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This week, Hebron residents Harold and Kathy Waters perused the Nov. 25, 1963 issue of the *Hartford Times* they'd held onto and recalled when – exactly 50 years ago today – President John F. Kennedy was assassinated.

Remembering the Day Kennedy Was Shot

by Geeta Schrayter

Things were quite different in the 1960s. All it takes is a quick glimpse at the Nov. 25, 1963, issue of the now-obsolete *Hartford Times*, owned by Hebron residents Harold and Kathleen Waters to realize that's the case.

The yellowed pages advertise a sofa or two chairs for \$99, paid for with as little as \$5 a month; a Chevy II could be rented for \$22.50 for four days plus nine cents per mile; Sage-Allen wool slacks sold for \$13; and a special half-price sale at Brown Thomson offered toddler dresses for \$1.99 and \$2.99.

In addition, a "poinsetta perm and cut: in bloom for the holidays" could be acquired for \$8.88 via a pre-holiday special from G. Fox and Co.; The Penthouse Beauty Co. offered hair coloring for \$1; Finn Supermarket sold farmhouse apple pies for 29 cents and native turkeys for 55 cents a pound; and perusing the daytime television schedule, the viewer got to choose from such shows as *Leave it to Beaver*, *Captain Kangaroo*, *I Love Lucy* and *The Barbara Bernard Show*.

The advertisements depicted a time many look back on and think of as idyllic. Yet the articles and images alongside those ads were related to an event that occurred 50 years ago

this very day – the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

On Wednesday, the Waters, who have lived in Hebron since 1973, looked over those yellowed pages and remembered Kennedy's assassination. The paper had been purchased and preserved by the couple, who, like most Americans, felt the magnitude of the event and so decided to place the paper in their hope chest and hold on to it.

Fifty years later, both are able to recall exactly what they were doing when they heard of the tragedy. Kathy, who was 22 at the time, was watching a soap opera, ironing and looking after the first born of their four daughters. The news broke into the show, she recalled, and said the president had been shot in Dallas.

"If you went into stores after for shopping, no one spoke," she said. "Everyone was shocked. Everybody loved [the Kennedys]. They were the closest thing we had to royalty."

Harold was 24 and working on a roof in Glastonbury, where the family lived at the time. His co-worker pulled up in a pick-up truck, he said, and yelled "the president is dead! The president is dead!"

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Community Expresses Support for RHAM Coach

by Geeta Schrayter

On Tuesday, dozens of students, parents and community members attended a special RHAM Board of Education meeting to express their support for RHAM Coach Tim Guernsey.

The meeting was called so board members could enter into executive session to discuss how to respond to three anonymous letters they received from "a concerned group of parents." The letters, dated Jan. 7, July 17 and Oct. 28, called Guernsey a bully who behaved in an unprofessional manner.

In the letters, the writers allege Guernsey has used bullying tactics with both the girls' volleyball and basketball teams at RHAM as well as boys baseball where he is the pitching coach. They accuse Guernsey of being argumentative, holding unfair tryouts and not posting tryout information on the girls' basketball website, conducting fundraisers before a team has been selected, intimidating female players and pushing them to the point of throwing up.

In addition, the authors allege Guernsey has publicly insulted his players and has told different members of the boys' baseball team they should have skipped the Advanced Placement exams that made them late to practice. They also claim a player is being bullied on social media for making a complaint against Guernsey, which the writers say in their Oct. 28 letter

"explains why we as a group are writing this anonymously once again so that our children do not become further victims, lose their playing time or spot on a team or worse yet have to transfer to another school on the taxpayer's dollar."

"You are allowing a known bully to continue to coach and teach our children," the letter continues.

But on Tuesday, those in attendance painted a drastically different picture of Guernsey. Prior to the executive session, public comment went on for nearly two hours, as individual after individual stood to talk about Guernsey and their thoughts on the letters.

RHAM High School senior Sarah Veilleux, who has played both varsity volleyball and basketball under Guernsey's direction, said she supported the coach "and I'm not anonymous." She said anything written about volleyball or basketball had "no validity." Rather than a bully, she called Guernsey a caring man, who took the time to get to know each of his players.

"He makes his student athletes better players, tougher individuals, and better people," she said – and she wasn't alone.

Senior volleyball player Hannah Schmidt said she would be "forever grateful" for all Guernsey had done for her and called him "the

most respectable person I know," while her teammate Courtney Masna called him a "huge inspiration" who had her full support.

Francesca Mack, who graduated RHAM in June and had been on the school's volleyball team, said she couldn't find a negative thing to say about Guernsey. She called him challenging, but said that shouldn't be confused with bullying.

"Challenging is not bullying," she said. "I feel Coach Guernsey is the only one being bullied by these accusations," added RHAM junior and volleyball player Sierra Goodwill. "He's the best coach I have ever had and will ever have."

Brianna Massey, who graduated in 2006 and also played volleyball under Guernsey, said she was the woman and parent she is today because of the coach. She said she didn't think whoever wrote the anonymous letters "spent more than 10 minutes with [Guernsey] because they are completely ridiculous."

A number of baseball alumni were also present at the meeting and had similar sentiments. Mike Paonessa graduated in 2008, called Guernsey a father-figure and said nothing in the letters was true.

"I have a million stories about the positive things he's done for us," he said.

Brad Weeks, a graduate from 2003, said every decision he'd made in life was based on the examples set by Guernsey, while 2004 graduate Mike O'Brian noted 15 of his former baseball teammates were present to show their support.

Parents stood up with similar praise, mentioning the various ways Guernsey has helped their children and made them better athletes and individuals.

Mack's mother, Marybeth Mack, said she felt Guernsey was "nothing short of a phenomenal coach," and her daughter credits all of her success to him. She also read a letter of support signed by 20 past baseball players, including her son Tyler and, perhaps most notably, A.J. Pollock, who is currently an outfielder for the Arizona Diamondbacks.

Hebron resident Mary Roberts said one of her daughters left for college and said "there is nothing I can't handle because I handled the challenges given to me by volleyball," while Art Wood said his daughter learned how to be "mentally tough" because of Guernsey. He laughed when he shared she had gained such confidence due to Guernsey that, despite being just 5'2, she decided to play rugby at college.

Marlborough resident Margaret Rishell

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Holiday Shopping Guide Inside



Photos throughout the Nov. 25, 1963, issue of the *Hartford Times* depicted the funeral of President John F. Kennedy and a grieving nation.

Remembering cont. from Front Page

“No one could believe it,” Harold stated, adding, “Just like 9/11, you just can’t believe it happened.”

“There was nothing on TV [but coverage] for like five days after that,” Kathy said.

“Everybody really looked up and trusted him,” she added. “We didn’t know what would happen. I think things have gone downhill since then, to tell you the truth. The world certainly isn’t what it was like then.”

Harold agreed, saying the government hasn’t been the same since and quoted a line in the paper that read, “There will be more presidents, but not another Camelot.”

Kathy added the president “seemed like one of us” and the American public was involved in everything the family did.

“He seemed like a regular person, not like ‘I’m the boss and you get what you get,’” she said.

Although knowledge of some scandals came out after his death, Kathy added during Kennedy’s time as president she couldn’t remember anything scandalous occurring.

“He just seemed so perfect,” she reminisced. “He was very different from any president I’ve ever seen.”

Kathy went on to share the president’s funeral was broadcast on TV, and at one point, his son John – who Harold said was fondly referred to as “John-John” by the public – went up to his father’s casket and saluted.

“I think the whole world must have died,” she said of the salute.

And it was apparent in the paper they’ve kept all these years, that at the very least, the world acutely felt the loss. “Prayers Across The Sea” captioned one set of photos, that showed masses held in Saigon and Moscow for the president. Mourners at his funeral included Prince Philip of Britain; Anastas I. Mikoyan, the first deputy premier of Russia; President Charles de Gaulle of France; King Baudouin of Belgium; and President Eamon de Valera of Ireland.

The paper documented the funeral held in Washington where, the article began, “the soul of John Fitzgerald Kennedy, martyred 35th President of the United States, was commended today to the care and mercy of God.” Photos and descriptions captured the event, including the “grief-numbed” Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy who returned later that night to be near her husband. She “kissed the casket once again, and walked out into the night,” the paper read.

“The tragedy hit that family something hard,” Kathy shared.

On a local level, the paper depicted various ways people in the Hartford area mourned his death. “All Stopped... A Gap in Eternity,” one article was titled. The same day of Kennedy’s funeral, so many people headed out to mourn that some churches had to hold more than one Mass; one photo showed black crepe hanging over the doors of St. Augustine Church in Hartford, where so many people showed up the basement was opened for a second Mass to occur simultaneously as the one upstairs.

Flags flew at half mast, and the paper said the state’s then-assistant adjutant general, Brig. Gen. Albert E. Cotter ordered a 21-Gun Salute in front of the capital. Then-Governor John Dempsey proclaimed Monday a day of mourning to pay final respects, and schools, government office buildings and many businesses were closed.

Somewhat eerily, alongside happy advertisements for clothes, cars, food and holiday events, were more solemn notices like one from Corbins Corner Shopping Parkade that read “In respect to President Kennedy all stores will be closed all day today.” Another for a theater in Newington surrounded by ads for shows guaranteed to be a good time read “closed Monday night in respect to our late president.” And Phoenix Mutual Life Insurance Company postponed dedication events they had scheduled for Nov. 24-27 “due to the national tragedy.”

Along with stories related to that tragedy, the *Hartford Times* contained information on how Lyndon B. Johnson “takes command” as the 36th president, and the death of Kennedy’s assassin Lee Harvey Oswald, which meant, the *Times* wrote, “the world will never know what was in his mind.”

“He died with his lips sealed,” read one story. “He took to the grave with him the reason Kennedy was killed.”

The Waters’ paper is a time capsule that contains snapshots of everyday life in the 1960s – as well as the tragedy that changed things forever. The paper depicts the meeting point where “life before” and “life after” the assassination of President John F. Kennedy come together. And on this, the 50th anniversary of his death, the Waters – and undoubtedly anyone else who can recall that tragic day – will think about what happened, and how the death of their beloved president altered the world as they knew it.

RHAM Coach cont. from Front Page

added her own thoughts to the mix, and said she was grateful her daughters had been coached by Guernsey. She called him “honest” and “direct” and said he was the “epitome of what great coaching is all about.”

Rishell’s daughter Chloe, who graduated in 2011 and played basketball – but not volleyball, she noted, which went against one of the claims in the letters that said Guernsey only picked basketball players from his volleyball players – spoke Tuesday as well. She said she felt “blessed” to be coached by Guernsey and Tuesday’s turnout spoke more than any anonymous letters could. According to her, the letters should be considered invalid unless someone had the “guts” to sign them.

“If you ask me it is spineless and pathetic a group of parents would do it anonymously,” Chloe Rishell said. “Don’t hide behind computer screens because that means you – whoever you are – are a bully.”

Veilleux’s father, Glenn Veilleux, felt similarly. He said there were two things to do with anonymous letters: use them to ignite a fire in the community, or to ignite a fire in the fire-

place.

“I think the board should deal with the letters by putting them in the trash can and whoever has a problem should come forward and say who they are and what’s wrong so we can all talk about it instead of being anonymous,” he said.

But the letters didn’t end up in the trash. Board of Education Chairman Danny Holtsclaw stated twice Tuesday the purpose of the meeting was “not to discuss the employment of any employee or coach in the school district,” but to discuss how the board will investigate the allegations made in the letters. After public comment came to an end, the board met in executive session to do just that. They emerged after about an hour and voted to retain legal counsel to investigate the allegations.

The motion was approved unanimously, and although the outcome of the investigation remains to be seen, what became apparent as a result of Tuesday’s meeting was that, while an anonymous group has expressed criticism of the coach, there are many ready and willing to openly express the opposite.



This surveillance photo shows a white male who allegedly robbed a Subway in town Tuesday afternoon, making off with \$60.

State Police Investigating Armed Robbery in Marlborough

by Melissa Roberto

The State Police and Eastern District Major Crime Squad are currently investigating an alleged armed robbery Tuesday afternoon at the Subway in Marlborough.

Police said at approximately 12:26 p.m. a caller reported a white male entered the Subway, located at 1 South Main St., through the back door. The suspect, who was wearing a grey hooded sweatshirt and red bandana-type scarf over his face, entered behind the store manager who had currently been working, according to a press release issued by the State Police at Troop K.

The release furthers the register was open and the suspect pushed the manager and attempted to take money from the register. It furthers the manager “struggled with the suspect, who was brandishing a knife.” Detective Sean Velazquez of the Eastern District Major Crime Squad said the suspect tried to steal the entire cash register drawer but was

unable to due to the manager’s defense. The release states \$60 cash was taken from the register and no injuries were sustained.

According to the release, the suspect then left Subway through the back door on foot to a vehicle that had been parked on the eastern side of the adjacent business. The vehicle was described as an “older, four-door sedan, color gold or rust, with a partial registration of EL942 or IE942,” the press release states. The plate was also described as having black letters/numbers on a white background. Police said a witness stated the vehicle had a loud exhaust and headed east on Route 66.

The incident is currently being investigated. Anyone with information or who had been in the Subway parking lot anytime between noon and 12:45 p.m. on Wednesday and saw anything suspicious is asked to call Velazquez at 860-465-5456.

East Hampton Healing Garden Donated by Local Cancer Foundation

by Elizabeth Bowling

Many East Hampton residents recognize the name Sandy Peszynski – and soon hundreds more will become familiar with the name, as it's now on a memorial plaque at Middlesex Hospital's Cancer Center.

Paul's and Sandy's Too, Inc., a local hardware and garden center originally owned by Paul and Sandy Peszynski, established the Sandy Peszynski Breast Cancer Foundation in 2009, in honor of Sandy, who died May 24, 2007, following a 25-year battle with breast cancer.

Since it was first established, the foundation has donated a total of \$225,000 to the two places Sandy herself was treated for the illness: Middlesex Hospital and Hartford Hospital's Partnership for Breast Care.

This year alone, the foundation raised \$70,000 total. Like always, the donations were split in half – \$35,000 was donated to Middlesex Hospital Tuesday and \$35,000 went to Hartford Hospital's Partnership for Breast Care the following day.

The Peszynski family arrived at Middlesex Hospital's Cancer Center Tuesday with a giant check, written out in pink lettering, for the donation presentation.

What made this year's presentation so special, though, was the private unveiling of the center's new "Healing Garden" – which was funded through past donations from the Sandy Peszynski Breast Cancer Foundation.

Paul Peszynski, Sandy's husband, said, "I think it's a great idea that they are honoring my late wife in this way, especially because it's a garden and we're a gardening center."

According to Sarah Moore, Middlesex Hospital's director of development, a lot of the construction of the garden was donated. For example, the design was donated, as well as the plant material and some of the labor.

Coughlin Service Corp, headed by its president Ted Coughlin, donated its services to build the garden.

Coughlin said, "We took the ball and ran with it. It's a good cause."

Like many people, Coughlin has a personal connection with breast cancer – his father is a survivor, he said – so he understands the importance of something like a healing garden.

But Coughlin's connection doesn't stop there. Coincidentally, his daughter works at Paul's and Sandy's Too every summer.

After a year of planning the garden, including the three months of construction, the remaining finishing touches will have to wait for warmer weather. Still to come is lighting for evening events and perennials to brighten it up in the springtime, Moore said.

But for now, the flowers of choice are mums, donated by Paul's and Sandy's Too. Not to be left out, Jessica's Garden of Marlborough also donated a portion of the plants.

"It was a blank space before – a door to nowhere," Moore said of the area that is now home to the healing garden.

Now, as stated in the text on the window that overlooks the garden, the garden is "a place to connect to your spirit, self and nature."

Dr. Andrea Malon, of Middlesex Hospital's Comprehensive Breast Center, said the garden will serve as "a nice, quiet space to think and reflect."

She said the Peszynski Foundation is "such a great inspiration and help for all of us here."

She furthered that there is a lot involved in the treatment of cancer that insurance companies don't cover so the donations from the Peszynski family are "a wonderful, wonderful thing for the patients."

And Peszynski is happy to donate to a hospital that he feels he is a part of.

"I'm proud of this hospital; we're state of the art in the treatment of cancer," Peszynski said. "We've got the best there is. You only get that way by financial strength."

Peszynski said he and his wife had actually donated to the hospital for somewhere between 12 and 15 years.

But it wasn't until after Sandy passed away that Peszynski established the foundation in her name and started collecting money.

Three months after Sandy's death, Peszynski declared that the store's famous "Pumpkintown USA" – an autumn tradition in East Hampton for 20 years would become "Sandy's Pumpkintown USA" and serve as a memorial for his late wife. He said from there on out, it was used "as a conduit for raising money."

Pumpkintown is a moneymaking venture,



The Peszynski family, along with representatives from Middlesex Hospital's Cancer Center, is seen here in the center's new Healing Garden, holding up a giant \$35,000 check made out to the hospital from the Sandy Peszynski Breast Cancer Foundation. The garden, which was paid for through past donations from the foundation, was dedicated to Sandy on Tuesday.

Peszynski affirmed, but a portion of the cost goes toward the family foundation.

In addition to Pumpkintown, Paul's and Sandy's Too raises money year round. One of the store's more simple fundraisers comes in the form of a jar sitting on the cashier's counter. Generous customers leave their change – and, usually, larger bills – which goes 100 percent to the foundation. This year alone the jar donations added up to about \$5,000.

But Peszynski was quick to give credit where credit was due.

"My two daughters and my son have done most of the work," he said.

He also said an outpouring of donations come from the community.

"Other community organizations raise money

for the Sandy Peszynski Foundation," he said.

According to the Sandy Peszynski Breast Cancer Foundation's official website, "This foundation, unlike some of the national breast cancer charities, strives to keep local funds local."

Peszynski's daughter, Karen Peszynski Clark, said donating locally attracts many of the foundation's donors. She explained that none of the money raised goes toward administrative costs or advertisements.

Clark added that her family exudes a palpable passion for the cause, and donors can feel that and "see how important it is."

The passionate family plans to keep the foundation going for years to come in an effort to support the fight against breast cancer.

Local Veterans Memorial Is Finally Up in East Hampton

by Elizabeth Bowling

It's been a long time coming, but the memorial honoring 2,000 local veterans from World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam era made its debut Oct. 23 – just in time for Veterans Day – and is already making its townspeople proud.

The memorial is located in front of East Hampton High School and across the street from the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) building.

Ron Christopher, the chairman of the East Hampton Veterans Memorial Committee, said he and Don Markham came up with the idea for a memorial eight years ago.

Markham, who has since passed away, was the commander of the local American Legion post at the time, and Christopher was the commander of the local VFW.

Because they were busy in their existing roles, the project "lay dormant for about three years," Christopher said in a phone interview Wednesday. "We just dropped the ball on it at the time."

But by 2008, Christopher was ready to pick the ball back up and get it rolling. He recalled kicking off the fundraising portion of the project with a "giant tag sale" as part of the town's annual tag sale. The committee received a lot of donations of items to sell, he furthered.

Fundraising continued throughout the past five years until the committee – made up of 10 members – raised approximately \$80,000.

"We do various fundraisers, from suppers to dances and raffles, and we solicit donations," Christopher said.

He said the fundraising will continue because now the committee is seeking to beautify the

area around the memorial. Specifically, members are interested in improving the walkway to the memorial, adding shrubbery and flowers to the plot and, most importantly, making the memorial handicapped-accessible.

The committee hopes to complete those three finishing touches in time to do a dedication ceremony on Flag Day, June 14.

But, regarding the work that has already been completed, the committee coordinated with East Hampton's Spencer Funeral Home to purchase the four memorial stones from a company in Vermont.

Additional work included researching the names of local veterans. Christopher said it was "an ongoing effort" led by Dennis Erickson. The three-year pursuit involved lots of time poring over old local newspapers like *East Hampton News*, Christopher said.

For the World War II portion of the memorial specifically, Christopher said the initial search was only for people who lived in East Hampton at the time they entered the service; it yielded 523 names.

But, after further contemplation, Christopher said the committee decided to include on the memorial any veteran who resided in East Hampton for at least 20 years, regardless of their place of residency upon entering the war. That change yielded approximately an additional 400 names.

Because the number of local World War II veterans reached about 900, the committee decided to dedicate two of the four stones to World War II veterans.

The third and fourth stones honor those who served in the Korean War from 1950-1955 and



After eight years, the East Hampton Veterans Memorial Committee finally put up a four-wall memorial in front of East Hampton High School honoring local veterans from World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam era.

the Vietnam era, respectively.

Christopher said the committee decided not to include veterans of recent conflicts "because at the time [conflicts] were still ongoing." But, he said, maybe in the future someone will "take the initiative" and add those names to the memorial.

Ted Turner, the current service officer for the East Hampton VFW and a former commander of the post called the memorial a "very good tribute to all veterans."

Turner, whose name appears on the Vietnam portion of the memorial, said, "None of the Viet-

nam guys got a parade or anything, but we got our names across the street, and that's good enough for me. It's not going anywhere."

He added, "I'm just proud to have my name on there...along with a lot of my classmates that I went to high school with."

In a phone call Wednesday, Barbara Moore, chairwoman of the Town Council, gave a "big thank you to the VFW and American Legion members that did so much work to raise the money" for the memorial.

"It really is beautiful," she said. "I think it's an asset to our town."



More than 200 people took to Lake Pocotopaug last Saturday morning for East Hampton's fourth annual Turkey Plunge. Some came in costume, such as this group of East Hampton teachers shown at left, dressed as the cast of *Gilligan's Island*. The teachers won the "Plungers of the Year" award for their getup. At right, the plungers head into the water. The annual plunge is a fundraiser for the local food bank. This year, the event raised more than \$21,000 in monetary donations, as well as 500 nonperishable food items and more than 60 turkeys for the local food bank.

Beltdown Residents Take the Plunge

by Elizabeth Bowling

Sears Park was bustling last Saturday morning for East Hampton's fourth annual Turkey Plunge, which raises money for the local food bank.

The family-friendly event was founded by co-organizer Tom Crean and his daughters Caroline and Gabriella. Essentially, people are encouraged to team up and get donations from family, friends or businesses to "plunge" into Lake Pocotopaug a couple weeks before Thanksgiving. All the monetary donations are pooled together and go to the East Hampton Food Bank.

Several plungers called it "a good cause." And, as the participants' T-shirts stated, they "survived freezin' for a reason."

The event had 240 plungers this year, and with a couple hundred more people there to show support, the beach was filled. Luckily for the plungers, Saturday was sunny and relatively warm for a November morning. A few unwelcome gusts of wind were cause for concern, but most jumpers came prepared with towels, blankets and robes.

Many plungers were East Hampton locals, but some came from Colchester, Groton, Norwich and even Southington.

According to Crean's wife, Alexis Crean, last year's plunge raised about \$17,000 in monetary donations for the local Food Bank. When she announced that this year the event raised \$21,000, the crowd erupted in applause.

Sandy Fries, a food bank volunteer, said she "almost fell over" when she learned the community raised \$21,000 this year.

"Every year it's grown," she said. "People are generous in East Hampton."

She was especially grateful this year because, come February, the food bank will celebrate its 30th anniversary.

This year's plunge offered attendees another way to donate besides monetary donations; food drop-off stations were scattered around Sears Park for people to donate nonperishable food

items. The drop-off stations were new to the plunge this year, but promise to become a staple of future plunges, as a total of 500 food items were collected, Fries said. The estimated value of those 500 items is \$1,200.

"I was very happy," she said, noting that she didn't expect to collect so many food items.

"These donations help us a lot during the holiday season and also in the summer, when donations drop off," Fries said. "The need is growing with the economy the way it is."

Fries noted that the East Hampton community has been "very supportive" when it comes to the plunge, which, she said, "has exploded."

"The nice part about this is the community coming together," she added.

Crean sang a similar tune.

"I was really overwhelmed by the outpouring of support from the community," he said. "It really warms my heart."

Also new this year was a turkey donation option. Foxwoods Resort and Casino in Ledyard was up to the task, donating 60 frozen turkeys to the Turkey Plunge, Crean said.

The plunge was one of five charities to which Foxwoods donated this year. Others included Gemma Moran Food Bank of New London, Sprague Community Center of Baltic, Saint Vincent de Paul of Norwich, and Westerly Warm Shelter of Westerly, RI.

Crean said, "I felt pretty lucky to land Foxwoods this year."

The donation from the resort and casino wouldn't have happened without the help of his friend Jennifer Heff, the employee services coordinator at Foxwoods.

Crean explained that every year for the holidays Foxwoods gives a turkey to each of its employees. Heff is in charge of the program. The employees that don't want their turkeys can donate them to one of the five charities on the list.

In addition to Foxwoods, Miller Foods of

Avon also donated a turkey. Plus a few anonymous individuals brought turkeys the day of the event.

Even more donations came from Liberty Bank via the East Hampton Rotary Club.

Rotary Club and Town Council member Ted Hintz was one of many who took the plunge Saturday. He explained that Liberty Bank works with more than 26 Rotary clubs in Middlesex County to raise money for local food banks. He said this year Liberty Bank agreed to donate 20 cents for every dollar raised.

"Rotary and Liberty Bank join forces to make sure that all of our neighbors can enjoy a bountiful Thanksgiving dinner," Hintz said.

Plungers were clad in all sorts of costumes, from superheroes, cave people and turkeys to a woman dressed as a taco. Others took a more simple approach – pajamas or swimsuits seemed to be a popular trend.

Fifteen minutes before the plungers took to the edge of Lake Pocotopaug, co-organizer Maryann Aitkan announced a few notable participants.

Ann McLaughlin, 77, was this year's oldest plunger. McLaughlin plunged with her daughter, grandson and two great-grandchildren on a team called "Honor the Veterans." The McLaughlin clan dressed up as yellow ribbons in honor of the town's Yellow Ribbon Committee.

The youngest plunger, at 3 years old, was Preston McGrath.

Jen Palma, the food drive chairwoman, earned the title "Volunteer of the Year."

A team made up of East Hampton teachers dressed up as the cast of *Gilligan's Island* won the title "Plungers of the Year," and the DJ played the show's well-known theme song in their honor.

Other upbeat classics, like "Twist and Shout," "Yellow Submarine" and "Hound Dog," got the crowd ready for a fun morning and got a lot of kids on their feet and dancing on the beach.

State Rep. Melissa Ziobron participated in the plunge for the first time. Before she jumped she said she was "really excited," but added with a laugh that she'd only go up to her waist.

"I'm just here to support the efforts," she said. "It's a privilege to be here supporting the community."

Another familiar face in the mix of plungers was Father Walter Nagle of St. Patrick Church. He quipped, pre-plunge, he was "a little nervous." He said a lot of individuals from St. Patrick's Church "came forth very generously" for the event, which he called "a wonderful cause."

Sign-ups for the Turkey Plunge started at 9 a.m. Saturday and by 10 o'clock participants were ready to take a dip.

After all the announcements, East Hampton resident Ken Barber concluded the opening ceremonies by playing the bagpipes.

The plungers then took their marks on the shoreline. Hundreds of people excitedly counted down from 10, and the plunge was on. Amongst shrieks and laughter, one plunger exclaimed, "That's freakin' cold."

"It's a bit chilly," another said with a smile.

One man asked his teammates, "Again? It's warm." And they did go again. They were what are known as "double plungers."

A handful of plungers didn't bother to double plunge; they just lingered in the water until they were told to come out "so they could be alive to do it again next year."

And, based on history, next year's Turkey Plunge is sure to be an event to look forward to.

Town Approves Water Funding for East Hampton Historical Society

by Elizabeth Bowling

At a five-minute town meeting Monday, East Hampton moved forward with funding for a water system at the Chatham Historical Society.

Approximately 45 residents attended the meeting – about half were members of the historical society – and voted unanimously to appropriate \$60,000 from the unassigned general fund balance for costs associated with the installation of a water main extension and connection of a sanitary sewer system to serve the Chatham Historical Society.

One member of the historical society, Everett Wright, put it simply. "We need water," he said.

He recalled an instance when the Boy Scouts were visiting the historical society and one of the youngsters asked the use the bathroom. Wright had to tell the boy there was no bathroom.

But that won't be the case anymore.

According to Town Council Chairwoman Barbara Moore, system installation will begin in the spring.

"I'm very happy," Moore said. "I supported giving them water right from the beginning and I'm glad they're finally going to get it...especially with children going in there a lot."

Boy Scout 'Brings Life' to Local Church in Marlborough

by Melissa Roberto

In order to attain his Eagle Scout rank, the highest rank possible in Boy Scouts of America, 18-year-old Marlborough resident Chris Malenich had to recently complete the final task of organizing and completing a service project that would benefit the community.

And a drive past the St. John Fisher Roman Catholic Church on Jones Hollow Road will show just what the local scout's service project consisted of. His project brought two additions to the front and rear of the church: its very first sign and its own prayer garden.

"It's supposed to be something you want to do and it's supposed to help the community too," Malenich said of the project requirements. "For example, the sign will help people find the church and the prayer garden will help the community go to a peaceful place."

Malenich first became a Cub Scout in the second grade. Being a Cub Scout isn't a necessary prerequisite to being a Boy Scout, though in the sixth grade Malenich joined Boy Scout Troop 39 in Marlborough. Ever since, Malenich has looked to attain the Eagle rank, which a scout needs to accomplish no later than the age of 18.

Reaching that rank isn't an easy task. The requirements of an Eagle Scout include holding the rank of a Life Scout for at least six months, living by the Scout Oath and Law, filling out a lengthy application, earning a total of at least 21 merit badges, holding a position within a troop, scout team or crew/ship, and, lastly, planning, leading and completing a service project, according to the Eagle rank requirements on scouting.org.

When brainstorming ideas for his project earlier this year, Malenich said he knew he wanted to do something that would benefit St. John Fisher. After all, he said, his family has been a part of the parish since they moved to Marlborough nine years ago, and it's also where he was confirmed when he was 15.

"I like the church and I wanted to help the church out," the RHAM High School senior said.

But bringing that goal to fruition didn't happen overnight. The local Boy Scout first had to assure his project met Eagle requirements. He then had to run the project by the Rev. Thomas Sas, and it was at that moment that others in the community started to take notice of Malenich's plans for the church.

"Most Eagle Scout projects in the town are not usually connected to the church," said Sas. "It was overwhelming and it was an answer to our prayers."

Malenich then pulled resources to make an entrance sign and prayer garden possible. He received help from the communications committee chairperson for St. John Fisher, Cheryl Egazarian, who put him in touch with local business owners Andrew Chasse of The Artworks, who created the sign. He also was helped by Jessica Carroll, owner of Jessica's Garden, who sold Malenich resources needed to complete the prayer garden.

Malenich held a bake sale at the church after Masses the weekend of Sept. 7 and 8. The local scout collected \$1,118 worth of donations from parishioners, far surpassing his \$500 goal. More than half of the funds raised went towards

the sign. His donation was paired with a donation the church had previously received from a parishioner, which had been specifically earmarked toward a future sign. Sas said a sign was something the parish had been interested in for "many years."

"The problem was the cost was holding us back," Sas said, "and then Chris wanted to do something and it was the perfect opportunity to do it."

Malenich had actually been active in the creation of the sign. Chasse taught Malenich the process of properly painting and lacquering it. The finished product currently standing outside of the church's entrance is complete with the name of the church, its denomination, as well as the address and times of Mass.

The remaining funds were used to purchase plants, mulch, stones and crosses, and a bench for the prayer garden. Carroll said it was "a pleasure" assisting in choosing the shrubbery for Malenich's project. The owner donated a "unique and beautiful" Zelkova tree, she said, and also sold him azaleas and evergreen shrubs at a discount.

"I'm glad that they're going to a good cause," Carroll said of the plants. "We definitely support Eagle projects."

Sas said he's already witnessed members using it. He highlighted one particular health-screening event where much activity took place in the prayer garden.

People "were out there all day sitting, praying, thinking, so it serves its purpose."

Per Eagle requirements, Malenich was responsible for recruiting fellow troop members to assist in the project. At the end of September, scouts assisted in clearing grass, laying down mulch, planting the shrubs and tree, laying down stones, positioning the crosses, as well as putting together a composite bench. Though one stone at the prayer garden was something the church already had. It came from the family of former deacon Martin Jacques, who passed away in August.

On Sunday, Nov. 3, both the prayer garden and the sign were officially revealed. Sas conducted a prayer blessing following Mass that morning and later that afternoon Malenich, Chasse and Troop 39 scouts dug 42-inch holes to install the sign.

And now that both have been installed and are noticed and used by the parish, Sas confirmed Malenich has made a lasting impression on the church.

"It brings life to the parish," Sas said of the overall project. "It certainly beautifies the area and gives a better identity too. The sign points to the church but the prayer garden is really important because that's our purpose – to provide spiritual nourishment for people."

Egazarian, who had watched the project come full circle, said the project was "awesome."

"I've always thought we needed a sign, so I think it's great that we have one," she said. "It's just another new birth for us here at the church."

The project was also something Malenich's whole family supported, including his mom Denise, dad Mike and his 15-year-old brother Nathan. Denise said she was "extremely proud" of what her son had accomplished.

For Malenich, what makes his project even



Chris Malenich of Marlborough stands beside St. John Fisher's very first entrance sign, which was made possible through his Eagle Scout service project. The 18-year-old held a bake sale to raise funds for purchasing the sign and assisted in creating it.



On Sunday, Nov. 3 following Mass, Malenich was joined by his Eagle Scout Advisor Paul Kriksciun and Reverend Thomas Sas, who conducted a prayer blessing of the first-ever prayer garden located behind the church. The prayer garden was the second component of Malenich's service project, which offers a peaceful setting for people to sit and pray.

more rewarding is that it is one of the last accomplishments he'll make as a resident of Marlborough. Due to his dad's job, the family will relocate to Pittsburgh, Pa., where they are originally from, in early December.

Though before the big move, Malenich said the only step left is a final project approval by the Connecticut Rivers Council on Dec. 4, which would deem him the rank of Eagle Scout. If all goes well, Malenich said he would then return to Marlborough in the spring for a ceremony with his fellow troop members. Additionally, Malenich would have the honor of adding a shiny new pin and Eagle Scout rank badge to his already-adorned uniform of badges.

And even though Malenich said he's sad to leave Marlborough, where he's made lasting friendships and memories, he said he'll enjoy driving by the church in the few weeks ahead before the family move.

"Every time I drive past this church I smile because I see the sign and the prayer garden," he said. "I can actually look back at this and say I did that for my Eagle project. It makes me very happy."

And members of the church, especially Sas, said this week Malenich's project is something that "is permanent."

"He left a legacy within the church and the town," Sas said.

Sewer Phase II Going Well, Marlborough Officials Say

by Melissa Roberto

Town Planner Peter Hughes attended Tuesday's Board of Selectmen meeting and offered a brief update on Phase II of the town's sewer project, which he said has gone "extremely well" thus far.

Phase II was approved by Marlborough voters by 113-14 in a June 19 town meeting. The vote allowed the town to borrow \$1.01 million to pay for the planning, acquisition and construction of the project.

Coined Phase II by town officials, once completed the project will pick up where Phase I left off, at the intersection of Lakeridge and Cheney roads. The construction continues down Cheney Road to the intersection of Park Road and then up Beverly Lane. It would also hook up five houses on North Main Street to the sewer line that already exists from Phase I.

Phase II also includes a sewer line extension to hook up the Marlborough Health Care Center (MHCC), which earlier this year was deemed a facility in dire need of hooking up to a sewer system.

Hughes' update on Tuesday confirmed that most of the construction of the sewer line – for both portions – is "almost" complete. As of Tuesday night, Hughes said it looked like Hubble Construction, who is responsible for the construction work, was "very close" to making a complete connection on Stage Harbor Road. After the meeting, Gaudinski confirmed a final portion of the MHCC's sewer line, a piece on Park Road and going over the Route 2 overpass, is anticipated to be finished in the spring. Both Gaudinski and Hughes agreed at Tuesday's meeting that the construction of

Phase II is moving along the anticipated timeline.

Additionally, Hughes said 3,000 of 5,000 feet of permanent road paving included in the project has already been completed. He said the remaining 2,000 feet is expected to be completed by early next week, in time for the Thanksgiving holiday, he said.

"All of the paving will be done for the winter, just like we hoped to have," Hughes said.

The town planner said Tuesday letters had been sent out to the 23 property owners who will be connecting to the sewer line. Along with the letters, a map is attached showing where the grinder pump would be located in their yard. Hughes said residents will have the option of moving that to another location in their yard, as long as the location has a "gravity flow from the house to the grinder pump."

Gaudinski added a brochure is also included in the mailing, showing Small Cities Grants Funding available for residents who meet income guidelines. She said the funds would go towards the cost of installing the grinder pump and making their house connections.

The priority list for towns in need of clean water funding from the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) is not anticipated to come out until December or early January, Hughes said. The list would determine which towns in the state will receive clean water funding. Marlborough had submitted an application earlier this year. If the town does receive state funding, the cost to taxpayers would be eliminated altogether, which is an annual payment of \$24,100 over a 20-year pe-

riod. The remaining cost, an annual payment of \$50,200 for 20 years, would be paid for by the users who are actually hooking up to the system.

Hughes added the town has received only one complaint "on the whole project" since construction began in September.

Gaudinski concluded, "I think it's gone well." "It has gone extremely well," Hughes stressed.

The town planner said Hubble Construction would come back in March or April to start the house connections and the project would be completed by May or June, and residents would be hooked up to the system by August.

* * *

Also at Tuesday's meeting, the selectmen appointed members to both a new board and committee in town.

The first appointments were made to the Architectural Design Review Board, a board that will be responsible for providing guidance in regards to the design of buildings, structures, landscaping and site layout for commercial, industrial, institutional and multi-family residential developments in town. The board is in accordance with a new ordinance that was approved earlier this year. The ordinance states the board will act as an "advisory body" to the Planning and Zoning commissions as well as the Zoning Board of Appeals. Residents Carole Shea, who is also on the Board of Education, and Laura Hart, were appointed.

The review board would be made up of five regular members and two alternates. Shea and Hart, who each expressed interest in writing to

Gaudinski, were appointed as regular members with terms to expire June 2017. Gaudinski said she is still looking for members to serve.

Also Tuesday, members were appointed to the newly-formed Capital & Non-Recurring Expenditure Plan Committee (CNR). The committee will be responsible for following the CNR Plan, which was approved by the selectmen earlier this year. Responsibilities include determining the capital needs of the town by considering the costs, economic benefits and funding for the projects for the annual budget process.

The committee will consist of seven regular members and two citizens-at-large and one alternate member. The seven regular members would be made up one member each from the Board of Selectmen, Board of Education, Marlborough Volunteer Fire Department, Parks and Recreation Commission, Planning Commission, Public Works Department and Richmond Memorial Library, chosen by the respective group.

The board appointed selectman Dick Shea, as well as Barbara Lazzari of the Parks and Recreation Commission, John Larensen of the Planning Commission, Christopher Corsa of the Public Works Department and David Wagner of the Richmond Memorial Library, to the committee. Gaudinski said she is still waiting to hear from other departments as well as citizens interested in joining.

The next Board of Selectmen meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 3, at 7 p.m. in Town Hall.

Gut Resigns from Marlborough Board of Selectmen

by Melissa Roberto

Mike Gut finished his final duties as a selectman Tuesday night, as he recently informed his fellow Board of Selectmen members that he will soon be moving out of town and therefore must step down from his elected position.

A selectman for two years and Marlborough resident for 30, Gut informed First Selectwoman Cathi Gaudinski and fellow selectman Dick Shea in an email Monday that he will be moving to a property located on Amston Lake in Lebanon with his wife Deb. Gaudinski read aloud Gut's email in Tuesday's meeting.

"I appreciate the working relationship that you, Dick and I had together on the Board of Selectmen and will miss that along with all the other town and school staff we came in contact with over the past 30 years in town," Gut's letter stated. "Best wishes to all and hopes for a very happy holiday season and wonderful New Year."

Though on Tuesday, both Gaudinski and Shea accepted Gut's resignation with "sincere regrets."

Of Gut's departure, Gaudinski said, "Personally I'm very pleased for you to have this opportunity for you and Deb."

"I know you've been very active in town but I feel I've got a lump of coal for my Christmas stocking," the first selectwoman furthered with a laugh.



Mike Gut

Gaudinski added it was with regret on the board's behalf to bid Gut farewell, to which Shea agreed "most definitely."

Gut, a Democrat, ran for first selectman in 2011, facing Republican Gaudinski in a bid to replace the retiring Bill Black. Gaudinski beat out Gut by just 30 votes, but the latter's vote total still earned him a seat on the three-member Board of Selectmen.

Two years later, Gut told his fellow board members Tuesday night he thinks the board "worked well" together.

"It really started with the campaign," Gut explained. "I think the campaign was nice and clean. We all came in here and we did a good job together."

In addition to the Board of Selectmen, Gut had also served on the Board of Finance for a total of 10 years. But serving on a board wasn't something Gut had just done in Marlborough. For a term of three years that ended in 2012, Gut had also served on the Board of Directors down in Briny Breezes, Fla., where he and his wife also own a property, he explained after Tuesday night's meeting.

Gut had also worked for The Hartford for 32 years before retiring in 2009. He had held the title of finance director for a number of the insurance company's divisions, he explained, and during his time with the company he had worked in Hartford, Southington, and even overseas in England for one year.

In regards to his soon-to-be departure from Marlborough, Gut said his decision to move "had nothing to do with the town."

"The kids are grown up now and the opportunity to own something on a lake just came

up," Gut explained. "It was just a nice property that we were both interested in."

Gut said he was appreciative to have lived and raise a family in Marlborough and particularly praised the local elementary school and the RHAM middle and high schools, where his children, Matt and Melissa, went to school.

Asked after his final meeting Tuesday of any highlights during his time as selectman, Gut said he's proud of the working relationship all three selectmen had.

"Collectively, we worked really well as a group," he explained. "That's very important to me – that you're able to work with individuals from different parties and keeping the focus on the town and not individualized work."

Gaudinski highlighted a legal process for filling the selectman vacancy Tuesday night that had been prepared by Town Clerk Nancy Dickson. According to the town charter and state statute, the board has 30 days from the day Gut's resignation goes into effect to appoint a citizen to take his place. Gut's resignation goes into effect on Tuesday, Nov. 26, meaning the board has until Dec. 26 to make an appointment.

In accordance with state statute, the future selectman must also be a Democrat. Gaudinski said the process begins by sending notice to Democratic Town Committee Chairwoman Lauren Cragg as well as soliciting input for any other Democrat who may be interested in the position. According to the charter, the position is not limited to a member of the committee but is open to all Democrats in town.

Other contingencies are included in the legal process, such as what would occur if the

selectmen fail to fill the vacancy within the 30-day period. In that instance, the town officers for the Democratic political party must fill the vacancy by a date no later than 60 days from Nov. 26. Also, if, within 15 days of the new selectman's appointment, five percent of the registered voters in town, or 50 voters, whichever is greater, file a petition, a special election would be held.

"I hope we have someone come forward of Mike's caliber of commitment to the town and is interested in working together for the benefit of our residents," Gaudinski said Tuesday.

Shea joked with Gut, "Have you checked out any board openings in Lebanon yet?"

Cragg commented on Gut's service to the town Wednesday.

"Mike Gut has served the town for many years and in many capacities," she said. "Our committee wished him well personally and professionally. The Marlborough DTC looks forward to selecting a qualified replacement."

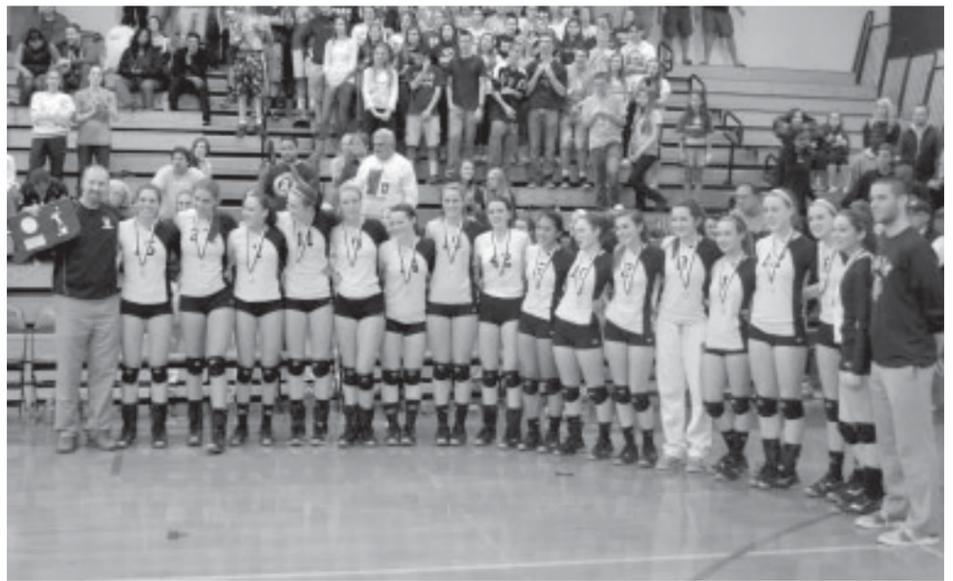
Resident Louise Concodello, seated in the crowd at Tuesday's meeting, told Gut he will be missed. Republican Town Committee Chairman Ken Hjulstrom also commented on Gut's departure this week.

"I am very sorry to hear that we are losing Mike," he said. "He has proven to be a valuable asset to the Board of Selectmen. He carried out his duties in a very non-political manner, always putting the interests of our community first."

Thinking back of the three decades he spent in Marlborough, Gut told the selectmen the town is "a great area to live in."



Last weekend, the RHAM girls' volleyball team won the 2013 Class L state championship after a match against Farmington at Berlin High School. On the left, seniors (from l-r) Carly Balskus, Courtney Masna, Sarah Veilleux and Hannah Schmidt proudly hold onto their championship plaque. At right, the entire team poses for a photo with fans from RHAM cheering behind them.



RHAM Girls' Volleyball Brings Home the Gold

by Geeta Schrayter

Last weekend, the RHAM girls' volleyball team won the 2013 Class L state championship, after a rollercoaster match-up against Farmington at Berlin High School.

The five sets in the Nov. 16 game went back and forth between the two teams. The first set belonged to RHAM, 25-19, followed by a win for Farmington, 23-25. The third set meant another win for RHAM, 26-24, while the fourth went to Farmington, 25-22. With two sets for each team, the title came down to whoever dominated the final set. And in the end, by a score of 15-13, that set belonged to RHAM, giving them a 3-2 victory – and the championship.

This week, the four seniors on the team – Carly Balskus, Courtney Masna and captains Sarah Veilleux and Hannah Schmidt – reflected on the win, which they attributed to teamwork and lessons instilled in them by their coach, Tim Guernsey.

Veilleux, who received the MVP award for the game, said winning the championship was

“an amazing feeling.”

“It was something we have worked for all season,” she said, calling the championship “a fantastic team win.”

“It was completely a team effort,” she said. “We played together and we played as a team.”

Veilleux added while it was nice to be named MVP, “winning as a team and winning together means more than any individual accolade ever could.”

Schmidt had similar feelings about the win. She said it was “overwhelming” and winning the title was about uniting as a team and mental toughness – something they’d been taught by their coach.

“We were down in the third set and we fought to win it,” she said. “Then we were down at the end of the fifth set and again, we were able to come back to win. Not many teams can do that and we did it.”

Schmidt said the team focused on helping each other, and if one person was down or started to doubt themselves, “we had to pull

together and trust each other and in the end it was a team effort that won it.”

For Balskus, the win was “unbelievable.”

“It didn’t feel like anything else in the world,” she said.

While she also attributed the win to teamwork, she said everyone on the team played well. Balskus said Veilleux and Angelica Czercowy “had a lot of good kills,” while Schmidt “dug a lot of balls” and Masna was good at swinging and blocking.

“Everyone contributed,” she continued, mentioning McKenzie Maneggia did well “hustling over the floor and digging up great balls” and Shaela Salinger and Alyssa Hansen “gave needed kills.”

Like the other seniors, Masna was a bit in awe over the win, calling it “incredible.”

“It was the one thing we had all really wanted,” she said.

When the scores were close or the team was trailing, Masna said everyone worked together and mentioned, like Schmidt, the mental tough-

ness they were taught to overcome the other team “and not get nervous and choke.”

“We just had to pull through,” she said, mentioning all of their practices, which took place every day after school and on some weekends helped the team prepare. She also said there were 6 a.m. practices that weren’t mandatory, but most of the team still chose to participate.

“Our coach really motivated us to want to get better and to want to achieve our common goal of winning the state championship,” she said, explaining their motivation for waking up so early.

Veilleux said winning the championship was the perfect end to all those practices.

She said “6 a.m. practices and practices after school all of the time and the effort we put in all year long paid off.”

“It’s amazing for the seniors to go out like that,” she added. “We won our last game we will ever play for RHAM.” And by staying mentally tough and working together,” Veilleux said “we won it in true RHAM fashion.”

RHAM School Board Gets Update on Common Core

by Geeta Schrayter

At the RHAM Board of Education meeting Monday night, board members listened to presentations on the ongoing implementation of the Common Core State Standards at the middle and high schools.

Math Department Coordinator Greg LaChance went over some of the math shifts that were occurring. He explained the department was working more toward “focused and specific standards,” and providing students with a deeper understanding of fewer topics as well as the ability to apply what they learn. In addition, he explained one year will build to the next.

“In the past students are taught the same thing over and over and over,” he said. “Under the Common Core, the idea is that students will be experts on certain topics [by a particular year] and proceed to higher topics as time goes on.”

For example, while students in the past might have worked with fractions again and again throughout their time at RHAM, now they would become “experts on fractions by sixth grade” LaChance said, and will be expected to master topics such as rational and proportional relationships and the number system by the time they reach high school.

LaChance also mentioned practice standards students would be held to, which include being able to reason abstractly and quantitatively and being able to construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.

“These are standards of practice you could argue apply to all content areas not just math,”

he said.

Over the last couple of years, LaChance said “quite a bit of work” had been done to prepare for the Common Core.

“We started earlier and are working our way up [the grades],” he said.

Math 7, Math 7 Honors, Math 8, Advanced Math 8, Algebra I, Algebra I Honors and Geometry had all been worked on and some new textbooks had been purchased that align with the Common Core.

“We still have lots more curriculum to rewrite, but we’re on our way,” stated LaChance.

In addition, LaChance explained department meetings and professional development has been used for collaboration and practice, but moving forward, he said there was still a lot of work to be done.

“We need time to collaborate, to look at resources, determine the best strategies and how to best serve students,” he said.

Switching over to discussions on English and language arts, department head Lauren Fierman spoke about “a lot of the same shifts happening just related to literacy not math.”

Fierman said under the Common Core, the focus was to do things “more in-depth, with less breadth.”

“There’s the expectation of texts getting more complex in content over the years, in particular from the beginning of the year to the end,” she said.

Fierman explained there will be an increased focus on informational texts, with 70 percent

of high school reading being informational. She stated English classes will still consist of curriculum that includes fiction and science and tech teachers won’t be expected to teach reading but to “help [students] understand how to read science and tech texts as they would be in the field.”

“All content areas share the responsibility for literacy standards,” she stated.

As with math, literacy will be “vertically articulated.”

“It is an expectation you’ll completely master standards from the year before,” she said, adding students would also see more text-based questions and need to provide evidence-based explanations that focus less on how a student feels about a particular text and more on what the text actually says. Students will also have to memorize lists of words from the texts to make sure they understand the vocabulary.

Fierman explained there would also be shifts in writing.

“Rather than many different types, it’s been narrowed down to three types: argumentative, informational and narrative,” she said.

The focus in high school will be 40 percent argumentative, 40 percent informational and 20 percent narrative.

To accommodate these changes, Fierman said “quite a bit” of curriculum needed to be rewritten and some instructional shifts would need to take place, such as having students take more responsibility in problem-solving as they will in college and the workplace, providing

them with more practice time – “you can’t give them more work without more time,” she said – and encouraging higher-level critical thinking skills in every classroom.

After the presentations concluded, LaChance said the schools would be in a period of transition for the next two years as things fully switch to the Common Core. Fierman added there would be more supports in place than there will be in the future in order to help students get where they need to be.

“There’s no way to fairly say ‘Sorry, Billy, you have to read three grades higher than you were last year,’ so we need to deal with that,” she said.

Also at the meeting, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Robert Siminski stated he had some good news. First, he said the district had received a security grant for approximately \$10,000 and a technology grant for approximately \$101,000. The board had approved applications for the grants over the summer.

In addition, Siminski said he received a call from Standard and Poor’s Rating Services, informing him the district’s bond rating had been increased from “A+” to “AA+.” When borrowing money, Siminski explained a better bond rating would mean a lower interest rate.

The next regular RHAM Board of Education meeting is scheduled for Monday, Dec. 16, at 6:30 p.m., in the RHAM High School chorus room.

Portland High School Clubs Give Back

by Elizabeth Bowling

Two of Portland High School's most prominent clubs are seeking to spread holiday happiness to community members in need. The Student Senate and Rachel's Challenge club are working separately on fundraisers to help the Portland food bank.

According to Student Senate President Andrew Donahue, the senate has helped fundraise for the food bank for the past eight years and this year the tradition will continue.

"This town just needs a lot of help," Donahue, a senior, said.

The senate is hosting a three-day food drive at the high school; the drive starts today, Nov. 22, and continues Monday, Nov. 25, and Tuesday, Nov. 26. The goal is to raise over one ton of food.

The donations will be separated by class and the class that brings in the most donated food by Nov. 26 will earn "bragging rights," Donahue said. The winning class will be announced during school the following day.

This year is the first time the senate is also accepting donations from the general public. Portland residents are encouraged to drop off any donations to PHS between now and Nov. 26.

"Typically it's only the students and faculty,

but we're trying to encompass everyone in town now because the food bank is in such need," Donahue explained.

On the last day of the food drive, Nov. 26, just two days before Thanksgiving, the senate will also host "Turkey Tuesday." The one-day event is exactly what it sounds like – an opportunity for people to donate a turkey to a local family.

Donahue said, "We're going to try to get 30 turkeys."

According to Charlie Ryan, the Student Senate adviser, the group raised about 20 turkeys last year.

Ruth Maio of the Portland Food Bank said 125 families signed up for Thanksgiving food baskets this year, so every turkey the senate raises will be a tremendous help.

In addition to the food drive and Turkey Tuesday, the senate is hosting a toy drive the first weekend of December.

Students will be required to donate "at least one toy" as a cover charge to get into their winter ball, which is open to all PHS students grades nine through 12, Donahue said.

"That also goes to the food bank to give to needy kids in town," he affirmed. "That helps out the town a lot."

Last year the toy drive collected more than 500 toys, he added.

The Student Senate will work independently from the school's Rachel's Challenge club, headed by Maddie McDougall, also a senior. But Donahue said that even though the clubs are fundraising independently, they "have that same mission: to help the community."

"They're doing their thing and we're doing ours, but together we're trying to do a lot for the food bank," Donahue said.

McDougall explained that Rachel's Challenge is "focused around cultivating a positive environment in our school and creating a chain reaction into our community."

The Adopt-A-Family program provided by the Portland food bank seemed to be a perfect fit for the Rachel's Challenge club.

Maio said approximately a dozen Portland families have signed up for the Christmastime program, which sends out food baskets to each family, as well as toys, clothes and gift certificates for the children in those families.

The club took on two families, made up of about seven members per family, McDougall said. The food bank keeps the families anonymous, but provides specific details like gender,

age, size and preferences.

McDougall explained, "We're going to write down all those items on separate tags and then we'll open it up to the whole school and during a lunch wave students can come up and pick a tag."

Students will then bring in the items listed on the tags they selected and the Rachel's Challenge club will ensure the food bank receives the donation, McDougall affirmed.

If all the items are collected for each member of the two families, McDougall said the club would "adopt" another family. The program at PHS will run from Dec. 9 through 20.

According to McDougall, this winter will be the club's first time participating in the Adopt-A-Family program so she's not sure what the student response will be, but she hopes to "do as much as possible."

In a concluding comment, Maio expressed her gratitude toward the PHS students who, year after year, have helped the food bank during the holiday season.

"They're just wonderful," she said. "They are hard-working, dedicated; they're a great group of young adults and we truly appreciate everything that they do for us."

Portland Hypnosis Business to Serve as Complementary Therapy

by Elizabeth Bowling

For a hypnotic experience, Portland residents need not look further than a visit to one of the newest businesses in town.

Penny Chiasson, the new owner of a hypnosis business on Main Street called The Genesis Center for Clinical Hypnosis, is a registered nurse, a certified registered nurse anesthetist and, most recently, a certified hypnotist.

Her background consists of working in the health care field for 20 years. She became a registered nurse in 2005 and in 2008 she began giving lectures on pain to fellow registered nurses. In researching for those lectures, she learned that complementary therapies are beneficial to people experiencing pain.

And that's how she views hypnosis, as a complementary therapy rather than an "alternative therapy."

Regarding her initial interest in hypnotism, Chiasson said, "At first hypnosis was an avenue for me to explore. It's absolutely fascinating what the mind can do."

But after a few years, she turned her interest in hypnosis into more than exploration; six months ago, she officially entered the field.

The hypnotist established her business office at 270 Main St. – walking distance from her home where she lives with her husband – back in September.

Chiasson began her career as a certified hypnotist in her home, only taking on people she knew as her clients. But after only four months the referrals started pouring in and she knew she needed an office for her practice.

She landed on the name for her business because the word "genesis," she said, stood out in her mind.

She said, "Something about it just rang true."

She added that she wants her treatments to give people "a new lease on life."

The business' slogan, "you deserve a new beginning," encompasses the optimistic meaning of The Genesis Center.

Chiasson's clients suffer from a variety of ailments. Some seek to lose weight, others to quit smoking, alleviate headaches, and treat irritable bowel syndrome, sleeplessness, chronic pain, pre-surgery fears, sports injuries and anxiety, to name only some.

Breaking it down into a relatable scenario, Chiasson said, "We all go into hypnosis every day. How many times have you driven to work and you don't remember going through an intersection? Your mind is very focused on whatever you were thinking about and procedural memory of that drive is what got you to where

you were going without consciously thinking about it."

Similarly, if a person eats a bowl of ice cream each time they have a bad day, it becomes procedural. But the thought pattern that tells the person if they eat a bowl of ice cream they will feel better can be broken by hypnosis, she said.

Chiasson said she most commonly works with clients who are seeking smoking cessation and weight reduction.

"The majority of my [smoking] clients never have another cigarette after the first session," she quipped.

Even so, she recommends that clients come in for four sessions and then schedule follow-up sessions as needed for reinforcement, to ensure that the "suggestions become permanent with repetition," Chiasson said. "Hypnosis is not a magic wand."

Chiasson also has what she calls "pain clients," or people who have chronic pain, for example, due to arthritis or migraines. The purpose of hypnosis for pain clients is to alter their perception of pain by refocusing their attention and thus alleviating pain or discomfort.

"Whenever you get hurt, there's not actual pain until you perceive it," she explained. "Pain is a very complex mechanism in terms of feedback. Our memories, our emotions, feelings and our subconscious mind – all of that plays into the level of discomfort that we feel when something happens."

She concluded, "You can achieve absence of pain through hypnosis."

Overall, Chiasson said the purpose of her hypnosis is to reduce or eliminate the symptoms of "anything that affects self-confidence, self-esteem and emotional well-being."

According to Chiasson, before she begins the process of hypnosis she confirms that her client's condition – for example, anxiety – has been officially diagnosed by their primary care physician, rather than a "self-diagnosis."

Once medically approved, the treatment begins with the interview process, which Chiasson said is "the most important part of any hypnosis [because] the key to making hypnosis effective comes from the client."

Depending on the person, the interview process could last from 10 minutes to an hour; every client is different. But despite any differences, one thing Chiasson does for nearly every client is address the issue of stress and stress management.

After the interview comes the actual hypnosis.

The first obstacle in hypnosis is to reach to-



Penny Chiasson recently brought her hypnosis business to Portland. The Genesis Center for Clinical Hypnosis, located on Main Street, specializes in physical and emotional well-being.

tal relaxation so that the client can have a focused concentration. Once focused, the client can bypass what Chiasson calls the "critical factor in the mind," or "the part of the mind that debates what is fact or fiction, and whether you decide to believe something."

According to Chiasson, the mind can be broken down into four parts: the unconscious mind, the subconscious mind, the critical factor and the conscious mind.

The unconscious mind controls things like heart rate and blood pressure.

The subconscious mind "colors how we interpret what we see," Chiasson said, adding, it "develops from our experiences."

The critical factor exists between the subconscious and conscious minds. In hypnosis, she said, the key is to focus the client in order to "bypass the critical factor and influence the subconscious mind."

Chiasson teaches her clients self-hypnosis, which she tells them to practice every day.

"All hypnosis is really self-hypnosis," she said. "In this setting here, I'm really just the tour guide."

But being in a state of hypnosis does not nec-

essarily make a person vulnerable.

"In hypnosis, people will not accept any suggestion that is offensive or against their moral character," Chiasson affirmed. "You would be aware of anything that required your urgent attention but while you're focused, you're in that zone and everything else just goes on around you."

She has her clients focus on the sound of her voice and relax. During relaxation, she has them visualize "seeing themselves the way they're going to be as if they're already there."

A single session costs \$150. For four sessions, Chiasson offers a discounted price of \$450. She added there is a military and veteran discount of 20 percent.

Starting in January, Chiasson will also offer a group weight loss program. The cost is \$200 per person and will include a two-hour session each week for four weeks. The program will partner with Symmetry Physical Therapy (located next to The Genesis Center for Clinical Hypnosis), which will offer physical training.

For more information, visit www.thegenesiscenter.net. To make an appointment, call 860-638-7777.

PHS Girls' Soccer Wins Co-State Champ Title

by Elizabeth Bowling

After 110 minutes of play, last Saturday's shoreline conference rematch resulted in no score – and two state champions.

Portland High School and Old Saybrook High School now share the title of 2013 co-state champions for Class S girls' soccer. It's the first girls' soccer state champion team in PHS history.

Portland and Old Saybrook had already played each other twice this year during the regular season – once in September and once in October. The Portland Highlanders reigned victorious both times, defeating Old Saybrook 3-0 and 1-0, respectively. Portland only lost four games in the regular season.

But last Saturday, things were different. After playing two 40-minute halves in regulation time that resulted in a 0-0 draw, the game went into overtime. PHS and Old Saybrook duked it out in two additional 15-minute periods only to tie at 0-0 again.

Portland's head coach of five seasons, Sandy Booth, noted that his team was "a strong offen-

sive team" while his opponent was "focused mostly on defense."

In a phone interview Monday, Booth said, "We would have loved to have been the outright winner." He added with a laugh, "There's always a winner and a loser, but not in soccer."

"But it would have been a shame for somebody to come out on the short end," he added. "We're the best Class S conference in the state. [There are five other Class S conferences.] So we'll take that; we'll share that with them."

Portland made it to the state tournament finals last year, too, but lost to Immaculate High School of Danbury. So this year was an improvement, Booth said. But the Highlanders' next goal "is to win outright," he said.

"We applied pressure from the very start of the game, for the entire 110 minutes," Booth said regarding Saturday's state championship game. "It was fairly one-sided offensively."

In terms of shots on goals, Booth said, "We had a lot of chances." Those opportunities came despite Old Saybrook playing "five or six play-

ers back," he added.

Old Saybrook's goalkeeper, Mia Neas, "made some phenomenal saves," Booth said, noting that she earned the title of co-Most Valuable Player.

The other co-MVP title went to Portland senior midfielder McKenzie Reimondo, who called the award "a great honor."

Reflecting on her senior season, Reimondo said, "We had our ups and downs but it was definitely a good ending to the season."

Reimondo plans to continue her soccer career after graduation, though she hasn't yet decided between Assumption College and Eastern Connecticut State University.

Booth said Reimondo, a four-year starter, was his "most consistent" player in the tournament run.

He also recognized his team's defensive leader, junior sweeper Emilie Hernandez.

"She dealt with a lot of muck this year," Booth said. "She helped lead the defense and without her we might not be where we are."

Hernandez reflected on the state championship game Monday. She said, "It was a good game. I think we dominated most of the play; we just couldn't finish. They had a few half-chances, but our defense was pretty solid on those."

Asked if there is a built-up rivalry between Portland and Old Saybrook, Hernandez said, "There's definitely a little bit of tension since we are in the same conference."

Regarding next season, she said, "I think we're going to make a deep run into states."

Hernandez said that, despite the loss of the team's eight seniors, there will be plenty of girls returning to "fill their spots."

"The players coming up – I don't think they're going to bring the quality down at all," she added.

Regarding the team and the season as a whole, Booth said, "The overall season was one of high expectations."

And the fulfillment of those high expectations, he added, is a "testament to the team."

Hebron Selectmen Sworn In, New Officers Elected

by Geeta Schrayter

At the old Town Hall on Tuesday, the Board of Selectmen held a special meeting to swear in members and elect officers. And in doing the latter, they displayed bipartisanship in line with their work ethic over the past four years.

Republican Dan Larson and Democrat Mark Stuart were sworn in. Both ran uncontested to keep their seats on the board in this year's election: Larson will now begin his second term, while Stuart is starting in on his third.

After the swearing-in ceremony, Gayle Mulligan, a Republican, was nominated by Stuart to serve as the new board chair. Mulligan had previously held the position of vice-chair and has served on the board since 2007. Then, according to a press release the selectmen issued following the meeting, Larson "continued the bipartisan gestures" when he nominated

Brian O'Connell, a Democrat, to serve as vice chair. Both nominees received unanimous support for the positions.

"The five member board has worked together for over four years, with acknowledgment of political differences and a genuine respect for the duties to serve the community at large," read the release.

Regarding her nomination, Mulligan pledged in the release to continue to work toward serving the community "with honesty, integrity and humility."

"Our Board of Selectmen will be stewards to preserve our rural community, provide services to our residents, and encourage an open and informative environment," Mulligan said in the release, and on Wednesday she furthered those sentiments.

"I feel there is great promise and good things to come in the future for Hebron," she said. "I feel privileged and proud to be able to contribute and give back to my community in this capacity."

Mulligan is taking over the position from Jeff Watt, who chose to step down after six years as chairman. Watt, who has served on the board since 2007, said he stepped down because he believes in term limits.

"This was actually my third [two-year term as chair]," he said, "and I felt I satisfied my three terms and felt it was time for someone else to step in."

Watt went on to say he thought Mulligan would do a great job and mentioned she's very active in the community.

"I think she has a good pulse on what's go-

ing on in the community," he said. "I'm looking forward very much to being able to support her for the next two years."

In taking Watt's place, Mulligan said she had "big shoes to fill."

"He has done a tremendous job in that role and we will definitely miss his strong ability to lead our team," she said, but added she was looking forward to the challenge and was honored to have the full support of the board as they continue forward.

In addition, Mulligan said she was "thrilled" to have O'Connell as vice chair and said she knew they would continue to work well together, "as we have up to this point."

That work continued Thursday night after press time, as the board met for its first meeting under the new leadership.

Town, State Officials Celebrate Opening of Hebron CVS

by Geeta Schrayter

Last Thursday, town and state officials gathered at 110 Main St. in Hebron to celebrate the grand opening of the new CVS/pharmacy – a store that they hope will be the first of many new entrants to the downtown business scene.

The 13,000-square-foot store is tan and white with a gabled entryway and large white columns that were accented Nov. 14 with banners proclaiming "Grand Opening!" Inside, the store is bright, clean and well stocked with all kinds of goods ready to serve residents in Hebron and the surrounding areas.

The soft opening of the store was held the week prior, and CVS/Caremark district manager Tim Roy said business that first week was "booming."

"You'd be amazed at the number of people who never knew we were here, because we were tucked back in Spike [Houston's] place," he said.

CVS officially came to town in March 2012, but up until this month the business was located at 117 Main St. in the building that housed Hebron Pharmacy, which was owned by Spike and Florence Houston for 37 years. The brand new building that now holds the pharmacy is much larger – and hard to miss.

Those gathered last week said they hope the store, which sits on the corner of Main Street and John E. Horton Boulevard, will be the start of new businesses coming to town.

Town Manager Andrew Tierney called the opening a "joyous event," and said he hoped it would be the first of many.

"This is the beginning of hopefully many grand openings here in Hebron on Main Street and John E. Horton Boulevard," he said. "This was not an easy task, but the end result – it looks perfect."

Tierney mentioned getting the new traffic light at the corner of Main Street and John E. Horton Boulevard up and running had been an

issue, as well as working to keep the stone wall in front of the building. In addition he said the contractors had some issues putting down concrete in the beginning due to wet weather last spring, but they ended up on schedule.

"There were a lot of issues," he furthered. "Behind the scenes, it was worked on by a lot of people for this day today, so it's a great day and it's an accomplishment for Hebron we hope to keep reoccurring in the near future."

State Rep. Pam Sawyer was present at the event and mirrored Tierney's sentiments, saying the project took "a lot of patience."

"We've been waiting because it's taken a few little issues to get past," she said. "One of them was the state and the DOT and their vision and our vision didn't necessarily match. In fact they collided. But we were able to fix that and we had support from the utilities and selectmen and town manager and it's good to see."

Sawyer went on to call the arrival of CVS the "cornerstone" for smart growth in town and said it would set the tone for future development in the Village Green District.

Similarly, state Sen. Cathy Osten called CVS "Phase I" of the revitalization of the Hebron town center.

"I look forward to working on Phase II," she said, which she described as continuing the sidewalks and lighting along Main Street.

"The more people we can get walking the more foot traffic there will be and the more customers you'll get which is something that we would like to see. We don't want to drive away any customers..."

As Osten spoke, an actual customer entered the store then stopped at the sight of the ceremony.

"Come on in!" Osten urged. "It's nice to see customers coming in."

Osten went on to say she was looking forward to continuing to work on business development in town



Last Thursday Nov. 14, a grand opening ceremony was held to celebrate the new location of CVS/pharmacy in Hebron. Those present at the ribbon-cutting included, from left, selectmen Mark Stuart and Gayle Mulligan, store manager Bryan Aimetti, CVS/Caremark district manager Tim Roy, state Rep. Pamela Sawyer and state Sen. Cathy Osten.

"I'm really happy to be a part of this," she said.

The event was planned by Economic Development Coordinator Randy Anagnostis, who had a proclamation for Roy from Gov. Dannel P. Malloy cementing the occasion.

"Taking the utmost care to compliment the historic charm of Hebron's Main Street District, this full-service retail store will strive to meet the need of the town and its surrounding neighbors," wrote Malloy. "Your investment in the Town of Hebron is important to economic

growth within the State of Connecticut."

"I am thrilled that we're here," added Roy, who introduced store manager Bryan Aimetti and pharmacy manager Michelle Ladegard.

"She makes people well," he said of Ladegard. "That's our job. That's why we're here and we're glad to be here."

The new Hebron CVS/pharmacy is open 7 a.m.-10 p.m. every day; the pharmacy is open Monday-Friday 7 a.m.-10 p.m. and Saturday-Sunday 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

My hometown of Manchester found itself on the TV news last week, and not for a good reason.

Four Manchester High School students were suspended, and placed under investigation, when they took cyber-bullying to an extreme.

The four are accused of creating a list containing graphic descriptions of female MHS students; they then posted the lists on Facebook and Twitter, for all to see. It was classily called a “‘thot’ list” – ‘thot’ standing for “that ho over there” – and similar lists are apparently spreading among teenagers on social media across the state and the country.

The school declared the lists to be sexual harassment, and, as per federal law, the school system launched a full investigation of the lists. “There will be stiff consequences, up to recommended expulsion, for those students who initiated or distributed these lists,” MHS Principal Matt Geary wrote in a letter to the school community.

I’m glad Manchester school officials are cracking down on this. School officials have really begun paying attention to cyber-bullying, and for good reason. As Geary wrote in his letter last week, “one cannot turn on the news without reading about the deep and sometimes tragic impact cyber-bullying has on young people.”

One of the most infamous – and just incredibly sad – instances occurred in September down in Lakeland, Fla., when seventh-grader Rebecca Ann Sedwick jumped to her death from an abandoned cement factory silo after dealing with a year of online and face-to-face bullying.

As school officials are all too aware, a couple of things makes cyber-bullying so horrendous. For one thing, everyone can see it. You’d have a better shot at winning the lottery than finding a teen who isn’t plugged into social media. So if somebody is taunted on Facebook or Twitter, it doesn’t take long – mere seconds, really – for an entire class, an entire grade, an entire school to see the taunt.

Secondly, cyber-bullying can be a 24-7 affair. There’s no respite in the form of the 3 p.m. bell at the end of the day, or in the weekend. Whether you’re in school or not, if somebody wants to verbally attack you, they’ll do it.

School officials in recent years have begun to take notice of cyber-bullying – and have really made an effort to combat it. Last year, for example, Portland Public Schools brought in former police officer Scott Driscoll for a talk to middle and high school students about the dangers of cyber-bullying, and what they can do to combat it.

I’m glad school officials are doing more, from Portland bringing in Driscoll for a talk last year, to Manchester officials deciding last week to suspend, and possibly expel, those four MHS students. Cyber-bullying needs to stop, and the more kids can be discouraged from even thinking about it, the better.

* * *

About a year ago, a tiny little bookstore opened up in Colchester called Books & Boos. I went in there not long after it opened, and it was a cute place, with a wide variety of books; I picked up a book from the ’80s about Bill Cosby, and a paperback of *The Help* (I was pretty fond of the movie, and was interested to read the book that led to it). Mostly, though, I was glad a bookstore was actually launching.

Ever since I was young, I *loved* going to bookstores, and I’ve been saddened to see, as years have gone by, more and more close, from smaller places like Little Professor and Books & Birds to big chains like Borders. (I saw a Christmas-themed Barnes & Noble commercial the other day, and I couldn’t help but wonder if, a year from now, there will even be Barnes & Noble stores left.) Amazon, in my mind, is a poor substitution for the bookstore experience. But, just as Netflix

has rendered the video store a thing of the past, I fear Amazon may do the same for bookstores. (And allow me a mini old-man rant: Ordering books or watching/ordering movies from the computer in your bedroom as opposed to actually having to go out of the house, drive someplace and be among – gasp! – *people*.....that’s progress? This is what the World of Tomorrow is?)

Well, Books & Boos wants to stake a little foothold in the book world. And I was sad to see on Facebook over the weekend, it’s having some trouble. Simply put, the store’s having a rough time of it. To stay open costs a little more than \$1,000 a month, store owners Stacey and Jason Harris wrote. They said that if their heating bill alone is what it was last year, they may have to close their doors by Jan. 1.

The Harrises certainly want to stay open, and have launched an online fundraising campaign, located at indiegogo.com/projects/save-a-bookstore. The two have a goal of raising \$7,000 by Dec. 14. It’s a rather lofty goal – as of this past Tuesday they’re at \$315 – but hopefully donations will start to come in. It’d be a shame to see this little store not make it.

* * *

I was not at all surprised when I came across a headline Tuesday that read “Calorie Counts Don’t Deter Fast-Food Customers.” Still, though, I was intrigued, so I read the accompanying story. As you may have noticed if you stopped by a chain fast food place recently – i.e., McDonald’s, Taco Bell, etc. – the calorie counts of menu items are no longer included in a hard-to-read “nutrition facts” poster plastered on a side wall by the cash register. They’re now right up there on the menu, displayed in bold letters right next to the name of the item.

The calorie totals are supposed to make the fast food-buyer more aware of what he or she is ingesting – but if people are becoming more aware, apparently they just don’t care, at least according to a recent New York University School of Medicine study.

The school polled 2,000 Philadelphia fast food customers, ages 18-64. Researchers asked customers about how often they ate at fast food restaurants, and whether they glanced at calorie information. They asked customers both before and after February 2010 – the month when it became law for fast food joints in Philly to post calorie counts on the menus.

Also for the study, researchers conducted a telephone survey of the city’s residents, to determine how much people paid attention to calorie counts when ordering off restaurant menus.

The researchers found no difference in how often people ate at fast food restaurants, or the amount of calories they consumed before and after the new calorie-posting policy went into effect.

Like I said, was I surprised? Nope. I believe that, for most people, the calorie counts posted on menu boards were hardly an eye-opener. Nobody would ever mistake a Big Mac for health food, nor should anyone be surprised a fried chicken breast contains more calories than a grilled one.

Perhaps I’m putting too much faith in people, but I truly believe when most people walk into McDonald’s or Burger King or Taco Bell, they generally know they’re not about to have their healthiest meal of the day. It’s just common sense. You don’t need a calorie total to tell you as such. That’s why a lot of people can grab fast food on occasion and not have it be a problem. Everything in moderation, the old saying goes. I think most people get fast food should be an occasional treat, not a daily occurrence, and they’ve known that for years. That’s why, for those 2,000 people in Philly, the calorie counts didn’t make a bit of difference.

* * *

See you next week.

Portland Selectmen Get Organized, Address Issue of Speeding

by Elizabeth Bowling

Members of the Board of Selectmen were officially sworn into office at a special organizational meeting Tuesday night.

Following the swearing-in, Town Clerk Bernadette Dillon wished First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield and the rest of the selectmen a “wonderful term.”

Also on Tuesday, the board unanimously voted Kathy Richards deputy first selectwoman, for her second term in row.

During the public comment portion of the meeting, Portland resident Spencer Cabral spoke out against speeding in town.

The Rose Hill Road resident mentioned a car crash that occurred just last month that left four passengers dead and one in critical condition.

Cabral urged the selectmen to seek proactive measures to reduce speeding in town. Regarding Rose Hill Road specifically, he suggested reducing the speed limit to 15 m.p.h.

Cabral added, “Signage is relatively inex-

pensive compared to the lives that can be saved.”

He said pedestrians “have to jump onto the side” of the road when cars come whipping down Rose Hill Road and that he and his neighbors “can hardly get out of our driveway in the morning because of speeding.”

Board members agreed that the matter was worth looking into at the local level.

Bransfield said, “Many neighborhoods complain about speeding.”

Selectman Mark Finkelstein, however, saw the issue as more than a local problem. He said, “I think speeding has become an issue universally.”

Cabral responded, “My concern is Portland, Connecticut. What can we do here?”

Bransfield said she would bring ideas to the next Board of Selectmen meeting Wednesday, Dec. 4, at 7:30 p.m. at the Portland Library.

Colchester Police News

11/12: State Police said Joshua Blomberg, 23, of 54 West Park St., Willimantic, was charged with interfering with a police officer and making a false statement.

11/13: State Police said a three-car crash occurred at approximately 5:30 p.m. at the intersection of Route 16 and Cato Corner Rd. Police said one of the three drivers, Janel M. Kochuk, 45, of 118 Chestnut Hill Rd., East Hampton, reported minor injuries and was transported to Marlborough Clinic by the Colchester Hayward Fire Department. Police said Kochuk was found at fault for the crash and was issued an infraction for failure to drive right.

11/14: State Police said Karyissa A. Rodriguez and Joseph Cruz-Gregory, both of 84 Trapeau Rd., Willimantic, were charged with interfering with a police officer and making a false statement.

11/15: State Police said Talon DuBois, 26, of 2635 Bear Rd., Chaplin, was charged with first-degree failure to appear and failure to respond.

11/15: Colchester Police said Deborah French, 45, of 52 Balaban Rd., Apt. 308, was

charged with illegally obtaining drugs.

11/16: Colchester Police responded to a single-vehicle crash on Westchester Road approximately half of a mile north of Church Street. Police said David A. Carpentier, 57, of 318 Mt. Parnassus Rd., East Haddam, struck a utility pole. Police said the road was closed until CL&P could secure the scene and remove the damaged pole. Police said after the investigation Carpentier was arrested for DUI and making an improper turn.

11/16: State Police said Linda A. Whiting, 44, of 12 Raven Rd., was charged with interfering with an officer.

11/16: State Police said Richard McNally, 37, of 11 Rock Ave., Danielson, was charged with reckless driving, DUI and operating a motor vehicle under a suspended license.

11/18: Colchester Police said Gary D. Ahlberg, 46, of 28 Jurach Rd., was arrested on an active arrest warrant for second-degree harassment.

11/19: State Police said Lyndsey Payne, 21, of 48 Lillibridge Rd., Plainfield, was charged with failure to respond.

East Hampton Police News

11/5: Dalton James Page, 19, of 99 Midwood Farm Rd., was issued a ticket for possession of marijuana, East Hampton Police said.

11/7: Paul Albert White, 27, of 22 No. Main St., turned himself in pursuant to an active arrest warrant, police said, and was charged with failure to verify address.

11/8: A juvenile of East Hampton was issued a summons for possession of less than one half ounce of cannabis, police said.

11/14: Dylan Moore, 40 Middlesex Ave., Chester, was processed at the Middletown Superior Court and charged with sixth-degree larceny, fraudulent use of an ATM card, unlawful possession of a personal identification access device, theft of credit card, illegal use of credit card and third-degree identity theft, stemming from an Aug. 26 incident that occurred in East Hampton, police said.

Obituaries

Portland

Gary J. Skiba

Gary J. Skiba, 56, of Middletown, formerly of Portland passed away Thursday, Nov. 7, at Middlesex Hospital. Gary was born Dec. 23, 1956, and was a lifelong resident of Portland. He was a graduate of Portland High School, Class of 1975.

Gary was the son of the late John and Sophie (Baginski) Skiba. He was predeceased by his brother, John Skiba.

He will be missed by all of his family and friends. Funeral services and burial will be private.

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

East Hampton

Anna Rita Clark

Anna Rita Clark, 90, of East Hampton, died Friday, Nov. 15, at her nephew's home, surrounded by her loving family. Born Aug. 17, 1923, in Middletown, she was the daughter of the late William H. and Catherine (Wall) Clark.

She had attended Center School and both Middletown High School and East Hampton High School, where she was a member of the second graduating class of 1941. Following high school she was employed at the State Highway Department in East Haddam and remained there as a clerk typist until 1949. She was then assigned to District No. 1 in Wethersfield, where she remained until her retirement in 1981 after 41 years of service. She had also served 10 years with the American Red Cross Middletown Blood Services. Following her retirement she was appointed by the late Gov. William O'Neill to serve on the Commission on Aging for two consecutive terms.

In 1954, she traveled to Europe for two months with a Girl Scout Troop and visited seven different countries. She was a communicant of St. Patrick Church in East Hampton and had served as a secretary at St. Mary's Church in Portland.

She is survived by her three nephews William Clark and his wife Patricia of East Hampton, Thomas Clark and his wife Sondra of Michigan, and James Clark of Middletown.

She was predeceased by her brother, William Clark. Friends called at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, Tuesday, Nov. 19. A funeral liturgy was celebrated Wednesday, Nov. 20, in St. Patrick Church, with burial in the family plot in St. Patrick Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the East Hampton Ambulance Association, P.O. Box 144, East Hampton, CT 06424. To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Portland

Kathleen F. Brede

Kathleen (Foster) Brede, of Portland, beloved wife of George Brede, died Thursday, Nov. 14, at Middlesex Hospital, surrounded by her loving family.

Kathleen was born April 28, 1931, in Middletown, daughter of the late Clyde W. and Margaret (Walsh) Foster. Prior to her retirement, Kathleen was employed as a medical transcriptionist at Elmcrest Healthcare. She was a communicant of St. Mary Church in Portland and a member of the Ladies Guild.

Beside her husband, Kathleen is survived by a loving son, David F. Brede and his wife Annie of Cromwell, and a devoted daughter, Colleen Brede of Portland; two dear grandchildren, David F. Brede Jr. and his wife Emily of Middletown, Michael B. Brede of Alaska; an aunt, Lillian Corvo of Cromwell; and a niece, Susan Caruso of Middletown.

She was predeceased by a sister, Margaret Caruso.

She was also survived by her doctor and friend, Peter Pace, his nurse Kathie at Middlesex Hospital Critical Care Unit, Diane at his office and her hairdresser, Debby Ciccaglione.

If you were lucky enough to be touched by Kathleen's love, then you know what a truly incredible lady she was.

A funeral liturgy was held Tuesday, Nov. 19, at 10 a.m., at St. Mary Church, Portland. Burial was held at St. Mary Cemetery.

Those who wish may make memorial contributions to St. Mary Church, 51 Freestone Ave, Portland, CT 06480 or the Portland Volunteer Fire Department, P.O. Box 71, Portland, CT 06480.

To share memories or express condolences online, visit biegafuneralhome.com.

East Hampton

Donald Anthony Sorvillo

In loving memory of Donald Anthony Sorvillo (52) who passed away Sunday, Nov. 10. He was the beloved father of Donald (D.J) Sorvillo, Michael Anthony Sorvillo, Angela Marie Sorvillo and his dear friend Loretta Hunt (mother of Michael and Angela).

He leaves behind his father, Donald F. Sorvillo, and his mother, Linda L. Sorvillo (predeceased). He is also survived by his sister Cynthia Sorvillo Baloga, brother Robert W. Sorvillo and sister-in-law Lori L. Sorvillo, as well as nieces and nephews, Neil and wife Erica, Craig, Ben, and Amanda, who will always remember their beloved Donald for his steadfast dedication to his family, unforgettable sense of humor, and heart of gold.

Our family extends many thanks for all the warm outreach by family and friends as we continue to pray for brother Robert as he continues his recovery.

In lieu of flowers, send donations to Saint Francis Hospital ICU (114 Woodland Street, Hartford, CT 06105) in appreciation of their dedicated care.

A memorial service will be held at Saint Patrick Church at 47 West High Street in East Hampton on Saturday, Nov. 23, at 11 a.m., with a buffet to follow.

Colchester

Carl Alfred Gustafson

Carl Alfred Gustafson, 87, of Colchester and formerly of New Britain, passed away peacefully Saturday, Nov. 16, at the Harrington Court GHC Center in Colchester, succumbing to the effects of Parkinson's disease. Born May 11, 1926, in New Britain, he was the son of the late Carl and Alice (Bergdahl) Gustafson.

He enlisted in the Army and served proudly with the Army Air Corps at the end of World War II, working on P-51 Fighters and B-17 Bombers. His love of airplanes led him to Pratt & Whitney for work. As a member of the Air National Guard, he was assigned to Coastal Defense on Long Island during the Korean War.

His greatest thrill during his 40 years working in the fuel lab at the Wilgoose Plant at Pratt & Whitney was an assignment to repair the fuel system of an SR-71 Blackbird disabled on Long Island. He was an avid Packard automobile collector and a Charter Member of the Eastern Connecticut Packard Club.

Retirement allowed "Gus" to enthusiastically pursue the joy of baking and making jellies and jams. His apple pies, Black Forest Torts, jellies and jams won many ribbons at state fairs. He worked diligently every holiday season to provide everyone he knew with one of his Christmas fruit cakes.

Gus also loved the outdoors, camping with his two Golden Retrievers in Pittsburg, N.H., over the years.

He leaves two sons, David and wife, Deborah, and Donald; two granddaughters, Kristin Quinn and Erika Marletta; two great grandsons, Xavier and Kian; his former spouse, Dorothe (Gresh) Gustafson; and numerous extended family members and friends.

In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his sister, Adeline Mulholland.

Care of private arrangements has been entrusted to the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester. For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.



Colchester

Rabbi Joseph N. Rosenblatt

Rabbi Joseph N. Rosenblatt, Z"L, 61, died peacefully at home in Colchester, following a long illness, on Sunday Nov. 17. He was the beloved husband for 26 years of Donna (James) Rosenblatt. Born in Lakewood, N.J., he was the son of the late Leon and Yocheved Rosenblatt. He received smicha as a rabbi from the Badatz of Jerusalem in Israel and taught young people and adults for decades.

Rabbi Rosenblatt served as a Mashgiach in Jerusalem, Los Angeles, Phoenix and Hartford. While working in information technology for the last 14 years, he and his wife established a successful organic farm in Colchester named Rose'N'Petal Farm.

He was a member of the Trout Brook Drive Young Israel of West Hartford. Besides his wife Donna, he is survived by two sons, Rabbi Yechiel Elchanan Rosenblatt and his wife Nechamma of Brooklyn, N.Y., and Shlomo Rosenblatt and his wife Brindie of Brooklyn, N.Y.; a daughter, Yocheved Fraide Feya Schwartz and her husband Tzvi of Baltimore, Md.; and 19 grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

The rabbi was predeceased by his two brothers, Fred Rosenblatt of North Hollywood, Calif., and Mark Eisenberg of San Lorenzo, Calif.

The funeral was Tuesday, Nov. 19, at the Young Israel Synagogue Cemetery, Cleveland Avenue extension (corner of Tower Avenue and Waverly Street) in Hartford, with his son Rabbi Yechiel Rosenblatt officiating. Following interment, the family returned to the Rosenblatt residence in Colchester and received friends and visitors during Shiva through Thursday, Nov. 21.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to a charity of donor's choice.

The family wishes to express their appreciation for the exceptional care provided by the Vitas Hospice team. May his memory be a source of strength and a blessing.

Funeral arrangements provided by Hebrew Funeral Association, Inc., West Hartford.

Portland

Thelma Adamson Howe

Thelma Adamson Nimirowski Howe was called from this world at 90 years old on her own terms Saturday evening, Nov. 16, at Portland Care and Rehab, with her daughter Judy by her side. Born in Manchester on March 21, 1923, she lived most of her life between Manchester and Portland.

Thelma married Walter Nimirowski on Valentine's Day in 1948 and they raised their three children together for 29 years. She worked at Pratt & Whitney as a Xerox copy tech. A gifted woman with many talents in cooking, sewing, gardening, painting and craft making, Thelma took great pride in tending to her home and family.

Thelma was a spit fire with a great sense of humor and had an ability to make everyone around her laugh. She had a deep sense of loyalty to her family and her strength of survival will never be forgotten.

She is survived by her daughter, Judy and her husband Dave Thompson, grandson Tyler of Portland and granddaughter Emily in South Carolina; son Glenn and his wife Holly Nimirowski; grandsons Jonah and Caleb of Gilmanton, N.H., son Gary Nimirowski of Bolton; a brother, Neil Adamson in Florida and many nieces and nephews.

Thelma was predeceased by her husband Harold Howe of New Hampshire. The family would like to thank all of the staff at Portland Care and Rehab for the loving care they gave our mother during her short stay at the facility.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Sunday, Nov. 24, at 2 p.m., in fellowship hall at the First Congregational Church at 554 Main St., Portland.

Donations can be made in Thelma's name to the Connecticut Humane Society, 701 Russell Road, Newington CT 06111.

For online condolences, visit mulryanfh.com.



Marlborough

Stephen S. Batchelder

Stephen Stanley "Tito" Batchelder, 77, of Canaan, Maine, formerly of Marlborough, passed away Sunday, Nov. 10, at his home surrounded by his family, after a courageous battle with cancer. Tito was born Oct. 8, 1936, in La Jolla, Calif.

While stationed at Fort Dix, N.J., he met his future wife, Judith Ann Holden. For almost 40 years, he lived in Marlborough, where he owned and operated Holden Graphics, while also serving as a town police officer for 25 years. Tito will be best known for his enthusiasm in helping others and for his love of adventure.

He is survived by Judith, his wife of 51 years; his son Stephen and daughter-in-law Pamela; his son Brian and daughter-in-law Pam; and his daughter Susan Popielaski and son-in-law John. Tito also leaves his five beloved grandchildren.

A memorial celebrating his life will be held Saturday, July 5, 2014, at his beautiful cabin on Gilman Pond, North New Portland, Maine.

In lieu of flowers the family is asking that donations be made to: Gary's House, 97 State St., Portland, ME 04101. Gary's House provides temporary residence for families of terminally ill patients in Portland-area hospitals.

East Hampton

Marianne Blanco

Marianne Blanco, 91, of East Hampton, died at Hartford Hospital Wednesday, Oct. 30. Marianne was born in Frankenthal, Germany, Oct. 9, 1922, the third child of Fritz and Hanna Klauke.

After surviving the oppressive regime of Adolf Hitler, she married Manuel Blanco, a U.S. soldier, and immigrated to the U.S. with their newborn son. In the early 1960s, the family moved to Europe where soon after, Marianne took a position as director of youth activities in Munich, Germany. In this capacity, she positively influenced the lives of literally thousands of American teens and pre-teens. After retiring, she acted as the primary care giver to her youngest grandchild. Clearly, her legacy is the positive impact she had on so many children and family members.

Marianne is survived by her son, Joe Blanco and his wife Barbara of Marlborough; three grandsons, Michael Blanco of Richmond, Vt., Eric Blanco and his wife Erika and their four children, Jason, Sylvia, David and Brent of Oklahoma City, Okla.; and Joshua Blanco, a junior at the University of Oklahoma.

A special thanks to the staff at Marlborough Healthcare Center for their compassion and support during Marianne's stay.

A service to celebrate Marianne's life will be held at Spencer Funeral Home in East Hampton on Saturday, Nov. 30, at 10 a.m.

Colchester

Margaret J. Jensen

Margaret J. Jensen, 85, wife of the late Kenneth Jensen of Salem, passed away Thursday, Nov. 14, in Colchester. She was born Dec. 18, 1927, in Mankato, Minn., a daughter of George and Ruth (Matteson) Schaffenberg.

Surviving are two sons, Michael and Peter Jensen; a daughter, Stephanie Jensen; a sister, Marian Ruschmeyer; four grandchildren, Bobbi Lytle, Christopher Jensen, Margaret Jensen, and Lillian; two great-grandchildren, Gabriel and Calloway Lytle; and numerous nieces and nephews.

In addition to her husband, she was predeceased by her sister, Virginia Seigars.

Funeral and burial will be private in Madison, Wis. There are no calling hours.

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



Colchester

Mary H. Kendzior

Mary H. Kendzior, 91, wife of the late Michael S. Kendzior of Colchester, passed away Tuesday, Nov. 12, at Backus Hospital. She was born Nov. 7, 1922, in Lebanon, daughter of Wasyl and Katie Horyczka.

Mary was a member of St. Andrew Church. Mary enjoyed gardening, singing at the Colchester Senior Center, making pierogies, crocheting, and various arts and crafts.

She is survived by son Alan Kendzior and wife Laurel; daughter Nancy Bergeron and husband Michael; three grandsons, Jaron Bergeron, Connor Bergeron, and Michael Kendzior; two sisters, Sophie Dziadul and Stella Gabiga; and many nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by four brothers, Peter, Paul, Steve and Jim Horyczka.

Visitation was held Saturday, Nov. 16, at the Belmont Sabrowski Funeral Home, 144 South Main St., Colchester followed by a Mass of Christian Burial that day at St. Andrew Church, Norwich Avenue, Colchester. Burial took place in St. Joseph Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be made to St. Andrew Church or to the Colchester Hayward Vol. Fire Department in her memory.

Colchester

Robert Daniel Marshall

Robert Daniel Marshall, 67, of Colchester and formerly of Canterbury, passed away Thursday, Nov. 14, in Colchester. Born in Hartford March 18, 1946, he was the son of the late Robert and Evelyn (Lawlor) Marshall of Wethersfield.

He lived in Canterbury for many years before moving to Harrington Court in Colchester two years ago.

In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his older brothers, Ralph Allen Marshall of Rocky Hill and Wesley Gilcrest Marshall of Berlin, and his sister-in-law Norma (Johnson) Marshall of Manchester.

He leaves his brothers and their wives, Bruce, Lois, Richard, Kathryn, Clifton, Ann and Nancy (Hagedorn) Marshall, respectively; 15 nieces and nephews, Bruce Marshall, June (Marshall) Smith, Elsbeth Marshall, Richard Marshall Jr., Sandra (Marshall) Gondek, Kenneth Marshall, Douglas Marshall, Steven Marshall, Scott Marshall, Robert Marshall, Brian Marshall, Kathleen (Marshall) Lester, Judy (Marshall) Taddeo, Wesley Marshall and Laurel Marshall; as well as 17 grand-nieces and grand-nephews. He also leaves his special caregiver, Bonnie Lynn Conley.

Dan was born with Down Syndrome and although he experienced many medical problems throughout his life, he never complained and always had a smile on his face. With his friendly outlook, he was loved by all: his family, his caregivers and his friends.

Dan had two great delights. He had good rhythm and loved music, singing and dancing. His second major delight was food. Although he maintained a reasonable weight, he loved all food and was a member of the "clean plate club." His other interests included the love of dogs, throwing basketball shots and swimming.

Dan has now moved on and has joined his parents and brothers.

Funeral services and burial in Rose Hill Memorial Park, Rocky Hill, will be private. The James T. Pratt Funeral Service, Wethersfield, is handling arrangements.

The family requests that donations in Dan's memory be made to Special Olympics of Connecticut, 2666 State St., Suite 1, Hamden, CT 06517-2232.

For online expressions of sympathy, visit desopo.com.

Portland

Angela Marie Robinson

Angela Marie Robinson passed away peacefully Monday, Nov. 11, with loving family by her side. She was born Jan. 16, 1943, in Sunbury, Pa., daughter of her late parents, Mr. and Mrs. S.J. Cannata.

She is survived by her sister, Claire A. Cannata and her daughters, Tonya Moyles and Julia Contaxis and her son John Robinson. She has seven beloved grandchildren whom she adored. She is also survived by several cousins in Pennsylvania and New Hampshire. She also cherished her extended family and friends, including her caretakers at Portland Care.

She loved to cook, read and had many artistic talents which included painting and jewelry making. She worked for many years in sales and banking. She was friendly and kind and always saw the good in others.

Burial will be private. There are no calling hours.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Middlesex Hospital, Hospice Unit, 28 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457.

Portland

Jean B. Stevens

Jean B. Camp Stevens, age 98, of Bridgeport, the beloved wife of the late John W. Stevens, passed away peacefully Thursday, Nov. 7, in her residence. Jean was born in Portland April 21, 1915, and was the daughter of the late Walter and Alibina Yurke Camp.

She resided in Bridgeport for 50 years and was a former employee of the Warner Lambert Company for 40 years.

Jean is survived by twin daughters, Joan Wheeler and husband Stanley of Chicago and Eleanor Renz of Bridgeport; four grandchildren, Deborah and Kenneth Wheeler and Cynthia and Steven Renz; loving brother, Anthony Camp of Milford; devoted niece, Judith A. Carlson of Stratford; loving cousin, Florence Kragiel of New Britain; and several other nieces and nephews.

In addition to her beloved husband John, Jean was also predeceased by her son, Richard Stevens; one sister, Irene Alicandro; and three brothers, John, Edward and Walter Camp.

According to Jean's wishes all services were held privately.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the Galello-Luchansky Funeral Home, 2220 Main St., Stratford. To celebrate her life, visit galellofuneralhome.com.

East Hampton

Ann Charlotte Porter

Ann Charlotte Liedke MacDonald Porter, 78, of Meriden, formerly of East Hampton, beloved wife of Willie R. Porter, departed this life on Wednesday, Nov. 13, at MidState Medical Center.

Ann was born on March 8, 1935, in Meriden, CT daughter of the late Alfred and Lily (Olson) Liedke. She was a 1953 graduate of Lyman Hall High School and later graduated from the Meriden Hospital School of Nursing in 1956. She was employed as a registered nurse at Meriden Hospital for many years and later retired after 15 years as a nurse at the Regency House in Wallingford. She was a Wallingford resident for 50 years prior to moving to Meriden in 1986.

She enjoyed cooking, baking, preserving fruits and vegetables, gardening, fishing, clamming and camping in Rhode Island. In her early years she enjoyed spending time at Lake Pocotopaug in East Hampton. Ann loved animals, and was an avid walker but especially enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren.

She will be sadly missed by her husband, Willie, of Wallingford; her son, Scott MacDonald and his wife, Lynn, of East Hampton; along with two grandchildren, Christopher and Elizabeth MacDonald. She is also survived by her aunt, Elizabeth Oppelt, of Cheshire; and her former husband, S. R. "Lee" MacDonald; along with several cousins.

Relatives and friends called Monday, Nov. 18, at the B. C. Bailey Funeral Home, 273 S. Elm St., Wallingford. A memorial service followed calling hours, at the funeral home. Interment was private.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be directed to the Meriden Humane Society, 311 Murdock Ave., Meriden, CT 06450. To leave a message of remembrance or for directions, visit BCBailey.com.

East Hampton

Antonina Ellen

Pescatello-Marsie Soriano

Antonina "Nina" Ellen Pescatello-Marsie Soriano, 29, of Comstock Trail died unexpectedly from a rare heart failure Sunday, Nov. 10, at Hartford Hospital. She was born in New London April 7, 1984, the daughter of Lisa Pescatello Marise of Griswold and Scott Marsie of Norwich.

Besides her parents, she is survived by her husband, Dr. Jose A. Soriano; her daughters, Cecelia and Magdalena; her sister, Rebecca Marsie and brother Matthew Marsie; her maternal grandmother, Virginia Pescatello; paternal grandparents, Christine and Arthur Blatchford; her in-laws, Dr. Jose and Marie Soriano; sister-in-law, Dr. Maria Soriano Johnson; and brother-in-law, Jonathan Soriano.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Saturday, Nov. 16, at St. Mary Star of the Sea Church, Huntington Street, New London. The family received relatives and friends Friday, Nov. 15, at the Thomas L. Neilan & Sons Funeral Home, 12 Ocean Ave., New London. Kindly omit flowers.

Donations in her memory may be made to the Cecelia and Magdalena College Fund, P.O. Box 151, Norwich, CT 06360.

Visit an online tribute at neilanfuneralhome.com.

Marlborough

Evelyn Genotti

Evelyn (Field) Genotti, 99, of Newington, loving wife of the late Adrian J. Genotti, Sr., passed away Saturday, Nov. 2, at the Marlborough Health Care Center in Marlborough. Born in Middletown Oct. 5, 1914, the daughter of the late William and Celia Field, she graduated from Middletown High School in 1931 and the Moody Secretarial School in 1934.

Evelyn was the co-owner of the United Baking Co. in New Britain. She was a former president of the Newington PTA, a former president of the Newington Volunteer Fire Department Company 2 Auxiliary, a founding member and past president of the Newington Art League and a member of the Wethersfield Art League. She was an accomplished artist, having her paintings hung in several governors' offices. She continued to paint up until her death.

Evelyn was a loving and caring mother, grandmother and great-grandmother and will be dearly missed.

She leaves her son, Adrian J. Genotti, Jr. and his wife Diana of Estero, Florida; several grandchildren and great-grandchildren. In addition to her beloved husband Adrian, she was pre-deceased by her daughter Joanne Nimro.

Evelyn's funeral service will be held Monday, Nov. 25, at 10:45 a.m., at the Newington Memorial Funeral Home, 20 Bonair Ave. in Newington. She will be laid to rest in St. Mary Cemetery in New Britain. Relatives and friends are invited to call Monday from 9-10:45 a.m. at Newington Memorial, immediately prior to the service.

In lieu of flowers, Evelyn would be pleased for you to make donations to the Newington Art League, 679 Willard Avenue, Newington, CT 06111.

To share a memory with her family, visit newingtonmemorial.com.

Portland

Salvatore Mosca Jr.

Salvatore Mosca Jr., 83, of Higganum, beloved husband of Elizabeth "Betty" (Hofher) Mosca, died Friday, Nov. 15, at Middlesex Hospital. Sal was born in Portland the son of the late Salvatore Mosca Sr. and Nellie (Parsi) Mosca.

Prior to his retirement, Sal worked at Connecticut Valley Hospital as a supervisor and was the owner of Sal Mosca Builders in Higganum. After retirement, Sal became an avid golfer, scoring a hole-in-one on one of his last trips to the course.

Sal was also the owner of All-Seasons bait shop in Middletown. He was a veteran of the Korean War, serving with the U.S. Army. He was a member of the Polish Falcons and the Elks of Middletown.

Besides his wife Betty, Sal is survived by a son, Michael Mosca of Lisbon; two daughters, Lisa Welch, Courtney DeMelis, both of Higganum; a stepson, Vincent DiMauro and his wife Susan of Wethersfield; a step-daughter, Joan Pontbriand and her husband Mark of Higganum; grandchildren, Chad Mosca, Michael Mosca, Rachel Welch, Alexa Welch, Peter Welch, Daniel DeMelis, Miranda DeMelis, Reno DeMelis, Alan Octavek, Jennifer DiMauro, Nicolas DiMauro, Natalie Pontbriand; great-grandchild, Brooklyn Welch; two sisters and two brothers, Madeline (Dolly) Footit and Mary Lou Gilbert, James Mosca, all of Middletown, and Joseph (Sonny) Mosca from Clinton.

He was predeceased by a daughter, Michele Mosca; a son-in-law, Peter Welch; and two brothers, John and Albert Mosca.

A memorial service was held Wednesday, Nov. 20, at Saint Francis of Assisi Church, Middletown. Burial with military honors was held privately at Calvary Cemetery.

Those who wish may make memorial contributions to Alzheimer's Association, Connecticut Chapter, 2075 Silas Deane Highway, Suite 100, Rocky Hill, CT 06067.

To share memories or express condolences online, visit biegafuneralhome.com.

East Hampton

Norma Smith

Norma Smith, 56, wife of Philip Smith, of 222 Tartia Rd., East Hampton, passed away Friday, Nov. 15, at her home. She was born May 21, 1957, in Tucson, Ariz., daughter of the late Daniel and Ethel Natale. Prior to her illness, she was employed at Portland Care and Rehab Center.

Besides her husband, she is survived by two brothers, Daniel of Florida and Dennis of Arizona; a sister, Carol Hachie of Arizona; also several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be held today, Nov. 22, at 1 p.m., at the D'Angelo Funeral Home, 22 South Main St. Burial will be in Pine Grove Cemetery. Friends may call at the funeral home today from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Hebron

John Cassella Jr.

John Cassella Jr. of Manchester, son of Jean Cassella of Hebron and the late John Cassella, died Monday, Nov. 11. He was born Aug. 13, 1965, in Middletown. John was a loving father, son, brother, uncle, godfather and had many friends.

He is survived by his daughter, April Cassella Graichen; two sisters, Gloria Quirk of Bristol, Martha Zajechowski of Stafford Springs; two brothers, James Hogaboom of Port Charlotte, Fla., Kevin Cassella of Portland; two nieces, Christina Mola of Thomaston, Tracy Zajechowski of Willimantic; two nephews, James Hogaboom Jr. of Meriden, Allen Szykula of Hartford; two great nieces; and two great nephews.

Graveside services will be held Saturday, Nov. 22, at 10 a.m., in Middlefield Cemetery, Main Street (Route 157), Middlefield.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the American Diabetes Association, 300 Research Parkway, Meriden, CT 06450.

The Coughlin-Lastrina Funeral Home, 491 High St., is in charge of arrangements.