed away Sunday morning, Sept. 16, at the Harrington Court Nursing Home in Colchester. Dorothy was the beloved wife of John S. Hiller.

Dorothy was born Sept. 17, 1924, in Hartford, and was raised in Southington and Westbrook. She married John in Southington on June 14, 1947. Dorothy and John had been residents of Glastonbury for 28 years before moving permanently to Westbrook in 1983. They have been residents of Middletown for a brief time.

Dorothy attended the Rhode Island School of Design and was employed by Northeast Utilities in Berlin for 15 years as a graphic illustrator, retiring in 1983. She was an avid reader, was an expert at cross stitch and designed many of her own patterns. She loved to knit, swim, and sail. She always enjoyed being around the water.

Dorothy was a member of the First Congregational Church of Westbrook for many years.

Besides her husband, she leaves her children, Margaret H. Stevens and her husband, Jonathan of Westport, Mass., John F. Hiller of Glastonbury, and Janet M. Soule and her husband, Herbert of Colchester; her four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. She also leaves her brother, William H. Strong of Concord, N.H.

A Celebration of Life Service will be held Saturday, Oct. 6, at noon, at the First Congregational Church of Westbrook, 1166 Boston Post Rd., Westbrook.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in her name to The Memorial Fund, c/o The First Congregational Church of Westbrook, P.O. Box 674, Westbrook, CT 06498.

To share a memory of Dorothy or leave a condolence for her family, visit rwwfh.com. Arrangements by the Robinson, Wright & Weymer Funeral Home in Centerbrook.

East Hampton

Nancy J. Sowle

Ms. Nancy J. Sowle passed away Thursday, Sept. 20, at Middlesex Hospital, after a brief illness. Nancy was born in Ellsworth, Maine, and moved to Connecticut in the late '60s. She was a longtime resident of East Hampton.

Nancy was predeceased by her parents, her beloved brother Charles and sister Cindy. She leaves behind many nieces, nephews and cousins and a great circle of dear and loving friends.

A Celebration of Life was held Monday, Sept. 24, at the Chatham Acres Community Room. Contributions on Nancy's behalf may be made to the Town of East Hampton's Senior Center.

Andover

Madeleine McGrath

Madeleine Mary Louise Leona Agnes (Deauville) McGrath, "Maddi," formerly of Andover, died on Wednesday, Sept. 19, at St. Joseph Living Center. She was born Oct. 13, 1915, in Norwich, daughter of Alma and William Deauville, having four brothers, Lawrence, Charles, Raymond and John who have all predeceased her.

She graduated from Putnam Catholic Academy. There she made many close friends with whom she maintained contact over many years, writing frequent letters in her calligraphy-like handwriting. She was a remarkable tennis player while in Putnam Catholic Academy. She told about her experience where she was winning a tennis match and her opponent appeared tearfully upset, having lost other recent matches. Madeleine sympathetically cut back her effort in order for this opponent to win the match, therefore losing the first place title she would have otherwise had. After graduating, she stayed home for a year, nursing her mother with cancer before her mother's death.

When she returned to her social life, she met Donald McGrath, her husband to be, and they married in 1939. She retired from Pratt & Whitney as a secretary in East Hartford. Shortly after retirement she and Donald bought a home in Spring Hill, Fla., where they enjoyed southern living and being "snowbirds." She was an avid reader, very health-conscious, engaged in many hobbies such as basket-weaving, acrylic and water-painting, crocheting Afghans, card-playing with friends, spending many hours gardening and traveling back and forth between her two homes in Florida and Connecticut.

She was very family-oriented and greatly enjoyed spending time with her grandkids when in Connecticut. She lived with her husband and family in Connecticut towns of Norwich, East Hartford, North Franklin and Andover, before moving to Spring Hill, Fla. She returned to Connecticut in 1996.

Her husband Donald predeceased her in 1989. Besides her nine grandkids and 17 great-grandkids, she leaves four adult children, Anne Logan of Spring Hill, Fla., and her husband James Logan; Donald McGrath Jr. of West Yarmouth, Mass., and his wife Sandee McGrath; Christine Jurovaty of Andover and her husband Paul Jurovaty; John McGrath of Colchester and his companion Rocco Basilica.

She was very spiritual, having attended Catholic schools and spending much time with the nuns at Putnam Catholic Academy. She attended several churches, including St. Patrick Cathedral in Norwich, St. Maurice Catholic Church in Bolton, St. Therese Catholic Church in Spring Hill and later St. Joseph Chapel at St. Joseph Living Center in Windham.

There were no calling hours. Her funeral Mass was celebrated Monday, Sept. 24, at the Church of The Holy Family, 185 Church St. (Route 85), Hebron. Interment followed in Townsend Cemetery, Andover.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Catholic Charities, Diocese of Norwich Inc., 331 Main St., Norwich, CT 06360 or Alzheimer's Foundation of America, 322 8th Ave., 7th Floor, New York, NY 10001.

Arrangements are through Potter Funeral Home, Willimantic. For an online memorial guestbook, visit potterfuneralhome.com.

Colchester

Jenny I. Adams

Jenny I. "Jay" Adams, 96, of Colchester, and formerly of Groton and Fitchburg, Mass., passed away early Saturday, Sept. 22, at the Lawrence and Memorial Hospital in New London.

Born Aug. 22, 1916 in Gardner, Mass., she was a daughter of the late Viktor and Lyyli (Rutanen) Manninen, emigrants from Finland.

She married George Adams on Aug. 22, 1936. The couple raised their family in Fitchburg, Mass., before retiring to Florida and later to Connecticut. Mrs. Adams worked for a Finnish newspaper and was fluent in the language.

She enjoyed home decorating, gardening and volunteering at her church, Emanuel Lutheran Church in Fitchburg.

She will be sadly missed but always remembered by the family and friends she leaves. In addition to her husband of 76 years, she leaves a son, James Adams of Colchester, with whom they made their home; four grandchildren, James P. Adams, Steven E. Adams, Cheryl Adams and John Adams.

She was predeceased by a son, George Adams and a sister, Lillie Eloranta.

Funeral services will be held privately. Burial will be at the convenience of the family in Gardner, Mass. The Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester has been entrusted with arrangements.

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Hebron

Anita H. Bailey Blanks

Mrs. Anita H. Bailey Blanks of Greensboro, N.C., formerly of Hebron, passed away Tuesday, Sept. 18, at Moses Cone Hospital.

Funeral services were held Friday, Sept. 21, at St. James Presbyterian Church, with Rev. Diane Moffett officiating the service. Visitation was held one hour prior to the service. Interment will follow in Guilford Memorial Park.

A native of Winston-Salem, N.C., Anita was born April 18, 1928. She was the daughter of the late Rosa B. Harris and the late Benjamin and Viola Harris. Anita grew up in Winston-Salem, N.C., where she attended elementary school. She attended Emmanuel Lutheran High School and Junior College in Greensboro, N.C., and earned her professional degrees and certifications from Johnson C. Smith College, Teachers' College (now Winston Salem State University) and the University of Connecticut.

Anita's teaching career included positions at the elementary, junior and senior high school and college levels in Winston Salem and Greensboro, N.C., and at RHAM in Hebron. She retired from the Greensboro Public School System and James B. Dudley High School after more than 15 years of dedicated service.

In addition to her parents she was preceded in death by her husband, Dr. Charles E. Bailey Jr. and Joseph A. Blanks and her son, Charles "Chuck" Bailey III.

Anita is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Charla B. and Antonio Nelson; grandsons, Antonio, Jr., Jarrod and Joseph; nieces and nephews and their families of Rochester, N.Y., and Pittsburgh, Pa., areas; a special adopted daughter, Stephonia Davis; other relatives and many friends.

Offer condolences at news-record.com/obituaries.

East Hampton

Vernon John Peaslee III

Vernon John Peaslee III, 52, of East Hampton, beloved husband of Helen Teixeira Peaslee, died Monday, Sept. 24, at his home, surrounded by his loving family. Born Feb. 1, 1960, in Augusta, Maine, he was the son of Ingrid Shafer Peaslee of Maine and the late Vernon J. Peaslee Jr.

Vernon was a 1978 graduate of Cony High School in Maine and then joined the U.S. Air Force, where he served his country for two years and was Honorably Discharged in 1981. He then attended the University of Maine in Orono and then Manchester Community College, where he attained his associate's degree in 1995. Vernon was a former member of the DeMolay of the Masonic Lodge, a past Cub Scout Leader, and a Primary School Teacher for Sunday School and he had been a mall Santa for several years, which he truly enjoyed.

Besides his wife and mother, he is survived by his two children, Patrick Peaslee and Christina Peaslee, both of East Hampton; two brothers, Bill Peaslee of Maine, Hans Peaslee of Maine; two sisters, Shirley Barry of Higganum and Heidi Peaslee of Maine.

Funeral services will be held today, Sept. 28, at 11 a.m., in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Cromwell Ward. Burial will follow in Lakeview Cemetery in East Hampton. Friends called at Spencer Funeral Home in East Hampton Thursday, Sept. 27.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the YMCA Camp Ingersoll Gathering Place, 99 Union St., Middletown, CT 06457.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Marlborough

Caroline E. Rogers

Caroline E. Rogers, 82, longtime resident of Marlborough, passed away unexpectedly at home Friday, Sept. 19. She was born in Fall River, Mass., the daughter of the late James H. Booth and M. Ruth (Dedrick) Booth.

She was a graduate of BMC Durfee High School. A (retired) state of Connecticut employee for 15 years, her last job was manager of the Florence S. Lord senior housing complex in Marlborough.

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

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

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

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

Andover

Melissa Ann Geiger

Melissa Ann Geiger, 43, of Andover, wife of Jason Geiger, passed away Thursday, Sept. 20. She was born Feb. 16, 1969, in Hartford, the daughter of William and Barbara Avery of Tolland.

A beloved wife and mother, Melissa had a successful career with Southern New England Telephone Co. for 15 years before the birth of her children. She enjoyed camping and was an avid reader. Melissa had a smile that could light up a room, and such kindness, with a giving heart that knew no bounds. An amazing cook, Melissa fed everyone with love. She was first in line to help friends and family. She cherished her children and was a devoted mother.

In addition to her husband and parents, she is survived by her children, Ethan and Leah Geiger; her brother, John Avery of Tolland; and many dear relatives and friends.

Her family will receive relatives and friends today, Sept. 28, from 5-8 p.m., at the Potter Funeral Home, 456 Jackson St., Route 195, Willimantic. Her funeral Mass will be celebrated Saturday, Sept. 29, at 10 a.m., at St. Columba Church, 328 Route 66, junction of routes 66 and 87, Columbia, with assembly at the church. Burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions are suggested to the Melissa Geiger Memorial Fund c/o Nutmeg State Federal Credit Union, P.O. Box 66, Rocky Hill, CT. 06067-0066.

Visit potterfuneralhome.com for an online memorial guestbook.

Colchester

Gail J. Maplesden

Gail J. Maplesden of Colchester passed away Thursday, Sept. 13, at Conn. Hospice of Branford. She was born in Norwich on Nov. 18, 1942, the daughter of Jeannette Maplesden and the late G. Thomas Maplesden.

She attended the University of Conn., her last place of employment was at Aetna Insurance Co. where she worked for 17 years until her retirement. She had a love of scuba diving and traveling. She also loved animals and was involved with animal rescue.

Besides her mother she is survived by her daughter Dana Gusley and husband Jay, one sister Gloria Stergioi and husband Michael and one niece Kristin Taylor.

She was predeceased by her brother, Thomas Maplesden and niece Traci Hart.

A memorial service will be held at a later date, sometime in November.

Donations may be made to Connecticut Humane Society, 169 Old Colchester Rd., Quaker Hill, CT 06375 or Paws NE, Joanne Hutchings, 1161 Main St., Hanover, MA 062339.

East Hampton

Annette Mercier Fraulino

Annette Mercier Fraulino, 73, went to be with the angels Wednesday, Sept. 19, surrounded by her loving family, after a long courageous battle with cancer. Annette was born in Glastonbury on March 9, 1939, and lived most of her life in East Hampton.

Her greatest joy was her family and spending time with them.

She will be sadly missed by her daughter Debra Ross and her partner, William Chambers of Maine. She also leaves three grandsons: Matthew Ross and his wife, Kaitlin, of Pennsylvania, Jason Ross and his wife Briana, of Willington, and Andrew Ross and his partner, Vicki Brooks, who lived with and cared for her. Her beloved great-granddaughters, Jenna, Sydney and Lauren, also survive her. She also leaves behind her sisters: Elsie Ouellette, of Tennessee, Barbara Carlson, of Kensington, Ruth Latronica, of East Haddam, and Anna Huey, of Manchester, along with a brother, John Mercier, of Wallingford. She also leaves several nieces and nephews, including her special nieces Lisa, Katie, and Erin.

Annette is preceded in death by a son, William Fraulino.

A memorial service celebrating Annette's life was held Saturday, Sept. 22, at the B. C. Bailey Funeral Home, 273 S. Elm St., Wallingford. Interment was private.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Susan G. Komen Foundation, P.O. Box 650309, Dallas, TX 75265-0309, or online at ww5.komen.org.

To leave a message of remembrance or for directions, visit BCBailey.com.